

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

18 August, 2021

The August meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Allen County Public Library (downtown) on 18 August, 2021. We made use of meeting room A which provides room for about 35 people in a Corona virus compliant environment.

Starting with the September club meeting the location has been changed to the **Allen County Public Library-Dupont Branch**, 536 E Dupont Rd, (near the corner of Dupont and Coldwater Roads). The meeting will occur on Tuesday 14 September starting at 6:00 pm. Plenty of parking is available. We have follow-on meeting scheduled at the Dupont location for 13 October and 17 November.

Club President Carole Burke, WB9RUS welcomed the attendees (about 15) and led them in the pledge of allegiance as is our usual practice. Then all present introduced themselves by their name and call-sign.

Treasurer Bob Streeter, W8ST provided the current club Treasury statistics as of 18 August, 2021, to wit:

Savings-	\$1,841.82
Checking-	\$5,315.21
Vanguard Money Market	\$11,325.93
Cash-on-Hand	\$0.00
Year-To-Date Income	\$2,652.00
Year-To-Date Expenses	\$1,616.88
Club members count	131

Carole gave a report on the clubs Special Event activity, which celebrated the clubs 101th year, at Parkview Field during the Ft. Wayne Tin-Caps, Dayton Dragons baseball game on 25 August. We operated on 40 meters cw and phone from the stadium during the game, and had 50 station QSO's. A special W9TE QSL card is being prepared to send to all fifty contacts. In addition, Carole was interviewed by the Tin-Caps play-by-play personality, Mike Maahs, on ESPN radio 1380 AM during the third inning. So some P.R. about the FWRC, and ham radio in general was broadcast to Mike's listening audience.

Carole reported that the Tailgate Hamfest would occur on Friday, 20 August. The venue has been changed from the Salem United Methodist Church parking lot to Parking Garage #3 on the Purdue-Ft. Wayne campus, on Level 2. Set up would begin at 5:30 pm.

Carole noted that although we have reserved the Dupont Branch for the September, October and November club meetings, we are continuing to explore alternative meeting venues, and one of these is the Salem United Methodist Church, our former meeting place before the virus shut everything down. The church is again allowing outside groups into their facility, but is now charging \$50.00 per meeting for use of one of their small classrooms, \$100.00 per meeting for the large meeting room (Roush Hall), and is charging \$50.00 for any use of the kitchen. We recognize that the church facility is an ideal venue. If we were to use the church for ten regular club meetings (excluding the Spring and Christmas banquets), it would represent an additional expense of \$500.00 in our budget, a not insignificant amount of money. However, if we were to increase the yearly club dues by \$5.00 (from the current \$20.00 per year to \$25.00 per year) we would essentially have the additional expense covered (considering we currently have 123 paid members). The Board of Directors is mulling all of these (meeting place) considerations over, and may put a dues increase proposition before the club membership for a vote.

Following the business meeting club Vice President Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ provided those in attendance with an informative description of how to become registered in the D-STAR database, and provided some insight on how to set up one's D-STAR capable radio so that one can communicate using this digital technology. Paul's presentation was the result of several requests from D-STAR newbie's wanting to get started using their new (D-STAR) acquisitions.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club