



Arc Over

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

January, 2008

President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

A new year is upon us, which means the start of another FRRL HF Challenge, a new contest season, and perhaps the beginning of better sun spot numbers! I'm looking forward to all the fun events we conducted last year, and who knows, maybe there are more to come.

I'd like to take this opportunity to say thanks to all those who participated in the FRRL December elections. There were several club members who threw their hat into the ring, thank you! By participating you are showing us that you feel it's vital to keep the club active and healthy by volunteering to be a part of the leadership. Even if you did not get elected this year, there are plenty of opportunities to help out in 2008.

Your 2008 FRRL Board of Directors are:

President – Greg Braun N9CHA
Vice President – Charles Penninger KC9DAO
Secretary – Bill Stamps W9WRS
Treasurer – Larry Shaw W9OKI
Director – Tobi Davis K9TCD
Director – Dean Holste KC9EOQ
Director – Bart Bartkowiak KC9FQA
Director – Chris Farley KC9IEQ
Past President – Dick Illman AH6EZ

There are still plenty of tickets for the Winter Banquet on January 26th. Please see Dick AH6EZ at the January meeting to pay for the tickets you have reserved, or to purchase tickets.

I was thinking about the new year and creating a challenge for myself — one that will improve my operating skills. Have you done the same thing? How about trying or using a mode of communications that is out of the ordinary? Perhaps you can make a contact through one of the LEO satel-

lites.... you only need a dual-band HT for AO-51. Or perhaps you could use one of the digital modes that we've been taking about and using during our digital nets. There are new voice to digital modes out there, and new ITU countries to work. St. Barthelemy (FJ) has now been added to the DXCC list, and a new prefix (E7A-E7Z) has been issued to Bosnia-Herzeovina.

So what is my goal this year? I would really like to improve my CW speed. I've been saying that for the past several months, but now it's time to get serious. I would really like to step into one of the CW tents at Field Day this year and make a few Q's!

Are you interested in upgrading to Amateur Extra Class? The FRRL is organizing new classes. The new question pool has been released which goes into effect for testing on and after July 1, 2008. Until then, the current question pool is in effect. Drop an email to education@frrl.org and Eric will put you on the class list.

Let's make this another fun year by participating in as many events as you can. Perhaps you have an idea for an event you'd like to see? Let us know. Do something this year that you've always wanted to do, but just did not know how to go about it. The club has many members who are ready and willing to lend you assistance. Good luck and Happy New Year.

73, Greg N9CHA
FRRL President, 2007

PS: Please check the calendar for January on page 8. We have an event planed for every weekend in the month, plus a VE testing session on the 15th.

**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
December 11, 2007**

Meeting called to order at 7:32 PM by Greg Braun, N9CHA – President with 52 members present.
Minutes of the previous meeting were available for review.
Treasures Report: Total Assets: \$24,977 (Cash/Savings = \$8,638 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,294)

Committee Reports:

None due to Election

Election: John, AG9D- Chairman of the Nominating Committee reviewed the election process and introduced the candidates for Officer; each candidate was offered the opportunity to address the membership for a period of time not to exceed two minutes. After the last candidate spoke, ballots were distributed by Dean, KC9EOQ and Craig, AB9IV of the Nominating Committee. After balloting the committee left the room to count ballots.

The results were as follows: President – Greg Braun, N9CHA; Vice President – Charles, KC9DAO; Treasurer – Larry, W9OKI; Secretary – Bill, W9WRS. The candidates for Director were then introduced and the above detailed process was again followed. The new directors are; Chris, KC9IEQ & Bart, KC9FQV

A 2007 Year in Review was presented during the interim while the ballots were counted.

Ham of the Year: The President reviewed the criteria for Ham of the Year selection:

The recipient must be an FRRL member January – December of 2007 and hold a valid FCC Amateur license.

The recipient must have made a valuable contribution to the FRRL by participating or organizing a club event during the year.

The recipient must have developed, promoted or have executed an activity that enhances the Amateur Service, specifically not an FRRL event. This activity must contribute to the betterment of the hobby, advance knowledge and skills and demonstrate good amateur practice.

The recipient cannot be the current year FRRL President.

The candidates offered by the President are:

Dick Illman – AH6EZ; Kermit Carlson, W9XA; John Spasojevich – AG9D; Mark Thompson – WB9QZB; Joe Machan – AB9OU; Eric Lorenz – KC9FQV; Chris Kennell – KC9BKS; Kent TeVault – W9NDW; Dick Isley – W9GIG. The membership is of course able to write in any person of their choice meeting the criteria. Winner will be announced at the FRRL Banquet on January 26th

Other Business:

BANQUET: Room for 100 people, we have 73 reservations so far. See Dick, AH6EZ if you are interested.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: D-Star Forum January 5th; ARRL Kids Day – January 6th; Digital Workshop Part 2 – January 12th; Transmitter Hunt – January 19th & FRRL Banquet- January 26th. See the club website for more information.

With no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Bart, KC9FQA seconded by Marty, N9NTM, passed; the meeting was adjourned at 8:06PM

Break, raffle and party to follow

Respectfully Submitted:

John Spasojevich, AG9D – FRRL Secretary

NOTE: Grand Prize Drawing winners for the year were: Craig, AB9IV (MFJ Antenna Analyzer) & Charles, KC9DAO (Digital Multimeter)

January Program Note

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The January FRRL program will be a presentation by one of our long time members who traveled to Alaska this year. Besides a lot of beautiful scenery, he will be describing ham radio in Alaska as he visited AL9A, one of our past members. In the works for February is a program on troubleshooting and solving many of the problems ham can face with their stations.

73, Dick

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
W9AMJ	Scott Herzeg	General
K9KRO	Dennis G Beringer	Technician

2007 Bill Erickson HF Challenge Ends

By John Spasojevich, AG9D

Just a quick remember: the 2007 HF Challenge ends on 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.

And, to no-one's surprise, the 2008 Challenge will begin on January 1, 2008. Joe is preparing the score sheets and you should be receiving one shortly after the start of the new year. We'll begin publishing updates again in March, after we announce the final scores in the February issue.

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. Please check the web site for more details.

Leadership Roundtable – Summary Report (part 2 of 2)

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

During our membership meeting on Sept. 18th (one week late due to our meeting space being closed on the 11th) we held a special “Leadership Roundtable” exercise. Each of the members who attended were given the opportunity to discuss issues pertaining to our club. Everyone who attended enjoyed the exercise and provided valuable input.

The FRRL Board of Directors reviewed the comments and suggestions during its October meeting. We will be using this input during future planning sessions. Thank you for participating! And please remember, your comments are always welcome. If you like, drop one of us an email or catch us at a meeting.

Here are the results from the final two issues discussed. (The information on the first two issues was published in the November, 2007 issue of the *ArcOver*.)

FRRL Leadership Workshop – Operating Events:

Our breakout group included 11 members and two Board facilitators.

After an explanation that there are many potential types of operating events at different times of the year, and that these events usually required some planning and coordinating by a person or committee, we had a spirited and very positive discussion with lots of new ideas. The aspect of who would lead these events was not further discussed.

- Operating events should be hands on and educational, especially for new hams. Getting on the air with antennas constructed at the event was universally endorsed.
- Fox hunts were discussed with two sessions divided into design and material planning and later the actual hunt.
- Kit building and then putting the radios on the air seemed like a lot of fun.
- One suggestion was to have members arrive at a site with their mobile radios and exchange ideas and solutions for effective, attractive, quality installations. Getting on the air with side by side comparisons was discussed.
- Having a two station contest competition between a W9CEQ team and a W9NE team with some antenna parity.
- Field optimization of HF/VHF/UHF home built antennas, assuming the availability of suitable test equipment.
- PSK Workshop – already in the planning stage by K9FE
- Have another “Field Day” in October when the weather is cooler. Perhaps even a Winter event.
- QRP Contest events, perhaps with multiple simultaneous radios and/or side by side comparisons.
- Non contest events targeting new operators to help them confidently get on the air.

(Continued on page 5)

Leadership Roundtable – Summary Report (part 2 of 2)

(Continued from page 4)

- EMCOM practice sessions
- Operating events designed for public exposure, instead of being internally focused.
- Public service events where it is necessary to be prepared for the unexpected, such as a canoe accident, etc.
- Field trips to the homes of new hams where experts would offer advice and newer hams would learn. If possible, try to install an antenna and demonstrate what is possible.

FRRL Leadership Workshop – Field Day/Hamfest:

This group was tasked with the review and thoughts on our two major yearly events; Field Day and our Hamfest.

Field Day Comments:

- The group felt that the site was good.
- The group felt that the antennas were placed improperly and indicated that the band captains should follow the technical plan that was designed to provide the least interference between stations. Several last minute changes caused unnecessary interference between stations. Follow the plan.
- Filters need to be used on every transmitter to reduce interference between stations on the same and other bands.
- Advertise field day better. Send out information to hams in the area that are not members of the club. There are a lot of hams that do not know about the club or field day.
- Provide some type of station to station communication to avoid interference. Signal light, chat group.
- For better frequency coordination have operating frequency ranges posted including GOTA ranges to minimize interference. Example, GOTA operates 7.20 to 7.3, 40 phone operates 7.125 to 7.200. This frequency coordination should be established for all bands GOTA operates, if GOTA goes off the air signal all stations.
- The FIELD DAY Technical Coordinator provides technical guidance to interfering stations. We need to make sure the guidance is heeded and recorded to insure that the same issue does not occur the following year.
- Insure that the food team has enough members so the job does not become a burden.

Have More popcorn throughout the night. 😊

(Continued on page 6)

Leadership Roundtable – Summary Report (part 2 of 2)

(Continued from page 5)

Field Day, Con't:

- Possible utilize new and different power sources.
- Have a safety coordinator, medical, fire; hazard, etc. have a plan.

Hamfest Comments:

- The group felt that it was too hard to move through the crowded space.
- Due to the diversity of the attendees the team would like to see an air conditioned facility to reduce heat stress, or more capability for air circulation.
- Would having the hamfest on Saturday be viable? Are other dates viable.
- Check all sources for possible alternate air conditioned sites including the Park District.
- Everyone wants to continue water delivery outside to the flea market area.
- Have a better liaison with staff owning site and also vendors
- Provide better advertising. Send out invitations to all area hams not just club members.
- Have door prizes vs. cash, possibly meals from restaurants.
- Have more programs. Everyone liked the programs.
- Have alternate vendors i.e. have vendors that provide merchandise for spouses. Have vendors of ancillary products like first aid kits, generators, tents and shelter vendors etc. Make the hamfest spouse friendly.

2007 Illinois QSO Party Scores

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

The 2007 Illinois QSO Party scores have been published, and, as usual, the FRRL made another impressive showing. Here is a summary of our member's scores in the various categories. These tables were created by me, so there may be incorrect scores due to typos or missing scores. The Official Score Summary is available on the web at: <http://www.w9awe.org/2007ScoreFinaToWeb.pdf>.

ILLINOIS FIXED STATION SCORES

Call	QTH	CW	PH	County	S/P	DX	Mults	Score
KC9IEQ	LASA	31	201	54	42	5	101	26,563
NA9A	KANE	26	180	42	39	2	83	19,256
W9GIG	KANE		222	29	41	3	73	16,206
K9JE	KANE	46	16	30	11	2	43	4,644
KC9EOQ	KANE		101	12	24	2	38	3,838
WB9LPW	GRUN	33	22	33	6	1	40	3,520
W9HI	KEND		64	30	19	3	52	3,328
NF9D	KANE	26	29	31	6	1	38	3,078
AG9D	KANE	11	52	25	8	5	38	2,812
K9TCD	DUPG		56	27	12	2	41	2,296
N9CV	KANE		52	33	9	2	44	2,288
WK9Y	WILL		46	21	11	3	35	1,610
AB9OS	KANE	1	44	5	23	4	32	1,472
KC9DAO	KANE		20	3	13	3	19	380
K9FE	DUPG		19	4	10	2	16	304
WB9CHY	DUPG	4	1	2	4	2	8	72
K9XP	DUPG		4	4	1	1	6	24

ILLINOIS MOBILE STATION SCORES

Call	QTH	CW	PH	Cty	S/P	DX	Mults	Score
WD9CNW	DP/CK	31	2	1	1	1	3	6

ILLINOIS PORTABLE STATION SCORES

Call	QTH	CW	PH	Cty	S/P	DX	Mults	Score
N9CHA	KANE	7	102	41	14	2	57	6,612
N9TO	3		164	5	23	2	30	4,920

NON-ILLINOIS QTH STATIONS

Call	QTH	CW	PH	Cty	S/P	DX	Mults	Score
AH6EZ	AL	9	32	39	0	0	30	1,500
AH6EZ	TN	12	24	27	0	0	27	1,296

The 2007 Club Competition Scores have not been announced yet, but it appears that the FRRL has the most number of logs submitted, although our total score was not high enough to take the trophy.

Congratulations to all of our members that participated!

Letters to the Editor: Illinois QSO Party, From Cyd Runde, N9CV

This last weekend was interesting as the Illinois QSO party filled the airwaves, I did not hear much on 20m, but found many familiar voices on 40 and 80. Bill, with his new call sign (NF9D) was right behind me on one journey up the dial, but he never sat still long enough for me to work him!

I heard Greg (N9CHA), but then QRM forced him off. Dean (KC9EHQ) was heard faintly here, but many other stations caught his call. I heard a booming signal out of Batavia from Eric, AB9OS, and Dick, W9GIG, was also loud and clear.

But one call made me pause on the frequency and just listen. NA9A, Joe, was working stations right and left. But what gave me pause was the way he was working them! So friendly, with a thank you to every contact. He took the time to ensure every call sign was correct, had a few friendly words for everyone, and worked a mini-pileup with finesse. One of my young granddaughters commented as she listened, "He sounds nice!" I turned to her and said, with pride, "Yes, and I know him!"

I don't know if any of our members won any awards, I hope so, but can you get a better award than, "He sounds nice!"

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

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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

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Dick Illman, AH6EZ

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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

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

February, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting	5
FRRL Meeting.....	12

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@frri.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. (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.