



Arc Over

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

October, 2011

President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

The Aches and Pains Net

Polk County, WI has a total area of 956 square miles and a population of 44,205. The largest demographic is the span between 35 to 54 years of age with a good bump in 10 to 19 year olds. Kane County, IL has a total area of 524 square miles and a population of 515,269. Similar to Polk County, the largest demographic in Kane County is the span between 25 to 54 years of age with a bump in the same 10 to 19 year old group. It looks to me like Kane County is a little younger, quite a bit smaller, but over ten times the population! I don't have figures on hams as a percentage of the population. The thing that's different is the 10% rule. You know, the rule that says in any organization 10% of the whole is responsible for 100% of the work. I would say that the hams of Polk County, specifically those who are members of the PCARA are at the 30 to 35 % rule.

I've mentioned this lot since my return from visiting up there. The responses are various, but generally follow the same track: It's a small town (the membership is county wide and as you see it's a larger county); there is nothing else to do (have you seen the St. Croix River Valley?) I'll leave it there. We have kids, they have kids. We have elder care, they have elder care. We have the Legion, VFW, Lions, Knights of Columbus and they have them too. There are high school football games, field trips and PTA meetings just like here. There is work and politics too.....just like here and there is amateur radio. There are club activities like a weekly net, which runs from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. Monday night with 30 plus check ins. There is a packet radio network where none existed. Towers go up and towers come down. Public Service events come and go. Through it all the PCARA regularly musters 30 to 35% of their membership. Oh yeah, I forgot one set of numbers. We have 170 members (with 10% participation) they have 45 members (with 30% participation). So here is the thing I have been pondering, what is it that drives them?

I left you in part one with me standing in Mark #2's bedroom, at his shack. Mark #2 served this country in the USMC in Viet Nam; he suffered physical injury to his knees, but carried on back home at the Anderson Window factory, retiring after 30 years. Mark #2 pulls no punches, like most of the people I met; he'll tell you how it is. He'll also tell you he is illiterate. The day before I got there he put up his tower, 50 foot crank up with a hazer. He lives in a duplex. Eighteen club members came to help him, and both adjacent neighbors came to help as well! Marks story was repeated time and again as I met members of the PCARA. One suffers from dyslexia so severe Greg types up the plans and materials he comes up with for the club. Several suffer from cancer. Another's wife suffers from a disorder that causes a seizure which makes her become rigid and she is always in danger of severe injury. Yet through it all, through all of the other things, the schools, the civic clubs, the scout fundraiser, grilling hot dogs for the sports boosters, they find time, they find time for a hobby and a service they dearly love and yes, they find the time to spend with each other. The members of the PCARA I met truly make me proud to call myself a ham.

I'm a member of three other groups; all of them are non-amateur radio. Last year I decided I had to drop out of one. Why? Because I realized that while I was a member on paper, I was not very much help, I could not be a "member" of all of them in the truest sense of the word. But that's me, when I join something it's because I want to DO, not watch, not sit and talk about doing it, I want to DO it. I wonder how many of my fellow FRRL members are members of other clubs, societies and organizations. If you are, maybe it's time to do what I did. Pick one or two and contribute your best effort, as you see, it is possible if you really want to, that's the key, you have to want to.

**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 September 13, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 PM by John Spasojevich AG9D– President.

- **Secretary's Report** - John AG9D announced that the meeting minutes for the August 9, 2011 Regular Meeting were published in ArcOver and available from FRRL Secretary, Ron KC9SNI. Mike K9FE motioned to accept the minutes, which was seconded by Harry K9DXA. The motion carried.

Business Meeting Protocol: Some members have expressed their preference for shorter discussion of club business at meetings. To that end, John AG9D summarized the protocol, which should be followed for conducting club business at regular membership meetings.

Unfinished (Old) Business: These are any items of business carried over from the previous meeting. If it had not been decided upon, e.g., tabled, it can be debated and voted on to reach a decision. These items include any item that was in the process of being considered when the last meeting ended, or any items that were scheduled to come up at the last meeting but were not reached before its adjournment. Matters that were decided upon during earlier meetings are not discussed.

New Business: New items may be brought up by any member using the procedure “making a motion.” A motion must be seconded in order to be considered by the group. Following consideration, i.e., debate of the motion by the group, the motion must be voted upon. The motion carries (passes) when the majority of the assembled members vote in the affirmative for the motion. (Important: “New Business” does *not* include “Announcements,” which are separate from the business meeting.)

When there is no further unfinished or new business, the business portion of the meeting is concluded. For this meeting, with no items in either category, the business portion of this meeting concluded at 7:40 PM.

- **Announcements**

Radio in the Park – This year’s second Radio in the Park event was held on August 13th at the Campton Hills Forest Preserve. John AG9D showed several photographs from the event. Bill NF9D had two rigs set up for operation and demonstrated digital communication modes including the Winlink E-mail application. John provided food and refreshments for the event.

Membership Renewal – Membership renewal and dues collection for 2012 begins next month (October) and concludes at the end of January.

Nominating Committee – John AG9D announced that the nominating committee tasked to identify candidates for upcoming board and officer vacancies includes Kermit W9XA (Chair), Vicki KC9PWW, and Bill WB9LPW.

SDR SIG – Harry K9DXA announced that the Software-Defined Radio (SDR) SIG will recommence next month at Rasmusen College on Saturday mornings at 9 AM.

Raffle Program – Chris KC9IEQ announced that the membership meeting raffle has been enhanced with the addition of a higher-value item, which will be included in the raffle periodically as raffle funds accumulate. An Astron 30-amp power supply is the next such item to be raffled.

Name Badges – Dean KC9EOQ reminded attendees that he is accepting orders for member name badges. Larry W9OKI said that he still has the new logo buttons and pins available. Two styles are available: a flat button for application to an FRRL member badge or a lapel-type pin.

W9DXCC DX Convention – Jack K9JE reminded that the W9DXCC DX Convention will be held Friday and Saturday, September 16-17 at the Holiday Inn-Elk Grove Village. ARRL President Kay Craigie N3KN will be the Saturday evening banquet speaker. Gary K9MMS is the registration agent for this event.

Illinois QSO Party – John AG9D reminded that the annual Illinois QSO Party is scheduled to commence at 1700Z Sunday, October 16, 2011 and end at 0100Z October 17. This event includes phone and CW/digital contacts on 160m through 2m excluding 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters. See <http://www.w9awe.org/ILQP2011.htm> for more information.

- **Committee Reports**

Education – John AG9D reported that the Technician class license instruction program lead by Eric AB9OS is underway and will conclude before the VE session on September 20.

Membership – Chris KC9BKS reported that the club presently has 170 members.

Repeaters – Dick AH6EZ observed that repeater activity has been low. To help him determine how members are utilizing the repeaters, he distributed a comprehensive survey, asked that attendees complete it and return it to him. He also announced new repeater usage guidelines with the intent of encouraging more repeater usage by club members and in-depth, stimulating conversations.

Dick also conducted an informal poll asking how many attendees might participate in a club project to construct a DTMF-controlled decoder device, which would allow repeater users to selectively allow or block repeater traffic in their shacks as desired.

Program – Dick AH6EZ reported that the program for this meeting would feature a presentation by John KC9OJV who will discuss the construction and technical details of his VE7ZM 75m SSB QRP rig. He will also discuss his experiences with homebrew printed-circuit boards. Dick does not yet have a program in mind for the October meeting.

Adjournment

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Mike K9FE and seconded by Marty N9NTM. The motion carried, and the meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Ron Jahr KC9SNI
FRRL Secretary

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

CALL	NAME
A15F	Richard Spoula
KC9KAX	Randal Ligocki

October Program Notes

Kermit W9XA will be making a presentation for the October program on the ARRL and what it can do for you.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-September 2011

By Eric Needles AB9OS

It is that difficult time of year where many participants in the HF Challenge are struggling to get those last few states, provinces and countries. I keep getting reports of dupes, like this from Joe NA9A "...only added a state and a country since July. At least the country was ST0R, South Sudan. I did work other states but they were rag chews for states I already had recorded."

Larry K9ARZ, who reported working South Sudan last month, says "daytime propagation has been poor; grayline propagation into Far East (China, Hong Kong, Korea) has been pretty good. Most recent catches include: J28AA (Djibouti), and 9U7T Burundi (These were not as easy to get)."

Be sure to get into the Illinois QSO party on Sunday Oct 16 to help build up your HF Challenge scores. Remember, it is never too late to get into the Challenge, just pick a category and e-mail your scores to challenge "at" frll.org just like Dave K9WDB did this month. Welcome Dave! 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	45	9	79	133
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	239	301
AH6EZ	50	11	231	292
KC9DAO	47	7	91	145
N4LZ	30	1	101	132
N9JZN	26	5	76	107
NA9A	23	0	70	93
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	5	43
AH6EZ	23/2	9	34
W9DTR	23/3	4	30
K9IH	20	7	27
K9LGE			9
NA9A	7	1	8
AB9OS	2		2

Special Meetings

SDR SIG: The software defined radio special interest group is back! The group will meet monthly at Rasmussen College on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. The first session is October 22. If you were attending the group before the summer break, please come back. If you have not attended the group in the past, feel free to join in the fun.

License Class: Once again, a license class will be held on Saturday mornings at Rasmussen College. The class begins on October 15 and runs for five consecutive Saturdays from 9 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. Please see the FRRL website for more information as to which category of license the class will cover.

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 November 15 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

Mailing Address:

Box 673
Batavia, Illinois
60510-0673

Email:

info@frrl.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

President

John Spasojevich, AG9D

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Newsletter Editor

Tobi Davis, K9TCD
newsletter@frrl.org

Webmaster

Greg Braun, N9CHA
webmaster@frrl.org



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

October, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting 4
FRRL Meeting 11
SDR SIG 22

November, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting 1
FRRL Meeting 8
SDR SIG 12
VE Session 15

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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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—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.