



Arc Over

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

December, 2007

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

We've had a very busy year, and 2008 looks to be even busier! Are we now at the bottom of the current sun spot cycle? If so, we should start to see improving conditions, perhaps little glimpses of what the HF bands can offer on the higher frequencies. For those who are new to the hobby, improved band conditions will mean more hams on the air and more chances to make contacts. For now though, we will have to keep watching the propagation forecasts, DX bulletins, sun spot and solar flux numbers for our best opportunities.

The club is certainly healthy! With over 200 members by the end of this year, we have an even larger body of knowledge and experience than ever before. The programs which Dick AH6EZ has presented us with have been an excellent opportunity for those starting out in the hobby to become acquainted with proper station set-up, operating practices, various modes, and practical antenna designs for your QTH. I think the Q&A session we had last month was very well received, and the Tech Net sessions on our 2 meter repeater have proved to be a valuable resource for members looking to get answers about their stations.

D-Star Forum (Jan. 5, 2008)

Many of our newest members have experimented with D-Star. This emerging technology has been embraced by the club through the efforts of our Repeater Committee. Kermit W9XA has continued to support our members with information about this digital mode. If you have a D-Star radio, or are interested in D-Star, please join us on Saturday, Jan. 5th for our first D-Star Forum. For more details, see the web site or the Yahoo Group Message Board.

Digital Workshop (Jan. 12, 2008)

Considering the use of CW or the digital sound card modes? Many club members will be attending the HF Digital Workshop on the 12th of January, 2008. By using these modes your chances of making contacts is much improved. An S3 signal on PSK31 is easily Q5. Watch for the digital contests too, like the RTTY Round-Up on the 5th and 6th of January. Need practice? Join in the FRRL Digital Net on Thursday nights! John AG9D is the net control and does an excellent job of moving from one digital mode to the next. It's a great deal of fun hearing the squawks and squeaks being decoded into text and pictures.

Transmitter Hunt (Jan. 19, 2008)

During the last club meeting, I asked those who attended if they would like to participate in a hidden transmitter hunt. This event is scheduled for the 19th of January, 2008. Weather permitting, we will meet at the Prisco Community Center in Aurora at 9am. You will receive instructions as to how the event will be run. The "fox" will be on 2 meters. You will need some sort of direction finding equipment. It could be as simple as a small beam, an HT with an aluminum tube attenuator, or perhaps an in-line attenuator for your vehicle mounted radio. You will also need to be able to monitor either the VHF or the UHF repeaters for logistical information during the hunt. This is a "driving" event, so working in teams is highly recommended.

Winter Banquet (Jan. 26, 2008)

The month of January is also the time for our club's Winter Banquet. Our newly elected officers will be recognized as well as several club awards will be presented. The results of the HF Challenge will be announced by Joe NA9A, and awards will be pre-

(Continued on page 3)

**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 November 13, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:36 PM by Greg Braun, N9CHA – President with 50 members present.

Question of the month: Would you like to participate in a driving hidden transmitter hunt in January? (36 Yes/ 14 No) Minutes of the previous meeting were available for review. Treasures Report: Total Balance: \$23,800

Committee Reports

Newsletter: Bill mentioned that if you send in articles and such, he will confirm reception within 48 hours, if you don't get that confirming e-mail he probably did not receive what you sent due to spam filters and such.

Webmaster: Tom indicated that updates are being made and asked committee chairpersons to get some updated info to him regarding their events after the event takes place in addition to the photo.

VE: Next session is November 20th – Prisco Center basement, 7:30PM

Database: Get your dues in by the January meeting. Reminder cards will be sent to those not paying by then.

Nominating Committee: John, AG9D Chairman, presented the committees slate of candidates for the December election: President – N9CHA; VP- W9HI & KC9DAO; Treasurer- W9OKI; Secretary-W9WRS. Directors: KC9DAO, KC9FQA, W9DWP, KC9IEQ, AB9OU, N9WCX. A call was made for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, a motion was requested to accept the slate as presented. A motion was made by Kermit, W9XA to accept the slate, seconded by Dean, KC9EOQ – no objections, motion passed.

Education: Classes are being planned for 2008.

Nets: Always looking for more net control operators, those interested should see Adam, KC9ITG.

Membership: Mike, K9FBI has stepped down as Membership Chairman. Looking for a new person for this position, if interested, contact Greg, N9CHA.

Repeater: Both controllers are running. The DVR, temperature sensors and new courtesy tones are functioning. Experiments with Echolink, Newslite, etc are planned for the future.

Program: Questions From the Members – Dick will answer questions submitted from the membership during the meeting.

PR: Catherine, KC9KJU was announced as the new PR Chairperson. She is working on providing more information to the ARRL Section Manager as well as developing contacts at the local papers.

Banquet: Tickets on sale now, see Dick, AH6EZ to get yours.

Field Day: The results are in: **W9NE placed 2nd in the Nation** in Class 8A Congratulations to all!

W9BHB: John & Greg announced that the Boulder Hill Elementary School asked them to continue with the school radio club for 2007/08. The club was formed mainly to await their ISS contact. Due to the interest from students, the school decided to continue the program.

(Continued on page 3)

President's Letter

(Continued from page 1)

sented. The banquet provides us with a wonderful opportunity to socialize and share in good fellowship. The menu looks great! Plus, we get the opportunity to tour the "Roundhouse" facilities by one of our own, Mike KC9JBX.

Please join us for the December "holiday" meeting. This annual event is a lot of fun. Prizes are given out by our Raffle Chairman, Jack K9JE. If you can, bring a special treat for all to enjoy. The business meeting will have an abbreviated agenda. The annual club elections will be our primary focus. While votes are being tallied, upcoming club events and a photo review of 2007 will be presented. The "Ham of the Year" election is also going to be held during the December meeting. You will be asked to vote for the member you feel is deserving of this prestigious award. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

73, Greg N9CHA
FRRL President, 2007

Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 2)

KCOEM: Repeater has been relocated to Burlington and Empire Roads in Campton Hills, the antenna is at 190 feet.

UHF = 40 watts out; 444.525+ 114.8PL – Packet Node is 5 watts currently, planned for 50 watts eventually on 145.61 KC9OEM-3 (PBBS) KC9OEM-7 (KA) KC9OEM-10 (TelPac)

New Business

- **Looking for someone to take over the refreshments from Denny.**
- **Oswego Park District is planning a race April 12th and has requested ham radio assistance. Need a chairperson and roughly 12 operators.**
- **Digital Workshop technical portion, building interfaces January 12th at Oswego High School. We need to know the type of rig in order to get the cables and kits, see Mike-K9FE for more info.**
- **Transmitter Hunt January 19th**
- **Anyone with a 10gig hard drive they don't need, see Dave N9XU**
- **Adam, KC9ITG – Thanks to all who came out and helped him get his HF antenna up.**
- **Marty – WCRA Winter Hamfest January 27th**

With no further business a motion to adjourn was made by Marty, N9NTM – Seconded by Mike, K9FE – approved. Raffle & Program to follow break.

Respectfully Submitted:

John Spasojevich, K9COE – FRRL Secretary



Bill Erickson HF Challenge Scores— November, 2007

Here are the current standings for the 2007 HF Challenge as of November 15.

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	-	-	75
K9FE	-	-	57
N9YA	-	-	31
K9IH	-	-	31
AH6EZ	-	-	12
NA9A	-	-	10
KC9FQV	-	-	9
KC9CHG	-	-	7
KC9EOQ	-	-	5
WB9CHY	-	-	3

Operator Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	50/10	124	184
N9CV	50/11	103	164
K9FE	48/12	68	128
K9IH	49/8	53	110
N9YA	50/10	48	108
K9TCD	46/5	49	100
KC9EOQ	42/7	43	92
KC9FQV	39/3	15	57
WB9CHY	22/1	6	29
KB9YSI / NF9D	15/3	7	25
KC9ITG	9/3	12	25
KC9CHG	19/0	0	19

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ— PSK	50/10	114	174

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
NA9A	50/8	202	260
AH6EX/W9	49/12	141	202
N4LZ (W4CEQ)	48/10	112	170

December Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The December FRRL Program will include our annual Holiday Party, along with annual elections, good food, etc. etc.

Please remember to bring a canned goods food donation for Hessed House.

New Members

By Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

Here is a list of new members that have joined since the last newsletter. Please extend a friendly welcome to all of these hams when you hear them on the air or see them at a club meeting.

Call	Name	License Class
KC9LWX	Tamie Holste	Technician
KB9IEE	Richard Syphers	Technician
K9WIC	John Zeitlow	Advanced

2007 Bill Erickson HF Challenge Draws to a Close!

By John Spasojevich, AG9D

I can't believe that 2007 is almost over — where did the year go? It was one to remember with the influx of new General Class hams and many taking the additional step to Extra Class. Hopefully you found the experience of working the FRRL Challenge an enjoyable and rewarding one.

This is the last update for 2007. Please remember the event runs to December 31st. You need to tally your score sheets and get those to the "Challenge Administrator" which is Joe-NA9A (not me) by January 15th; the final scores will be announced at the Banquet.

While you are doing that, remember that the 2008 Challenge starts January 1st. Whatever your goals are - to win the class, to make one more contact than you did the year before, to race against your friend – we hope you will join in the Challenge again.

Finally from the field, Maurice sends: "I did get some good ones: 1A3A, 3B7C, 4X0V, 9H3YM, C50C, and CC0Y. I need nine more to break my highest total of 178."

What a better challenge than to challenge one's self!

John
AG9D

The scores are on page 4.

Annual FRRL Elections—Nominees and Voting

By John Spasojevich, AG9D

At our General Membership meeting held Tuesday, November 13th, the following slate of candidates for elected office was formally approved by the membership:

Candidates for Officer Positions:

President - Greg Braun, N9CHA
Vice President - Charles Penninger, KC9DAO; Denny Barfuss, W9HI
Treasurer - Larry Shaw, W9OKI
Secretary - Bill Stamps, W9WRS

You will be asked to vote for *one* individual for each position. You will also have the ability to write your vote for a member in good standing (membership paid, ham license current/valid, joined FRRL October 2007 or before).

Candidates for Director Positions:

Charles Penninger, KC9DAO
Len "Bart" Bartkowiak, KC9FQA
Paul Dumdie, W9DWP
Chris Farley, KC9IEQ
Joe Machan, AB9OU
Ken Nelson, N9WCX

You will be asked to vote for *two* of these candidates, one for each of the two open director positions. Again, you will have the opportunity to write in one or two names of your choice who meet the criteria noted above for officer write ins.

If you are NOT going to attend the December meeting and would like to cast your ballot, you may do so according to our by-laws in Section 7 Article 3: Prepare your ballot in ink, list the name of the officer and the name of the person or call of the person you are voting for in that position. Enclose the ballot in an envelope, seal it and sign your first and last name in ink. Get the envelope to ANY OFFICER, the by laws are specific in that the envelope be delivered to an officer, not director so that would be John-AG9D or Larry-W9OKI or Greg-N9CHA. Absentee ballots not properly delivered or marked will be considered null and void by the Nominating Committee, whose responsibility it is to tally the results. If you are voting absentee, please vote for Charles Penninger, KC9DAO only once, either for VP or Director as he can not hold two offices simultaneously.



Ham of the Year Criteria

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

The FRRL's "Ham of the Year Award" is given to an individual who has done an outstanding job of promoting and/or serving the Amateur Radio Service during the current year. This award is voted by secret written ballot of the FRRL membership during its December meeting. The recipient is announced at the annual FRRL Winter Banquet.

This year I have developed a short list of criteria which may assist you in your choice. This criteria is as follows:

1. The recipient must be a member of the Fox River Radio League, January through December of the current year, and hold a valid Amateur Radio License during that time.
2. The recipient must have made a valuable contribution to the club (FRRL) by participating in or organizing a club event during the current year.
3. The recipient must have developed, promoted or have executed an activity that enhances the Amateur Radio Service, specifically not an FRRL event. This activity must demonstrate good Amateur Practices and Procedures, contributed to the betterment of the hobby, advanced the knowledge or use of a particular mode or operating skill during the current year.
4. The recipient cannot be the current year President of the FRRL.

During the December meeting, I will present those members who I feel meet these criteria. If you have someone in mind that you feel best represents these criteria, please contact me at President@frri.org.

73, Greg Braun N9CHA
FRRL President, 2007

FRRL Presents a D-Star Forum Jan. 5, 2008

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

Do you currently own a D-Star radio and want to find out how it works? Or, are you interested in D-Star but have not got enough information to decide if you want to purchase this new technology? Answers to those questions are more will be presented by the FRRL on the 5th of January, 2008. Kermit W9XA will have a live demonstration area set up with radios and antennas.

The meeting place is Papa G's Restaurant located on Hwy. 47 in downtown Elburn, IL. We will meet at 8:30 am for registration and breakfast. The meeting will start at 9:00 am. Topics will include: The D-Star system and how it works, including the FRRL repeaters and gateway. The forum will present several of the Icom products, including the ID-1, IC-91AD, ID-800H, and IC-2820. Gateway and digital text messaging and file transfer techniques will be demonstrated. Please check the web site for more details.

Banquet Set for January 26, 2008

The 2008 FRRL Banquet will be January 26, 2008, at the Walter Peyton Roundhouse in Aurora. Save the date. There is room for 100 of us. The evening will include a personalized tour of the brewery by the Brewmaster, KC9JBX, Michael Rybinski.

Verbal reservations can be made at the October meeting or email to Dick Illman at ah6ez at comcast dot net. Payments can be made at the December, and January meetings as well as checks to FRRL sent by mail to Dick Illman 42W423 Audubon Ct. St. Charles, IL 60175. The cost is less than last year. \$37 for Prime Rib, \$31 for Chicken, and \$28 for Vegetarian. There will be a cash bar.

Solar Flux

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

This issue of the ArcOver is the last one for 2007, so I thought I would grab a few inches of empty space to say thanks to a few people and to take care of a bit of housekeeping.

First, the housekeeping. During the past year there have been some issues with members sending me information to include in the newsletter which I do not receive, or perhaps lose track of. Part of the problem is the level of spam I receive here. I have several email address that have been in existence since the early 90s and which I need to keep active. That means I get vast amounts of spam and my filter settings are pretty aggressive. I try to review the junk mail folders, but there is way too much crud for a casual review to be effective.

In order to deal with this problem, I am now responding to every content submission or ArcOver related email that I get. That means that if you do not get a confirmation that I have received your email within about 48 hours, please contact me by phone or repeater and follow up. I hope that this process will avoid any confusion and loss of content.

I do have several articles in the hopper that are not particularly time sensitive and that I'm holding for future issues. If you have questions about something you've sent me in the past couple of months, let me know and I'll fill you in on my publication plans. (The Leadership Roundtable summaries will continue in the next issue.)

Finally, I'd like to say thanks to everyone who contributed articles, offered suggestions, or otherwise helped out over the past year. This newsletter is a team effort, and it works because officers, directors, committee chairs and members all contribute. It's a cliché, but it's also true: I couldn't have done it without your help.

Thanks again, and best wishes for a marvelous holiday season (and new gear under the tree).

Bill
NF9D
ArcOver Editor

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 January 15, 2008, 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. Members can help support the FRRL Repeaters by making an annual \$10.00 donation.

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

Greg Braun, N9CHA

Vice President

Denny Barfuss, W9HI

Secretary

John Spasojevich, AG9D

Treasurer

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

Directors:

Mike Bentley, K9FBI

Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Charles Penninger,
KC9DAO

Past President

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

Newsletter Editor

Bill Muhr, NF9D
newsletter@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

December, 2007

FRRL Board Meeting 4
 FRRL Meeting..... 11
 Christmas 25

January, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting 2
 D-Star Forum 5
 FRRL Meeting..... 8
 Digital Workshop..... 12
 VE Testing 15
 Transmitter Hunt 19
 FRRL Banquet 26
 Hamfest 27

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/

ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

Copyright 2007, FRRL

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.

Prior permission is required to republish original ArcOver material.

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

W9CEQ_B D-Star—442.10625 Mhz (-5.0 Mhz offset)
W9CEQ_C D-Star—145.270 Mhz (-0.600 Mhz offset)
 FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeaters
 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

- Weekly ARES Net—Mon. Eve. at 9:00 pm local time on the W9DWP repeaters
- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Kane County OEM Skywarn Net— Wed. Eve. at 7:00 pm on the KC9OEM repeater.