



Arc Over

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

February, 2008

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

A new management team is in place after being inducted at the FRRL Banquet on January 26th. Nearly 100 members and special guests attended the gala event at the Walter Payton's Roundhouse Restaurant in Aurora. The food was great, the fellowship was excellent, and the entertainment was top notch. I wish to thank ARRL Illinois Section Manager Tom Ciciora, KA9QPN, as well as our own FRRL member, ARRL Central Division Director Dick Isely, W9GIG for attending our festivities. Special thanks go to Past President, Dick Illman, AH6EZ for coordinating the excellent banquet, and thanks to our own "Brewmaster" Mike Rybinski, KC9JBX for his special tours and help with the event.

Congratulations to Kermit W9XA, the 2007 Ham of the Year recipient. Several candidates for this award were presented to the membership in December for consideration. All of those who were considered for this prestigious award are members who regularly contribute to the club, and who are passionate about the hobby and have dedicated much time and effort to promote amateur radio in our communities.

Several club members attended the Digital Workshop on the 12th of January. Thanks go to Mike K9FE who coordinated the event, and Denny W9HI for hosting the workshop at the Oswego High School electronics lab. FRRL hams assembled Buxcomm Rascal interface kits which are used for sound card digital modes of operation. Several other members were also in attendance to support the effort and to test the completed units.

Freezing temperatures did not keep 20 hams away from the January Transmitter "Fox" Hunt held on the 18th of January. The event was coordinated by Greg N9CHA and Denny W9HI. The "fox" was lo-

cated at a residence in St. Charles and proved too difficult to find without specific clues. It was determined later at the post-event pizza party that more attenuation is needed for the DF equipment when such a strong signal is being hunted. The "fox" used this time was a Yaesu FT-8800 transceiver running 45 watts into a 3 element 2 meter beam at 25 feet above average terrain, pointed North. It was determined that the event was so successful, that we should coordinate additional transmitter hunts this year.

The Prisco Community Center in Aurora, the meeting place for FRRL club events has changed its management team. Along with the change comes a new relationship with the facility manager. New rules have been established which make the basement area no longer available to us for meetings. We will now be meeting in room 102, the large meeting room on the first floor where we have traditionally been holding our holiday party and meeting in December. The VE team will be holding their sessions in a first floor classroom. Please check the web site for further information as it becomes available.

The D-Star team has been very busy lately. FRRL members Kermit W9XA, Mark WB9QZB and Paul W9DWP were honored by the North Shore Radio Club on the 26th of January for their efforts. The engineering and installation of the NSRC D-Star repeater systems is an on-going project. An experiment is being conducted to see if two D-Star systems can co-exist on a splintered pair of frequencies. The FRRL UHF system is on 442.10625 and the NSRC system is on 442.09375. On Sunday the 27th, a special D-Star forum was presented by Mark, Kermit and Paul at the Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs hamfest in St. Charles.

(Continued on page 3)

**Minutes of the 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 January 8, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:39 PM by Greg Braun, N9CHA – President with 67 members present. Question of the Month: What is your favorite band and mode to operate?

Minutes of the previous meeting were available for review.

Treasures Report: Total Assets: \$26,514 (Cash/Savings = \$10,221 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,294)

Committee Reports:

Newsletter: Bill, NF9D indicated there are issues getting mail through to att.net addresses due to spam filtering. Guidelines have been set up and posted to the Yahoo group concerning posting items for sale.

Webmaster: Main pages items will now be archived after 30 days. Committee chair people can send updates to Tom.

Volunteer Examiners: Testing conducted the 3rd Tuesday of odd numbered months. \$14 and photo ID, if upgrading bring any CSCE's and copy of current license.

Database: 100 paid members

Education: An Extra Class exam prep class should be starting in March. It could be as many as 12 to 14 sessions in length. In addition a Technician class is planned for spring.

Nets: Several new net control operators have volunteered for the Tuesday night nets.

Hamfest: ARRL has confirmed sanctioning for our event. It will be held Sunday July 13th at Aurora Central Catholic. Greg explained that it is not possible to go back to Wabaunsee Community College due to changes they have made. They no longer allow sales transactions in their buildings or on their grounds for outside groups.

Repeater: Both machines are working well.

Program: Tonight's program will be presented by Lou, K9LU regarding his trip to Alaska. A program about trouble-shooting is planned for February.

Banquet: We have space for 100. Currently 86 have made reservations and 77 have paid. Get your payments in to Dick, AH6EZ as soon as possible.

D-Star: 37 people attended Kermit, W9XA's recent forum in Elburn.

Kids Day: 8 children attended and participated in ATV, Fox Hunting, HF and VHF operation.

HF Challenge: Get your 2007 score sheets to Joe, NA9A

Greg noted the passing of the mother of Michelle Powell, KC9HDB, FRRL member and MS Walk Chairperson.

Looking for someone to take over the refreshment service from Denny.

Digital Workshop: Saturday January 12th at Oswego High School. Enter the parking lot on the flagpole side of the building (opposite from the tennis courts) and go towards the rear and enter at door 21.

Transmitter Hunt: Planned for January 19th, Saturday. Plan to meet at the Prisco Center at 9AM. Will be a driving hunt around Aurora.

Greg and the membership expressed their appreciation to Denny, John, and Mike (K9FBI) for their service as Vice President, Secretary and Director.

Break, raffle and party to follow

Respectfully Submitted:

John Spasojevich, AG9D – FRRL Secretary

President's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

Also at the WCRA hamfest was our own Kent Te Vault W9NDW, Emergency Coordinator for DuPage County. Kent hosted a seminar on "Amateur Radio in Emergencies." Good job Kent! The Kane County ARES group also hosted a table at the WCRA hamfest. Eric Lorenz KC9FQV, Dave Siles N9CTO and others were present with a very nice table top display and video presentation.

Did you stop by the newest ham radio store dealer in the area at the WCRA hamfest? Our clubs Vice President, Charles Penninger, KC9DAO set up an

impressive display of antenna support systems and new Alinco products. "The Ham Shack" as Charles is calling it is now open for business in West Chicago.

The February program is scheduled to be a session on troubleshooting and solving many of the problems ham can face with their stations.

73, Greg N9CHA
FRRL President, 2008

New Members

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

Here is a list of new members that have joined since the last newsletter. 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
KB9PN	Tom Damiano
NB9R	George Geotsalitis
W0COP	David L. Laveck
KC9KAB	Diane MacDougall
KC9JUB	Robert MacDougall
AG9K	Darren Mende
K9OG	Michael O'Grady
KC9YS	Alan Phillips
W9MJS	Michael Schultz
KC9DFE	Cynthia Seputis
WA9EMY	James Small
W9TLD	Traci Weilemann

For Sale Items:

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

DJ, KF9OW, has an Ameritron Mobile HF Amplifier; 500 W. PEP / 400 W. CW output; solid state, with manual, and an MFJ-989 B 2KW Versa Tuner V available. Contact DJ at kf9ow at arrl.net

Bill, NF9D has a Ten-Tec Omni V Transceiver with power supply and microphone available. Contact Bill at nf9d at arrl.net.

2007 Bill Erickson HF Challenge Final Scores

By Joe Dubeck, NA9A

Here are the final score sheets for the 2007 Bill Erickson HF Challenge. Congratulations to the winners, and thanks to all who participated.

QRO Class : 2007 Bill Erickson FRRL HF Challenge Scores				
Name	Callsign	States/Provinces	Countries	SCORE
Joe Dubeck	NA9A	57	212	269
Dick Illman	AH6EZ	62	153	215
George R. Isely	W9GIG	59	136	195
Maurice L. Schietecatte	W4CEO/N4LZ	59	123	182

Operator Class : 2007 Bill Erickson FRRL HF Challenge Scores				
Name	Callsign	States/Provinces	Countries	SCORE
Herb Pasteur	W9DTR	60	123	183
Cyd Runde	N9CV	61	107	168
Mike Urso	K9FE	62	73	135
Mike Bentley	K9FBI	54	60	114
Warren Geary	K9IH	58	52	110
Keith Boatman	N9YA	60	48	108
Tobi Davis	KC9GDL/K9TCD	52	49	101
Dean Holste	KC9EOQ	51	48	99
Bill Muhr	KB9YSI/NF9D	46	30	76
Eric Lorenz	KC9FQV	52	17	69
Tom Davis	WB9CHY	23	6	29
Adam Smuczerowicz	KC9ITG	13	12	25

Limited Class : 2007 Bill Erickson FRRL HF Challenge Scores				
Name	Callsign	States/Provinces	Countries	SCORE
Lawrence W. Stark	K9ARZ	60	119	179
Harry Jones	F/K9DXA	0	6	6

Rag Chewer Class: 2007 Bill Erickson FRRL HF Challenge Scores				
Name	Callsign	States/Provinces	Countries	SCORE
Herb Pasteur	W9DTR	55	21	76
Mike Urso	K9FE	42	16	58
Dick Illman	AH6EZ	46	8	54
Warren Geary	K9IH	35	0	35
Keith Boatman	N9YA	28	3	31
Eric Lorenz	KC9FQV	26	3	29
Joe Dubeck	NA9A	9	1	10
Dean Holste	KC9EOQ	6	2	8
Tom Davis	WB9CHY	3	1	4
Harry Jones	F/K9DXA	0	1	1

New HF Challenge Coordinator Announced

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

I am proud to announce the FRRL HF Challenge has a new Administrative Coordinator. Cyd Runde, N9CV has accepted the position for the 2008 Challenge year.

Cyd replaces John Spasojevich, AG9D for the position. Please join me in thanking John for his excellent service to the club. He provided monthly news articles and held the position for 3 years.

The position of HF Challenge Administrative Coordinator entails collecting monthly Challenge scores from the membership and summarizing the totals each month for publication in the Arc Over. The spirit of the Challenge is to promote on-air activity for the members. This is done in the form of a con-

test each year with various operating classifications.

During the Winter Banquet, those who participated in the Challenge receive a very handsome certificate to display on their hamshack wall. Those who achieve the most points at the end of the year receive a framed certificate.

I also want to thank Joe Dubeck, NA9A for his continued enthusiasm for this yearly activity. At the end of each year, Joe collects the Challenge sheets from members who participated, and checks their results based on various criteria.

Please welcome Cyd as our new Challenge Admin. I know she will do an excellent job!

The email address for reporting your scores is Challenge (at) frrl.org

Kermit Carlson, W9XA, Named Ham of the Year

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

The FRRL named Kermit Carlson, W9XA, the **Ham of the Year** at the club's annual banquet. Here is a photo of Greg Braun, N9CHA, FRRL President (L) presenting the award to Kermit.



For the love of the hobby...

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ/Brrr

I recently saw a contest listed in the QST Contest page called Freeze Your Butt Off. Considering that I have been experiencing enough of Winter recently, I thought that immersion would be a better (or more stupid) idea. This contest is all about QRP and operating outdoors where you are rewarded by having low temperatures at your operating position.

Since my RV has not had heat for the last several months, this seemed like a comfortable operating position that already had a place to mount the Buddipole mast. I used my Elecraft KX1 rig at 5 watts with an external battery. As I unwound the RF cables and extra antenna wires for a second band, I realized how stiff they were in the cold weather. I was happy to get all of the outdoors installation work finished and settle into finding "FYBO" stations to work. I heard none on 20m so I switched to 40m where I spend almost all of my time. I did manage to make 24 QSOs over a 5 hour span. However this included hourly breaks to go inside to warm my hands enough to regain cw paddle coordination. I also found that having a cold head affected my concentration at times. The temperature ranged from 25 to 29 degrees while I was operating.

This gave me a nice x5 temperature multiplier. I could not have achieved anything below 20F for a x6 multiplier anyway. It just was not that cold. It did not help that there was 8 inches of snow on the ground that I needed to wade through to stretch out the 20m wire (that I did not make a QSO with).

Part of the exchange given includes your name. I guess there is no need for accuracy because the W8PIG QRP club I worked had an operator named Oink. I guess that says it all. Everyone had fun. I am looking forward to next year.



A warm and toasty Dick Illman, AH6EZ, works the FYBO QRP contest from his RV. Notice the special high speed CW gloves, which add several words per minute to his code speed.

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 March 18, 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

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 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>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

February, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting 5
 FRRL Meeting..... 12

March, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting 4
 FRRL Meeting..... 11
 VE Testing 18

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

Copyright 2008, FRRL

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.

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/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.