

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
14 April, 2021

The April edition of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club meeting was held at the Allen County Public Library (downtown) on 14 April, 2021. We made use of meeting rooms A & B which provide room for up to 126 people in a Corona virus compliant environment. (We have also reserved the venue for the May meeting and are attempting to reserve it for June, July and August. For the time being meetings will start promptly at 6:00 pm because the library closing time has been established as 8:00 pm.

Club President Carole Burke, WB9RUS welcomed the attendees (about 16) where-in all introduced themselves by their name and call-sign. Following introductions we executed the pledge of allegiance ceremony according to our usual practices.

Treasurer Bob Streeter, W8ST provided the current club banking account balances as of 14 April, 2021, to wit:

Savings-	\$1,831.02
Checking-	\$5,675.04
Vanguard Money Market-	\$11,225.55
Income year-to-date-	\$1,930.00
Expenses year-to-date-	\$846.25

Al Burke, WB9SSE reported on repeater status. All machines are operating normally. Al has purchased four replacement sealed lead-acid batteries for the Uninterruptable Power Supply at Robison Park and will install them shortly.

Al also reported on the April Foxhunt. There were sixteen hunters distributed amongst seven teams, including a contingent of five Trine University students who were returning for their second hunt. Charles Ward, KC9MUT served as the fox and established his fox lair on the banks of the St. Mary's river near Burgess St. and Sherman Blvd. in downtown Ft. Wayne. He hid the microfox in a branch of a dead tree, and it turned out it was quite difficult to locate. The team of Al & Carole Burke plus Jim and Annie Pliett were the first to locate the microfox and thus will serve as the fox for May hunt. More details of this hunt will be contained in the April edition of the Foxhunt Chronicles forthcoming.

Carole discussed a strategy to improve public awareness regarding the FWRC and the upcoming events such as Field Day. We have noticed that in the past we have received some exposure via the press and media to events such as Field Day, but only after-the-fact. If we can create public awareness prior to an event perhaps we can induce more of the public to participate. To this end she will be inquiring with several contacts she has in the media and public relations about who to contact in those fields in Ft. Wayne such that we can get our message out.

Carole is also in discussions with ACARTS president Dave Lindquist, W9LKH about the FWRC and ACARTS jointly sponsoring a picnic this August out at the Jefferson Township Park east of New Haven. This would be an excellent opportunity for the two clubs to socialize given all of the restrictions the Coronavirus issue has so far put on both clubs.

Following the business meeting Jeff Bauermeister, a Magnavox retiree who had worked in Information Technology, provided a fascinating description of the art and science of the sport of racing pigeons.



Turns out that Ft. Wayne was a center of excellence regarding practitioners of the sport from the early 20's thru the 70's and Jeff and his dad and grand-dad were really into the hobby. They hosted a flock of about 20 pigeons and entered them in speed and endurance races over distances of up to 1000 miles. It was quite popular. In fact there was column in the Sunday paper back in the day that listed details of each (weekly) race, akin to the box scores.

If you were not at the April meeting, you missed a good one.

Upcoming presentations will include:

May – Sgt Sophia Rosales- Scatena of the Fort Wayne Police Dept, Public Information Unit who will brief us on general safety topics including situation awareness and answer any questions we may have on the subject. We may also be able to give us her view on the hoopla that took place in Washington D.C just after the Presidential inauguration. Carole has attended a presentation by her at another venue and found her quite interesting and informative.

June – The presentation will revolve around preparations for Field Day.

July - Larry Temenoff (KB9OS) ran across a former railroad telegrapher, Larry Lett, who used to work for the Wabash Railroad, Montpelier Division. Larry has working examples of collector item keys and has agreed to bring them to the July meeting and provide us a program on old time telegraphy. This is the technology that preceded Morse code and radio telegraphy.

The meeting concluded about 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club