



Arc Over

October, 2010

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

President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

Welcome to Fall! The year is fast coming to an end. I wanted to take the time to remind you that club membership renewal starts with the October meeting and concludes in January. Please renew your dues at a meeting and if you can't, then please get them in the mail to our post office box.

The October meeting will run a little differently than what you are accustomed to. Typically in October, we have people lined up to pay dues and purchase banquet tickets. When 7:30 rolls around it has been very difficult to get folks seated and quieted down. This happens again after the break when Dick wants to start the program. So to avoid this we will have a slightly different meeting format. We'll do our best to open the doors at 7PM. The time from 7PM until about 8PM should be considered "the break". Use this time to renew your membership, purchase banquet and raffle tickets and socialize. Around 8PM we'll have a short meeting, followed immediately by the program.

The Nominating Committee is looking for candidates for club office. The ballot will be presented for approval at the November membership meeting. The Club needs your help; this is one unique way to give back something to the organization which helps you. Please contact Larry K9ARZ, Ken N9WCX or Pat N9TBD if you are interested.

December is our Annual Meeting, Election of Club Officers, Christmas Party and the Big Raffle for all of you who purchase tickets throughout the year. This meeting is a lot of fun and you won't want to miss it.

Happy Halloween!

73,
John

**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 10, 2010.

Meeting called to order at 7:40 PM by John Spasojevich – President with 50 members present.

- John AG9D welcomed all to the September meeting.
- John AG9D – Condolences to Tobi on the loss of her father Ed Hurley WB9EDE (SK)
- **Secretary Report:** Bill W9WRS– meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over. Motion to accept by Kermit W9XA, 2nd by Randolph W9HE.
- **Treasurers Report:** KC9EOQ. John AG9D changed the way that totals are reported.
 - Cash: \$ 5103.94
 - Repeater fund: \$3907.26
 - Total cash \$9011.20
 - Total Investments \$16,773.55
 - Total Assets: \$25,784.75
- **Announcements – John AG9D**
 - Next month dues can be paid. \$20.00 club, optional \$10.00 repeater donation.
 - We will be taking orders for name badges. See Dean KC0EOQ.
 - AMSAT Symposium October 8, 9, and 10 in Chicago.
 - Illinois QSO Party at Kermit's qth. 10/17/2010 11 AM to 8 PM, main focus getting newer hams on hf.
 - 53rd annual Jamboree On The Air 11/16-17
 - John AG9D – What are you working on? Bring your radio related project and display it on a table.
 - John AG9D – The 2010 nominating committee is Larry K9ARZ, Ken N9WCX, and Pat N9TBD.
 - AG9D – explained that the President could possibly have to serve for 4 years, 2 terms as president and 2 years as past president.

Committee Reports

Program: Dick AH6EZ - Crystals. He also read an amusing anecdote about the FRRL from a 1932 QST magazine.

Repeaters: Dick AH6EZ – Both repeaters are working, he is experimenting on the clone of our 2 meter repeater, and the committee is considering a 220 repeater.

VE Session: Doug W9RD –Next session 3rd Tuesday of September at St. Rita..

Membership: Chris KC9BKS—we currently have 193 members.

ARES: W9GIG – There will be a simulated New Madrid earthquake drill soon.

Net Control: Dawn KC9LQS – No report.

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 for details.

Newsletter – Tobi K9TCD – no report. Deadline for articles is the 20th of the month.

Member Announcements

When asked for suggestions, give some.

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

Kermit W9XA – Send stamped self addressed envelope to the bureau to get incoming QSL cards.

K9FE – Banquet tickets will be available at the October General meeting. It will be held at the Omega restaurant, Rt. 59 and I-88, on 1/22/2011. Tickets will be 28.00 per person.

Harry K9DXA – The SDR SIG will start back up in November.

Mike K9FE – The Linux SIG will start back up in November.

John AG9D – For ARISS updates, go to www.rac.ca/ariss or www.arrl.org/ariss.

John AG9D – Ham of the Year voting will be held by secret ballot at the December meeting and announced at the Banquet.

New Business

Marty N9NTM – The Peoria Hamfest is this weekend.

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.

The November 2, 2010 board meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The November 9, 2010 General meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

Motion to adjourn by Randolph W9HE,, 2nd Warren K9IH

General meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Bill Stamps W9WRS

October Program Notes

The October program will be in two parts. First, will be “Stump the Experts”. This is a session for audience members to receive help with problems they are having. Not only Dick AH6EZ, but other “elmers” in the audience will be able to answer the questions. The second part of the program will be videos from YouTube on various aspects of ham radio.

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

CALL	NAME
N9IPW	Jim Resser
NH7C	Steven Caesar
KC9QJS	Theodore Caesar
KC9QJR	Ethan Caesar

Coincidence? Or the Stars Were Aligned

By Dick Illman AH6EZ

During the preparation for a recent program on the use of Crystals, I had been searching through old QST magazines on the ARRL web site. During one of my searches, I noticed a listing of clubs participating in the third annual Sweepstakes contest. I did not see the FRRL listed. I figured that the FRRL would have been active at some point, so I searched for the FRRL and I found the article in the October 1932 issue about marriage causing a drop in ham club meeting attendance.

I was out at the CFMC hamfest on Sept 25 and I saw a bundle of QST magazines for sale. The bundle happened to be 1932, but the bundle said it was missing a couple of months. Since I could not remember the specific issue with the FRRL article, I decided to pass on the opportunity. However just a few feet away, I noticed that there were individual issues for sale for \$1 each. Here is the strange part. The issue that was on the top of the stack was October, 1932. Instantly it looked familiar and when I looked at the table of contents, sure enough it had the FRRL article in it.

The chances of this must be enormous!

I had to show up at the hamfest. The specific QST issue had to show up at the hamfest AND be on the top of a stack for sale And I had to happen to look at the stack of QSTs and recognize the specific issue that had what I had just researched a month before.

By the way, this QST has been fun to read for lots of reasons. One that startled me was the column called "Stations Heard". Apparently is was still somewhat rare to talk across the Atlantic or to other parts of the globe and so this column listed US stations that had been heard by specific DX stations. It was amazing that the column was less than a page long.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-September 2010

By Eric Needles, AB9OS

The fall HF contest season is here. The Illinois QSO Party on October 17 is a great way to build on your number of states worked. The next contest not to miss is the CQ WW SSB contest on October 30 & 31, followed on November 27 & 28 with the CQ WW CW contest. In between, on November 6 & 7 is the ARRL CW Contest and on November 20 & 21 is the ARRL SSB Contest. Plenty of opportunity to build on your scores for provinces and countries so mark your calendars and get ready.

Since last month, a handful of people have been working on their scores. A few interesting contacts include Herb W9DTR who worked ER4DX in Moldova, Joe NA9A who contacted ZS8M and Dick AH6EZ who added EK5 Armenia, TZ6 Mali, 3D2 Fiji, TN5 Rep Congo and RW2 Kalingrad.

Remember, you can join in the fun of the HF challenge at any time by simply sending your score to challenge@frrl.org by the 15th of the month. And 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	109	169
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	37	6	55	98
K9IH	24	6	37	67

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50	13	210	273
K9JE	41	11	157	209
KC9DAO	48	7	102	157
N9JZN	32	4	65	101
NA9A	16	3	42	61

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
N5EP	33/5	18	56
W9DTR	28/6	17	51
AH6EZ			44
N9YA	16	3	19
K9IH	6	6	12
NA9A	10	2	12
K9LGE			11
AB9OS	8		8
K9JE	1	1	2

Book Review

By Roger Hancock KD1FY

I saw some enthusiastic comments about a book entitled "Practical and Tested Aerial Systems" by G3ROO on the NetServ QRP-L and thought it might be of interest to some of the FRRL members to know about the book. It is supposed to be a book about homebrew antennas. The book, together with shipping is only \$ 14.08. If someone in the club who is more knowledgeable about antennas is willing to check it out for validity first, it could be a good resource for club members.

A source for the book is:

<http://www.lulu.com/product/paperback/practical-and-tested-aerial-systems/10904725>

468: Ham Radio's Magic Number

By Dan Romanchik KB6NU

Here in the U.S.—where we still measure length in feet—468 is a magic number. Why? Well, the formula for calculating the length, in feet, of a half-wave dipole antenna is:

$$L \text{ (ft)} = 468 / f \text{ (MHz)}$$

If you do the math, a half-wavelength is actually $492/f$, so where did the number 468 come from? The explanation most often given these days is that a radio wave travels about 5% slower in wire than it does in free space, so the distance that a radio wave would travel in a wire is about 5% less than it would travel in free space. Now, I don't know about you, but while I've used this formula for building dipoles, I've never had one tune up perfectly using that number. There are a number of reasons for this, the main one being the height above ground of the dipole. What I've found is that the elements of the dipole are usually longer than they need to be.

I sometimes joke that whoever came up with that number did so that hams wouldn't cut their dipoles too short. After all, it's much easier to make a length of wire shorter than it is to make it longer.

Ward, N0AX, wasn't satisfied with any of the common answers to where the number 468 came from. In the latest issue of QST, he consulted the materials in the ARRL library and found the answer.

The October 1926 issue of QST included an article titled, —The Length of the Hertz Antenna. (—Hertz antennall was the name most commonly used for a dipole in the early days of radio.) The author of that article constructed nine different dipoles and measured their resonant frequencies. He then calculated a value, K, by which you'd multiply the wavelength to get the wire length. If you multiply that number by 300, you'd get values ranging from 423 to 471. The number 468 first appeared in the 1929 ARRL Handbook.

For this article, N0AX did a number of simulations of a 20m dipole at various heights, ranging from 1/8 wavelength to 2 wavelengths. He came up with numbers ranging from 466.4 to 483.4. This is somewhat at odds with my experience, although I must admit that I've never been able to get my dipoles up that high. That's my guess for why my dipoles are almost always shorter than $468/f$. At any rate, this article is certainly worth reading.

This article appeared in the September 2010 issue of The Radio Hill Gazette. The Radio Hill Gazette is the official publication of the Schaumburg Amateur Radio Club which can be found at <http://n9rjv.org>. The author's website can be found at www.kb6nu.com.

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 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 November 16 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:

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Batavia, Illinois
60510-0673

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info@frri.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frri.org>

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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

October, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting 5
FRRL Meeting 12

November, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting 2
FRRL Meeting 9
VE Session 16

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.