



# Arc Over

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

November, 2007

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## President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

It's the time of year when you might be working on your antennas. Are you? Fingers go numb and soldering irons have to combat the giant heat sink called Mother Nature. I heard Adam KC9ITG on the 10-10 City of Lights Net using his new vertical antenna. Keith N9YA was also loud and clear using his new vertical. What are your plans for antenna projects?

Let's get digital! Mike K9FE held a very popular and successful digital modes workshop on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October at the Prisco Center. 25 club members participated, learning about sound card mode communications. Mike and Denny W9HI will host a digital modes technical workshop in January at the Oswego High School. You will get a chance to build a sound card interface for your rig and learn about how they work. Watch the Arc Over and the web site for the date and time. If you're digital ready on VHF FM, join in on Thursday nights at 7:30, 144.90 to our new digital net.

I was pleased to hear so many club members participating in the Illinois QSO Party contest on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October. I hope you all have your scores posted, and that you put the FRRL in the "club" box on the summary form, or included it with your electronic submission. I noticed when using the N3FJP software this year, that there was not an option for "portable" when creating the submission log. No matter, using Notepad it was easy to change "Fixed" to "Portable." This year John AG9D, Dean KC9EOQ and myself set up a special contest station for the event, thus the "portable" designation.

The November meeting is where we will see our list of candidates for club office. The nomination committee has a full slate which will be presented to us in November. If you wish to run for office, and

are not on the proposed ballot, please nominate yourself from the floor! We encourage anyone who wants to take a leadership role in the club be recognized and have a chance to run.

The repeaters are continuing to work well thanks to our Repeater Committee. We now have two new repeater controllers up and running. A special thanks to our committee chairman Dick AH6EZ who has done most of the heavy lifting on this project. I think it's great to have a digital voice recorder available to announce club events!

The D-Star repeaters are also working well. Many of our club members have adopted this new technology and enjoy communicating through the system. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, Kermit W9XA and Mark WB9QZB represented our club and its D-Star repeaters at a special D-Star workshop held at AES. Ray Novak N9JA from Icom, Jim McClellan N5MIJ from Dallas, TX and Tim Barret K6BIV from Mt. Diablow, CA also attended. The workshop was held in conjunction with the Milwaukee Repeater Club's Hamfest. Kermit will be hosting a special D-Star workshop for FRRL club members soon.

Don't forget, the FRRL banquet is on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January, 2008. See Dick AH6EZ for tickets and information.

I'll see you at the November meeting! Remember too that your club dues can be paid at this meeting. Our membership team will be on hand to update your membership records and accept dues payment for the 2008 year.

73, Greg N9CHA  
FRRL President, 2007

**Minutes of the Delayed Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the  
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation  
Held at the Prisco Center in Aurora, IL  
Meeting Minutes October 8, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun, N9CHA – President with 41 members present. Minutes of the previous meeting were available for review.

Treasures Report: Total Assets: \$23,533.85 (Cash/Savings = \$7,240 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,293.77)

**Committee Reports**

**Newsletter:** The Arc Over has been published to the web and printed copies sent out. As always if you have article of interest, send them to Bill, KB9YSI for consideration.

**Website:** The site is [www.frri.org](http://www.frri.org) photos of the Scarecrow Special Event and the Next Gen Kids Fair will be posted.

**VE:** Next session is November 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM in the Prisco Center Basement.

**Database:** Our 200<sup>th</sup> paid member joined prior to the start of this meeting. It is an all time high membership for the FRRL.

**Membership:** The annual membership renewal process will begin at the November meeting.

**Nominating Committee:** The Nominating Committee was introduced. It is John, AG9D-Chairman; Dean, KC9EOQ and Craig, AB9IV- Members. John, AG9D took the podium and reviewed the purpose of the committee in seeking and qualifying those interested in running for election as club officers and directors at the upcoming election in December for the 2008 year. The by-laws were reviewed and a description of the various duties was presented. Any members interested in running for election need to speak with one of the committee members prior to the November membership meeting. However, in accordance with the by-laws, nominations from the floor will be accepted after the committees' slate of candidates is presented.

**Education Committee:** Eric, KC9IDT is working on a new class schedule.

**Repeater Committee:** One of the new controllers was installed October 7<sup>th</sup> and is working well. Currently a single controller is operating both the 2 meter and 440 machines. Many new features are coming on line.

**Program:** A DVD of the 2000 Clipperton DXpedition will be presented.

**Public Relations:** N9CHA announced that Catherine, KC9KJU is the new PR Chairperson.

**Banquet:** The annual banquet will be held January 26<sup>th</sup> at the Walter Peyton Roundhouse in Aurora. The cost is as follows: Prime Rib - \$37; Chicken - \$31; Vegetarian - \$28 a cash bar will be available. Entertainment is available in the building. There will be a Brewery Tour courtesy of Mike, KC9JBX – Brewmaster.

**Kane County ARES:** SET (Simulated Emergency Test) Saturday October 20<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to participate. KCOEM was recognized by the Kane County Board for their response during the recent flooding in the area. Radio Amateurs were also commended for their contribution to the county.

Other Business:

A video presentation of the September ARISS contact at the Gail Borden Library was presented. This was another contact facilitated by John, AG9D & Greg, N9CHA (ARISS Mentors) with the help of Joe, AB9OU, Bill, W9WRS, Ken, N9WCX, Eric, KC9FQV and others.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

Huntley Fall Festival & Scarecrow Festival: Successful. Thanks to KB9UBU for cooking at the Scarecrow Fest.

OCTOBER 13<sup>th</sup>: K9FE will present a PSK-31 Workshop at the Prisco Center fro 9 to Noon.

OCTOBER 21<sup>st</sup>: Illinois QSO Party – Noon to 8PM 2 through 160 meters (excluding 12,17,20 & 60) AH6EZ gave a review of how to operate in this fun event. All members are encouraged to participate.

George Baum, N4JLJ (SK) passed away recently. A card was available for members to sign which will be sent to his family.

Milwaukee Swapfest – W9XA has flyers available for this event on November 3<sup>rd</sup> across from AES.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:06PM

Break, raffle and program to follow

Respectfully Submitted:

John Spasojevich, AG9D – FRRL Secretary

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## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update— October, 2007

By John Spasojevich, AG9D

There's only two months left for the 2007 Challenge. It looks like Herb, W9DTR, is getting closer to victory in both ragchew and operator classes. It's not too late though for Cyd, N9CV, to catch up and take the lead. Warren, K9IH, is one state away from WAS for the year, good luck finding that elusive 50th state.

Joe, NA9A reported working 3C7Y, Equatorial Guinea, another of the most needed entities, nice job Joe!

Many of you have not sent in score updates, if you have, they must have gotten lost in the mystery of cyberspace. Please try and get an update in by November 15th, we'd like everyone to know where they stand, withholding scores isn't really fair to the other contestants.

The contest ends on December 31st, and then the 2008 version will start on January 1st, 2008, if the Administrator is so inclined to run it again.

73, and keep challenging yourself ....

John  
AG9D

The scores are on page 4.

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Scores— October, 2007

Here are the current standings for the 2007 HF Challenge as of October 15.

<b>Ragchew Class</b>	<b>States/Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
W9DTR	-	-	72
K9FE	-	-	57
N9YA	-	-	31
K9IH	-	-	21
AH6EZ	-	-	12
KC9FQV	-	-	9
NA9A	-	-	8
KC9CHG	-	-	7
KC9EOQ	-	-	5
WB9CHY	-	-	3

<b>Operator Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
W9DTR	50/9	111	170
N9CV	50/11	80	141
K9FE	48/12	68	128
K9IH	49/8	53	110
K9TCD	43/4	47	94
KC9EOQ	36/4	35	75
N9YA	50/6	18	74
KC9FQV	38/3	15	56
WB9CHY	22/1	6	29
KB9YSI	15/3	7	25
KC9CHG	19/0	0	19

<b>Limited Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
K9ARZ— PSK	50/10	114	174

<b>QRO Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
NA9A	38/3	195	236
AH6EX/W9	49/12	141	202
N4LZ (W4CEQ)	45/6	89	140

## November Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The November FRRL Program will be present by AH6EZ (and others) There have been a lot of new members and upgraded licenses in the club this year. I have tried to have a series of programs focused on learning about how to get on the air and solve issues you may be facing as you get on the air. The program this month will continue that trend with a Question Box.

Before and during the meeting, up to the break, there will be question slips available so that you can write down any ham radio related question. You can include your name or call is you wish but this is NOT required. During the break as many questions as possible will be investigated and during the program they will be answered if possible.

If you wish, after the program you can identify yourself more privately so that further research or support can be provided for questions that might not have been answered.

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## New Members

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

Here is a list of new members that have joined since the last newsletter. There have been several more that are not listed here due to publication deadlines; they will be listed next month. The most recent membership number I have heard (at the CFMC Hamfest) was 196 members.

Please extend a friendly welcome to all of these hams when you hear them on the air or see them at a club meeting.

Call	Name	License Class
WA9MNF	Edward Healy	Extra
WA9KPZ	Andrew Mason, Jr.	Advanced
WQ9W	Robert Seputis, Jr.	Extra
KA9SNG	Thomas Seputis	Advanced
WA9IYZ	Cynthia Schultz	General
W9UEY	Ryan Schultz	Extra
K9LAE	Vernon Schultz, Jr.	Extra

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## Radio Is:

When asked to describe radio, Albert Einstein said,

“You see, wire telegraph is a kind of a very, very long cat. You can pull his tail in New York and his head is meowing in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? Radio operates exactly the same way. You send signals here, they receive them there. The only difference is that there is no cat.”

## Leadership Roundtable – Summary Report (part 1 of 2)

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

During our membership meeting on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> (one week late due to our meeting space being closed on the 11<sup>th</sup>) we held a special “Leadership Roundtable” exercise. Each of the members who attended were given the opportunity to discuss issues pertaining to our club. Everyone who attended enjoyed the exercise and provided valuable input.

The FRRL Board of Directors reviewed the comments and suggestions during its October meeting. We will be using this input during future planning sessions. Thank you for participating! And please remember, your comments are always welcome. If you like, drop one of us an email or catch us at a meeting.

Here are the results from two of the four questions asked.

**“Ham radio in our communities: Discuss how we may better introduce ham radio to our local communities, i.e. displays at local libraries, school display cases. Offer to demonstrate ham radio to school classes, etc.?”**

Displays:

Have displays located in the nearby communities in Library cases, Park district buildings, etc.

Community Events:

Set up station using repeater and demonstrate, hand out brochures, etc. Try this at the following locations: Sycamore track, Emergency vehicle show in Aurora, Aurora – Downtown Alive, Naperville events, Town festivals, Kane County flea market, County fairs, local libraries

Handouts:

Have handouts available with general radio information:

- Brochures – include information on the club in addition to ham radio
- “Business” Card – what is ham radio with contact info for club members to hand out

Operating:

- Use your ht radio and let people ask what you are doing
- Hospitals – demonstrate OEM like activity through them
- Act as a parallel OEM for outsiders
- Teach hospitals – put “ears” in for them

Media:

- Get information about radio and the club to the media:
- Neighborhood newspapers and Daily Herald
- Human interest stories – give them copy
- Press releases, contact lists
- Local radio stations – get on as a short info spot
- Local cable TV stations – public service announcements
- Tutoring sessions on cable TV – could tape the next time the club does one for members or tape a special one

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Leadership Roundtable – Summary Report (part 1 of 2)

(Continued from page 6)

### Education:

Provide courses in local venues:

- Community colleges – adult education courses
- Senior programs, i.e., “Lessons for Living”
- Senior centers
- Convalescent centers – not everyone in them is incapacitated and they want someone to talk to
- Senior retirement communities – activity in the club house
- Marionjoy

### The Process:

- Make it interactive
- Obstacle is that almost everyone asks, “does that still exist?”
- They think internet replaced it
- Any material needs to be vibrant and relevant
- How to get them over talking to people they don’t know?
- Teach them that ham radio is a way to meet people with like interests
- What impresses people – some of the new technology: PSK, multi-screen (many conversations at once)
- Kids: CW fascinates them
- Intrigue about magic – how it works and that it does work
- Home brew – fascinates them
- QSTs and CQs – how to dispose of them?
- Barbershops, libraries, schools, hospital waiting rooms

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### **“Future leadership development. What do you expect from your ham club, how is it meeting your expectations, how can you become involved?”**

- The President or Committee Chairperson should appoint assistant leaders and not simply ask for volunteers.
- Assistant Band Captains at Field Day was a good idea and helped to introduce them to the role of Band Captain for future special events.
- Once a person gets involved with Field Day or the Hamfest, they will get to know other members of the club and the current leadership team.
- A Committee Chairperson should set up a mentorship with another club member to show them the responsibilities and to pass on the experience of how they have conducted themselves and the event at hand.
- Create a membership questionnaire which asks if the person may be willing to take on additional responsibilities and if they can be contacted by a person in club leadership for future assignments.
- Current leadership needs to continue to be inclusive of all membership. Older members of the club need to reach out to the younger or newer members.

(Continued on page 8)

## Leadership Roundtable – Summary Report (part 1 of 2)

(Continued from page 7)

- Be sure the responsibilities are clearly defined so that expectations can be achieved and completed according to the positions' definition.
- The Past-President could actively search out the membership to get additional volunteers to help with committee assignments since he/she has had recent contact with most of the members during their term as President.

The group was then asked: Is the FRRL club was meeting your expectations of a ham club? All of the 11 members responded with a resounding YES. Some additional comments were made.

- When compared to another ham club in the nearby area, the FRRL meetings are run with a professional attitude.
- The members are friendly, approachable. The leadership is greeting and welcoming new members and making them feel accepted.
- The FRRL is an active club. Lots to do and fun to get involved with.

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Thanks to everyone for their openness and great ideas! Next month we'll publish the results from the other two groups. If you missed the meeting and have any other suggestions you'd like to add, please contact me.

Greg, N9CHA

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## Banquet Set for January 26, 2008

The 2008 FRRL Banquet will be January 26, 2008, at the Walter Peyton Roundhouse in Aurora. Save the date. There is room for 100 of us. The evening will include a personalized tour of the brewery by the Brewmaster, KC9JBX, Michael Rybinski.

Verbal reservations can be made at the October meeting or email to Dick Illman at ah6ez at comcast dot net. Payments can be made at the November, December, and January meetings as well as checks to FRRL sent by mail to Dick Illman 42W423 Audubon Ct. St. Charles, IL 60175. The cost is less than last year. \$37 for Prime Rib, \$31 for Chicken, and \$28 for Vegetarian. There will be a cash bar.

## 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. Information tables are open at 7:00 PM, and 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 January 15, 2008, 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. 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

Greg Braun, N9CHA

#### Vice President

Denny Barfuss, W9HI

#### Secretary

John Spasojevich, AG9D

#### Treasurer

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

#### Directors:

Mike Bentley, K9FBI

Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Charles Penninger,  
KC9DAO

#### Past President

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

#### License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

#### Newsletter Editor

Bill Muhr, NF9D  
newsletter@frrl.org

#### Webmaster

Tom Davis, WB9CHY  
webmaster@frrl.org



**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.frrl.org>

## Handy Web Links

<b>FRRL Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.frri.org/">http://www.frri.org/</a>
ARRL Main Site	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/">http://www.arrl.org/</a>
ARRL Central Div. Site	<a href="http://www.central.arrl.org/">http://www.central.arrl.org/</a>
ARRL IL Section Site	<a href="http://www.central.arrl.org/illinois.html">http://www.central.arrl.org/illinois.html</a>
ARRL IL Section News	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=IL">http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=IL</a>
ARRL Contest Page	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests/">http://www.arrl.org/contests/</a>
Contest Calendar	<a href="http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/">http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/</a>
Callsign Lookup (QRZ)	<a href="http://www.qrz.com/">http://www.qrz.com/</a>
Vanity Callsign Info	<a href="http://www.vanityhq.com/">http://www.vanityhq.com/</a>
IRLP Main Page	<a href="http://www.irlp.net/">http://www.irlp.net/</a>
AMSAT	<a href="http://www.amsat.org/">http://www.amsat.org/</a>
FCC Services	<a href="http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur">http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur</a>
SMC Contest Club	<a href="http://www.w9smc.com/">http://www.w9smc.com/</a>

Send Address Corrections to:  
 Fox River Radio League, Inc.  
 40W981 Bridle Creek Drive  
 St Charles, Illinois  
 60175

### FRRL Event Calendar

#### November, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 6  
 FRRL Meeting..... 13  
 VE Testing ..... 20

#### December, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 4  
 FRRL Meeting..... 11  
 Christmas ..... 25

### 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 [arcover@frri.org](mailto:arcover@frri.org) or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

Prior permission is required to republish original ArcOver material.

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—145.270 Mhz (-0.600 Mhz offset)**  
 FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeaters  
 Contact W9XA for information

**KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz. (Kane Co. SKYWARN)**  
 -600 KHz, 103.5 access tone  
 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

- Weekly ARES Net—Mon. Eve. at 9:00 pm local time on the W9DWP repeaters
- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Kane County OEM Skywarn Net— Wed. Eve. at 7:00 pm on the KC9OEM repeater.