



# Arc Over

September, 2010

Fox River Radio  
League  
PO Box 673  
Batavia, IL  
60510-0673

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## President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

Summer 2010 is drawing to a close. As we begin Fall and look towards Winter we have many activities coming up. September kicks off the club election season. This year's Nominating Committee is Larry K9ARZ, Ken N9WCX and Pat N9TBD. They will be looking for qualified candidates to run for elected office. If you feel you have something to offer, please contact them by the November meeting. They will be looking for candidates for two director positions, which are two year commitments. They will also be looking for candidates to serve as Officers: Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and President. Officer seats are a one year commitment. However, anyone running for President must be ready to serve a two to four year tour. This is because after your term you automatically serve on the board as Past President. If you serve two terms and your successor serves two terms, you'll be in it for four years. So any would-be Presidents, consider your schedule carefully.

October through January is membership renewal. Please put forth your best effort to get your renewal in by the January membership meeting. As our by-laws state, you are not a member of the club if your dues are not paid by the January membership meeting. This is a four month time period. If you can't get to a meeting, mail it to the club P.O. box. We need your dues by January as we plan the budget for the year in February. We can't budget properly without your help. We've been in operation since 1924, including through the Great Depression so we should be able to weather the current storm.

We will hold a special operating event for the Illinois QSO Party at the QTH of Kermit, W9XA on Sunday October 17<sup>th</sup>. The event runs from Noon to 8PM. The purpose of this is to work as many other stations in Illinois as possible during the specified time period. Many years ago the FRRL won this contest and was awarded a nice plaque which we would like to win back. The idea behind this being at Kermit's' place is to give our newly licensed and those without HF equipment another opportunity to get on the air with some world class rigs and antennas. To go along with this we'll be hosting a BBQ for those of you not interested in contesting, if you have never been out to the W9XA shack, you are missing something. Don't worry about being jammed into a small area, it's in a separate building! We'll need a few experienced hams to help out with operations and one or two to assist with BBQ duties. Come on out, it'll be a good time of radios, food and rag-chewing, what else can a ham ask for!

December is our annual election and Christmas Party. We'll have more details on that as it gets closer. Mike K9FE is working hard on our banquet for January. We are confident the cost will be lower and that more of you will be able to attend. It's always been a nice time to get together socially. It's also when we recognize many of our members for the hard work they have put in throughout the year as well as announcing the FRRL Ham of the Year.

What is the FRRL? Well, according to the by-laws the FRRL is ".....to provide for the exchange of technical information and for improving the operational skills and enjoyment of both its members and other persons in amateur radio communications. Further to provide a pool of skilled operators and equipment for use in community service or in the event of a community or national disaster."

As I mentioned at the last meeting, I'm having trouble finding a Question of the Month that hasn't been

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the  
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation  
Held at St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL**

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Meeting Minutes August 10, 2010.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by John Spasojevich – President with 63 members present.

- John AG9D gave a reminder about washroom locations and donations to the coffee fund.
- John AG9D reported that the special guest, Senator Bill Foster, will not be here tonight, he was called back to Washington.
- **Secretary Report:** Bill W9WRS– meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over. Motion to accept with correction to the Hamfest Committee report. Ken N9WCX, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dean K9EOQ. Minutes accepted pending correction.
- **Treasurers Report:** KC9EOQ. John AG9D changed the way that totals are reported.
  - Cash: \$ 4725.55
  - Repeater fund: \$3892.20
  - Total cash \$8,617.75
  - Total Investments \$16,773.55
  - Total Assets: \$25,391.30
- **Announcements – John AG9D**
  - Chicago Marathon October 10, 2010 – Contact K9LGE if interested in volunteering.
  - AMSAT Symposium October 8, 9, and 10 in Chicago.
  - Hamfest profit is down about \$500.00 and some people were there that did not buy any tickets.
  - Lecture about the necessity of paying the annual club dues when they are due.

### **Committee Reports**

**Program:** Demo of Dick AH6EZ's Flex 1500, RF Clipper, and Italian amplifier.

**Repeaters:** Dick AH6EZ – There will be a repeated Committee meeting later in August. The Nova site is the new permanent location for the repeater. WBIG tower will not be rebuilt.

**VE Session:** Doug W9RD –Next session 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of September.

**Membership:** Chris KC9BKS we currently have 188 members.

**ARES – Kane County - James N9UZC –** On October 9<sup>th</sup>, there is a high probability there will be a simulated emergency test. DuPage County – On October 2, there will be a practice drill . Contact K9LAE or W9NDW for more information. [www.dupageares.org](http://www.dupageares.org)

**Net Control:** Dawn KC9LQS – Needs suggestions for Topic of the week and has 4 net control openings for the rest of the year.

**Hamfest:** Dean KC9EOQ – Hamfest earnings were \$700.00 down from last year.

**Field Day:** Eric AB9OS – Gave a Field Day overview. We scored 8338 total points this year.

**Education:** Eric AB9OS – There are General and Extra classes scheduled for this fall. See [www.frll.org](http://www.frll.org) for details.

**Newsletter –** Tobi K9TCD (per AG9D) – Newsletter is on website and on front table. She needs articles.

### **Member Announcements**

Eric AB9OS – Turn in HF challenge scores.

Jack K9JE – Turn in your QSL cards for the DX Bureau. Sort by country and include a copy of your QST label.

Mike K9FE – Is shooting for \$25.00 a ticket for the banquet.

Eric K9LGE – needs volunteers for the Chicago Marathon. Has 48 , needs at least 60, would like to have 100. Contact him for more information. The Marathon will be on 10-10-10. Check [www.chicagomarathon.com](http://www.chicagomarathon.com) or email [leads@hamradiochicago.org](mailto:leads@hamradiochicago.org) if interested.

### **New Business**

The September 7, 2010 board meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The September 14, 2010 General meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The October 5, 2010 board meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The October 12, 2010 General meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

Motion to adjourn by Ken N9WCX,, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bart Adam KC9ITG

General meeting adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps W9WRS  
FRRL Secretary

## September Program Notes

The September club meeting's program will be about crystals and crystal oscillators. This was stimulated by Dick AH6EZ receiving an Army training video about the different cuts of crystals. We might not use crystals as the main frequency determining element in our transmitters but crystals are all around us.

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### New Members

Welcome to the following new member:

CALL	NAME
KC9STI	Peter Brown

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*President's Traffic (Continued from page 1)*

asked and I hate to ask frivolous questions. I prefer questions that have some bearing either on the meeting that month or for future knowledge. At the September meeting, the Question will be "What is the FRRL?" I know this will cause some grief because to answer it properly requires a personal response and I have noticed a tendency to avoid those sorts of answers but I think it bears asking. Put some time into your answer. I feel that most of you who come to meetings do not understand me very well, at least I go home feeling that I am not able to communicate with you very well. Maybe I'm too emotional, too many thoughts all fighting to come out at the same time or too illogical, maybe too straightforward, perhaps a combination of things. I will tell you this and I hope you understand, the FRRL is a very unique place. That said, I have considered not renewing my dues for the past three or four years. After I was Secretary I sat "out there" and heard the muttering, the complaints, and the suggestions. It's not a perfect operation by any means. I don't eat donuts too often and I don't drink coffee at night. I've done things others got credit for. I have a son to get to scout meetings, tutoring sessions and to do homework with. I have a step daughter struggling with addiction. So what is the FRRL? What about it keeps me coming back? What is it that compels me to commit my time and effort? It's the people. It's the shared experiences, the aggravation and the thrill of the things we accomplish together. Go back and look at the Scout-O-Rama photos, Canoe Race and Field Day things like THAT are what WE do best. THAT is what the FRRL is for me. A place to learn, have fun and share a common experience, and when working with kids, it's the smile on their face, smiling at the magic. What more is the FRRL? Let us know.

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-August 2010

By Eric Needles, AB9OS

Take a close look at the scores below...we have a new leader in the Rag Chew Class! Steve N5EP just got into the Challenge a few months ago and has really put up quite a score and moved into first place. Sounds like you're having fun on HF Steve!!! Also, note that we have 4 operators within 1 point of each other in the Operator Class. Going into the fall contest season, it is going to be fun to see everyone build on their scores. Be sure to mark your calendars for the Illinois QSO party in October, it's a great way to build on your states score.

Remember, it is never to late to get into the HF Challenge. Just e-mail your totals to me by the 15th of each month and your are in! Now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9BQL-CW	42	11	158	211
K9MMS-CW	50	11	114	175
K9ARZ-Digital	50	9	103	162
AB9OS-CW	38	3	57	98
NF9D-QRP	21	2	41	64
K9LGE-Digital	12	1	8	21

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	50	10	103	163
N9YA	50	11	70	131
W9IV	33	6	64	103
KC9LQS	42	6	54	102
K9TCD	45	6	51	102
KC9EOQ	38	15	49	102
WB9CHY	41	5	52	98
N5EP	32	6	51	89
K9IH	24	6	37	67

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50	13	204	<b>267</b>
K9JE	41	11	157	<b>209</b>
KC9DAO	46	5	95	<b>146</b>
N9JZN	32	4	65	<b>101</b>
NA9A	14	2	36	<b>52</b>

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
N5EP	29/5	15	<b>49</b>
W9DTR	28/5	13	<b>46</b>
AH6EZ	30/2	7	<b>39</b>
N9YA	16	3	<b>19</b>
K9IH	6	6	<b>12</b>
NA9A	9	3	<b>12</b>
K9LGE			<b>11</b>
AB9OS	8		<b>8</b>
K9JE	1	1	<b>2</b>

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## Where the Elmers Are

By Dawn Williams KC9LQS

An interesting question was posed at the last FRRL club meeting: Do you consider yourself an Elmer or an Elmerree?

For the benefit of new hams who may not be familiar with the term, an Elmer is an amateur radio operator who takes on the role of mentor for someone who is learning the ropes. Some of us were fortunate enough to have a formal Elmer who guided us through the initial learning curve when we entered the world of amateur radio. Others worked alone to master the theory, technology, application and, in some cases, the dits and dahs of Morse code when it was still a licensing requirement.

Elmering is a natural extension of the tradition of service within the hobby. We use our knowledge both for our own enjoyment as well as for the good of the radio community. Members of the FRRL demonstrated Elmering at its finest this year, after several of our young people earned their first licenses. James KC9RVP, Julika KC9RVQ, Tony KC9RVR and Susie KC9RGO have been surrounded by Elmers, many of whom may not think of themselves as such. Club members have rallied to nurture and encourage the love of radio in these youngsters by answering questions and offering information, being available for QSOs with the new operators, generously providing equipment, and encouraging the youngsters to get on the air, check into the net, learn new skills, and get involved in club events. We have communicated a powerful message through our actions: No ham is ever alone in this community.

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Elmering isn't always a formal relationship. If you've been in the hobby for any length of time, you've undoubtedly engaged in conversations with fellow hams about equipment challenges, operating issues or antenna performance. Tune into any frequency on any band for an example of this type of discussion. One person mentions a situation he or she is dealing with, and everyone else offers suggestions on how to diagnose the problem, possible fixes, and examples of their own experience with similar situations. You may not think of this as Elmering, but it is – and a mighty powerful example at that.

During one of my early contesting experiences, I heard an operator patiently explaining the rules of the contest to someone he had just worked. The instructions were detailed and took quite a few minutes that this fellow could have been using to gain more QSOs. But that's what Elmers do. They give generously of their time and knowledge for the benefit of another ham.

Never underestimate the power of your influence. By virtue of the fact that you hold a license, you are an Elmer. You have attained a goal through your own hard work and experience. Whether you have been licensed for 40 years or 4 months, you have something to offer, and everything you do as an amateur radio operator teaches others.

I mailed my first membership application to FRRL the day my call sign was issued, and every connection I've made with club members since then has taught me something. In those early days, I would listen to conversations on the 2-meter repeater, learning how to operate from those examples. While Jeff N9JZN has always put in a lot of effort as my personal Elmer, my understanding, skills and confidence grew just as much through the input and example of the wider circle of Elmers the club provided.

At the August meeting, a few members who have held licenses for many years answered the "Elmer or Elmeriee" question in a way that surprised me. In spite of their veteran status as hams, they still consider themselves Elmeriees. But this perspective makes sense. In a hobby so vast, with new technology becoming available to us at every turn, there will always be something new to learn, and always someone out there with more knowledge in a particular area. We are all Elmeriees in this sense, increasing our skill and benefiting from the experience that others provide.

At the same time, only .2% of the 308 million people in the United States hold an amateur radio license. If you hold a call sign, you have attained something that most of the population has not. That means every single member of this club, even the most recently licensed and the youngest among us, are potential Elmers. Our new hams seem to grasp this concept, even if they haven't put it in words yet. I see it when Jeff and I are discussing radio and Susie throws in a relevant fact she recalls from her first licensing exam, or when James recently offered suggestions during a net, to a seasoned ham who was butting heads with his computer operating system. It is both gratifying and humbling to watch these young Elmers in action.

Our new operators influence my perspective as much as the more experienced hams whose knowledge I respect so much. The youngsters helped me realize that what each of us lacks in knowledge is less important than what we've gained. The true measure of a good ham is based in solid understanding and the willingness to share it. We all have something to offer, as well as something to gain. Unlike any other hobby, amateur radio is about community, give and take, and becoming the best you can be, while contributing something for the betterment of the whole.

I am both an Elmer and an Elmeriee, proud of how far I've come and grateful for the community that is helping me move beyond. How about you?

## 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 St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM. After conducting busi-

ness, 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 Rasmussen College, 2363 Sequoia Drive, Aurora, IL, at 7:30 PM. A special session is held at the club's hamfest, usually in July each year. 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 \$15.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

**The next exam session is scheduled for September, 21, 2010 at St. Rita of Cascia church. Please see the [frri.org](http://www.frri.org) website for details.**

## 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:

Box 673  
Batavia, Illinois  
60510-0673

### Email:

[info@frri.org](mailto:info@frri.org)

### Web Site:

<http://www.frri.org>

### President

John Spasojevich AG9D

### Vice President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

### Secretary

Bill Stamps, W9WRS

### Treasurer

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

### Directors:

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

Larry Stark, K9ARZ

### Past President

Mike Urso, K9FE

### License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

### Newsletter Editor

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[newsletter@frri.org](mailto:newsletter@frri.org)

### Webmaster

Greg Braun, N9CHA  
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FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT ST. RITA OF CASCIA IN AURORA, IL, BUT LOCATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR THE ADDRESS AND A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION.  
<http://www.frri.org>

Send Address Corrections to:  
Fox River Radio League, Inc.  
3023 Scenicwood Lane.  
Woodridge, IL 60517

### FRRL Event Calendar

#### September, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 7  
FRRL Meeting ..... 14  
VE Session ..... 21

#### October, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 5  
FRRL Meeting ..... 12

### 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 the 20th day of each month for the next month's newsletter. Articles can be sent by email to [arc-over@frri.org](mailto:arc-over@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\_\_B D-Star—442.10625 Mhz (+ 5.0 Mhz offset)**  
**W9CEQ\_\_C D-Star—147.225 Mhz (-6.0 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 6:30 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.
- Monthly Simplex Net—4th Tues following weekly FRRL Net on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.