



Arc Over

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

August, 2007

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

The "Dog Days of Summer" are upon us, and that usually means antenna projects are underway. Some like to take vacation time and build or repair their antennas, getting ready for the Illinois QSO party in October and other special events. Click on the ARRL Contests link on our web site. There you will get a listing of the various state QSO party contests as well as special contests like the SARTG RTTY contest, and the National Lighthouse Weekend.

Thanks go to all those who helped make our annual FRRL Hamfest a success! Dean KC9EOQ did an excellent job organizing this years event. Thanks to all who helped out at the entrance selling tickets, parking cars, and setting up our special activities. Remember, there is a prize drawing in September for all those members who sold their tickets. You can still turn in your ticket money to Dean in order to get a chance to win! Each ticket sold gives you another chance to win.

Plans are well underway for a series of special "clinics" which will be offered by the club. Subjects include; D-Star programming and operation, HF Digital Modes and building a sound card interface, VHF/UHF side-band operation, and more. These special "clinics" will begin in September.

A new event has been added to the calendar this year. The Huntley Fall Festival is being held on the 15th of September at Deicke Park in Huntley. The event chairperson is Joe AB9OU (A new Extra—Congratulations!) with assistance from Bill W9WRS. You can help provide communications for the event by bringing your 2 meter handheld as we will support the logistics efforts during the daily activities. A special event station, W9H will be set up operating on 20 meters primarily, demonstrating ham radio to the general public. Plans are to demonstrate other modes such as ATV and APRS as well. Please contact Joe for more information at W9H@frri.org.

Benny W9CZA is back on the air with a "newer" HF radio. It seems Tim N9TO had a similar model to the one that was not working correctly in Benny's shack. Dick AH6EZ helped to get the failing unit on the air... and it did work, for a time. Dick knew that Benny was in the market for a new radio, so when he saw Tim's radio for sale at the FRRL Hamfest, he put the two guys in contact with each other. Benny can be heard on the City of Lights 10-10 net each Monday evening at 8:00 on CW at 28.150.

We welcome the new members who have joined our club! If you have a desire to help out during special events, or if you have some ideas that you'd like to share, please contact Mike K9FBI, our Membership Chairperson. Perhaps you've talked with someone who would like to become a ham and is looking for more information. The FRRL is the resource they need. On-going education classes and regular monthly meetings provide access to our many club resources.

73, Greg N9CHA

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation
Held at the Prisco Center in Aurora, IL
Meeting Minutes July 19, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun, N9CHA – President with 57 members present.
Question of the Month: What is your favorite mode or band?

Minutes of the previous meeting were posted to the web, printed in the Arc Over.

Treasurers Report: Total \$22,144.73 \$6,323.78 Checking/Savings \$15,820.95 Certificates of Deposit

Committee Reports

Database: 181 members. Any changes see Chris KC9BKS, database manager.

Newsletter: July edition has been published. If you have story ideas see Bill, KB9YSI

Public Relations: Kent W9NDW is the new PR Chairman.

Webmaster: Field Day photos posted. Hamfest photos coming soon.

VE: Regular session is scheduled for Tuesday September 18th 7:30PM at the Prisco Center in the basement.

Next Gen: Nets are continuing, next net scheduled for Sunday July 15th.

Cougars Night: 15 tickets left for the game & fireworks July 27th. See Ken, N9WCX

Field Day: Submitted score = 3893 QSO's; 9976 points after adding in various bonus categories. This is roughly 1000 more points than last year. Thanks to all band captains, operators, guests and organizers.

Hamfest: Dean, KC9EOQ thanked everyone for coming out to help. Figures are still being worked on; anticipate about the same as last year.

ARES: Eric, KC9FQV – Kane County EC made the announcements that Cyd, N9CV is the new AEC for administration replacing Kent, W9NDW who is now the DuPage County EC. Congratulations to Cyd and Kent.

Special Event: Huntley Fall Festival September 15th – We are planning to set up a demonstration and public relations program as part of the festival. Joe, KC9FPD and Bill, W9WRS are chairing the event, see them for more information and to volunteer. There will be some events and areas that will need communications in addition to the demo and PR tasks.

Program: APRS, What, Why, How

With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Bart, seconded by Craig.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:13PM, break, raffle and program to follow

Respectfully Submitted:

John Spasojevich, K9COE – FRRL Secretary

Repeater News

During the weekend of August 4-5, Kermit, W9XA, Paul, W9DWP, Earl, N9FNX, and Tony Huricon worked on our FM repeaters. They found a cross-band coupler mounted at the antennas which was not working correctly. After replacing that and doing a very thorough inspection of the antennas, feedlines and patch cables, they determined all was working much better. We now have a very favorable SWR on both the VHF and UHF systems. This has enhanced our transmitter output power, and vastly improved the receive capabilities. Reports on our Yahoo Group indicate the 2 meter machine reaches as far as Evanston to the east, I-39 to the west, and north well into Wisconsin. We are also hearing Bill, K9OZY, again from his location in Kankakee.

A new D-Star UHF antenna was installed in place of the one which was being used. The old one was purchased used, and must have something wrong with it since it never performed correctly. After the new antenna was installed, preliminary reports are excellent. Hams down at the lakefront in Chicago have been able to use the repeater consistently. If you are currently using D-Star, you will notice a great improvement in the coverage area.

Also, with the cooperation of Paul W9DWP, the FRRL VHF D-Star repeater has been placed into service. The frequency is 145.27. Be sure to set your Rptr call setting to W9CEQ C (two spaces after the Q).

The next repeater update is to swap out the old controllers with the new Arcom RC210 units. Dick AH6EZ has completed the initial testing and has made measurements in the racks for the install. There are a few programming changes that need to be completed, and interface cables to be built. A schedule for installing the controllers is pending.

For Sale — House With Tower

We announced last month that Steve Koczko, KA9GGF, passed away in June. Mike Dotson, N9LMO, a former FRRL member, is assisting KA9GGF's family with the sale of the house, tower and antennas .

The house comes with a 70 Foot plus tower already installed. It is a three bedroom ranch (see photos) at 501 East Church St. in Plano. If you buy the tower the house comes with it! Either are for sale separately. Mike asks that anyone interested contact him, and he will put you in contact with Steve Jr. He also notes that he is planning to take some of Steve's ham gear to the Peoria Hamfest.

Photos of the house are available in a folder in the files section of the FRRL Yahoo Group.

Mike's contact info is:

Mike Dotson (N9LMO)
808 Sweetbriar
Plano, IL 60545

(630) 552-8269

August Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The August FRRL program will tell you everything you ever wanted to know about QSL Cards — what they are, how they are used, and the best ways to make sure you get them from those rare DX stations you need for your DXCC award.

HF Challenge: July Update

By John Spasojevich, AG9D

We didn't get too many updates this month. I'm running out the door for 10 days on Lake Michigan with 16 teenagers so we're putting this month's Challenge Update to bed a little sooner than usual. As a reminder, scores are due to me by the 15th of each month in order to get posted in the Arc Over and the Web.

We've heard from the "old hands" in the hobby searching out the rarest of rare DX. What follows is from someone who while not new to the hobby is just getting into the HF world. I hope you'll share in the enthusiasm, and if YOU aren't on HF and you now have HF privileges, that you stop talking about getting on the air and start talking on the air!

I am having a GREAT time on HF! Being limited to 20m right now, it's starting to get a little tough, as I am running out of 'border' states to work! I need to get wire up for 10, 40, and 80m- anyone up for an antenna party??? Made my 1st (what I would call) 'DX' contact on 10m- New York last Monday night. Wow! Europe seems to be pretty easy to hit, even with my wire dipole at 25'. Anything else, it's tough. FINALLY made a couple in South America and Canada here and there. With the cycle the way it is right now, sometimes I really have to REACH into the noise and pull those QSO's out...but its fun!

I seem to have gotten into a new sport that I am calling 'accidental contesting'. Twice now, in the course of just looking for a QSO, I have stumbled into contests in progress. So naturally, I have to start operating and see what I can do. I was introduced to the Canada Day contest and the VID (Valenzuela Independence Day) contest. Gotta get a contest calendar up in the shack!

Also, a note to new ops. the Challenge is GREAT fun, but don't get hung up on it! A few times now, I have caught myself passing QSO's by because I 'already had' that state or country. One word...DON'T! Let's not forget what this hobby is all about-communications! And who knows, that next QSO with a state/country you ALREADY have, might be the RAG CHEW QSO you DON'T have. Have fun!

Eric, KC9FQV

That's all for this month...

John, AG9D (Alpha Gulf Nine Delta)

The scores are on Page 5.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Scores— July, 2007

Here are the current standings for the 2007 HF Challenge as of July 15. Welcome to the new participants this month!

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	-	-	56
K9FE	-	-	46
N9YA	-	-	31
K9IH	-	-	18
AH6EZ	-	-	12
KC9CHG	-	-	7
NA9A	-	-	6
KC9FQV	-	-	4
WB9CHY	-	-	2

Operator Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	47/8	92	147
N9CV	50/11	80	141
K9FE	45/11	59	115
K9TCD	39/3	46	88
K9IH	42/8	38	88
N9YA	50/6	18	74
KC9FQV	31/3	15	49
WB9CHY	21/1	6	28
KB9YSI	15/3	7	25
KC9EOQ	4/0	20	24
KC9CHG	19/0	0	19

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ— PSK	50/9	109	168

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
NA9A	27/3	183	213
AH6EX/W9	49/12	141	202
N4LZ (W4CEQ)	45/6	89	140

RFI Resource

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

One of the members of the Society of Midwest Contesters, Jim Brown, K9YC, has announced he has a new version of his tutorial on RFI, Ferrite Chokes, Baluns, and Audio for Hams available as a PDF file. I checked this out, and it really is a very complete and well-written resource for RFI and audio problems. You can find it at <http://audiosystemsgroup.com/RFI-Ham.pdf>.

Heard on the Air — HF Version

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

While searching for HF contacts, I occasionally hear some things that make me pause, laugh, and maybe just wonder. I started writing them down, to what end I did not know... but then I thought perhaps they would make an entertaining article for the ArcOver. Here they are:

"From your photo on QRZ, it looks like you have been in the hobby a long time"

"West of me is flat, except for the mountains"

To a station calling for S. American stations only,: "But I am in South America, I am in Mississippi!"

"I've been in this pile up for 3 hours, glad to finally get you, what is your call sign?"

"OK, I got your call sign, do you know your name?"

"I am half way between San Francisco and the West coast."

"My name is John, and I am in the state of Orlando."

"I believe in buying American, and only American...I support our country! My radio? I am running a Yaesu..."

"I don't know why they have to put so much money into research, they can just look it up on the internet..."

"For Field Day, we tuned in to the beer and brats, and that's where we had the most contacts..."

"I have been a 42 year old ham since the age of 20"

And, in the *It's a Small World* category, from my QSO with OA4SS, Eduardo Schmidt, SJ, in Lima, Peru: "Your QSL is on the way, Cyd. Some 40 years ago I lived in North Aurora. Hope to see you again one of these days. 73's."

It is a small and funny world, isn't it?

Cyd, N9CV

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. Information tables are open at 7:00 PM, and 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, March, 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 \$14.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

The next exam session is scheduled for September 18, 2007, at the FRRL Hamfest.

FRRL Dues

Annual dues are payable no later than the January Club Meeting each year. New members 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. Members can help support the FRRL Repeaters by making an annual \$10.00 donation.

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 .
<http://www.frrl.org>

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.org/contests/
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/

Send Address Corrections to:
 Fox River Radio League, Inc.
 40W981 Bridle Creek Drive
 St Charles, Illinois
 60175

FRRL Event Calendar

August, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting 7
 FRRL Meeting..... 14

September, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting 4
 FRRL Meeting..... 11
 Huntley Festival 15
 VE Testing 18

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 arcover@frri.org or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

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Local Area Repeaters/Nets

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

W9CEQ D-Star—442.100 Mhz.
 FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeater
 Contact W9XA for information

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

W9DWP—Kane Co. Amateur Public Svc. Rptrs.
 145.270 -600 KHz, 107.2 access tone
 443.025 +5 Mhz 114.8 access tone
 Linked Repeater System

- Weekly ARES Net—Mon. Eve. at 9:00 pm local time on the W9DWP Linked repeaters
- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- KC OEM Skywam Net— Wed. Eve. at 7:00 pm on the KC9OEM repeater.
- Next Gen Kid's Net — 1st & 3rd Sundays at 7:00 pm on the FRRL 2 meter repeater.