

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
10 April, 2019

The April meeting of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club was held at the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church (GSUMC) on 10 April, 2019. The meeting was hosted by President Charles Ward, KC9MUT.

There were about 45 folks in attendance and following the Pledge of Allegiance, each person introduced themselves via their call sign.

The Treasurer's report provided the following status as of 10 April, 2019 as follows:

Income Year-To-Date	\$3,238.34
Expenses Year-To-Date	\$294.12
Savings balance	\$1,830.17
Checking balance	\$2,548.99
Cash-on-Hand	\$43.00
Vanguard account balance	\$11,122.93
Number of members	124

Charles noted that the May foxhunt involved hiding the microfox in a hedgerow in Rockhill Park that turned out to be quite difficult for the hunters to find. But the Nardin team did in fact find it first so they will play the role of the fox for the June hunt. Full details the May goings-on will be available in the May Foxhunt Chronicles which will appear in the next edition of the Hamnews.

Charles announced that Field Day will once again be held at the Old Fort and he is starting to work out the details with the Old Fort management. Group planning will again be augmented via on-the-air planning sessions likely implemented via the 146.76 machine starting in June. Brenda Plummer, KD9GDX stated that she and Fred Gengnagel, KC9EZP, will be doing a Facebook Live video during Field Day Saturday to generate extra points for employing social media. They will visit every station during their tour, and other areas around the Fort, so be sure to wear a name / callsign badge plus other appropriate Ham type clothing. And be prepared to be interviewed. It was suggested that signs be developed describing the function of each station they visit which will be included in the video.

Paul Prestia, KA3OZP reported that all is well with the club's repeaters, they all seems to be operating fine. He also reported that BridgeComm has confirmed that is was able to replicate the repeater hang-up problem that we experienced in the BridgeComm unit we had been using at the 146.91 machine. That BridgeComm unit is currently on the bench at BridgeComm. Our expectation is that they will now correct the problem. It's likely it will require they re-do the firmware, and that might take a while.

For those who plan on attending Dayton, there will be a (FWRC) group picture session again this year. Actually two picture sessions will occur, one on Friday and one on Saturday. Both sessions will occur near the flags in the food concourse at 11:30 AM. Tom Rupp, KU8T will serve as the photographer on Friday while Steve Nardin, W9SAN will do the duties on Saturday.

Ken Rogner, N8KR announced that as a result of participation in the Straight Key Century Club Multi-Op activity on 24 April, the FWRC has advanced to Tribune TX-1 status having worked 50 or more SKCC Centurions, Tribunes, or Senators, and we are now officially SKCC# 20000T.

Work continues in support of the FWRC 100 year anniversary activities that will occur during 2020. Currently, plans are in work for four special event station operations throughout 2020 to include events during the Indiana QSO Party, an operation on or about the opening weekend of the Tin Caps 2020 season (perhaps at Parkview Field), during the first weekend of the Three Rivers Festival, and during Johnny Appleseed weekend. We are also planning to discuss with PUI management, a special events operation at Purdue-Ft. Wayne during Engineers Week in March of 2020.

Steve Nardin presented the results of designs submittals by club members in response to a request for artwork to support the development of operating certificates, QSL cards and logos for the FWRC 100th year commemoration. In all three categories the designs submitted by Ken Helms, K9ZD, were selected by a vote of the membership attending tonight's meeting.

Steve Nardin announced that he plans, this weekend, to start auctioning the large quantity of very nice SWL receivers from the Brun's estate (a local SWL enthusiast). In all, there are about 50 items involved. In addition several other items of equipment owned by the club, including a working Collins 32S1, will be in the auction.

Following the business meeting Tom Rupp, KU8T provided a program on his Parks On The Air (POTA) activities which included a detailed presentation on how to get started with the POTA program. POTA involves operating portable from the more than 10,000 state and federal parks scattered throughout the US and Canada. It allows you to operate like a DXpedition station, i.e., being chased by POTA "hunters". A very sophisticated POTA web page and database exists (see www.parksontheair.com) that is employed to organize the process.

An excerpt from Tom's presentation including tips for operating POTA follows:

How to get started with the POTA program [parksontheair.com](http://www.parksontheair.com)

Read the official rules from the POTA program at <http://parksontheair.com/rules/>.

Decide if you want to operate QRO (more than 10W SSB/5W CW/DIGI), more weight to carry, or QRP (less than 10W SSB/5W CW/DIGI), less weight to carry.

QRO – Get a 100W portable transceiver like a Yaesu FT-891/857D, Kenwood 480SAT, or Icom 7300.

QRP – Get an Elecraft KX2/KX3 or a Yaesu FT-817.

QRO – Get a 100W antenna like a SuperAntenna vertical, Buddipole, or high power end fed.

QRP – Get an Alex Loop, or a low power end fed. LNR Precision provides a lot of choices for end feds.

QRO – Get a 12V 30/20Ah Lithium Iron Phosphate (LFP) battery (a PVC, BLF-1230A) from <http://www.bioennopower.com> is a good choice

QRP – Get a Zippy Flightmax 5000 mah 3S1P 20C battery from Amazon or Hobby King.

(Hunters only need to do this step for credit since we go by only activation logs.)

Activators should also register on the POTA site by following the steps at: <https://www.parksontheair.com/wp-content/uploads/How-to-Register.pdf>

Locate a POTA entity near you by going to the [parksontheair.com](http://www.parksontheair.com) site and enter your state in the search box (e.g. US-MD for Maryland). Also, you can click on the map and zoom in to find borders/points. Click on them to find the entities reference information (e.g. K-0010).

Announce where you are going, and when via our Facebook page. Join it at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/parksontheair/>

Drive out to the entity and get within the official borders. You can operate from your vehicle or take your setup on foot and find a place on the ground/bench.

Go to <https://pota.us> and spot yourself. In the "info" box, please be sure to enter "K-XXXX", replacing the X's with the entity's reference number.

Call like this for example, "CQ CQ CQ 20 Meters...CQ CQ CQ Parks on the Air... This is [call sign] from kilo-zero-zero-one-zero standing by and listening."

Document the call signs, date, mode, band, and time via any log software of your choice. At least use pen and paper to enter them in later.

Export the proper portion of your log in .ADIF format. Please visit the <http://parksontheair.com> site and send it to a Regional Manager on the list based on your call sign.

Once you have documented enough QSOs as a hunter/chaser, or activator, you will automatically qualify for a new award. Once the log has been reviewed and approved by the national award program manager, your PDF of the award will be sent to you via e-mail.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club