

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
November 18, 2016

The November meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 18 November, 2016 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.

Charles announced that as a result of the joint meeting of the FWRC and the ACARTS Board of Directors, held on the 8th of November to discuss what could be done to keep the Fort Wayne Hamfest alive and healthy, it was decided that a joint Hamfest Steering Committee be formed. It would consist of members of both the FWRC and ACARTS, and other ham radio organizations in the area. It would meet monthly, if possible at the Georgetown Library, to work the problem of properly staffing the many activities needed to keep the Hamfest going. It is obvious that the Committee must be composed of more than just the members of the FWRC and ACARTS Boards; it will require participation from other members of both clubs, and others, if it is to be successful.

Steve Nardin, W9SAN noted that 83 folks renewed their FWRC membership at the hamfest. The Two meter/220 MHz handheld radio raffled off at the hamfest for those who renewed their membership was won by Jeff Brady, N9JTB.

Treasurer Bob Streeter, W8ST reported on the status of the Parrott Rd. fund raising project. Our goal from the start was to raise an initial \$1,500.00 from club member contributions that would be matched by pledges of up to another \$1,500 collectively from several club members, plus another \$1,500.00 in matching funds from ACARTS. This would result in a total of \$4,500.00 towards the expenses involved in installing antennas and feedlines at 280' on the WLDE-FM tower at Parrott Rd. Those expenses are expected to total around \$6,000.00 when all is said and done.

Bob noted that we had raised \$535.00 towards our goal prior to the Hamfest plus another \$642.00 at the Hamfest for a total of \$1,177.00. An additional \$1,000.00 donation received shortly after the hamfest raised the total to \$2,177.00 thus exceeding our initial goal. And with the eventual contribution of the matching pledges from several club members and ACARTS, the total will stand at \$5,177.00. Bob noted that we will leave the fundraiser open until after the club auction in January in order get as close to \$6,000.00 estimated cost of the project as we can. So if you have not yet donated to this worthy project, get your wallets out!

Al Burke, WB9SSE reported that some of the preparatory work at the Parrott Rd. site has been completed. The paver pad for the equipment enclosure has been installed as has the underground conduit that will provide electricity from the WLDE-FM transmitter building to our equipment enclosure located near the base of the tower. Terry Bowman, K9FMX and Jim Pliett, K9OMA are completing work on the enclosure cooling system so that we will soon be able to haul the enclosure out to the Parrott Rd. site.

Al noted that he needed to get the antennas and feedline on order soon if we are to have a reasonable chance of getting the Parrott Rd. site on the air before the weather turns too nasty for tower work. In a motion it was proposed and seconded that Al be authorized to spend up to the \$5,177.00 already collected to procure items needed to get on with the project. The motion was approved by a hand vote of all present.

Dan Ward, N9WLW announced that he was looking for volunteers to provide communications for the Huff 50K Ultramarathon which will occur on Saturday 17 December at Chain-O-Lakes State Park near Albion come rain, snow, shine, locust infestations, or meteor showers. Since this is an Ultramarathon, an awful lot of people participate. Dan needs to staff about 15 way-stations over the course of the race, which starts at 8am. If things work out as they did at last year's event,

(very yummy) grub is provided to volunteers. If you can help out please contact Dan at n9wlv@arrl.net, 260-402-7561, 260-433-0855.

Carole Burke, WB9RUS and Linda Nardin, W9LAN announced that the annual Christmas Banquet will occur on 9 December hosted as usual at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church. It will start promptly at 6:30 pm and will feature live musical entertainment that is not to be missed. The club will provide baked and fried chicken, tableware and cutlery, soft drinks and coffee. It will as usual be a carry-in event, so be inventive. While it is not a hard requirement, it certainly would be advisable that someone has the good sense to bring meatballs and/or deviled eggs, preferably both. After all, it's the civilized thing to do.

Joseph Lawrence, K9RFZ announced that the Warsaw Radio Club has agreed to host Skywarn Recognition Day at the National Weather Service WX9IWX facilities, 7506 E. 850 N., Syracuse, Indiana which will occur on 3 December from 0000Z to 2400Z. This is a country-wide effort created by the ARRL and the NWS planned for operation on 80, 40, 20, 15 and 2 meters utilizing SSB, PSK, FM and IRLP modes. Joseph is helping to solicit volunteers to operate during the 24 hours of the event. Joseph noted that this is not a contest. Rather, it is an "operating event". He also noted that Technician licensees, and in fact all volunteers will be able to operate with Extra privileges during the event. Anyone wishing to participate should contact Joseph for details at K9RFZ@yahoo.com, 260-373-1986.

Following the business meeting Tom Rupp, KU8T provided a pictorial travel log of his participation in the National Parks on the Air celebration where-in he and his wife combined this adventure with a vacation. They visited a number of National Parks starting in October and continuing through the first part of November, visiting and operating cw and phone portable in about seventeen parks, and traveling about 2,100 miles over 9+ days. Some of the locations where Tom operated include the Indiana Dunes, the Lincoln birthplace in Kentucky, Mammoth Cave Park, the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia, the Shenandoah National Park, the Harper's Ferry National Historical Park in Maryland, the Fort Necessity National Battlefield Park, the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, and others. All that history and Ham radio too. What a hoot.

The meeting adjourned about 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club