



Arc Over

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

November, 2008

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

Just before midnight, on Wednesday, October 15th, 2008 a medical transport helicopter crashed near the southeast corner of Eola Road and Liberty Street in Aurora. The helicopter collided with a guy wire attached to the WBIG tower which supported the FRRL's VHF and UHF FM antennas.

The helicopter was an Air Angels flight took off from Valley West Hospital in Sandwich and was in-route to Children's Memorial in Chicago. Pilot Delbert Waugh, 69, of Carmel, IN; nurse William Mann Jr., 31, of Chicago; paramedic Ronald Battiato, 41, of Peotone; and patient Kirstin Blockinger, 13 months, of Leland, IL died in the accident.

Early Thursday morning, the FRRL was notified of the incident by WBIG management. Our two FM repeaters remained on the air until Friday at 12:45 pm when they were turned off by Licensee Trustee, Kermit Carlson W9XA. This was necessary to allow tower crews to climb the damaged structure and begin the dismantling process in order to secure the tower. By late Friday afternoon, large sections of the tower were removed by workers using cutting torches and a construction helicopter. On Saturday, the process continued until the tower was declared safe.

Both the FRRL UHF and VHF antennas were removed in the process. They remain attached to the section of tower that was removed. On Saturday, October 25th, Kermit W9XA and I were invited to inspect the antennas and complete a preliminary survey of their condition. We noticed one of the UHF loops was damaged, but did not see any other damage to the UHF antenna, VHF antenna or cross-band coupler. No test equipment was used during the inspection.

The fate of the WBIG tower and the club's ability to utilize it in the future are unknown at this time. Investigations by local and national officials are underway. The club remains in communications with station management and engineers.

While the tragic incident regarding our repeaters certainly captured the headlines, several other club activities took place during the month of October. On the 19th several FRRL members participated in the Illinois QSO Party. Please be sure to submit your scores and to put the FRRL in the "club" box on the summary form.

The Linux special interest group met on the 25th at Rasmussen College. Mike K9FE provided an excellent program highlighting the many variations of Linux. The group is very interactive, sharing their knowledge of the Linux operating system and how it can be used for ham radio. This group meets on the 4th Saturday of the month.

Another successful FRRL Fox Hunt was held on Sunday afternoon, October 26th. The hunt started from the parking lot of the Colonial Café, on the west side of St. Charles. Tom N9CBA who found the fox during the previous event became the fox for this recent hunt. Joe AB9OU, Bill W9WRS and Greg N9CHA participated in the event. Greg found the fox 2 ½ hours after the 1 PM starting time. Tom was well hidden in the underbrush about 100 yards from the parking lot in Bliss Woods, near Sugar Grove.

The November meeting is where we will see our list of candidates for club office. The nomination committee, headed up by Jason KC9MED, will present the 2009 slate. Nominations for office can

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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 Rasmussen College, Aurora, IL

Meeting Minutes October 14, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun – President with 60 members present

Question of the Month: Do you have any antenna projects scheduled this fall?

Minutes of the previous meeting were available for review.

Secretary Report- Bill W9WRS – meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over.

Treasurers Report: Larry W9OKI - Total Assets: \$25,178 (Cash/Savings = \$8404 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,774)

Committee Reports

Newsletter: Bill N9FD – Looking for a new Arc Over editor. Printed copies sent, electronic version on web.

VE: Doug, W9RD, Next VE session November 18, 2008 at Rasmussen College.

Database: Chris KC9BKS – Reports 219 members. Renewals for 2009 will be accepted starting in November. New memberships as of the October meeting will count as 2009 memberships.

Webmaster: Tom WB9CHY – Tom has done a fantastic job over the last few years, now he is looking for someone to take the position over.

Education: Eric KB9IDT – General upgrade class will be presented this fall.

Special Ad Hoc Committee – Rasmussen College Coordinator: Harry Jones K9DXA is appointed as the coordinator between the club and Rasmussen College effective October 7, 2008. If anyone needs to schedule a space at the college for any reason, they must contact Harry to arrange it.

Nominating Committee: Jason KC9MED chairperson, Kermit W9XA, and Phil W9XAN – the committee explained the nomination and election process. Kermit read the bylaws concerning this to the general meeting.

Nets: Adam KC9ITG – Averaging 25 check-ins. Adam and Eric AB9OS explained net control duties and solicited for additional net ops.

Public Relations: A new PR person is needed. Contact any Board member if interested.

Special Events: Bart, KC9FQA - No new events at the moment.

Huntley Fall Fest, September 13, 2008 - A soggy event to be sure but a fun gathering nonetheless for the participants from the club. Contacts were made on 20 and 40 meter phone and 40 meter CW. Thanks were given to Joe AB9OU and Bill W9WRS.

Mid-American Canoe Race, September 28, 2008 – Thanks were given to Tobi K9TCD for Chairing the event and she gave a dissertation on the experiences of the group.

St. Charles Scarecrow Festival - The special event was held on October 11, 2008 in Campton Park Nature Trails outside of Wasco, IL. Contacts were made on 20 and 40 meter phone and 40 meter CW. Thanks to all that participated.

Program: Dick AH6EZ – Spark Gap transmitters.

Technical Committee: Mike K9FE – Linux SIG will resume at Rasmussen College on Saturday, October 25, 2008.

Current Business:

Special recognition was given to Kermit W9XA and Mark WB9QZB for their coordination efforts on the ARRL/TAPR DCC Conference. The managers of the conference were so impressed that they have decided to hold it in Chicago again in 2009. Dick AH6EZ presented a short slide review.

Richard Garriott W5KWQ on ISS - Downloaded pictures from ISS and John AG9D's AO-51 pictures have been posted on the website.

Illinois D-STAR net – Wednesdays at 7 PM.

Illinois QSO Party will be held on October 19, 2008 Noon to 8 PM.

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Meeting Minutes

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There will be a 2 meter Fox Hunt held on October 26, 2008 1 to 5 PM. Information and rules have been posted on the net and the Yahoo Group. Contact Bill W9WRS for more information.

Location information for Rasmussen College will be posted on the club website, www.fril.org.

- The November 4, 2008 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.
- The November 11, 2008 Club meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.
- The December 2, 2008 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.
- The December 9, 2008 Club meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.
- The November 18, 2008 VE Session will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora.

Motion to adjourn by Marty N9MTM Second by Randolph W9HE.
General meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Program to follow.

Respectfully Submitted:
Bill Stamps, W9WRS – FRRL Secretary

23rd Annual Scarecrow Festival Special Event 2008

by Greg Braun, N9CHA

FRRL members set up their ham radio equipment at Campton Nature Trails park west of Wasco, off Route 64 on Saturday, October 11. The annual event was attended by 21 amateur radio operators from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm.

The first antenna set up was by Dick AH6EZ. He had made a wire beam for use during this years Field Day exercise and brought it along to the Scarecrow event. It only took a few minutes to unpack it and set it up. Dick used flex-weave wire and nylon rope along with fiberglass fishing poles for construction. It has four main support poles and a push-up mast. Three guy ropes keep it in place atop a wood pivot point on the ground. A slip ring is incorporated to allow for easy azimuth positioning. This antenna is designed for 20 meter operation and was hooked up to an Icom 756Pro which Greg N9CHA had brought along to the event.

Next the 40 meter dipole was erected. One of the club's Penninger Radio Tippers was used to quickly get the dipole up in an inverted-vee configuration. The snap tube design made quick work of getting the antenna on the air. The dipole was made from THHN #14 house wire and a W2AU balun. RG8X feedline was used to connect it to the radio, a DX-77 brought by Charles KC9DAO.

Bill NF9D brought along his FT-817 QRP rig to see if he could make a few contacts on 20 meter CW. Greg N9CHA brought out his Buddipole antenna and Penninger Radio tripod and push-up mast system so that was set up and used for the QRP station. There was some interference between the 20 SSB station and the QRP CW station when they were both on the air at the same time, however the operators took turns sending and all went well.

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Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – September, 2008

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Welcome to a newcomer in our challenge, Jeff Ekstorm, K9BQL! Joe Dubeck, NA9A reports being "Blessed" with contact with HV0A - the Vatican! (I have been praying for that contact for 2 years.) Only a few months left in the challenge, lets get those contacts going! Reports are in that the sunspots are starting -ever so slowly - to appear.

Ragchew Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
N9CTO	-	-	58
K9FE	-	-	52
KC9FQV	-	-	31
W9DTR	-	-	31
NA9A	-	-	29
K9IH	-	-	16
AH6EZ	-	-	16
WB9CHY	-	-	5
AB9OS	-	-	3
N9YA	-	-	3
KC9DAO	-	-	2
K9JE	-	-	2

Operator Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	43/7	115	165
W9DTR	50/9	84	143
NF9D	46/7	67	120
N9CV	45/7	35	87
K9TCD	39/4	25	68
K9FE	35/5	23	63
N9YA	27/5	27	59
K9IH	23/4	7	34
K9BQL	3/0	31	34
WB9CHY	21/1	6	28
KC9ITG	25	2	27

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update (Continued)

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ (Digital)	50/8	94	152
N9CTO (Digital)	44/5	8	57
KC9FQV (Digital)	31/8	18	57
AB9OS (CW)	3/1	33	37
KC9DAO (15 Meters)	2	13	15

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/10	152	212
NA9A	55	117	172
N4LZ	29/8	85	122

New Member

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

We have one new member since the last newsletter. It's Roger Hancock, KD1FY. Please say hello to Roger when you see him at the meetings or hear him on the air.

November Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

I will not be at the meeting but I have left Greg with two DVDs. One shows a spark gap transmitter being explained and built by an old time ham. The other DVD shows antenna patterns being demonstrated with scaled down models. I am suggesting that Greg take a vote at the meeting to see which one will be played. Be sure to attend and place your vote.

The program at the December meeting will be our annual Election of Officers and Holiday Party. Watch the web site for more details later this month and look for a more formal announcement in the December Ar-cOver.

Scarecrow Festival Special Event

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The club owns several band-pass filters. The 20 and 40 meter units were used and provided excellent spurious signal rejection. There was no cross-band interference at all!

At 11:00 am, John AG9D used the Icom IC-2820 set up for talk-in to connect the FRRL UHF IRLP repeater and the Discovery Reflector to listen to an ARISS contact. The "Colombia Mission Project" at Buchanan High School in California had students talk to the ISS via telebridge. Participants at the Scarecrow event were able to listen in via the IRLP connection. Just as the event started, Ken N9WCX announced that he was able to hear the down-link audio from the ISS on his handheld! It was fun to hear the direct signal and the one coming through the IRLP.

Thanks to Becky KB9UBU and Kim KC9EIF, we all enjoyed a wonderful lunch! Grilled pork chops, hot dogs, potato salad, veggies, fruit and chips were on the menu. Great job and thanks! Later in the day we started a fire in the fireplace and roasted hot dogs. Again, thanks to Becky for making up some great hot dog roasting sticks. They worked great!

The three ham stations made a total of 122 contacts. The first station contacted was HB9RDE in Switzerland at 10:02 am, and the last station contacted was KW6LA in California at 5:38 pm. If you'd like to download the log, visit our club website at frrl.org.

President's Traffic

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be made from the floor. We encourage anyone who wants to take a leadership role in the club be recognized and have a chance to run.

Catherine, KC9KJU, has asked me to mention that she will be putting together an FRRL Logowear order soon, and will be taking orders at the November and December meetings. Our logo clothing looks great and gives you the chance to advertise your involvement in our great hobby.

Don't forget, the FRRL banquet is on the 24th of January, 2009. 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 2009 year.

73, Greg, N9CHA
2008/9 FRRL President

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 Rasmussen College 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, July and November at Rasmussen College, 2363 Sequoia Drive, 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, 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 18, 2008, at Rasmussen College

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.

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

Check with the Treasurer for details and additional dues rates.

Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

Mailing Address:

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60510-0673

Email:

info@frrl.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

President

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Vice President

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KC9DAO

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FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT RASMUSSEN COLLEGE, 2363 SEQUOIA DRIVE IN AURORA. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION .

<http://www.frrl.org>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

November, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting 4
 Western Elect QSOP 8
 FRRL Meeting 11
 VE Session..... 18

December, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting 2
 FRRL Meeting/Party..... 9

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/

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 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—145.270 Mhz (-0.600 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 7:00 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.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. @ 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.