



Arc Over

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

September, 2008

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

The FRRL is moving its meeting location if a proposed resolution is passed at the September meeting. We could be moving as soon as October. The proposed location is Rasmussen College, 2363 Sequoia Drive, Aurora, IL. The College is offering the space for free.

The Prisco Community Center, run by the Fox Valley Park District, went under new management in 2008. Since early this year, we have been paying for our meeting space. It's currently costing our club \$50 an hour, or \$100 per meeting to utilize the space we currently occupy. Each of our VE sessions costs the club \$25 an hour, or \$50.

A decision in March was made by the Board to move the monthly Board meetings to private homes to eliminate the \$25 per hour cost. Charles KC9DAO, Larry W9OKI and myself hosted the meetings. Per our bylaws, we communicated the meeting location in the Arc Over.

A three person Ad Hoc committee was appointed in March to seek out and secure a new meeting space for our club. Denny W9HI, Eric AB9OS and Harry K9DXA were asked to research the Fox Valley area to find a suitable space based primarily on cost, location and ease of access. Following up on a tip from Dean KC9EOQ, Denny and his Ad Hoc committee met with the facility manager of Rasmussen College in Aurora. This is a new facility located near the corner of I-88 and Orchard Road. They have a large room available to us for free, plus classrooms available for our VE testing, Board meetings, and educational opportunities.

W9H, an FRRL special event station is planned for September 13th at The Huntley Fallfest at

Deike Park in Huntley. The park is located just off Rt. 47. Club members are asked to help with grounds communications, as well as the special event station. Both 20 and 40 meter stations will be set up for operation. Please contact Joe AB9OU for further details.

The Mid-American Canoe & Kayak Race is back. The 47th Annual event will run on Sunday, September 28th. This year the race will start at the VFW in Batavia and end at the Prisco Center in Aurora. For more information and how you can help provide communications, please contact Bart KC9FQA.

In October, we will be operating a special event station during the St. Charles Scarecrow Festival. October 11th we will be setting up two stations, one operating on 20 meters, the other on 40 meters. There may also be a couple of QRP'ers who want to get in on the action too. The location this year is Campton Hills Park, 6 miles west of St. Charles off of Rt. 64, on Town Hall Road. There is a shelter with electricity and parking as well as a cooking area. We will be providing a picnic lunch with hot dogs and hamburgers. A \$5 donation is requested. A full color QSL card will be sent to those stations we work. Contact Greg N9CHA for further details.

73, Greg N9CHA
FRRL President, 2008
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FRRL President, 2008

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 August 12, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun – President with 50 members present, 3 new members.

Question of the Month: How many miles did you drive to the meeting tonight?

Minutes of the previous meeting were available for review.

Secretary Report- Bill W9WRS – meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over.

Treasurers Report: Larry W9OKI - Total Assets: \$26,693 (Cash/Savings = \$9,919 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,774)

Committee Reports

Newsletter: Bill N9FD – Looking for a new Arc Over editor.

Special Events:

Bart, KC9FQA - Volunteers needed for the Mid-American Canoe Race – September 28th from the Fox Valley Park District Tobi K9TCD will be the chair.

VE: Doug, W9RD, Next VE session September 16.

Public Relations: A new PR person is needed. Contact any Board member if interested.

Database: Chris KC9BKS – Reports 214 members. The updated 2008 roster is on the Yahoo Group.

Program: Dick AH6EZ - This month's program will be a video about Hellschreiber and the Enigma Machine.

Repeater Committee: Dick, AH6EZ, Kermit was able to repair the UHF repeater.

Education: Eric KB9IDT – Tech or General class will be presented this fall.

Nets: Adam KC9ITG – Successful simplex net, 15 of 28 members that checked into regular net participated.

Hamfest: Dean KC9EOQ – Congratulations to Dean and crew for a very successful Hamfest. 252 gate tickets sold, up 20 from last year. Please turn in your ticket money ASAP.

Cougars Night: Ken N9WCX- July 18th Cougars beat Great Lakes 17 to 10. No fireworks due to time ordinance. July 18th tickets will be honored for a choice of 3 other dates. There were 10 tickets, leftover from the 18th game or the August 29th game against the Peoria Chiefs were sold. This is a Provena Lunchbox game. 1st 2000 kids get a free lunchbox.

Technical Committee: Mike K9FE – Linux SIG will resume at his qth, Saturday, September 27, 2008.

Current Business:

Special event station: W9H – Huntley FallFest – Saturday September 13, 2008. Joe AB9OU is chairman.

Video: Gary K9MMS and grandson Cal K0DXC were featured on Minneapolis KSTP 5.DVD did not function correctly, will be presented next meeting.

Other Business from the floor:

Kermit W9XA - The 56th W9DXCC DX CONVENTION & BANQUET, SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2008. For more information visit <http://www.W9DXCC.com>.

Mark WB9QZB – TAPR Convention – September 26, 27, and 28. For more information visit <http://www.tapr.org>.

The next board meeting will be held at Colonial Café in Aurora on 9/2/2008.

The October Board meeting will be at Rassmussen College in Aurora, IL.

General meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Program to follow.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps, W9WRS – FRRL Secretary

Editor Wanted

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

The time has come for the ArcOver Editor, to hang up his typing fingers and pass the editing and production of the FRRL Newsletter on to someone else. I've really enjoyed my stint here in the plush suite of FRRL offices overlooking the lovely Fox River, but I'm getting a bit tired of the monthly deadline routine. And, of course, if you do anything too long you get stale. I've been doing this for a long time, and I'm running out of ideas and creative energy.

You are probably wondering what is involved in putting this masterpiece together. Most of the time it's fairly simple. Our crack staff of correspondents send me their monthly articles like the President's Letter, the Program Notes, the Minutes and the Challenge Updates. I take their documents, merge them into the newsletter template, run a quick spell check, create a PDF file and upload it to the web. Of course there are times when things don't quite fit right or don't arrive on time; that calls for some quick phone calls and perhaps a bit of creative writing on the fly. But usually it doesn't involve much more than cutting and pasting and perhaps a bit of light editing.

There are also the printed copies (about 15) that need to be mailed out. I produce a master copy on my home laser printer and take it to Swifty Print, a commercial printer in St. Charles. When they are finished printing, I fold, stamp, apply address labels, and run them off to the Post Office. Chris, our Database Manager, supplies a current list of names and addresses that I convert into Avery labels. The Club pays for the stamps, labels, and other material.

I also send out a blanket email to members when the electronic version is safely loaded on the club's website.

To produce the ArcOver I use Microsoft Publisher for layout and production, MS Word and Excel to manage incoming documents, Adobe Acrobat to produce the PDF files for the web, and the Thunderbird email to generate the blanket emails. Frankly, you could do this using almost any publication software (I started off with Quark Express), and I suppose it could be done in MS Word if you had too. There are several free PDF file generators available in lieu of Acrobat (Cute PDF worked well for me for quite a while). The Thunderbird mail program is free, and is the most convenient way I've found to manage monthly updates to the email list.

What are the rewards for doing this? Well, you get involved with the club and you really learn what is going on. You work with really nice people. You get a sense of satisfaction from doing something important for your club and for amateur radio. You get compliments and applause. You get really good at using your publishing software. And of course you get the monthly salary, (which doubles every year), and the plush office suite overlooking the lovely Fox River.

I will provide support, training and hand-holding for anyone that wants to give this a go. It really is a challenging and fun. I've learned a lot, and I've gotten the chance to work along with some great folks.

I guess that's about it. If you are interested, please contact either me or Greg.

Oh — one final thing — I lied about the salary and the plush office suite. Sorry.

Bill, NF9D

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – August, 2008

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Very few reports this month. Herb (W9DTR) reports slow on the bands. Joe (NA9A) reports of many contacts during a recent 10-10 QSO party. Toby has a new beam antenna, and proudly sent a picture! I made a fun contact with NU5DE -a special events station for NATURIST AMATEUR RADIO (which promotes nudity awareness). They boast they always operate barefoot!

Special event stations are fun, whether it is an island activation, light house or county fair. Make sure you follow directions carefully if you want their QSL card; most insist on SASE, but some have envelope specifications. The "Indian Code Talkers" was my first special event contact, and they remind us of an important part of history. If your HF challenge contacts are few, let us know of your Special Event contacts!

Ragchew	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
N9CTO	-	-	58
K9FE	-	-	52
KC9FQV	-	-	31
W9DTR	-	-	31
NA9A	-	-	25
K9IH	-	-	16
AH6EZ	-	-	16
N9YA	-	-	3
AB9OS	-	-	3
WB9CHY	-	-	3
KC9DAO	-	-	2
K9JE	-	-	2

Operator	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	43/7	115	165
W9DTR	50/9	84	143
NF9D	46/7	67	120
N9CV	45/7	35	87
K9FE	35/5	23	63
K9TCD	38/4	20	62
N9YA	27/5	27	59
K9IH	23/4	7	34
KC9ITG	25	2	27
WB9CHY	16/1	3	20

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update (Continued)

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ (Digital)	50/8	94	152
N9CTO (Digital)	44/5	8	57
KC9FQV (Digital)	31/8	18	57
AB9OS (CW)	3/1	33	37
KC9DAO (15 Meters)	2	13	15

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/10	152	212
N4LZ	29/8	85	122
NA9A	52	64	116

New Members

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

Here is a list of new members that have joined since the last newsletter. Please extend a friendly welcome to all of these hams when you hear them on the air or see them at a club meeting.

K9SAA	Steve Ahasic
KC9NYY	Justin Roess
KE7INH	Tom Casselman
W9CSR	Ralph Sikich
WA9NPZ	John Martin
KC9NSP	Kenneth Kaelin

Canoe Race Volunteers Needed September 28

By Tobi Davis, KC9TCD

Calling all volunteers: Use your love of radio to help provide communications during the Mid-America Canoe Race on Sunday, September 28, 2008. The race will be abbreviated due to continued bridge construction along the river, but it will happen!

The race will start at 10 am and I would like to do our radio test at 9:30 am, therefore volunteers should plan on arriving before then. It is estimated that the race will be finished by 2 pm, but that is only an estimate. It could end earlier or later depending on the number of entrants.

Once I have volunteers I will decide where to place people. We will be needed only at three locations: the beginning at the Batavia VFW, the North aurora portage by the Butterfield bridge, and the end at the Prisco Center. The staff at the portage will probably have to record boat numbers, but those at the beginning will not need to do so. I believe an HT will suffice, but we will check that out. As of now, I plan on using the FRRL repeater, with NIARC as a backup

There will be an event at the Prisco Center the same day which will take up parking. As of now, the finish line will likely be the Illinois bridge, with the boats exiting the river south of the bridge opposite the Prisco Center. I'm not sure exactly where we will post people at the end — perhaps at the bridge, or where the boats exit the river. However, net control will be at the race ending point.

If you would like to help out, please contact me at canoe@frrl.org or by phone at 630 985-1904.

Tobi, KC9TCD

September Program Notes

Digital Voice is here, a quiet little revolution in Amateur Radio. Will it replace SSB (and FM) the way SSB replaced AM? Some people think so. Some are afraid it will! This program will introduce you most of the flavors of Digital Voice currently in use in Amateur Radio: D-STAR and P-25 on VHF/UHF; and AOR, WinDRM and DRM-DV* on HF, with a sample of the brand new FDMDV. You'll hear what they sound like, see how they operate, and be ready for... the future.

The producer traveled to Dallas, Alabama, Chicago, St. Louis, Washington DC, and, of course, Dayton for interviews and demonstrations from the hams who are on the leading edge of this new technology. The program includes interviews with FRRL member Kermit W9XA at the FRRL D-Star Repeater site, and it covers both the newest HF and VHF modes of operation.

TAPR Digital Conference Slated For September:

The 2006 ARRL/TAPR DCC (Digital Communication Conference) will take place in Elk Grove Village on September 26 - 28 and is the premiere annual national conference covering digital voice & data technologies & modes. More information about the DCC is available at: <http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>

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(c)(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 at 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, 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 16, 2008, at the Prisco Center.

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

Mailing Address:

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60510-0673

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info@frrl.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

President

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Vice President

Charles Penninger,
KC9DAO

Secretary

Bill Stamps, W9WRS

Treasurer

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

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Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

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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>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

September, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting 2
 FRRL Meeting 9
 VE Session..... 16
 Huntley Fest 13
 Canoe Race 28
 TAPR Digital Conf 26-28

October, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting 7
 Scarecrow Festival 11
 FRRL Meeting 14

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/

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.

Prior permission is required to republish original ArcOver material.

The opinions expressed in the ArcOver are strictly those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the FRRL, Inc. or its sponsors.

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 _B D-Star—442.10625 Mhz (+ 5.0 Mhz offset)
W9CEQ _C D-Star—145.270 Mhz (-0.600 Mhz offset)
 FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeaters
 Contact W9XA for information

KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz. -600 KHz, 103.5 access tone
 KC9OEM—444.525 Mhz + 5 Mhz, 114.8 access tone
(2 meter is primary Kane Co. SKYWARN /ARES freq)
 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

W9ZGP—NIARC
 147.060 +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone

- Weekly ARES/Skywarn Net—Wed. Eve. at 7:00 pm local time on the KC9OEM 2 meter repeater
- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.