



# Arc Over

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

October, 2008

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## President's Traffic

By Greg Braun, N9CHA

Hello to all! It has been an exciting and busy month for FRRL members and we will continue to be busy going into the Autumn months. First, the FRRL is moving it's meetings to Rasmussen College. The address is 2363 Sequoia Drive, Aurora, IL. This is near the intersection of I-88 and Orchard Road. A map is available our web site. All future Board Meetings, VE Sessions, Educational Classes and Special Interest Group Meetings will be held at Rasmussen College. A special talk-in net will be conducted by Net Control, Adam KC9ITG from 7:00 to 7:30 using the 2 meter repeater, 147.210.

Special Event Station W9H at the Huntley Fall Fest was a wet, but fun event this year. Several members of the FRRL got together at Deicke Park on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September to support event chairperson Joe AB9OU and his assistant Bill W9WRS. There are some great pictures, an event summary and a list of those who attended on the club's web site. Check it out!

Tobi K9TCD and several FRRL volunteers provided communications for the Mid-American Canoe & Kayak Race held on September 28<sup>th</sup>. This is the first time it has been run in the Fall. A modified course was implemented due to bridge construction in Batavia. More than 200 entries paddled down the 6 mile route. Please check out our web site for more details and pictures.

The 27<sup>th</sup> annual ARRL/TAPR Digital Communications Conference was held September 26-28 at the Holiday Inn, Elk Grove Village. FRRL members Kermit W9XA and Mark WB9QZB were instrumental in the planning and organizing of this years DCC. A short re-cap of the events will be presented at the October meeting by Dick AH6EZ. Good news! The conference was such a

success that TAPR elected to hold the meeting here again next year!

The FRRL will be on the air during the Scarecrow Festival Special Event on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>. All are invited to attend and participate. This year we are meeting at Campton Nature Trails Park, west of Wasco, IL. (Map on our web site) We plan on setting up antennas at 10am. We will have lunch (donations accepted), then get on the air with two stations at 1:00pm. Thanks to Becky KB9UBU for organizing and cooking! The plan is to operate until 6:00pm at least. Voice, CW and PSK31 will be the modes of choice at various times. We may even have a QRP station on the air. If you need driving instructions, give W9CEQ a call on the 2 meter repeater.

Another October event is the Illinois QSO Party being held this year on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>. I encourage all FRRL members to participate in order to help our aggregate score. This event offers you a chance to enhance your operating skills, set up a mini-field day site, strategize and pre-plan your set up and have fun. The QSO Party runs from Noon to 6 PM and operates from 160 through 2 meters, excluding 60, 30, 17 and 12 meters. Check out the Western Illinois Amateur Radio Club's web site at [www.w9awe.org](http://www.w9awe.org) for further details.

For those who are D-Star users, the first Illinois D-Star Net was held on Wednesday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>. This net meets on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. More information can be found on our web site.

Did you have the chance to listen or have a QSO with Owen Garriott W5LFL transmit from the Shuttle Columbia back in 1983? Well here it is 25

*(Continued on page 3)*

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 September 9, 2008

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

Question of the Month: What has been your favorite HF or VHF rig?

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: \$26,459 (Cash/Savings = \$9,685 Certificates of Deposit = \$16,774)

### **Committee Reports**

**Newsletter:** Bill N9FD – Looking for a new Arc Over editor.

### **Special Events:**

Bart, KC9FQA - Volunteers needed for the Mid-American Canoe Race – September 28<sup>th</sup> from the Fox Valley Park District Tobi K9TCD will be the chair.

Joe, AB9IN – Huntley Fall Fest, volunteers needed for Communications and special event station W9H, September 13, Deicke Park, Huntley, IL.

**VE:** Doug, W9RD, Next VE session September 16, Prisco Center.

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

**Database:** Chris KC9BKS – Reports 218 members. The updated 2008 roster is on the Yahoo Group.

**Program:** Kermit N9XA - will give a presentation and DVD on HF digital voice communication modes.

**Education:** Eric KB9IDT – Tech or General class will be presented this fall.

**Nets:** Adam KC9ITG – Averaging 20 check-ins. September 23, 2008 will have a simplex net following the regular net.

**Technical Committee:** Mike K9FE – Linux SIG will resume at Rasmussen College on Saturday, October 25, 2008.

### **Current Business:**

Special event station: W9H – Huntley FallFest – Saturday September 13, 2008. Joe AB9OU is chairman.

Video: Gary K9MMS and grandson Cal K0DXC were featured on Minneapolis KSTP 5. DVD did not function correctly , will be presented next meeting.

### **Other Business from the floor:**

Video: Gary K9MMS, grandson Cal K0DXC, featured on Minneapolis KSTP 5. Mike was able to make a DVD.

Greg N9CHA- introduced the Club Officer Nominating Committee – Jason KC9MED Chairperson, Kermit W9XA, and Phil W9XAN

Greg N9CHA – Requested a motion for a non-budgeted equipment purchase – 2 Penninger Radio Tipper Systems for \$1,366.29. Randolph W9HE, second by John AG9D. Passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bill Stamps, W9WRS

## President's Letter

*(Continued from page 1)*

years later, and his son Richard W5KWQ is about to be the next private citizen to be flown to the ISS. He is planning on several ARISS contacts

and with hams all over the world. Richard will also have an SSTV system with him to transmit pictures. Be sure to watch your email for updates from John AG9D on our Yahoo Groups message board.

Mike K9FE will start up the Linux Special Interest Group from its summer hiatus. On Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, the SIG will meet at 9am, Rasmussen College. All those interested in Linux and its application to amateur radio are invited to attend.

The October meeting will be very exciting. We'll have pictures and reports from current events, and news about our club nomination and election process. The nominating committee is being chaired by Jason KC9MED with fellow committee members, Kermit W9XA and Phil W9XAN. Plus Dick AH6EZ has a terrific program lined up. I'll see you there on Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup>.

73, Greg N9CHA  
FRRL President, 2008

## 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-American Canoe & Kayak Race

by Tobi Davis, K9TCD

The Mid-American Canoe & Kayak Race returned on September 28, 2008 after a 28-month hiatus. The day was cloudy and cool and the river was rippling nicely, with a helpful tailwind, which made for just about perfect paddling conditions. More than 200 entries went down the 6-mile course from the VFW in Batavia to the Prisco Center in Aurora. Our volunteers who graciously helped me provide communications were Katherine KC9KJU, Bart KC9FQA, Eric AB9OS, Keith N9YA, Tom WB9CHY, Kent W9NDW and Cyd N9CV. Kent acted as net control and Cyd handled the weather desk from her QTH. Katherine, Bart and Eric at the portage marked off boat numbers, which helped the people at the end to know that no one was lost or hurt somewhere on the river. Tom and Keith helped the race and timing officials at the finish line. We used the FRRL 2m repeater, which worked beautifully. Thank you to the repeater board for the use of the repeater for this event.

The race was uneventful, no capsizes, no missing boats due to a pizza run, as in a prior year, and no problems with the repeater. A little comedy was provided by some of the racers. The first heat contained a Viking boat, complete with horned helmets for the paddlers. Later, four friends in two boats wore Hawaiian leis and grass skirts. One of the boats even sported its own grass skirt. And, finally, a boat with four passengers had a total of twelve legs. Stumped? Along with their humans, two dogs were on board, looking very happy with the prospect of a ride with no window glass to keep the wind from their faces.

It can be a bit chaotic at the start of the race with so many people and boats and, as in the past, there was some confusion with a few of the boat numbers. Did they start? Did they make it down the river? Were we seeing a prior year number or this year's number on the front of the boat? We may never know, but the North Aurora Fire Department rescue boat checked out the river and assured us no one was left floundering.

I want to thank all my volunteers for their professionalism and willingness to help out in the tradition that is the Mid-American Canoe & Kayak race. Kudos to you all and I hope we meet again next year to help people roll on down the river.

## Bill Erickson HF Challenge Update – September, 2008

By Cyd Runde, N9CV

Joe, NA9A reports a contact from T209DX Tuvalu. Tuvalu is a tiny Polynesian island nation located in the Pacific Ocean midway between Hawaii and Australia. (Thanks Wikipedia!)

Tom (WB9CHY) and Toby (K9TCD) are on vacation, but checked in long enough to report contacts with Alaska and Switzerland- that new beam is serving them well. (They will update their scores next month)

I listened to the Hurricane Watch Net as those dedicated operators worked hurricane after hurricane. The devastation following Ike is still being assessed, but resources are being stretched thin. The American Red Cross has exhausted its Disaster resources, and is operating on loans. Please, consider a donation to this, or other relief organizations. And now back to our regular programming....

| Ragchew Class | States/ Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------|-------|
| N9CTO         | -                 | -            | 58    |
| K9FE          | -                 | -            | 52    |
| KC9FQV        | -                 | -            | 31    |
| W9DTR         | -                 | -            | 31    |
| NA9A          | -                 | -            | 25    |
| K9IH          | -                 | -            | 16    |
| AH6EZ         | -                 | -            | 16    |
| N9YA          | -                 | -            | 3     |
| AB9OS         | -                 | -            | 3     |
| WB9CHY        | -                 | -            | 3     |
| KC9DAO        | -                 | -            | 2     |
| K9JE          | -                 | -            | 2     |

| Operator Class | States/Provinces | DX Countries | Total |
|----------------|------------------|--------------|-------|
| K9JE           | 43/7             | 115          | 165   |
| W9DTR          | 50/9             | 84           | 143   |
| 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             | 152          | 212   |
| NA9A      | 53                | 99           | 152   |
| N4LZ      | 29/8              | 85           | 122   |

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## New Member

By Bill Muhr, NF9D

We have one new member since the last newsletter. It's Roger Hancock, KD1FY. Please say hello to Roger when you see him at the meetings or hear him on the air.

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## October Program Notes

By Dick Illman, AH6EZ

Since we are moving to a new meeting location, I thought we would have a program about something old. I have a small library of old radio books from 1914 to 1943. The program called "Old Radio Q&A" will share some of the strange ways of radio. If you do not know what a Klemencic Thermal Junction is, you will need to attend.

## A Most Unusual QSL Card

By Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

What's the most unusual QSL card you've ever received? QSL cards come in many forms. Some are black and white, some use a single color and many resemble a full color photograph. Some are professionally printed; many are printed at home using a color inkjet printer with a custom design by the operator.

In my short time as an amateur radio operator I have received quite a few QSL cards, especially since upgrading to the General class license. Some have been very plain, some in color and a few that were quite fancy. However, the most unusual QSL card I've ever received came in a small cardboard box. Upon arriving home from work one afternoon, my 8 year old, Collin, came running to the door saying "Dad, you got a package, you got a package!" Once I was settled in, I examined the box. The return address was from L. Lynn Lamb, W4NL in Maryville, Tennessee. I wasn't expecting anything; I hadn't ordered anything especially from another ham. So what was in that unexpected box?

My wife Tamie, KC9LWX, suggested opening it outside! I told her I didn't think that was necessary. So I carefully opened the unexpected package. Right on top was a QSL card from Lynn Lamb, W4NL bearing his signature, my call sign, and a thanks scribbled in the corner. Beneath that was red colored bubble wrap. Whatever it was, it was light and unusually shaped. Beneath all this was a baseball cap, a red baseball cap! Embroidered on the front of the cap are my call sign and my first name. There was no note; there was no contact information, nothing. How mysterious.

Looking back in my logs, I do not have a record of contacting W4NL. Other recent radio activity was working 40 meter phone at the Huntley Fall Fest a few weeks ago. Perhaps, he was one of the many rag chew contacts I made that day. I asked around to other hams wondering if they had ever received a hat a part of a QSL. No one including a ham who has been licensed since childhood could ever recall getting a hat as part of a QSL.

I will send one of my QSL cards to W4NL with a thank you for the hat once I confirm the contact with the Huntley Fall Fest logs. Otherwise, this has to be the most unusual QSL exchange I've ever experienced.

Dean, KC9EOQ.

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## October Extended Event Calendar

- 7th — FRRL 2 Meter Net, 7:30pm
- 7th — FRRL Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30pm Rasmussen College
- 8th — Illinois D-Star Net, 7:00pm
- 11th — FRRL Scarecrow Festival Special Event, 10am, Campton Trails Park
- 12th — Richard Garriott W5KWQ Launch to ISS.
- 14th — FRRL Membership Meeting, 7:30 Rasmussen College
- 15th — Illinois D-Star Net, 7:00pm
- 19th — Illinois QSO Party, Noon to 6pm.
- 21st — FRRL 2 Meter Net, 7:30pm
- 22nd — Richard Garriott W5KWQ Return from ISS.
- 22nd — Illinois D-Star Net, 7:00pm
- 25th — FRRL Linux Special Interest Group, 9am Rasmussen College
- 26th — FRRL Club Fox Hunt—TBA
- 28th — FRRL 2 Meter Net, 7:30pm, 146.58 Simplex Net to follow
- 29th — Illinois D-Star Net, 7:00pm



## 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 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, July 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 \$14.00. (The FRRL receives no portion of this fee.)

**The next exam session is scheduled for November 18, 2008, at Rasmussen College**

## 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

#### Directors:

Bart Bartkowiak, KC9FQA

Tobi Davis, K9TCD

Chris Farley, KC9IEQ

Dean Holste, KC9EOQ

#### Past President

Dick Illman, AH6EZ

#### License Trustees:

Kermit Carlson, W9XA  
Bob Dillon, WB9LTN

#### Newsletter Editor

Bill Muhr, NF9D  
newsletter@frrl.org

#### Webmaster

Tom Davis, WB9CHY  
webmaster@frrl.org



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.  
 40W981 Bridle Creek Drive  
 St Charles, Illinois  
 60175

### FRRL Event Calendar

#### October, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 7  
 Scarecrow Festival ..... 11  
 FRRL Meeting ..... 14  
 Illinois QSO Party ..... 19

#### November, 2008

FRRL Board Meeting ..... 4  
 FRRL Meeting ..... 11  
 VE Session..... 18

More October events listed inside on page Six.

## Handy Web Links

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>FRRL Web Site</b>   | <a href="http://www.frri.org/">http://www.frri.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@frri.org](mailto: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.** -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.
- Illinois DStar Net - Wed. Eve. @ 7:00 pm local time on the Dstar 440 repeater.