



Arc Over

Fox River Radio League
PO Box 673
Batavia, IL
60150-0673

August, 2004

Hamfest Report *by Maurice Schietecatte, W4CEO*

The 2004 FRRL Hamfest is history...in more than one way. First, because of construction at Wau-bensee Community College, our hamfest was held at a new location. A Special Thanks goes to Aurora Central Catholic High School for their fine facilities. Second, this is my last hamfest as chairman. I want to thank everyone who helped me with every hamfest I had a major part in. Without your help those hamfest would not have been successful...again THANK YOU. Back to the 2004 Hamfest.

Our attendance was down about 200 but I believe that was due to the new location. As I mentioned at the July FRRL meeting. I don't know where we would have put the additional people, as the parking lots were full. We made money on the hamfest and that will help the treasury for another year.

A Special Thanks goes to Carol Toman, WD9CNW, for chairing the Gate Sales again this year. With help from her husband Tim, N9TO, they did an excellent job again this year. The gate sales money balanced to the penny.

A Special Thanks goes to Tom Churchill, WD9DAU, for doing a Super Job on the Talk-in Station. With his direction everyone found the Hamfest with no troubles.

An additional Special Thanks goes to the ten people that showed up Saturday for set-up and those that stayed through Sunday for clean up. These were the same people who helped set-up and tear down the commercial vendors.

The following is a summary of those who were on the sign-up sheets: Joe, NA9A – Buzz, W9AYJ – Doug, KC9AYS – Bill, W9AX – Greg, N9CHA – Carol, WD9CNW – John, K9COE – Benny, W9CZA – Tom, WD9DAU – Fred, KC9DSM – Dean, KC9EOQ – Don, WOHEd – Denny, W9HI – Jack, K9JE – Lou, K9LU – Marty, N9NTM – Larry, W9OKI – D.J., KF9OW – Ken, N9QPE – Doug,

W9RD – Bob, N9TLJ – Mary Jo, N9TLK – Tim, N9TO – Bob, AA8X – Kermit, W9XA – Jim, K9XP – Jim, N9XP – Keith, N9YA and Shirley Schietecatte. I apologize if your name is missing. These names were listed on the sign-in sheets. If you forgot to sign-in, all I can say is Thank You.

This year's prize winners are:

1. Grand Prize – Carl McNeal, KB9SWM from Chicago (ticket sold by Fred, KC9DSM)
2. Rbt. Kessie from Naperville (Gate Sale ticket)
3. Tony, KC9FBH (ticket sold to himself).

Again, thanks to everyone who helped.

Next year's Hamfest should be July 10, 2005 at Aurora Central Catholic High School .

Please support Kermit, W9XA who will be next year's Hamfest Chairman.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge by Mike Urso, K9FE

HF Challenge for August

Summer is well under way, The 40 and 75/80 meter static crashes are well entrenched. I don't get on 160, but I imagine that the noise is there also. Since being active mobile again I get a lot more chance to get on the air. Each weekend I have found quite a few special events and friendly nets. This weekend I checked into a new net, at least new on 20. The Collins Radio group just made the jump to add a new net on 20. I have checked into the ones on 75 and 40 before and just happen to run across the new one. As usual, Collins net controllers welcome everyone, just that this Saturday I was the only one to check in, a very small net. Nets are an easy way to make lots of contacts for the challenge.

As many of you know, the bands this month in general have been less than desirable. Much of that is attributable to the huge sunspot and particle ejection toward the earth. We were in black-out conditions for a few days. There was plenty of noise, but very few signal to be heard. For those that have just got into the HF station hunt, be aware that conditions won't get tremendously better for a few years. They will improve from the blackout levels, but expect propagation to change fairly rapidly and often during a QSO.

NA9A worked two asterisked countries since last month but one turned out to be a pirate and doesn't count for anything. 3A2MD Monaco was good but the ZD9CW worked 7/11 was declared a pirate.

Anyone having problems or needing assistance on an antenna system usually just has to ask for help. On July 31st, AH6EZ & K9FE spent a couple of hours working on WA9MJE, Russ's (WA9MWM, Doris's husband) antennas. Both Doris and Russ are blind and not in tower climbing positions. Doris is recovering from a stroke and Russ from a hip replacement. Your prayers for their complete healing would be welcomed. It is the spirit of Ham radio to jump in when help is needed.

Remember to get your updated **totals** to me by the 15th of each month to have them included in the **Arc Over**. If you are a day late or so, don't worry, I'll still get them in. Send them to challenge@frrl.org. Also include a list of rare and not so rare entities you have worked so we can all be a part of the HF hunting. The bands may seem dead, but make sure you try...you never know how the propagation can change.

See Page 5 for the standings.

73 de K9FE Mike Urso

President's Traffic by Bill Schaben, W9AX

The major activities for the club are over for this year. We've had a great Field Day, a good Ham-fest, and an interesting Payton Run. So, what do we have to look forward to? Now is a good time to take a hard look at preparations for the coming contest season. Antenna work needs to be done, and perhaps some new equipment should be installed and tested. And, in general, getting in the correct mind set that you really want to do some serious operating.

Mentioning operating, I want to share some excitement that I experienced. A couple of weeks ago, I was going through the ARRL Email bulletins and saw a blurb about the Museum Ships being on the air. 88 ships were going to be operating a special event that weekend. Unfortunately, I had already blown the Saturday and we had plans for Sunday afternoon. However, I did get on and work many of them. The highlight was working

K1WEW on the USS Constitution (Old Ironsides). What a thrill.

This episode reminded me of the fun that can be had all year working the special events. Each month they are listed in QST for the following month. Bud Tweed, N9FWM, had a nice collection of the certificates that you can get. And there are really some interesting events that are on the air. Give it a try.

It is very unfortunate that we are going to be losing one of our members. We have enjoyed the services of Maurice, ex W8CEO, ex W9CEO, and now W4CEO. Maurice brought to us a treasure chest of experience. From heading up the ham-fest activity to his council on the board of directors, his contributions have been greatly appreciated. Please extend your thanks to him for a job well done. Maurice, Thanks and we'll miss you.

Share the Excitement!

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Here is what I have heard of recently. If you had fun with ham radio, share it. If you have not been having fun with ham radio, why not?

During an afternoon commute, N9CHA broke in and told the group that the ISS was overhead and operating voice. Sure enough, AH6EZ and others heard NA1SS talking to a WO W4 and W2.

Someone was complaining that the McMurdo Station IRLP node 8880 was out of service. AH6EZ dialed up the other Antarctica node, 8838 and talked for several minutes with Chuck WONHJ who is only one of 19 people wintering at Palmer station. Palmer Station operated in the EST time zone so it is pretty easy to reach them.

N9CHA, Greg is busy assembling an Azimuth-Elevation rotor and antenna system in preparation for AO51 and ISS.

KC9DMS, Lloyd is one step closer to having a dynamite HF station. He may have W4CEO's tower in his backyard soon, then a TS2000 early next year, and after that he will work on learning CW and getting his HF license.

N9QPE, Ken is proud to have worked several distant states on 6 meters using his 2 watt rig.

Let me know of fun you are having with ham radio by email (AH6EZ@aol.com), on the Fox Repeaters, or telephone 630-584-4388. I will share it in the next Arcover. If I do not receive any input for this column, I may discontinue it.

August Program Notes

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

For the August meeting, I still hope to play a recording of a Pan Am Clipper pilot who returned to the USA by going around the world right after Pearl Harbor. I hope to have pictures interleaved with the sound recording to make it more interesting. For those of you that do not know it, Benny, W9CZA was a radio operator for the Pan Am Clipper fleet.

The SMC— Escaping the Black Hole

by Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

Recent news reports state that renowned scientist Stephen Hawking has revised his original theory and now believes that matter can escape from a black hole. These articles remind me of a group called the Society of Midwest Contesters. This group of rabid radio fans has been pumping out signals from the Midwest (the black hole of radio propagation) for almost 20 years.

The Society of Midwest Contesters (SMC), was formed early in 1985, with the goals of uniting Midwest contesters into a competitive group and promoting radio-sport in the Midwest. From the 51 charter members in the summer of 1985, the group has grown to a membership of over 300 contesters, mainly in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Led by then president, Steve Dubberstein, K9WO, SMC launched their first major contest effort in the 1985 November Sweepstakes, winning the unlimited class. They repeated that performance in the 1986 SS. Since then, familiar calls like NT1N, K9ZO and K9NW have led the group, which draws together the experience of the Midwest's contesting greats to train up-and-coming operators.

Paul Gentry, K9PG, took over as President in May 2000. Since then, the SMC has quintupled in size. They came out of nowhere in 2000 to win the Unlimited Team Title in the ARRL Sweepstakes. SMC won again in 2001 by amassing over 22 million points. Then, in the face of intense competition, SMC completed the "3-peat" in 2002, winning by almost 7 million points.

This year the club is again gearing up for major efforts during the 2004/5 contest season. If you are interested in contesting and would like to add your score to the SMC total, visit the club website at www.w9smc.com. Membership is free, although donations are welcome. Once you join, you will be part of a premiere contesting club and have access to a first class nNewsletter and an email reflector. You can also participate in club sponsored NAQP and Sprint teams, visit the Club Suite in Dayton, and help to support plaques awarded to contesters around the world.

Contesting is a challenging and entertaining part of our hobby, and it's better when you are a member of a contest club. Give the SMC a try and you'll see what I mean.

73 — Bill, KB9YSI

Need Help? Call An Elmer!

By Dave Holdeman, N9XU

Are you vexed by a difficult radio question? Perhaps you are having RFI problems? Or maybe you just want help setting up your new station or getting involved in a new operating mode. Well, the FRRL is here to help. We now have an updated **Elmer List**. We are republishing the list in this issue for those that missed it or threw away their copy from last month.

An Elmer is a knowledgeable ham who acts as a mentor to those with less experience or knowledge. The following hams have volunteered to act as Elmers for the club. If you would like to be added to, or deleted from the list, please contact Dave Holdeman, N9XU, at d.holdeman@att.net.

Call	Name	Knowledge Area
W9AX	Bill	General questions, club functions
KC9CBY	Kirt	Old tube radios, restoration
KC9CLR	Zack	Antennas, radio programming
W4CEO	Maurice	Station set up, antennas
WD9CNW	Carol	Computer programming
K9EUI	Bob	Old tube equip., RTTY, antennas
AH6EZ	Dick	New modes, satellites, antennas, weak signal modes, computers
K9FE	Mike	General, wire antennas, stealth, mobile operation
W9GIG	Dick	ARRL and FCC
W9HI	Dennis	General, station setup, operating
K9JE	Jack	Antennas, station setup, operating
N9TO	Tim	Mobile antennas and mounting
N9UZC	Jim	UHF/VHF, antennas, general
W9XA	Kermit	UHF/VHF, amplifiers, EME & satellite, construction, surface mount, repairs
N9XU	Dave	Old tube type radios, WW2 surplus

Erickson HF Challenge Standings as of 6/15/04

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9COE	43	21	64
AH6EZ	29	18	56
K9FE	23		23
W9DTR	14		14
K9IH	12		12
NA9A	5/0	2	7

Callsign	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	48/10	109	167
N9YA	50/11	93	154
K9COE	50/10	68	128
W9DTR	49/9	61	119
NT3J	40/6	65	111
KB9YSI	38/8	63	109
J68AR	33/8	62	103
W4CEO	37/4	47	88
W9XA	38/4	37	79
K9IH	39/6	23	68
KA9OBH	0/1	36	37
W9DNJ	11/1	3	15

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9MMS	49/7	93	149
M/AH6EZ	3/0	28	31
MM/AH6EZ		11	11
KB9YYX	7	0	7

Callsign	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
NA9A	36/6	215	257
AH6EZ	50/11	177	238
WB90	38/4	101	143
K9FE	21/4	22	47
WOHED	36/2	2	40

FRRL and the Cougars

By Maurice Schietecatte, W4CEO

The score was Cedar Rapids Kernels 8, Kane County Cougars, 2. That's the bad news. The Cougars left 14 runners on base. They blew some big chances to win.

This is one of the few times the FRRL group has seen the Cougars loose. However, as your chairman promised, the weather was great. Temperature in the 70s, low humidity and a little breeze to make it comfortable. You missed a super social outing. Kids, Parents, Grandparents and Friends were all there.

The Zooperstars entertained us between innings and WOW what a great fireworks show after the game. Not to mention being entertained by the FRRL group, with the Chicken Song, YMCA and Who Let The Dogs Out.

I'd like to thank everyone for making the Cougars Night Out a fun social event. Shirley and I will miss this event but we will be thinking about you next year.

I think I talked Greg, N9CHA, into chairing this event for 2005. So please support him next year.

Moving Sale

To much stuff to list, but here are some items:

- Drake L4B,
- Amp Supply LK-550NT,
- New Force 12 3 element 15 meter Beam,
- New Mosley TA 34 XA (WARC) Beam,
- Like new Hex Beam 10/15 (used at FD),
- Plus meters, desks and etc.

Call Maurice, W4CEO at 815-786-2860

Satellite Excitement

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

The excitement of working a new satellite has certainly peaked my interest during the past several weeks. Now that AO-51 is up and running, I am looking forward to working my first FM bird.

I was introduced to satellite operation nearly 10 years ago. My father, WD9GWG and I built a ground station at his QTH in Northern Wisconsin. He has an Icom 820, Yaesu Az/EI rotors, ST-1 rotor interface, a cross yagi pair on 144 and 440 plus a 2.4 gig barbeque dish antenna with a 144 down converter. I don't get a chance to visit his station very often, usually holidays only.

Currently I am working on my own version of a portable ground station. With the help of fellow club member, Joe, KC9FPD, I am nearly finished with a base plate to mount my Az/EI rotors. We will also be building some antennas for the station using examples from both the ARRL Antenna Handbook and the Satellite Experimenters Handbook."

PS: Dick, AH6EZ, was listening to the first pass of AO51 with his portable during the 8th inning chicken dance at the Cougars Night baseball game.

IMPORTANT DATES IN SEPTEMBER

The FRRL Board Meeting is Sep. 7, the regular Club Meeting is the 14th, and VE testing is the 21st.

The **52nd Annual W9DXCC Convention** will be held on September 18 at the Holiday Inn in Elk Grove Village. A full day of programs has been scheduled, followed by an evening banquet. The door prize will be an Icom 706MkII transceiver. For info call (847) 945-156, or visit the web site at <http://www.w9dxcc.com>.

Radio Expo 2004, the Chicago FM Club's September Hamfest will be held Sep. 18th and 19th at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Grayslake, IL. For more info call (630) 628-1501, or visit the web site: <http://www.chicagofmclub.org>.

About the FRRL

The Fox River Radio League, Inc., is a general interest amateur radio club serving the central Fox River Valley area. Records indicate the club has been in existence since at least 1924, and has functioned continuously ever since. We are an ARRL Special Service Club, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, and a 501©(3) tax exempt organization as specified in IRS Statutes.

We sponsor training classes for new hams,

license examination sessions, an annual hamfest, and participate in various public service events. If you have a specialized amateur radio interest, chances are you can share it with one or more of our club members.

The Fox River Radio League meets on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at the Prisco Community Center in Aurora, Illinois. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. After conducting business, coffee and

snacks are served while we socialize. Following the break, a program of interest will be presented. All persons interested in amateur radio are invited to attend. Families are welcome. *We hope to see you there!*



License Exams

The Fox River Radio League, Inc., in conjunction with the ARRL VEC, conducts amateur examinations on the 3rd Tuesday of January, Marcy, May, September and November in the basement of the Prisco Community Center, 150 W. Illinois Street, (South East corner of Lake and Illinois) in Aurora, IL. at 7:30 PM. No advance registration is required, but please be sure to

bring your license (if you have one) and a photocopy of it, original CSCEs and a photocopy (if needed), some form of photo identification, and the fee of \$12.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

[The next exam session is scheduled for Tuesday, September 21, 2004.](#)

FRRL Dues

Annual dues are payable no later than the January Club Meeting each year. Persons joining during the year will have their first year's dues prorated to the nearest yearly quarter.

Regular dues are \$20.00 a year, Senior Citizen dues are \$12.00. Family dues are \$30.00. You can also help support the FRRL Repeaters by joining as a combined Club/ Repeater member for \$30.00. Repeater dues are \$20.00.

Check with the Treasurer for details and additional dues rates.

Nets

Net Name	Freq.	Day	Time
FRRL	147.210	Tuesday	7:30 PM Local
10-10 CW	28.150	Monday	8:00 PM Local
10-10 SSB	28.720	Monday	8:30 PM Local

Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

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FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE PRISCO COMMUNITY CENTER AT 150 WEST ILLINOIS STREET IN AURORA. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION .

Cougars Night Photos—1

by Greg Braun, N9CHA



View from the FRRL seats.—Not bad at all!



Baseball is for kids like K9FE and friends.

Cougars Night Photos—2

by Greg Braun, N9CHA



The YMCA gang goes wild! NA9A enjoys the show.



Maurice, W4CEO, enjoys the Zooperstar entertainers. Thanks, Maurice!!!!

More photos on the FRRL Web site at <http://www.frfl.org/cougars2004.html>

Send Address Corrections to:
 Fox River Radio League, Inc.
 29-W-458 Candlewood Lane
 Warrenville, Illinois
 60555-2639

FRRL Event Calendar

August, 2004

FRRL Board Meeting 3
 FRRL Meeting 10

September, 2004

FRRL Board Meeting 7
 FRRL Meeting 14
 W9DXCC Convention* 18
 Radio Expo Hamfest* 18/19

* More info on page 6, inside.

Handy Web Links

FRRL Web Site	http://www.frri.org/
ARRL Main Site	http://www.arrl.org/
ARRL Central Div. Site	http://www.central.arrl.org/
ARRL IL Section Site	http://www.central.arrl.org/illinois.html
ARRL IL Section News	http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=IL
ARRL Contest Page	http://www.arrl.orgcontests/
Contest Calendar	http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/
Callsign Lookup (QRZ)	http://www.qrz.com/
Vanity Callsign Info	http://www.vanityhq.com/
IRLP Main Page	http://www.irlp.net/
AMSAT	http://www.amsat.org/
FCC Services	http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur
SMC Contest Club	http://www.w9smc.com/

ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

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The ArcOver is published monthly by the Fox River Radio League, Inc. Articles and letters are always welcome. The normal deadline for material is six days prior to the end of the previous month. Articles can be sent by email to kb9ysi@arrl.net or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

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Local Area Repeaters

W9CEQ—147.210 Mhz. *
 +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone
 Owned by FRRL

W9CEQ—444.300 Mhz. IRLP Node # 4850
 +5 Mhz, 114.8 access tone
 Owned by FRRL

W9ZGP—146.580 Mhz.
 +1.08 Mhz (147.660)
 Owned by NIARC

KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz.
 -600 KHz, 103.5 access tone
 Owned by Kane County OEM

W9XA — 224.40 Mhz, +5 Mhz, IRLP Node #4846
 — **443.65 Mhz, +5 Mhz**
 — **1292.00 Mhz, -20 Mhz (1272.00)**

* Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time.