



Arc Over

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

March, 2011

President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

Here we are at the beginning of March already! I'm so ready to be done with snow. Of course we all know that some of the biggest snows have come in March. At least it doesn't stick around too long. Four months from now we'll be looking at Field Day and complaining about the bugs and heat. Between the snow and bugs we have some things to enjoy. Thanks to everyone who came to the satellite class on February 19th. We had a good turnout and went through some of the history of amateur satellites and really focused on how to operate the FM LEO (low earth orbit) "birds". AO-27 cooperated with us and after the classroom portion we went out into the parking lot at Rasmussen and gave listening a try. We copied the signals quite well on a variety of antennas including a rubber duck. On March 19th most of us will meet again to construct the dual band "cheap Yagi" hopefully inspiring a new crop of satellite users.

Another day to mark on your calendars is Saturday May 21st. We're going to have a club picnic/operating event under the "Radio in the Park" concept which Bill NF9D created a few years ago. This time we're making it a club outing. Yes, its Dayton weekend, but not everyone goes to Dayton. We'll have some radios and some refreshments. More details will follow shortly.

The FRRL has joined the social media movement. We have a Facebook page and you can follow us on Twitter. This is an experiment we are trying for six months or so and we will be watching and reviewing the usefulness of these things. If they prove useful to the membership, we'll keep them going. Thanks to Debby KC9SUT, Bill NF9D and Dawn KC9LQS for taking the lead on these projects.

Speaking of projects, the Sci-Tech Museum Station is turning into quite the project. The size and scope will be something which has not been seen in the area for quite some time, if ever. It's still in the DDC (design, discuss, concept) stage. The museum will be consulting with an exhibit design firm to come up with the overall look and feel of the exhibit, and it will be an exhibit not just a station. This is a worthwhile project, even though it is slow moving at this stage, if it comes to fruition it will be a source of pride for the entire ham community.

The education department under the capable leadership of Eric AB9OS will be conducting a General License Class starting Saturday, April 9th concluding Saturday, May 14th at Rasmussen College. If you are interested in attending please let Eric know. Eric assembles an excellent group of instructors and the classes are very well done. If you are looking to upgrade it'll be well worth your time to attend.

The club has again purchased a block of tickets to the Kane County Cougars game in July. See Ken Nelson N9WCX to purchase your ticket. They are \$9.50 this year. The club has been doing this for many years as a nice evening out for our families. Consider coming out and, if you are a life member, your ticket this year is free.

That's about it for now. It's looking like it will be a fun and activity filled summer and we sure hope to see you at as many events as possible.

73,

John

**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**

Meeting Minutes February 8, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 PM by John Spasojevich AG9D– President with 52 members present.

- John AG9D welcomed all to the February meeting and introduced the “Question of the Meeting”:
“Do you read *ArcOver*?”
- **Secretary’s Report:** Harry K9DXA announced that the meeting minutes for the January 11, 2011 Regular Meeting are available in *ArcOver* on the FRRL website. Larry K9ARZ motioned to accept the minutes, which was seconded by several members. The motion carried.
- **Treasurers Report:** Dean KC9EOQ announced that the particulars of the Treasurer’s Report was available directly from him on request from any FRRL member.
- **Announcements:** The following announcements and accolades were made by John AG9D:
 - Buzz W9AJY was presented with his Life Member Certificate.
 - Congratulations to Dawn KC9LQS “Ham of the Year” and to James KC9RVP “Young Ham of the Year.”
 - John motioned that Life Members be given gratis tickets to the “Cougars Night” Game, Carol WD9CNW seconded the motion, which carried.
 - The following recognition certificates for service to the FRRL were awarded:
Kermit W9XA - Repeater Trustee and Field Day Band Captain.
James K9XP - Volunteer Examiner (45 sessions).
Randolph W9HE – Volunteer Examiner, Extra Class and Technician Class Instructor.
Dick AH6EZ – Scout Merit Badge Crew
Mike K9FE – Scout-O-Rama Co-Chair and Merit Badge Crew
Harry K9DXA – Scout-O-Rama Co-Chair and Merit Badge Crew
Adam KC9ITG – Net Control Coordinator and Field Day Co-Chair
Paul W9DWP for his service on the FRRL Repeater Board.
Bill WB9LPW* – Field Day VHF Band Captain
Neil KB9RFX* – Technician Class Assistant
* Bill and Neil also received the “Volunteer Excellence Award” recognizing their help to the club throughout the year.
 - On behalf of the club, John extended thanks to Vicki KC9PWM for her on-going help with meeting refreshments. He also thanked Chris KC9IEQ for his continuing assistance with the donation raffle.
 - Sympathy cards for two SK members, Norm KC9CKZ and James N9UZC, were circulated.
 - A volunteer is needed to head up the MS-Walk event.
 - The 2011 Field Day Committee Co-Chairs are Harry K9DXA and Mike K9FE.
 - Attendee introductions were conducted and responses to “Do you read *ArcOver*?” were tallied: Yes 42, No 4, Occasionally 9.
 - The meeting drawing prize, the “N0AX Radio Puzzle” book, was won by Bill N9ASC.
 - The following upcoming classes are scheduled:
(1) Satellite communications using HTs, February 19.
(2) LEO Satellite Antenna Construction, March 19.
These classes will be held at Rasumussen College from 9 AM to noon.
 - An FRRL volunteer work day will be held at Penninger Radio, 915 Atlantic Drive, West Chicago, on Saturday, March 26 from 9 AM to noon. The purpose of this work day is to inventory FRRL equipment.

John AG9D reviewed the status of ARISSat-1: the satellite has arrived aboard the ISS and is scheduled for deployment on February 16. John showed slides of the ARISSat pre-launch preparations, and reviewed the band plan for the satellite. Software to decode the telemetry is available at: https://svn.sarpeidon.net/viewvc/suitsat2/ground_station_software/ARISSatTLM/install-staging/

Committee Reports

Banquet: Mike K9FE reported that the annual banquet a successful and enjoyable event with 68 persons in attendance.

Cougars Night: Ken N9WCX has tickets for the July 15 Cougars Night at a price of \$9.50 each.

Education: Eric AB9OS has scheduled General Class license education sessions commencing Saturday, April 9 and continuing each Saturday through May 14 at Rasmussen College. All class times are 9 AM to 12:30 PM. Flyers are available on the FRRL website and in the Yahoo Group File folder.

Database Manager: Chris KC9BKS. The FRRL currently has 151 members.

Newsletter Editor: Tobi K9TCD. Articles should be submitted by the 20th of the month.

Program: Dick AH6EZ. The subject of next month’s program is the EZ-NEC antenna modeling software.

Technical: Denny W9HI. Please inform Denny if you want to be included on the Elmer list. Also, if you have any technical questions please E-mail them to Denny.

VE: Doug W9RD, announced that the next exam session will be Tuesday, March 15. The cost is \$15. A photo ID and a photocopy of the applicant's current license (if any) are required. Doug also announced that Dawn KC9LQS has obtained certification as a VE.

Member Announcements

- The following Bill Erickson HF Challenge Awards for 2010 were announced by Joe NA9A:
 - o Operator Class Herb Pasteur W9DTR
 - o QRO Class Dick Illman AH6EZ/W9
 - o Limited Class (CW) Jeff Ekstrom K9BQL
 - o Rag Chewer Class Steve Westfall N5EP
- Debbie KC9SUT announced that the 20th annual Advanced Severe Weather Seminar will be held on Saturday, March 12 from 8 AM until 3:30 PM at the Tellabs Center in Naperville. Amy Freeze, Chief Meteorologist at Fox News Chicago, will be the program emcee. Please contact Debbie for further information or visit <http://dupagesevereweather.com>. Flyers were also available at the meeting.
- Roberto WA9E announced that hamfest flyers were available on the table at the back of the room.
- Harry K9DXA reminded attendees that the next SDR SIG meeting is Saturday, February 12, 9 AM to noon at Rasmussen College. There will be a presentation on WSPR technology by Barrett KC9CHG.
- Kermit W9XA notified attendees that the RFI issue surrounding Broadband Over Power Lines (BPL) continues to be a concern for amateur radio. Companies are deploying BPL but they are not notching for ham frequencies as required by the FCC. Some installations are producing RFI at levels +20 dB over FCC limits. The ARRL continues to pursue this issue. Dick AH6EZ has joined Kermit as a member of the ARRL Electromagnetic Compatibility Committee.
- Paul W9DWP announced that an additional area repeater has been added to the DMR (Moto-Turbo) digital network. Dick AH6EZ mentioned that, with the proper software, the FRRL UHF repeater could join Moto-Turbo.

Old Business

SciTech Museum Project

Dick AH6EZ gave a Power Point presentation regarding the on-going SciTech Museum ham radio station exhibit project. The exhibit, as presently envisioned, would comprise four separate operator plus assistant positions covering these modes of operation: D-Star communications, VHF/UHF communications through the FRRL repeaters, HF radio operation (CW, phone, and digital modes), and the fourth covering satellite communications. The exhibit would also include vintage ham radio equipment.

The exhibit space would be divided into two separate areas: a visitor area with interactive displays available to the public whenever the museum is open and a secured area accessible only when the exhibit is manned by FRRL personnel. It is envisioned that the interactive display area would include APRS, DX-spotting, and a NOVA satellite map.

Dick reviewed the proposed equipment with options, cost estimates, and a comprehensive list of operating space criteria. The presentation included conceptual room layouts and operator position configurations.

John AG9D noted that the current members of the SciTech Museum ham radio exhibit project include: himself, Dick AH6EZ, Dean KC9EOQ, Kermit W9XA, Jack K9JE, Dawn KC9LQS, Greg N9CHA, Debbie KC9SUT.

New Business

The program for the meeting, presented by Dick AH6EZ, was a slide tour of the ICOM production plant in Wakayama, Japan. The tour was conducted on November 5, 2010 and the slide presentation was composed by the North Shore Amateur Radio Club. The program can be viewed at <http://www.frll.org/programs/icom2010.pdf>

A motion to adjourn was made by Randolph W9HE and seconded by several. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:
Ron Jahr KC9SNI
FRRL Secretary

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-February 2011

By Eric Needles AB9OS

Reports from the HF Challenge show that there have been some good band openings in the last month. Openings plus increased activity in the form of contests mean some participants have really taken off! Already, three participants have worked all 50 states, four members have crossed the 100 point mark and two who have crossed 200 points. Way to go!

Larry K9ARZ, using a new TS 590s, writes "great propagation for the ARRL CW contest, my first contact was with an XU7 in Cambodia. Other recent contacts included Thailand, India, Guam, Tunisia, Solomon Island and West Kiribati." Nice work Larry. And right behind Larry in the QRO category is Dick AH6EZ who added Guinea-Bissau, Chad, Albania and Saipan among others. Sounds like these two guys are having a blast on HF!

Challenge yourself. Carve out some time to get on HF and have fun! Try to make more contacts than you did last year, or try a new category. If you haven't participated in the HF Challenge before, simply pick a category and send your totals to challenge@frrl.org by the 15th of the month. More information is on the FRRL website at www.frrl.org. And now for the numbers...

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	40	8	57	105
K9FBI	35	6	5	46
K9TCD	32	4	2	38
WB9CHY	29	3	2	34
K9IH	10		7	17

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ	50	8	164	222
AH6EZ	50	10	160	220
KC9DAO	16	3	16	35
NA9A	5		10	15

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9MMS-CW	50	9	73	132
NF9D-QRP	34	4	3	41
W9IV-QRP	16	2	8	26
K9LGE-Digital	5	0	0	5

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	15/1	6	22
W9DTR			20
K9IH			8
NA9A	4	1	5

March 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 March program will be a demonstration of how to use the EZ-NEC antenna modeling program and show off its features.

New Members

Welcome to the following new member:

CALL	NAME
No call	Bobbie Spencer

Free Class for Tech to General Upgrade

By Eric Needles AB9OS

Technician Class hams wanting to upgrade to General are in luck! The Fox River Radio League is offering a free six week upgrade class, open to all Technicians. Classes start April 9th and will meet 9am-12:30pm on Saturday mornings. Although classes are free, space is limited, so please reserve your place with an e-mail to education@frri.org as soon as possible. Students will need to get their own copy of [The ARRL General Class License Manual, Sixth Edition](#).

The class will end in time for the VE session scheduled for Tuesday, May 17. This is an important date because the General Class license pool will change after this coming June. For more information visit www.frri.org and click on education. Also, please feel free to pass the word about this class. There is a flyer available to download in the education section on the website. Send it to anyone you think will have an interest in upgrading.

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:

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60510-0673

Email:

info@frri.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frri.org>

President

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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

March, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting 1
FRRL Meeting 8
SDR SIG 12
VE Session 15

April, 2011

FRRL Board Meeting 5
FRRL Meeting 12

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 (-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.