



# Arc Over

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

July, 2008

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## President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

It's time to clean out the hamshack and sell those items at our Hamfest, Sunday July 13<sup>th</sup> at the Aurora Central Catholic HS. Be sure to get all of your tickets sold and the money turned into Dean ,KC9EOQ, as soon as you can. This is the biggest fund-raising event of the year for our club and we need your help.

I have been thinking about a club project for us to participate in this fall. We've had some fox hunts, public service events and Field Day to keep us busy so far. There are a couple of Special Events Stations to work during the Scarecrow Fest and Huntley Fall Fest coming up in October which are always fun. But what I am thinking about is some sort of project that will be out of the ordinary.

What about trying to load up the back yard lawn furniture on 2 meters? Or maybe turning some other everyday use device into an antenna? It could be fun and surprising at the same time. Or, how about launching a balloon complete with a cross-band repeater and APRS tracking equipment? Maybe we can make a ham radio display and set it up at a local library! If you've got some ideas I'd sure like to hear from you.

There was an Ad Hoc committee appointed by me back in February to take on the task of finding an potential alternate meeting site for our club. The Fox Valley Park District has made a few changes to their facility rules which provides us with a couple of challenges. One, as of November of this year, we can only book our meeting reservations 6 months in advance. Two, they would like us to change our meeting time, 7:00 – 9:00, a half-hour earlier than it is now.

The FRRL Board has been discussing these issues, but we need your help in finding an poten-

tial alternative meeting site. Denny, W9HI, is the chairperson of the Ad Hoc committee and I'm sure he would like to hear from you if you have any suggestions. We will discuss this at future meetings as well. For now, we have no problems meeting at the Prisco Center, we're just investigating our options.

Eric, KB9IDT, has been holding Extra Class license education sessions during the month of June. Some of you have participated in these classes and have found them to be very useful. I hope you pass your exams! Eric is also looking for anyone interested in Technician and General classes for the fall.

Mike, K9FE, has put the Linux special interest group meeting on a summer hiatus. You should have seen examples of Linux based digital mode software at Field Day this year. Did you stop by the 40 Digital station? Yep, that was Linux!

July and August are big vacation months, so if I don't see you at the meetings, I'll understand. I hope you have fun and stay safe. If you're near an IRLP node while on vacation, give me a call on 4850!

73 Greg Braun N9CHA

**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 June 10, 2008**

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Greg Braun – President with 50 members present, 2 first time visitors.

Question of the Month: Have you purchased a new radio this year?

Minutes of the previous meeting were available for review.

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

Treasurers Report: Larry W9OKI - Total Assets: \$25,942 (Cash/Savings = \$9168 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,774)

**Special Announcements:**

Charles KC9DAO was thanked for hosting the May Meeting.

Harry KC9DXA was congratulated on his upgrade to Extra.

John AG9D gave a presentation about his work at Boulder Hill School and ARISS at Dayton.

**Committee Reports**

**Special Events:**

Neil KB9RFX – 4 teams attended on June 1st, 1<sup>st</sup> to find fox was KB9DIM Charlie Fisher, who will be the fox for the next hunt.

Bart, KC9FQA. 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Kendall County “Sweetness Run,” June 7, 2008 was a success. Geneva Swedish Days Ride Sunday June 15 5:30 Am start at Burlington High School.

Eric KC9FQV - Kane County Ares went into a SkyWarn situation due to weather during the Grand Geneva Tour De Cure on June 7, 2008.

**VE:** Doug, W9RD, Next VE session July 13<sup>th</sup> at Hamfest.

**Public Relations:** Greg N9CHA - Catherine KC9KJU has resigned as our PR Chairperson due to work conflicts. We are looking for a volunteer to replace her. Contact any Board member if interested.

**Database:** Chris KC9BKS – Reports 206 members. The 2008 roster is on the Yahoo Group.

**Program:** This month's program will be about Field Day 2008.

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

**Repeater Committee:** Dick, AH6EZ, repeaters were moved on June 7, 2008. Thanks to the crew that helped.

**Other Business from the floor:**

Denny, W9HI, Made a progress report on Fred, K9TOS, who is bicycling from Washington State to Florida this summer.

Marty, N9NTM, gave details on the upcoming hamfests.

Eric, KC9FQV, made ARES announcements.

Ken, N9WCX, has tickets available for the Annual Cougars Night outing.

Mike K9FE – Linux SIG will be taking a few months off, will probably resume in August.

Mark WB9QZB – Handed out TAPR flyers.

The next board meeting will be held at Colonial Café in Aurora. (ed. Note: Changed to meet at Penninger Radio, 911 Atlantic Drive, West Chicago, IL.)

General meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Breakouts, raffle, and program to follow.

Respectfully Submitted:

Bill Stamps, W9WRS – FRRL Secretary

## **FRRL Field Day 2008 — Fantastic, Fun Event!**

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

Did you get a chance to come out to the FRRL Field Day event this year! We had over 90 members, friends and guests participate during the 3 day operating event this year in Sugar Grove. The club converted the FOP Lodge into a "radio field day" with 10 operating positions, a talk-in station, 24 antennas, 3000 feet of coax, 1000' feet of electrical cable and 300 meals served.

Our Field Day Chairperson, Charles KC9DAO developed an action plan along with his two committee assistants, Dick AH6EZ and Greg N9CHA. Charles and his committee spent many hours planning meetings, contacting Band Captains, and surveying the new site. Not only that, but Charles provided several antenna support systems, aluminum masts and a creative "bridge" system to elevate our feedlines over the Bliss Woods bike path.

An incredible effort was put forth by the Band Captains, our Kitchen staff, club members and guests. Each band captain was challenged this year to provide two antennas, one vertical and one horizontal. In an effort to reduce interference, they spread out the antennas while maintaining a centralized operating circle. Becky KB9UBU once again out-did herself and prepared the needed "fuel" for all to stay on site and work through the entire event. This year she provided additional meals; Friday dinner for the set-up crew, and Saturday breakfast for those who stayed over-night and arrived early.

The antennas we used varied from wire dipoles, rigid rotating dipole, inverted-vee, verticals, a wire beam, hi-tower, and portable buddy-poles. It was an incredible sight to round the corner off Kadeka Road into the FD site and see all the antennas and support systems.

We had a fully staffed talk-in station on Saturday. Lloyd KC9DMS helped members and guests find our site by talking them in on our 2 meter repeater. Lloyd also greeted people as they entered the Lodge. There was a public information display at his table, as well as a communication white board located inside the entrance.

Once inside the Lodge, visitors were welcome to stop by the Antique Radio display. Ham radio equipment brought in by our fellow FRRL members provided an interesting educational opportunity to those who may have never before seen equipment made prior to 1940 through the 1980's. Thanks to all who hefted those wonderful radios to the site!

Saturday afternoon the NextGen Hams got together and worked on electronic kits and crafts. Tobi K9TCD and others provided an excellent opportunity for our younger members. They held a geo-caching event as well.

Special thanks goes to the City of Aurora and generator operator Orv this year for the use of their 25KW power plant. It sure is great to have reliable power. The generator went "on line" at 6:40 Saturday, and went "off line" at 13:45 Sunday.

Storms overcame our site this year on Saturday afternoon. The Kane County ARES team announced the weather cells as they rolled into our area, using the 2 meter ground frequency of 145.77. Real-time radar maps were being analyzed in the 80/15 Phone trailer by Dave N9CTO and his fellow ARES members. At 17:45 a big gust of wind caught one of our tent canopies and flipped it onto members cars and came to rest in the middle of the parking lot. Unfortunately, 3 club member vehicles were damaged.

The unofficial point totals are listed on page 5.

Thanks again to all who came out and made our 2008 Field Day a big success!

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – June, 2008

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Only a couple of updates this month. Public Service Events, Skywarn Activations and nice weather are calling some of our hams away from the HF dial. Jack Ekstrom (K9JE) reports working an air mobile at 38000 ft going from Orlando, Florida to Washington Dulles International, while Dick, AH6EZ, had contacts with stations from 3D2, ZL1, VU2, 5B, and OH0 using a home brew 3 element Spider Beam at 16 feet (his field day antenna. Tom (WB9CHY) sat on his back deck with a Buddipole and his new FT-817 QRP rig and was able to work a couple of states, while his wife Tobi, K9TCD, worked a few special event stations this month. Herb, W9DTR, proudly reports contacts with Malta, Luxembourg, Iceland, Macedonia, Crete and Morocco.

A note from Larry Stark, K9ARZ: "Not much new on PSK but have worked 9K2GS on SSB, ES7FQ on CW, and most evenings 20 Meters has provided good propagation into all zones of Russia with lots of contacts made often as late as 11 p.m. CDST (0400 GMT)."

Ragchew Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
N9CTO	-	-	58
K9FE	-	-	52
KC9FQV	-	-	30
W9DTR	-	-	29
AH6EZ	-	-	15
K9IH	-	-	13
NA9A	-	-	11
N9YA	-	-	3
AB9OS	-	-	3
WB9CHY	-	-	2
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	19/4	6	29
KC9ITG	25	2	27
WB9CHY	15/1	3	19

## 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)	29/7	18	54
AB9OS (CW)	3/1	33	37
KC9DAO (15 Meters)	2	13	15

QRO Class	States/ Provinces	DX Countries	Total
AH6EZ	50/10	151	211
NA9A	18	46	64

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## 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.

KC0VYH	John Ceinski
KN9NRN	Erik Andersen
KC9MSV	Michael Landelius
N9NYX	Donald F. Motz
KA9ZOO	Tony Grigonis
W4EBB	Charles Webb

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## Field Day 2008 Preliminary Point Totals:

- 20 CW = 610
- 20 SSB = 326
- 20 PSK = 228
- 40 CW = 294
- 40 SSB = 188
- 40 PSK = 310
- 80/15 CW = 910
- 80/15 SSB = 109
- GOTA = 103
- VHF = 81

## July Program Notes

The July program will be an edited video of the 2007 DXpedition to Scarborough Reef. That's the place in the China Sea where they erect platforms on rocks that are barely above the water line.

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### Simulated "Victims" Wanted

By Bart Bartkowiak, KC9FQA

On Thursday, July 24th from 11am. to 2 pm. the Kane County Medical Reserve Corp will be participating in an emergency exercise. They need volunteers to go to either East Aurora High School or South Elgin High School to play residents affected by this emergency.

For more information go to;

[http://www.kanehealth.com/emergency\\_exercise.htm](http://www.kanehealth.com/emergency_exercise.htm)

Thanks in advance for your help.

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### FRRL Hamfest—July 13, 2008

Established in 1929, the FRRL Hamfest is the oldest hamfest in Illinois. Even better, it's back again in 2008.. It will be held at Aurora Central Catholic High School, 1225 North Edgelawn Drive in Aurora, Illinois on Sunday, July 13, 2008.

The "Fest" will include vendors, a huge outdoor flea market, educational forums, a hidden transmitter hunt, an on-site food vendor, and hourly door prize drawings. There will be plenty of free parking at a handicap accessible venue.

Advance tickets by mail are \$6.00 each with 2 door prize stubs. Tickets are \$8.00 each at the gate with 1 door prize stub. Indoor tables are on a first come, first served basis, \$10.00 per an 8-foot table. See the flyer on our club web site ([www.frri.org](http://www.frri.org)) for detailed information, advance tickets, table information and directions to the site.

Set-up will be held from 5:00pm to 7:30pm Saturday and 6:00am to 8:00am Sunday. Doors will open to the public at 8:00am. Club volunteers are needed to assist with setup and clean-up. Please contact Dean, KC9EOQ, if you can help.



## Field Day 08 Photos

Photos by NF9D



An impressive welcome table.



Raising the 40 CW antenna.



"Next Gen" antenna technicians.



The 20 phone station had an indoor location.

## 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 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 July 13, 2008, at the FRRL Hamfest.

## 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.

## 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

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

Greg Braun, N9CHA

#### Vice President

Charles Penninger,  
KC9DAO

#### Secretary

Bill Stamps, W9WRS

#### Treasurer

Larry Shaw, W9OKI

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Bart Bartkowiak, KC9FQA

Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

#### Past President

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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

#### July, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 1  
 FRRL Meeting ..... 8  
 VE Session ..... 13  
 FRRL Hamfest ..... 13  
 Cougars Night ..... 18

#### August, 2008

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

## Handy Web Links

<b>FRRL Web Site</b>	<a href="http://www.frrl.org/">http://www.frrl.org/</a>
ARRL Main Site	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/">http://www.arrl.org/</a>
ARRL Central Div. Site	<a href="http://www.central.arrl.org/">http://www.central.arrl.org/</a>
ARRL IL Section Site	<a href="http://www.central.arrl.org/illinois.html">http://www.central.arrl.org/illinois.html</a>
ARRL IL Section News	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=IL">http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=IL</a>
ARRL Contest Page	<a href="http://www.arrl.org/contests/">http://www.arrl.org/contests/</a>
Contest Calendar	<a href="http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/">http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/</a>
Callsign Lookup (QRZ)	<a href="http://www.qrz.com/">http://www.qrz.com/</a>
Vanity Callsign Info	<a href="http://www.vanityhq.com/">http://www.vanityhq.com/</a>
IRLP Main Page	<a href="http://www.irlp.net/">http://www.irlp.net/</a>
AMSAT	<a href="http://www.amsat.org/">http://www.amsat.org/</a>
FCC Services	<a href="http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur">http://wireless.fcc.gov/services/amateur</a>
SMC Contest Club	<a href="http://www.w9smc.com/">http://www.w9smc.com/</a>

### 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](mailto: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.