

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES  
21 February, 2020

The February meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 21 February, 2020. The meeting was hosted by President Carole Burke, WB9RUS.

There was a large turn-out for this meeting, about 55 folks in attendance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, each person introduced themselves via their call sign. Carole took the opportunity to introduce our new HamNews editor, Josh Long, W9HT to the membership. Josh has graciously taken over the task of producing the Allen County Newsletter (the HamNews) and has already produced his first (February) edition.

Treasurer Debbie Jenks, KB9DEB provided details on the club numbers of interest as of 21 February, 2020: Checking account balance \$3,494.88, Savings account balance \$1830.89, Fidelity account balance \$11,289.20. The CY2020 membership headcount currently sits at 111.

Al Burke, WB9SSE gave the February Foxhunt report. Three teams participated in the hunt, Steve and Linda Nardin, W9's SAN & LAN, Don Glick, K9LI plus his wife Julie, and Charles Ward, KC9MUT plus Fred Gengnagel, KC9EZP. Al & Carole Burke, WB9's SSE & RUS served as the fox. They hid the microfox underwater at a boat ramp on the west bank of the St. Joe River near the foot of the PFW Student footbridge. Don and Julie found the microfox first, followed by Steve and Linda, followed by Charles and Fred. This hunt had an interesting twist to it. Details can be found in the February edition of the Foxhunt Chronicles.

Al Burke reported on the clubs repeater status. The 146.91 machine is operating on low power and without access to the internet which means it has no EchoLink capability at present. We are in negotiations with the IT group at PFW to regain internet access and expect to accomplish this soon. Tom Rupp has examined the operation of the system's power amplifier on the bench at his QTH and reports it seems to be functioning normally, so we plan to reinstall it at PFW soon. Al noted that the 146.76 machine was down earlier in the week. Al attempted to cycle power remotely using the command link but that was not successful. So he made a trip out to Robison Park and found that the Bridge-Comm controller was stuck in "transmit". The assumption is that the controller glitched in transmit and then timed out and would not recycle, a condition we've seen with the Bridge-Comm unit before. So Al cycled power manually and that restored the system to operation.

It turns out that the command link receiver had gone bonkers (a technical term) and thus would not respond to command tones sent to it. So Jim Pliett, K9OMA wound up making a separate trip out to Robison Park and replaced the command link receiver thus returning the command link system to operation.

Carole addressed the attendees about a proposition to change the FWRC regular meeting start times from 7:00 pm to 6:30 pm. This is recommended by the Board as it will provide us an additional half hour to get through club business and presentations. A hand vote was taken with a unanimous vote of "yes". Thus regular meeting start times will change to 6:30 pm beginning with the March meeting.

Charles Ward discussed the possibility of the club taking part in this year's Three Rivers Festival parade as a component of one of the Special Events activities planned to celebrate the FWRC club's centennial year. The parade will occur on Saturday, 11 July and we have the choice of participating as "walkers" or by entering a float, or potentially both. Charles is soliciting for persons who would like to participate. We need to submit our application to the TRF Parade Committee by no later than 31 March in order to ensure a spot near the front of the parade. Contact Charles at (260)-749-4824, [kc9mut@yahoo.com](mailto:kc9mut@yahoo.com) if interested.

Charles announced that the FWRC will be operating a Special Events station activity during the Indiana-QSO Party (2-3 May, 2020) held at Larry Temenoff's QTH located on West Wallen Rd. The special events stations will be active from 10 am to 6 pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and we expect to identify four frequencies to operate on. Larry's estate provides a lot of room to spread out so co-channel interference is not expected to be an issue especially since we are also expecting to employ some of the other co-channel interference mitigation techniques that Steve Nardin has researched.

Carole reported that she has discussed with Tin-Caps President Mike Nutter the setting up a Special Events station activity at Parkview Field during a Tin-Caps home game most likely in June. He is fully supportive of the idea. Carole has also arranged an on-the-air interview with the Tin-Caps play-by-play announcer Mike Mauss on ESPN 1380 during the game. And she is approaching Ft. Wayne mayor Tom Henry's office about his presenting a proclamation regarding our 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration at the Old Fort during Field Day. Steve Nardin noted that he is developing the certificates as well as 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration QSL cards we intend to provide folks who work W9TE during our Special Event activities. Steve

said that the QSL cards can also be made available to club members with their callsign on the card. Contact Steve at (260)-602-3076, [w9san@yahoo.com](mailto:w9san@yahoo.com) if interested.

Clark Derbyshire, KG9FM reported that he was putting on the finishing touches to the "100 years / 100 contacts during 2020" awards program he has been working on in support of our 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration. Details regarding the operation of the awards program are being posted on the [fwrc.info](http://fwrc.info) web page.

Brian Jenks, W9BGJ announced that he is throwing his name in the hat for the position of ARRL Central Division Director when the voting for this office occurs in 2021. He would appreciate club member's support.

Following the business meeting Carole invited all in attendance to partake in some snickerdoodle and chocolate chip cookies she brought in. It was reported that following the stampede, one cookie remained. (You would have thought that they were meatballs or deviled eggs, yeesh).

Following the cookie event, Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA our Central Division Vice Director gave a presentation entitled "Many Topics" that encompassed issues before the ARRL, a discussion of the Solar Cycle, especially cycles 24 & 25 with the expected impact upon propagation in the near term, and then a discussion of vintage ham equipment that he has been working with. All in all it was a thoroughly interesting and informative presentation. Well done Carl!

Respectfully submitted,  
Al Burke, WB9SSE  
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club