



Arc Over

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

July, 2007

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

Our Hamfest is on July 8th this year and it's being held at the Aurora Central Catholic HS. You can download a flyer and map from our web site. Our VE team will be on site to issue FCC exams. We will also have a special HF demonstration set up by Mike K9FE to show off digital modes of HF communications.

Be sure to bring your ham radio "for sale" items this year. The club will have a table ready for your items to sell. You should mark your call sign and price on each item. Tobi N9TCD will be watching over all items for sale. 10% of the proceeds of each sale go to the club. Set your handhelds to 145.77 for local on-site communications.

Dick AH6EZ will host a forum on HF antenna designs and installations. We will also have a hidden transmitter hunt on 146.565. Be sure to bring your VHF DF equipment.

Dean KC9EOQ, our 2007 Hamfest Chairman has developed a special incentive for all those who sell their tickets. For each ticket sold, you get a chance to win a \$200 cash prize drawing being held at the September meeting.

Ken N9WCX invites you out to the ballpark July 27th for the annual Cougars Night. Please see him for tickets to this fun night out at the ball park!

Did you get a chance to stop in and visit our Field Day site this year? It was fantastic! We had 8 main stations on the air, plus a VHF and Get On The Air operation. A large Welcome area was put together and included vintage radios, club information, digital mode demonstrations, packet radio, APRS, D-Star and LEO Satellite displays.

Cool and wet weather dominated our Field Day event this year at Jericho Lake Park in Montgomery. However, over 80 hams, their families and guests visited the site. We had several local government agencies represented as well. The American Red Cross visited us and brought with them their communications vehicle.

Special thanks go to Charles KC9DAO and his FD committee for putting on such a well organized and highly visible event. Becky KB9UBU did an outstanding job of providing meals and refreshments. Our band captains and their assistants got all of the stations up and operating on time. Thanks also to the City of Aurora ESDA for providing our generator power. More information about FD2007 can be found in this edition of the Arc Over.

Several members of our club are also ARES members in both Kane and Kendall Counties. They provided communications support for the annual Swedish Days bicycle ride. Eric KC9FQV, KCARES EC and his team provided health, safety and logistical support for over 850 riders who participated.

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**Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the General Membership of the
Fox River Radio League (FRRL) an Illinois not-for-profit Corporation
Held at the Prisco Center in Aurora, IL
Meeting Minutes June 12, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun, N9CHA – President with 65 members present.
Question of the Month: None due to information and program length

Minutes of the previous meeting were posted to the web, printed in the Arc Over and available for review.

Treasurers Report: Cash & Accounts = \$7,834.66 Certificates of Deposit = \$15,820.95

Committee Reports:

Database: 165 paid members. Reminder Roster should be published and ready for distribution at the April meeting.

Cougars Night: July 27th at 6:30PM tickets are \$10 see Ken, N9WCK if you would like to buy tickets.

Hamfest: Need help setting up on Saturday July 7th starting around 5PM and on Sunday starting around 6AM. The QST listing was fouled up, offering things we did not know about. ARRL apparently did a cut and paste from another clubs submission. However since it was printed we will provide an antenna forum, provide for a QRP rig judging, (no mobile installation judging), foxhunt and HF Demo Station. VE testing will take place at 10AM (reminder that the General question pool changes July 1st). There will be a club table available for members selling items on a consignment basis with 10% going to the FRRL.

REPEATER: Analog- Three new controllers have been purchased, one for each repeater and another as backup. They are equipped with a DVR for announcements. If necessary in case of sudden failure one controller can run both repeaters. They can be operated by internet or RF control link. General housekeeping and weed control were done at the site. We learned that his summer 6 of the 7 guy anchors and guys will be replaced in anticipation of a new 50,000 watt Qualcomm transmitter which may go up on the tower. Our UHF repeater may move to an existing antenna at the 700 foot level. Regarding the interference and static, there is a jumper between the main coax and cross band coupler, during a recent tower climb, water was found in the jumper. The tower climbers changed the jumper and replaced the coupler with a spare. The VHF machine is running at about 36 watts forward power, 9 watts reflected. There is a possibility that the antenna may need to be replaced. The cost for this would be around \$2000 with another \$500 for tower climbers. Because bad weather moved in during the original climb, the workers will return at a greatly reduced cost to recheck the work and redo it if necessary. If this does not help the SWR then a new antenna will most likely be necessary. Work may seem to take a long time to get done; this is because work must be coordinated between the site owner, tower owner, AM Station WBIG, tower climber and FRRL.

D-STAR- When the system was implemented there were 12 users, we are now up to 24 on 442.100. 15 kHz of bandwidth is allowed between repeater pairs, a D-Star signal is 6.5 kHz wide, and therefore the IRA is looking towards experimenting with spectrum sharing. The FRRL and NSRC (North Shore Radio Club) will test a new system known as “splintering”. NSCR and FRRL will share 442.100 with the NSRC moving down 6.5 kHz and the FRRL moving up 6.5 kHz so our machine will be at: 442.10625 MHz. If successful it will allow more repeaters to use the same amount of spectrum. www.ilra.net has more information and explanation. www.w9ceqillinoisdstar.org shows users. The experiment will run for one year.

LAPTOP COMPUTERS: The FRRL received 7 laptop computers from the St. Charles School District for our use. We can not sell the computers. They will be set up with ham radio software and a committee will be arraigned to handle distribution and control of the machines.

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Meeting Minutes June 12, 2007

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FIELD DAY: Lunch will be from 12-1 on Saturday. Dinner 6-7PM and Sunday breakfast from 7-8AM. We need volunteers with trucks to help get tables and chairs from Oswego High School to Jericho Park on Friday and back to the school on Sunday. We will have a larger Welcome Tent, more tents to keep people under cover for meals, breaks and socializing. Set up is anytime after 1PM on Friday and operations will start at 1PM Saturday, concluding 1PM Sunday. City of Aurora is providing the generator again. Coolers are needed and if you visit, please bring a bag of ice.

KA9GGF, STEFAN KOCZO, FRRL Member, SK June 9th

With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by KC9FQV, seconded by N9NTM, approved. Break and program to follow

Respectfully Submitted:

John Spasojevich, K9COE – FRRL Secretary

New Members

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

Please welcome the following new members who joined the club recently:

Call	Name	Lic. Class
K9WDB	David Bulkley	G
NU9X	Richard House	E
N9WRT	Scott Morgan	G
KA9VXD	Eric Needles	E
KC9EII	Jeffrey Spidle	E
W1CUN	Robert Stevenson	E
KC9LQS	Dawn Williams	T
N9WPD	William Zapel	G

Paddle the Fox Canoe Race Wrap Up

The Paddle the Fox Canoe and Kayak Fun Race was held on Sunday, June 3. It continued the tradition of annual boating on the Fox River with help from the FRRL. Due to the cancellation of the Mid America Canoe Race, this event was put together by Aurora Township and the Aurora YWCA. We want to thank the following FRRL members for jumping in to volunteer on short notice: James N9UZC, Denny W9HI, Catherine KC9KJU, Bart KC9FQA, Keith N9YA, Frank KC9HRL and Kent W9NDW.

We were pleased to see the sun bright and early Sunday morning, despite weather forecasters' gloom and doom predictions of rain. We all gathered at the VFW in Batavia, got our much-needed coffee and disbursed to our locations along the 6 mile stretch of the river. Our duties involved marking off boat numbers as they came past, notifying everyone of debris in the river, watching for boaters in trouble, and communicating this all via our radios using a net control person. In addition to directly helping the race organizers, others kept the communication lines open by rigging up various antennas. The day went very well and included a variety of things to test our mettle: moving off the FRRL 2m repeater onto the OEM repeater and then moving back, warning organizers and preparing for an approaching storm, and reporting a canoe tipping over, after the portage. Not to worry--no one was hurt, but the paddlers decided not to finish the race. When confronted with what to do with the rented canoe, two women, who were race volunteers, hopped in and paddled the boat to the finish line. Unfortunately they did not beat the rain, but they did arrive with smiles on their faces and cheers from the crowd.

Special thanks go to Eric, KC9FQV for alerting us to the impending storm, to James, N9UZC for letting us quickly QSY to the OEM repeater and to Kermit, W9XA for guiding us back to the FRRL repeater after the critical maintenance had been completed.

Again, thank you to the FRRL members who helped make this a successful community event. We couldn't have done it without you!

Tobi K9TCD and Tom WB9CHY

Steve Kocz, KA9GGF — SK

Stefan (Steve) Kocz Sr., 77, of Plano passed away on Saturday, June 9, in Oswego after a short illness. Steve, KA9GGF, was an FRRL member for many years, and was always ready to help members resolve electrical problems. Steve was born in Budapest, Hungary in 1930, and came to the United States in 1968. He had vivid memories of the Hungarian uprising against the Soviets in the early 1960s. Steve worked as an electrician at Caterpillar Tractor until his retirement in 1992. He was a member of the ARRL.

The FRRL offers its sincere sympathies to Steve's family and friends.

July Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The July FRRL program will focus on APRS, the automatic packet radio system used for conveying GPS positioning data, vehicle tracking and emergency communications. We will demonstrate some APRS radios and GPS hookups, and discuss how APRS was used during the recent Swedish Days Bicycle Ride.

President's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

Our repeater committee, chaired by Dick AH6EZ presented our club members with the new repeater controllers at the June meeting. He and Kermit W9XA also reviewed the engineering details and findings regarding our 2 meter repeater. Installation of the new controllers, as well as maintenance of our repeaters is underway.

Two FRRL Board members are now ARISS Mentors. John Spasojevich, AG9D and Greg Braun, N9CHA were both recognized by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO and Rosalie White, K1STO of the ARISS program at the Dayton Hamvention 2007. An ARISS Mentor assists a school by supporting them with technical and logistical help prior to and during a contact with the International Space Station. Both John and Greg have begun to get involved with future school contacts being planned for '07 and '08.

73 Greg Braun N9CHA

The Next Gen Hams Field Day 2007

By Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Field Day has come and gone, and it felt like it went too fast! Despite the rain on Saturday, our Next Gen Hams ran around to various stations to find their scavenger hunt items, and got their ice cream rewards. Thank you to Carol, WD9CNW, for putting together the scavenger hunt and getting wet while delivering items to the stations. After the rain ended some kids tried a transmitter hunt, while others stayed under the tent to make crafts and play ham radio games. Thanks go to Marilyn, KC9KJV, for helping out with the water bottle race cars.

The highlight of the day seemed to be making radio contacts. Getting a prize for making 5 contacts encouraged everyone to get on the radio. Almost all the Next Gen Hams made more than 5 contacts; once they got going they didn't want to stop! Some worked the GOTA station, while others added to the club score in the 40m phone station. Some of them made 10 or more contacts. At least two father/child teams operated together. Pat, N9TBD and his kids, Michelle and Tony, worked the GOTA station Saturday night. Dorwin, K9DHK, and Luke worked 40m phone.

Denny, W9HI, arranged a special QSO for the kids in the GOTA station. At 1830 on Saturday an IRLP connection was made to England and two hams, Peter and Sid, talked to the kids for an hour. After getting over a little microphone shyness, everyone got to ask questions of the English hams. We found out that Peter is blind and has a seeing eye dog. He lives in an area that used to be hunting grounds for Henry VIII. Sid also lives in an historic area, and told the kids that school years are the best years. Brenden, KC9KJW, got to tell them he has his own license, which impressed Peter and Sid. Thanks, Denny, for making that contact happen.

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Next Gen Hams Field Day

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I am looking forward to Field Day 2008 and all the fun our Next Gen Hams will have. In the meantime, there will be other operating opportunities for the kids and hopefully by June 2008 a few more Next Gen Hams will be licensed radio operators.



The kids hunt for scavenger items in the welcome tent.



AH6EZ prepares to launch the catapult.



Tom racks up the contacts on 40 CW.



Dinner time—tired hams refresh themselves before returning to the fray.

HF Challenge: July Update

By John Spasojevich, AG9D

There isn't much to report this period, some movement back and forth in top of the Operator Class. Other than that not too many reports were received this period. That's probably due to the excellent summer weather, Field Day and other activities we all engage in.

Remember to send in your monthly update by the 15th of each month to me at: challenge@frrl.org; remember to put something about the FRRL in the subject line otherwise the spam filters will filter you to who knows where!

Joe, NA9A is continuing his streak of working some unusual places, but then again if they are on the most needed DX list, it's not Delaware or Belgium we're talking about!

This month's catches were 3B7SP Agalega & St. Brandon & 9X0VR Rwanda

3B7SP is a DXpedition. Agalega and St. Brandon is a two island archipelago. It is situated about 1120 km north from Mauritius, officially the Republic of Mauritius, an island nation off the coast of Africa in the southwest Indian Ocean, about 900 kilometers east of Madagascar.

The Agalega Islands have a total area of 70 km². The Capital Vingt Cinq may be small, but not that much as there is a church, a school and a hospital.

The main industry of the Islands is coconut.

So save up your money and for your next vacation.....

The scores are listed on page 8 this month.

More Field Day Photos



Setting up in the rain was great fun.



Signs at the park entrance attracted visitors.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Scores— June, 2007

Here are the current standings for the 2007 HF Challenge as of June 15. Welcome to the new participants this month!

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	-	-	56
K9FE	-	-	46
N9YA	-	-	31
K9IH	-	-	18
AH6EZ	-	-	12
KC9CHG	-	-	7
NA9A	-	-	6
WB9CHY	-	-	2
KC9FQV	-	-	1

Operator Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	47/8	92	147
N9CV	50/11	80	141
K9FE	45/11	59	115
K9TCD	39/3	46	88
K9IH	42/8	38	88
N9YA	50/6	18	74
WB9CHY	21/1	6	28
KB9YSI	15/3	7	25
KC9EOQ	4/0	20	24
KC9FQV	17/1	5	23
KC9CHG	19/0	0	19

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ— PSK	50/9	109	168

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
NA9A	27/3	183	213
AH6EX/W9	49/12	141	202
N4LZ (W4CEQ)	45/6	89	140

D-Star Update

By Kermit Carlson, W9XA

The FRRL D-Star repeaters have received approval from the Illinois Repeater Association to begin an experiment with the NSRC- North Shore Radio Club using splintered or shared repeater frequency use. This experiment places the FRRL in the forefront of amateur radio narrow-bandwidth repeater development.

At the Annual IRA (Illinois Repeater Association) meeting this last May the repeater coordinating body became the first coordination council to adopt a long-range plan for migration to narrow-bandwidth repeater assignments. In the adopted plan narrow-bandwidth systems such as D-Star, APCO-25 and Mototurbo will align their frequencies within the frequency slots normally coordinated for just one FM signal in order to accommodate more repeaters within the same geographic region. Under the guidelines adopted by the IRA such "splintering" occurs by offsetting the primary coordination holder's repeater frequency in one direction in order to accommodate a new shared user on the other offset. This immediately gives a two-for-one advantage for frequency use and allows for future potential of finding a possible fit for the original on-frequency "channel" as well as the "interstitial" slots between the original frequency pairs. For even more coordinated repeaters. The details of this plan allows the original coordination holder to revert back to the "unplug" coordination within one year should technical problems arise that does not allow for an effective sharing.

What this will mean to the FRRL D-STAR system users is that on June 23rd that the 442.100 MHz repeater will change frequency to 442.10625 Mhz to accommodate the splintering of the channel with the NSRC system to be located in Downtown Chicago. The NSRC repeater will operate on a frequency of 442.09375 as a test to gather data about the effects of the frequency sharing. Preliminary tests have shown that such a split of 12.5 kHz between the repeaters should not present any problem for users of either system.

I will present further information in brief on this ongoing experimentation to the FRRL General Membership meeting this June 11th at the Prisco Community Center. Help will be available to all users to quickly re program radios for the new repeater frequency.

In other developments - the new 440 D-Star antenna is presently languishing in US Customs and will be installed as soon as it is received and tower crews become available. ALSO, the 2-meter D-Star repeater will move to operations on 145.27 MHz as a shared secondary user of W9DWP's frequency until a permanent pair can be identified and assigned by the IRA. Many thanks to Paul, W9DWP, for his help. As a ways - please contact me directly with any questions at W9XA@yahoo.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. 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 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 8, 2007, 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 year 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.

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

Check with the Treasurer for details and additional dues rates.

Fox River Radio League

Founded 1924

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info@frl.org

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<http://www.frrl.org>

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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 .
<http://www.frrl.org>

Handy Web Links

FRRL Web Site	http://www.frrl.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/

Send Address Corrections to:
 Fox River Radio League, Inc.
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 St Charles, Illinois
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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@frrl.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 D-Star—442.100 Mhz.
 FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeater
 Contact W9XA for information

KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz. (Kane Co. SKYWARN)
 -600 KHz, 103.5 access tone
 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
 Linked Repeater System

- Weekly ARES Net—Mon. Eve. at 9:00 pm local time on the W9DWP Linked repeaters
- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- KC OEM Skywarn Net— Wed. Eve. at 7:00 pm on the KC9OEM repeater.
- Next Gen Kid's Net — 1st & 3rd Sundays at 7:00 pm on the FRRL 2 meter repeater.