



# Arc Over

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

June, 2009

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## President's Traffic

By Mike Urso, K9FE

Activity, activity, activity. The FRRL has always thrived on activity. By the time you read this the canoe race will have taken place. The planning for field day is in high gear. People said they were interested in a fox hunt. Our annual trek to watch a Cougars game will be coming up. (At last count we still had 40 tickets available, \$11 each for seats behind home plate.) Of course I can't forget Hamfest. Lots of activities, but which ones do you participate in?

That is really a very good question. Do you want to do social events? Operating events? Public service? Maybe it is a combination of more than one. Maybe it isn't the type of events but the time involved. I am limited on how many events I am involved in due the time they take. I have my favorites and I will always work them in my schedule. There is of course family time, and church time, and work time, then more family time. The rest of the events have to share the time I have free. Get the picture? The reason you see so many different types of events with the FRRL is we want to be able to have at least one that fits YOU!

Out of all my favorites is Field Day. Who can find a better mix of heat, cold, rain, sun, great food, great company, great operating, (sometimes marginal band conditions), and let us not forget the storms, the wind, and the bugs. If you sum all these together you still end up on the plus side, since with friends and operating you can't lose. Not everyone is a CW/PSK/SSB expert (pick the ones] you are not an expert at.) However even with an interest our operators will help you, guide you, and make your experience a very positive time.

DAYTON, DAYTON, DAYTON. OK, how many of you have ever talked about Dayton in front of non-hams and used the term HAMVENTION? How many of you received some strange looks? I know I have. If you went to Dayton I want to hear of what you thought, what you saw and if you are going again. I went in the early 70's and then again for 5 years after 2000. I loved each one. There were highlights and lowlights as in all huge events. Some have said the attendance is down at hamfests in general. With the advent of the Internet it is much easier to find equipment and "trinkets". A hamfest is more than a big radio garage sale. It is often the main support for a club along with club dues. Our hamfest is very important to the FRRL. Not only is a major resource of funds, but often it is a major resource of FUN. Hams that you don't get a chance to see often you can take a walk with and catch up on old times and find out what has been happening in their lives. Let's help out the clubs by attending their hamfests.

This year at the FRRL Hamfest, I will be operating the club's Special Event Station. Feel free to come over, sit in the operator's seat, and have some fun making contacts on 15/20/40 meters. No need to schedule, just come by and say hello. One note, everyone is invited, license class can even be Technician or even unlicensed since we are using the club call W9CEQ and there will be a control operator on hand. Hope to see you there!

**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**

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Meeting Minutes May 12, 2009.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Mike Urso K9FE – President with 58 members and 5 visitors present.

**Question:** Yes or No: 1) Have you ever worked Field Day? And 2) Are you going to this year?

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

**Treasurers Report:** Dean KC9EOQ - Total Assets: \$\$25,276.47 (Cash/Savings = \$8502.92 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 – To date 16 new members, 174 members total.

**Newsletter:** Tobi K9TCD – We need articles for the Arc Over. Tobi will help rewrite if desired. The deadline for submissions for the Arc Over is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

**Yahoo Group:** Bill NF9D – Everything is going smoothly.

**Linux SIG:** Bill W9WRS – On hiatus for the summer.

**Software Defined Radio SIG:** Harry K9DXA – Next SIG will be on Tuesday evening, 5/26/2009, 7 PM.

**Repeater Committee:** Dick AH6EZ – 2 meter repeater is improved, UHF will be moving in the next few weeks to a location that is 280 feet higher than the current location.

**Public Relations:** Greg N9CHA – Greg has resigned as PR chairman.

**VE Report:** Regular testing May 19, 2009 at Rasmussen College.

**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.frri.org](http://www.frri.org). Staff includes:

Chair – Eric AB9OS

Technical – Dick AH6EZ

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

June 7, 2009 Canoe Race – Chair Tobi K9TCD

June 7, 2009 American Diabetes Bike Race – Kane county ARES

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 50 tickets at \$11.00 each.

**Program:** Flex Radio 5000a by K9DXA.

**Raffle:** Jack K9JE

The June 2, 2009 Board meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The June 9, 2009 General meeting will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora, IL.

The May 19, 2009 VE Session will be at Rasmussen College in Aurora.

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.

Motion to adjourn by Marty N9NTM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kermit W9XA.

General meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps, W9WRS, FRRL Secretary

## June Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The June program will be focused on operating at Field Day. I may be showing a SSB and CW contest simulator with some friendly competition. I have discovered a random call sign generator. We may be able to verbally practice pileups and exchanges, with human QRM and noise generators.

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## New Members

Welcome to the Following New Members:

CALL	NAME
KB9UX	Dick Tosby
KC9PTY	Scott Haacker

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## Club Table at Future Hamfests

The FRRL will be present at the following hamfests to sell advance tickets, answer questions about the club and to sign up new members or receive member renewals. Members are encouraged to stop by and say hello and we'll even watch your purchases for you if you get tired of carrying them around.

**JUNE 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 - 52<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL HAMFEST - 6 METER CLUB OF CHICAGO – DUPAGE COUNTY FAIR-GROUNDS – WHEATON, IL** Web page: [www.k9ona.com](http://www.k9ona.com) , Advance Tickets - \$6.00, Gate Tickets - \$8.00

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## Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 MS Walk for Multiple Sclerosis

By Michelle Powell, KC9HDB

On Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, several ham radio operators volunteered their time to assist with the Route Communications at the MS Walk at Pottawatamie Park in St. Charles. The weather was once again perfect for the walk, which began at 9:00a.m. The MS Society chairperson, Abbe Gunnink, was in charge of the event and said they really appreciated all of our help and assistance.

The volunteers were stationed at the start/finish line and each of 2 rest stops located along the 7 mile walk, south along the Fox River to the turn-around point, "The Windmill", then back north to Pottawatamie Park. The ham radio volunteers handled the communications between the stops, and working with the MS Walk Volunteers, coordinated things like re-stocking water, cups, fruit, helping anyone get back to the park who maybe couldn't finish the walk on their own, or returning lost-and-found items that were turned in (we have had important things like a matchbox car, sunglasses, headphones to an I-Pod, etc. that hopefully found their owners).

The MS Walk Society always does a terrific job, offering fruit, bagels and muffins in the morning, then grilling hot dogs, hamburgers and catering pizzas for lunch. They had a large number of massage therapists there to sooth the sore muscles of the walkers when they were done. They had music playing and it's always a good time.

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – Mid-May 2009

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Jeff, K9BQL reports a pretty productive month. He worked Kuwait (9K2MU), Western Sahara (S04R), Central African Rep. (TL0A), Moldova (ER4DX), Liechtenstein (HB0/DL2SBY), and U.K. Bases on Cyprus (ZC4LI).

Dick (AH6EZ) has some new contacts and hopes the 5 band Spiderbeam will be up and working before mid June.

Charles, KC9DAO, joins the contest this month, welcome aboard!

Not too many reports this month, hopefully the bands will pick up, and next month I will be overwhelmed with reports.

Limited Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9ARZ-PSK31	50	8	115	173
K9MMS-CW	50	10	110	170
KC9FQV-Digital	23	1	5	29

Operator Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
K9BQL	40	10	145	195
W9DTR	48	8	85	141
K9TCD	38	7	61	106
KC9DAO	27	0	40	67
K9IH	25	3	38	66
WB9CHY	27	2	14	43

QRO Class	States	Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50	11	145	206
N4LZ	43	5	100	148
NA9A	7	0	105	112

Ragchewer Class	States/Prov.	DX Countries	Total
W9DTR			38
AH6EZ			19
K9IH			9
KC9FQV			7
NA9A	4	1	5
WB9CHY	1	0	1

## Dayton Hamvention 2009

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

The first thing I saw at Dayton was the red maximum antenna vehicle (more antennas than the last time I counted) parked exactly where people were getting on the bus at the Salem Mall. This is almost as common as the antennas attached to helmets. This year, there was a large supply of black riot police helmets that many teenagers purchased and were proudly walking around with. I saw one of the small Smart vehicles in the parking lot with a huge HF antenna, almost larger than the car. I traveled to Dayton by myself this year and quickly realized that although this was very efficient for roaming the flea market, it was very poor with the lack of multiple eyes looking for specific goodies. I did not talk to any other FRRL members by radio during the Hamvention, although I think I counted about 15 members present (I saw 9 of them). I had planned to go to the SDR forum but missed it. I did go to the AMSAT forum and heard Richard Garriott talk about his experiences on the ISS. It was fun to see his hand written log book. He had originally only expected to use a single page. He expanded to several pages and grew from a single column to 5 columns per page. I had long conversations with the Flex Radio designers as well as the Italian Expert 1KW solid state amplifier that is now distributed by SteppIR. As far as the size of the show, the flea market vendors were very similar in quantity to last year but on Friday, they had a lot of really nice looking equipment that had been extracted from their basements. The quantity of inside vendors was down somewhat with a couple of the rooms having empty spaces. The Salem Mall parking lot was JAMMED. I have never seen so many vehicles. Maybe the rain earlier in the week was keeping them away from the unofficial field parking. The MRT buses were large and plentiful. The weather was warm and pleasant on Friday. On Saturday there was rain before opening time, another shower about noon, and a storm that moved in about closing time.

Sunday was cool but sunny. The ARRL had many different things in their large area. They had a 1960's original Collins S-Line sales demo van with a fully restored S-Line inside. They had a kit building area with a CW keyer of 24 hour clock available to be built. I watched a father and son being guided through the building of a kit. I think that was well done. I wonder if that might be a future program or hamfest activity for us. I mostly purchased things to get ready for our FD this year. I did not pull the trigger on any large purchases but did succumb to buying a self contained APRS tracker with a 10 watt transmitter and built-in GPS antenna for use on my motorcycle. It was fun to gather literature and to strategize each night on what to do and see and hunt for the next day. I made lots of fun HF and 52 simplex QSOs on the way to and from Dayton.

Once again, it was worth the cost of the hotel, gas, and admission. I left before they drew the last 12 major prizes. They are supposed to let me know by mail what I won...

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## The A.B.Cs of E.C.s

By Bart Bartkowiak, KC9FQA

Let's see, M.A.R.S., S.A.T.E.R.N., A.R.E.S., R.A.C.E.S., Skywarn..... Could be a sci-fi movie or perhaps an astronomy lecture, but not today. These are all acronyms for emergency communication organizations that have Hams volunteering their time and equipment in support of agencies responsible for the safety, health and welfare of the public. I know as a new Ham, I was very curious about how I could help but didn't have much information to go on. In this article I hope to explain what these organizations are, who they serve and how to contact them.

Let me start off by telling you that this information was gathered almost exclusively from the ARRL web site and the specific organization web sites.

The most common group in our area is the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). "The Amateur Radio Emergency Service is a national, voluntary organization of FCC licensed Hams who provide communications in an emergency and are organized through the American Radio Relay League". Our club has members in several county ARES groups and hold leadership roles in 3 of them; Kendall county, DuPage county and Kane county. Their primary served agency is normally the county Office of Emergency Management. Other

*(MS Walk Continued from page 3)*

I'd like to thank the following volunteers who helped at the walk:

Tobi & Tom Davis (K9TCD & WB9CHY)  
Bart Bartkowski & Catherine Hanson (KC9FQA & KC9KJU)  
Chris & Tyler Kennell (KC9BKS & KC9LWY)

Thank you to everyone who helped and for anyone who may have participated in the walk itself. It's always an enjoyable time and I appreciate everyone taking the time (and forgoing the hamfest in Sandwich!) to participate in such a worthwhile event and a great cause. Thank you to the FRRL as well!

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*(ABCs of ECs Continued from page 5)*

agencies are also served. There is usually a table set up at our club meetings with more info available or you can e-mail me at [EC@FRRL.org](mailto:EC@FRRL.org).

Next we have the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). "The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service was established under the Federal Communications Commission Rules and Regulations, as part of the amateur radio service. The mission of RACES is to establish and maintain the leadership and organizational infrastructure necessary to provide amateur radio communications in support of emergency management entities throughout the United States and its territories". Long winded government description but it seems to describe basically what ARES does but at a much more formal level. RACES volunteers are required to submit to a background check. I really can't get into the specific details in this article but if you want further info I recommend ([www.USRACES.org](http://www.USRACES.org)) and (<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/faq-ares-races.html>) an ARRL Q and A page on the differences between ARES and RACES.

Then there is Salvation Army Emergency Team Amateur Radio (SATERN). "SATERN is an international organization dedicated to providing emergency communications services in times of need". You do not need to be a member of the Salvation Army to volunteer. These operators serve the , you guessed it, Salvation Army. SATERN serves the Salvation Army exclusively but being a member does not stop you from being involved in any other group. Check ([www.satern.org](http://www.satern.org)) for more info.

Now on to the more obscure, at least around here: Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS). "...the primary mission for MARS is to provide DOD sponsored emergency communications on a local, national and international basis as an adjunct to existing DA communications. This means that the military branch you serve will train you. What kind of training you ask? ARMY TRAINING! I couldn't help myself. They do require minimum operating time each quarter. Look up MARS for the specific branch you would like to be involved with on the web.

Last but not least by a long shot is the volunteer group that is probably the most significant to the most people everyday. "SKYWARN is a national network of volunteer weather spotters". They are trained by the National Weather Service to "safely observe severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, hail, flooding, heavy snow, and ice accumulation". They report their observations to the National Weather Service. These reports are used by the NWS forecasters to send out statements, advisories and warnings. Although not required, most spotters are affiliated with some other emergency volunteer group, here it is ARES, as it coordinates and consolidates the flow of information. The NWS monitors ARES traffic and can communicate directly to the spotter in extreme cases. Spotter training is free and is required every two years. This is from the SKYWARN site....."SKYWARN storm spotters form the Nations first line of defense against severe weather. The efforts of these unsung heroes give communities throughout our country the precious gift of time – the seconds and minutes that can help save lives". For more info ([www.weather.gov/skywarn](http://www.weather.gov/skywarn)) or talk with one of our many trained spotters.

## 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

#### June, 2009

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 2  
FRRL Meeting ..... 9

#### July, 2009

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

### 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](mailto:arc-over@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.** -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.