

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES  
18 September, 2015

The September meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church on 18 September, 2015 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.

Steve addressed the problem with the 146.760 repeater that has had the attention of the repeater committee all summer. The committee has concluded that the problem resides in the 20+ year old Station Master collinear antenna located at the top of the tower, as everything else has been analyzed and eliminated as the source of the problem. As an experiment, the 146.76 machine was switched from the upper antenna to the lower antenna normally used for the 147.255 and 146.390 (digipeater) machines. The 14.760 machine works just fine on the lower antenna. So the conclusion is that the upper antenna needs to be replaced. The expense for a new antenna will be about \$1,200.00 and the cost of a tower climber will be about \$1,500.00 based upon past experience, for a total cost of around \$2,700.00. A motion to replace the antenna was put forward and seconded, and then a vote on the proposal was taken and passed in the affirmative. The repeater committee will work out the details and proceed.

Larry Teminoff, KB9OS reported that IPFW and the Allen County Public Library have elected to put a community oriented FM radio station on the air in the commercial FM band. The tower atop Kettler Hall, where the 146.910 and ATV repeaters are located, will be used to hang the antenna for this new station. Larry asked, given the lack of activity of the ATV machine, if the ATV antenna could be removed to make room for the FM station's antenna. The club's experience has been that, given the interference caused by frequency hopping systems now used for gas and electric meters remote monitoring in the shared 900 MHz band, the ATV machines output signal (910.25 MHz) has been significantly degraded, so activity has been nil. Hence the club deemed taking the ATV machine out of service at Kettler Hall reasonable.

Larry said that he expected IPFW/ACPL would consider the expense of removing the ATV antennas and feedline from the tower as a part of the cost of their FM station project, and thus it shouldn't represent an expense for the club. A meeting of the IPFW/ACPL project team along with their tower climber contractor is to take place Monday, September 22. Jim Pliett, K9OMA and Al Burke, WB9SSE will attend that meeting representing the FWRC. While there they intend to discuss with the tower climber contractor the possibility of replacing the existing side mount for the 146.910 antenna with a larger one that will increase the side mount distance from the tower leg ( to improve the 146.910 pattern in the horizontal plane). The club voted to authorize Jim and Al to negotiate a price, (not to exceed \$500) for this work should it be possible for the contractor to accomplish it while working on the FM station project.

Steve noted that the club participated in the INPOTA state park on-the-air operating events from Wabash, Chain-O-Lakes and Pokagon state parks last weekend. Contacts were made with operations in a total of 25 state parks and all participants had a good time.

The meeting featured beautiful examples of home built equipment from the work benches of Jim Pliett, K9OMA, Jack Shutt, W9GT and Bill Rodgers, K3HZP, and included a 500 watt six meter linear solid state power amplifier, a keyer, and a 439 MHz ATV transmitter built by Jim Pliett, a full kilowatt HF linear amplifier called "the Kahoona II" built by Jack Shutt, and a "QSK 2500" T/R switch designed and built by Bill Rodgers, K3HZP. Bill is offering the QSK 2500 as a buildable kit and features professional grade components including a printed wiring board. Bill is working on a web page where, among other things, the QSK 2500 will be featured. Pictures of all of the equipment displayed will be featured in the club web page "photos" section.

Nominations were opened for club officers and Board of Director positions to be elected at the October meeting. Persons willing to run for various positions are as follows:

President – Charles Ward, KC9MUT

Vice President – Carole Burke, WB9RUS, Steve Nardin, W9SAN

Treasurer – Bob Streeter,

Secretary – Al Burke, WB9SSE

Communications Manager – Fred Van Kempen, KA4YBR, Paul Prestia, KA3OPZ

Board of Directors - Linda Nardin, W9LAN, Tom Rupp, KU8T, Tom Baker, N9TB, Terry Bowman, K9FMX, Jack Shutt, W9GT, Kim Machamer, KB9DOS, Carole Burke, WB9RUS, Paul Prestia, KA3OZP

Nominations will be reopened prior to voting at the October meeting. So if you're interested as serving as a club officer or member of the Board, place, or have your name placed in nomination.

Following the business portion of the meeting, and a brief coffee and cookies break, Charles Ward, KC9MUT and Jim Boyer, KB9IH gave a presentation on Software Defined Radio utilizing the DVB-T TV tuner dongle based on the RTL2832U chipset. This technology is an ideal vehicle for the ham tinkerer who desires to combine ham radio, computers and software. The interested party is referred to:

[www.rtl-sdr.com](http://www.rtl-sdr.com)

which is the hobbyist's guide to the RTL-SDR playground.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE  
Secretary, FWRC