

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2016

The October meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 21 October, 2016 and was hosted by club president Charles Ward, KC9MUT. There were about 40 people in attendance. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance everyone present introduced themselves via their call sign.

Charles re-opened nominations for the election of FWRC Officers and the Board of Directors for 2017. No new names were put into nomination relative to those identified as willing to serve at the September club meeting, with the exception of Fred Van Kempen, KA4YBR who allowed his name to be put into nomination as Communications Manager. So the ballot turned out to be as follows:

President:	Charles Ward, KC9MUT
V.P.:	Carole Burke, WB9RUS
Secretary:	Al Burke, WB9SSE
Treasurer:	Bob Streeter, W8ST
Communications Manager:	Fred Van Kemper, KA4YBR
Board of Directors:	Tom Rupp, KU8T, Steve Nardin, W9SAN, Linda Nardin, W9LAN, Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ, Kim Machamer, KB9DOS

When the ballots were counted, the results for the Officers and Board of the FWRC for 2017 were as follows:

President:	Charles Ward, KC9MUT
V.P.:	Carole Burke, WB9RUS
Secretary:	Al Burke, WB9SSE
Treasurer:	Bob Streeter, W8ST
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We want to thank all those who were willing to run for various positions, and can only comment that it's a little disappointing that we cannot induce more club members to put their names in contention when invited to participate in setting the direction of the club.

Bob Streeter, W8ST provided the status of the club treasury as follows:

Income year-to-date	\$2,203.33
Expenses year-to-date	\$3,524.00
Cash-on-Hand	\$107.33
Checking Account	\$3,144.61
Savings Account	\$7,821.92
Number of Club members	130

Al Burke, WB9SSE reported that progress has occurred on the efforts to implement the WLDE/Parrott Rd. repeater project, (a.k.a., the Parrott Rd. Initiative). The lease agreement with WLDE's owners, Sarkes-Tarzian, Inc. has been signed so we know we actually have a new home for the 146.94 repeater. Terry Bowman, K9FMX and Jim Pliett, K9OMA have figured out how to implement cooling in the equipment enclosure we acquired, and have started making the modifications to the enclosure to accomplish that task. Rich Meyer, K9DMA has offered to fabricate the tower side-mounts needed to position the antennas on the side of the tower at about the 290' level. Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ has just about finished integrating the Fusion repeater with

our existing (146.94) CAT-1000 controller and a new duplexer that will be installed in the equipment enclosure. Al Burke and Tom Rupp are supplying him with two Fusion capable radios to use to test the digital function of the Fusion repeater. Once that is done it will be reinstalled back at the Parkview site for test and burn-in until the new site at WLDE is complete. Al & Paul have surveyed the WLDE site and have determined where the enclosure will be located (at the base of the tower), and have determined the details of the trench that must be excavated in order to run power from the WLDE transmitter building over to our enclosure, (about a 40' long, six inch trench used to bury 1/2" conduit). We must also install about a 30' run of conduit inside the WLDE building to get to the building electrical service panel.

Bob Streeter reported that so far \$220.00 in donations from club members towards the Parrott Rd. Initiative are confirmed. And at least another \$300.00 in donations are in the works at the present time. If we can identify follow-on donations of \$1,000.00 we will meet our initial goal of \$1,500.00 in donations. Those funds will be matched by several club members who have pledged to cumulatively match donations up to \$1,500.00. And in addition, ACARTS has agreed to match an additional amount (up to \$1,500.00) such that we will accumulate a total of \$4,500.00 towards financing the Parrott Rd. Initiative. In other words, for every one dollar we can obtain from donations or other sources, we will realize an additional two dollars towards the Parrott Rd. Initiative. So one dollar donated results in a total of three dollars. At present we have about 130 club members. If we could convince all 130 of them to donate an additional \$11.50 each, we would easily meet our \$1,500.00 target.

Charles Ward, KC9MUT reported on the October foxhunt. Charles, Fred Gengnagle, KC9EZF and Phil Hooper, AB9IZ served as the fox and hid out on the St. Mary's River river-front near the Hall's restaurant around Bluffton Rd. and Vesey Ave. They placed the micro-fox amidst the ballast rock that lines the bank of the river. And this demented group hid the micro-fox in a hole that they bored into one of the ballast rocks so that it was completely invisible, innocently lying amidst all the thousands of other rocks lining the river. (I understand that foxhunter K9OMA has filed charges against them at the Geneva Convention). Foxhunters Steve & Linda Nardin's grandson Alex was first to find the fox so they will serve as the fox for the November hunt. More details and videos of this hunt should soon be available on the FWRC web page.

Jim Boyer, KB9IH announced that he is soliciting volunteers for the ACARTS Hamfest. There are many hamfest tasks that volunteers can support, and all help is greatly appreciated. Please contact Jim if you can lend a hand. He's at:
260-489-6700
kb9ih@arrl.net

Kevin Loughin, KB9RLW demonstrated an experimental magnetic loop antenna that he was using on 40 through the bottom portion of 10 meters. Using 1/2 watt his beacon transmission was being copied in Boston from inside the meeting room we were using at the Good Shephard United Methodist Church. A video describing some of Kevin's experiments can be found at:

<https://twitter.com/kb9rlw>

Following the business meeting, and after some refreshments, pictures and a video of the final installation of a 70' steel tilt-over tower project at Jim Pliett, K9OMA's QTH was presented.



This documented the culmination of an entire summers efforts to locate a suitable tower, remove it from its previous location at Harry Harvey, N9AR's QTH, haul it out to Jim's, repaint it and perform other maintenance activities on it, hand dig a 4'x4'x6' hole for the antenna base, pour about 4cubic yards of concrete, and then reinstall the tower. A necessary, but not often documented aspect of our hobby.

Steve Nardin, W9SAN then presented a discussion of Electronically Commutated DC motor switching noise, and how to tame it. These motors are commonly employed in the air handling portion of home heating and cooling systems and can be a significant source of noise in the LF, HF and low vhf spectrum and thus cause grief for amateur and SWL operators. Steve discussed the theory behind what causes radiated emissions from these systems and then described practical engineering solutions to eliminate them. It was a thoroughly enjoyable presentation.

The meeting adjourned about 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club