



FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

QSO'ER



Volume 14, Issue 23

September 2001

MEETING DATE:

(Always the 3rd Mon. of each month)

MON. SEPTEMBER 17TH

BOARD MEETING DATE:

(Always the 4th Mon. of each month)

MON. SEPTEMBER 24TH

All FCARC meetings are held at the Appleton Columbus Club – 2531 N. Richmond Street and start at 7:00 PM

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND
ANY MEETING!**

FCARC AUCTION

**Get ready for the FCARC
auction it will be held right
after the meeting is
adjourned.**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Meeting Minutes

There was no August meeting instead the FCARC held its annual corn roast at Sunset Park in Kimberly.

A HUGE thank you to Steve Lamers N9SGG!

Steve was our official grill master. He also took care of getting the soda, charcoal, grill and the corn. Thank you Steve for all your efforts in making the corn roast a great success.

FCARC OFFICERS

President

Brian Long KB9LRD
blong@tponet.com 730-8485

Vice President

Jon Oldenburg AB9AH
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832-9727

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Bill Vincent N9TNW

wvincent@execpc.com 739-6827

Chuck Hanson N9OEO

chanson1@new.rr.com 788-5497

Editors note:

Remember anything you would like published in your newsletter must be submitted to Al KB9BYQ by the 1st of each month.

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club
W9ZL

Invites everyone and anyone to check
in at the

HAMDINGER NET

145.330/R 100hz PL

**Wednesday evenings at
7:30pm**

Everyone is welcome to check in!
It is an open forum anything can be
discussed.

Board Meeting Attendants

Jon Oldenburg	AB9AH
Steve Lamers	N9SGG
Al Van Dynhoven	KB9BYQ
Judy Van Dynhoven	KC9ACT
Brian Long	KB9LRD
Chuck Hanson	N9OEQ
Steve Pelletier	KB9OAL
Dave Sprangers	N9ZHZ
Bill Vincent	N9TNW
John Ensley	N9RJZ

***Please note future board meetings will be held at a new location the
Appleton Columbus Club (upstairs)**

ELMER'S CONTACT LIST

This is a listing of HAMS that are willing to help other HAMS out in special areas.
Feel free to contact these fellow HAMS with any questions.

<u>CALL /NAME</u>	<u>SPECIALTY AREA</u>	<u>PHONE</u>
KB9OAL/Steve	APRS	734-9547
W9OVK/Don	CW	725-2524
W9ZC/Bob	Tech.Code	725-7974
N9OEQ/Chuck	HF&VHF Digital Modes	788-5497
W9RIC/Rick	Repeaters,Antennas, HF&VHF	735-9565
N9TNW/Bill	HF & Satellite	739-6827

If you would like to be included on this list, contact any one of the board members.

**BE SURE TO CHECK OUT THE NEW UPDATED WEBSITE
FOR OUTAGAMIE COUNTY SKYWARN
AT**

<http://kb9byq.webhop.net>

Board Meeting Topics Discussed

At the August board meeting, the following was discussed.

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM

OLD BUSINESS:

- Club license renewal – Jon AB9AH needs to get the signature of Larry W9ZL for the form. Also, need to find out if Larry W9ZL will renew his FCARC membership. It was noted that the club trustee should have a current membership with the club. If Larry does not want to renew the club may have to consider selecting a new trustee. The trustee would need to hold an extra class license.
- There have not been any volunteers for program director as of yet.
- Dave N9ZHZ created a new expense pre-approval form. A few changes were noted and Dave will make them and bring the form back for next board meeting for board approval. The form will include instructions of its purpose and how to fill it out. The board decided the form will be used for all expenses incurred by club members for any event. The form will be made available on the website and will also be available from the club treasurer. The form will need to be presented to the board for approval and the signature of the club treasurer must be on it.
- Web page will contain a list of silent keys. The list will be compiled from off the club plaque. It was suggested we look at other club web pages to find a format to use for the FCARC page.
- Jon AB9AH mentioned that the EAA operations went well. There was approximately 250 contacts made. It was mentioned that there will not be an awards dinner held this year for the EAA participants.
- A committee will be formed for selecting the next Ham of the Year. The previous ham of the year will chair the committee. Nominees will be made aware of the responsibilities. Bill N9TNW was our ham of the year and he will be taking care of the new selection.
- September issue of the QSO'er will be a demo issue for going electronic.
- Dave N9ZHZ and Brian KB9LRD need to get the pictures and information for the Columbus Club. This info. will be put on the FCARC web page. This will be provided in exchange for the use of the meeting room for the board meetings.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The treasurer's database was updated and printed out by Dave N9ZHZ. It was suggested that the members license class be included in the database. Dave will add this in.
- Calendar of events is up on the FCARC web page.
- Elmers contact list will be continued to be published in the QSO'er. There has not been any activity generated from the list as of yet.
- The awards committee for the banquet will be headed by Brian KB9LRD. It was noted that the president usually takes care of the awards.
- Al KB9BYQ has found a free site for converting the QSO'er into the PDF format that is needed for posting it on the web page.
- Appleton Electronics had gotten rid of some old items and have been given to the club. The items will probably go in the auction.
- Dave N9ZHZ will be taking the picture for the new Ham of the year.
- John Ensley N9RJZ will be providing new information for his ad to be run in the QSO'er.
- John N9RJZ has been in contact with the Appleton Chamber of Commerce and they will be including the FCARC in future literature.

Board meeting discussion notes continued...

- John N9RJZ Swapfest updated –
 - Swapfest tickets will be printed with two different colors – one color will represent just raffle ticket, the other will be admission and raffle.
 - Tickets are being printed up now and will be ready shortly
 - The Devenport, Iowa hamfest has once again selected the same date as our swapfest. This means it will be tough for getting commercial vendors in on Nov. 4.
 - Mailing announcements will start going out next month for the raffle ticket sales
 - The swapfest committee will be formed soon
 - John is still checking with local vendors that would like to setup at the swapfest
 - Tables will be delivered the Friday prior to event – there have been 70 tables rented and Sabre Lanes has a few round tables that we are welcome to use.
 - Catering has been all set for the food to be sold at the event.
 - Brian KB9LRD mentioned that the WAPR group has requested to use an extra room for setup for a packet meeting to be held Sun.
 - Has not been decided if or what events could be held on Sat. prior to the swapfest.
 - Brian KB9LRD said that paper can be donated for flyers or whatever needs to be printed up yet from Glatfelter Company.
 - Bill N9TNW will contact George Croy to confirm is testing will be provided . The swapfest committee will need to determine the area that can be set aside for this.
 - The notice should be going in the ARRL October issue.
 - Flyers have been sent for the distribution at the Milwaukee hamfest
 - A mailing and email announcements will be going out to other clubs and other hams.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 PM

A SIMPLE QUIZ?

All answers have three letters.

1. **A three layer diode for switching** _____
2. **Yagi's Partner** _____
3. **Unit of conduction** _____
4. **Switch contacts carrying power** _____
5. **On CW, before SOS** _____
6. **ONE HUNDRED THIRTY ONE INVERTED** _____
(This answer has the answer to ALL the previous questions)

Club Website

<http://www.w9zl.ampr.org/>

Any suggested changes/additions for the web page need to be submitted to Steve Lamers - stevel@itol.com. Suggestions will be brought before the board pending approval.

ZCZC AG37
QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 37 ARLB037
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT August 31, 2001
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB037

ARLB037 Lower Amateur Radio Vanity Fee is Effective September 10

The FCC says the fee for a new or renewed Amateur Radio vanity call sign will drop to \$12 on September 10. Applications received on or after that date will be subject to the new fee. The current vanity call sign fee is \$14.

The FCC proposed the lower fee last March in a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for FY 2001. The FCC has estimated that 8000 applicants will apply for vanity call signs in the current fiscal year.

Earlier this year, the FCC also put paper and electronic vanity call sign applications on an equal footing in terms of processing priority. The FCC used to give priority to electronic applications for vanity call signs.

FCC rules stipulate refunds for applicants who inadvertently overpay a regulatory fee. Applicants who determine that they overpaid a vanity fee may request a refund in writing. Requests seeking a "Vanity Fee Overpayment Refund" go to FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245. Refund requests should indicate the date of application, the total fee paid, and the total refund owed.

For more information, visit the FCC Amateur Radio Web page, <http://www.fcc.gov/wtb/amateur/VanityCS.html>

==>SOLAR UPDATE

Sun watcher Tad Cook, K7VVV, Seattle, Washington, reports: The solar flux has been rising this week. Several new sunspots are visible, and flux values are up around 200 again. Average solar flux rose nearly 35 points this week. The latest projection shows solar flux rising above 200 over the next few days. Friday's flux is expected at 205, with 210 on Saturday and Sunday, and 205 on Monday and Tuesday.

Sunspot 9591 caused a big stir last weekend when a coronal mass ejection caused a sudden HF radio blackout. WWV reported a major solar flare occurring at 1635 UTC on August 25--said to be the largest solar flare since last April. A pair of new spots on the sun's northeastern limb pose a threat for more flares. Unsettled conditions and a geomagnetic storm are possible this weekend, making things a bit dicey for the All-Asia DX Contest (SSB).

Sunspot numbers for August 23 through 29 were 194, 187, 132, 139, 182, 189 and 136 with a mean of 165.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 169.7, 174.9, 199, 189.9, 192, 199.2 and 197, with a mean of 188.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 12, 4, 10, 12, 12, 15 and 9 with a mean of 10.6.

Welcome to the FCARC

Our newest member:

N9FT Fred Teggee

Xtreme! In More Ways Than One

Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO

As Wisconsin ARES/RACES organizations, we are fortunately not exposed to some of the disasters and tragedies that affect other parts of the U.S. We have our share of severe weather (thunderstorms, occasional tornadoes and blizzards), and sometimes hazardous materials issues, but overall the state is tranquil. We don't normally need to operate in the elements for long periods.

This was not the case on Saturday, July 21, 2001. Outagamie County ARES began working with the Mid-America Adventure Racing in February 2001, after agreeing to coordinate the communications for its 2001 Xtreme Race held in the Nicolet National Forest. Without knowing a great deal about the event, we anticipated it would be a communications challenge.

The 2001 Xtreme Race consisted of a 55-mile course in rugged Northeastern Wisconsin. This is an area known for off-roading, hiking and waterfalls. The Race was to begin with participants floating several miles down the Pestigo River, then hiking 13 miles through the woods on a marked trail. They would then need to test their navigation skills for over eight miles, which included some of the most difficult terrain in Wisconsin. There was to be rappel, traverse and ascent challenges. They would need to find four orienteering points with the help of only a compass and topographical map. After running this gauntlet, they would ride mountain bikes for nearly 30 miles, mostly uphill. When the bike competition finished, they would get in rafts and run the difficult rapids of the Pestigo River until the finish. We were told by Race Director Mike Polzin, the course would take a minimum 10 hours to complete. The worst case may be 18 hours!

Our ARES group has always looked for communications challenges to sharpen our skills. We are blessed with good support from the community, emergency management and have always been treated with respect. This event was no different; we were welcomed with open-arms. Because of the requirement for staffing we contacted our surrounding county's ARES groups and requested volunteers. Winnebago, Waupaca and Calumet County ARES groups all responded with willing volunteers. Winnebago County brought their Remote Operations Center (ROC), which was used for Race Command. We appreciated the help of these groups and could not have done it without them. The event also strengthened relationships for future mutual assistance for emergencies and disasters because it is easier to work with someone the second time.

Preparations for the Race began early Friday, July 20, 2001, when we had to drive the 100+ miles to the site. Operators began arriving at Wildman's Whitewater Ranch (base camp) about 11:30 a.m. The weather had been extremely hot and humid, and we were aware of the chance for severe weather. We began to set up operations and the first task was to find a spot for the ROC. We tried one location, but opted for another because of the shade. We previously secured permission to use the K9ARF, 145.470 Crivitz repeater for the event, but wanted backup communications, so we transported two repeaters from Outagamie County. The 145.150 repeater (Red Cross) was the designated backup, although, we did not need it because of the stellar performance of the 145.470 repeater. The other system was designated as the "chat" frequency. The 443.650 (Fox Valley

VHF Association) was installed and used. We thank all of the organizations for the use of their systems.

Once we completed setup, it was nearly dinner time. As we stood in line for the spaghetti dinner, thunder began. Rain began shortly after we finished eating and the big rains came just as we were about to start our pre-race meeting. As we discussed the final details for the Race, the ground became a river as about three inches of rain fell. Fortunately, there was not much wind, but plenty of lightning, although the radio equipment survived. As we settled in for the night, the rain stopped. By midnight, the sky was clear and the only reminder of the storm was a flicker of lightning in the southeast sky.

Around 1:15 a.m. our folks began to stir. Race participants assembled at 1:30 a.m. and they were lead to the river. The start was an interesting sight as 185 people, clad with headlamps and colored safety lights jumped into

Xtreme! In More Ways Than One continued...

the river. At 2:00 a.m. the Race was on! We also dispatched a number of teams at that time. Checkpoint (CP) 1, CP2, and Orienteering Points (OP) 2 and 3 were dispatched. CP2, and OP 2 and 3 required a trek to access them.

Because operators could not be close to their cars, HTs with additional battery power and cross-band capability were required. We coordinated the frequencies ahead of time, but still had some conflict issues. These were grueling assignments, because of the mid-90 degree temperatures and high humidity, our operators and Race volunteers ran out of water and were getting close to having heat problems. At OP3, Steve Lamers, N9SGG, and Steve Pelletier, KB9OAL, reported temperatures on the summit of 110 degrees. Needless to say, these were difficult spots.

As the Race moved along, it was apparent the heat was taking its toll on the racers. Because of the rain the previous night, length of the race and ATV traffic along the mountain bike route, the race was shortened by a few miles. This news reinvigorated the racers and allowed for a number of additional teams to finish. It also provided us with a bit shorter day.

The last piece of traffic was passed on the Net about 7:15 p.m. There were no injuries, none of the racers got too lost, we provided a terrific public service, and learned a great deal about remote communications and deployment of the ROC. The most valuable aspect of this event in my eyes was the opportunity to participate in this type of communication event with neighboring counties in a non-emergency or disaster situation. We better understand each others' capabilities and will know how to work together when a serious emergency/disaster strikes.

The following is a list of ARES operators, assignment and county ARES affiliation:

Mark Heimmermann, KF9CS – Command Post – AEC Outagamie
Dan Lenz, KB9IME – Command Post – EC Winnebago
Carol Lenz, KB9WPH – Command Post – Winnebago
Brian Long, KB9LRD – CP3 – Outagamie
Greg Ramlow, KB9SZP – CP1 & CP3 – AEC Winnebago
Stephen Williams, KB9RLF – CP1 & Command Post – Outagamie
Stan Piekarczyk, KE6IFC – CP2 and Command Post – Outagamie
Dominique Piekarczyk, KF6HCG – CP2 and Command Post – Outagamie
Jeff Schmeichel, KB9BYP – OP2 – AEC Outagamie
Steve Breese, KB9MBC – OP2 – Outagamie
Steve Pelletier, KB9OAL – OP3 – AEC Outagamie
Steve Lamers, N9SGG – OP3 – Outagamie
Rick Kosiorek, W9RIC – CP4 – Calumet
Judy Kosiorek, N9JLQ – CP4 – Calumet
Dave Wahl, KB9WAF – CP5 – Outagamie
Dan Williams, KB9VLG – Command Post & CP5 – EC Waupaca
Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO – Race Director Shadow – EC Outagamie
Aaron Heise, KB9QWC – Sag Vehicle Communications – AEC Waupaca

Special thanks to Dan Lenz and Dan Williams for transporting the ROC; and Stan and Dominique Piekarczyk, Jeff Schmeichel, Steve Breese, Steve Lamers and Steve Pelletier for hiking and enduring the elements beyond the call-of-duty.

We are already looking forward to next year's race!

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Niemuth, KB9ENO
EC, Outagamie County ARES
President, EC Resources, Ltd.

****Outagamie ARES members mark your calendars – September 22 there will be a full scale exercise. ARES will deploy our MCC, just as staging and probably net control.**

Upcoming Hamfest/Swapfest

**SATURDAY and SUNDAY,
SEPTEMBER 22 and 23**

Radio Expo 2001

Sponsored by Chicago FM Club

Lake County Fairgrounds, Grayslake, IL, at Rts. 45 and 120. Conveniently located at between Chicago and Milwaukee, I-94 just

to the east for easy access. Three large exhibitor buildings and a huge flea market.

Indoor tables \$20 for the two days. Electricity \$10. VEC testing both days from

9 to 11 a.m. Free parking and camping (no service connection, electricity \$10.)

Talkin 146.76 w/PL 103.7. Info: Write CFMC, 348 W. Natoma Ave, Addison, IL 60101, or see us here:

<http://www.chicagofmclub.org>

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2001

AMATEUR RADIO Fest 2001

Sponsor: The Milwaukee Repeater Club

Waukesha County Expo Center Forum buildings, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Admission: \$5.00, tables \$15 per 8 ft. table Electricity: \$15.

Pancake breakfast 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. Food available all day.

Info: <http://www.execpc.com/~mrc>

Email: mrc@execpc.com

Telephone: 1.262.367.3953

SATURDAY, JANUARY 5, 2002

30th Annual Mid-Winter Swapfest

Sponsored by

West Allis Radio Amateur Club

Waukesha County Expo Center Forum

8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: Phil Gural, W9NAW, 414.425.3649

Web: <http://www.WARAC.org>

ITEM FOR SALE

Rockwell 32" Radial drill press
Model 1-280 w/motor

Included: mounted on metal stand
V Block

Assorted Drills

Drill Press vice

Price: \$175.00

If interested contact N9ECS

A.R. Ballinger at (920)734-5460

Upcoming Testing Locations/Dates

EAU CLAIRE, WI

EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

October 20, 2001, January 19, 2002: 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. South Middle School, North East Side Door 7, 2115

Mitscher Ave., Eau Claire. Walkins welcome. Examination session coordinator: Steve Bluem, KA9OMY,

ka9omy@arrl.net Telephone: 715.839.6509. Sponsored by the Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club.

Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>, Email: w9eau@ecarc.org

TOMAHAWK, WI

Last Saturday of every month, January thru October. Tomahawk Volunteer Examiners (ARRL/VEC). Tomahawk, WI. No advance registration required, but appointment would be appreciated. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testing starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk

OSHKOSH (OMRO)

The Oshkosh VE Team will administer Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon at the Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walkins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC. The exam fee is \$6.65. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail lemme@vbe.com, or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

**If you would like to see
your ad on this page.
Please contact any of the
club board members to
find out how.**

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your ad on this page.
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Richard Sonnenberg 675 East Edgewood Dr.
Appleton WI 54913 W9UVZ@tpo.org

920-733-0609

*NOTE: The newsletters are photo copied by Brian Long KB9LRD on paper donated by Glatfelter Company.

QSO'er
FCARC-W9ZL
P.O. Box 5233
Appleton, WI 54912-5233

FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

NAME _____ **DATE** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE _____ **CALL SIGN** _____ **CLASS** _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

Membership dues for one year:

Full - \$15.00	Associate(non ham) \$15.00	Student - \$10.00
Retired - \$10.00		Family - \$20.00

Please make checks payable to FCARC

Mail to: FCARC P.O. Box 5233 Appleton, WI 54912-5233