



Arc Over

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

August, 2008

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

"What did you do on your summer vacation?" Do you remember that question from your school days? I sure do, it was one of the first questions the teachers would ask as you returned for another year of primary and secondary education.

The FRRL has been busy over the summer months. A very successful hamfest has been completed thanks to our chairman Dean KC9EOQ. The gate sales this year appear to be higher than in the past. The parking lot filled to capacity earlier in the morning this year too. Tamie KC9LWX coordinated the concessions this year. She sold out of hot dogs (100) and needed to get more! Thanks go to our parking and gate staff too. They do an excellent job of welcoming hams to the fest, selling tickets (252 this year!), and getting them parked safely. This year we had nine vendors and over two dozen flea market sellers.

Remember to turn in your ticket sales money to Dean by the end of the August meeting!

An updated club roster is available in the files section on our clubs Yahoo Groups forum. Chris KC9BKS has continued to keep our database up to date with input from our club Treasurer, Larry W9OKI and our Membership Chairperson, Kermit W9XA. Total membership count = 212!

For a short time this month our FM repeaters went off the air. It appears lighting was the root cause of the malfunction. The 2 meter repeater was put back on the air by Dick AH6EZ. Subsequently, Kermit W9XA and Paul W9DWP visited the repeater shack and repaired the UHF repeater. Both systems are on the air and playing well. Great job guys!

NIARC repeater owner Bob K9EUI and ARISS Mentor, John AG9D have agreed to combine efforts to bring future ARISS contacts to the Fox Valley. The experiment includes John's ability to receive ARISS contact audio and transmit it to the NIARC (147.06) repeater system. The experiment is on-going so stay tuned.

The first FRRL simplex net was a big success. Net Chairperson, Adam KC9ITG and net ops Eric AB9OS, and Eric KB9IDT switched over to 146.58 simplex after the check-in net was completed. Several hams participated by contacting the net ops directly in an effort to determine how effective simplex can be in case the repeater is not available. Adam reports the simplex net will be repeated in the coming months.

The Mid-American Canoe & Kayak Race is back. The 47th Annual event will run on Sunday, September 28th. This year the race will start at the VFW in Batavia and end at the Prisco Center in Aurora. For more information and how you can help provide communications, please contact Bart KC9FQA.

FRRL Life Member, Gary K9MMS and his grandson Cal K0DXC of Waconia, MN made the Minneapolis news. KSTP's photojournalist John Gross interviewed both Cal and Gary highlighting ham radio and Cal's bedroom shack. The story features Cal's CW abilities with a very nice demonstration of him working a CW contact at 30 wpm.

Looking ahead, the club is planning additional education classes, two special event stations, and another transmitter hunt! I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

73, Greg N9CHA
FRRL President, 2008

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 July 8, 2008

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun – President with 50 members present

Question of the Month: What is/was your occupation?

Minutes of the previous meeting were available for review.

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

Treasurers Report: Larry W9OKI - Total Assets: \$25,467 (Cash/Savings = \$8693 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,774)

N9CHA – had a slide show and brief presentation of the field day scores and activities with help from the present band captains.

Committee Reports

Special Events:

Bart, KC9FQA. Volunteers needed for the Rolling on the River event on August 16th. Starting location will be the Kendall County Fairgrounds.

Volunteers needed for the Mid-American Canoe Race – September 28th from the Fox Valley Park District.

VE: Doug, W9RD, Next VE session July 13th at Hamfest.

Public Relations: A new PR person is needed. Contact any Board member if interested.

Database: Chris KC9BKS – Reports 212 members. The updated 2008 roster is on the Yahoo Group.

Program: Dick AH6EZ - This month's program will be a video about the 2007 Scarborough Reef DXpedition, BS7H.

Cougars Night: Ken N9WCX – Baseball game at Elfstrom Stadium, Geneva. July 18th, \$10.

Repeater Committee: Dick, AH6EZ, a couple of minor problems have been rectified at the repeater site.

Education: Eric KB9IDT – Extra class is completed, a Tech or General class will be presented this fall.

Nets: Adam KC9ITG – More net control operators are needed.

Hamfest: Dean KC9EOQ – Please turn in your ticket money.

Current Business:

Dawn Williams KC9LQS named PIO for KC-ARES on 6/1/2008.

Dave Siles N9CTO named Technical EAC for KC-ARES on 6/1/2008.

Stephen "Mike" Hoover, who was a big help everywhere at Field Day, was made a new member thanks to one board member and another Board member paid for his club badge.

Other Business from the floor:

Marty, N9NTM, gave details on the upcoming hamfests.

Eric, KC9FQV, made ARES announcements.

The next board meeting will be held at N9CHA qth in Geneva on 8/5/2008.

The September Bard meeting will be at Colonial Café in Aurora on 9/2/2008.

General meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Program to follow.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps, W9WRS – FRRL Secretary

The Dayton Hamvention Through Youthful Eyes

By Brenden Holste, KC9KJW

[Ed. Note: Brenden, KC9KJW, has provided us with this summary of his experiences at his first Daytona Hamvention. Brenden is 13, and obtained his Technician license in 2006.]

Day One: I'll admit, I was probably the most excited of anyone at the Hamvention since this was my first time coming. Journeying all the way from Illinois with my dad (Dean, KC9EOQ) was a bit tiring, since all I could do was sit in the car and play video games, but the day after we checked into our hotel room (It was nice and cozy, by the way, and I had plenty to do too.) we were off.

After a quick breakfast (The food here is superb, by the way.) and a trip back to the room we hopped into the van that would take us to Hara Stadium, the site of the convention. After a small detour to drop a couple off at the airport, we arrived at the site and walked right in. As soon as I saw the first few vendors I knew this would keep me entertained as long as I needed. Some of the vendors had cool equipment (Wind speed detectors, anyone?) while others were selling DVDs and computer games, but they all had some cool equipment.

The ARRL youth lounge was nice too, they had free pop and chips for anyone, and I got to do some fun things like make a QSL card (Mine was a snowflake!) and challenges like saying the phonetic alphabet from memory (Alpha... Bravo... Cocobeans?). They had other arts and crafts too, like making a bracelet with your name in Morse code and the like. I also picked up the latest edition of "The Adventures of Zack and Max" a very good children's comic book series published by Icom that I would recommend to anyone who has children interested in the radio hobby, and a few little tokens from the prize buckets.

After stopping for refreshments we headed out to the flea market. It was pretty fun seeing old equipment, but some people even had hospital equipment and even store window mannequins. They had everything, even the kitchen sink! It was fun browsing through the different computer games, but nothing seemed to strike my fancy. Oh well, you can't find them all. We headed back to our hotel, had dinner with a friend Mr. Illman, AH6EZ, and here I am now, typing this up.

Day Two: Today was pretty chaotic. I won't go into all of it, but I really think that I should remind myself to check next year whether I have food in my hotel room. Anyway, once we finally got to the convention, (We were there an hour later than we should have been.) we met up with Mr. Illman, and started walking around the flea market again. We saw the super cool Enigma machine, the cipher machine used by the Germans during WWII to send secret messages the enemy couldn't decode. I also picked up a computer game I thought my little brother and I would enjoy, and headed back inside.

Everything was just about as it was the day before, but it was still fun looking around at the equipment and software and books. One of the exhibitions in the arena itself had a brand new compact electric car at it, for which I posed like Wheel of Fortune's Vanna White.

We headed for lunch (I had a pretzel and Sprite soda, and dad had 2 hot dogs and a Diet Coke) and went to look at the vendors we hadn't caught on the first day. One guy was demonstrating complex video and photo equipment, one was selling beautiful porcelain animals, and there was even a setup with an old Ford Panel Van that had a large assortment of equipment in it. There was even an old radio that I estimated to be about 10-20 pounds in the front! (Very different from our lightweight radios made specifically to be mounted in the car!)

This was about when we decided to head back to the bus stop and hitch a ride to the "mall" (It was really a spot where they tore down an old mall and built up a big Sears store with an even bigger parking lot.) We also planned today to head over to the National Air Force Museum, which was a good, fun side trip from the hustle and bustle of Hams trying to buy and sell and buy and sell. We also stopped at a Cracker Barrel

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Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – July, 2008

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Welcome this month to N4LZ, Maurice, sending in scores from Florida! He reports a nice QSO with Jordan! He is making it in to the 10-10 net on Monday nights, so if anyone needs a contact with Florida, meet him there! Maurice and Eric (KC9FQV) both report nice openings on 10m this month. Toby (K9TCD) is starting to pick up lighthouse stations - always a favorite of mine! Only a few updated reports this month, people are busy!!!

As always, sent your updates and news items to me not later than the 15th of each month if you want them included on the web and in the ArcOver. The year is fast drawing to a close, so grab those QSOs while you can and let us know how you are doing.

Ragchew Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
N9CTO			58
K9FE			52
KC9FQV	-	-	31
W9DTR			29
K9IH			16
AH6EZ			15
NA9A	-	-	15
N9YA	-	-	3
AB9OS			3
WB9CHY	-	-	3
KC9DAO			2
K9JE	-	-	2

Operator Class	States/Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9JE	43/7	115	165
W9DTR	48/8	79	135
NF9D	46/7	67	120
N9CV	45/7	35	87
K9FE	35/5	23	63
K9TCD	38/4	20	62
N9YA	27/5	27	59
K9IH	23/4	7	34
KC9ITG	25	2	27
WB9CHY	16/1	3	20

Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update (Continued)

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Limited Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ (Digital)	50/8	94	152
N9CTO (Digital)	44/5	8	57
KC9FQV (Digital)	31/8	18	57
AB9OS (CW)	3/1	33	37
KC9DAO (15 Meters)	2	13	15

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/10	151	211
N4LZ	29/8	85	122
NA9A	22	52	74

New Members

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

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.

KC9BF	Leroy Bubser
N9ODP	Stephen Hoover

TAPR Digital Conference Slated For September:

The 2006 ARRL/TAPR DCC (Digital Communication Conference) will take place in Elk Grove Village on September 26 - 28 and is the premiere annual national conference covering digital voice & data technologies & modes.

More information about the DCC is available at: <http://www.tapr.org/dcc.html>

Hamvention Through Youthful Eyes

(Continued from page 3)

restaurant with Mr. Illman, the same friend I've been mentioning for a while. (I got this can of metal rod puzzles from the gift shop. It's super fun.)

The Ride Home: This was the same old car ride, but my dad was talking to Dick constantly via radio after we were finally able to let him catch up. There's not much to the ride home. I was sustained by the basics, fast food and chips, and we finally arrived back at good old Aurora.

In Conclusion: The Hamvention was really fun. Not only was it fun looking at everything, but I learned quite a bit too. I had no idea that you could find so much at one place, and I also learned how dedicated people can be to the radio hobby. I saw cars that came from as far away as California and even Canada.

I also liked the diverseness of the people that came there. One of the people running the youth lounge was actually a high school ham from Canada who, of course, loved hockey. I also enjoyed the funny hats that certain people put on. One guy had an antenna tower on hard hat!

The Hamvention was very fun. I hope I can come back next year!

- Brenden Holste KC9KJW

August Program Notes

The August program will feature a presentation on the Enigma machine and Hellschreiber . The story of the Enigma message encoder is fascinating, and it relates to Amateur Radio through its connection with the Hellschreiber "digital mode" method of transmission. I think you'll find it all very interesting.

Cougar's Win, Cougar's Win!

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

Ken, N9WCX, reports that the Annual Cougars night provided the usual amount of baseball excitement, ending up with a Cougar's win. Unfortunately, the game ran long (lots of scoring), so the fireworks show had to be cancelled. However, the fans were entitled to rain check tickets for another fireworks game so we ended up getting two games for the price of one.

Ken continues to provide excellent weather for these events. I'm not sure how he does it, and he probably won't be willing to share his secrets. Thanks, Ken, for your efforts in putting this great family event together.

Public Service Events

The Kendall County Rolling on the River event will be held on Saturday, August 16. The Huntley Fall Fest will be held on Saturday, September 13. The club will be running a special event station and supporting event staff. The annual Fox Valley Park District Canoe Race will be held on Sunday, September 28. Mark you calendars, as the FRRL will again be supporting the event. Contact Bart, KC9FQA if you would like to participate in any of these events

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 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 at 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, 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 September 16, 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

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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.frrl.org>

Send Address Corrections to:
 Fox River Radio League, Inc.
 40W981 Bridle Creek Drive
 St Charles, Illinois
 60175

FRRL Event Calendar

August, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting 5
 FRRL Meeting 12
 Rolling on the River 16

September, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting 2
 FRRL Meeting 9
 VE Session 16
 Huntley Fest 13
 Canoe Race 28
 TAPR Digital Conf 26-28

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 arcover@frrl.org or via U.S. Mail. Contact the Editor for details and submission guidelines.

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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 7:00 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.