



Arc Over

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

May, 2005

President's Traffic

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Now that the lawns are all greening up, I hope that you all have some time for ham radio. By now the Field Day Committee is in full swing planning a fun event and the band captains are busy dreaming up new antennas. As I am writing this, I am in a hotel room in St. Louis and just had a QRP rag chew with 4 watts (I got a 579 report on 40m) and an unbelievably poor antenna. I am on the 2nd floor or an 8 story building. What made things worse is that the brick wall of the entrance to the hotel is taller than my window. Fortunately the window opened and I was able to climb out of the window and throw a wire out onto the roof. Black wire makes for invisible antennas.

We have formed a new Kids committee and Tobi, KC9GDL, is leading it. There are plans for involving the children of our members in fun activities at Field Day, a two meter net, and a campout. All ambitious but necessary for the future survival of our hobby.

I was down in Princeton, IL for three days this last week testing some BPL technology. I had an hour to myself to drive around and listen to the BPL trial system that is installed there. There were no amateur radio notches in place. It was amazing to hear up to 60dB over S9 signals in a 6 by 10 block area of downtown where there did not happen to be any amateur radio operators. After taking some pictures, mapping out the installation, and making some sound recordings, I think that I woke up the locals who were not aware of what was going on. I really think that my company is going to be able to do things much better. By the time you are reading this, Ed Hare, W1RFI or the ARRL BPL task force will have given his BPL presentation in Downers Grove. I see that there will be a forum at the Dayton Hamvention about BPL. I hope that this important issue does not distract from my attention to the massive flea market.

Our May program is going to be a special one. AJ9N and his team who conduct the QSO between the International Space Station and schoolchildren will be presenting to us how they arrange and prepare for each contact and how it went during the recent Arlington Heights QSO. We hope to have science teachers and other interested members of the public at this meeting in the same upstairs room where we had our Christmas Party last year.

We will be limiting the business portion of the May meeting to 30 minutes, and starting the program promptly at 8:00 PM.

73, Dick Illman AH6EZ
President of FRRL

Bill Erickson HF Challenge - May, 2005 by Mike Urso, K9FE

The past month saw 40-meters getting better. The description getting better is relative description. After a period of weeks of S-9+ noise on 40 you begin to lose hope in it getting better. There have been days where you can hear the 5w QRP stations at S-3. Immediately followed by days when the static (QRN) is so bad only the strongest stations have a chance of being heard.

As I have been tuning around in the listening mode, I have been noticing a little less activity on HF by the challenge participants. The high score group is present (that is how they get those high scores), but the casual operators seem to have become scarce. Come on and get those airwaves busy! One of the ways that might help keep BPL out is if the bands are so busy that it causes BPL to fail initial testing because there is so much RF in the air. Maybe that is just wishful thinking on my part.

The following paragraph is from Gary, AL9A. For those who don't know Gary, he moved to Alaska from Elburn. Gary is still very active in radio and still an active member of the FRRL. He never seems to miss getting his challenge update in on time. He usually encloses a paragraph that you might find enlightening.

"The bands are definitely getting weaker now with the longer daylight hours at 61 degrees north. I rarely hear anything on 15M or above and even 17M is getting to be a crapshoot. We have over 14 hours of daylight now and the northwest sky is still light when we make our last dog walk at 10:30 PM. Prime HF radio season is almost over here, but many other activities are approaching. We built a dock on the lake and the new 19-foot pontoon boat will be delivered as soon as the ice is gone, probably by the mid-May report date. Also getting ready to pull the RV out of storage and get it cleaned up and ready for some summertime camping activity. Lou K9LU and Val Petkus plan to come up to Alaska for a one-year stay, so it will be fun to see them again and do some joint touring sightseeing. Say hi to everyone for us."

Thanks Gary for thinking of us. Maybe he can send me a description of his setup/shack and start a trend of the rest of us sending in an outline of our shack.

Some of the DX heard this month were XT2, Z38, ZD7 on 30 meters, V51, PY0F on 30 meters, OX3, KH8, FT5X, 5H3, 5B, and 3DA0, D2, BDA0, J39, J69, 8R1, TF3, CN2, CE1, FM5, ON5, CU2, 7X1, MU5, ZD8, KC4USV in Antarctica, VQ9, PZ5, 3V8, ZB2, JW, UN, UA9, EY8. A lot of DX is there to be had. The only difference from 3 years ago is that it takes a bit more work to get it. We are not afraid of work so get active and lets see more entries in the Challenge.

From the scores turned in it looks like Gary, AL9A, is going to be really a "Challenge" to keep out of the 1st place in QRP. Keep looking over your shoulder Dick, AH6EZ! The operator class is clumped together with Jack, K9JE, out in front by a furlong. Bill, KB9YSI, is waiting for another limited class "challenge".

Remember, 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 **Operator** *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 **Arc Over**. If you are a day late of so, don't worry, I'll still get them in. Send them to challenge@frrl.org or K9FE@arrl.net as an alternate. I am not sure just when the FRRL.ORG addresses will be interrupted. 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

Scores are on page 5.

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Canoe Race 2005

by Bill Schaben, W9AX

Ok, let's try it again without the rain and high water. The Mid-American Canoe Race is on for June 5. And again, we are going to provide the communications/safety net.

The race runs from St. Charles to the North side of Aurora on the Fox River. Along the way, there are several dams that must be portaged around. At these points, we have operators to provide communications for the park district portage captains and to follow the progress of the canoes. The canoes go off in heats and the first heat leaves at 8:00AM.

The starting line is our first position and is net control until the last canoe leaves. He provides up dates to the list of canoes as necessary. It's location is on the West side of the river just South of the Illinois St. bridge. Once the last canoe leaves, this position can close down about 11:00AM.

Other portages are: Geneva, North Batavia, South Batavia, North Aurora and the Finish line. We man these until the last canoe passes. The entire race is over at 3:00 PM no matter what.

In the past, this has been an enjoyable detail. The work is not hard and you can bring any personal comforts you like. It's a good time to exercise your equipment and to work with your fellow club members. At each portage, I would like to have at least two operators, three would be great.

I'd like to point out that this is one way in which we pay for our clubroom. The Fox Valley Park District sponsors the race and is our landlord. Also, this is a good practice for emergency communications.

As of right now, I have several open spots. Please give me a call or an email and let me know that you're available.

KC9OEM Weekly Net

by Bill Schaben, W9AX

The Kane Co. Office of Emergency Management will begin a weekly check-in net on the KC9OEM repeater (145.470, - offset, 103.5) starting Wednesday, April 20th at 7 pm. The purpose of this net will be to allow area ham operators/spotters to check their signal capability into the KCOEM repeater, and to keep the local ham community up to date on the activities of the Kane County OEM. Net control duties will be shared by the Ham operators of the KCOEM Communications division.

The net will continue on a weekly basis, unless pre-empted by activation of the EOC due to a severe weather or disaster situations.

All hams are welcome and are encouraged to check in.

Six Meter Net Activity

Speaking of nets, Mike, K9FBI has organized an informal six meter net for area amateurs. The net meets every Thursday evening at 8:00 PM on 50.135 MHz, SSB. If you have 6 meter sideband capabilities, please try to check in and see if who else is out there. Six meters is a fun band, and you never know what you will find when you fire up the rig.

Field Day 2005

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

The band captains are all hard at work planning antenna layouts, the food fanatics are planning what to cook, (or what to eat) and the late-night operators are trying to figure out how to stay awake. In other words, it's almost time for Field Day.

It's a bit too early in the process to give everyone specific details on the event, but the chairpersons and others are all working hard. The Kids Committee has some great plans in the works to get young people involved while keeping them entertained. This year's Field Day should be a really great time for everyone that comes out.

Remember, the 2005 FRRL Field Day Event will take place at Jerico Park in Aurora, the weekend of June 25/26th. Setup activities will probably begin on Friday afternoon, June 24. Please try to stop by some time during the weekend and participate .

Amateurs, ARES Group among NOAA's 2005 "Environmental Heroes"

From the ARRL

NEWINGTON, CT, April 28, 2005--The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has recognized four Amateur Radio operators and an Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) group among its list of 2005 Environmental Heroes. Given in conjunction with Earth Day celebrations, Environmental Hero awards honor NOAA volunteers for their tireless efforts to preserve and protect the nation's environment.

"NOAA and the nation are fortunate to have such dedicated people volunteer so much of their time," said retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher Jr, undersecretary of Commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. "They set a perfect example for others to follow in their communities. America needs more environmental heroes like them." Established in 1996, the Environmental Hero award is presented to individuals and organizations that volunteer their time and energy to help NOAA carry out its mission.

Among this year's honorees are ARRL member Charles T. Byars, W5GPO, and the Wichita County Amateur Radio Emergency Service of Wichita Falls, Texas. Byars is an ARES District Emergency Coordinator in the ARRL North Texas Section. For more 30 years, he and Wichita County ARES members have volunteered their time, expertise and resources to help the National Weather Service (NWS) detect and track dangerous storms.

"Their tireless efforts, long hours and dedication to helping to protect the citizens of Wichita Falls and the surrounding area have led to more accurate and detailed weather information being disseminated, more timely warnings and quite possibly lives being saved," NOAA said in recognizing Byars and his ARES team.

Swap Meets on the 2 Meter Tuesday Net

In case you haven't noticed, the Club's Tuesday Night Net now includes a "swap meet" segment, where you can announce items you have available for sale or are looking for. The segment takes place at the end of the net. Please follow the net control operator's instructions regarding announcing your items.

Erickson Challenge Standings—May, 2005
 (Continued from page 2)

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AL9A	-	-	31
AH6EZ	-	-	15
NA9A	-	-	10
W9DTR	-	-	4
K9FE	-	-	1

Operator Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	46/10	115	171
W4CEO	45/5	99	149
K9MMS	50/10	79	139
W9DTR	22/7	81	110
K9FBI	43/5	42	90

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
KB9YSI	31/2	30	63

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	48/9	139	196
AL9A	50/10	121	181
NA9A	9/2	125	136
W0HED	50/7	77	134
K9FE	5/1	5	11

Solar Flux

by Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

Our Club Database needs a bit of updating of the VE field. If you are a VE, please let me know that, either by signing the sheet I'll have available at the next meeting, or sending me a short piece of email. We have several VEs listed, but I think I'm missing some and I'd like to have a complete list.

Thanks & 73,

Bill, KB9YSI

Communicator Vests Ordering at May Meeting

Club members who would like to order one of the special FRRL Ham Radio Communications vests should bring their checkbooks to the May meeting. The cost of a vest will be \$33.00 (includes silk-screened logo). Make checks payable to the FRRL.

Denny, W9HI, is handling the vest ordering and distribution. Please contact him if you have questions.

Handy Web Links

For those who receive the ArcOver in paper format and also have internet access, here is a handy list of web links. This list appears monthly in the electronic version of the ArcOver, but has not been included in the hard copy version until now. If you find this list useful and would like to see it included in every month's issue, please let the Editor know how you feel.

The Club's own official web site is located at <http://www.frri.org/> .

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/

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, 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 Tuesday, May 17, 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

Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

Mailing Address:

Box 673
Batavia, Illinois
60510-0673

Email:

mail@frri.org

Web Site:

<http://www.frri.org>

President

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

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Past President

Bill Schaben, W9AX

License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA
Bob Dillon

Newsletter Editor

Bill Muhr, KB9YSI
arclover@frri.org

Webmaster

Eric Lorenz, KC9FOV
webmaster@frri.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.frri.org>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

May, 2005

FRRL Board Meeting 3
FRRL Meeting 10
VE Testing 17
Dayton Hamvention 20-22

June, 2005

Canoe Race 5
FRRL Board Meeting 7
Peyton Run 12
FRRL Meeting 14
FRRL Field Day 25/26

Is Your Address Correct?

How About your Email?

If you have changes to your address or email information, please advise the Database Manager, KB9YSI, at the address shown on page 7.

Remember, we are no longer sending club mailings to email addresses that use the arrl.net forwarding system.

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.