



Arc Over

Fox River Radio League
PO Box 673
Batavia, IL
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September, 2006

President's Traffic

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Hopefully while you are out doing your Summer yard chores you are able to monitor our repeaters (remember our UHF repeater has IRLP) or maybe you have a QRP rig out on a picnic table enjoying the nice weather. Maybe you have been able to get out on a vacation which involved some contact with ham radio.

I am fortunate to have a spouse who shares my interest in both motorcycling and ham radio. We had a good time traveling through New England, Prince Edward Island, and Nova Scotia where the weather was cool and comfortable in comparison to the 100 degree temperatures in the Midwest. I had a great band opening on 6 meters from VY2 land with just a simple dipole 10 feet above the ground. It goes to show that you do not have elaborate antennas to work the magic band. I was also able to reliably connect to an IRLP node 100 miles away from my campground with just a 3 element Arrow yagi.

I will be conducting a BPL Forum at the Peoria Hamfest on September 16. If you are at the 'fest, please drop in and say hello.

As we create a nomination Committee, and they contact you, please consider giving a little of your time to supporting our club and it's activities. The nominations will be announced at the November meeting and the election will be at the December meeting.

Program Notes:

Please see Kermit's announcement about the September program on page 2. In October, Mark Thompson, WB9QZB, will be giving a somewhat non-technical presentation about Icom's D-Star system and equipment. He is a Life Member of ARRL and QCWA and periodically does editorials on the RAIN Report. He has started a Yahoo group dedicated to the discussion and development of digital voice and data systems. He is a member of the North Shore Radio Club and Chicago FM Club.

September Program Note

By Kermit Carlson, W9XA

The September FRRL program will be " Digital Signal Processing and Amateur Radio". Kermit Carlson, W9XA, will present an overview of the application of Digital Signal Processing to amateur radio transceiver design. The easy-to-follow discussion will include the differences between digital radio designs and classical analog designs and the advantages that fully digital radio designs represent to amateur radio. There will be a demonstration of the new Software Defined Radio SDR-1000 by Flex-Radio (<http://www.flex-radio.com>) as well as the \$20 SoftRock digital receiver by Tony Parks, KB9YIG. The talk will cover modern commercially designs currently available; the DSP-10 transceiver by Robert Larkin W7PUA (<http://www.proaxis.com/~boblark/dsp10.htm>); the new AMSAT SDR-Transponder for future satellite flights that was demonstrated at Dayton in 2006. The presentation will conclude with a discussion of exciting new digital modes such as PSK, JT65, PU-43, PSK441, APCO-25, and DSTAR that are possible as a result of DSP techniques.

A copy of the SoftRock schematic is available at http://flex-radio-friends.net/Upload/SoftRock-40/SDR_RX_SAMPLER.jpg.

Get Your Feet Wet, CW Style

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

Are you one of the club's new General class licensees? Or are you a Tech Plus or General class OP who has let your CW skills slide over the past few years? Well, the FISTS CW Club has an operating activity designed to get you back on the air with CW in as painless a way as possible. The 2006 *Get Your Feet Wet Weekend* will be 00:00Z Fri Sep 15 (Thursday local) to 00:00Z Sep 18 (Sunday local).

The focus of this event is on sending slowly and clearly and sending the exchange in order. No memory or programmable keyers or code readers are allowed - human-powered transmissions only. Certificates will be sent out to the top three scorers in each category free of charge.

The rules: Operate under one of two categories for the entire event, Newcomer or Experienced. You can be licensed a long time but still be a Newcomer to CW or contesting. You're on the honor system: Choose whichever describes your ability. Suggested calling frequencies: 3.610, 7.110, 14.110, 21.110, and 28.110. If you don't hear anyone, go ahead and call. Get your feet wet and jump in with a CQ FC on a clear frequency. YOU are there listening; chances are someone else is listening and waiting to hear a CQ, too. Call CQ FC.

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Technician Trivia

Selected from the new Technician Exam Question Pool

T2D03

What operating privileges are allowed when you are the control operator at the station of another amateur who has a higher class license than yours?

- A. Any privileges allowed by the higher class license
- B. Only the privileges allowed by your license
- C. All the emission privileges of the higher class license, but only the frequency privileges of your license
- D. All the frequency privileges of the higher class license, but only the emission privileges of your license.

Answer on Page 8

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.

Other Area Nets

Kane County ARES nets take place on Monday nights at 9:30 pm on the KCAPS—W9DWP) linked repeaters (145.270 Mhz. -600, 107.2 access tone, and 443.025 Mhz. +5000, 114.8 access tone). Beginning August 14, the net will start at 9:00 pm. (For information, see the KC ARES web page at <http://www.kanecountyares.org>)

The Kane County Emergency Management weekly net takes place on Wednesday nights at 7:00 pm on the KC9OEM repeater, 145.270 Mhz., -600, 103.5 access tone. The Kane County OEM also runs SKYWARN weather nets whenever severe weather watches or warnings are in effect.

The City of Lights Chapter of Ten-Ten International holds an HF 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.

Erickson HF Challenge Update

By John Spasojevich, K9COE

As we begin the ninth month of the 2006 Challenge we welcome Cyd – KC9JNP a newly minted General to the fray. Best suggestion I have for you Cyd, is to keep the radio on and work anything you can! Have fun, that's the name of the game.

We haven't been receiving a lot of updates and that's either because it's summer and there are better things (perish the thought) to do or it's getting harder to find new entities on the air. Well, just when you thought it was over along come new DXCC Entities Montenegro (4O3, 4O6,YT6 & YZ6 among others) and Swain's Island (KH8) so did the battle rage to "get" those in the logbook. Absolutely!

Herb – W9DTR caught 4O3T and Gary – AL9A got 4O3T and KH8SI. Gary said the pile ups were ugly!

Don't think activity was limited to just these new ones. Other DX reported this period from W9DTR, Herb included: FK8GX, New Caledonia and HC1IK Saudi Arabia via PSK31 AND.... JX9NOA, Jan Mayen, which is one of North America's top twenty most needed entities ! Herb is definitely radio active!

At the FRRL's Alaskan Outpost Gary, AL9A also worked: 3D2DD (either Conway Reef, Fiji Island or Rotuma Island depending on what comes after the / Gary will have to tell us in his next update) , 9K2MU (Kuwait), FO/F6CTL (Austral Is.), FW8AA (Wallis & Futuna Island), and JX9NOA (Jan Mayen). There is some life in the band Gary says, with one and potentially two of the Most Needed DXCC Entities and one of North America's Top Twenty Most Needed on the list in one month, that is an understatement!

For the benefit of Lou, soon to be an Alaskan and the rest of us who know Gary, I'll include the following comments received from him this month: "We've had a very cool, cloudy and rainy summer so far. Considering what you guys have been hammered with recently I think I'll stay here, thank you very much. We are getting kind of anxious about the coming winter though. Several long time Alaskan friends are telling us that past summers like this have usually resulted in winters featuring LOTS of snow. I guess we'll find out soon enough! Since it's now August already, and the state fair starts in just three weeks, I have to get going on some outside antenna projects ASAP. Want to put in another remote antenna switch box at the base of the tower to make switching in 6M easier and try to hang a sloper from the tower to see if I can improve 80M & 160M.

As we enter the fall head toward the end of this years Challenge in December, contest time is closing in. Time to get your stations ready. Even if you think you are not a contester or don't like contests, it's a excellent opportunity to look for new states,

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Bill Erickson HF Challenge – August, 2006 Standings

Here are the current standings for the 2006 HF Challenge. If you did not submit a score sheet your score has not been updated. Remember to email your 2006 updates to challenge@frrl.org by the 15th of each month.

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	-	-	66
N9CHA	-	-	19
AL9A	-	-	19
K9FBI	-	-	17
K9IH	-	-	16
K9COE	-	-	16
AH6EZ	-	-	13
NA9A	-	-	2

Operator Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	49/10	113	172
K9JE	42/4	125	171
N9YA	50/11	80	141
K9FBI	50/3	80	133
KB9YSI	45/5	48	98
N9CHA	44/7	41	92
W9YBH	20/1	18	39
K9IH	11/4	3	18
KC9JNP	4/0	1	5

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	162	222
AL9A	50/15	118	183
W4CEO	50/8	91	149
NA9A	20/4	90	114
J68MS	38/5	34	77

Erickson HF Challenge Update

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countries and DXCC entities. CQ World-Wide RTTY Contest is coming up on September 23-24 as well as the Tennessee, Texas and Arkansas QSO Parties. October brings the PSK Rumble and the Illinois QSO Party. There are a whole host of other operating contests and activities. You can find these on line at www.contesting.com and of course in QST and CQ magazine.

This month's updates are on page 5, and are also available on the FRRL website.

For Sale

Ed Hurley, WB9EDE in Montgomery, has the following items for sale:

Icom 718 transceiver with DSP:	\$400
High Sierra Screwdriver Antenna:	\$100
2 two-position coax switches:	Make Offer

If you are interested in these items, please call Ed at 630 892-9069.

Get Your Feet Wet, CW Style

(Continued from page 2)

The Exchange: Callsign/N (newcomer) or Callsign/E (experienced), RST, Name, QTH, FISTS number or power, last two digits of the year licensed. Example: WZ8C/E, 599, Nancy, MI, 0379, 88.

Count 2 points for working someone out of your category, 1 point for working someone in your category. Multipliers are number of stations worked that were licensed 2000-2005. Stations may be worked once per band for points, but their multiplier only counts once. No WARC bands. Contacts must be 2-way human-keyed CW (Iambics are fine - just no computerized or memory keyers).

Logs will be sent to Lee Hallin N7NU 3413 Walton Ln, Eugene OR 97408 or in ADIF format to hallinl@lanecc.edu within 30 days of the end of the event. More information is available on the FISTS website at <http://www.fists.org/>.

If you hear me on the air, give me a call. I'll slow down for you if you slow down for me.

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 September 19, 2006, at the Prisco Center.

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

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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

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

FRRL Event Calendar

September, 2006

FRRL Board Meeting 1
 BARS Hamfest..... 6
 FRRL Meeting 8
 VE Testing 19

October, 2006

FRRL Board Meeting 1
 FRRL Meeting 8
 IL QSO Party..... 22

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/

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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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 KC9OEM repeater.

Technician Trivia Answer: **B**