



Arc Over

July, 2009

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

President's Traffic

By Mike Urso, K9FE

"We are 8A IL, India Lima QSL?" If you missed field day you missed a lot of activity, operating, food, rag-chewing with fellow hams, a good bit of work, and surprisingly not too many mosquitoes. I will admit that even with the drawbacks, this is one of the best if not the best field day events I have attended or participated in. It all started out, no not Friday, but very early January! Eric, AB9OS, took the responsibility of organizing field day 2009. A tremendous amount of plans were drawn up and many implemented to utilize a site that the FRRL had not been to in many years. Antennas were drawn in, then oriented again to try and optimize our effectiveness in radio communication. Meetings were held, equipment purchased, and the plan became reality. There were record numbers of help showing up Friday to help setup antennas and shelters. There were record numbers of Q's logged in our field day logs. And there were record numbers of help that were around to take down after field day. Along the way there were some new friendships made, a lot of experience shared, and a 'this is my radio family' attitude in every task. I am going to leave the details to Eric, AB9OS, for his field day report however. Kudos to all who assisted in being part of the obvious 'FRRL Radio Family'.

The next event we have on July 12 is **HAMFEST**. The FRRL is celebrating it's 80th year of continuous hamfests. Like many FRRL events we need your help. Setup on Saturday is essential, parking control is essential, ticket sales are essential, being the best ambassador for the FRRL is essential, and tear-down on Sunday afternoon is also essential. I know everyone has a lot on their plate, but be part of the family and pick a task. If you are a VE I know Doug, W9RD, needs you for our very successful VE program and testing. So come to the fest to support the club but please don't leave until after we tear down after the fest. It is so much easier to tear down with 20 or 30 members than 5. We get done faster and we go home and maybe get to play with that radio trinket we could not resist. By the way, this year the boosters club from Aurora Central Catholic High School is doing the concessions. So come and enjoy what they have to offer and help out their cause also.

On July 24th we have Cougar baseball night complete with a post game fireworks show. The FRRL has made an annual outing to watch a ballgame for some years now. We always have a great time. This is a family event. Tickets are \$11 each and are located behind home plate on the stands just below the announcers booth. While there, try out their food offerings. The corn on the cob is sweet, tasty and goes great with a burger, a dog, or the legendary grilled pork chop sandwich. This is one event that radio really takes a backseat to just plain enjoyment of friends and baseball. Even without the baseball I would still do it! Hope to see you at an upcoming event!

**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 June 9, 2009.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Mike Urso K9FE – President with 61 members present.

Question: Do you normally call CQ or hunt and pounce?

Secretary Report: Bill W9WRS – meeting minutes available on Web and Arc Over.

Treasurers Report: Dean KC9EOQ - Total Assets: \$24,023.15 (Cash/Savings = \$7249.60 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,773.55)

Committee Reports

Hamfest: Dean KC9EOQ – July 12, 2009. Aurora Central Catholic High School has been reserved, There was no increase in price, several vendors have verbally confirmed, setup will be 5 to 8 PM on Saturday, July 11, 2009.

Membership: Justin KC9NYY – Currently 176 members.

Newsletter: Tobi K9TCD – There are printed copies available on the front table. We need articles for the Arc Over. Tobi will help rewrite if desired. The deadline for submissions for the Arc Over is the 20th of each month.

Yahoo Group: Bill NF9D – Everything is going smoothly. All members are welcome to join if they have not done so already.

Software Defined Radio SIG: Harry K9DXA – 6 people attended the group on Tuesday, May 26. Next SIG will be on Tuesday evening, 6/23/2009, 7 PM.

Repeater Committee: Dick AH6EZ – UHF is having desense issues, it is at new site, IRLP is up but Echolink is not.

Public Relations: Jerry has volunteered to be the new PR person. He is mainly experienced in print level PR.

Field Day: Eric AB9OS – Field Day is June 27-28, 2009. To be held at Johnson's Mound. For further information, see the website at www.frll.org. Staff includes:

Chair – Eric AB9OS

Technical – Dick AH6EZ

There was a lot of discussion about the upcoming Field Day at this meeting.

Special Events: Bart KC9FQA – This is the current list of upcoming events:

July 12, 2009 Hamfest - Chair Dean KC9EOQ

June 28, 2009 Tour De Cure

July 24, 2009 Cougars Night – Chair Ken N9WCX

Cougars Night: Ken N9WCX – July 24, 2009. Has 30 tickets left at \$11.00 each.

Raffle: Jack K9JE

Program: Field Day Operating.

Member Announcements

Cyd N9CV – There will be an antique military vehicle tour on June 20th, 2009 through Kane County as part of a cross America tour. Amateurs are invited to pick a spot on the route and announce when the first and last vehicles pass.

Tobi K9TCD – The Canoe Race on June 7, 2009, went well.

Bill NF9D – Radio in the Park starts this weekend at Johnson's Mound.

Kermit W9XA – Central States VHF society gathering will be in September.

New Business

The club needs a new education Chairperson.

The club needs an eQSL manager. We currently have 517+ eQSL's waiting to be processed.

The July 7, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The July 14, 2009 General meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The August 4, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The August 11, 2009 General meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

Motion to adjourn by Bart KC9FQA, 2nd by Marty N9NTM.

General meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps, W9WRS, FRRL Secretary

July Program Notes

The July program will start with a ten minute D-Star update then feature a program of interest.

New Members

Welcome to the Following New Members:

CALL	NAME
KC9KRD	Alexander Jovanovich
KC9PWN	Dennis Romito

Public Service Event—Mid-American Canoe & Kayak Race

By Tobi Davis, K9TCD

On June 7 the FRRL provided radio communications for the 48th annual Mid-American Canoe & Kayak Race. Volunteers were located along the race course, which stretched from Mt. St. Mary Park in St. Charles to the Prisco Center in Aurora. Our role was basically to provide security by making sure that all boats arrived at the finish, using our radios to call in boat numbers for confirmation with the race organizers' records. After a threat of a rain delay, the first heat went off on time. Although boaters were rained on, they still had smiles on their faces.

It took a bit more logistics this year than in past years, because there were two starts, however, we had enough volunteers to make it work. Michelle and I handled the first start, Tom and Neil went down to the second start at the Batavia VFW, then later Michelle and I joined them. Eric, Aaron and Kathleen were at the Batavia portage. I never got down to see them, but they took good care of the racers. Chris, Bill and John were at the Geneva portage. I did get down to them, which was a good thing, because I had not figured out where the racers would be getting out of the river. Once I learned that the boats could go beyond the buoys, the portage site was obvious. I'm glad my volunteers were more on the ball than me! North Aurora portage was efficiently handled by Catherine, Bart and Frank. Later Neil joined them. Catherine and Bart have worked that area before, but this year they found they really needed four people. It's a bit hectic there with the Lions Club creating a pep rally. They announce boats over a PA, giving them encouragement, hand out drinks and sometimes play music. With all the commotion, it can be difficult for our club volunteers to get the boat numbers. The more people, the better, it seems.

Kent, as net control, was set up at the finish in the parking lot of the Prisco center. Keith and Mike helped out by communicating with the race officials, who were down at the water's edge. Kent used his car as his mobile command center, which worked well as in past years.

A number of volunteers took pictures, and I thank them all. It really helps so that we can show off what we do with pictures on the club website.

(Continued on page 6)

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-June 2009

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

"At last!! The bands are opening up—especially early in the morning to Asia. I think the new sun spot cycle is finally here to stay." from Joe, NA9A. He reports working Uzbekistan, Solomon Islands and Tajikistan. Jeff, K9BQL, reports working Niue Is. (ZK2V), Turkey (TA3AX), French Guiana (FY5FY), ITU Head Hq. Geneva (4U1ITU), and Yukon Terr. (VY1EI). Eric, KC9FQV, reports 2 notable contacts—KH6CW (HI on 20m at midnight! He also reports working F5TTI (France) on 30m. Another PSK'er, Herb, W9DTR, sends in, "Some contacts of interest on PSK: Sardinia, Moldova, Norway, Lithuania, Bolivia, Barbados, Belarus, Guyana and Uruguay. I also worked a retired Canadian Submarine in Ontario, Canada on SSB." A submarine! That is so cool!"

Confession: Once, doing my hunt and pounce, I heard an aeronautical mobile. Excitedly, I threw my call sign out. He came back right away, not with a signal report, but with a warning. I had "trespassed" into what he referred to as the Canadian part of 20M, below my allowed band area. I panicked, apologized to him, the Canadians, the FCC and even shut my radio off in a pang of guilt for not paying attention to where I was on the band.

As the bands open up, work the DX, but pay attention to where you are, and where you are supposed to be...

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ-PSK31	50	9	118	177
K9MMS-CW	50	10	110	170
KC9FQV-Digital	29	4	9	42

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9BQL	45	11	152	208
W9DTR	50	9	99	158
K9TCD	38	7	61	106
KC9DAO	29	4	48	81
K9IH	25	3	38	66
WB9CHY	30	3	33	66

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50	11	145	206
NA9A	19	5	151	175
N4LZ	43	5	100	148

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR			51
AH6EZ			19
KC9FQV			13
K9IH			9
NA9A	6	3	9
WB9CHY	1	0	1

A Homemade Dual Microphone Holder for the Car

By Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Late last fall, I was able to purchase an HF mobile radio for my van. With some help from Greg, N9CHA, we were able to mount the radio, a Yaesu FT-857, where I previously had a Kenwood TM-G707A mounted. I already had a Yeasu FT-8800 dual band rig mounted elsewhere in the van with one microphone holder already screw mounted to the dashboard. I didn't want to have another set of holes in the dash, so the FT-857 mic laid on the front seat, the top of the dashboard, or ended up on the floor between the seats. I wanted to be able to have both microphones hanging next to each other and not have to drill another set of holes for a second bracket. I went to several ham radio equipment websites and did not find anything.

I then began to think about how to make the type of bracket I needed. I had two matching mic holders, now how to get them mounted? My first thoughts were to use stainless steel strapping, you know, the kind with the holes along the whole length. I figured I could bend it to the shape I needed. I did look at the brass strapping but it was not sturdy enough for what I wanted. My first stop was the local hardware store. When I described what I wanted to the 'helpful hardware man', he took me to the place where there was a large assortment of door hinges, gate hinges, and L-brackets for joining wood. There were several different lengths of strapping, but when I compared the placement of the holes to the bracket I brought with me they didn't line up very well. I also began to re-think the aesthetics of the strapping. I decided not to get the strapping, but did buy several sets of appropriate sized nuts, bolts, washers, and screws needed for the mic holders.

Later in the week, I had to make a trip to the Target Store in Batavia for some light bulbs. I stopped by the tools and hardware section since it was near the light bulb section. I didn't expect to find anything, but as I walked past the drawer pulls and door knobs I started looking at the different shapes and sizes available. I found a drawer pull in a dark antique brass finish that looked like it may work. Once home, I took the drawer pull and turned it over so the large part of the handle faced away from me. I then held each mic bracket against each end of the drawer pull, with the mic holders lined up at each end. Bingo! This was going to work; the hole spacing was such that I only needed to drill one hole for each holder. The spacing between the two mics was just right when both mics were placed in the holders.

After lining up the mic holders I marked the spots to drill on each end and then marked the spots to drill the mounting holes in the center of the larger part of the drawer pull. I assembled everything and went out to the van. After removing the single mic holder from the dashboard, I mounted the "dual" mic holder. It looks good and is very functional. (See photo)

The total cost for my homemade dual mic holder? Less than ten dollars!

(See photo next page)



Photo of mic holder built by Dean, KC9EOQ

(Canoe Race Continued from page 3)

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out this year: Michelle KC9HDB, Tom WB9CHY, Neil KB9RFX, Chris KC9BKS, Bill WB9LPW, John KC0VYH, Eric AB9OS, Aaron KB9KYV, Kathleen KB9TKV, Catherine KC9KJU, Bart KC9FQA, Frank AA9FR, Kent W9NDW, Keith N9YA and Mike W9MJS. In addition, thank you Cyd N9CV, for providing much needed weather information. As it was a stormy day, her ears on the weather nets were invaluable.

I don't know exactly when next year's race will be held, but if they keep to tradition, it will be the first Sunday in June. If you are at all interested in participating in a FRRL service event, this one is really fun!

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. 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 at Rasmussen College, 2363 Sequoia Drive, 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, 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 July 12, 2009 at the club Hamfest at Aurora Central Catholic High School.

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.

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

Mike Urso, K9FE

Vice President

Harry Jones, K9DXA

Secretary

Bill Stamps, W9WRS

Treasurer

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

Directors:

Bart Bartkowiak, KC9FQA

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

Past President

Greg Braun, N9CHA

License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

Newsletter Editor

Tobi Davis, K9TCD
newsletter@frrl.org

Webmaster

Tom Davis, WB9CHY
webmaster@frrl.org

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

FRRL CLUB MEETINGS ARE HELD AT RASMUSSEN COLLEGE, 2363 SEQUOIA DRIVE 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.
3023 Scenicwood Lane.
Woodridge, IL 60517

FRRL Event Calendar

July, 2009

FRRL Board Meeting 7
Hamfest 12
VE Session (at Hamfest)... 12
FRRL Meeting 14
SDR SIG 21

August, 2009

FRRL Board Meeting 4
FRRL Meeting 11

ArcOver FRRL Newsletter

Copyright 2009, 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 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.

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. -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.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. at 8:00 pm local time on the DStar 440 repeater.