



# Arc Over

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

December, 2008

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## President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

"Great going Chris!" was the call from below the W9CZA tower last weekend (Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>). Dick AH6EZ, Dean KC9EOQ, John AG9D, Greg N9CHA and Chris KC9IEQ rendezvoused at Benny's W9CZA QTH to see what could be done about his HF beam. It was determined that the center conductor of the coax had broken and needed repair. Chris climbed the 65 foot tower and made the repairs in frigid weather conditions. With repairs completed, Dick checked out the antenna using his miniVNA and computer. It was great to see Benny back on the air with his beam!

It's that time of year again when club elections are being held. A special thanks to the nominating committee, Jason KC9MED, Kermit W9XA, and Phil W9XAN. Also a special thanks to those members who volunteered to be nominated and listed on this year's slate. If for any reason you can't make it to the December meeting, please submit your absentee ballot (ink or typed) and send it to one of the current club officers. The list of candidates is found in this edition of the Arc Over.

January 24<sup>th</sup> is the date of our club's Winter Banquet. Our newly elected officers will be recognized as well as several club awards will be presented. The results of the HF Challenge will be announced by Joe NA9A. The banquet provides us with an opportunity to socialize and share in good fellowship. The menu looks great! Plus, we get the opportunity to tour the "Roundhouse" facilities by one of our own, Mike KC9JBX. Dick AH6EZ is our master of ceremonies and banquet chairperson. He is selling tickets now, so please contact him as soon as you can.

Our December "holiday" meeting is on the 9<sup>th</sup>. A special activity including prizes are given out by

our Raffle Chairman, Jack K9JE will take place. If you can, bring a special treat for all to enjoy. The club is also collecting non-perishable food items and donations to the Hessed House. Their web site says they are in need of winter coats, size XXL and larger, so if you have one to donate, please bring it to the meeting.

While the ballots are being tallied, I will be showing you some pictures of 2008 club events. The "Ham of the Year" election is also going to be held during the December meeting. This year I will not be presenting a list of "candidates" rather I will be depending upon your vote for the most deserving FRRL member. Your choice should reflect the person you feel has contributed to the amateur radio hobby the most during 2008. This is a very prestigious award and deserves your full attention.

I'd like to express my thanks to my fellow club members for such a wonderful two years as your president. The Boards that I have had the distinct pleasure to serve with in 2007 and 2008 are among the finest people I have ever met. I would like to think that I grew into the president's position and served as a leader, providing guidance when necessary, and supporting club projects as much as I was able. The committee chairmen who volunteered their time was very much appreciated. Each time I'd request a certain project be completed, the club members who served responded quickly and professionally. With a club as large as ours, and a hobby as diverse as ours, it takes several dedicated people to step forward and take leadership roles.

It has been my honor to serve you as president, and I look forward to completing my tasks in January as I pass along the duties and responsibilities to the president elect.

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

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Meeting Minutes November 11, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun – President with 59 members present

**Special announcement:** On October 15, 2008, 4 people died as a result of an Air Angels helicopter crash after it hit a WBIG tower support guy wire. The fatalities were as follows: Pilot: Delbert Waugh; Medic: Ron Battiato; Nurse: William Mann; Patient: Kirstin Blockinger. The FRRL UHF and VHF repeater antennas were removed from the tower when several tower sections were removed in order to make the remaining sections stable. There is no information regarding future of tower at this time.

**Question of the Month:** Do you want to see the spark gap transmitter or antenna patterns tonight?

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 (Via N9CHA) - Total Assets: \$25,000 (Cash/Savings = \$8226 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 tonight. 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.

**Nominating Committee:** Jason KC9MED chairperson, Kermit W9XA, and Phil W9XAN – the committee presented the official slate of nominees for the Board positions that are to be filled during the elections during the December general meeting.

The following is the slate:

President: Mike K9FE

Vice-president: Harry K9DXA

Secretary- Bill W9WRS

Treasurer: Dean KC9EOQ

Director: Adam KC9ITG, Craig AB9IV, Dick AH6EZ, and Larry W9OKI.

Motion to close nominations: Randolph W9HE, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken N9WCX. Motion passed unanimously.

**Nets:** Adam KC9ITG – Averaging 20 check-ins

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

**Special Events:** Bart, KC9FQA - No new events at this time.

**Program:** Video- Antenna patterns.

**Technical Committee:** Mike K9FE – Linux SIG will resume at Greg N9CHA qth on Saturday, November 22, 2008. Rasmussen College was not available.

### **Announcements:**

Emma Reher, wife of FRRL Member Vern Reher WA9VQY, passed away on Monday, November 3, 2008.

- Jerome Ahasic, father of FRRL Member Alan Ahasic W9AN, passed away on Tuesday November 4, 2008.

Illinois QSO Party, logs due Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>

FRRL Fox Hunt, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, N9CBA Tom was fox, hid in Bliss Woods, Sugar Grove, participants started in parking lot of Colonial Café in St. Charles (West Side), Greg N9CHA found the fox.

Milwaukee Repeater Club Hamfest, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, and AES seminars, Kermit W9XA presented “Weak Signal SSB/CW/EME”

- Illinois D-STAR net on Wednesdays at 8 PM.

### **Current Business:**

FRRL January Banquet: Dick AH6EZ – Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> at Walter Payton’s Roundhouse. Roasted Prime Rib, Free Range Chicken Wellington, Vegetarian Plate, Cash Bar, Brewery Tour by Michael KC9JBX

(Continued on page 3)

## Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

The December 2, 2008 Board meeting will be at Rassmussen College in Aurora, IL.  
The January 6, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rassmussen College in Aurora, IL.  
The December 9, 2008 Board meeting will be at Rassmussen College in Aurora, IL.  
The January 13, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rassmussen College in Aurora, IL.  
The November 18, 2008 VE Session will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora.

Motion to adjourn by Adam KC9ITG Second by Ken N9WCX.  
General meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Program to follow.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps, W9WRS – FRRL Secretary

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## Election Slate Announced

by Jason Verachtert, KC9MED

The following slate of candidates was approved by the membership present at the November Meeting:

### Officers:

President:	Mike Urso, K9FE
Vice-President:	Harry Jones, K9DXA
Secretary:	Bill Stamps, W9WRS
Treasurer:	Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

At the December elections you will be asked to vote for *one* individual for each position. You will also have the ability to write in a vote for a member in good standing (membership paid, ham license current/valid, joined FRRL October 2008 or before).

<b>Directors:</b>	Craig Cozier, AB9IV
	Dick Illman, AH6EZ
	Larry Shaw, W9OKI
	Adam Smuczerowicz, KC9ITG

You will be asked to vote for *two* of these candidates, one for each of the two open director positions. Again, you will have the opportunity to write in one or two names of your choice who meet the criteria noted above for officer write ins.

If you are NOT going to attend the December meeting and would like to cast your ballot, you may do so according to our by-laws in Section 7 Article 3: Prepare your ballot in ink, list the name of the office and the name of the person or call of the person you are voting for in that position. Enclose the ballot in an envelope, seal it and sign your first and last name in ink. Get the envelope to ANY OFFICER, (the by laws are specific in that the envelope be delivered to an officer, not a director).

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## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – November, 2008

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Herb (W9DTR) reports contacts with Liberia, Nicaragua, Moldova, Morocco, Malta, Crete and Luxembourg and the Yukon! He hasn't been able to reach the Yukon in many years, so maybe conditions are improving.

Larry (K9ARZ) has some interesting contacts on PSK: Turkey, Ethiopia, Senegal, Zambia, Namibia, and Angola. The only Asian contact for him so far is Japan, but he is still trying! He is reporting only fair conditions to Europe.

Joe, NA9A scored a \*\* country (\*\* = rarest of the rare). On CW, he worked VU7SJ Lakshadweep Islands. A quick trip to the internet revealed these are a cluster of 36 islands located close to India. Great contact, Joe!

Jack Ekstrom (K9JE) and Herb Pasteur (W9DTR) are in a close race for top position in the Operator class. Larry Stark is way out front in the Limited Class. Dave Siles leads in ragchews, and I have not had updates from him in awhile. Dick (AH6EZ) leads QRO, but Joe, NA9A is catching up!

Ragchew Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
N9CTO	-	-	58
K9FE	-	-	52
W9DTR	-	-	32
KC9FQV	-	-	31
NA9A	-	-	29
K9IH	-	-	27
AH6EZ	-	-	16
WB9CHY	-	-	5
N9YA	-	-	3
AB9OS	-	-	3
KC9DAO	-	-	2
K9JE	-	-	2

Operator Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	43/7	115	165
W9DTR	50/11	103	164
NF9D	46/7	67	120
K9BQL	7/6	86	99
N9CV	45/7	35	87
K9TCD	46/6	25	77
K9IH	34/5	29	68
K9FE	35/5	23	63
N9YA	27/5	27	59
WB9CHY	35/7	8	50
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	100	158
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	56	123	179
N4LZ	29/8	85	122

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## Silent Keys

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

We regret to announce the passing of two of our fellow hams with connections to the club, William (Bill) Swiss, W9HVY, and Gene Harlan, WB9MMM. Bill was a former member of the club, and Gene was well known for his work in Amateur Television. Our sympathies go out to the families and friends of these two fine gentlemen.

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## December Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The program for December will consist of our usual holiday raffle and social event, with prizes given out by our Raffle Chairman, Jack K9JE. If you can, bring a special food treat for all to enjoy. We are also collecting non-perishable food items and donations to the Hesed House. Their web site says they are in need of winter coats, size XXL and larger, so if you have one to donate, please bring it to the meeting.



## Election Slate Announced

*(Continued from page 3)*

Absentee ballots not properly delivered or marked will be considered null and void by the Nominating Committee, whose responsibility it is to tally the results. The votes will be counted during the December meeting, and results will be announced prior to the close of that meeting.

If you have any questions on the conduct of the elections or the procedures for write-ins or absentee ballots, please contact Greg, N9CHA.

The members of the Nominating Committee for this year were Chairman Jason Verachtert, KC9MED, Kermit Carlson, W9XA, and Phil Van Heurck, W9XAN.

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## Annual Club Banquet Date and Information

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

If you were at the November meeting, you may have heard the announcement of the 2009 Banquet. Unfortunately I was not able to be at the November meeting to start accepting payments. Thanks for signing up for 57 of the 100 seats so far.

The Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 24, 2009 We will be at the Round House in Aurora again this year. The menu with your choice of \$37 Beef, \$31 Chicken, or \$28 Vegetarian entrees have the same prices as last year. We expect to distribute a club CD again.

We are making arrangements for the brewery tour and comedian but we have no commitments yet When we get closer to 100 reservations with payments we will be able to start thinking about door prizes. Similar to last year, we will have a cash bar. Remember that there is easy access to the second floor banquet room via an elevator.

The December meeting will be pretty full with elections and the Christmas Party but I will be accepting cash or check payments before, during, and after the meeting. If you are not planning on attending the December meeting, please email a reservation to [ah6ez@comcast.net](mailto:ah6ez@comcast.net) if you are not on the list, and mail a check to my home address as shown in the roster.

73, and I hope that you are all looking forward to great social time with our spouses, being able to remember all of the wonderful things the club has been doing this year, and to recognize all of the supporting cast that makes the FRRL what it is.



## 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, 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 January 20, 2009, 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:

Box 673  
Batavia, Illinois  
60510-0673

### Email:

info@frrl.org

### Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

#### President

Greg Braun, N9CHA

#### Vice President

Charles Penninger,  
KC9DAO

#### Secretary

Bill Stamps, W9WRS

#### Treasurer

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

#### Directors:

Bart Bartkowiak, KC9FQA

Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

#### 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 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

#### December, 2008

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

#### January, 2009

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 6  
 FRRL Meeting ..... 13  
 VE Session..... 20  
 Banquet..... 24  
 Wheaton Hamfest ..... 25

## 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>

### 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.

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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

**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.