



Arc Over

Fox River Radio League
PO Box 673
Batavia, IL
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January, 2005

FRRL Election Results *by Bill Muhr, KB9YSI*

The annual election of Fox River Radio League Officers and Board Members was held at the December, 2004, meeting. Here are the results:

President: Dick Illman, AH6EZ
Vice-President: Kermit Carlson, W9XZ
Secretary: John Spasojevich, K9COE
Treasurer: Larry Shaw, W9OKI
Directors (2): Denny Barfuss, W9HI
Greg Braun, N9CHA

The new Officers and Board Members will be installed at the annual banquet on January 29, 2005.

Thanks to the nominating committee and all of the candidates who ran for office. Based on the candidates' remarks prior to the voting, there are a lot of great ideas floating around, and 2005 should be a really exciting year.

Also see the additional election story on page 4.

Banquet News

The Annual FRRL Winter Banquet and Installation of Officers will take place on Saturday, January 29, 2005, at Ralph's Place on Kennedy road in Bristol, IL. Cocktail hour is 6 pm with dinner at 7 pm. All of the tickets have been sold, so if you don't have a ticket, you are out of luck. No Walk-ins will be allowed this year because of the seating.

Rumor has it that the entertainment will consist of games, door prizes, fellowship, good cheer, excellent food, and perhaps a drink or two. The Entertainment Chairman has established a firm rule that none of the incoming or outgoing officers and board members will be allowed to sing.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge by Mike Urso, K9FE

HF Challenge Year-End Scores:

Final scores are in, but I lost Joe NA9A's last update. Inadvertently I was working late, too late, at night, and I had a major oops. It gave him more of a lead than he already had. Well actually Dick, AH6EZ, kept even as he turned in some more countries. As of now the QRO class is being led by Joe NA9A with a point count of 292. Very close to that magic 300 number. Not bad for the declining part of the cycle. QRO has 7 entries so far. That amounts to a lot of RF in the air.

In Operator, John K9COE, keeps turning in more and more. Try as he might, he still is pretty far away from Keith N9YA and Jack K9JE. Jack has a score of 199. He will probably hit the 200 mark, just not as of yet. Keith N9YA has a score of 175 and counting. Jack cannot rest on his laurels. We have all seen Keith in action. John K9COE is trying hard with a score of 153. The Operator class has a nice showing with 11 entries.

In the Limited class we have had little movement, but Gary K9MMS has been know to be a sleeper. The Limited class has only 4 entries, but Dick, AH6EZ is currently 2 of them. His entries are from his vacation trip in Europe running QRP from 2 different countries. Gary has a score of 149, with M/AH6EZ with a score of 31. MM/AH6EZ currently has a score of 11. Lawrence KB9YYX has a score of 7.

I want to thank all those who competed this year in the challenge. Bill, WA9TPQ (SK), would be proud of all your contacts. The challenge is a great way to keep active and have a great time with friendly competition. Bill lived his life making contacts and competing. This next year keep going strong and make that one extra contact for Bill.

The standings below are accurate to what has been reported (except for NA9A...sorry Joe), however we have to remember the sleepers and surprises that could occur in the last week. So when you get this it may be in error.

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.

Good Hunting!
73 de K9FE Mike Urso

[See Page 5 for the Scores](#)

FRRL Elections Results at the December Meeting

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

As the head of the Nominating committee, I want to thank all of the candidates who offered their candidacy and presented their ambitions at the December meeting. As the new President-Elect of the FRRL, I have been getting lots of suggestions, keep them coming. After all, the FRRL is YOUR club.

We welcome Kermit, W9XA back to a leadership position in the FRRL as Vice-President. We thank Zack, KC9CLR for his services as Secretary and welcome John K9COE as the new Secretary. Larry W9OKI will continue as Treasurer but will be relieved of many of the membership activities by Mike, K9FE who will be reactivating and reenergizing the Membership Committee. Both Greg N9CHA and Denny W9HI are new Directors. We look forward to their new perspectives and support. I am sure we are all looking forward to a wonderful year of 2005.

Share the Excitement!

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ & the group

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?

AH6EZ, Dick got a WINRADIO .1-180 MHz PC controlled receiver and spectrum analyzer for Christmas that he hopes to be able to use for BPL noise floor and peak signal characterization at his station and other FRRL members as well as other BPL sites.

Bill, KB9YSI, has been furiously chasing after more states for the HF Challenge. Unfortunately, he has been unable to work Iowa. He is now claiming that there are no radio amateurs located in Iowa and that the state should be eliminated from consideration as part of the challenge. The Challenge Judges have rejected his argument, but he is reportedly considering appealing to the FCC. Bill figures he stands a good chance of winning, since the FCC seems to believe there is no interference from BPL, they might buy the "no hams in Iowa" argument too.

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.

January Program Notes

by Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The December meeting was filled with Holiday Cheer and the mysterious but entertaining Christmas presentation by K9LU. Thanks, Lou!

The January program will contain a contest of guessing the resonant frequency of an antenna with some built-in surprises. First prize \$10, second prize \$5. I will have an MFJ antenna analyzer that will be projected up on the wall for you to see and learn about. I will also have a Palomar noise bridge and an old Heathkit grid dip oscillator. Given the available time, I will show as many possible different measurements and techniques that I can and explain why they are important or useful.

Contest Calendar for January

Here are *some* of the contests coming up this month:

ARRL RTTY Roundup - 1800Z Jan 8 - 2400Z Jan 9, operate for 24 hours max. with no more than two off periods. Frequencies: 80 -- 10 meters. Categories: SO-LP, SO-HP, MS-LP, MS-HP, 10-minute band-change rule for MS. Exchange: RST + state/province/serial number. QSO Points: 1 pt/QSO. Score: QSO points x States + Provinces + DXCC entities counted only once (KH6, KL7 count as DXCC only). For more information - <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms>. Logs due Feb 8 to rttyru@arrl.org (Cabrillo format only) or RTTY Round-Up, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

North American QSO Party - CW, sponsored by the National Contest Journal from 1800Z Jan 8 - 0600Z Jan 9. Frequencies: 160 - 10-meters. Categories: SOAB and M2, 100 W power limit, operate a maximum of 10 hours (off times must be at least 30 min and M2 entries may operate the entire contest). Exchange: Name and S/P/C. Score: QSOs X States + Province + NA DXCC countries (count each once per band). For information: <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqprules.php>. Logs due Jan 23 via the Web form at <http://www.ncjweb.com/naqplogsubmit.php>, via email to cwnaqp@ncjweb.com (there is a Web-to-Cabrillo converter link on the rules page) or Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, 4225 Farmdale Avenue, Studio City, CA 91604. The same mailing address will be used for both modes of this contest.

North American QSO Party - SSB, sponsored by the National Contest Journal from 1800Z Jan 15 - 0600Z Jan 16. (See above)

ARRL VHF Sweepstakes - begins 1900 UTC Saturday, January 26. Ends 0400 UTC Monday January 26. See official rules on the web or the announcement in QST.

Contests are a great way to build scores for the HF Challenge, evaluate your station and your operating skills, build your CW speed, or just have a good time for a few minutes. You don't have to be a fanatic or have a world-class station to operate in contests — just get on the air and pass out a few Q's or hunt for new states/DX and work them. Contests are a great opportunity to try new modes or different operating styles. There is always someone on the air for you to contact.

You can find the ARRL contest page on the web at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/>. There is a contest calendar listing all of the contests for coming week on the web at <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/>.

CW Tutoring Project On The Air

by N9CHA & K9COE

Starting Wednesday, January 12th, 2005 the FRRL is providing an "On Air" CW Morse Code Tutor Project. Every Wednesday night for 9 consecutive weeks a check-in net beginning at 7:30 pm will be heard on the Fox 2 meter repeater (147.210). A special "CW" courtesy tone will indicate the net is in progress.

No-code Technician Class Operators are encouraged to check in to the net. Each week, 5 new Morse Code characters will be introduced. The format will be interactive. Code practice audio files are available on the club web site, <http://www.frrl.org/CWtutor/index.html> The final session, Week 9, will include pro-signs and a sample QSO for practice.

Erickson HF Challenge Standings as of 12/15/04

Ragchew Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	-	-	78
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	91	153
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

ORO Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
NA9A	40/10	242	292
AH6EZ	50/13	194	257
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

Solar Flux

by Bill Muhr, KB9YSI

Wow! It's 2005 already! Where did the time go?

Let's start off the New Year with the kind of announcement that all hams enjoy— news about a Hamfest. The Wheaton Hamfest will take place on Sunday, January 23, from 8 AM to 1 PM at the Pheasant Run MegaCenter on Route 64 in St. Charles. VE testing will be available, along with the usual hamfest menu of vendors, prizes, flea market sales, etc. For more info call 630 604-0157. Talk-In will be available on 145.390 Mhz. Tickets are \$6.00 in advance or \$8.00 at the door. See the Hamfest website at <http://www.wheatonhamfest.org/> for info.

Now for a bit of news about the newsletter. As you can see, the format this month is a “no-column” design. Comments I've received from the membership indicate that this format is the preferred one for online reading. You “hard-copy” folks seem to prefer columns, but I just don't have the time to prepare two separate formats every month. So, the web-style format has taken over the ArcOver, just like it is taking over everything else.

One of the advantages of the single column format is that more of our links to websites will be “clickable”. At least they will if I can remember to run the little utility command that makes them hot. If a link does not work for you it is probably my error, rather than your machine. When in doubt, call me, or send me an email and I'll admit that I messed up.

By now most of us have renewed our FRRL membership for 2005. If you have not, please remember to do so. Also, please remember to notify Mike, K9FE if you have changed your email or mailing addresses. Without that vital information on file, we will not be able to contact you or send you your ArcOver.

Most of the newspapers, magazines, and online material I have been reading this past week mention New Years' Resolutions. Amateur radio publications seem to be pretty unanimous in suggesting the following resolutions for hams — improve your station, improve your operating skills, and contribute to the hobby in some positive way.

These are great ideas, and if you think about it, things that have happened during the past year seem to relate strongly to each of them. The decline in propagation certainly should remind us of the need to improve our stations, either by adding/improving antennas or working to make the best use of what we have available to us right now. The current disaster in East Asia and the recent weather problems here at home should remind us of the need to both improve our stations and our skills so that we can function effectively in emergencies. Finally, the BPL situation reminds us of the need to contribute to the hobby both financially and by being active and involved.

These are worthy resolutions, and I'm going to put them on my list for 2005. I'm also going to add a couple of personal resolutions to the list. I'm putting them here so you all can nag me about them and prod me to finish them up by year end.

1. Build something, like an antenna or a simple electronic project (or both).
2. Participate in more FRRL activities than I did last year.
3. Get on the air more often.
4. Get at least one other person interested in Amateur Radio.

OK, there they are — let the nagging commence!

Finally, thanks are due to everyone who contributed to the ArcOver this year. We had an outstanding collection of articles, photos, news and tidbits that were contributed by the membership and each one helped to make this a better and more interesting publication. Thanks to each of you.

Finally — to each of you, best wishes for a wonderful 2005. See you at the banquet!

73,
Bill, KB9YSI, & Kim, KC9EIF

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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Note: Officer positions for 2005 will be updated after the Installation Banquet, and will appear in the February Issue.

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>

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

FRRL Event Calendar

January, 2005

FRRL Board Meeting 4
FRRL Meeting **11**
 VE Testing 18
 Wheaton Hamfest 23

February, 2005

FRRL Board Meeting 1
FRRL Meeting **8**

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

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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 New Year 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.