

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
September 2017

The September meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 15 September, 2017, club president Charles Ward, KC9MUT presiding. There were about 30 people in attendance. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance everyone present introduced themselves via their call sign.

Charles opened nominations for club officer and Board of Director positions. The club will vote on those running for the various positions at the October meeting. Those persons willing to run were as follows:

President, Charles Ward, KC9MUT and Brian Jenks, WB9BGJ

Vice President, Carole Burke, WB9RUS

Secretary, Al Burke, WB9SSE

Treasurer, Bob Streeter, W8ST

Communications Manager, Fred Van Kempen, KA4YBR and Brian Jenks, WB9BGJ

Board of Directors, Linda Nardin, W9LAN, Steve Nardin, W9SAN, Paul Prestia, KA3OZP, Steve Shannon, K9SKS, Larry Averbeck, W9FLA

Nominations will be reopened at the October meeting just prior to the elections.

Treasurer Bob Streeter, W8ST provided the status of the treasury. As of 15 September, 2017 the numbers were as follows:

Income year-to-date, \$4,410.44

Expenses year-to-date, \$7,540.53

Cash on hand: \$177.18

Checking: \$2,285.36

Savings: \$7,825.49

Current membership: 129 members

2 prepaid for 2018

Al Burke, WB9SSE gave a repeater status report. We received the replacement batteries for the Parrott Rd. systems (146.940 and D-STAR) UPS. After installing the UPS batteries we still could not get the UPS to start and concluded that the UPS itself had failed in addition to the batteries. The UPS was removed from the site and is currently on Jim Pliett, K9OMA's bench to determine if it can be repaired. So Parrott Rd. is currently operating without it's UPS.

Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ and Bruce Dennis, N3QKK determined that the uhf preamp for the D-STAR system had failed, so while D-STAR is functioning, it can't hear very well. A search for a replacement preamp is underway.

The racks for the 146.76 and 444.875 machines at Robison Park were repositioned to allow for better access to them from the rear as well as the front. In addition revisions to the feedline entry points to the building were installed to remove the no longer used (I&M) waveguides and seal of all entry point holes. The interior and exterior grounding of the feedlines were also upgraded.

It was noticed that the Robison Park UPS batteries had failed and will need to be replaced. The cost to replace the Robison Park UPS batteries will be just under \$200.00. So Al Burke made a motion that the club authorize \$200.00 to purchase new batteries. The motion was seconded and voted on in the affirmative by the members present.

Charles requested that a formal committee be formed to coordinate activities for the club's 100th year anniversary which will occur in 2020. The tasks will include planning special event station activities, developing QSI cards for the special event station, and developing ideas for possible collectables such as T-shirts, hats, emblems, key-chains and so forth. Folks who indicated they'd be willing to serve on the committee included Bob Streeter, Fred Van Kempen, Al Burke, Clark Derbyshire, KG9FM, and Charles Ward. If your interested in serving on this committee please contact Charles Ward.

Charles noted that there are several events that the club will participate in, or that could use participants to provide communications support. They are as follows:

The club will support the Fort Wayne Safety Fair to be held at Jefferson Point on 24 September. We will set up an HF and a VHF station to demonstrate ham radio communications and its benefits to the community. The Safety Fair runs from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. So far about five club members indicated a willingness to support the event.

On Saturday, September 30th, the local ARES team will provide communications for a major happening in the Fort, the "Fort 4 Fitness". Starting with a full Marathon, and ending with a 4 mile run/walk, this event needs as many as 25 ham operators to provide event communications. You can contact Jim, KB9WWM, at SERVO300@AOL.COM, to volunteer for this event.

Steve Nardin commented that plans are being developed to use an auction at the Fort Wayne Hamfest this coming November to sell the considerable number of items from a deceased hams estate. This will be a first for the Fort Wayne Hamfest. The auction will occur on Sunday, 19 November.

Following the business meeting, Fred Van Kempen, KA4YBR provided a fascinating slide presentation entitled "Amateur Radio, There and Here", on the differences between ham operation in the US and Europe. The presentation was a real eye-opener. In a nutshell, US hams have it knocked relative to the bureaucratic/regulatory, space (for antenna) limitations, and power limitations that European hams have to contend with. All in all an excellent presentation. Thank you Fred.

The meeting concluded at about 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club