



Arc Over

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

December, 2004

FRRL ELECTIONS *by Dick Illman, AH6EZ*

Per our by-laws, a three member Nomination Committee was formed by the President at the September Board Meeting. Dick Illman AH6EZ, Kermit Carlson W9XA, and Denny Barfuss W9HI presented the following slate of excellent candidates at the November general meeting.

President:	Dick Illman, AH6EZ
Vice-President:	Kermit Carlson, W9XZ Mike Urso, K9FE
Secretary:	Zack Dempsey, KC9CLR John Spasojevich, K9COE
Treasurer:	Larry Shaw, W9OKI
Directors (2):	Denny Barfuss, W9HI Greg Braun, N9CHA Tobi Davis, KC9GDL * Mike Urso, K9FE

* Tobi Davis, KC9GDL, accepted a nomination from the floor for Director.

The election will be held at the December meeting. Write-in votes are allowed. Absentee ballots, are also allowed. They must be written in ink, and contained in a sealed envelope with the first and last name of the voter written on the outside of the envelope. They can be accepted by any officer prior to the start of the December meeting.

We have provided short information statements on the candidates beginning on page 2 of this issue of the ArcOver. At the December meeting each candidate will be asked to stand before the membership and describe their reasons for running and their plans or ambitions if elected.

If you have any questions about the election, please contact one of the club officers prior to the December meeting.

Holiday Happenings

FRRL Party & Banquet News

The December meeting on December 14, 2004, will include our traditional **Holiday Party** led by K9LU, Lou Petkus. Remember to bring some non-perishable food items for our annual collection for Hessed House in Aurora. This is one of our annual community service projects to benefit members of the Fox Valley community.

The Annual FRRL Winter Banquet and Installation of Officers will take place on Saturday, January 22, 2005.

The **Banquet** is at Ralph's Place on Kennedy road in Bristol, IL. This is the same place as last year. The date is the 29th of January. Cocktail hour is 6 pm with dinner at 7 pm. The cost is \$22/person. The cost of dinner went up \$2, but the club is subsidizing this event by paying tax and tip. There will be door prizes and a yearly CD with club programs, utility programs, and pictures as a gift to each family. I also need any humorous awards that the members can think of for certificates to be awarded.

Tickets (YES TICKETS!) went on sale at the November meeting and as of today of the 68 available, 44 have been sold. If you want to be guaranteed your tickets, send a check to Larry W9OKI, Treasurer, for \$22.00 per ticket. Larry will notify me of receiving the payment and your ticket will be secured. No Walk-ins will be allowed this year because of the seating. Sorry.



HF challenge for December

Wow, what a month. We went from about ZERO activity due to an X-class particle ejection from a solar storm, to a couple of really great contests. What I noticed as I was compiling the scores is that most of the movement was from those already in the top 2 or 3 in each class. Maurice, W4CEO, had to basically start over since he has moved just over 50 miles from his original QTH. Ok, maybe more than "just over 50 miles". The rules keeper had made the decision that Maurice could keep his DX scores, but had to start over with his states and provinces. Luckily we had 2 major contests and he increased his numbers from what they were.

There was no movement in the limited class. It looks like Gary, K9MMS has a solid hold on to that category. In the operator class it is still anyone's ball game. Jack, K9JE, inched in front of Keith, N9YA. This however could change since we know how tenacious Keith can be. I guess Jack should keep looking over his shoulder all the way to the end.

In the QRO class we had an addition. Ted, N3TJ, from his home out east, has entered the QRO class. I believe at Dayton this year he picked up

an ALPHA amp. If you are going to go Big Boy Hi Power, go with the best. What I wonder about is that I thought Ted was in an antenna-restricted Zone. I wonder what he has up to allow him to use an ALPHA. Ted, drop a line to explain just what you have working for you. Next year I would like to include, just for our readers benefit, your working conditions. Radio(s), antenna(s), amp(s), as well as modes, just might be interesting to find out.

It look like Joe, NA9A has a lock on the QRO class. With a 40-point lead he is just about unreachable by Dick, AH6EZ. Dick had the lead for most of the year until Joe GOT SERIOUS! Most of the difference is Joe runs an ALPHA, a large tower with a good beam antenna. Dick runs wires and a vertical and 1000 watts. Moving into 3rd place is new entry W9GIG, Dick, who has his voice back.

Heard this month were 5U7, 6W1, EM1, TF4, C40, V55, ZK1, C91, ZA, STT, XX9, 9L, EY8, 3V8, 5H3, C91, V6, KG6(KH2), EL2, XW3DT Laos, JD1AMA Minami Torishima, OM, GW, JA, FP, EI,CT, 5U, 8P, 9Y...WOW what a list!

(Continued on page 6)

FRRL CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES

by Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

In order to help you get to know the people running for office in the December elections, this issue of the Arc-Over contains short biographies of the candidates. These bios are short descriptions of the candidates amateur radio history and interests — they do not include positions statements or other personal information. Position statements and other remarks will be made at the December meeting just prior to the voting. Here are the bios, in alphabetical order, by office. (These bios are based on information provided by the candidates.)

President: Dick Illman, AH6EZ.

Dick was first licensed in 1969, and currently holds an Extra class license. His interests include all bands and all modes except for fast scan TV. He has been awarded certificates for DXCC mixed mode (SSB and 20m soon), WAS, and WAC. He needs a few more QSL cards to get VUCC 6m and Satellite. His favorite club activity is Field Day, and if he could go anywhere in the world on a DX Expedition he'd choose the South Pacific.

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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?

W4CEO, Maurice finally got on the air down here for CQ WW DX Phone contest. He hopes you had the same conditions in Illinois as he had in Florida. He put a Hamstick for 10 meters on his truck and ran coax into the garage to his rig. Just searching and pouncing, he worked 221 qso's on 10 meters that included 26 Zones and 77 Countries. He got his first ZA and worked a lot of countries he hasn't heard in years. Some of the stuff he heard but didn't necessarily work: C91, A61, 3V, 5B, 9K, 9J, 5U, YB and ZA...this was all on 10 meters. He hopes to be on during Sweepstakes, so maybe he will hear some of us 9 landers.

Dick, AH6EZ worked a new country on 60m SSB just after the end of the CQ WW contest. C6DX in the Bahamas. Dick enjoyed being elbow to elbow with K9JE and W9GIG in a couple of pileups in the contest.

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

December Program Notes

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

I hope that you all enjoyed and learned something from the November Antenna 101 program.

The December meeting will include our traditional Christmas Party led by K9LU, Lou Petkus. Hopefully the second installment of the antenna program, including modeling and measurement of antennas, will be at the January meeting.

The monthly question at the November meeting inquiring about future club activities received the following responses. Transmitter hunts, Antenna Modeling, Campout, Covert or mobile antennas, Home projects, Grounding, Digital Modes, Youngsters in Ham Radio, Road Rally, Kit Building, and more.

Candidate Bios

(Continued from page 2)

Vice President: Kermit Carlson, W9XA.

Kermit was first licensed in 1969, and is currently an Extra.

His operating covers the gamut from 160 meters to 13 cm and from DX'ing to ragchewing but he can be found on 6 Meter SSB/CW weak signal and 40 Meter CW just about every night. He is interested in "organized" activities on the air that promote usage of the bands. For instance; he is usually on 1296.1 SSB every Friday night at 9PM for the local activity night and on 10 meters every Monday night for the CW and SSB 10-10 nets. He spends the majority of his ham radio time homebrewing and building. When I am in the shack working he is listening to 50.125 and 144.2 SSB and has the Fox "-.21" on in the background.

Kermit holds a Commercial 2nd Class RadioTelegraphy License and a Commercial General Radio-Telephone Operator's License, both with the Ship Radar Endorsements in addition to his Amateur license.

His favorite club activity is field day, since it gives him a chance to renew old acquaintances, form new friendships and stay up way, way too late.

As far as DX Expeditions go, Kermit would like to get back to Barbados and be active again with his 8P9XA call.

Vice President: Mike Urso, K9FE.

Mike was first licensed in late 1969 as WN9IDT (General class). As WB9IDT he "Advanced" his license, which lapsed in 1980. He was re-licensed in April 1995 as KB9KFE, and became K9FE (Extra) in 2000. Mike is active in the digital HF modes (PSK, RTTY, and a few others), but mainly runs Mobile HF (mostly on 40 meters). He has never been an awards chaser, but he is qualified for WAS, WAC, and WAZ, if he chased the cards.

His idea DX Expedition would be to activate a mountain top which has a beach within walking distance.

Mike's favorite club activities are helping a ham in need with his station and antenna and the excitement of Field Day. He really enjoys seeing members and non-members work together for a common goal and sharing the love of our hobby.

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Candidate Bios

(Continued from page 3)

Secretary: Zack Dempsey, KC9CLR.

Zack was licensed as a Tech in 2002, and recently upgraded to General. He operates both VHF/UHF and HF, and has been a regular participant at Field Day. Zack is very involved in radio, working part time at a local commercial station while attending high school.

Secretary: John Spasojevich, K9COE.

John was first licensed as KB9WMG in 2000 then as K9COE (General) in 2002. The original K9COE belonged to an older friend who sailed the world in the Merchant Marine working an HW-16 from his cabin. He works mainly HF digital modes (PSK, MFSK, RTTY). Due to a recent job change, he can often be found on the 2 meter repeater in the daytime. He also enjoys hunting for new entities in contests as well as working special event stations and having a good ragchew. John holds the WAS and WAC awards, and is getting close to DXCC. His favorite DX Expedition location would be somewhere in the South Pacific, and his favorite club activity is Field Day.

Treasurer: Larry Shaw, W9OKI .

Larry was first licensed in 1951 and holds an Extra Class license. He is active on 20 and 40 meter CW, and holds the WAS and Worked All Illinois Counties awards. He enjoys Field Day and the FRRL Hamfest. Larry would like to DX from Iceland, but his real dream is to activate a rare county in a state QSO party. Maybe Scott County, IL. next year?

Director: Denny Barfuss, W9HI .

Denny holds an Extra Class license. He was co-chairman of Field Day last year, and has also been working on getting teens involved in Amateur Radio through his work as a high school teacher.

Director: Greg Braun, N9CHA.

Greg was first licensed as a Tech in 1981 and upgraded to his current General Class license in 1982. He currently splits his time between VHF/UHF and HF. On HF he operates both from home and mobile using PSK31, RTTY, Voice and CW. He also works the AO51 and FO29 satellites. Greg enjoys and participates in all of the club activities, however his favorite is working with other club members on radio projects, building antennas and socializing.

Director: Tobi Davis, KC9GDL .

Tobi was first licensed in May, 2004, as a Tech. She currently operates on 2 meters. Her favorite DX Expedition location is Bali. I'll let Tobi finish this in her own words:

"I am very new to the club and ham radio. I was planning on helping out with the canoe race, but, because it was canceled I didn't get the chance. I did get to attend my first ever Field Day and was hooked! I loved camping out over night in our tent, and watching all the die-hards existing on no sleep on Sun. morning. It was great fun helping log for people doing CW even though I don't know code. It made me want to learn it. Making my first 40 meter voice contact was a thrill. Friends who showed up have decided to camp out with us next year and are inspired to get back into ham radio. I'm hoping to convince my friend's 10 year old to join us next year, maybe getting her hooked, too! So, Field Day, so far, is my favorite club activity."

Director: Mike Urso, K9FE.

See Mike's bio above, under Vice-President.

Erickson HF Challenge Standings as of 9/15/04

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	-	-	70
K9COE	-	-	66
K9FE	-	-	23
W9DTR	-	-	19
K9IH	-	-	12
NA9A	-	-	10

Operator Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	48/11	140	199
N9YA	50/12	113	175
K9COE	50/12	89	151
W4CEO	44/11	85	140
W9DTR	50/11	76	137
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
NA9A	40/6	236	282
AH6EZ	50/13	181	244
W9GIG	50/11	127	188
NT3J	49/6	90	145
WB90	38/4	101	143
WOHED	37/5	75	117
K9FE	29/7	37	73

HF Challenge

(Continued from page 2)

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 **Ar-cOver**. 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.

Good Hunting!
73 de K9FE Mike Urso

See Page 5 for the standings.

President's Traffic

by Bill Schaben, W9AX

Shortly after you read this, you'll be attending our annual meeting. The year seems to have gone by rather quickly. In looking back, our activities have been on the light side. The canoe race was missing as is the horse trials that we use to enjoy. Unless we have high water again next year, I'm sure the canoe race will be back on. I can't say the same for any horse trials. I fear that we have been replaced by technology. I understand they are using equipment that allows monitoring of each jump.

It really saddens me that we don't have more of this type of activity. First of all it's always good to get the club working together. There we learn from each other and build the bonds that help tie the club together. Like we do at Field Day, And, as I have said before, these are times to practice the skills that would be called upon in times of emergency.

For the club to be more active in the public service areas and/or activities, we need your input. And I don't mean just voicing your wants in the club room. But actually standing up and saying that you'll head up a hidden transmitter hunt, organizing a special event or picnic or whatever. Please don't count on the officers to head up every activity. I think it's about time that the membership take command of some of these things.

Mentioning officers, I want to thank all that have come forward to become club officers. These people are willing to give up some of their free time to help guide the club for you and me. I think we should be in for a good 2005. And mentioning 2005, we have our annual gala to look forward to. See Mike for details and tickets.

73 fer nw,
Bill, W9AX

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 Tuesday, January 18, 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

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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.frri.org>

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
SMC Contest Club	http://www.w9smc.com/

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

FRRL Event Calendar

December, 2004

FRRL Board Meeting 7
FRRL Meeting/Party **14**
Merry Christmas **25**
Happy New Year **31**

January, 2005

FRRL Board Meeting 4
FRRL Meeting **11**
 VE Testing 18

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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Happy Holidays from the ArcOver Staff, Contributors, Printers, Mailers, and the other assorted ink-stained wretches who bring you this newsletter every month. May your days be merry and bright, and may all your ArcOvers be interesting and typo-free.

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.