

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
17 July, 2020

The July meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club, still working around restrictions in place due to the Coronavirus issue, was held in the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church parking lot on 17 July, 2020.

Club president Carole Burke, WB9RUS, hosted the meeting of about fifteen people which suggests that most folks are still gun-shy about the virus. But for those who were able to attend, we executed the Salute to the Flag ceremony, and then everyone introduced themselves by their call sign, as we always do. Two soon to be hams, still working on their licenses, were in attendance. The meeting started at 7:04 pm.

Treasurer Debbie Jenks, KB9DEB was not able to attend. But she provided the pertinent numbers relative to the Treasury as of 17 July, 2020 as follows:

Savings- \$1,831.19
Checking- \$3,480.84
Vanguard- \$11,289.20
CY 2020 Membership – 130

Debbie noted that she is prepared to reimburse club members for expenses incurred as a result of Field Day or other outstanding club activities. Mail the receipt for the expense to the club Post Office Box, (Fort Wayne Radio Club, P.O. Box 15127, Fort Wayne, IN 46885-5127), or to her home address (717 Goshen Ave, Fort Wayne, IN 46808). Include your name and return address. She will mail a return check.

The Club was represented at the Auburn Hamfest, and we had two tables. The attendance was moderate, but that was not unexpected given the Coronavirus concerns. Several items from Adolph Wozniak's estate sold. The ADC museum is a pleasant venue. All in all a nice Hamfest.

The August club meeting will occur on 21 August in the church parking lot and will feature the annual Tailgate Hamfest. It will start at 6:30 pm. There is no charge for attendance or for selling items. Just another time honored opportunity to exchange the contents of one ham's basement for another's.

Al Burke, WB9SSE noted that all of our repeaters seem to be percolating ok. He commented on concerns heard regarding the 146.91 (PFW-EchoLink) system. Users are experiencing occurrences of what is described as digital data bursts from time to time on the (146.91) output. A theory involving the use of cross-band repeaters and burst data from uhf weather stations is currently being explored as the potential culprit.

Al also commented on having acquired a five pole band stop filter that provides about a seventy db insertion loss notch throughout the commercial FM (88-108 MHz) broadcast band, while only about one db at 146.34 MHz, the input frequency for our Parrott Rd. vhf repeater. If we place this filter between the receive output of the 146.34/.94 diplexer and the receiver input we should significantly reduce the likelihood of the 146.93 receiver being desensed by the broadband noise output of the WLDE-FM transmitter we share the tower with.

Al also commented that we noticed a leak in the roof of our building at Robison Park, not large but certainly enough to warrant getting up on the roof to determine what's what. Sigh, seems like it's always something.

Charles Ward, KC9MUT had planned to provide a wrap-up of Field Day scoring results as a part of the July meeting presentation but could not attend because a potential Coronavirus exposure had him in lockdown till the middle of next week. From what we know now, the club will be claiming 1644 points from 200 cw contacts, 66 digital contacts and 99 phone contacts. The claimed score does not include the contribution the club will receive from folks who operated Field Day from home and will attribute their points to the club's FD effort.

Steve Nardin, W9SAN provided the second part of the planned presentation. Steve described the actions taken to reduce the impact of co-site interference and receiver overload that occur during multiband / multimode operations with closely spaced antennas. The Field Day operation included Don Glick's (N9LI) Icom 7300 DSP enabled transceiver used for 40, 30, 20 and 10 meter cw operation, Charles Ward, KC9MUT operating mostly 40 and 20 meter phone, Fred Gengnagel, KC9EZF operating digital mode of 40 and 20 meters, and Steve Nardin operating mostly 6 meter phone. We had available two each band pass filters for 80, 40 and 20 meters, isolated linear (i.e., no switching mode) power supplies, grounded (outer conductor). feedlines with rf chokes on each feedline before they entered an operating position, and in several cases ferrite beads on control line (for example on N9LI's keyer). These actions seemed to improve co-site operations. Perhaps we will acquire a few more bandpass filters for use on 15 meters and above next year. All in all an informative presentation.

The meeting concluded at 7:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club