



FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

QSO'ER



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

Volume 14, Issue 27

January 2002

MEETING DATE:

(Always the 3rd Mon. of each month)

MON. January 21st

BOARD MEETING DATE:

(Always held the 4th Mon. of each month)

MON. January 28TH

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 BANQUET will be

Saturday, February 9, 2002

Mark your calendars see details inside this issue.

Reserve your plates today!

Deadline is February 1, 2002.

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Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order on the 17th of December 2001 by Brian Long KB9LRD at 7:07PM. All meeting minutes were approved as listed in the newsletter. Meeting was adjourned at 7:58PM. Club social followed the meeting.

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 N9OEQ
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
Dave Sprangers	N9ZHZ
Brian Long	KB9LRD
Maury Mead	W9FBC
Gerry Radtke	WA9GON
John Ensley	N9RJZ
Aaron Heise	KB9QWC
Fred Tegge	N9FT
Lester Morse	KA9LAR
Dan Vanevenhoven	N9LVS
Hal Sieth	NQ9F
Karen Thorne	WB9ZNA
Fran Theisen	W9XYL
Richard Sonnenberg	W9UVZ
Chuck Theisen	K9IA
Mark Michel	W9OP
Bob Ronk	KB9IE
Don Quinn	W9OVK
Pat Latour	K9IK
Gary Keating	ND9Z
Scott Clausen	KB9YUC
Mike Pagel	KB9YUB
Steve Fleming	KA9ZCF
Richard Kosiorek	W9RIC
Judy Kosiorek	N9JLQ
Chuck Hanson	N9OEQ
Jon Oldenburg	AB9AH
Wayne Pennings	WD9FLJ

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
Al Van Dynhoven	KB9BYQ

Open position:

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

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

FCARC BANQUET

DATE: SATURDAY FEBRUARY 9TH 2002

WHERE: APPLETON COLUMBUS CLUB

TIME: 5:30 – 6:30 Cocktail hour, 6:30 Dinner

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

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

Deadline is February 1st for reservations. Please contact

Dave Sprangers N9ZHZ via email or phone

Pyrodave@anewvision.net or 722-2515

From the 2 long distant FCARC members:

We have been in Truth or Consequences, NM since Nov 11 and will leave Jan 11. We only pay \$200 per month including all utilities. The owners and hosts are very friendly as well as the other RV'rs here for the winter. A small park on a hill overlooking the small town with a mountain view out our front and side windows. A nice rec hall where I have worked on 10 jigsaw puzzles and Greg has become the caller for Bingo! The owners have a home in Albuquerque, a smaller one here in T or C and stay in their 44' bizzillion dollar humungous motor home. They are around a lot and are just down home type folks. She took me to the grocery store twice so we wouldn't have to take the motor home out. We have had cold nights for about 3 weeks, some in the mid 20's so we need heat evenings and overnight. The water hose froze a couple of times. Our days go from 45 to about 60. Your weather has been better than ours! There is an 85 year old ham here, K5PPG who has been everywhere and done almost everything as a consultant to the military as a nuclear engineer. Also was a pilot. A very interesting man and we don't think he is BSing. He knows too many factual things.

Greg has been working some 10 meter FM simplex on 29.6 mhz. He's only got good antennas for 20 and 15 meters but hasn't been on much.

As an aside, we will be grandparents again (by Karen) in May. Deanna will only be 2 years old.

From here we'll head into Arizona with stops in Casa Grande and Yuma, then into southern California. Campgrounds get more expensive. We get quotes from \$300 to \$700 a month so we'll have to fine the small, out of the way places.

We had to replace the transmission and a fan clutch so \$1500 out of the budget means we may be eating more bologna sandwiches. Hi, hi.

Take care,
Greg W9IEI & Judy N9PBM

6-meter Radials

Submitted by Gerry Radtke, WA9GON

One of the Local QRPers came up the hill today and there was joy in his stride. He was the same one who we'd heard that on the 2-meter repeater telling one of the big guns about this new found success on 6-meters. He wasn't long getting to the point.

"5 new ones today!" He began, grinning from ear to ear, "That makes 13 in 4 days. I guess at this rate, using simple linear math, the time for me to get my 50-MHz DXCC is $(100 \times 4 / 13) = 30.8$ days. That's one month."

We held up our hand in resistance: "Wait a minute. It isn't linear! It took VE1YX over 12 years to get 6-meter DXCC. And he was at it all the time, with an 8-element beam at 70-foot feed with hard-line and a big amplifier. You just hit a fluke in propagation."

The QRPer grinned wider and shook his head. "Nope, not on your life! I wouldn't do this for just anyone, but I'm going to let you in on my secret. Here's what I did. I got rid of my beam, amplifier and tower. Sold it. Then I bought a multi-band vertical with the 12/17-meter add-on kit. That part is important as it widens out your resonance point."

We tried to get a word in, but he was going full steam ahead. "I know, I know! You had your resonance point widened by a doctor a few years ago, but this is different."

We shoved back our baseball cap and finally took it right off. We scratched our forehead as the QRPer ploughed on.

"Here's the secret. 51 radials! Not 49, not 50 and not 52. 51. But there's more to it than that. The first 50 radials can be of any length, and they should be a mix if you are going to use your antenna on HF too. The trick is radial 51. Make it the portion of the wavelength where you are most likely to be operating. If you plan to be around 50.100 MHz, then cut it .100 wavelength. If 50.150 MHz, cut it .150 of a wavelength, and so on. This isn't too critical as your vertical will be broad-banded to begin with, but if you want that extra edge, cut it where the DX is likely to be, and then you'll be ready to pounce!"

"You won't find this in any ARRL antenna book. And don't tell anyone, either! If everyone finds out, then we won't have the advantage. You just listen to me, and I'll teach you how to DX on 6-meters. I have a few more tricks up my sleeve. You try this antenna one first. Then we'll move on to phase two. There is a 6-meter DXer buried inside you somewhere. We'll get him out in the open!"

With that he was off down the hill, running and kicking up his heels in anticipation of tomorrow's 6-meter opening. Son of a Gun! Some days there are times when you can anticipate what is coming, and be prepared. Somehow, we didn't even think Lord Baden-Powell, the Hero of Mafeking, would have been prepared for this one. So we just watched him round the corner and hoped tomorrow would be another good day on 6. It kept the QRPers of the lower bands, and we still needed the 5W0VK on 17-meters.

The Great Days of DXing are upon us. The signs are everywhere. QST printed an article saying we were in the middle of a double peak cycle and the Palos Verdes Sundancers were showing no signs of letting up. Maybe the QRPer had actually come across something . . . like too sitting too close to the amplifier with the cover off! DX IS!

73/DX Paul VE1DX

**Minutes from:
Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club
December 17th, 2001**

Board of Directors FCARC:

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

Call to Order: 7: 07 PM

Introduction of Members: Roll Call !!

Quorum count: Vice-President: John, AB9AH

Minutes: Approval of the minutes from: November 19th, 2001

Motion to accept by: Karen, WB9ZNA Second: Bill, N9TNW vote:Pass/M

Old Business:

- A.) Special event Station December 1st: Green Bay National Weather Service. Al, KB9BYQ
The event went well and the turn out was very good. The purpose of this event is to give appreciation to the Skywarn community.
- B.) Call sign@w9zl.ampr.org Steve, N9SGG.
Steve is building a new server for web page and email.
- C.) J.O.T.A. John, AB9AH
There where 15 scouts that participated from troop 67. The bands where open nicely that day. The club will probably participate in the event again next year.

New Business:

A.) Vote on the FCARC having a "Ham fest" in 2002. (Motion)(2nd)(Vote)

Motion tabled by: Karen, WB9ZNA 2nd by: Vote: Passed /M

Wayne W9FLJ asked for a financial report from the hamfest. The report was not yet ready. Wayne felt the club needed to see the results before a vote could go forth. A motion by Karen WB9ZNA to table the vote until next meeting when a financial report can be presented to the club. The vote was then tabled until next meeting.

John N9RJZ gave a brief verbal report of the 2001 hamfest. He noted several points that the hamfest is more than just a money making event. It is also an event to get together and have fun with fellow hams, get the community and surrounding clubs involved and aware of our club. He noted attendance was up. The \$50 cash prize awarded to the club with the most members attending was received very well. There where 52 tables sold.

It was also noted that the ads that run in the QST is a free ad and they decide where and what is printed.

C.) Nominations for the "2001 Ham of the Year". (Motion)(2nd)(Vote)

Motion by >.Wayne W9FLJ... that the FCARC accept nominations at this time for the "Ham of the Year"

Nominations for this year ham of the year where the following – Chuck Hanson N9OEQ, Dave Sprangers N9ZHZ, John Ensley N9RJZ, Brian Long KB9LRD and Steve Lamers N9SGG.

Motion by Chuck, N9OEQ that the nominations be suspended.

2nd by: Don, N9OVK Vote: Pass/M

Committee Reports:

Al KB9BYQ noted that Outagamie county ARES net will be running through all the backup repeaters during the months of December and January.

Announcements from the floor:

FDL Radio Club challenged FCARC for an award trophy between the two clubs for the Wisconsin QSO Party.

Richard Sonnenberg W9UVZ is looking for a receiver in the price range of \$100 - \$200 range. If you have something please contact him.

Adjourn: At 7:58 accepting a motion by Karen, WB9ZNA to adjourn. 2nd by: >all...< Vote: Passed/M

Presidential committee appointments: Dan Vanevenhoven, N9LVS: Budget review committee, Erick Jensen, KB9TLM: Bylaws committee, Judy Kosiorek, N9JLQ: Bylaws committee and Rick Kosiorek, W9RIC: Bylaws committee.

Board Meeting Discussions

- Next QSO'er will have an announcement and details for the banquet.
- Brian presented a list of hams he would like to thank and recognize for their participation in club events and ARES events. There was an objection to giving awards for ARES events at the FCARC banquet. A vote was called to decide, each board member present was polled for their opinions. It was then decided that if Bill Niemuth (Outagamie EC) presented the awards then this would be acceptable.
- There was a suggestion to open the banquet up to surrounding clubs and associations. Being that the banquet is called an awards banquet it was decided not to open it up to others.
- Board proofed and approved the post card that will be used for the mass mailing for membership. If the mailing is successful the board will look at doing a mailing on a quarterly bases.
- The club status of why we are not tax exempt was brought up. Brian will be looking into the issue. Was suggested to possibly look for an outside professional to bring and discuss the pros and cons.
- Bill Vincent will be contacting the past Ham of the Years via email for the election of this years award. There was also, per the bilaws, one other club member was randomly chosen to help make the choice.
- The new agenda format that Brian created was approved by the board to be used for future meetings.
- It was decided that if there is room in the QSO'er that the meeting minutes will be printed each month.
- The bylaws were reviewed regarding the hamfest vote that was put on hold at the December FCARC meeting. It was noted that it did not have to be put on hold due to the budget not completed at that meeting. The bilaws state that the financial report needs to be prepared and presented no more than 2 months after the hamfest.
- **It was decided that the ham of the year plaque will no longer have the pig on it. It is felt that this is not an honorable symbol to be on the award.**
- Steve N9SGG is setting up a new web based email server. Has not been determined where the server will physically reside. The email accounts will be setup for members by AI KB9BYQ.
- It was brought to the boards attention that there was an error in the credit given to Appleton Electronics for the donation to the club. There needs to be a reprint noting the thank you for the donation needs to be given to the EC Resources. This reprint will appear in the next QSO'er.

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.

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club W9ZL

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

Wednesday evenings tune in at 7:30pm to hear the weekly radio
newsline broadcast. Then stick around to check into the net.

All are welcome!

Please notice the change in Freq.

Editor of Badger State Smoke Signals SK

Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ SK

Smoke Signals Editor Jim Romelfanger, K9ZZ, became a silent key on Saturday, December 22, 2001, according to his long time friend and *Smoke Signals* Publisher, Ken Ebnetter, K9EN. He suffered an apparent heart attack at his home. Jim was 60 years old.

Jim was licensed as an Amateur Radio (Ham Radio) Operator since 1958. He was licensed as KN6LWB, K9PKQ and currently held the call of K9ZZ. He was a charter member of the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club, Baraboo. He was a life member of the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national organization of Amateur Radio Operators and the editor of Badger State Smoke Signals, an all-volunteer newspaper for hams in and around Wisconsin. He was nationally recognized and published in many area and national publications including Popular Electronics, CQ, QST and others. He was active in many areas of local, statewide and national activities, including providing telecommunications aboard the Annual Circus World Museum Circus Train as it traveled from Baraboo to Milwaukee each summer.

WAPR News - January, 2002

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

Happy New Year from the WAPR Board members to everyone.
Here's hoping that all of your packet activity in the coming year is retry-free!

There's a bit of news to report, and good news at that. We heard news from Ray, N9PBY that there's a new backbone node on the air near the town of Mayville, on UHF at 9600 bps. The alias is #WAYN4, and the call-sign is WB9DLT-4. It's intended to help complete the state-wide packet radio network and make linkages where none have been for a long time. Thanks go to Virgil, WB9DLT and Al, N0GMJ for making this possible.

Speaking of backbone and packet network expansion, Fon-Du-Lac is also making a little news. Although nothing is on the air just yet, a location has been secured, I'm told and it's a matter of time before it will help complete the linkage between the North-Eastern and Lake shore segments of the Wisconsin packet network with the South-Central and Madison area network segments. I'll let you know here when it's on the air and all of the pertinent details.

The goal of all of this is to make a big circle of backbone nodes throughout the state. We've still got a long way to go, but these two nodes represent significant progress. Once this circular route is in place, we have redundancy and the ability to route around any temporarily failed network nodes. This is not only a boon to the casual packet user, but is especially crucial to operators who use packet radio as part of their emergency communications services. Of course, that's one area where packet radio can be a definite plus. We can (almost) always use more backbone nodes. One area that we consider crucial is the Wausau area. Currently, we need to link the Central and South-Western segments of the packet network to the North-Central and North-West segments. A backbone node in this area would accomplish exactly that. If you know of someone who has a good location in this area, and is willing to host a packet node, please contact Joel Papke, N9BQM. You can reach him via E-Mail at: jpapke@badger.tds.net

This would go a long way toward enhancing emergency communications in the North Central and North Western parts of the state, in addition to the Central Wisconsin area.

**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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Richard Sonnenberg 675 East Edgewood Dr.
Appleton WI 54913 W9UVZ@tpo.org

920-733-0609

***NOTE: The newsletters are photo copied by Kate, Karen and 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