

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2017

The May meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 12 May, 2017 and was hosted by club president Charles Ward, KC9MUT. There were about 30 people in attendance. After reciting the Pledge of Allegiance everyone present introduced themselves via their call sign.

Al Burke, WB9SSE gave a repeater status update. The 146.760 and 444.875 machines (Robison Park) are working fine as is the ACARTS digipeater. The reported water on the floor of the building apparently occurred as a result of the severe rain storms experienced recently, and we believe the water entered the building via the seal between the air-conditioner window and air conditioner unit on the west wall of the structure. A little caulking should solve that problem. Likewise the 146.91 machine (IPFW) is percolating right along. The D-STAR machine at Parrott Rd seems to be working fine too, but we are not satisfied with the performance of the 146.940 machine using the Yaesu-Fusion hardware. We believe the problem is due to the fact that the Fusion receiver front end is a wide-band design and is being de-sensed by WLDE (101.7MHz) output. At present we are using the GE-Master II transceiver that we had been using for 146.940 at Parkview and the performance is much improved over what we saw with the Fusion hardware. We are continuing to study the problem.

Al also noted that the club's account with I&M for Robison Park is once again active, and we should expect the first bill should show up next month. So in the interval between moving out of our former building at Robison Park into the new building resulted in our saving about four months worth of energy bills.

Treasurer Bob Streeter (W8ST) provided the status of the treasury as of 12 May, 2017. The numbers were:

Income year to date - \$3,816.13
Expenses year to date - \$6,217.72
Cash on Hand - \$140.18
Checking - \$3,032.17
Savings - \$7,827.18
124 members

Charles reported that the club set up one of its portable 40' (Field Day) towers at the Chain-Of-Lakes foot race event the club supported last month, and installed a Fred Van Kempen (KA4YBR) provided low power (2 watt) uhf repeater to insure communications between the spotters. The setup featured a 150 watt solar-cell/backup battery system that worked well.

Joseph Lawrence (K9RFZ) commented that the tour of the Harris facilities for the GOES-16 weather satellite presentation has 29 people registered and cleared with Harris Security. It will occur on 16 May and will serve as the ACARTS May meeting.

Joseph also noted that the Fort Wayne Astronomical Society will celebrate the grand opening of its new complex at the former Cassad Terminal east of New Haven next Saturday and every Saturday thereafter weather permitting.

Charles reported that Marcus Wagner, KB9MW, is in failing health (kidneys) and is presently in Intensive Care.

Jim Pliett reported on the May foxhunt. Three teams participated, the team of Steve and Linda Nardin, K9's SAN & LAN, the team of Charles Ward, KC9MUT and Fred Gengnagle, KC9EZP, and single hunter Don Glick, K9LI. Jim & Annie Pliett, K9OMA and KA9YYI served as the fox

and hid it in a branch in a copse of trees in the Family Park in Hometown. About an hour after the start of the hunt the three teams localized the fox in Hometown and then proceeded to track down the microfox on foot. Don Glick was first to find the microfox followed closely by the Nardins and the Ward/Gengnagle team.

Steve Nardin led an auction of three pieces of equipment donated to the club by Jim Mast, W8HOM / K9UNM. Jim donated a pristine Bird Wattmeter with six slugs, an Ameritron AL-811 10 thru 160 meter linear amplifier, and a home brew high voltage power supply rated for 2,500 volts at 0.8 amps with all proceeds to go to the club. After a lively auction Jim Pliett, K9OMA won the Bird Wattmeter while Tom Rupp, KU8T was the successful bidder on the Ameritron. There was no (bidding) interest shown in the power supply so it was given to brand new ham Correy Clemmer, KD9INL who had just won his Tech and then his General tickets. Steve noted that Jim Mast also had available a 50' crank-up, tilt-over tower and a 14 element 2 meter boomer antenna available.

Charles Ward announced that a handshake agreement had occurred regarding the FWRC use, once again, of the Old Fort for Field Day. He expects to get the agreement formalized in the next week or so.

Following a short break for refreshments, Charles gave a fascinating presentation on 2.4 GHz Hamnet technology, sometimes referred to as the High Speed Multimedia Net. This technology uses the amateur allocation in the 2.4 GHz band for frequency hopping spread spectrum digital communications in a net environment. Such technology has been used to set up a local area net to interconnect logging computers during recent FWRC Field Day events.

The meeting adjourned about 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club