



Arc Over

Fox River Radio League
PO Box 673
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March, 2005

President's Traffic *by Dick Illman, AH6EZ*

Even though the Sun Spot Cycle is pretty low right now (due to bottom out mid-2006), I hope that you are continuing to keep active on the HF bands. As NA9A says, there is still lots of DX that can be worked without an antenna (he was referring to my vertical and wire antennas).

Speaking of no antennas, AB9IV has had success with his rain gutter on 160m and N9QPE has had his first HF QSO with his new General License, also using a rain gutter antenna. Did you know that N9QPE's XYL, Michele, passed her Technician License on Valentine's Day? How sweet.

For antennas, making do with what is available at hand is the very essence of ham radio. In an emergency, it is just those skills and experiences that will allow you to communicate when all other radio services are choked or inoperative. W9AX will soon be talking with you about preparing for Weather Spotting and other emergency activities. Especially with the recent proposed Kane County amateur radio tower regulations, we really need to be active, knowledgeable, and to keep a good image in the public's mind. KC9DMS, our new Publicity Chairman, is committed to closer relationships with our newspapers and other media outlets. We just got a nice DVD from the ARRL with video and audio public service announcements that can be adapted to our use.

Another way that ham radio has been in the public's attention recently was the February 10 communication between the International Space Station and the Fairview Elementary School in Arlington Heights. There is a sound file on our web site for you to listen to. It is really heartwarming to hear the enthusiasm and excitement of the school kids. W9HI and crew are putting on a ham radio operation at Oswego East High School where Denny is starting up a technology club.

Speaking of noises to listen to, the steel cables and construction equipment has finally been removed from our repeater site and our 2m repeater has returned to being the wide area coverage repeater it is famous for. Please try to remember to ignore and not comment on the repeater about interference or illegal activity, if you hear any. That is the best way for them to go away. It is much better to quickly alert a club officer or board member. We do have control operators monitoring much of the day and night who can take action.

Please be thinking about Field Day, your expectations, and any suggestions you may have. We have the Jericho Lake Park Pavilion reserved so far. Last year, we may have not made as many points in the "Contest" but we made more points with our people. We hope to improve on that even more this year. Although it would take more involvement from the membership, a learning and elmering process I would like to start this year is that each band captain would lead a small team of people to investigate, construct, and assemble antennas, equipment, and setups. Field Day can mean a lot of different things to people who have a wide variety of skills and interests. If you communicate your desires and expectations with Denny W9HI or Mike K9FE, or any officer of board member, you stand a chance of being delighted at Field Day this year. Because of the Sun Spot Cycle, we might have fewer stations on the air (shorter band openings on 10, 15, and 20m) but we will need more operators to keep them on the air all night long.

I hope that I can bring some nostalgia to the March meeting by showing you some old slides of the various ham shacks and setups I have had over the last 37 years. Subject to your snoring, I will share some old ham adventures. Speaking of adventures, remember to order your tickets to the Dayton Hamvention which is right around the corner.

73, Dick AH6EZ

Bill Erickson HF Challenge by Mike Urso, K9FE

HF challenge for March

It has been a noisy month as far as I could see. Being mobile HF teaches you what real noise is. Sitting in traffic in a linear parking lot seems like the ideal way to work some HF. It would be if you did not have to hear ignition systems, cars that "go thump in the night", and a myriad of power line noise that seems to be worsening. It may not really be getting worse, but the signals strength on receive is dropping so the noise is more noticeable. I just have to keep trying.

This month there were a few contests and a weeklong event for school clubs or schools with hams as sponsors. Denny Barfus, W9HI, had the Oswego High School activated under his call on Thursday, the 17th of February. While the operating conditions were not the greatest and the physical layout was not the best, they were active and made contacts from their location in the cafeteria. Several students showed interest and got the chance at the mic to try and make a contact. Nice going Denny! I think this was a different type of HF Challenge.

I have been asked to publish the final scores for 2004. They are listed on *Page 6*. Notice that some operators that were listed most of last year are not in the tables. Why? Because some failed to turn in their challenge tally sheets to NA9A on or before the 15th of January. It seems to me that if you log all the scores all year that turning them in would be the final step. This year please, PLEASE, turn in your tally sheets on time.

Some of the DX heard this month were V51, ZD7, TF4, 3DA0, SV9, PA0, CT3, HB9, ZS6, V73, 9G5, V51, Z22, MIO, 8R1, 9Y4, EM1, VP2V, C6A, TF3, C56, D4, 3B8, OH0, CN8, 9L1, T77, VP8 (10m), P29, GU, 3B9, EA6, EA9, ZA, 9M6, A35, 7X4, HK0, EI, T32, GW, J88, V21.

FRRL HF Challenge Scores a/o Feb 15, 2005

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	-	-	12
AL9A	-	-	11
NA9A	-	-	4
K9FE	-	-	1

Operator Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	43/6	26	75
K9MMS	46/8	6	60
W4CEO	43/5	8	56
K9FBI	36/4	14	54
W9DNJ	2/0	1	3

(Continued on page 5)

FRRL Morse Code Tutor Continues

by Greg Braun, N9CHA

The FRRL Morse Code Tutor continues on Wednesday evenings. The net begins promptly at 7:30 PM on the FRRL Fox 2 meter repeater 147.210 (+600 kHz 103.5 Hz pl). Our net control operators do a great job of keeping a moderate pace and encourage those who check in to participate.

Please check our web site (<http://www.frri.org/>) to download practice files and schedules.

New Members

by Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

The following individuals joined the FRRL during the past several months but did not get their names listed in the ArcOver. I believe that with the publication of this list, all of our new members that joined in the past 6 months will be identified. If you are a fairly new member or you have renewed after a long absence and do NOT see your name listed, please let me know.

Call	Name	Lic. Class	Location
K9CDL	Dan Trolia	Technician Plus	Mokena
K9DHK	Dorwin Kujawski	Extra	Montgomery
K9FBI	Mike Bentley	General	Oswego
N9FNX	Earl Arnold	Advanced	Romeoville
KC9GZX	Bill Stamps, Jr.	Technician	Bolingbrook
AB9JV	Lenny Kerns	Extra	Orland Park
W9NDW	Kent TeVault	General	Lisle
AI9U	Lance Schultz	Extra	Downers Grove
K9WK	Al Maromaty	Extra	Naperville
KA9ZRY	Stephen Jeffries	General	Aurora

Welcome to all these new and returning members.

Emergency Communications Corner—Weather Spotting

By Bill Schaben, W9AX

After two years as President of the FRRL, I'm now moving to the position of Emergency Coordinator for the club. This is an area of amateur radio that I feel is the heart of the hobby. Without the emergency communications capability of the hams, I believe that ham radio would not exist. It's time for the club to become organized so that we can be of service to the community if necessary. I ask every member to support this in every way that they can.

Right now, I'd like to concentrate on severe weather spotting and reporting. This is something that every ham can do and be of great service. The National Weather Service (NWS) relies on the hams to get reports from the field. On a more local level, your reports will also be channeled to the communities directly in the path of the storm.

You might hear a lot of chatter on the air as to who to talk to and report. This can get very confusing. Let me give you a little background and explain what we like to see for Kane County.

After the Plainfield tornado, the National Weather Service (NWS) and the various Offices of Emergency Management got together and formed the Multi County Weather Warning Group. The function of this group was to take reports from the individual counties and funnel them into the NWS for the Northeastern part of Illinois. The reports or observations would come from OEM spotters, other government agencies (sheriff or police), the public and also from the amateur radio community. The emergency management agencies, be they OEM, EMA or ESDA's, are charged to warn their respective communities as well as pass information to the NWS. They have the personnel and communication capability to do this simultaneously.

The Kane County emergency agency is the Kane County Office of Emergency Management, KCOEM. From experience, I can assure you that this agency is very weather conscious. They send out their members to the western edge of the county to observe the weather. Anything these spotters see is reported to the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) and relayed to the individual communities. At the same time, the information passed to DuPage County, which sends out to other counties what Kane County is seeing as well as informing the NWS.

We hams can participate in this scheme. KCOEM has a two meter repeater, KC9OEM (*nice call*), that goes into a weather net mode when a watch or warning is issued. Net control is in the EOC communications room for direct communications.

A few pointers to make us professional and effective: First, the NWS prefers reports from TRAINED spotters. Although reports from untrained are welcome, these reports have to be confirmed before being used. There are various places you can get basic weather training. Even though you're not yet trained, your reports are helpful.

When a watch or warning has been issued and the wx net opened, check in. Give your name and your location. That's all unless you have SEVERE weather to report. Then start monitoring the frequency (while watching the weather of course). If net control needs a report from your area, he'll give you a call and ask. If you see something NC should be aware of, give them a call. Things you should definitely report is: hail, high wind (breaking small limbs of trees), heavy lightning. And, of course, a tornado or funnel cloud.

There are a number of spotter classes around the area. Check the Chicago area website <http://www.crh.noaa.gov/lot> for classes in your area. There is an advanced weather training program put on by DuPage County OEM and the NWS. The date is March 12 and if you need info, give me a call.

Erickson Challenge Standings

(Continued from page 2)

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
KB9YSI	30/2	4	36

QRO Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	47/9	98	154
WOHED	50/7	77	134
AL9A	49/8	28	85
NA9A	3/0	1	4
K9FE	2/0	0	2

Just because you started in one class doesn't mean you are tied to that class all year. You can go from **Limited** to **Operator** to **QRO** easily. Going backwards poses a problem since you cannot use your **QRO** contacts for other classes **IF** they were gotten with higher power than the class you want to be eligible to be in. Remember the 250-watt output power limit on the **Operator** category.

Remember to get your updated **totals** to me by the 15th of each month to have them included in the **ArcOver**. If you are a day late of so, don't worry, I'll still get them in. Send them to challenge@frrl.org. Also include a list of rare and not so rare entities you have worked so we can all be a part of the HF hunting. The bands may seem dead, but make sure you try...you never know how the propagation can change.

Good Hunting!
73 de K9FE Mike Urso

Solar Flux

by Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

This month we feature the first in a series of articles about Emergency Communications by our Club Emergency Coordinator. In his article, Bill talks about weather spotting and reporting. This information should clear up a lot of the questions about weather spotting that have been floating around during the past year.

We also have a number of new members who joined the club during the past year, but did not get their names published in the ArcOver for a variety of reasons. So, I'm playing catch-up and printing a whole list of names. If you have not met these hams, please say hello at the next meeting.

Finally, just a couple of brief news items. The 2 meter repeater noise seems to have cleared up now that the construction cables have been taken down, and progress is being made on the redesign of the club web site.

As always, if you have any news or articles for publication please let me know via the email address listed on page 7. Also, please pass along any news items to our webmaster, Eric, at the webmaster email address.

Thanks & 73,
Bill, KB9YSI

2004 Erickson HF Challenge—Final Scores

Limited Class Totals

Call	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9MMS	61	120	181
M/AH6EZ	2	30	32
MM/AH6EZ	0	11	11

Operator Class Totals

Call	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	62	153	215
N9YA	63	133	196
K9COE	62	90	152
W9DTR	61	90	151
KB9YSI	58	85	143
W4CEO	56	87	143
KA9OBH	5	56	61
N9XU	20	5	25

QRO Class Totals

Call	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
NA9A	62	247	309
AH6EZ	63	194	257
W9GIG	62	139	201
NT3J	55	93	148
WOHED	57	78	135
W9AN	39	93	132
K9FE	36	30	66

QRO Class Totals

Call	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	56	24	80
K9COE	57	14	71
W9DTR	20	5	25
K9FE	18	3	21
NA9A	8	4	12

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. 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, Marcy, 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 Tuesday, March 15, 2005, at 7:30 pm at the Prisco Center.

FRRL Dues

Annual dues are payable no later than the January Club Meeting each year. Persons 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. You can also help support the FRRL Repeaters by joining as a combined Club/ Repeater member for \$30.00. Repeater dues are \$20.00.

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

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.frri.org>

Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

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FRRL Event Calendar

March, 2005

FRRL Board Meeting 1
FRRL Meeting..... **8**
 VE Testing 15

April, 2005

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

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 kb9ysi@arrl.net 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

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

W9ZGP—146.580 Mhz.
 +1.08 Mhz (147.660)
 Owned by NIARC

KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz.
 -600 KHz, 103.5 access tone
 Owned by Kane County OEM

W9XA — 224.40 Mhz, +5 Mhz, IRLP Node #4846
 — **443.65 Mhz, +5 Mhz**
 — **1292.00 Mhz, -20 Mhz (1272.00)**

* Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time.