



Arc Over

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

July, 2004

President's Traffic *by Bill Schaben, W9AX*

Our summer activities are winding down. Unfortunately the canoe race had to be cancelled due to the fast water of the Fox River. Even the Payton Run had to change some due to flooding of the course. But it did come off rather well. And by the time you read this, Field Day will also be history. There may be one more event — that's an archery tournament in August.

You know, prior to these events we get up and ask you to come out and help. We tell you how much fun they are and how much you will enjoy them. We bait you with promises of a free T Shirt or hat. Sometimes we tantalize you with food. We beg for more people. The truth of the matter is that you should be asking for more public service activities.

We are able to enjoy the hobby of amateur radio by virtue of the fact that we are a skilled, trained, flexible, quick to respond, well equipped resource that can be called upon when needed. And we play well together.

In order to keep these skills and maintain our equipment, we need to practice, practice and then get more practice. And the only way to get this practice is to do the public service events. Contesting, DX chasing, rag chewing are mostly individual efforts. We need the ability to work in an environment where we serve an outside agency to assist them to accomplish their objective.

It should be the responsibility of each member to want to be involved with as much public service as he/she can be. I enjoy working with other members as a team. I enjoy keeping my radio equipment ready to go. And I enjoy working with the Park District, Red Cross or whoever and showing off my skills as an amateur radio operator.

So when something comes up and someone asks for volunteers for an event, sign up right away

and help yourself and amateur radio as a whole. I've heard comments that these events are organized and run only by the "established" members of the club. This is so far from the truth. There is no in crowd. The only criteria are that you have an interest. Sometimes the organizers assume that because we've done it so many times before, everyone knows what the event entails. If you're not sure, ask. If you don't hear anything from the leader, ask..

That's it for this month. We'll see you at the Hamfest and the next meeting.

73

Bill W9AX

Club Secretary Election at July Meeting

The current FRRL Club Secretary, Lawrence Miller, KB9YYX, has had to vacate the position due to his job situation. In order to fill this vacancy, the club will hold an election for Secretary at the July meeting.

One of the original candidates for Secretary, Zack Dempsey, KC9CLR, has agreed to run for the position, and was nominated at the June meeting. At the present time, he is the only candidate.

If you will be unable to attend the July meeting, but would like to vote, please put your vote in writing and deliver it to one of the club officers or directors prior to the meeting.

Further information of voting can be found in the Bylaws section of the Club Roster, or you may contact President Bill Schaben, W9AX, for assistance.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge by Mike Urso, K9FE

HF Challenge for June

In the decline of the current cycle I will agree on having some bad periods. I was on 20 listening to what I would say was a dead band. It was only 4 pm yet 20 meters was just S-5 noise. After tuning around for 15 minutes, I took a chance and called CQ on 14.240. Within seconds of my call I was answered by a 9 call from Florida. We chatted a bit and conceded that we both had thought the band was out of business.

Just because you do not hear signals on a band does not mean that it is closed. It just means YOU DON'T HEAR ANY SIGNALS. Don't give up, make that call.

For those that have never HF mobiled, you should try it once. On my way down to Carlinville, IL to a church youth camp I was able to "sort of" contact Greg, N9CHA, through the MIDCARS on 7.258. The ops that man the MIDCARS net are very eager to help. Made the trip downstate very enjoyable. Another very enjoyable moment and one that is a first for me was to work JA1 mobile on 20M. The band was not in any sort of great conditions, but it was good enough for 100 watts and a 40 year old Hustler mobile antenna.

Heard and worked this month was XV1X Vietnam. Send your worked ones in and stories of contacts or HF activity that we might like.

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. 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.

See Page 5 for the standings.

73 de K9FE Mike Urso

Field Day Summary Report by Mike Urso, K9FE

Thanks to all who were able to enjoy field day this year. We had a fantastic time. 7A, IL was a new class for us this year. The conditions at the site were just about perfect. The surroundings were just fantastic. The view was just great. The view out of my popup was a serene lake with the occasional fish jumping or canoe going by. The food by Becky, KB9UBU, was outstanding. The lack of flies and what seemed a low amount of mosquitoes.

The bands were OK, nothing to be amazed about, but contacts were made even through the noise. However the Hams and guests were just fantastic. We had a nice group of visitors with a total of 54 people. I believe we fed 44 at dinner. Youth were present, including a compliment from Oswego High School that was active in the GOTA station. Nicole Nevitt, daughter of N9XP Jim, made her perennial visit to operate. She has done

FD now for I believe 3 years AS AN OPERATOR. Still waiting to get her license, she is a top-notch operator with a +10dB voice! It takes her a few QSO's to get into it, but lookout when she does.

The antennas this year were a site to see. From dipoles, to dual band Hex Beams. From 25 year old trapped verticals to a HyGain HiTower. AH6EZ brought out another NEW antenna, his lightweight 20M Moxon Beam. Give Dick an idea and somehow he comes out with a new one.

Denny, W9HI, is working on the scoring, and we should have a report for you shortly.

Thanks to everyone who came out!! We'll see you next year!

Share the Excitement!

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Here is what I have heard of recently. If you had fun with ham radio, share it. If you have not been having fun with ham radio, why not?

In the aftermath of Dayton, I have heard some new radios and antennas on the air.

Dick, AH6EZ has been having fun trying to commute with his 50 watt IC2720 (early serial number) only putting out 5 watts. It was sent to the Icom Doctor and returned with a new driver transistor and an "XT upgrade" which improved the bias voltage on the final transistor and improved the heat sink.

Dick, AH6EZ and Kermit, W9XA and Dick, W9GIG experienced a new (at least for us) intermodal ham QSO. Becky and I were on our motorcycles headed up to Road America motorcycle racing in Wisconsin and Kermit was taking off in his airplane to a Springfield hamfest. We had pre-arranged to meet on a UHF simplex channel.

Bill, KB9YSI has been pedestrian mobile with his FT-817. He was heard on the Monday night 10 meter SSB net dragging his counterpoise wire behind him.

Dick, AH6EZ heard the International Space Station making voice contacts during Field Day. Apparently 100 watts to a 3 element yagi was not enough to work him.

Let me know of fun you are having with ham radio by email (AH6EZ@aol.com), on the Fox Repeaters, or telephone 630-584-4388. I will share it in the next Arcover. If I do not receive any input for this column, I may discontinue it.

July Program Notes

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

I prepared a Power Point presentation about the ECHO satellite that is scheduled for a launch about June 30. I will miss the July meeting and K9FE has offered to present the program. For the August meeting, I hope to play a recording of a Pan Am Clipper pilot who returned to the USA by going around the world right after Pearl Harbor. I hope to have pictures interleaved with the sound recording to make it more interesting. For those of you that do not know it, Benny, W9CZA was a radio operator for the Pan Am Clipper fleet.

Solar Flux

by Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

From all reports, including the one from Mike on page 2, Field Day this year was a roaring success. Unfortunately, I missed it, as I had to be in California for a wedding. But, if the weather here was as nice as it was in Los Angeles, it must have been a great time.

I found it ironic that there was an earthquake here in Illinois while my family and I were standing in line waiting for our bags at O'Hare. While I was in L.A. I was bragging that "we don't have earthquakes in Chicago". Wrong again, Bill.

Due to the requirements of the wedding I did not even get to operate during the Field Day weekend. There was a club field day site just a few miles north of the freeway we took to the wedding. It was very tempting to just stop by for a minute on the way, but I knew what would happen if I did take a chance. I'd miss the wedding because I was looking for an opening on 6 meters.

Speaking of 6 meters, the band has been open fairly often during the past few weeks. In fact, I managed to work some Texas and Oklahoma stations with my FT-817 running 5 watts to the little rubber duck antenna that comes with the radio. When 6 meters is open, it really is OPEN!

In other news, the AMSAT Echo Oscar satellite has made it to orbit and seems to be working OK. It will take a few weeks to check out the systems and get the bird set up for operation, but it should be ready fairly soon. If you haven't tried satellite operations yet, this bird might be the one that works for you. AMSAT says hams should be able to work this bird with an HT and a rubber duck antenna.

This past weekend I had a great time attending the informal breakfast meeting that has started up on the first Saturday of each month. The gathering was organized by some of the more frequent users of the FRRL 2 meter repeater. This last "meeting" was attended by about 12 hams, who spent a couple of hours chatting about radio and other assorted topics. If you get a chance, this is a really nice get-together. Listen to the repeater for more information about next month's breakfast, or ask me or Lloyd, KC9DMS, for more information at a club meeting.

That's about it for this month — 73, and I'll see you at the meeting.

73 — Bill, KB9YSI

Need Help? Call An Elmer!

By Dave Holdeman, N9XU

Are you vexed by a difficult radio question? Perhaps you are having RFI problems? Or maybe you just want help setting up your new station or getting involved in a new operating mode. Well, the FRRL is here to help. We now have an updated **Elmer List**.

An Elmer is a knowledgeable ham who acts as a mentor to those with less experience or knowledge. The following hams have volunteered to act as Elmers for the club. If you would like to be added to, or deleted from the list, please contact Dave Holdeman, N9XU, at d.holdeman@att.net.

Call	Name	Knowledge Area
W9AX	Bill	General questions, club functions
KC9CBY	Kirt	Old tube radios, restoration
KC9CLR	Zack	Antennas, radio programming
W4CEO	Maurice	Station set up, antennas
WD9CNW	Carol	Computer programming
K9EUI	Bob	Old tube equip., RTTY, antennas
AH6EZ	Dick	New modes, satellites, antennas, weak signal modes, computers
K9FE	Mike	General, wire antennas, stealth, mobile operation
W9GIG	Dick	ARRL and FCC
W9HI	Dennis	General, station setup, operating
K9JE	Jack	Antennas, station setup, operating
N9TO	Tim	Mobile antennas and mounting
N9UZC	Jim	UHF/VHF, antennas, general
W9XA	Kermit	UHF/VHF, amplifiers, EME & satellite, construction, surface mount, repairs
N9XU	Dave	Old tube type radios, WW2 surplus

Erickson HF Challenge Standings as of 6/15/04

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9COE	43	21	64
AH6EZ	29	18	56
K9FE	23		23
W9DTR	14		14
K9IH	12		12
NA9A	7		7

Operator Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	48/10	109	167
K9YA	40/10	90	140
K9COE	50/10	68	128
W9DTR	49/9	61	119
NT3J	40/6	65	111
KB9YSI	38/8	63	109
J68AR	33/8	62	103
W4CEO	37/4	47	88
W9XA	38/4	37	79
K9IH	39/6	23	68
KA9OBH	0/1	36	37
W9DNJ	11/1	3	15

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9MMS	49/7	93	149
M/AH6EZ	3/0	28	31
MM/AH6EZ		11	11
KB9YYX	7	0	7

QRO Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/11	177	238
NA9A	11/1	207	219
WB90	38/4	101	143
K9FE	21/4	22	47
WOHED	36/2	2	40

For Sale

Equipment for sale from the estate of W9ETU:

Heath SB102 HF transceiver with HP-23B power supply installed in SB600 matching speaker cabinet. Desk mic included. \$100

Kenwood HT-2500 2 meter handheld (1 battery included). \$50

Kenwood TS-820 HF transceiver with E-V 619 desk mic. \$200

Ramsey CT-50 frequency counter (works up to 150 MHz). \$25

Dual meter SWR bridges (4 of them - all various mfr but look like Swan engineering. \$20 each

Misc QRP and CW items (keyers, paddles) ask for details.

Bud, Drake, & MFJ low pass filters \$20 ea.

Heath audio generator AG-9 \$20

Heath VTVM IM-11 \$15

Kenwood TM2530A 2 meter transceiver with Larsen 5/8 mag mount antenna \$125

Heath VTVM IM-13 \$15

Micronta multimeter \$15

Hallicrafters SX-140 receiver \$15

Heath square wave generator Sq-1 \$10

Contact Bob, K9EUI at k9eui@arrl.net or call at 844-3700 and leave a message

Sour Grapes

By Bill, W9AX

On our surveys that we recently asked you to fill out about the club, we received a couple of comments that we were not explaining activities such as Field Day to the newer hams. Excuse me! There are more words written and said about Field Day than any other club activity. And if the basics of what it is about still a mystery, why wasn't a question asked? It's been said that the only dumb question is the one that wasn't asked.

As for operating at FD, we encourage everyone to sit down and operate. However, if you come in and stand around and watch, don't expect to be asked. The operator is concentrating on operating and might not know you are even there. It's not that he don't want you to operate. Find the band captain (the one in charge of that station) and tell him you would like to give it a try.

Another comment was about the 2 meter FOX net. There is NO connection with the 10-10 net. They are two completely separate groups. If you want to know about IRLP, ask AH6EZ, Dick. He'll be glad to give you all the info you want.

In short, guys, don't think that the FRRL is trying to keep any one out of anything. We do encourage new hams to become involved. However, we can only tell you about it. It's up to you to come out, ask questions and get involved.

IMPORTANT DATES IN JULY

The FRRL HAMFEST is Sunday, July 11. We need volunteers, — please contact Maurice at the addresses in the next paragraph.

Also, don't forget the Kane County Cougars baseball game. Mark your calendar for Thursday, July 29, 2004. Tickets are \$8.00 each and will be available at our July meeting. Please reserve early so I can figure the seating. For more information, or to reserve your tickets, contact me at scat42@msn.com or phone me at (815) 786-2860.

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, Marcy, 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 \$12.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

[The next exam session is scheduled for Sunday, July 11, 2004, during the FRRL Hamfest.](#)

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

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Election Pending

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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 .

Send Address Corrections to:
 Fox River Radio League, Inc.
 29-W-458 Candlewood Lane
 Warrenville, Illinois
 60555-2639

FRRL Event Calendar

July, 2004

FRRL Board Meeting 6
 FRRL Hamfest /VE Testing.... 11
 FRRL Meeting 13
 FRRL Cougars Game 29

August, 2004

FRRL Board Meeting 3
 FRRL Meeting 10

Handy Web Links

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

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.

Field Day Photos
Photos By Greg Braun, N9CHA



KC9CLR (l) watches as W9HI aims for a tree during the Friday night Field Day Setup.

Field Day Photos
Photos By Greg Braun, N9CHA



KC9DAO assembling an antenna support tripod during Friday night Field Day Setup.

Field Day Photos
Photos By Greg Braun, N9CHA



The 15/10 meter hex beam is hard at work.

Field Day Photos
Photos By Greg Braun, N9CHA



The OSCAR antenna and power setup for Field Day.

Field Day Photos
Photos By Greg Braun, N9CHA



The operating position for the 80 & 160 meter station.

Field Day Photos
Photos By Greg Braun, N9CHA



The 20 meter SSB station, with AH6EZ's stressed Moxon beam and portable rotating mast.