

FORT WAYNE RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES
17 March, 2021

The March edition of the Ft. Wayne Radio Club meeting was held at the Allen County Public Library (downtown) on 17 March, 2021. We made use of meeting rooms A & B which provide room for up to 126 people in a Corona virus compliant environment. (We have also reserved the venue for the April and May meetings and have programs lined up already for those two meetings and beyond. For the time being meetings will start promptly at 6:00 pm because the library closing time has been changed to 8:00 pm.

Club President Carole Burke, WB9RUS welcomed the attendees (about 22) where-in all introduced themselves by their name and call-sign, including several newly minted hams and also including a contingent from the Trine University Amateur Radio Club!. Following introductions we executed the pledge of allegiance ceremony according to our usual practices.

Treasurer Bob Streeter, W8ST provided the current club banking account balances as of 17 March, 2021, to wit:

Savings-	\$1,831.57
Checking-	\$5,834.24
Vanguard Money Market-	\$11,325.25
Membership count-	128 members

Al Burke, WB9SSE reported on repeater status. All machines are operating normally. However the 146.76 MHz and the 444.875 MHz machines both went down about two weeks ago. Upon inspection Steve Nardin, W9SAN, discovered that the Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) had failed, so he bypassed it and both machines are operating directly from the mains. Al Burke later inspected the UPS and determined that two of the four 12 volt sealed lead-acid batteries had died.



The photo included shows significant corrosion on two of the batteries and they both measured an abnormally low charge. If we replace them we should replace all four batteries. We can purchase replacement batteries for just under \$150.00.

The Repeater Maintenance Committee is going to decide if it makes sense to replace the batteries and keep the UPS in the system at Robison Park, or just forgo it.

Carole announced that she had designated Steve Nardin as the single point of contact within the club to handle disposal of equipment the club has accumulated, either through donation or in our role of helping dispose of ham equipment from area hams estate's when he/she passes. So anyone wishing to donate equipment to the club, or desires the club to help liquidate amateur equipment items from an estate, or is interested in purchasing something from the club's inventory of items need get in touch with Steve (w9san@yahoo.net, (260) 482-4039).

Steve Nardin reported on the March foxhunt. It was held on Sunday 7, March. There were five foxhunt teams including two from Trine University, and a team who came up from Indianapolis. Steve, his wife Linda (W9LAN) and their grandson Alex served as the fox and they hid out near the Soapbox Racing Hill in Franke Park. Charles Ward (KC9MUT) and his newbie ride-along foxhunter Brian Sears (KD9QHL) were first to find the fox so they are in line to serve as the fox in April. See the Foxhunt Chronicles for more details regarding this month's competition.

Carole announced that since the Coronavirus situation greatly impacted the plans for celebrating the club's 100th year in 2020, we are going to try to celebrate in 2021. She has been in discussions with Tin Caps President Mike Nutter about setting up a station at the ball park during a game and operating. We can have the Mayor release a proclamation recognizing our 101th year and release it during Field Day. Speaking of Field Day, it looks like we will be operating from the Old Fort again this year and hopefully the Coronavirus situation will allow the public to enter the Old Fort during that weekend. She has asked Clarke Derbyshire (KG9FM) to consider regurgitating his "100 Contacts", (perhaps as the 101 Contacts) competition this year. And then there is this year's Indiana QSO Party. Fort Wayne had a crushing win last year, so let's do it again this year. Let's go for one million points!

Carole was pleased to announce that the Little Red Barn Luncheon meetings are starting back up. The first meeting in 2021 will occur on 18 March at the Big Eyed Fish on Wells Ave. Follow-on luncheons will occur every two weeks thereafter.

Bob Streeter observed that club member Carl Luetzelschwab, (K9LA) has a featured article published in the April QST entitled "Solar Cycle 25 is finally here". It is pointed out as recommended reading for both old and new hams alike.

Carole announced that the program/presentation scheduled for the next few months include:

April - Mr. Jeff Bauermeister (a Raytheon retiree) will provide a presentation on racing carrier pigeons. He and his father were into this hobby which is quite fascinating. And of course this form of communication (carrier pigeons) predates radio communications.

May – Sgt Sophia Rosales- Scatena of the Fort Wayne Police Dept, Public Information Unit who will brief us on general safety topics including situation awareness and answer any questions we may have on the subject. We may also be able to give us her view on the hoopla that took place in Washington D.C just after the Presidential inauguration. Carole has attended a presentation by her at another venue and found her quite interesting and informative.

June – The presentation will revolve around preparations for Field Day.

July - Larry Temenoff (KB9OS) ran across a former railroad telegrapher, Larry Lett, who used to work for the Wabash Railroad, Montpelier Division. Larry has working examples of collector item keys and has agreed to bring them to the July meeting and provide us a program on old time telegraphy. This is the technology that preceded Morse code and radio telegraphy.

Following the business meeting Carole introduced Carlos Felix (KB9OLN) who provided a fascinating presentation on how he operates two meter mobile, by communicating with folks after he has skydived from an airplane, conducting QSO,s (on the order of 200-300 miles distance) as he descends to Earth.



Carlos, KB9OLN

The meeting concluded about 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Burke, WB9SSE
Secretary, Fort Wayne Radio Club