



Arc Over

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

June, 2006

President's Traffic

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Well another Dayton has come and gone. I am glad that I have my BPL forum and Technical Excellence Award stuff behind me. Too much time in a suit coat and tie...

I am sure that a lot of stuff and money changed hands in Dayton, maybe that's why I ended up with a slight head and chest cold. The weather was certainly not the problem because it was wonderful, all weekend. Of course the drive over there on Thursday was a hail and wind storm adventure for some.

One thing that I acquired over the weekend was a 1929 Atwater Kent in working and attractive condition. It seems to be very similar to the model my grandfather had. I figured if I was not going to buy something NEW like an IC-7000 or IC-7800, I might as well buy something OLD.

The June meeting will have some preparation and software training for Field Day.

Technical Excellence Award to AH6EZ

by Greg Braun, N9CHA

Dayton Hamvention 2006 was extra special this year for FRRL club members. Club President Dick Illman, AH6EZ received the Hamvention 2006 Technical Excellence Award for his outstanding contribution to amateur radio. Dick designed a patent pending solution for a non-interfering broadband over powerline product called PowerlineLV for Motorola. Along with Dick, was Special Achievement Award winner Riley Hollingsworth, K4 ZDH and Amateur of the Year award winner Gordon West, WB6NOA.

A special recognition banquet was held Saturday, May 20th for the three Dayton Hamvention award winners. Dignitaries from the Dayton Amateur Radio Association, ARRL, City of Dayton, and City of Trotwood were present. Hamvention General Chairman Jim Nies, WX8F, DARA President Mike Kalter, W8CI, and DARA Vice President Jim Simpson, WB8QZZ presented the award winners with warm introductions and congratulations. DARA Junior Trustee and Web Master Steve Coy, K8UD presented Dick with the Technical Excellence Award. Each of the three Award Winners also received a congratulatory award from the City of Dayton.

On Sunday, May 21st, in front of an estimated crowd of 3500 hams, Dick was once again recognized for his special achievement. In his remarks, Dick thanked the FRRL club and its Board of Directors for supporting his nomination. He also took the opportunity to thank his wife Becky, KB9UBU for her support of Dicks passion of ham radio. Dick is currently serving his 2nd year as club president. He has served as a Director of the FRRL, and has received the FRRL's Ham of the Year award 3 consecutive times. Dick also serves as the clubs Repeater Chairman and Program Chairman.

Erickson HF Challenge Update

By John Spasojevich, K9COE

Last month I wrote about one of the points in The Amateur's Code written by Paul Segal – W9EEA in 1928. This month I'd like to mention another one: "*BALANCED....radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school, or community.*" This past month saw a great increase for me in job obligations, amateur events and demonstrations in several locations and the conclusion for the year of the club at Boulder Hill School, not to mention Dayton. June will bring Field Day and our family vacation. It's been busy...and you all must have been busy too as only a few updates have been received. Likewise I haven't had time to ponder what I would say this month so we'll close by welcoming Dick Anderson, W9YBH to the Challenge, good luck and have fun! Bill Muhr, KB9YSI reported DX including JT (Mongolia), TZ, Mali, and Alaska (Gary, AL9A, during a contest). It's the first time Bill has worked Alaska in 2 years. Way to go Bill !

From the FRRL Alaskan Outpost Gary – AL9A sends, "Propagation has been pretty quite except for a two or three day stretch last week when there were fairly good conditions into Europe and even Africa. First time I've had many contacts there in months. Conditions on 40M were fairly good over this stretch and the band was quiet up here so I could actually hear something. Guys in the lower 48 were complaining loud and long about the static crashes from various thunderstorms in their areas, something that won't happen here until later this summer. The longer daylight hours now have pretty much done in 80M for me until the fall.

Spring has finally arrived and there is just a hint of green in the grass now. Temps have been slowly rising to the upper forty to mid fifty range and the ice on the lake has started breaking up. Fairly stiff winds yesterday and today have accelerated the melting process enough that I've seen the first two boaters out on the lake today. They can only use about half the lake as the ice has all been blown over to the west end. If the wind shifts it will all blow back our way. It's still a bit too windy for me though. I called the marina where our pontoon boat is stored for the winter and they are going to deliver it next Friday. I'm sure all the ice will be gone by then, but the water temps will still be in the 30's or 40's so swimming is probably not a good idea yet! The fish should be biting soon on the lake, the King Salmon are getting ready to start running on the Copper River next week and then summer is officially off and running.

It will be great to have all the summer activities going again, but that means radio activity will probably take a hit for while because of time conflicts and propagation conditions. Say Hi to everyone for me."

BALANCE.....

See you next month!

This month's scores are on Page 5.

General Class Upgrade Update

Congratulations go out again to Chris, KC9BKS, who has passed his Element 1 Morse Code test and now holds a General Class License. Chris passed the Element 2 exam in May after taking part in the FRRL Upgrade Classes.

For more information on future classes, please contact Greg N9CHA Education@FRRL.org.

FRRL Cougars Night Announcement

Let's have a ball (game)! The FRRL is going to the ball park to cheer on the Kane County Cougars and hopefully come home with a victory again this year. Mark your calendars. July 28th is game night. First pitch is at 6:30 pm at Elfstrom Stadium in Geneva. Tickets are only \$9! There is a spectacular fireworks show scheduled for after the game.

For tickets, please see Greg N9CHA Cougars@frrl.org

FRRL Club Nets

The regular weekly FRRL 2 Meter Net takes place every Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm local time, except on meeting nights, on the W9CEQ repeater, 147.210 MHz. +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone.

The Next Gen Hams Nets take place on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday evenings of each month at 7:00 pm local time on the FRRL repeater, W9CEQ—147.210 MHz. +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone.

The City of Lights Chapter of Ten-Ten International holds a CW net on Monday nights at 8:00 pm local time on 28.150 Mhz., and a Phone Net at 8:30 pm local time on 28.720 Mhz. All hams are welcome. The CW Net participants are happy to slow down for any amateur wishing to brush up on their Morse Code skills.

2006 Canoe Race Action Report

By: Bob Niels N9TLJ

The 46th annual Mid-American Canoe Race was held on Sunday, 04 June. A perfect day, a great-running river, the outstanding organizational talents of Lorraine Beasley of the Fox Valley Park District, enthusiastic contestants, and a seasoned communications crew from the FRRL made it a safe, fun-filled event. To spice up the day, some very colorful characters showed up - - - the Lone Ranger, Tonto and Silver (with music); Mickey and Minnie Mouse (almost got mistaken for river rats); and, of course, some dastardly pirates. All contributed to the festive atmosphere.

The FRRL fielded a great team - - - 14 operators donated their time and talent to help keep tabs on the contestants (including one canoe team that got slightly behind schedule while they waited for their pizza). Herb (W9DTR) and Greg (W9CHA) provided shadow positions for Lorraine. Besides taking on the afternoon shadow duties, Greg was busy capturing this event on film. We all look forward to seeing his results.

Bill (W9AX) and John (N9JI) handled all the details at the starting line at St. Mary's Park in St. Charles. The Geneva Portage was covered by James (N9UZC) and Bill (WB9LPW). Although there was no portage at South Batavia this year (the dam has been removed), a new position was undertaken at Fabyan Parkway at the lighthouse. The two adventurous fellows who had to man this groundbreaking effort without portage chiefs were Dick (W9YBH) and Lloyd (KC9DMS).

That brings us to North Batavia. The crack team was to be Benny (W9CZA), Tom (WB9CNY) and Tobi (KC9GDL). Benny, who looks forward each year to the Canoe Race, had a last-minute engagement - - - he had to entertain the nurses at Delnor for a couple of days!! Benny, we all missed you, and are glad you're back at home. Tom and Tobi held the fort throughout the race.

The third and last portage was North Aurora, with Frank (KC9HRL) and Kent (W9NDW) patiently waiting for 393 and 394, two inflatable kayaks whose crews were more interested in sight-seeing than paddling.

Keith (N9YA) and Leonard (KC9FQA) kept things flowing at the Finish Line, and kept the Finish Line personnel abreast of any issues.

As Mary Jo and I went to the various portages throughout the day, we really enjoyed the exuberance each of our FRRL hams showed, and the care they put into the managing of the data. While we were closing up Fabyan, we watched a man and his wife photographing a string of geese that were all lined up in a perfect row. As we talked to the couple, the man offered that he had worked on the safety net for the FRRL during a Canoe Race 27 years ago. David and Sandy Nations (WD9CVO and KA9BVJ respectively), worked aboard one of the Coast Guard vessels that was in the Fabyan Channel. They send their greetings to the current FRRL members.

There were approximately 350 canoes. The last heat left St. Mary's at 10:52 AM, and the trophies were handed out at the Finish Line at 1:30 PM

Thanks to all of you who participated. What would the Canoe Race be without the FRRL?

Submitted by
Bob and Mary Jo Niels (N9TLJ and N9TLK)
FRRL Safety Net Chairs for the 2006 Canoe Race

Bill Erickson HF Challenge — May, 2006 Standings

Here are the standings for the 2006 HF Challenge as of May 15, 2006. If you did not submit a score sheet your score is not listed here. Remember to email your 2006 updates to challenge@frrl.org by the 15th of each month.

| Ragchew Class | States/Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
|---------------|------------------|--------------|-------|
| W9DTR | - | - | 47 |
| N9CHA | - | - | 19 |
| K9FBI | - | - | 17 |
| K9IH | - | - | 16 |
| K9COE | - | - | 14 |
| AL9A | - | - | 13 |
| AH6EZ | - | - | 11 |
| NA9A | - | - | 2 |

| Operator Class | States/ Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
|----------------|-------------------|--------------|-------|
| W9DTR | 47/9 | 100 | 156 |
| K9JE | 42/1 | 112 | 155 |
| N9YA | 42/9 | 79 | 130 |
| K9FBI | 50/3 | 72 | 125 |
| KB9YSI | 45/5 | 48 | 98 |
| N9CHA | 44/7 | 41 | 92 |
| W9YBH | 20/1 | 18 | 39 |
| K9IH | 11/4 | 3 | 18 |

| Limited Class | States/ Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------|-------|
| K9ARZ (PSK) | 46/8 | 94 | 148 |
| K9COE (RTTY) | 50/8 | 64 | 122 |

| QRO Class | States/ Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
|-----------|-------------------|--------------|-------|
| AH6EZ | 50/10 | 150 | 210 |
| AL9A | 50/12 | 100 | 162 |
| W4CEO | 39/3 | 87 | 129 |
| NA9A | 19/4 | 81 | 104 |
| J68MS | 38/5 | 34 | 77 |

Field Day Set for June 23-25

The band captains have been named, the sites have been mapped, and plans are starting to come together for the FRRL's annual Field Day event on June 23-25. This year the plan is to operate 9 individual stations, plus a GOTA (Get On the Air) station and an array of special demonstration stations for things like solar power and satellite communications. Rumor has it that there are also plans for a Saturday night club dinner cookout with Becky, KB9UBU, at the grill.

Events will begin on Friday afternoon, June 23, with station set up and testing. Actual Field Day operations will get underway Saturday morning and run for 24 hours. Sunday afternoon will be devoted to take-down and clean-up.

Everyone, and we mean everyone, is invited to stop by for the weekend or for part of a day to socialize, operate, learn and contribute. There will be operating positions open at all stations, with experienced operators available to answer questions and help **you** get on the air. If you are interested in trying CW, or perhaps one of the digital modes, we can get you on the air! If you'd like to try working some rare DX, or perhaps just talk to someone in Iowa, we can help. If you'd like to munch on a hot dog we can probably help you do that too.

The 2006 FRRL Field Day event will be held at Jericho Lake Park. The park located on Jericho Road just west of Orchard Road in Montgomery. For more information, send an email to fieldday@frrl.org.

FRRL Hamfest - Sunday - July 9, 2006 - 8:00 AM
Aurora Central Catholic High School
1255 N. Edgelawn Drive, Aurora, IL

Talk in: Fox Repeater W9CEQ - 147.210+ pl 103.5

Established in 1929, the FRRL Hamfest is the oldest hamfest in Illinois. Advanced ticket sales are \$5.00 each with 2 door prize stubs. Tickets are \$7.00 at the gate with 1 door prize stub. Indoor tables are on a first come, first served basis, \$10.00 for an 8 foot table. For information, contact our hamfest co-chairperson, Dean Holste, KC9EOQ, (hamfest@frrl.org) or call 630-966-8521.

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 July 9, 2006, at the FRRL Hamfest.

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

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Vice President

Greg Braun, N9CHA

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License Trustees:

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Newsletter Editor

Bill Muhr, KB9YSI
arcover@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>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

June, 2006

FRRL Board Meeting.....6
FRRL Meeting..... 13
Field Day 23—25

July, 2006

FRRL Board Meeting..... 4
FRRL Hamfest 9
FRRL Meeting 11

Amateur Radio Field Day June 24/25

June 24th and 25th thousands of amateur radio operators will put their emergency communication skills to the test for Field Day 2006! Amateur Radio operators from the Fox River Radio League will compete in this annual event in which the public is encouraged to be a part. You can even help our club gain points in the contest by making radio contacts. Come experience the hobby we call Amateur Radio. Field Day is June 24th and 25th at Jericho Park in Aurora. To find out more, visit www.frri.org

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 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

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

KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz. (Kane Co. SKYWARN)
-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 on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Next Gen Youth Ham Net— 7:00 pm on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. On the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- KC OEM Amateur Net— Wed. Eves, 7:00 pm on the KCOEM repeater.