

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES  
19 July, 2019

The July meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 19 July, 2019. The meeting was hosted by President Charles Ward, KC9MUT.

There were about 40 folks in attendance and following the Pledge of Allegiance, each person introduced themselves via their call sign.

Don Glick, K9LI commented on the July foxhunt. There were three teams in the hunt; Don was the fox. New foxhunter Bill Hopkins, K9WEH wound up finding the fox first and will thus serve as the fox for the August endeavor. Note that the date of the August hunt has been delayed one week and will occur on Sunday, 11 August instead of the 4<sup>th</sup> of August. Full details regarding the July hunt can be found in the Foxhunt Chronicles for July which will be posted to the club web page, and to the August edition of the Allen County Ham News.

Treasurer Bob Streeter, W8ST presented the status of the Treasury. As of 19 July, 2019 the numbers were as follows:

Income Year-To-Date	\$7,286.74
Expenses Year-To-Date	\$3,765.37
Savings balance	\$3,082.74
Checking balance	\$1,830.33
Cash-on-Hand	\$43.00
Vanguard account balance	\$11,166.17
Number of members	130

Speaking of money, Charles addressed three issues related to potential expenditures that required a vote by the club membership.

1. The FWRC makes use of the GSUMC facilities for twelve regular membership meetings a year and twelve Board of Directors meetings a year. Two of the meetings make use of the GSUMC kitchen facilities (Spring and Christmas Banquets), and one makes use of the parking lot to host the Tailgate Hamfest. After some discussion the Board concluded that a donation of \$360.00 to the GSUMC represented a bargain considering what the church provides for us. Bob Streeter made a formal proposal that the club do so which was seconded and voted on by the membership in attendance. The vote was a unanimous "yes", thus the FWRC will make a donation of \$360.00 to the GSUMC forthwith.
2. The FWRC again this year used the facilities of the Old Fort for our Field Day site. The Board concluded that a donation to the Old Fort to say "thanks" for the use of the facilities would be in order and recommended an amount of \$300.00. After some discussion a further recommendation was made to establish an amount of \$300.00 for any year that we make use of the Fort for Field Day. This as a formal proposal was seconded and put to a vote. The vote resulted in a unanimous "yes". Thus the FWRC will submit \$300.00 to the Old Fort for this year's Field Day, and will use this vote to authorize additional \$300.00 donations to the Fort should we make use of the facilities for Field Day in the future.
3. Charles noted that the logging computers use by the club for Field Day and other operating events were getting quite long in the tooth. They operate with the XP Operating System and cannot be upgraded to Windows 10. Replacement parts (hard drives, etc.) are nearly impossible to obtain. During Field Day two of our logging computers failed and repair of them appears impossible. Bob Streeter proposed that the club use the proceeds from the last auction (the Brunn's estate, \$900.00) as a fund to procure modern replacement machines should an opportunity to do so at an advantageous price present itself. So the proposal to establish a \$900.00 fund to be used by the Board to procure new machines was put on the floor and seconded. It was then put to a vote and approved unanimously by the club members attending.

It was noted that Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) operating events were occurring monthly, sometime several times a month. Permission was requested to make use of the W9TE call sign during these events which was approved providing the SKCC operating events don't conflict with other club operating events where the W9TE call sign is to be used. The SKCC crew will coordinate with our club station trustee Carole Burke (WB9RUS).

Charles gave a summary of our Field Day efforts this year. It was a safe weekend; the only person to get hurt was Charles when he banged his head on a tower. We operated class 6A and all of the stations went together remarkably fast such that we were good-to-go by 1:00 pm, an hour before the official start of the festivities. Charles submitted an official claimed score of 5264 points, slightly larger than last year's submission. We had 689 cw contacts, 187 phone contacts and 111 digital contacts. We garnered a significant number of bonus parts too. These included making use

of media for ham radio pr purposes, use of solar power (two stations), use of a public location (the Old Fort), use of a Public Information table to disseminate info on the hobby, transmission of a Field Day message, an on-site visit by public official plus representatives from Homeland Security and the Red Cross, use of a Security Officer and use of Social Media to spread the word about our hobby. (Brenda Plummer, KD9GDX and Fred Gengnagel, KC9EZX produced a great Facebook Live video where-in they visited all six of our operating positions and conducted a live interview with the folks operating the position

Jack Shutt, W9GT noted that station to station interference was a real problem during Field Day. Several people are looking into the issue including Andy Danielson, AC9EZ who is running some experiments with different equipment configurations to determine what seems to reduce interference. Steve Nardin, W9SAN agreed to form a group to work the problem and develop potential ideas that can be tried out during an upcoming event, perhaps the CQ WW DX competition.

Charles reminded everyone that our August meeting (16 August) will be the annual tailgate Hamfest in the GSUMC parking lot. It's free to anyone wishing to sell or buy goodies. Setup starts at 6:00 pm with the tailgate itself starting at 6:30 pm and lasting until the mosquitoes drive us out. This will be everyone's chance to unearth unused ham gear and electronics from their basements and garages and perhaps sell it.

Linda Nardin, W9LAN noted that the next YL luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, 17 August at the Clyde Theatre Restaurant (The Club Room at the Clyde), 1805 Bluffton Rd. starting at noon.

The meeting concluded at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE  
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club