



Arc Over

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

November, 2009

President's Traffic

By Mike Urso, K9FE

Kudos to Eric AB9OS for his great job teaching the current General upgrade class. I recently spent a morning at Rassmussen College sitting in on one of the classes. I must say that he is well prepared, brings examples when needed, and has a fantastic attitude that is well represented in his teaching style. If you are a tech that wants to upgrade, but did not sign up for this class make sure you attend the next one Eric runs. He will make anything difficult easy for you. I can't wait to see what he does with the Extra Class upgrade sessions.

Recently Charles KC9DAO moved his business to a new location just two doors east. That required us to move all of our STUFF from the old mezzanine to a new mezzanine. Thanks to Neil KB9RFX and Bill WB9LPW the move was done in about six hours of work. The three of us found out just how much STUFF we had accumulated. We had a very cardio workout for a Friday eve and Saturday morning. I think we three felt pain in muscles we did not know we even had. I will be asking for some help in cleaning up and organizing in early December. Charles was very accommodating to our schedule and is doing us a great service by giving us floor space to store STUFF. There is one rule: whenever you remove anything from our storage area you bring it all the way back to the storage location. Do not ever just bring it to his business and "drop it off". It is **our** job to replace it and not his. I and the rest of the board hope you follow this rule. If not, we may have to find a new storage location.

The club has some equipment that can be used for events (for example the club tippers) and these must be signed for. Chris KC9IEQ is generating a sign-out sheet that will remain in the storage area. Before any equipment is leant for use it must be approved by the board. An e-mail to FRRLBOARD "at" FRRL.ORG will usually be enough to get the process under way. A thirty day advance notice would be nice, if possible, but with a couple of phone calls we can usually work out anything.

Do you know that the FRRL is like a shark? It must keep moving or it dies. Well, you have a chance to get involved and help keep this shark alive. If the election committee calls you and asks if you would like to be a candidate for one of the offices or positions that is on the ballot think about it. You can be part of a solution rather than part of a problem. Justin KC9NYY, Larry W9OKI and Craig AB9IV are lurking and listening. They have a tough job finding candidates. Help make their job a little easier. If you were not called but would like to be considered for a position, there are nominations from the floor at election time. Feel free to throw your name into the ring at the November meeting.

RENEW RENEW RENEW. No, this is not the movie "Soylent Green" this means membership! At the same time you can get your banquet tickets. If you want to be listed in the printed roster you must renew no later than January 31st. This is now a hard and fast rule. We have a great group and Greg N9CHA has a great Banquet planned. This year we will be returning to Payton's Roundhouse for a fantastic dinner and presentation ceremony honoring those members who have contributed to the club in the past year. The new board of directors and offices will be also installed. We never know what tricks and treats will be at the banquet thanks to our own resident "Brewmaster" Mike KC9JBX. As an ongoing feature the annual club disk will be given out. The disk is created by Dick AH6EZ with many of his meeting programs, software, and pictures from the year's events. If you do not attend the banquet the disk is available at a nominal price.

See you at the meeting, Mike K9FE

**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 13, 2009.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Mike Urso K9FE – President with 50 members present.

Question: Are you going to work the IL QSO Party and/or JOTA next weekend?

Secretary Report: Bill W9WRS/Harry K9DXA – meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over. Minutes accepted.

Treasurers Report: Dean KC9EOQ - Total Assets: \$24,456.56 (Savings = \$5264.30. Certificates of Deposit = \$16,773.55. Repeater fund is \$4,102.20, Petty cash is \$69.74. Checking Acct. - \$ 2348.97. Report accepted.

Committee Reports

Hamfest: Dean KC9EOQ – Jere KA0KPO will assist Dean with this activity. Next Hamfest July 11, 2010.

Membership: Justin KC9NYY – Currently 190 members. Taking renewals starting tonight. Can send check. Can print renewal form from web and mail.

Newsletter: Tobi K9TCD – Arc Over is available on front tables and the internet. She needs submissions.

Repeater Committee: Dick AH6EZ – Completed 440 repeater swap. No internet yet. 2M – no change.

Yahoo Group: Bill NF9D – Everything is going smoothly with all club Yahoo groups. All members are welcome to join if they have not done so already.

Linux SIG: Next meeting is Nov. 7, 2009 @ 9:00 – 12:00 – Rasmussen. Mike K9FE will take over leadership in Jan, 2010.

Software Defined Radio SIG: Harry K9DXA – 4 people attended the group meeting on Saturday, 9/12/09. 4 people attended the group meeting on Saturday, 10/10/09. Next meeting is Nov. 14, 2009 @ 9:00 – 12:00 – Rasmussen.

Net Control: Adam KC9ITG – Needs net controls and backups. There is a simplex net every 4th Tuesday after the regular net.

Public Relations: Jere KA1KPO –

Scarecrow Fest – No special event station this year. Need a volunteer to run it next year. Speak to Jere or a board member.

Jere obtained a club funded CD training course “PR-101” from ARRL.

Election committee is Justin KC9NYY, Craig AB9IV, and Larry W9OKI. Slate to be presented at the November member's meeting.

Website: Please volunteer to help Tom WB9CHY handle the webmaster duties.

Field Day: Eric AB9OS – Will be on the 4th weekend in June, 2010. It will be “special and surprising.”

eQSL: Bill NF9D – This year's Field Day logs are posted. Continuing to work on older data.

DX QSL – Jack K9JE – Bring any DX qsl's for the bureau with a copy of your member information from the front of a QST magazine.

Raffle: Chris KC9IEQ – All sorts of good stuff tonight.

Program: Marconi “Coherer” spark gap transmitter history, theory, and demo.

Education: Eric AB9OS – General class upgrade classes continue as scheduled Sat. Oct. 17 9am-12:30pm, Sat. Oct. 24 9am-12:30pm, Sat. Oct. 31 9am-12:30pm, Sat. Nov. 7 9am-12:30pm, Sat. Nov. 14 9am-12:30pm. Class ends just before the Nov. 17 VE test @ Rasmussen.

Member Announcements

WCRA winterfest is 01/24/09.

The general upgrade class is a great way to prepare to take the exam.

Will need help to move FRRL gear from/to Charles KC9DAO business.

Need someone to volunteer to take over coffee & donuts for the meetings. May need to stop this activity if no volunteer is found shortly.

KC9ITG looking for help taking down a tower.

Considering a “Geek Cruise Night” at an Aurora A&W. Details later.

Reminder that the Sanfilippo Foundation is having a program shortly. See Chris KC9IEQ for info.

Tickets now available for the Winter Banquet, Jan 30, Peyton's Roundhouse.

Bill NF9D is a Winlink RMS Relay Station for Kane County ARES.

New Business

The November 3, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The November 10, 2009 General meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The December 1, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The December 8, 2009 General meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

Motion to adjourn by Tom WB9CHY , 2nd by Ken N9WRX.

General meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Harry Jones K9DXA

November Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The other day, I heard a ham saying that they were letting their license expire without renewing it because ham radio was boring and there was not enough things in ham radio to keep him interested. This program will investigate the knowledge of the audience and provide information about ALL aspects of our incredible hobby. Optional audience homework: read a recent ARRL handbook cover to cover.

New Members

Welcome to the Following New Members:

CALL	NAME
W9DBE	Brent Ensign
K9ZL	Billy Clayton
N9WPD	William Zapel

FRRL Winter Banquet Theme: "Beer From Around The World"

The FRRL 2010 Banquet is going to feature our very own Mike KC9JBX, the brewmaster at the Walter Payton Roundhouse. This year he is going to take us on a tour of the world... the beer world that is! We are also planning on having a magician entertain us at our tables, and the possibility of a comedian to keep things fun. The ticket prices have remained the same as they were last year. The Beef entree is \$37, Chicken is \$31 and the Vegetable option is \$28. Our Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2010 at 6pm. A cash bar is available; door prizes too! Awards and our new Officers will be installed. Please see Dean KC9EOQ for tickets at the next meeting.

Or, email Greg@N9CHA.com for ticket reservations. Please see our web site, www.fril.org for complete information.

Amateur Radio and the Chicago Marathon

by Eric Lorenz, KC9FQV

When you think of a major sporting event, what usually comes to mind, The World Series? The Super Bowl? How about the Chicago Marathon? Consider these numbers:

Over 33,000 runners competing (and finishing)

Over 8,500 runners participating for charity

Over 12,000 volunteers

More than 1.7 million spectators

The Chicago Marathon is truly a world-class event. And an event that takes the term "logistics" to a new level. Amateur radio had been used in the past to help, but had been out of the picture for many years. Now we were being invited back in to help with this world-class running event.

4:45am...All 5 of us are on our way downtown: Matt KC9HRH, Ben WX9TOR and I, Eric Kc9FQV are riding in Matt's truck. Jim KC9FBH and Mike KC9TVS are driving separately so they can go directly to their Aid Station. It is cold but clear, we talk about what we might expect today. We had been reminded that this will be an event with a scale beyond what most of us, even seasoned Public Service event veterans, have seen.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-October 2009

By Eric Needles, AB9OS

If you've been tuning around on HF, then you know fall is here and so are the contests. If you haven't done much contesting, state QSO parties are a great way to start. Just get on HF some weekend and give a contact or two. Tune around and find that state or country you've been missing and give them a call. They'll be glad you did and you can add to your HF Challenge score. Remember, everyone who participates in the HF Challenge, regardless of numbers, will receive a handsome certificate suitable for framing!

This month Joe NA9A remarks "lots of good DX out there recently. A lot more asterisked stations than in the past." Since our last update he has worked *TX5SPA Austral Islands, **FT5GA Glorioso Island, *3D20CR Conway Reef and *EK6TA Armenia.

Dick, AH6EZ logged TX5, 9J2, K4M, TY1, OY3, 7X4, Z29, JW5, T07, 9M2, SU1, FP, T2 since his last report. He also added "nice to have the amplifier fixed."

The HF Challenge can also be about quality as much as quantity. Everyone can enter into the Ragchew class of the Challenge. Just have a conversation of 10 minutes or longer and you've had a Ragchew. Another fun thing to do is try a mode you've never operated before. For example, I received an e-mail from a ham who was very excited about contacting me in the Illinois QSO Party. I didn't even remember the QSO and had to refer back to the log just to see if I had in fact worked him. But what was an uneventful contact for me, was actually his first CW QSO ever!

As the saying goes, it takes two to Tango, and your HF dance partner is out there somewhere...so go get on HF!!! And now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ-PSK31	50	9	121	180
K9MMS-CW	50	10	110	170
KC9FQV-Digital	32	4	13	49
AB9OS-CW	33	2	8	43

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9BQL	48	12	156	216
W9DTR	50	11	103	164
K9TCD	47	7	63	117
KC9DAO	44	7	61	112
K9IH	43	6	45	94
KC9EOQ	33		48	81
WB9CHY	40	4	34	78

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50	13	197	260
NA9A	43	8	184	235
N4LZ	48	11	120	179

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR			51
AH6EZ			30
KC9FQV	17/2	4	23
K9IH			21
NA9A	10	6	16
AB9OS	2		2
WB9CHY	1		1

(Amateur Radio and the Chicago Marathon Continued from page 3)

The team that put this together was partially the same team responsible for the Madison to Chicago 200. One of the leads on this event was Jerry Martin, KC9BDA, among others. Most of us had worked with this team on the MC200, so when the call went out, we signed up. There end up being a total of about 75 volunteers that arrive that morning all over the race course. Communication protocols are strict, as a lot of governmental and emergency services personnel are listening.

5:30am...We arrive downtown at LaSalle and Ohio, at the front end of Aid Station #2. Still about a half-hour before sunrise. The First Aid Tent is right where the map said it would be (good), but no one else is around. We pull up next to it, and hope that we can possibly leave the truck here. I head for the volunteer tent to check in, Matt looks for the Aid Station captain. The temperature is currently still in the mid 30's.

Our team consisted all of Comm Team volunteers from the Fox River chapter of the American Red Cross. Several of us were FRRL members also. Ben WX9TOR, Mike KC9TVS, Jim, KC9FBH, Matt KC9HRH and I KC9FQV all participated. We split into 2 groups, so we could staff two Aid Stations. Matt, Ben and I manned Aid Station #2 (LaSalle & Ohio) and Mike and Jim manned Aid Station #8 (Wells and Grand).

5:40am...We hear from Jim and Mike, they are at their Aid Station. Mike is looking for a place to set up, the med tent is not set up yet. Jim is looking for the "volunteer parking" that he was told existed (he eventually found it). They end up setting up comms under the overhang of a building behind where the med tent ended up going. Meanwhile Matt finds the Aid Station Captain. We introduce ourselves and he said "glad to see you guys, no problem, leave the truck there". Small victories. We use the drive-over Tipper base from the chapter, as there wouldn't have been much room for the full Tipper base.

Our tasks are simple: to report dropped runners to Net Control for tracking purposes, to facilitate pickups back to Grant Park if needed, and to report any major medical situations that develop. We work in conjunction with a volunteer from St. Clements that tracks dropped runners, and a medical team of First Responders, doctors, nurses and aides whose job it is to be available for the over 36,000 runners that will come past our location.

6:00am...Clear communications is key. I look for the second radio. "Matt, where is it, weren't you bringing 2 chapter radios?" "No, you said you were bringing yours" Oops, my bad, forgot I was giving it to Mike for a 2nd at their Aid Station. Matt pulls his 8800 out of his truck. We get both antennas up and check all batteries-good to go! We are up and on the air on the Med net and the North Log (Logistics) net. First check-ins in 30 minutes.

The Net Control location is in Grant Park near Start/Finish. It is co-located with the Police/Fire/EMS personnel and Superior Ambulance (EMS service for the event) and the Event Management dispatchers. While we did not get to see the operation, we hear that it is on the order of a tent city...with a field hospital.

(Continued on page 6)

6:30 am...Jim and Mike are set up and on the air at AS#8. Mike handles the log net and Jim handles the med net. Net control begins the check-in process. Most stations are on the air and report in, but still a few are having equipment or logistical issues. Still no sign of the medical team for our location.

The operations for this race are divided into two nets. The Logistics Net (or Log net as it is called) handles routine and administrative traffic. The Medical (Med) Net handles only medical emergencies. All traffic is handled on strict directed nets. The communications are spread out among a network of Chicago repeater systems whose resources were offered up for this event.

6:45 am...The Med team arrives, along with our St. Clemens volunteers that will be handling intake of runners dropping out. We introduce ourselves to the team members and watch as they unpack the equivalent of a small field hospital to deal with most any injury locally. The Superior ambulance assigned to our location arrives.

There are twenty Aid Stations along the course that provide everything from portable toilets to water and Gatorade to medical attention. These are staffed by tens of thousands of volunteers that pass out liquids, offer direction and encouragement, and keep things moving.

7:00am...The spectators continue to arrive. Hundreds, perhaps thousands line up along LaSalle St. south of the "chute" that defines the whole Aid Station. Jim reports that the noise at their location is "deafening". They are right near the DJ/Announcer and PA system. We were lucky, we ended up down the block and around the corner slightly, so there is a lot of sound block between us and the noise.

We have no idea what to expect. If it had been a "normal day" we would potentially be dealing with a lot of heat distress and heat-related injuries. However, with the temperature still hovering in the high 30's-low 40's, it is a whole different race. We hear that some world records are going to try to be broken.

7:30...The race begins. We wait...and wait...but not for long. We hear a noise to the south, then out of nowhere come the wheelchair racers! It is amazing. They are rolling faster than I could ever hope to run. After a brief lull, a lone man runs by on 2 artificial legs. After seeing that, I realize that anything in my life I struggle with isn't so bad.

Besides food, water and other services along the course, the runners also wear little RFID devices tied to their shoes, so they can be tracked for time. At various points along the course, boards are set up so that runners and participants can track times.

8:05 am...For the next hour or so, this mass of humanity continues to move down LaSalle to the North. Men, women, teenagers, kids, seniors, all hoping for their shot at a dream. They are cheered on by the spectators, many holding signs for their runner. Marathon volunteers keep cheering them on, even when the last runners come by.

Fortunately, most of the issues that come up during the race are ones beyond our control. Ambulance moving around randomly, and logistic issues beyond what we can do are discovered and (mostly) handled. As the runner flow trickles down, the Aid Stations begin to close.

9:15 am...We hear the supply truck has arrived at Aid Station #1. We realize that this will soon be all over. In the end, we have about a dozen dropped runners, and no medical issues. Jim calls later and tells me they had about the same. The med team starts packing up, and soon we see the supply truck rolling down LaSalle St. towards us. We get permission to secure, and pack up. It has been a busy, but great morning. We find the Aid Station Captain, let him know we have secured, and leave downtown a little around 9:45am.

Overall, the effort was phenomenal. Hundreds of hours and many \$\$'s of equipment were donated to make the ham radio end of this event work. It sounds like plans for next year are already forming. While we do not have the final assessment yet, so far it sounds like that this was a banner year for amateur radio and the Chicago Marathon.

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 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, September 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 \$15.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

The next exam session is scheduled for November 17, 2009 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

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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:
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Woodridge, IL 60517

FRRL Event Calendar

November, 2009

FRRL Board Meeting	3
Linux SIG.....	7
General Upgrade Class	7
FRRL Meeting	10
SDR SIG.....	14
General Upgrade Class	14
VE Session	17

December, 2009

FRRL Board Meeting	1
FRRL Meeting	8

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—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 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.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.