

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES  
June 16, 2017

The June meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 16 June, 2017, club president Charles Ward, KC9MUT presiding. There were about 35 people in attendance. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance everyone present introduced themselves via their call sign.

Treasurer Bob Streeter, W8ST provided the status of the treasury. As of 16 June, 2017 the numbers were as follows:

Income year-to-date, \$4,236.46

Expenses year-to-date, \$6,517.72

Cash on hand: \$140.18

Checking: \$1,352.17

Savings: \$7,824.51

Current membership: 125 members

Al Burke, WB9SSE provided a repeater status update. All FWRC repeaters are working nominally. There had been an issue with the Robison Park Command Link receiver that was resolved after Jim Pliett, K9OMA did a little tweaking on the receiver's front end helical filters. The ACARTS 147.255 repeater was moved to the Parkview/Randallia site and appears to be working fine. The ACARTS 147.390 digipeater is down and it has been given to ACARTS in order to determine the nature of its problem.

Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ is putting the finishing touches on an upgraded version of the 146.910-Echolink machine. It will feature a BridgeCom Systems BCR50V repeater, identical to the BridgeCom machine we are using for the 146.76/.16 repeater at Robison Park, and a Linux based microcontroller to provide the Echo Link controller function.

For several years we had been on the lookout for a used three-by-three, band reject/band pass duplexer to replace the two-by-two duplexer currently in service with the 146.910-Echolink machine. Paul Prestia found a really nice one (a WACOM WP-643) amongst the mud balls in the Flea Market at Dayton (Xenia). He was able to acquire it for the club for \$500.00. Since club expenses in excess of \$150.00 require a vote by the membership, Al Burke made a motion to formalize the expenditure in the name of the club which was seconded and voted in the affirmative by all present.

Jim Boyer, KB9IH announced that a meeting of a Ft. Wayne Hamfest Steering Committee would occur at the Old Fort Friday night, 23 June, starting at 7:00 pm. Anyone who wishes to contribute ideas or volunteer to serve on the committee is encouraged to attend. Items on the meeting agenda include the purpose of this and follow-on meetings, assignments that need to be filled, documentation of the tasks involved in managing the event, and the location, time and date of following meetings.

Following the Business meeting a discussion of plans for Field Day occurred:

Charles Ward reported that we will be using the Old Fort in downtown Ft. Wayne as our Field Day site again this year. We will have access to the facility starting at 4:00 pm Friday, 23 June. Charles stated that the formal Field Day setup would occur starting at 09:00 am Saturday morning, 24 June, and the plan would be to separate the phone and cw station antennas as much as possible to minimize interference. We will likely utilize end-fed or dipole wire antennas for the HF stations and probably will erect one or more of our towers to serve as anchor points for them, and possibly to mount a six meter beam.

We will operate 5A or 6A. Charles plans to bring a 20 meter sideband rig, Bryan Jenks, WB9BGJ, will bring a CW station, Terry Bowman, K9FMX, (if he's available), will bring a CW station, Jack Forbing, N9GT, will bring a forty meter CW station, Steve Nardin, W9SAN will bring a six meter

station, and we will set up the GOTA station managed by Debbie Jenks, KB9DEB. Undoubtedly additional equipment will show up as the needs dictate. Folks planning to support the set up Saturday morning, or the tear-down Sunday afternoon should bring a hard hat if they have one.

It was noted that we will have a meal Saturday evening again this year, probably starting about 6:30 pm. This time it will feature hot dogs and hamburgers prepared by Chef Charles, the buns, plates, utensils, condiments and napkins provided by the club. Everyone is requested to bring a carry-in dish or dessert, similar to what we do at the Spring and Christmas banquets. (ARRL legend has it that Hiram Percy Maxim, co-founder of the ARRL, was fond of bringing deviled eggs and/or meatballs to early Field Day events....just saying). Sunday morning breakfast will be provided starting about 9:30 am for a \$3.00 fee. Attendees are requested to bring chairs and picnic style fold-up tables if possible to ensure that everyone has a place to sit down and enjoy their meal.

The official operating hours of Field Day itself are from 2:00 pm local Saturday to 2:00 pm local Sunday. Talk-in will utilize the 146.910/.310 machine.

Kevin Loughin, KB9RLW described a pre-Field Day QRP activity he is organizing, and presented a video on the same subject. Kevin is proposing that on the Friday evening prior to Field Day that QRP enthusiasts set up their equipment at Field Day sites across the country, and, in effect have a broad based QRP-QSO party. He has posted his idea on Face Book, see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mxbeu4oLKu8>

He has had about 2,500 people express interest and the ARRL is looking into the idea too. He encouraged interested QRP'rs to drop by the Old Fort Friday evening after 4:00 pm and bring their gear.

The meeting concluded at about 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE  
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club