



# Arc Over

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

March, 2007

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## President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

The recent warming trend gives me a glimmer of hope that spring might be just around the corner. We have had a taste of snow and cold temperatures in the past weeks, enough in fact to postpone our February meeting by a week. Thanks to all who attended.

You will see something a bit new in this edition of the Arc Over, our meeting minutes. The board decided unanimously to publish our meeting minutes as an addendum to the news letter, and as a resource on our web site. This addition should help those who cannot make our meetings on a regular basis keep in touch with club news which may not otherwise get distributed.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our new Education Chairperson, Eric KB9IDT. Eric assisted our club last year with the Technician classes, and is already forming a schedule for this year. Eric also serves our club as a VE. If you know of someone who is looking to get their license, or upgrade, please contact Eric, his email is listed on our web site.

Also this month I'd like you to welcome Kent W9NDW, our new Public Relations Chairperson. Kent is a valuable resource to our club and has participated in many of the special events during the past years. Kent also participated in numerous Field Day events, and is currently active with the Kane County ARES group. Kent's job includes writing news releases and keeping local news media up to date with our meeting dates and location.

One of the more challenging responsibilities our club has is that of our Membership Chairperson. Please welcome Mike K9FBI to this all important position. Mike is well known in the club. He is frequently heard on the repeaters, and continues to serve our club as a VE. Mike has supported the Elmer list and has volunteered to be a band captain during past Field Day events. He has also assisted with the continuing education program by supporting both the General and Technician classes. Mike's responsibility is to invite new hams into our club and to help maintain our current membership.

The Cougars Night special event is a few months out, but tickets are on sale now! Thanks to Ken N9WCX for chairing this fun summer event. I'm sure Ken will be making several announcements both here in the Arc Over as well as at upcoming meetings about how you can purchase tickets to root on our Kane County Cougars.

Several FRRL members have upgraded to the General Class by now. . Welcome to those who now have additional HF privileges. Our Program Chairperson, Dick AH6EZ is continuing to design informative presentations which help our newest HF hams with the setup and operation of their stations. The February program on RF connectors was very well received and enjoyed by all of us. Look for next months program announcement here and on the web.

73, Greg

**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 February 20, 2007 (Meeting held on 3rd Tuesday due to WX related closing last week)  
Meeting called to order at 7:33 PM by Greg Braun, N9CHA – President with 40 members present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were available for review.

Treasures Report: Total Balance: \$26,532.00 (Cash/Savings = \$10,711.00 Certificates of Deposit = \$15,821.00)

Annual Banquet: Kermit, W9XA reported that there were 90 attendees and that generally all went well.

Beginning this month a new meeting format will be in use. Tables for various committees will be set up at 7PM and representatives will be available for information. The business portion of the meeting will begin at 7:30 followed by a break, raffle and then the monthly program. This months information tables are: D-Star, ARES & Elmer.

**Committee Reports**

Database: 132 paid members. Reminder to get dues in by 2-21-07 to be listed in the roster. Roster publication is set for 3-13-07.

Membership: Mike, K9FBI is the new Membership Coordinator.

Education Committee: Eric, KC9IDT is the new chairman. Planning for a General License class in the spring, perhaps April time frame and a Technician Class sometime in the fall.

Public Relations: Kent W9NDW is the new PR Chairman.

Field Day: Charles, KC9DAO is the new FD Chairman.

Hamfest: Dean, KC9EOQ explained an issue with our upcoming fest. Indianapolis changed their date back to the weekend of the 7th and 8th of July. We had originally planned our fest to be the 15th as Indy had originally scheduled theirs for the 14th and 15th. We like to follow Indy as we gain some vendors from their show. KARS announced that they would also hold their fest on the 15th of July due to scheduling problems with their venue. A discussion was held concerning the pros and cons of staying on the 15th versus moving back to the 8th. There was no real consensus from the membership regarding either position. Moving back to the 8th would help KARS but require additional expenditure to reprint flyers and tickets (approx. \$240) also need to consider another date for 2008 as we'll be up against the 4th of July weekend.

Program Committee: Dick, AH6EZ continues as Program Chairman. This month's program is on RF connectors. Future programs will focus on getting new Generals and Technicians active on HF bands.

Greg introduced the following chairmen who are returning for 2007: Next Gen – Tobi, KC9GDL; Webmaster – Tom, WB9CHY; Newsletter – Bill, KB9YSI; VE's – Doug, W9RD, MS Walk – Michelle, KC9HDB, Cougars Game – Ken, N9WCX.

The Canoe Race is cancelled this year because of work on the bridge in Batavia.

Ken, N9WCX already has Cougar tickets available for the game on July 27th. Cost \$10 each.

The 2007 Repeater Committee was introduced: Kermit, W9XA – Trustee; Dick, AH6EZ – Chairman; Bill, KB9YSI – Secretary; Earl, N9FNX – Member; Steve, KA9ZRU – Member

General membership meeting minutes will now be posted to the club website and published in the Arc Over.

Reminder that the Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Prisco Center at 7:30PM all are welcome.

Jack, K9JE was not present so no raffle this month.

Opportunity for comments from the floor: None

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:06PM

Break and program to follow

Respectfully Submitted:

John Spasojevich, K9COE – FRRL Secretary

## FRRL Hamfest Date Changed

The FRRL Hamfest for 2007 will now be on the 8th of July, 2007. This is a date change from the 15th as previously posted. Dean has made contact with K9NR of the KARS group to let them know of our change. Dick W9GIG will be contacted regarding the update for ARRL posting, and I will call the Aurora Central Catholic school. The \$ impact is roughly \$240 to reprint the tickets and flyers.

The change in date was made because the Indianapolis club needed to change their date due to a date conflict at their venue and the KARS group can only access their County Fairgrounds on the 15th of July.

The change in date helps to accommodate those vendors who attend Indy and then follow up by attending ours the following day. By making this change we should not inconvenience any one's plans.

The 4th of July falls on a Wednesday this year. Making the change to the 8th of July should not impact our attendance. Next year however, we will consider the date change carefully since the 4th falls on a Friday. Our hamfest will be scheduled for the following weekend so as not to coincide with the National Holiday.

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Bill,

I thought I'd share my experiences in working HF for the first time other than during Field Day. I have been using the N3FJP AC Log 3.0 for quite some time. Up until now it has logged my 6 meter contacts. I upgraded to General today, and I've been on since about 10:30 am mostly tuning around and watching the DX spots on the logging program.

My original goal was to contact W1AW. I didn't hear anything for a while so I started tuning around more. I then noted a spot in Antarctica on 20 meters. It took a bit as he (TM0ANT) had quite a pileup going, but I finally got his attention. My first HF contact under my new privileges! Of course I was really charged up, and over the next couple of hours I logged W1AW on 40 meters, YU1XA in Serbia, and IU2ANT in Italy both on 20 meters. I realized also that patience is a virtue in getting these contacts. It took about 40 minutes for me to get the Italy contact. I then dug out my HF Challenge sheet and recorded my fresh DX.

I found out later that TM0ANT wasn't really in Antarctica — it was a special event station in France celebrating Antarctica Day, and they were not really clear on their location. But what the heck. A new country is a new country, and I'll take it!

Look out, you HF Challenge folks. Here I come .....

73,

Dean, KC9EOQ/AG

## March Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The title of the March program is, "New Privileges, New Fun..."

This is a summary of how the recent FCC rule changes have affected what everyone can do with ham radio. There will be a demonstration on how a Technician can get on HF CW (without knowing CW), lots of tidbits to widen the opportunities for new Generals, and even some new things that experienced Extras can learn.

The April program might be the practical and performance aspects of antennas for your varied lots and yards.

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## The 2007 Bill Erickson HF Challenge Kicks Off

By John Spasojevich, K9COE

The 2007 HF Challenge is off and running. We welcome Tom and Tobi to the contest. Larry, K9ARZ is back running PSK in the Limited Class and Dick, AH6EZ is leading the QRO and Keith, N9YA is leading the Ragchew Class.

Remember after the rules change on February 23rd, once you upgrade to General, this club operating event is an excellent way to learn about HF operations.

Another reminder, PLEASE when you send your scores to me include FRRL in the subject line AND include your call sign with your report. Updates are not due until the 15th of the month. You can send either your year to date or just a score for the month, as long as you say which one it is.

Maurice, checking in from Florida said, "Worked some nice stuff during the ARRL DX CW Contest. Picked up KH6 (Hawaii) on 80 meters, ZL (New Zealand) on 40 meters also worked 5T (Mauritania), 5Z (Kenya) and a VP8 (So. Shetlands). Hope the SSB contest will be as fruitful. "

Good luck and hope to hear you on the HF bands!

John, K9COE

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## New Calls

FRRL Director Tobi Davis has a new call, K9TCD. Her old call was KC9GDL.

Member Roy Richardson is now WK9Y. His old call was AB9NI.

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Scores— Feb, 2007

Here are the current standings for the 2007 HF Challenge as of February 15.

<b>Ragchew Class</b>	<b>States/Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
N9YA	-	-	28
AH6EZ	-	-	10
KC9CHG	-	-	7
NA9A	-	-	1
WB9CHY	-	-	1

<b>Operator Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
N9YA	46/4	3	53
KC9GDL	27/0	2	29
KB9YSI	15/3	7	25
WB9CHY	21/0	2	23
KC9CHG	19/0	0	19

<b>Limited Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
K9ARZ— PSK	45/9	73	127

<b>QRO Class</b>	<b>States/ Provinces</b>	<b>DX Countries</b>	<b>Total</b>
AH6EZ	47/12	119	178
W9CEO	37/3	62	102
NA9A	14/8	0	22

## FIELD DAY 2007

By Charles Penninger – KC9DAO

As the snow is still coming down it is difficult to think about “Field Day 2007” and those hot June days. However, we have already started the planning process.

Our core team is Kent TeVault – W9NDW handling the public relations, Dick Illman – AH6EZ handling the technical side, Greg Braun – N9CHA handling operations, and myself, Charles Penninger – KC9DAO, I’ll have my hands full staying ahead of and out of the way of these accomplished hams. Each of them will have their own committee members and I encourage every one to join a committee for the activity they are interested in.

We will be looking for many extra hands to join the team. This year I would like to not only have Band Captains but also Co-Band Captains in an effort to expand the pool of qualified operators and to train future Band Captains, so if you’re interested in this prestigious position, let us know ASAP. We have Becky Illman – KB9UBU signed on for the food tent; Kirt Shore – KC9CBY will man the welcome tent. By the April issue of the Arc Over we should have the rest of the positions filled and I will share their names with you. There will be plenty of room for all to help, from clean up committee to operations assistants. Don’t be shy, we really do need your help. You can contact the “Field Day 2007” team by e-mail at [fieldday@frrl.org](mailto:fieldday@frrl.org) .

Our Band Captains will take on new responsibilities this year and each Captain’s “Go Kit” will be required to have the following minimum items:

- Antenna and what you need to get it up in the air
- Approved transceiver and tuner if not internal tuner
- Power supply and power cord
- 100 feet of coax
- 100 feet of extension cord, 10 gauge preferable, 12 gauge minimum
- 100 feet of guy rope, 1/4” diameter minimum
- Adequate guy stakes
- Surge protector
- Clock
- Pens, pencils, paper
- Flashlight and spare batteries
- Tent, popup, pavilion or equivalent
- Table & 3 chairs
- Lights, ice cycle lights, glow sticks, etc. (Needed for night ops and to light the guy ropes)
- At least one 8’x12’ tarp
- Basic tools: Screwdrivers, hammer, knife, pliers, duct tape, electrical tape, Fluorescent ribbon, wrenches, zip ties, computer, (laptop preferred) running N3FJP FD Log program

If you don’t have some of these items, it will be YOUR responsibility to get them, beg, buy, or borrow.

What we need are “Can Do” operators.

73 to all and I’ll keep the updates coming.

Charles Penninger – KC9DAO

## 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 20, 2007, 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. You can also help support the FRRL Repeaters by joining as a combined Club/ Repeater member for an additional \$10.00.

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

## 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

Denny Barfuss, W9HI

#### Secretary

John Spasojevich, K9COE

#### Treasurer

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

#### Directors:

Mike Bentley, K9FBI

Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Charles Penninger,  
KC9DAO

#### Past President

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

#### License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

#### Newsletter Editor

Bill Muhr, KB9YSI  
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>

## 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>

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

### FRRL Event Calendar

#### March, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 6  
 FRRL Meeting ..... 13  
 VE Testing ..... 20

#### April, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 3  
 FRRL Meeting ..... 10

### 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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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 D-Star—442.100 Mhz.**  
 FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeater  
 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  
 Linked Repeater System

- Weekly ARES Net—Mon. Eve. At 9:00 pm local time on the W9DWP Linked repeaters
- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- KC OEM Skywarn Net— Wed. Eves, 7:00 pm on the KC9OEM repeater.