

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
September 2018

The September meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 21 September, 2018. The meeting was presided over by the club's Vice-President Carole Burke, WB9RUS. There were about 30 folks attending.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance each person introduced themselves via their call sign.

Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ provided the latest status on our repeaters:

The Bridge-Com unit that had been in service at the 146.91 (IPFW) site had suffered a failure that took out it's transmit unit. The printed wiring board in and around the units output matching components was pretty much burned up and it was concluded that the transmit unit was not repairable. After discussions with Bridge-Com the Repeater Committee decided that the best course of action was to send the entire package back to Bridge-Com for installation of a new transmit unit and installation of the latest firm-ware. The replacement transmit unit is on back-order from Bridge-Com's supplier and is not expected to be available unit the November time frame. The cost for repair, shipping, etc. will be around \$350.00.

Since an expenditure of more than \$150.00 requires a vote of approval by the club membership at a meeting, a proposal to spend up to \$350.00 for the Bridge-Com repair was put forward and seconded, and it was approved by a show of hands vote by those attending the meeting.

Meanwhile, the repeater Committee has all five of the club's repeaters up and running. The 146.910 system is operating using a Bridge-Com unit borrowed from the 146.760 (Robison Park) site along with a recently repaired power amplifier. It is pumping about 70 watts up the feedline and seems to be working just fine, including its Echo-Link function. 146.760 (Robison Park) is operating using our standby Motorola system running at about 40 watts. Once the Bridge-Com unit (discussed above) is repaired and returned to us we will install it at 146.760 (Robison Park) to return that system to its "normal" configuration. The 444.874 (Robison Park uhf system) is operating with its Bridge-Com system and a power amplifier and seems to be doing fine. Likewise the 146.940 Fusion and 442.99375 D-STAR systems out at the Parrott Rd. site are functioning normally although we still have not had a chance to install a power amplifier for the Fusion system to balance out it's receive and transmit footprints.

Bob Streeter, W8ST gave the Treasurer's report. As of 21 September, 2018 the club's numbers were as follows:

Income year-to-date	\$9,073.72
Expenses year-to-date	\$5,832.23
Cash on hand	\$ 130.00
Checking balance	\$2,360.91
Savings balance	\$4,828.86
Vanguard Account balance	\$5,028.88

Joseph Lawrence, K9RFZ noted that the tenth annual Safety Fair would occur tomorrow, 22 September at Jefferson Park. The FWRC had agreed to participate again this year, and to that end Charles Ward, KC9MUT planned to have the club trailer on site by 8:00 am. We will put up at least one HF station plus at least one vhf station to demonstrate the hobby to folks attending the fair. Activities will include a scavenger hunt for the children and a fly-in by the Lutheran Hospital Medevac helicopter. Volunteers to help with the club's involvement will be appreciated.

Al Burke, WB9SSE announced that he had volunteered to manage the vendor check-in function for the upcoming Fort Wayne Hamfest in November. He will be actively recruiting volunteers to help check-in Hamfest vendors Friday evening, Saturday morning and Sunday morning, November 16, 17 & 18. The tasks include handling the drive-in doors at the Coliseum, taking care of vendor paperwork and selling vendor attendance tickets during the check-in process. Anyone interested in helping out with this important Hamfest function, contact Al Burke, WB9SSE at:

aburke55@comcast.net,
260-637-1989

Likewise, Bernie Holm, K9JDF is managing internal traffic control for the Hamfest check-in function and is in need of volunteers to help with this task. If you can help out contact Bernie at:

bgholmmg@earthlink.net
260-485-0164

Carole Burke opened nominations for the upcoming FWRC elections of club officers and Board members. Elections by ballot will occur during the October club meeting. The positions to be filled, and those, so far, willing to run for the corresponding positions are:

President - Charles Ward, KC9MUT, Brian Jenks, W9BGJ

Vice President – Carole Burke, WB9RUS

Secretary – Al Burke, WB9SSE

Treasurer – Bob Streeter, W8ST

Communications Manager -

Board of Directors (four) – Steve Nardin, W9SAN, Linda Nardin, W9LAN, Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ, Brenda Plummer, KD9GDY, Clarke Derbyshire, KG9FM, Tom Rupp, KU8T (nominated in his absence).

Serving as an officer, or on the Board of Directors is by no means a daunting task. It's interesting and rewarding to interact with your fellow hams in order to keep this club vital. Some of you out there surely have had occasion to say to yourselves, "Boy, if I was the President, Vice President".....fill in the blank..."I'd have handled that problem this way". Well, run for a position (it's only a one year commitment) and have an influence on setting the direction of this club! Think about it. Nominations will be re-opened during the October club meeting (19 October) just prior to the formal elections.

Following the business meeting Steve and Linda Nardin (WB9's SAN & LAN) gave an entertaining presentation, complete with pictures, on their recent trip east to visit locations of interest in and around Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New York.

They were out for a week and a half and visited the US Army military academy at West Point, the Antique Wireless Museum in East Bloomfield, NY, the Medina Railroad Museum in Medina, NY, Steamtown USA in Scranton, PA, and last but not least ARRL Headquarters and W1AW in Newington, Connecticut. They got the deluxe tour of ARRL headquarters and saw areas not usually available to the everyday visitor. They also got a look at the pandemonium that breaks loose at headquarters when a humongous lightning and thunderstorm rolls into the Newington area and the ARRL staff has to scramble to disconnect and ground all of its (many) feedlines and control cables from their rather large antenna farm. All in all a thoroughly enjoyable and educational presentation!

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club