



# Arc Over

Fox River Radio  
League  
PO Box 673  
Batavia, IL  
60510-0673

February, 2011

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## President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

### Winter Banquet Kicks off 2011

On Saturday January 22<sup>nd</sup> we held our annual Awards Dinner. This year's festivities were held at the Omega Restaurant in Warrenville, IL where our host for the evening, Past President Mike Urso K9FE, was joined by a fairly well behaved group of members and their families for a wonderful evening of food and socializing. The Awards Dinner recognizes the efforts of the membership throughout the year and officially installs the 2011 Board of Directors. There was a special presentation this year. Some time ago Dick Illman AH6EZ and Greg Braun N9CHA spent an afternoon with Benny Benson W9CZA in his shack and filmed an interview. Benny, among his many accomplishments, was a radio operator on the Pam Am Clippers in the 1940's. Benny became a SK in November and Greg made a special highlight version of the hour and a half interview just for the banquet. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Ham of the Year Award, which is awarded based on results of a ballot of the membership at the December meeting. The results are not announced until the Banquet. This year, the award was renamed by the Board in honor of Benny and I am very pleased to announce once again that the recipient of the 2010 FRRL, Robert "Benny" Benson, W9CZA – Ham of the Year Award is Dawn Williams KC9LQS. Dawn serves as our Public Relations Chairperson, Net Coordinator and was elected as a Director in 2010 to serve a two-year term. Congratulations Dawn!

While I was working on the awards I realized that we have a larger number of young members under the age of eighteen than in years past. Throughout the course of the year you see many of them at our various events, follow their struggles as they upgrade their licenses, listen to their dreams for the future and help them along the way. Several clubs have special awards for their young people and we should not be an exception. Using the criteria of operating skill, participation in club activities, other on-air operation, license upgrading and education I presented the first FRRL Young Ham of the Year Award to James Martin KC9RVP. Congratulations James! I should mention that James won the Door Prize, an Alinco DJ-596 HT which had been won by Benny several banquets ago and returned to us by his estate. It's quite a coincidence (no one was aware of the award I had for him by the way) and a great night for James.

Two additional special awards were presented to Neil Potter KB9RFX and Bill Capper WB9LPW for their outstanding volunteer service the past year. Whenever you need a hand or there is an event happening you can count on these guys to be there from start to finish. Thank you Neil and Bill!

As we move into February and start to think of spring we start to look forward to some activity and this year promises to have no shortage. Coming up at Rasmussen College on Saturday, February 19 is a beginner's satellite class focusing on the FM LEO "birds". It should be pretty interesting. Following that on Saturday, March 19 there will be a LEO antenna building project also at Rasmussen. We are probably going to be doing the MS Walk and are in need of someone to chair the event. If you have participated in this event over the years, consider taking a turn at running it. Ken Nelson N9WCX tells me the Cougars have contacted him about tickets for July, he'll have more information shortly. Don't forget the Hamfest and Field Day. Way down the schedule in October is the Chicago Marathon. I know Eric Lorenz K9LGE is already taking volunteers for that. They need a lot of help, so consider signing on for that worthwhile opportunity. There may be

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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 St. Rita of Cascia, Aurora, IL**

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Meeting Minutes January 11, 2011.

Meeting called to order at 7:36 PM by John Spasojevich – President with 50 members, 4 visitors present.

- John AG9D welcomed all to the January meeting.
- Question for the meeting: Did Santa Claus bring you any ham stuff?

**Secretary Report:** Harry K9DXA– meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over. Motion to accept by Mike, K9FE, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Craig AB9IV. Motion passed.

**Treasurers Report:** Dean KC9EOQ presented the report.

**Announcements – John AG9D**

- Life Members: Motion to accept new Life Members by Kermit, W9XA, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike, K9FE. Motion passed.  
Jack Ekstrom, K9JE  
Alvin Buswink, W9AYJ  
Larry Shaw, W9OKI

**Committee Reports**

**Banquet:** Mike, K9FE. 61 tickets sold to date. Banquet tickets are available at the General meeting tonight. It will be held at the Omega restaurant, Rt. 59 and I-88, on 1/22/2011. Tickets will be 28.00 per person.

**Database:** Chris, KC9BKS, 110 members have renewed to date. Membership peaked at 200 members last year.

**Program:** Dick, AH6EZ. The program will be elliptical polarization.

**Repeaters:** Dick AH6EZ – Dick AH6EZ announced that the repeaters are running fine. The software will be updated soon. The UHF antenna will be installed soon.

**VE Session:** Doug W9RD –Next session 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of January at St. Rita.

**Net Control:** Dawn KC9LQS – More net control operators are needed.

**Newsletter:** Tobi K9TCD – Deadline for article is the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. ArcOver is out.

**Hamfest:** Jere, KA0KPO. The hamfest is July 10, 2011 @ Aurora Central Catholic H.S. Starting at 8:00AM

**HF Challenge:** Joe, NA9A. Get your logs turned in.

**Member Announcements**

SDR SIG- Harry, K9DXA. The next meeting is Jan. 15 @ Rasmussen, 9:00AM.

Jack K9JE – Turn in your QSL cards for the DX Bureau. Sort by country and include a copy of your QST label.

BSA: Harry, K9DXA. Presentation given Jan. 10, 2011 for St. Rita BSA Troop 53, held here at St. Rita Church basement.

Basic Satellite Operations – John, AG9D. Program covers basic satellite operation, 9:30 AM @ Rasmussen College, Feb. 19. On March 19, 9:30 AM @ Rasmussen College, there will be a dual band satellite antenna workshop. There is a sign-up sheet for these activities.

Club Equipment Work Morning: John, AG9D. Members to gather at Charles, KC9DAO, Penninger Radio Store, 915 Atlantic, West Chicago at 9:00 am – 12:00 noon. Clean up and organize club gear stored there.

Letter from food pantry thanking us for our food contribution last month.

John, AG9D thanked Bill, W9WRS and Larry, W9OKI for their years of service as outgoing secretary and outgoing director.

The door prize returns tonight. Marty, N9NTM, won the touch paddle kit.

Dean, KC9EOQ recognized the 2010 hamfest staff.

John, AG9D announced that an RF survey was conducted at SciTech. Everything was found to be pretty good.

**New Business**

Several club members submitted IL QSO Party scores, giving FRRL 7<sup>th</sup> place in the club standings.

Mike, K9FE moved, 2<sup>nd</sup> Marty N9NTM to close the meeting. Motion passed.

General meeting adjourned at 8:32 PM.

The February 1, 2011 board meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The February 8, 2011 General meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The March 1, 2011 board meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The March 8, 2011 General meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

Respectfully Submitted:

Harry Jones, K9DXA  
FRRL Vice President

## February Program Notes

Are you getting ready to put up some new antennas this coming spring? How well will they perform? Can you set them up on your lot? The answer is to model your antennas on your computer first. The February program will be a demonstration of how to use the EZ-NEC antenna modeling program and show off its features.

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*President's Traffic (Continued from page 1)*

a couple of picnic type events during the year too. These in particular seem to be the most fun and well attended of all the things we do. Hmm...there's that food and socializing theme again, I see a pattern here!

These are just a few of the things on tap. I am sure there will be more things to participate in, so please, check the website and the Yahoo group often, at least once a week as these are the two ways we can communicate with you between meetings.

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## New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

CALL	NAME
KB9KDN	Brandon Clairmont
KC9OJV	John Greusel
KA9GIZ	James Caulfield

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## Now Available: New e-Book Versions of the No-Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide

An Amazon Kindle version is available as well as a Barnes & Noble version. Both can be found by searching in the e-books section website for "kb6nu".

Either version costs \$9.99. The PDF version is still free at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).

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## SDR SIG

By Harry Jones K9DXA

The next meeting of the FRRL SDR SIG will include a special presentation by FRRL's own Barrett Milliken, KC9CHG, on a very interesting topic.... Sssssshhhhhhhhhhh!!!.....It's all about some interesting uses of WSPR. WSPR is a digital mode, and does not require an SDR rig. But it does work quite nicely with the Sof-trock rigs. So you might want to come out just to hear about some of the things Barrett has been doing with WSPR. Oh by the way, we will not ask you to check your KNOBS at the door!

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-January 2011

By Eric Needles AB9OS

So 2010 is over and we begin a new year for the HF Challenge. Everyone should have received their blue HF Challenge sheets in the mail which include a summary of what the Challenge is all about, how it works and the different classes available.

If you have never been in the HF Challenge before, simply e-mail your total number of states, provinces and DX worked by the 15th of each month to [challenge@frrl.org](mailto:challenge@frrl.org). That's all there is to it! Not everyone has a report every month, but do your best to get updated scores in when you can.

For veterans of the Challenge, consider changing your class this year or perhaps put a focus on more Ragchews. It's all part of the fun. Also, challenge yourself to make more contacts this year than last. When you look back on your log at the end of the year, you'll be glad you did!

Now for the numbers...

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9FBI	35	6	5	46
K9TCD	30	4	2	36
WB9CHY	28	3	2	33

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	49	9	121	179
KC9DAO	12	2	0	14

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
NF9D-QRP	34	4	3	41
K9LGE-Digital	5	0	0	5
W9IV	1	0	3	4

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ			18

## 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 St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora. The meeting begins at 7:30 PM and includes social time,

a business portion and a program of interest.

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 St. Rita of Cascia Church in Aurora at 7:30 PM. A special session is held at the club's hamfest, usually in July each year. 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 March 15, 2011 at St. Rita of Cascia church. Please see the [frri.org](http://www.frri.org) website for details.**

## 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@frri.org](mailto:info@frri.org)

### Web Site:

<http://www.frri.org>

### President

John Spasojevich, AG9D

### Vice President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

### Secretary

Ron Jahr, KC9SNI

### Treasurer

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

### Directors:

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Larry Stark, K9ARZ

Dawn Williams, KC9LQS

### Past President

Mike Urso, K9FE

### License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

### Newsletter Editor

Tobi Davis, K9TCD  
[newsletter@frri.org](mailto:newsletter@frri.org)

### Webmaster

Greg Braun, N9CHA  
[webmaster@frri.org](mailto:webmaster@frri.org)



**FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT ST. RITA OF CASCIA IN AURORA, IL, BUT LOCATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR THE ADDRESS AND A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION.**  
<http://www.frri.org>

Send Address Corrections to:  
Fox River Radio League, Inc.  
3023 Scenicwood Lane.  
Woodridge, IL 60517

### FRRL Event Calendar

#### February, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 1  
FRRL Meeting ..... 8  
SDR SIG ..... 12  
FRRL Banquet ..... 22

#### March, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 1  
FRRL Meeting ..... 8  
VE Session ..... 15

### 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](mailto:arc-over@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—147.225 Mhz (-6.0 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.
- Monthly Simplex Net—4th Tues following weekly FRRL Net on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.