



Arc Over

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

September, 2011

President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

Part 1 – “Up Nort”

The St. Croix River creates the boundary between Minnesota and Wisconsin and the valley it forms is spectacular. I swept into Minneapolis by air, an hour and a half trip gate to gate, driving the rest of the way into Polk County and my base for this trip, Osceola. Many of you know Greg N9CHA, and that he relocated back to his hometown from Geneva. I had the opportunity to spend four days as his guest.

Visiting the area you find many small towns and it has the feel of becoming a big tourist destination, sort of a western Door County. That may be the future but for now Polk County is poor. There aren't many jobs unless you have a trade or are a teacher or perhaps in public service. Polaris Industries once manufactured engines and other parts for their ATV and Snowmobile operation, but that has since shut down. Real Estate seems to be a going enterprise especially around the smaller lakes; many of the buyers are vacation home owners from the Twin Cities rather than local families. There is a very nice local railway which you can ride. It is very reminiscent of the museum in Union, IL. It runs along the scenic St. Croix and consists of many vintage railcars and was very popular on the day we went. If you are looking for trendy shops, or tourist stuff, you won't find it. If you want to go to McDonalds you'll have to drive out of Osceola and drive up two towns to St. Croix Falls, that's also where the local Wal-Mart is. Each town though has a place where the locals go to eat, drink and relax, almost by type of food it seemed. If you want one thing you go to this town, if you want another you go to a different town and so on. I remember one place we went to for breakfast. There were two dining rooms. This morning there were about eight guys sitting around a table, chewing the rag. In the other dining room was what I'm guessing were the wives, also chewing the rag. I thought it interesting that they separated like that, but I'm told it's pretty common up there.

I had the opportunity to visit the Polk County ARC club station. I knew the club met in a former sheriff facility. I had imagined something like a small firehouse, brick with some overhead doors. What I experienced was a two story building and not at all what I envisioned. The shack is in the old 911 center. Much of the building has been repurposed since the sheriff moved to a new headquarters and the club was offered the space, along with the old radio tower for the repeater. There are also antennas on the roof and a remote receive site in another town. Considering what we have gone through, what I was seeing and hearing was hard to believe.

Monday morning I was introduced to Chris, the club ARES/RACES Coordinator, and sat in on their SET planning. The club has close to 40 members and about 20 will be participating in the SET, which is a pretty good turnout. As part of their scenario Greg and I rode out to the town of Frederic all the way at the top of the county to test the simplex range of their membership on the weekly net. We set up a Penninger Radio hitch mount tipper and dual band antenna, parked on an access road along the main highway and set about swatting as many of the million or so mosquitoes that invaded the van as we could. While we were waging war on the mosquitoes a pickup truck came alongside and the guy asked if we were checking propagation, turns out it was another ham, not a club member, just someone who saw us parked. He said he had a tower for sale and some gear he wanted to give away. He lived just down the road so we stopped by on the way

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**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**

Meeting Minutes August 9, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM by John Spasojevich AG9D– President.

- **Secretary's Report:** John AG9D announced that the meeting minutes for the July 12, 2011 Regular Meeting were published in *ArcOver*. Larry W9OKI motioned to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Denny W9HI. The motion carried.

- **Announcements:**

John AG9D extended thanks to Vicki KC9PWM for providing refreshments at club meetings.

John AG9D announced that ARISSat-I has been successfully launched and, with the exception of a battery problem, is functioning as expected. He has ARISSat band plans available.

Larry K9ARZ was recognized for his "Hints & Kinks" article, 'Bayonet Bulb Gripper,' in the September 2011 issue of *QST*.

John AG9D thanked Dan N2DAN for providing excellent photos of Field Day activities.

Dick W9GIG reminded that the 59th W9DXCC DX Convention and Banquet will be held Friday and Saturday, September 16-17 at the Holiday Inn-Elk Grove Village. There is something of interest for everyone including presentations, forums, and manufacturer's demos. ARRL President Kay Craigie N3KN will be the Saturday evening banquet speaker. Visit <http://www.w9dxcc.com/index.htm> for more information.

- **Committee Reports:**
 - **Cougars Night** – Ken N9WCX reported that Cougars Night was a big success, and he thanked everyone for their support of this event. John AG9D noted that all 40 available tickets were sold.
 - **Education** – Eric AB9OS reported that a new Technician class license instruction program will commence on Saturday, August 20. This program will extend over five consecutive Saturdays and conclude before the VE session on September 20.
 - **Program** – Dick AH6EZ announced that the topic for this meeting would be the W3AO Field Day effort. He has no specific program planned yet for the September meeting but welcomes suggestions.

Old Business:

- **Radio in the Park** – Bill NF9D announced that the second Radio in the Park event will be held Saturday, August 13 at the Campton Hills Forest Preserve. He will have stations set up and there will be food available provided by John AG9D. The event will run from 9 AM to about 3 PM. The site is west of St. Charles and directions will be posted on the club website.

- **Membership Survey** – Dawn KC9LQS reported that the Membership Survey had been completed with 82 survey forms received. She noted that some time will be required to fully evaluate the results, but several club activities stand out as valuable to members. These include the meeting programs conducted by Dick AH6EZ, "Elmers" who help and advise other members, and learning new aspects of amateur radio through SIGS and workshops. It was further observed that most club communication resources are used and valued by members. Some survey responses suggested an earlier meeting start time. Regarding program topics, Dawn asked members to please give suggestions to Dick.

Dawn thanked everyone who participated in the survey and was pleased with the high response level. She asked members to continue the dialog stimulated by the survey and to communicate additional ideas for the club.

New Business:

Eric K9LGE discussed the upcoming Chicago Marathon on October 9 and amateur radio's traditional role providing communications support at the event. This will mark the fourth year that ham radio operators have assisted. He emphasized that ham radio involvement is strictly non-commercial providing communication between medical aid stations along the route and the forward command position. Information regarding runner injuries, runner bib numbers, and other safety-related traffic is handled by the radio operators.

This year there is a need for approximately 100 ham radio volunteers who will man 21 aid stations. Eric said that experience has shown that people with contesting skills often do well as volunteers. Dick AH6EZ also noted that the certification of volunteers (FEMA training) is no longer required.

Eric explained that the strategy this year was to find clubs that are willing to "adopt" an aid station and provide the four volunteers

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Minutes (Continued from page 2)

needed for that station. Eric had presented this concept at the August FRRL Board meeting. Dick AH6EZ noted that the Board approved a motion for Eric to present the idea at this General Membership Meeting, and if four volunteers plus two backups can be found by the conclusion of the September General Meeting, the FRRL will sponsor an aid station.

Dick AH6EZ asked if any attendees would be interested in arranging for a limited number of members to visit their shacks. Four attendees indicated their willingness to host visitors and many attendees expressed interest in participating as visitors.

John AG9D announced that a three person Nominating Committee was being formed for the purpose of nominating members for board and director positions, which must be filled next year. Dick AH6EZ noted that the job descriptions for the available positions are included in the club by-laws, but more "user-friendly" descriptions would be desirable.

Adjournment

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Eric K9LGE and seconded by Denny W9HI. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Ron Jahr KC9SNI
FRRL Secretary

President's Traffic (Continued from page 1)

back. If you have been to Kermit's QTH this guy's shack was about twice the size and mainly served as a workshop. There was a modest station set up in a nice room in the back. We took note of what he wanted to get rid of; I'm sure one of the club members will be able to put it to use.

I met two other hams while I was there: Mark One and Mark Two, so named because Mark was already a member when Mark joined, so the members tagged them One and Two. I met Mark Two first. I arrived on a Sunday. The day before there had been an antenna party at home of Mark Two. He put up a 50 foot tower, with all the usual stuff. Greg said about 12 to 15 people were there to help. The first thing I noticed was that the home was actually a duplex. I wondered if the neighbors had any issues with the tower, not only did they not, they helped with the install. Humm....a new subdivision that allows antennas and neighbors that help put the tower up! Where the heck am I? I met Mark Two in his shack. We knocked on the door, the one between the house and the garage. His daughter answered the door and she said, "He's in the shack." She said it without the usual tone, funny since she is not a ham....yet. This is just getting really strange. The shack is in one of the bedrooms and is located around a bit of a corner so when Greg introduced me, I sort of worked my way around and came face to face with a large, retired US Marine standing in something like boxer shorts. Obviously this is a man who is comfortable in his own skin! There is a lack of pretense in Northern Wisconsin. People are who they are and you know it right away. He was obviously excited to have a new toy and I knew he had been turning that antenna all day and by the look on his face, he would be up well into the night!

Next Month – Part 2 – The Aches and Pains Net

September Program Notes

Recently John Greusel KC9OJV, discussed in the Yahoo Group building a 75m SSB QRP transceiver. For the September program, he will describe the VE2ZM kit and what he has learned about building it and how you can do similar things too.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-August 2011

By Eric Needles AB9OS

Not much to report in terms of scores for the HF Challenge. The summer has pulled many of us away from our radios. However, it won't be long and we'll be back into the swing of Fall contests.

The big local contest coming up is the Illinois QSO Party. The contest runs 1700Z, Oct 16 to 0100Z, Oct 17, 2011. This is a great contest to get into for both beginners and advanced hams, and a great way to build up your HF Challenge scores!

We have had one report of activity, from Larry K9ARZ, who says his recent catches include ST0R (CW,SSB, RTTY) Southern Sudan, TY1KS Benin, VK9IR & VK9HR Lord Howe Island, JX5O Jan Mayen Land, and CE0Y/I2DMI (RTTY) Easter Island. FB on the Southern Sudan contacts Larry!

Remember, it is never too late to get into the Challenge, just pick a category and e-mail your scores to challenge@frrl.org. And now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9MMS-CW	50	10	177	237
K9BQL-CW	36	8	159	203
N5EP-CW	44	8	68	120
NF9D-QRP	39	4	46	89
W9IV-QRP	28	5	54	87
KC9SNI-10m	6		16	22
K9LGE-Digital	9		2	11
AB9OS-CW	2			2

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ	50	12	237	299
AH6EZ	50	11	231	292
KC9DAO	47	7	91	145
N4LZ	30	1	101	132
N9JZN	26	5	76	107
NA9A	22	0	69	91
KC9EOQ	29	4	47	80

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	39	9	143	191
W9DTR	50	11	129	190
K9TCD	42	5	68	115
KC9LQS	30	8	76	114
K9FBI	35	6	54	95
K9IH	27	3	40	70
WB9CHY	32	3	4	39

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
N5EP	36/2	4	42
AH6EZ	23/2	9	34
W9DTR	23/3	4	30
K9IH	20	7	27
K9LGE			9
NA9A	7	1	8
AB9OS	2		2

Upcoming Contests

By Dave Holdeman N9XU

Telephone Pioneers

The annual Telephone Pioneers QSO party has been moved from the first weekend in December to October 22nd and 23d. This gets us away from the holiday season and with more hours of daylight, might help us to log more contacts on the higher frequency bands. Jim, W4AXO has developed some new logging software for the contest. I have been one of the beta testers of the new software and it is a fine piece of work. The new software can be downloaded from the "Bell Ringers" web site. Please use the newest software as there have been many changes in the contest rules. Be sure to read the "Read Me" file before installing.

The Western Electric QSO Party

The annual Western Electric QSO party will be held November 12 and 13 and is open to all amateurs. Scoring is the number of Bell System location codes worked times years of service of the contacted amateurs times number of contacts. Non-Bell amateurs are given a special location code so they can participate. For information go to the web site: <http://cqwe.cboh.org/>.

I know that we have at least 10 former Bell System amateurs in the FRRL who I have worked in past years. Let's all get in the contest this year and make our presence known.

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 and includes social time,

a business portion and a program of interest.

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 St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora 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 20 at St. Rita of Cascia church. Please see the frrl.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

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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.frrl.org>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

September, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting 6
FRRL Meeting 13
VE Session 20

October, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting 4
FRRL Meeting 11

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 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.