



FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

QSO'ER

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



Volume 15, Issue 6

November, 2002



Meeting Date:
Monday November 18th
(Always the 3rd Monday of the month)

Board Meeting Date:
Monday November 25th
(Always the 4th Monday of the month)

FCARC meetings are held at the Appleton Columbus Club
2351 North Richmond Street and starts at 7:00 PM

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

SKYWARN Recognition Day
December 7, 2002
Hamradio.noaa.gov

FCARC OFFICERS

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Club Information
- 2 Meeting Attendance, FCARC opportunities, Elmer's Contact List
- 3 FCARC Net Information, New Members, Sponsors
- 4 Fox Cities marathon
- 5 NSTAR-02C Flight Summary
- 6 NSTAR-02C Flight Summary cont.
- 7 A-T Walk, Local Net Information
- 8 WAAK--Milwaukee's First Radio Station
- 9 WAAK--Milwaukee's First Radio Station cont.
- 10 Hamfest



Membership Renewal Corner

If your call sign is below, your
Membership is up for renewal!

Month of **November** -- KC9AFC AB9AH N9QZD

Month of **December** -- No membership is due at this time!



FCARC is in need of a persons to help coordinate programs for after the monthly meeting. If you are interested in helping out the club in this position, please contact *Brian Long (KB9LRD)*

Club Member Attendance

Brian Long	KB9LRD
Jon Oldenburg	AB9AH
Karen Long	KC9BMH
Steve Lamers	N9SGG
Bob Hamilton	KC5WKO
Dick Sonnengerg	W9UVZ
Gerry Radtke	WA9GON
Dan Vanevenhoven	N9LVS
John Ensley	N9RJZ
Chuck Hanson	N9OEQ
William Vincent	N9TNW
Chad Pennings	N9PRC
Wayne Pennings	WD9FLJ
Greg Schneider	W9IEI
Dave Arnold	KA9NMK
Judy Schneider	N9PBM
Hal Sieth	NQ9F
Gertha Leacock	KC9BZR
Don Quinn	W9OVK
Lester Morse	KA9LAR
Andy Palm	N1KSN
Eric Bjorquist	KG8RF
Bill Van Eeckhout	KC9BVQ
Richard Kosiorek	W9RIC
David Sprangers	N9ZHZ
Judy Van Dynhoven	KC9ACT
Al Van Dynhoven	KB9BYQ
Vern Root	N9RQM
Gloria Root	N9SVB
Jim Sheetz	K9OQO
Scott Clausen	KB9YUC

Do you like keeping track of receipts, balancing books, and general accounting...

Then the FCARC has a position for you!

We are in need of a chair person and committee members for an audit committee

Board Member Attendance:

Brian Long	KB9LRD
Steve Lamers	N9SGG
Bill Vincent	N9TNW
John Ensley	N9RLZ

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Elmer's Contact List

This is a listing of HAMS who 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>SPECIALITY AREA</u>	<u>PHONE NUMBER</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 board member

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club (W9ZL)

Invites everyone to tune in on Wednesday evenings at
7:30 PM on 146.760/R 100hz PL
to hear the Newline broadcast.

Then stick around to check into the net immediately afterwards.

*This is an open forum net and anything can be discussed, to include
conversations on net, technical questions, equipment review and for sale items.*



Michael J. Wallace, D.D.S.

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New Club Members

We would like to welcome our
newest and renewed
members to the
Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club

Dave Arnold—KA9NMK

Please make him feel welcome!



Fox Cities Marathon

The very first thing I want to do is to thank all of the Radio Operators that participated in this years Fox Cities Marathon. Without your support this years event would not have been successful.

We had participants from Winnebago County ARES/RACES, Outagamie County ARES/RACES, The Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, and Waupaca County ARES/RACES. Thank you to these groups for your support and the support of your members.

As one of the AEC's of Winnebago County, I was asked to take over the running of the event. Initially I was overwhelmed with the thought of organizing such a large event. After thinking about the project, and talking with one of our members, I realized that this was essentially the same as any other event that all of our groups have done in the past.

The key is the ability to delegate. Well I delegated and I would like to thank all the people I involved in this. You are the ones that made this happen.

Stephen Williams (KB9RLF) - your ideas and insights toward the organizing of this project as well as out of county contacts.

David Sprangers (N9ZHZ) - liaison to the FCARC and the contacts you have in the ham community. You recruited many operators.

Bill Niemuth (KB9ENO) - the passing of information from the past few years that aided me in my efforts.

Phillip Graf (KC9AFC) - the work on the ECWEC Web Page in posting all marathon information...many times.

Dan Lenz (KB9IME) - for your support in difficult areas and in not letting me off the hook. And many more whose verbal and unseen support

helped make this a success.

Thanks

Greg Ramlow (KB9SZP)

2002 Fox Cities Marathon Race Communications Coordinator

NSTAR-02C FLIGHT SUMMARY by MARK CONNER, N9XTN:

The flight itself went pretty well, though we did have a scare toward the end that made me think I'd be building another payload. The team arrived at Scott's (KB0MTH) place about 7 am. The weather was near perfect for a launch, though a bit chilly for mid-May - there was frost on the ground when we arrived. Skies were clear and there was practically no wind. We started filling a little late, nearly 7:50 am. Launch occurred at 0818 CDT (1318 UTC).

We knew we had a long chase ahead of us, so we hit the road soon after launch. The balloon was right on the forecast track, but our ascent rate was 1300-1400 ft/min. In any case, we stuck with the pre-launch plan of heading toward Grant City, MO via US59/US34/Hwy 25/US169. The crossband repeater worked well in the beginning, but we didn't hear much other than kerchunking after a half hour or so.

Burst occurred at 0935 CDT at 93,412 ft. The descent rates looked good after burst, but they gave me a brief scare that the chute fouled - they increased for two consecutive reports instead of decreasing like they should. After that, the descent settled into the normal pattern.

A while later, we began to hear traffic again on the repeater. Ralph (W0RPK) was able to get in to tell us that he would not be chasing from his QTH. As the balloon descended below 20,000 feet, I began to be concerned about the landing. My "eyeball" projections were putting the landing near the confluence of three rivers southwest of Albany, MO. As it got lower and lower, I was increasingly concerned that it would actually land in the river, or at least in the trees near the river. The last position report I got at 2300 ft MSL (about 1300ft AGL) showed the balloon within 50-100 yards of Street Atlas's plot of the East Fork of the Grand River. The winds were so light at that level, and they were from the north anyway that with the river oriented north-south there was little or no hope of the balloon moving far away from the river at the last minute.

Not knowing what the river was like, I had visions of the payloads actually landing in the river and floating downstream, or at a minimum in the trees alongside. Most rivers in the area have a lot of trees on both banks, so I had visions of trying to find out the landowner's name and location, getting a chain saw, etc. Or, if it landed in the river, figuring whether it would be worth it to search along the banks for it in case it drifted to the edge, and so on. The payload had landed by the time we approached Grant City, so we stopped briefly at a gas station for a restroom break.

Street Atlas USA showed some roads leading to within a half mile of the last position report. From the way some of them were bent and twisted, I was sure they were narrow gravel roads and indeed they were. SA also showed "Albany Junction" as a place name, but as we approached there was no more than a grove of trees at that location. As we approached, we got a packet from the primary payload and could hear the crossband repeater again. This was somewhat good news, as that meant the payload wasn't under water but we could still need a chain saw. As we ran out of marked roads, we drove a few hundred yards down a dirt track that was on top of a dike in the flood plain.

As I looked around, I began to be more optimistic about our chances. We crossed the middle fork of the Grand River twice on the way and I wouldn't call it a river - more of a creek. Even so, I could see very tall trees that I estimated were a half mile east of us which were lining the east fork near where the capsules landed. The GPS showed 0.43 miles to the landing position.

About 1/4 mile from us was a tree line on another dike. As we walked to it in the direction of the capsules, I could see that there was another field between this tree line and the trees along the river. That made me feel better but still there was a good chance the payload was snagged in those trees. We got to the tree line and climbed up the dike to have a look.

Hallelujah! I could see the chute and payload lying on the open ground. It was about 100 yards from the tree line - fortunately, the river was not very wide and neither was the tree growth along it. We walked out across the corn field and recovered the payload.

Everything was intact. The balloon shards had fouled with the repeater payload (the bottom one of the two) and may have partially fouled the chute. There was no slack in the load line from the top of the chute to where it had fouled

NSTAR-02C FLIGHT SUMMARY Cont.

with the payload, so we may have been lucky it didn't deform the chute so badly that it failed to work. Our descent rates were normal so the chute worked well enough. We went into nearby Albany and were lucky to find a pizza place open for lunch.

On the way home, I took note of how wooded this part of the country is. I may reconsider flights that would land us in this part of Missouri, or most any place south of Hwy 2 in Iowa. North of 2 and west of I-35 things are far more open.

73 de Mark N9XTN

REPEATER OPERATION SUMMARY by WØRPK

Repeater experiment success had three requirements, a working repeater, a high altitude balloon mission, and operation by distant participants. We had a great NSTAR mission and several distant stations with us all the way up and down but the repeater was a disappointment. The assembly functioned as a repeater but only for the strongest local signals. Receive sensitivity was a problem that needs to be solved before it flies again.

Several distant stations were prepared for QSO's that could have set a new high altitude balloon distance record. My thanks for time and patience contributed by:

Joy and Thom Lemmons (BØYUP and WAØBOF) of Maryland Heights, Missouri (a western suburb of St. Louis) who were prepared to drive south on I-55 as far as Cape Girardeau to increase QSO distance. Given poor repeater sensitivity, Joy and Thom stayed home and copied the 2m downlink full-quieting when NSTAR was above 60,000ft.

Rick Vidmar (K9KK) of Norman, Oklahoma (south of Oklahoma City) who was prepared with big high antennas and lots of power to overcome his location off the estimated edge of coverage. Rick reported receiving a "very strong" 2m downlink signal on 144.34 MHz for 5-minutes just before burst at 93,400 ft. There will be further analysis of tropo conditions required for this reception.

Harry Mueller (KC5TRB) of Tulsa, Oklahoma, who forwarded a telemetry file which started when the payload ascended through 55,000 ft. We need to keep in contact with Harry and his balloon experiments with solar powered lift (no helium or hydrogen).

Andy Flowers (KØSM) of Northfield, Minnesota and Carleton College (south of Minneapolis - St. Paul) who sprinted to the top of a 100ft high dormitory building with his HT and hand-held OSCAR antenna. Andy will be presenting a paper at the upcoming CSVHFS conference in Milwaukee on Meteor Scatter Operation with FSK441 and WSJT Software.

Participation and signal reports were also contributed by:

Tom Keller (KBØMDQ) Lakeville, Minnesota , Jim Hermanek (KØKFC) Chaska, Minnesota
Don Fortner (W4ETV) Inman, South Carolina, Bob Wesslund (WØAUS) St. Paul, Minnesota
David Hovland (NØUBL) Joplin, Missouri, Robert Davis (KØFPC) Overland Park, Kansas
Ross Vaagen (NØMSS) Wahpeton, North Dakota

My thanks to everyone!

Ralph Wallio, WØRPK

A-T Walk for a Miracle

It was a beautiful fall day on Saturday, September 21, for the 4th annual A-T walk for a miracle in Freedom, WI. Everything seemed to just fall into its right place for this event.

The W9ZL group consisted of many operators, Steve (N9SGG), Al (KB9BYQ), Karen (KC9BMH), Rick (KB9LRE), Jim (K9OQO) and myself. You know everything will go well when all your radio equipment works the first time it's tested and all the equipment you need for an event is found the first go around.

The event hosted several hundred walkers. Many home baked goods were prepared, the treats tasted and smelled like some of the best goodies that could be found in the valley.

This was a successful and fun event for all who volunteered and contributed their time and talents. I'm looking forward to being appointed to chair this event in 2003, I hope to see you there. For more information please visit there web site [http://www.atcp.org./](http://www.atcp.org/)

Brian (KB9LRD)
Chairman: 2002 A-T walk for a Miracle

Local Nets

Sunday

7:00pm - 147.24 Mhz Repeater - Winnebago County ARES/RACES Information Net This net is also used by the Winnebago County ARES/RACES/Skywarn Operators.

8:00pm - 146.655 Mhz Repeater - Outagamie County ARES Information Net This net is also used by the Outagamie County ARES/Skywarn Operators. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to check in. The 145.15 Mhz Repeater is a backup repeater in the event of an outage of the 146.655 Mhz Repeater.

8:30pm - 145.430 Mhz Repeater - Fond du Lac ARC Information Net this net is for the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to check in. .

Wednesday

7:30pm - 146.760 mhz Repeater - FCARC Weekly Two Meter Net This net is sponsored by the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club. This Net is an informal net with a variety of amateur radio topics. Members and Non-members alike are encouraged to check in and join the discussions. Also we are now featuring NewsLine, an amateur radio news program.



WAAK--Milwaukee's First Radio Station



In the early spring of 1922, the United States Commerce Department granted the Gimbels Department Store licenses to install and operate radio stations in Philadelphia and Milwaukee, assigning the call sign WIP to Philadelphia, but giving one of the first of the new four letter call signs, WAAK, to the Milwaukee store.

Of course, getting a government license for a station was only half the battle, for someone still had to be found to build and install the studio and transmitting equipment. Here in Milwaukee, Gimbels called on one Clarence Bates, who is hereby honored as Milwaukee's first professional broadcast engineer.

Bates built a 100-watt transmitter for Gimbels, and erected a 40-foot tower on top of the downtown store. Studio decor of the time demanded heavy drapes and wall coverings, so Bates covered a 17 by 25 foot room on Gimbels third floor with dark maroon velvet to provide the proper acoustic ambience.

Nearby stood the wind-up record player for transcription concerts, along with the studio microphone. In those days, the carbon-button microphone was wired directly across the high voltage power supply of the transmitter, so to protect the announcing staff, Clarence suspended the microphone from a handsome brass birdcage stand supplied by the store.

Programming for WAAK was supplied by a local musician and producer named Raymond Mitchell, who promptly shanghaied Bates' assistant engineer, Daniel Gellerup (later to become Chief Engineer at WTMJ) to announce the programs.

Getting talent for WAAK was simply a matter of scouring the local theaters and recital halls for visiting artists, and securing their (usually willing) cooperation. Mitchell's show business connections were invaluable, since it was thought that listeners took a dim view of the transcription broadcasts, and thus required a steady supply of live voices and music for their listening pleasure.

In preparation for the first broadcasts at WAAK, Gimbels established "listening posts" throughout the store, where shoppers were invited to pause and listen to the programs on individual earphones. It is important to remember that the general public was not yet

WAAK--Milwaukee's First Radio Station cont.

sold on the utility value of a broadcast receiver in the home - the very factor that WAAK was designed to address.

Bates continued his fine-tuning and testing of WAAK through the month of April, 1922. On Sunday, April 23, the strains of W.T. Purdy's "On Wisconsin" were heard in a music test.

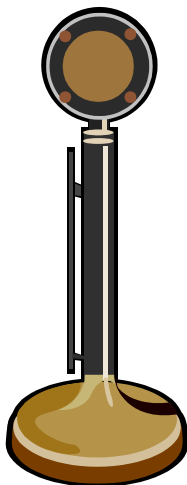
More formal "tests" were heard on the following Monday and Tuesday, when violinist George Lipschultz was presented over WAAK for an audience assembled in the Strand Theatre. One of the local papers remarked that "Every note could be heard with equal distinction." Such tests were actually a means of making sure all the equipment would work for the extended amount of time required to present a full evening of programming. Such testing may also have been a Gimbels company policy, since the other Gimbels station, WIP in Philadelphia, beat a rival department store as "first on the air" by claiming such tests as their first "broadcasting," although their official sign-on was in fact the next day.

In any case, the first "official" broadcast over WAAK was presented by Dan Gellerup at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 26, 1922, on the only frequency authorized for domestic broadcasting: 360meters, or about 830 kHz.

And what eventually became of WAAK?

The pathfinding Milwaukee station lasted less than a year. In the spring of 1923, new federal regulations mandated the installation of expensive wave-metering equipment at all radio stations. Since by that time there were three other stations on the air in Milwaukee, Gimbels decided to pull the plug on WAAK, thus ending their pioneering experiment in Milwaukee broadcasting.

--excerpted from "Once a Century," the annual publication of the Milwaukee Press Club, Volume 89, 1985. Original article by Terry Baun.



Hamfest 2002

