

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
13 May, 2016

The May meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on 13 May, 2016 and was hosted by club president Charles Ward, KC9MUT. There were about 30 people in attendance. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance everyone present introduced themselves via their call sign.

Treasurer Bob Streeter (W8ST) provided a financial status report. As of 13 May, 2016 the FWRC financial numbers were as follows:

Income YTD \$1,388.22
Expenses YTD \$2,551.43
Cash of hand \$184.56
Checking balance \$3,426.49
Savings balance \$8,070.27

Charles briefed the crowd about the club participation in the Indiana QSO Party that occurred on the 7th of May. Nine plus club members showed up at the Old Fort facility in downtown Ft. Wayne Saturday morning and set up a combined total of five phone and cw stations which operated principally on 40 and 20 meters from 11am to about 9pm. Propagation was lousy, but a reasonable number of QSO's were made, we think comparable to what other QSO Party participants were obtaining. Charles set up the wireless logging network and captured all of the action, so he will be submitting our logs to the ARRL in the near future. The general consensus of all who participated was that the Old Fort is a great venue, and we look forward to using it for future operating events. Pictures of the goings-on during the QSO Party can be found on the fwrc.info site in the "photos" tab. Check them out. Note that we broke for pizza, (see the photos) and it was goooooo).

Speaking of future operating events, it has been confirmed that we will be able to operate out of the Old Fort for Field Day. Planning has already started for utilizing the Old Fort venue for the Field Day adventure.

Steve Nardin (W9SAN) announced the results of the May foxhunt. The hunt occurred on 1 May and featured four foxhunting teams. The role of the fox was provided by Jason (KC9OUQ) and Deborah (KK4QXC) who hid out at the Mengerson Nature Preserve. The team of Jim and Annie Pliett plus Carole and Al Burke were the first to find the little bugger and thus will be the fox for the June hunt coming up on the 5th of June.

Charles noted that the club is still undecided as to whether it will participate in the Three Rivers Festival parade again this year. If we are going to participate we must submit our application by Saturday, May 14th. And we need to develop a theme specific idea for the FWRC which relates to the overall theme of the TRF, that being the Indiana Bi-Centennial.

Al Burke reported that an Arcom ADR module required to interface the new Yaesu Fusion DR-1X digital repeater with the existing controller used at the Parkview-146.940 MHz site is on order and should be arriving soon. Once it shows up we will integrate the DR-1X with the ADR module and controller on the bench to make sure all is working well. The club's Motorola repeater will be temporarily installed at Parkview in place of the existing Master-II/controller hardware so that the controller can be made available for integration with the DR-1X. Once that is accomplished the DR-1X will be installed at Parkview and 146.94 will have both analog and C4FM (digital) capability.

Al Burke reported that Sarkes-Tarzian Legal (their lawyers) have returned the marked-up draft lease agreement we had sent them relating to our occupying space on the WLDE tower out on Parrott Rd. In its current form we have two concerns. Sarkes-Tarzian demands that our liability

insurance provide coverage of two million dollars per incident of personal injury as opposed to our current policy which provides one million dollars of coverage per incident. We don't know the cost impact of obtaining a policy with the required two million dollar coverage. Our current policy costs the club about \$300.00 per year. The second concern relates to Sarkes-Tarzian Legal's requirement that a Subrogation clause not exist in our insurance policy. However the existence of a Subrogation clause appears to be standard from what we can tell, and it certainly exists in our current policy through the ARRL. We plan to talk to the ARRL or its insurance underwriter to see what our options are. If we cannot find an affordable solution to this issue then our goal of getting on that beautiful tower (at 280') won't be able to be realized.

Following a short break for coffee and cookies, Erik Mollberg, station manager of Community radio station WELT provided an informative program relating to this new asset to the greater Ft. Wayne area. WELT, FM 95.7 is a public supported radio station with studio facilities in the Allen County Public Library downtown, and soon to exist additional studio facilities in the Helmke Library on the campus of IPFW. The transmitter and antenna are in and on facilities at IPFW's Kettler Hall. The FWRC provided a lot of support with the transmitter, feedline and antenna installation and checkout early this year, so we feel we have a vested interest in the endeavor.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club