

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
21 November, 2014

The November meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on 21 November, 2014, and was hosted by club president Steve Nardin, W9SAN. There were about 35 people in attendance for this meeting, and, after reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, everyone present introduced themselves via their call-sign.

Treasurer Bob Steeter, W8ST reported the club's financial status dated 21 November, 2014 as follows:

Income \$7,561.38, Expenses \$5,833.61, Cash on Hand \$101.60, checking \$2,727.95, Savings \$8,049.26. We have 85 pre-paid members for 2015, (and a total of 120 members for 2014).

Steve reported that the club's raffle of the Kenwood TS-440 transceiver & power supply at the Fort Wayne Hamfest was quite successful in that a significant number of club memberships re-ups for 2015 occurred during the hamfest, and 42 extra raffle tickets were sold which more than defrayed the cost of the TS-440. The winner of the TS-440 was (a very happy) Bob Dean, KC9UHU. Happy haming with it Bob!

Steve announced that the Board has appointed Chad Beech, W9GGA to the position of Public Relations rep so that Charles Ward, KC9MUT, serving as Communications Manager, can devote more time to his primary duties, coordinating operating events and so forth. Chad is an excellent fit to the position of P.R. rep; he was born to do it.

Steve commented that the club had received a donation of \$500.00 from the Hoosiers-Out-On-Tandems (HOOT) organization as a "thank you" for the club's communications support during the HOOT outing this past summer. They asked that the donation be applied to improving/upgrading the club's infrastructure.

With this in mind Steve noted that the Board had been discussing upgrading the club's repeater hardware, specifically the 146.76 and 444.875 machines out at Robison Park, as the GE Master II hardware that supports these functions is getting long in the tooth. This has been the view of Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ along with Jim Pliett, K9OMA and Al Burke, WB9SSE who have been the principles involved in maintaining this gear since it was first installed.

Paul had researched current repeater technology and had discovered both a vhf and a uhf system developed by BridgeCom Systems, Inc. out of Smithville, Mo. These systems, the BCR-50V (vhf) and the BCR-40U (uhf) are completely self contained rack mounted, 16 channel synthesized units with integral 115 vac input power supplies. The vhf unit is rated at 50 watts out, the uhf unit at 40 watts, comparable to what we have in the Master II systems. The units are over-the-air programmable and feature a transmit timeout timer, air time logging, a courtesy tone, a transmit hang timer, a tone-in-tail capability, a CW-ider and separate programmable CTCSS and DCS functions for each of the 16 programmable channels. Reviews of the units at eHam.net are very positive. Paul obtained a quote from BridgeCom of approximately \$1,020 each with shipping.

Paul had offered to purchase and donate a BCR-40U unit to the club if the club would in turn purchase a BCR-50V unit. Considering this offer, and the fact of the \$500.00 HOOT's donation mentioned previously, the Board decided to put forward the proposition to the club for a vote at the November meeting with the recommendation to vote in the affirmative. This was done at the November meeting via a hand vote after a description of the hardware, the rationale for the upgrade, and a description of Paul's offer was presented, with the result of a unanimous (minus one) vote to approve the purchase of a BCR-50V repeater. Thus the club will soon be upgrading 146.76 and 444.875 to the BridgeCom units with the existing Master II equipment being retained as back-ups.

Following the business meeting Jim Pliett, K9OMA gave a presentation on the history of the FWRC in the 70's, 80's, 90's and first decade of the new century including the development of the club's ATV repeater, using pictures and videos of some of the hi-jinks that were captured off-the-air during events supported by the ATV machine. It was interesting to observe pictures and video of some current club members when they were skinnier and had hair.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE
Secretary, FWRC