



FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

QSO'ER



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

Volume 14, Issue 26

December 2001

MEETING DATE:

(Always the 3rd Mon. of each month)

MON. December 17TH

BOARD MEETING DATE:

Due to the holidays the board meeting
will be held

TUE. December 18TH

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!**

The Club social will follow
the meeting on Dec. 17th.

There will BE snacks served
for all to enjoy. So come
catch up and chat with your
fellow hams.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on the 19th of
November 2001 by Brian Long KB9LRD at 7:07PM.
All meeting minutes were approved as listed in the
newsletter. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20PM.

FCARC OFFICERS

President

Brian Long KB9LRD
blong@tponet.com 730-8485

Vice President

Jon Oldenburg AB9AH
jonandvalerieoldenburg@worldnet.att.net
832-9727

Treasurer

Dave Sprangers N9ZHZ
Pyrodave@anewvision.net 722-2515

Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Al KB9BYQ & Judy KC9ACT Van Dynhoven
kb9byq@new.rr.com 830-1859

Membership Coordinator

Steve Lamers N9SGG
n9sgg@new.rr.com 749-8824

Members At Large

Steve Pelletier KB9OAL
kb9oal@new.rr.com 734-9547

Bill Vincent N9TNW
wvincent@execpc.com 739-6827

Chuck Hanson N9OEO
chanson1@new.rr.com 788-5497

Editors note:

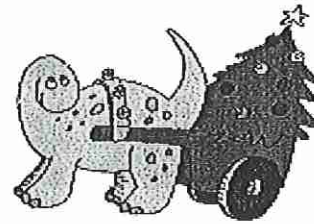
Remember anything you would like published in
your newsletter must be submitted to Al KB9BYQ
by the 1st of each month.

Club Meeting Attendants

William Vincent	N9TNW
Al Van Dynhoven	KB9BYQ
Judy Van Dynhoven	KC9ACT
Steve Lamers	N9SGG
Michael Scheid	KB9NLL
Dave Sprangers	N9ZHZ
Steve Pelletier	KB9OAL
Brian Long	KB9LRD
Maury Mead	W9FBC
Gerry Radtke	WA9GON
John Ensley	N9RJZ
Aaron Heise	KB9QWC
Fred Tegge	N9FT
Lester Morse	KA9LAR
Dan Vanevenhoven	N9LVS
Larry Wilfer	N9WNS

Board Meeting Attendants

Jon Oldenburg	AB9AH
Steve Lamers	N9SGG
Judy Van Dynhoven	KC9ACT
Brian Long	KB9LRD
Chuck Hanson	N9OEQ
William Vincent	N9TNW
John Ensley	N9RJZ
Don Quinn	W9OVK
Dave Sprangers	N9ZHZ
Pat Latour	K9IK



Open position:

FCARC still is in need of a person or persons to help coordinate programs after the monthly meetings.

If you would be interested in helping the club out in this position please contact Brian KB9LRD

MARK YOUR CALENDARS THE ANNUAL FCARC BANQUET IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.



DATE: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9TH 2002



WHERE: APPLETON COLUMBUS CLUB

PRICE: \$13.25 PER PERSON or \$25.00 PER COUPLE

Menu will include country style – Roast Chicken, Tenderloin Tips and Haddock.

Club Website

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

Any suggested changes/additions for the web page need to be submitted to Steve Lamers - n9sgg@new.rr.com Suggestions will be brought before the board pending approval.

Board Meeting Discussions

The FCARC banquet –

- Brian KB9LRD created a new sign in form for meetings.
- Next QSO'er will have an announcement for the banquet.
- Don W9OVK suggested to have code practice after the Wed. night net.
- Brian suggested to have an official format for the meeting minutes. They will be printed in the newsletter.
- Brian suggested the club use the Roberts Rules of Order Book. John N9RJZ will donate a copy to the club. It was suggested that the book always reside with the club president.
- Was suggested to start field day earlier for planning – Steve N9SGG is the coordinator.
- February program will be the QSO party info. Pat K9IK and Dave N9ZHZ will discuss mobile, Chuck N9OEQ and Bill W9TNW will discuss base stations, Brian KB9LRD will go over scoring and logging. The club will mail in the points.
- Bi Law changes will be made by Brian KB9LRD in May.
- Ham of the Year selection should be by all past award winners and one other person. Suggested to come up with some type of criteria for the selection
- Don W9OVK requested to have his fathers call sign W9ZL as his own. This discussion was tabled until after the first of the year.
- Suggested to pay for the Columbus Club on a annual or bi annual schedule rather than each time. It was determined it would be left up to the treasurer to make the decision.
- Club social will be held in Dec. A budget amount was suggested and approved. Menu choices will include veggie tray, chips and dip, cheese and sausage, and the all famous little BBQ weenies.
- Website –
 - Was suggested to look into offering a text only version of the QSO'er for those with lower speed modems
 - George Croy was shown how to update the calendar.
 - Need to check into changing W9ZL in the URL
 - List servers for club members will be offered
 - The current QSO'er will be password protected. Hoping to go live the 1st of the year.

Did You Know?

The Foundation For Amateur Radio, Inc. a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to administer **sixty-two(62)** scholarships for the academic year 2002-2003 to assist licensed Radio Amateurs. The Foundation, composed of over seventy-five local area Amateur Radio Clubs, fully funds seven of these scholarships with the income from grants and its annual Hamfest. The remaining fifty-five are administered by the Foundation without cost to the various donors.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. The awards range from **\$500 to \$2500** with preference given in some cases to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs.

Additional information and an application form may be requested by letter or QSL card, postmarked prior to April 30, 2002 from:

FAR Scholarships, P.O. Box 831, Riverdales, MD 20738

The Foundation for Amateur Radio, incorporated in the District of Columbia, is an exempt organization under Section 501(C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954. It is devoted exclusively to promoting the interest of Amateur Radio and those scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

Minutes from:
Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club
November 19th, 2001 Meeting

Board of Directors FCARC:

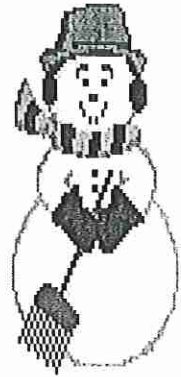
President: Brian, KB9LRD; Vice-President: John, AB9AH;
Secretary: Al KB9BYQ; Membership Coordinator: Steve, N9SGG; Treasurer Dave N9ZHZ,
Members at Large: Steve, KB9OAL; Bill, N9TNW; Chuck, N9OEQ

Call to Order: 7: 07 PM

Introduction of Members: Roll Call !!

Quorum count: Treasurer Dave N9ZHZ

Minutes: Approval of the minutes from: October 15th, 2001
(Motioned by: Steve,KB9OAL) (seconded by: Steve, N9SGG) (vote:approved)



Old Business:

- A.) Ham fest update: John, N9RJZ. Thank you John, and to all who helped, It was another great event !!
Club award ? Grand prize winners ?
There was a suggestion made to do a post card rather than a flier to save on postage.
- B.) The Appleton Electronics Co. donation along with other club member donations raised \$141.00
at the 2001 "Hamfest".
A special thank you to Steve N9SGG for manning the club table during the entire fest.
Thank you to all who donated items for the club table.
Reminder – donations are always welcome for the club table.
- C.) Another successful event: J.O.T.A. John, AB9AH. Thank you for all you're help !!!
Al Van Dynhoven, KB9BYQ; Judy Van Dynhoven, KC9ACT; Steve Lamers, N9SGG;
Greg Schneider, W9IEI; John Oldenburg, AB9AH; Maury Mead, W9FBC; Dick Sonnenburg, W9UVZ;
Brian Long, KB9LRD; Mark Heimmerman, KF9CS; Rick Kosiorek, W9RIC; Mr. Pat McCormic Scout
Master,troop #67; Patty Naimon, KN2F; The Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from troop #67
- D.) The FCARC needs a Nominee for the appointment of the Programs Director. This appointment will be for the
Programs Director to arrange programs of interest after the FCARC General membership meetings.
(Acceptance) (Nomination) (Vote: M)
- E.) Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association (WAPRA) meet November 4th at Saber Lanes.
Aaron, KB9QWC

New Business:

- A.) Nominations for the 2002 Hamfest Chairperson, the election and the close of nominations will be
December 17, 2001.
The FCARC board of directors nominated John, N9RJZ (2nd by: Steve, N9SGG) (Vote: accepted)

Motion to suspend nomination for Ham Fest chairman by: Gerry, WA9GON
(2nd by: Maury, W9FBC) (Vote: accepted)
- B.) Special event Station November 30 & Dec.1: Green Bay National Weather Service. Al, KB9BYQ
- C.) It has a new name, a new format and new procedures, "The FCARC weekly radio net".
Another W9ZL successful event ! Steve, N9SGG.
There will be a "no traffic" option for those who want to just check in and not chit chat
Newline will be broadcasted prior to net and 7:15pm
Looking for more hams to step in to be control ops – if interested notify Steve N9SGG
Suggestion was made to look at a different repeater for wider coverage

The following Presidential appointments were made:

Public Relations Committee Chairman: Dan Vanevenhoven, N9LVS
Photography Committee Chairman; Dan Vanevenhoven, N9LVS

Meeting adjourned 8:20 PM

THANK YOU!

To the following businesses for their support of the recent 2001 "Construction" SWAPMEET, which was held at Saber Lanes in Menasha this past November. We ran out of time and space to get these special mentions in last months newsletter. So, THANK YOU supporters of our club Swapmeet.

Hope to see you again November 3rd, 2002.

- Beverage Express, Appleton, WI for drink items.
- Appleton Electronics, for door prize items.
- Mr. Fender of Appleton for the roll of banner paper and paint.
- Ensley Law Office, Appleton, WI for all the paper & envelopes used by the Hamfest Committee.
- Pendex Corporation, Appleton, WI for door prize items.
- BL Coffee, Appleton, WI for coffee served at the event.
- Media Science, Appleton, WI for door prize items.
- Quaker Bakery, Appleton, WI for sandwich food items.
- TPO Internet for all the printing and paying phone charges.
- Tower Electronics, Green Bay, WI for door prize items.
- Also, thanks to W9ZL members who donated items to the club sales table to benefit the club treasury, and to those who helped with various tasks to make this a success.

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, Antenna's, 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.

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club W9ZL

Invites everyone to check into the radio net held at
145.330/R 100hz PL

**Wednesday evenings tune in at 7:15pm to hear the weekly radio
Newsline Broadcast. Then stick around to check into the net.**

All are welcome!

This is an open forum net and anything can be discussed.

A CALL FOR HELP

Late November in Wisconsin can sometimes be just a little on the blustery side, or one could say "down right damp, cold and windy".

The Sunday of November 25th 2001 would defiantly fall in the "blustery" category. One would think it is not the kind of weather that anyone would want to do out side work, not to mention climbing an antenna tower to perform repairs but that is what happen.

Let me back up before I get ahead of my self. You see this story started about twenty two years ago when I first installed "Betsy" that's what I call my forty five-foot antenna tower. Betsy is another story that I will not go into at this time. Anyway Betsy was planted in the ground the first time back in 1979 with a four-element tri-band beam, a quarter wave tri-band vertical at the top and to finish things off a twin coax fed dipole cut for 80/40 meters.

Betsy has been moved to three difference residences as I moved about the city. At the current residence, I added to the tower an eleven-element two-meter beam, a high gain FM antenna, a boat antenna and a sloper cut for Airforce Mars's frequencies. All went well until about two years ago when we had a heavy wind come through and snap the ladder feed line that was the feed for the sloper. OK now that in its self did not stop me from operating because I could use the dipole and with my tuner I could load the Air-Mars frequency but the dipole did not give me the angle that the sloper did and that is what I wanted. OK no big deal right? I had an extra coax line all ready in place on the tower that was available to be used for the sloper. So all I had to do was get the tool together and scamper up the tower and make the connection.(I must say that I had not climbed the tower for over ten years but so what). So I got the tools together, waited for a nice warm sunny calm day and then started my climb. After I climbed up about twenty feet I thought to my self "how could each of my legs gained at least 150 pounds in the last ten years? It was at this point my body said, "What are you doing? Get off this tower now. If you don't I will let you fall. I have always listen to my body so my tower climbing came to an abrupt end.

After some heavy thinking and thoughts about younger years (that's another story) I reconciled that the thing to do was to find someone around the city that is a Ham who would climb the tower and make the repairs. My search went on for two years without finding any takers. I did not know that finding someone to climb my tower and repair the antenna would be so hard or take so long. You see I did not understand that towering was a dead or dying art/skill.

I had but given up on ever finding anyone who would climb the tower and do the work, but I had one more thought. Maybe a ham club could help. Hams are the one who have towers these days now that most T.V are on cable. The ham club here in good old Oshkosh had terminated its self from within so I could not get help there so my thoughts turned to the "Appleton club" and maybe they could help.

So the first thing I did was fire up my computer browser get on the Internet and do a search for "Fox City Amateur Radio Club". Walla there they were with officer's names and e-mail addresses things were looking up.

I put together a short e-mail, requesting help from the club in locating someone that would work on my antenna. The E-mail was sent out November 5th to the club president "Brian Long". One must understand I thought this would be a long shot based on the results I had obtained the previous two years, so I did not have much hope on a positive response. November can have better weather as I said early and that is one of the reasons that I normally schedule a trip to the southwest to visit some friends this time of year and enjoy a last fling of warm weather before settling down for a long winter. As in years past I got back to Wisconsin the day before turkey day. Upon checking my e-mail and much to my surprise, I had received an answer from Brian Long. The E-mail was an invite to attend the club meeting November 19th so I could define to the club the work to be performed, well that could not be because the date now was the 21st and there fore I had missed the meeting. Once again I sent off an e-mail to Brian Long explaining that I had been out of town and sorry for not attending the FCARC meeting and I also included as much detail about the work to be performed on the tower. The next day I received back a response from Brian that he and others (Aaron and Steve) would be down Sunday afternoon to do the repairs.

A time was set for there arrival and also what repeater I should monitor just in case directions where required.

A CALL FOR HELP continued...

The time was 1:00 PM and I was monitoring the local repeater when I here Brian and his associates talking back and forth to each other.

Now you should know that I was down right excited, knowing that I was getting help to repair my antenna after looking for years to find someone. You can also understand my worry when I overheard on the repeater the people that were coming to help me talking " you know the best time to work on a tower and antenna is January or February. It also helps when the temp is about 10 degree's another said blowing snow in the face also makes things go better ' then another responded with "wind" don't forget wind say 20 to 30 MPH that also helps also ice on the tower expedites the job.

OK by now I am thinking what have I got my self into? Now we did not have snow and the temp was about 40 degrees but the wind was blowing at 18 with gust at 25 MPH anyway this was just a joke "right"?

Anyway in about 15 minutes my doorbell rang and I knew my help had arrived. I proceeded outside to welcome the three gentlemen.

The first to speak was this Impish person with a twinkle in his eye he had a gray beard with a Leather brief case in his hand.(I thought this to be strange). The second person was very astute and gave the impression of a teacher, professor or some brainy type.

Last but not least the third person was soft spoken but his size looked as though he could be a linebacker with the Green Bay Packers.

After introductions were made the task at hand was reviewed and equipment was gathered for the work. My thought was, the Impish person with the gray beard and small physical build would be the one to climb the tower "wrong" to my surprise the person who was built like a linebacker was the person to climb the tower and do the work. I must say even with the cold misty and windy day things went very great, the repairs were made in short time, and of good quality.

I truly was glad to have my antenna repaired but the repair was not the highlight of the day. The true highlight was, the three people that took time away from there normal Sunday afternoon activities, drive to Oshkosh and work outside on a person's antenna that they had never met or never seen and do this on a day that was not the normal antenna repair weather. Not only that but also take the time to look up the person birth date and to bring a card of congratulation.

The friendship that these three people shown was so very welcome to this writer. Just to close "You" the members of the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club should be proud because your club was represented in the best possible light of good fellowship.

I know I have rambled way to long but it is not every day one gets the chance to meet people of this quality.

Now the actors involved are

The Impish person with the graybeard: "Brian Long KB9LRD"

The school teacher/professor engineer: "Steve Lamers N9SGG"

The Linebacker and great tower climber: "Aaron Heise KB9QWC"

Thank you for a great afternoon,

Lee (KB9KM)

Season's
Greetings



A Thousand Marbles submitted by Gerry WA9GON

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable. A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the basement shack with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning, turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time.

Let me tell you about it. I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net.

Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind; he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whomever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles." I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say.

"Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. Too bad you missed your daughter's dance recital".

He continued, "Let me tell you something Tom, something that has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles."

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years. Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime.

"Now, stick with me, Tom, I'm getting to the important part." "It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail"; he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy.

"So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round up 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside of a large, clear plastic container right here in the sack next to my gear. Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away."

"I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focus more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight."

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure that if I make it until next Saturday, well then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time."

"It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. 75 year Old Man, this is K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter.

Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast." "What brought this on?" she asked with a smile.

"Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent Saturday together with the kids. Hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles...."

**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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free!
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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 Karen, Brian Long KB9LRD

**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