

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
November 2018

The November meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 9 November, 2018. The meeting was hosted by President Charles Ward. Secretary Al Burke, WB9SSE was absent, so the minutes were captured by Linda Nardin, W9LAN.

There were about 30 folks in attendance and following the Pledge of Allegiance, each person introduced themselves via their call sign.

The Treasures report indicated the following financial status for the club:

Income Year-To-Date	\$9,902.04
Expenses Year-To-Date	\$6,441.16
Savings balance	\$4,829.27
Checking balance	\$3,723.98
Cash-on-Hand	\$59.00
Vanguard account balance	\$5,045.49

Charles noted that the ACARTS Hamfest would occur on 17-18 November. The club has two tables. If you want to put an item for sale on the club tables, feel free to do so. If you don't intend to stay by the item you must clearly indicate in writing what the item is, what condition it's in, what price you're asking, and your contact information. You must also agree to man the table for at least one hour. A sign-up sheet will be available for that purpose.

Charles also noted that a full slate of forums will occur at the Hamfest on Saturday including an RFI forum presented by Steve Nardin, W9SAN, and a forum "Getting on 630 Meters" presented by Jim Pliett, K9OMA.

Charles also noted that the Hamfest would be an opportune time to re-up your FWRC membership for 2019. You'll be able to do that at the club table. Anyone re-upping for 2019 will be entered in a raffle for an ICOM 2100 2-meter mobile transceiver, and if you want to increase your chances of winning the ICOM, extra chances will be available for \$1.00 each.

Paul Prestia, KA3OZP summarized the repeater status. The BridgeComm unit has been repaired (transmit module replaced, newest firmware installed) and is in transit to us. It will be installed at the 146.76 site at Robison Park. At present, due to the efforts of Tom Rupp, KU8T and Jim Pliett, K9OMA, 146.76 is operating using one of our spare Master II transceivers that had been put into storage when the system was upgraded to the BridgeComm hardware. Meanwhile, the 146.91 machine at PFW seems to be working just fine as is the 444.875 machine at Robison Park. And the D-STAR system is working except for its internet connection. The problem seems to be an issue with the router. Phil Hooper, AB9IZ and Paul Prestia are working the problem.

Both the upper and lower vhf collinear antennas mounted on the Robison Park tower appear to be failing. Both are getting long in the tooth and we suspect they have been taking on water as a result of the monsoon like rainstorms Ft. Wayne has experienced over the summer and fall. This has resulted in periodic increases in the VSWR which can be hard on power amplifiers. At present we are looking into the cost of replacing the upper antenna and its jumper. The costs would be approximately \$1,500.00 for a new antenna and perhaps as much as \$2,000.00 for the tower climbing labor. Al Burke, WB9SSE is working on obtaining formal quotes.

Charles reminded everyone that our December meeting will be the annual Christmas banquet. It will occur on Friday, 14 December at GSUMC starting at 7:00 PM. The club will provide both baked and fried chicken, soft beverages and place settings. Attendees are requested to bring a carry-in dish to round out the menu. (He mentioned that he had received a copy of downlink message originating from the International Space Station stating that most modern culinary carry-in events these days feature meatballs and/or deviled eggs in the bill of fare). Boy, isn't science amazing!

He also mentioned that we will be doing a gift exchange again this year. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped gift (not to exceed \$10.00 in value) indicating if it's for an OM or YL, and be sure to mark who it's from.

The HUFF 50K Trail Run & Relay will take place at Chain-O-Lakes state park in Albion on 29 December, 2018. The local ham community typically has provided communications support for this event. A call for volunteers will be forthcoming soon.

The November foxhunt occurred on 4 November and was the last foxhunt for this year. Don Glick, K9LI and his wife served as the fox and hid out on the west side of Allen County. Carole & Al Burke plus Jim Pliett and Bob Marchand formed fox hunting team #1, Linda & Steve Nardin plus their grandson Alex formed team #2, and Charles Ward formed

team #3. The Nardin team was the first to find the microfox, followed by the Burke/Pliett/Marchand team, followed by Charles. The foxhunting trophy will be awarded at the Christmas banquet, and the first foxhunt for 2019 will occur the first Sunday in February.

Jim Plummer, KD9GDX exhibited a copy of the November issue of the periodical "Senior Life" that contained a great article on ham radio (on page four of the November edition). It included an interview of Jim and his wife Brenda (KD9GDY), and also addressed the upcoming Fort Wayne Hamfest. Copies of this periodical are available at local restaurants.

Following the business meeting Charles introduced Jeff DeLucenay, KB9QG, from the Northeastern Indiana Amateur Radio Association/DeKalb County who presented a program on how to program the current slew of handheld and mobile vhf and uhf radios using the software tool Chirp.

The Secretary wishes to thank Linda Nardin, W9LAN who took the notes on tonight's meeting in my absence which in turn enabled these minutes to be prepared.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE

Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club