



Arc Over

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

March, 2010

President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

Since my last traffic we have lost two members. Howard Milligan, WD9HQT of Aurora was a WW2 and Korea veteran. He passed suddenly at Hines VA hospital on January 30th. David LaCure, N9GCF of Geneva passed away on February 7th at Delnor Hospital. David was a 20 year veteran of the St. Charles Police Department. Please take a moment and remember our friends whose keys have now gone silent.

If you were at the February meeting you shared some of your ham radio dreams. One of those dreams came true, Susie, KC9RGO became a net control operator, managing our Tuesday night net on February 16th. She was assisted with club traffic by Brendan, KC9KJW, these hams are the daughter of Dawn, KC9LQS and son of Dean, KC9EOQ. They did a great job and hopefully will be part of the regular team. Another dream is in progress as several of us are working on antennas for 160, just in time for the summer static crash season!

"Paying it Forward" is a popular modern expression of a concept described by Benjamin Franklin in a letter to Benjamin Webb dated April 22, 1784: "I do not pretend to give such a Sum; I only lend it to you. When you meet with another honest Man in similar Distress, you must pay me by lending this Sum to him; enjoining him to discharge the Debt by a like operation, when he shall be able, and shall meet with another opportunity. I hope it may thus go thro' many hands, before it meets with a Knave that will stop its Progress. This is a trick of mine for doing a deal of good with a little money."

At our February meeting we announced and approved after a long search which included many possible locations that we will be relocating in April to St. Rita of Cascia Church for our monthly membership meeting. St. Rita is located at 750 Old Indian Trail Road in Aurora. From the intersection of Indian Trail and Highland it is less than one block south on Highland and roughly one tenth of a mile west on Old Indian Trail. Watch the website and yahoo groups for maps and directions. The VE Sessions, Linux and SDR SIGs, Education Classes and Board meetings will remain at Rasmussen for the foreseeable future on their normal meeting nights.

St. Rita has the advantage of being "free". By that I mean it is not going to cost us any money to meet there, however, it is not exactly free. In exchange for the opportunity to meet there we must make an investment, there are three boy scout units, one girl scout unit and a cub scout pack which meet there and Father Cesar, N9CCP (an FRRL Member) asks that we assist these scouts in obtaining their radio and electronics merit badges. We will put together a program, meet with the scoutmasters and see how we can best work together. With as many talented people as we have, this will be an easy investment for us. I know from W9BHB at Boulder Hill the time spent working with kids is time well spent. They are sponges and absorb just about everything they can get their hands on, and in a world where all of the role models seem to end up being less than the ideal I think it is good for them to see that people like us, normal everyday people, are willing to take the time and share our experience and hobby with them. The rewards will be immeasurable, you can bet on it. Fr. Cesar also has a school on site which is K-8 with about 250 students. He is very interested in getting technology into the school and we will be looking at ways we can help through amateur radio either via the "Big Project", establishing a school club and station, through ARISS, the ARRL Teachers Institutes or through a combination of all three.

(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 Rasmussen College, Aurora, IL**

Meeting Minutes February 9, 2010.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by John Spazojevich – President with 37 members present.

Question of the Month: What have you not done that you want to do in Amateur Radio?

Secretary's Report: Bill W9WRS– meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over. Motion to accept Adam KC9ITG, 2nd by Bill K9WDB. Minutes accepted.

Treasurers Report: KC9EOQ- Checking: \$ 3812.48, Savings: \$ 5266.08, Petty cash: \$71.00, Total Investments: \$16,773.55, Total Assets: \$25,923.11, Repeater fund: \$4972.20. Motion to accept AH6EZ., 2nd by K9FE.

- John AG9D distributed certificates of appreciation, some dating back to 2006.
- John AG9D read Food Pantry thank you letter for the Holiday food donation.
- John AG9D announced Howard Milligan WD9HQT became Silent Key on 1/30/2010 and that the club had donated \$50.00 to the American Diabetes Association in his name.
- John AG9D presented his appointments for the 2010 committees as follows:

Repeater Committee: Chairman: Dick Illman AH6EZ/W9, Secretary: Bill Muhr NF9D, Member: Paul Dumdie W9DWP, Member: Jim Nevitt N9XP, License Trustee: Kermit Carlson W9XA, Technical Advisor: Steve Jeffries AA9ZRU

<u>Standing Committees:</u>	Database	Chris Kennell KC9BKS
	Field Day	Eric Needles AB9OS
	Hamfest	Dean Holste KC9EOQ
	Llicense Trustee	Kermit Carlson W9XA
	Newsletter	Tobi Davis K9TCD
	Program	Dick Illman AH6EZ/W9
	Public Relations	Jere Yanek KA0KPO
	Technical	Denny Barfuss W9HI
	Webmaster	Greg Braun N9CHA
<u>Ad Hoc Committees:</u>	Education	Eric Needles AB9OS
	Banquet	Mike Urso K9FE
	VE Team	Doug Reneker W9RD

Committee Reports

Hamfest: Dean KC9EOQ –Our Hamfest is July 11, 2010. Next area Hamfest is Sandwich, IL May 2, 2010.

Database: Chris KC9BKS –156 members , 144 renewal, 12 new.

Public Relations: Jere KA0KPO – Wants articles about successes and failures in Amateur Radio for the Arc Over.

Linux SIG: Mike K9FE. Next meeting is February 13, 2010, 9:00 – 12:00 – Rasmussen. Shackbox part 2 will be presented.

Software Defined Radio SIG: Harry K9DXA. Next meeting is March 6, 2010, 9:00 – 12:00, at Rasmussen College.

Repeaters: Dick AH6EZ – There is a new 2 meter antenna and the old WBIG duplexer ready to be installed at the new Nova site.

VE Session: Next session March 16, 2010.

Net Control: Adam KC9ITG – Needs net ops for the 2010.

Website: Greg N9CHA is the new webmaster.

Field Day: Eric AB9OS – Will be on the 4th weekend in June, 2010 at the F. O. P. Lodge in Sugar Grove.

Raffle: Chris KC9IEQ – Buy tickets.

Education: Eric AB9OS – Tech and General classes are scheduled for 2010.

Program: Radio Astronomy.

Cougars Game: Ken N9WCX. It will be 3rd week in July.

Scout Activities: K9DXA – May 15 at Cantigny, we will have sideband, cw, maybe an Ariss contact. He is now a counselor for Signaling Merit Badges. This Saturday he and Mike will start the cw merit badge training.

New Business

Mike K9FE – Banquet discs available at the front table for \$1.00.

John AG9D – announced that the General Meeting will be held at St. Rita of Cascia Church, 750 West Old Indian Trail Aurora, IL 60506-2197, beginning with the April meeting. K9FE proposed approval, K9WDB 2nd. Approved.

The March 2, 2010 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The March 9, 2010 General meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The April 6, 2010 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The April 13, 2010 General meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

Motion to adjourn by Marty N9NTM , 2nd by Ken N9WCX.

General meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Bill Stamps W9WRS
FRRL Secretary

March Program Notes

March's meeting program topic will be the roll out of the "I Have a Dream" program that was introduced during the February meeting. As a group we will try to solve and organize projects related to club members' dreams for ham radio.

New Members

Welcome to the Following New Members:

CALL	NAME
KC9RGO	Susanne Williams
K9DHK	Dorwin Kujawski

President's Traffic (Continued from page 1)

Harry, K9DXA is continuing to work on the Scout-O-Rama event taking place on May 15th at Cantigny. We have several volunteers for this event and can use more. We will be operating and demonstrating amateur radio for the scouts who will be in attendance. 2010 is the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America and this will be an outstanding event. Please, if you have time, come on out. Remember radio is the catalyst not always the main event. Don't be afraid you'll "just be in the way" I promise you that will not be the case, we all have talents to share.

The 2010 Field Day rules have been published. Our Field Day Chairman Eric, AB9OS has combed through them for any changes and will have a presentation for us at the March meeting. I didn't get tarred and feathered after saying I don't think Field Day is a contest so let me push into uncharted territory. Looking at it from a non-ham point of view, if you see one guy with a microphone or cw key, you've seen them all, the band doesn't matter to the non-ham. Thinking about the ARRL "Ham Radio in the 21st Century" and "We do That" campaign, I thought what if we had samples of our other technology? Similar to the vintage radio collection we had one year, why not have some ATV, HSMM, D-Star High Speed Data and things like this set up in a demo area where non-hams can see something different, yet in some ways familiar. My guess is some of you have never seen this stuff work, maybe we can interest more of our own members in coming out to join in the fun.

On the Public Service side, the MS Walk should be coming around in May. This is an annual event which has been organized by Michelle, KC9HDB and Mike, K9FE who both have personal connections to Multiple Sclerosis, a terrible, incurable debilitating disease. We provide communications for the organizers of the event all along the route. It's a nice opportunity to help the community, show off amateur radio and make an installment payment on our frequencies.

If you have not been to the website lately I encourage you to visit. Our webmaster Greg, N9CHA has put in a lot of time making updates and creating a whole new look. If you are a committee chairman or event leader, please look through your specific sections and get updates to him as soon as you can.

It's shaping up to be a great year and I hope that everyone will find a way to contribute to the hobby, the service and the club, be it through VE sessions, public service events, youth programs or helping our fellow members. Thinking back on ol' Ben Franklins' comments, lets not stop the progress but instead keep repaying the favor.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-February 2010

By Eric Needles, AB9OS

Extra, Extra, read all about it...HF Challenge staff "totally screwed up!" There was a clerical error in determining the final score for the QRO class for 2009. The real winner is Dick AH6EZ who put in a great effort. The HF Challenge staff apologizes for this mistake and we are quite embarrassed. When asked how such an error could happen, Joe NA9A, who heads up the committee and originally proclaimed himself QRO Class winner remarked "if there is one thing we should learn about leaders in Illinois it is that the final count can always change." Eric AB9OS, who was responsible for double checking the scores and catching any errors remarked "they should know better than to put Joe and me in charge of anything. We're completely innocent by reason of incompetence!" It's a sad state of affairs.

Now back to business. There are now 17 FRRL members in the HF Challenge for 2010. A great start on the year!

For 2010 Jeff K9BQL is moving to Limited Class-CW. So far his DX includes 9J2FM(Zambia), DP1POL (Antarctica), E51WWA & E51WWB(North and South Cook Island), H40FN*(Temotu Province), JD1BMM* (Minami Torishima), T32BJ(Eastern Kiribati), DT8A*(South Shetland Is.), and YJ0MM(Vanuatu).

Another member who we have not seen in the HF Challenge for a while is Jack K9JE. He is back and in QRO class this year and mentions "some of the good DX I have worked so far are 5I3A Tanzania, 5W0OU Western Samoa, 7X4AN Algeria, E51WWB North Cook Isl, E51WWA South Cook Isl, TX4T Tahiti, FO/DL3APO Austral Isl, H40FN Temotu Province (a new country for me), J5NAR Guinea-Bissau, JD1BMM Minami Torishima, T32BJ Eastern Kiribati, TA1C/2 Turkey, DT8A South Shetland Isl, YJ0MM Vanuatu. Just to name a few."

Bill NF9D also makes an entrance this year. "I wasn't going to try QRP this year, but all of a sudden I worked Cuba and New Zealand, followed by Hawaii. If conditions keep improving going down the QRP path may be a challenge I can have some fun with."

A call we are very familiar with, Larry K9ARZ, is off with a great lead in the limited class. His recent activity includes VK5 Australia (Long Path), V51 Namibia, FK8 New Caledonia (Long Path), ET3 Ethiopia, and A61 Dubai (UAE) and HL3 South Korea. "DX is showing up on 30 and 80 meter PSK" he says.

Last year's QRO class winner, Dick AH6EZ, says "a fun activity while waiting for some rock or reef DX to appear is I have made 26 contacts with the 1958 vintage Heathkit DX40 including 7 using about 45 watts of AM." Way to go Dick. Another DX chaser who is switching over to QRO this year is Charles KC9DAO who added a Dentron 160-10L amp to his shack. That will help keep the shack warm this winter.

Thanks to everyone who is involved. If you get on HF, then get into the challenge. Give yourself a personal goal and use it as an excuse to get on the air.

And now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ-Digital	49	9	98	156
K9MMS-CW	50	9	79	138
K9BQL-CW	15	6	81	102
AB9OS-CW	38	3	57	98
NF9D-QRP	3	0	4	7

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	50	8	79	137
K9IH	24	6	37	67
KC9DAO	26	3	24	53
K9TCD	38	5	2	45
KC9EOQ	33	5	4	42
WB9CHY	31	4	6	41
KC9LQS	14	2	4	20

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50	12	156	218
K9JE	38	9	68	115
N9YA	9	3	8	20
NA9A	5	0	3	8

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	22	3	25
K9IH	6	6	12
AB9OS	6	0	6
N9YA			4
NA9A	2	1	3
K9JE	1	1	2

One Paragraph Story (OPS)

By Greg Voice, NW9G

I recently purchased a SSB MFJ-9406 six meter QRP transceiver and couldn't wait to try it out. I started off by listening for any activity on the band and calling "CQ". I would swap back and forth between antennas every 10 minutes or so I was distracted by a phone call and came back to my radio a few moments later. Again I called CQ several times and a few moments later noticed that the S-Meter was pegging each time I keyed up. I looked at the back of the radio and noticed that my antenna was not connected to the radio. Thankfully the radio puts out only 10 Watts. Lesson learned without any smoke and additional costs.

If you have an "OPS" to share, please send it to newsletter@frrl.org

Contest Corner

DX Secrets From Dick Illman AH6EZ

There are certainly lots of "secret" techniques for working DX.

1. Watch the DX clusters. I use www.dxscape.com/us25.html. This saves a lot of time randomly tuning the bands. Get to know a useful spot. For example, in the early evening you might see Asia spotted from the west coast. The given band might be dead in the Midwest.
2. Know the propagation patterns. In general the 20-10m bands rotate from Europe in the morning to Africa in mid afternoon to South America in the late afternoon and Asia very late afternoon.
3. If you can tune around and catch a station calling their first CQ, you have a better chance of your weak signal being heard before there is a pileup. So this secret is listen, listen, listen.
4. As a woman, you automatically have a 10dB advantage. Guys will sometimes "part the ocean" to listen for the YL calling.
5. If you are competing in a pileup, you need to pay attention to how and where the DX station is listening. Some stations catch the very first callsign calling, maybe just a partial call. If someone asks for a partial, that is even somewhat close to your call, if you want to be aggressive (a sometimes necessary trait), try giving your callsign once. Some like to wait until the last callsign appears at the tail end of the pileup, in the clear. Sometimes it is useful to call alot (while listening in between each call for a short time), maybe you will luckout and get your callsign into a gap.
6. It is very useful to have RIT or Split or Dual Watch functions on your radio. You need to be able to quickly tune around in the pileup to locate the frequency of the station being worked. Sometimes if you call on the same frequency as the previous QSO, the DX station will still be listening there. Sometimes the DX station will increment up or down between each QSO. Sometimes it is useful to locate a part of the band where no one is calling (this can depend on the band in use and the short/long skip conditions, sometimes you can hear the pileup, sometimes you can't).
7. Speaking in a slightly urgent voice with speech compression turned on is a useful technique.
8. If a pile up is simplex, be ready for a quick change to split. If you are the first station to call on the listening up frequency, you can be the first one heard.
9. CW... Fast and macro driven sending if needed, a DX contact does not need to be completely copied (get call from cluster). Sometimes I deliberately send slower so that I have a longer impact in the receiving receiver.
10. Contests can be great for DX contacts because even very rare DX will have lulls in the action, and they are listening hard for any signal.
11. A gain antenna up in the clear trumps power because you can hear better also.

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. Beginning in April, the meeting location will

change. See President's Traffic for details. 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 at Rasmussen College, 2363 Sequoia Drive, Aurora, IL, 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 16, 2010 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.

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:

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60510-0673

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info@frrl.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frrl.org>

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Vice President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

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Bill Stamps, W9WRS

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FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT RASMUSSEN COLLEGE, 2363 SEQUOIA DRIVE IN AURORA, BUT LOCATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR THE ADDRESS AND A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION.
<http://www.frrl.org>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

March, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting	2
SDR SIG	6
FRRL Meeting	9
Linux SIG	13
VE Session	16

April, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting	6
FRRL Meeting	13

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 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 (-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 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.