



Arc Over

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

November, 2006

President's Traffic

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Hopefully your radios are still warm from operating in the Illinois QSO Party. I know that I had new challenges this year because I was stuck in Gaffney, SC on a business trip for the weekend. I did manage to throw a wire out my hotel room window and using my Elecraft KX1 QRP rig worked 15 stations. I tied the antenna to my car out in the parking lot right in the front of the hotel. It was weird being restricted to only talking to Illinois.

As mentioned at the last meeting the Nomination Committee is working on a slate of candidates to be announced at the November meeting. Please consider supporting your club in new ways. I know that the enthusiasm among our members was very high at the last meeting. Nothing like free equipment... (thanks to W9GIG for arranging the estate goodies).

Please remember that November begins our membership renewal season. If everyone pays their dues before January we can publish the annual roster early in the year and avoid the need to bug you with renewal reminders all Spring.

November Program Notes:

The D-Star presentation at the October meeting was well received. Thanks to Mark, WB9QZB, for a very informative program. There is growing interest in digital modes all around the Chicago land area, and now we have some understanding about what digital is all about.

I am still in the process of putting the November program together, but right now I have a vision of a program that would involve the theory and practice in tuning in a SSB signal, including a contest between skilled and new operators. There may be exercises in how to tune in weak or noisy signals and use receiver controls to optimize reception. Of course all this may change, so come to the November meeting and be surprised.

73,
Dick, AH6EZ

Membership Renewals/Dues Collection Begins

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

The month of November kicks off the annual dues collection period for the FRRL. This year we are trying something new to try and speed up the collection process and improve the accuracy of our database. We are providing all current members a printed data sheet containing the information that is currently on file in our database. We ask that you review the datasheet and note any corrections on it before you approach the Treasurer with your dues money. The datasheet is a 3 part form. One part will be kept by the Treasurer, one part will be given to the Database Manager for input and the third part will be given back to you as a receipt (if you want one).

Blank fields on the datasheet do not have to be completed, but if you want to fill in the blanks, please feel free to do so. The only fields we really need completed are your Call, your name, address and a phone number, an email address, and your ARRL membership status. The ARRL membership field is important because we need to be able to provide a count of ARRL members in order to retain our status as a Special Service Club. The datasheet forms were printed in late September, so there may be some information that is not current. Please mark all changes, as the information on the form will be the basis for the 2007 Club Roster.

We hope you will find this year's renewal process to be both easier and faster. If you have any comments or questions about the process, please see either Bill, KB9YSI, or Larry, W9OKI.

Repeater Guidelines Insert

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

For several months the FRRL Board of Directors and the Repeater Board have been discussing a formal set of guidelines for the operation of the Club's two repeaters. These guidelines are now complete and ready for publication.

To insure the widest possible distribution we are publishing the guidelines as an insert in this issue of the ArcOver (see page 3), as well as posting them on the Club's website (<http://www.frri.org>) and the FRRL Yahoo Group. To avoid excessive postage costs we are replacing some of the usual ArcOver content this month. We'll resume the regular newsletter format in December.

Please take a few minutes to review the guidelines. They formalize what has been standard amateur conduct over the years into a brief digest of good operating practices. By following them you will help to continue the FRRL's tradition of friendly, courteous and professional repeater operation.

Fox River Radio League Repeater Conduct Guidelines (Nov. 4, 2006)

The Fox River Radio League has adopted the following Repeater Conduct Guidelines in accordance with good amateur practice as defined in FCC Part 97 and the amateur code.

1. Always identify according to the regulations.

The use of good operating procedure is a distinct characteristic of Amateur Radio. It's important that you convey to the public and to new hams the image that Amateur Radio operators are skilled communicators. A friendly style is great, but make a deliberate attempt to operate professionally and don't become sloppy. Remember that new or prospective hams are listening to you. Show them how to communicate clearly and concisely. Amateur Radio regulations are largely self-enforced and we all need to work together towards these goals. You should identify your station when you make contact with another ham, then every 10 minutes or more often if you like, and at the end of your conversations.

2. Avoid lengthy conversations.

Please limit conversations to 15 or 20 minutes, especially during morning and afternoon commute times. Then take a good long break or move to another frequency. Other hams probably want to use the repeater but might not be interested in the subject your group is discussing. None of us should monopolize the repeater, even unintentionally.

It's not enough to pause now and then and invite others to join in. They may just not be interested in the topic. The repeater is a single communication channel shared over a wide area with both FRRL members and visitors.

3. Do not engage in political soap boxing.

Soap boxing, which goes hand-in-hand with overly long conversations, is when people carry on a conversation on the repeater that is a thinly disguised broadcast. The subject is generally to "put down" an institution, group, or an individual for as wide as possible an audience. This is very objectionable to other repeater users (who might not yet be a member) and listeners (who might not yet be a ham). Using the club's repeaters as a platform for soap boxing is unacceptable.

Conversations on the repeaters should be friendly ones. Do not make them negative commentaries on institutions, groups, or people. Avoid discussions on inappropriate subjects including politics, sex and religion. Amateur Radio is not a broadcast medium – 97.113(5)(b).

Are we talking about censorship? No. A person may have the right to stand on the street and say bad things about someone. They don't have the same right when they are a guest in that person's house. When using the Fox River Radio League's repeaters, you are a guest operator of our station. No one has any right to use the club's repeaters in ways that the club feels are objectionable.

4. Do not routinely circumvent the time-out timer.

The repeater's time-out timer serves two purposes. The first purpose is to satisfy regulation 97.213(b) requiring us to limit repeater transmissions to a maximum of three minutes under automatic control. Currently the 2 meter repeater has a 90 second timer, and the 440 repeater has a 3 minute timer.

Like many repeater owners, we also use the time-out timer as a way to encourage users to limit the length of individual transmissions. This gives everyone a chance to speak. Under normal conditions, it is rude to get around the time-out timer by momentarily dropping carrier to reset the timer or saying "Stand by, let me reset" and continuing.

Resetting the time-out timer should only be done as absolutely required and infrequently. Learn to speak concisely and limit the length of your individual transmissions. This is good practice for efficient emergency communications.

5. CB Lingo, "Q" codes and excessive phonetics.

Amateur Radio operators find the sound of CB lingo worse than fingernails on a blackboard. The main thing to remember is to just talk normally. Talk just like you would to someone in the same room. There's nothing different about talking over the radio.

Using any of the "Q" codes and phonetics is helpful on modes like CW to shorten transmissions or provide clarity in marginal voice modes, but they are not necessary on a good communication channel like a repeater. Occasional use of Q signals or phonetics can be a reasonable style, but talking in normal sentences is preferred because there may be new hams or prospective hams who won't understand the codes.

6. Always yield the frequency to a breaking station.

This applies to all calling or breaking stations, because you never know if they have an emergency or not. Just recognizing a breaking station and continuing with your conversation should be avoided. All new breaking stations giving their callsign be-

tween transmissions should immediately be given a chance to transmit. However, breaking stations should contribute to the ongoing topic, make a short call, or declare an emergency. They should not "hijack" the conversation by changing topics.

7. Our repeaters are "G-Rated" 24 hours a day.

You never know who may be listening. Even late at night, there are generally people listening to the repeater, including non-hams. This is important to understand for several reasons.

Our repeaters serve many purposes. One of the most important is the exposure it gives the hobby to the community. Any scanner can be used to listen to our repeaters. That's good – It's actually the most visible aspect of our club. It's one of our most effective forms of publicity.

We want non-hams to know that Amateur Radio is an interesting hobby made up of a good group of people - something clean and educational - something they would want their kids to get involved in. Kids may or may not listen late at night, but their parents do.

We want any ham that hears us to think of us as good operators. Any time we talk on the repeater, we are ambassadors for the hobby.

8. Our rule is simple: absolutely no obscene, indecent or profane language at any time.

Here is our policy: the Fox River Radio League repeaters are open for all to use, provided you follow the club's rules in using them. Nothing could be fairer. The ARRL says it clearest of all. "A repeater is not a public utility - you don't have a "right" to use it! When you are using someone else's repeater you are, in effect, a visitor in the owner's station. So, you should conduct yourself accordingly. If you use that station in a manner that the owner finds objectionable, that person has every right to revoke your privilege of using it!" (Source: The ARRL's FCC Rule Book)

This is an FCC policy that is enforced.

We wish for everyone willing to abide by these simple rules to freely use our repeaters. We welcome you, and we hope you have many enjoyable conversations on the repeaters of the Fox River Radio League, and will subsequently want to join the FRRL and contribute to the maintenance of the repeater system.

If you hear deliberate interference or profane transmissions, try to continue your conversation as if there was no interference. DO NOT ACKNOWLEDGE OR ENGAGE IN A CONVERSATION WITH THE INTERFERING STATION UNLESS DIRECTED TO BY A CONTROL OPERATOR. (Direction finding or recording for FCC documentation may be in effect) Turn your transmitter power up if possible to cover up the interference. Sometimes the time out timer will be activated by the interference and interrupt your communication flow. Usually the interfering person will lose interest and move to a different repeater. A control operator might turn off the repeater for a period of time.

The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

New Members, Interesting Stats

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

Please welcome new members Dick Gulbrandsen, WD9DBJ (A), and Kevin Morgand, KC9JKK (T), who joined in September.

This has been a very successful year for the club as far as membership growth. We've added twenty-nine new members in 2006.

Broken down by license class, the 2006 FRRL membership consists of 34 Technician, 5 Tech+, 24 General, 12 Advanced and 62 Extra. That means that over 75 percent of our 137 members have some form of HF privileges.

FRRL Technician Class Continues

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

The FRRL Technician Classes being held in Oswego are almost over! Three of the four scheduled weekend classes have now been completed with 11 students in attendance. The class meets at the Church of the Good Shepherd, United Methodist in Oswego at 9am Saturdays. Several FRRL members have also attended and have provided "Elmer" assistance. A special thanks to my fellow club members for their support.

So far we have studied amateur radio equipment and what equipment makes up a ham station, operating practices, electricity fundamentals including Ohm's Law and the power formula, frequency and wavelength, how to calculate a dipole and what feedline to use, propagation and the ionosphere, plus radio interference and how to minimize it for both you and your neighbors. Denny W9HI demonstrated wavelength and frequency using a signal generator and an oscilloscope. The students were also fascinated by seeing their voices being displayed on the scopes screen.

The class is made up of students from the surrounding area, relatives of current FRRL members, and members of the Boulder Hill Elementary School Ham Club. Ages range from students in their mid-40's to those who are 10 years old. With the help of our "Elmers" all of the students are doing a great job! Each student receives 2 hours of classroom time and are encouraged to study the next weeks material at home.

Each class member is using the ARRL Ham Radio License Manual as their guide to becoming an amateur radio operator. I encourage all FRRL members to support the class by giving them a big welcome if you hear them on our repeater or if they attend future club meetings. I will provide a list of the new Technician's after they pass their test and get their tickets.

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©(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. 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 in the basement of 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, original CSCEs and a photocopy (if needed), 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 November 21, 2006, 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. You can also help support the FRRL Repeaters by joining as a combined Club/ Repeater member for an additional \$10.00.

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

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.frri.org>

Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

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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/

Send Address Corrections to:
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FRRL Event Calendar

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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 arccover@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

W9ZGP—147.060 Mhz. (New Freq.)

+600 KHz (147.660)
Owned by NIARC

KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz. (Kane Co. SKYWARN)

-600 KHz, 103.5 access tone
Owned by Kane County OEM

W9XA — 224.40 Mhz, +1.6 Mhz, IRLP Node #4846

— **443.65 Mhz**, +5 Mhz
— **1292.00 Mhz**, -20 Mhz (1272.00)

- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- KC OEM Amateur Net— Wed. Eves, 7:00 pm on the KC9OEM repeater.