



Arc Over

April, 2010

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

President's Traffic

By John Spasojevich AG9D

Spring has finally come! Being that this is the Chicago area it may be premature to say that but in ham radio terms it has come. I know I am starting to think about some much needed antenna repairs along with our Club activities. Spring is a time of renewal, growth and yes, change. All of our monthly meetings will now take place at our new location, St. Rita of Cascia at 750 Old Indian Trail Road in Aurora, IL. The monthly membership meeting will happen in the lower level of the church building while the monthly board and bi-monthly (on odd numbered months) VE Testing will happen in the Church Community Building which is in the same complex but a couple buildings to the west. We will do our best to have some signage up to help direct you.

I've been a member for about 8 years and have spent some time studying our meetings. We have three major sections: Business Meeting, Break (aka Social Time) and Program. I really want to have these sections balanced out. An hour and a half business meeting is too much (boring) and 10 minutes of social time is not enough. We all like the program how it is so we are good there at least. My plan is to shorten the business meeting in order to lengthen the social time. The only way to shorten the business meeting is to reduce the number of committee and allied groups which speak at each meeting. Do we really need the Cougars Committee to report in January? Probably not. Do we need a VE report in even numbered months? Absolutely. We have twenty three committees and allied groups. Giving each one three minutes (some take longer, others less) results in a sixty-nine minute committee section, so you see the need for us to try something different. I have asked the committee chairs to be available as much as possible prior to the meeting and during the break so that any members with specific questions can have them answered. We hope to have a rolling slide presentation replacing our static slide display before the meeting which will announce upcoming events and who is the chair of which committee to make it as easy for you as possible to locate the person you need to talk with. I will be discussing with the chairmen about a week prior to the meeting their needs to make sure they get on the agenda. Those not on the agenda as well as members will always have time during new business to make announcements and ask questions as we have always done. There will be a three minute limit per person on new business just like any other public meeting so please be as concise as possible. Additionally, as has been the case for many years, anyone can bring any materials, displays, and the like to set up on tables. The only stipulation is that the tables not be moved. Thank you for your cooperation during our transition.

Thank you and Congratulations to Dawn, KC9LQS who will be our new Net Coordinator. She is taking over for Adam, KC9ITG who has served the club exceptionally well for several years in that position. It's not an easy job and we hope to see Adam continue helping out in other areas as his time allows. Dawn bounced an idea off me a couple weeks ago, a CW Buddy plan, it sounds like an interesting idea, something we have not done in the past, at least the recent past. I am not much of a CW person, in fact I admit I jammed it into my head for the test and quickly forgot it. Just because I'm not interested in something personally doesn't mean I'm against it, though so you may just find me out there trying to hammer out some sort of CQ, miracles do happen!

Our traditional Club activities will be kicking off on May 2nd with the MS Walk. Several members have had multiple sclerosis affect them in very personal and profound ways. In fact many of us who use the 2 meter

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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 Rasmussen College, Aurora, IL**

Meeting Minutes March 9, 2010.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by John Spasojevich – President with 55 members, 4 new visitors present.

- **Secretary Report:** Bill W9WRS– meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over. Motion to accept Mike K9FE, 2nd by Bill NF9D. Minutes accepted.
- **Treasurers Report:** KC9EOQ
 - Checking: \$ 3158.51
 - Savings: \$ 5266.48
 - Petty cash: \$77.00
 - Total Investments \$16,773.55
 - Total Assets: \$25,275.54
 - Repeater fund: \$4332.20
- John AG9D read thank you letter from the family of Howard Milligan WD9HQT and the American Diabetes association for the donation on his behalf.
- John AG9D announced David Le Cure N9GCF is became Silent Key.
- John AG9D announced that the following are open positions: Emergency Coordinator, Canoe Race Chairperson, Scarecrow festival Chairperson. If anyone is interested, contact any board member.

Committee Reports

Hamfest: Dean KC9EOQ –Our Hamfest is July 11, 2010. Next area Hamfest is Sandwich, IL May 2, 2010. Rosters are available tonight.

Database: Chris KC9BKS –170 members, 154 renewal, 16 new.

Linux SIG: Mike K9FE. Next meeting is March 13, 2010, 9:00 – 12:00 – Rasmussen.

Software Defined Radio SIG: Harry K9DXA. Next meeting is April 3, 2010, 9:00 – 12:00, at Rasmussen College.

Repeaters: Dick AH6EZ – Coverage is better since the move to the new Nova site.

VE Session: Next session March 16, 2010.

Yahoo Groups: Bill NF9D – Join and use it for questions.

Net Control: Adam KC9ITG – Needs net ops for 2010.

Website: Greg N9CHA is the new webmaster.

Field Day: Eric AB9OS – Will be on the 4th weekend in June, 2010 at the F. O. P. Lodge in Sugar Grove.

Raffle: Chris KC9IEQ – Buy tickets.

Education: Eric AB9OS – Tech and General classes are scheduled for 2010.

Program: 160 meter antennas.

Scout Activities: K9DXA – May 15 at Cantigny, we will have sideband, CW, maybe an ARISS contact. He is now a counselor for Signaling Merit Badges. This Saturday he and Mike will start the cw merit badge training.

Member Announcements

Dick W9GIG described the trials and tribulations of the ARRL website redesign.

John AG9D – Michelle KC9HDB will chair the MS Walk and needs volunteers for Sunday May 2, 2010.

Eric AB9OS – the last Tech class will be this Saturday 9 AM – noon at Rasmussen College. Field day will be the last weekend in June at the FOP Lodge.

Cyd N9CV – general announcements about the Kane County ARES.

New Business

Joe NA9A announced the 2009 HF challenge winners and the Correction that Dick AH6RZ had won it , not him as previously announced.

The April 6, 2010 Board meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The April 13, 2010 General meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora,

The May 4, 2010 meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

The May 11, 2010 General meeting will be at St. Rita of Cascia in Aurora, IL.

Motion to adjourn by Mike K9FE , 2nd by Harry K9DXA

General meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps W9WRS
FRRL Secretary

April Program Notes

W9RFI will be showing how to identify power line and other man made RF noise sources and how to get rid of them.

New Members

Welcome to the Following New Members:

CALL	NAME
KB9KP	Bruce Bade
No call	Jack Hallett
N9AWQ	John Lozar

President's Traffic (Continued from page 1)

repeater know Bob, WB9FEA and his booming audio, he is afflicted with MS. This is a very worthwhile activity and we are very effective communicators for the organizers providing safety and logistical support for the thousands of walkers on the route. You also get a T-Shirt and free lunch in return for your help. Who says there is no free lunch anymore! We need about 10 more operators, more would be nice, there will be a sign up sheet at the meeting or contact Michelle, KC9HDB directly at MSWalk@frri.org

I had the pleasure to attend the March VE testing session, four students who made it through the technician class were present and three earned their technician licenses. An additional three attendees also received licenses, two technicians and one general. Congratulations to the newest members of our family.

Looking farther down the line, Field Day of course is coming in June. Eric, AB9OS our Field Day Chairman passed out some questionnaires at the March meeting, planning is beginning so please contact him if you are interested in helping. The Saturday evening meal has traditionally been a "picnic" of sorts. This year we are reducing the food portion as a cost reduction. Field Day is a fun time, but it's really more about radio than food so when the event is over we will look at our finances and if we can, we will have a club picnic later in the year, maybe in the late August time frame. More on that will follow. Everyone is welcome at Field Day but you may want to bring a snack.

Just for fun I looked up the definition of the word club. Word Reference.com has several:
A spot that is open late at night that provides entertainment. Humm...maybe
A stout stick that is larger at one end..Hummm...might need one for self defense.
A suit of playing card....Hummmmm.....sorry wrong group!
A formal association of people with similar interests...Hummm....getting closer
Unite with a common purpose....THAT'S IT!

Unite with a common purpose. We always are proud of the fact that there is "something for everyone" in our hobby and service. When we get caught in the niche we can forget our common purpose. Here's hoping we are always united, always for the common purpose of advancing the hobby and service of Amateur Radio.

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-March 2010

By Eric Needles, AB9OS

First off, welcome to Dick W9IV and Jeff N9JZN who get in the mix this month. They are starting off with very good scores. Also worth noting is the close race at the top of the limited class. Larry K9ARZ and Jeff K9BQL are neck and neck and we're not even half way through the year. Another category to watch is Ragchew. Look at how much activity there is compared to this time last year! Not sure if it is conditions or just members are taking time to have longer QSO's. In fact, Joe NA9A said "I think I ticked off the DX world by having a 12 minute SSB Ragchew with Victor, E51CG, on South Cook Island."

Of note this month, Dick AH6EZ worked 67 QSO's with his DX 40! Larry K9ARZ says "pickins' on PSK have been slim" but he still managed to work his 50th state. Herb W9DTR says "some of my interesting contacts on 20 meter PSK are 5C5W Morocco, 6V7T Senegal, FK5YR New Caledonia, T77NC San Marino, VK2VFW Australia (long path),TF3IGN Iceland, C91DZ Mozambique, and Z21LS Zimbabwe."

Good work everyone. And now for the numbers...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ-Digital	50	9	100	159
K9BQL-CW	15	7	133	155
K9MMS-CW	50	9	79	138
AB9OS-CW	38	3	57	98
NF9D-QRP	5	0	32	37

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	50	9	91	150
WB9CHY	35	4	51	90
K9IH	24	6	37	67
W9IV	11	1	53	65
KC9LQS	16	2	38	56
K9TCD	40	5	3	48
KC9EOQ	33	5	4	42

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50	12	179	241
KC9DAO	30	3	82	115
K9JE	38	9	68	115
N9YA	25	4	50	79
N9JZN	13	0	59	72
NA9A	7	0	8	15

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR	22/3	12	37
AH6EZ	27/1	3	31
K9IH	6	6	12
N9YA	10/0	1	10
AB9OS	6	0	6
NA9A	4	2	6
K9JE	1	1	2

One Paragraph Story (OPS)

By Dave Bulkley K9WDB

Monday night 8:20 local time: walk into the radio room and turn everything on Ten meters sounds awfully quiet tonight. Maybe this going to be a good 10-10 net tonight because the band is so quiet. I wonder were Keith (N9YA) is? 8:30, where is Joe NA9A? I don't hear anything. I wait for another 10 minutes and turn ever thing off and head back to the living room and the wife. She asks me what is wrong? I said I didn't hear anyone, maybe there is no net tonight. Fast forward one week and I am in the radio room and firing everything back up. I make sure that I have all the buttons in the right position and then I check the back of the radio and the pl259 is there but no coax. I start looking around and there is the coax hanging down the wall with the bare wire in plain sight. I dig the soldering iron out and I look at the clock, it is just about 8:30 pm. I am glad that Joe is a little long, because I got the coax back in the connector and hook up to radio before it was time for calling. I have cats that like to lie in the window sill where the radios are and must have pulled the coax out. A couple of them are close to 20 lbs.

If you have an "OPS" to share, please send it to newsletter@frrl.org

Meeting Location Change

The FRRL Board meetings and membership meetings will have a new location beginning in April. The new location is St. Rita of Cascia Church, 750 W. Old Indian Trail, Aurora, IL 60506. Access the membership meetings via Door #7. The membership meetings are in the lower level and there is an elevator. The Board meetings will be in the Augustinian Room of the Office & Community Building. The frrl.org website has a photo, map and further information on the new location.

New Resource Coming Soon!

By Dawn Williams KC9LQS

A new resource will soon be available for FRRL members who are learning – or want to learn – to use CW.

First, we're compiling a list of proficient CW operators willing to serve as Elmers. A column will be added to the Elmer list in our roster. Members who have questions or need direction will be able to contact the Elmer of their choice for guidance. If you are willing to serve as an Elmer, please email me at KC9LQS@yahoo.com with CW ELMER in the subject line.

In addition to this, we are planning a CW practice network. The best way to learn code is to use it on the air, and this can be intimidating for new operators. The network will eliminate the intimidation factor. Anyone interesting in serving as a practice partner for a new operator is encouraged to email me at the above address with CW PRACTICE in the subject line. You don't have to be an expert to participate as a partner. In fact, helping a newer operator is a good way to improve your own skills at the same time!

Once the list of partners is in place, those wanting someone to practice with can contact a partner and set up a convenient time and frequency for a practice session. The lists will be available through our numerous communications vehicles, including the website and our Yahoo Groups list, and hard copies will be available at the monthly meeting.

Call or email me if you have questions about this new resource.

Kudos

By Tobi Davis, K9TCD

We have more new hams to brag about! Tony KC9RVR, Pat N9TBD's son and Julicka KC9RQV, who is Neil KB9RFX's daughter have become hams. Our Next Gen Hams group is growing and we are thrilled to have them in our club. Besides participating in numerous Next Gen Hams activities, Julicka was one of my net pals when I hosted the Next Gen Hams net. She was always happy to talk on the radio and I knew she would one day follow in her father's footsteps by becoming a ham. Tony joined us for a couple Next Gen Ham activities, including Kid's Day. He had great fun foxhunting and using the "radiocam" that Dick AH6EZ invented. Congratulations to both of you, and we expect to hear you loud and often on the radio.

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(c)(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 Rasmussen College in Aurora, Illinois. **Beginning in April, the meeting location**

will change. See President's Traffic for details. 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 at Rasmussen College, 2363 Sequoia Drive, Aurora, IL, at 7:30 PM. A special session is held at the club's hamfest, usually in July each year. No advance registration is required, but please be sure to bring your license (if you

have one) and a photocopy of it, some form of photo identification and the fee of \$15.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

The next exam session is scheduled for May 18, 2010 Rasmussen College. A venue change is possible, please check the frrl.org website for updates.

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

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Vice President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

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FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT RASMUSSEN COLLEGE, 2363 SEQUOIA DRIVE IN AURORA, BUT LOCATION IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK THE FRRL WEB SITE FOR THE ADDRESS AND A MAP TO THE MEETING LOCATION.

<http://www.frrl.org>

Send Address Corrections to:
Fox River Radio League, Inc.
3023 Scenicwood Lane.
Woodridge, IL 60517

FRRL Event Calendar

April, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting 6
FRRL Meeting 13
SDR SIG 17

May, 2010

FRRL Board Meeting 4
FRRL Meeting 11
VE Session 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 the 20th day of each month for the next month's newsletter. Articles can be sent by email to arc-over@frri.org or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

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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—147.225 Mhz (-6.0 Mhz offset)
FRRL Digital Voice/Data Repeaters
Contact W9XA for information

KC9OEM—145.470 Mhz. -600 KHz, 103.5 access tone
KC9OEM—444.525 Mhz + 5 Mhz, 114.8 access tone
(2 meter is primary Kane Co. SKYWARN /ARES freq)
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

W9ZGP—NIARC
147.060 +600 KHz, 103.5 access tone

- Weekly ARES/Skywarn Net—Wed. Eve. at 6:30 pm local time on the KC9OEM 2 meter repeater
- Weekly FRRL Net—Tues. Eve. at 7:30 pm local time on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Monthly Simplex Net—4th Tues following weekly FRRL Net on the FRRL 2 Meter repeater.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.