

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
March 17, 2017

The March meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 17 March, 2017 and was hosted by club president Charles Ward, KC9MUT. There were about 40 people in attendance. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance everyone present introduced themselves via their call sign.MUT

President Ward announced that the club Spring Banquet would occur on 21 April starting at 7:00 pm. The club will provide chicken, coffee, punch, plates, cutlery and cups as usual, and the meal will be supplemented by what-ever succulent goodies everyone brings-in. (Following the lead of Hiram Maxim, when he hosted such banquets during the early days of the ARRL, meat-balls and/or deviled eggs are always a good choice of an item to bring in. Just saying).

Treasurer Bob Streeter (W8ST) provided the status of the treasury as of 17 March, 2017. The numbers were:

Income year to date - \$3,085.48
Expenses year to date - \$3,351.40
Cash on Hand - \$110.18
Checking - \$5,188.49
Savings - \$7,822.53

Additionally \$7,138.80 has been raised for the Parrott Rd. project, with \$5,915.70 having been expended so far towards its expenses. This total does not account for the tower climber expense. We have just received the invoice for the tower climber firm in the amount of \$2,650.00. If this is the last of the expenses then the total for the Parrott Rd. project would come in at \$8,589.80. By virtue of a vote taken at the January club meeting \$8,500.00 was approved for the project, so it appears we have exceeded that allocation by \$89.80. In order to get on with the project and to pay the climber bill the club voted to increase the project allocation an additional \$200.00 which caps it at \$8,700.00.

Al Burke (WB9SSE) provided a Power Point presentation of photos taken at various stages of the project to date including the installation of the antennas and feedlines on the tower. He reported that the antennas are exhibiting very low reflected power which translates to a low VSWR. If the weather will cooperate we plan to install the Fusion and D-STAR systems in the enclosure tomorrow, 19 March, and place both 146.94 and D-STAR in service.

Al also reported that I&M has removed almost all of their equipment from the building they are donating for our use at Robison Park for the 146.76, 444.875, 147.255 and 144.390 (digipeater) systems. After removal of a generator transfer switch this coming Tuesday, 21 March, they should then be in a position to turn the building over to us. It is not clear what the transfer will involve. We do know that some form of agreement is being prepared by their legal department, probably something along the lines of the lease agreement we signed up for with Sarkes-Tarzian for the Parrott Rd. site. We would prefer that the agreement does not transfer ownership of the building to the FWRC because that could involve our owning property that then implies real-estate tax and potential insurance requirements.

Dan Ward (N9WLW) the Noble County EM Coordinator announced that he is looking for volunteers to support the Indiana Trail 100 Race that will occur 29-30 April at Chain-O-Lakes State Park in Albion. If you can help contact Dan at:

n9wlw@yahoo.com
(260)-402-7561

Joseph Lawrence (KB9RFZ) announced that the next ACARTS meeting will occur this coming Tuesday at the Red Cross building starting at 7:00 pm. It will feature a representative from the Civil Air Patrol who will discuss the techniques used by the CAP to locate downed aircraft; what the CAP does and some of the experiences they have had during actual missions.

Following the business meeting, and after a break for cookies and beverages, Steve Nardin (W9SAN) presented a video chronicling construction of the WLDE tower at the Parrott Rd. site (where the Fusion and D-STAR systems are now located), plus a documentary about a group of hams searching in the Mojave desert for the remains of a pair of China Lake F-4 Phantoms that crashed during a training flight in 1972.

The meeting adjourned about 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club