



FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

QSO'ER

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

PO Box 5233 Appleton, WI 54912-5233



Volume 15, Issue 7

December, 2002



Meeting Date:

Monday December 16th

(Always the 3rd Monday of the month)

Columbus Club 2351 North Richmond Street 7:00 PM

Board Meeting Date:

Monday December 23rd

(Always the 4th Monday of the month)

To be announced 7:00 PM

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

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

FCARC OFFICERS

President

Brian Long (KB9LRD)
blong@tponet.com 730-8485

Vice President

Jon Oldenburg (AB9AH)
ab9ah@arrl.net 832-9727

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Members At Large

Steve Pelletier (KB9OAL)
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Membership Renewal Corner

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

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

Month of January --	N9ECS	KB9YUC	KC9IYC	W9ER
	KA9ZCF	W9BBI	N9FZI	KB9YUB
	W9ZC	KB9IE	KB9LRD	KB9LRE
	KB9NLL	W9OP	KA9LAR	ND9Z

New Club Members

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

Bill Hullett—N9ZIC
James Keuler—KC9AOD

Please make them feel welcome!



FCARC is in need of a person or 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)

Board Member Attendance:

Brian Long	KB9LRD
Karen Long	KC9BMH
Steve Palletier	KB9AOL
Steve Lamers	N9SGG
Greg Ramlow	KB9SZP

Club Attendance

Brian Long	KB9LRD
Jon Oldenberg	AB9AH
Karen Long	KB9BMH
Robin Cleveland	K9MOO
Steve Lamers	N9SGG
Pauline Cleveland	K9GRL
Bob Cleveland	K9HID
Maury Mead	W9FBC
Karen Thorn	WB9ZNA
Bob Thorn	K9DAF
Dan Vanevenhoven	N9LVS
Jim Sheetz	K9OQO
Richard Sonnenberg	W9UVZ
Dave Arnold	guest KA9NMK
Andy Palm	N1KSN
John Ensley	N9RJZ
Al Van Dynhoven	KB9BYQ
Judy Van Dynhoven	KC9ACT
Stan Piekerczyk	KE8IFC
Lester Morse	KA9LAR
Chuck Hanson	N9OEQ
Bill Vincent	N9TNW
Chuck Van Eeckhout	WD9HAE
Bill Van Eechout	guest KC9BVQ
Gerry Radtke	WA9GON



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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
Minutes for November 18, 2002

Board of Directors FCARC:

President: Brian (KB9LRD) -- Vice-President: John (AB9AH) -- Treasurer: Karen (KC9BMH) -- Secretary: Robin (K9MOO) Membership Coordinator: Steve (N9SGG) -- Members at Large: Steve (KB9OAL), Bill (N9TNW), Chuck (N9OEQ)

Call to Order: 7:00 P.M.

Introduction of Members: Roll Call!

Quorum count: Vice-President: John (AB9AH)

Minutes: Approval of the minutes from: October 21st

Motion to accept: Karen (WB9ZNA) 2nd: Dan (N9LVS) Vote: Passed

Welcome New & Renewed Members: Jon (AB9AH), Jim (KC9AOD), Dave (KA9NMK), Gary (KB9AIT), Mark (KF9CS), Stan (KE6IFC), Domimick (KF6HCG), Greg (KB9SZP), Hal (NQ9F), Jack (W9WTY), Gertha (KC9BZR), Dale (KC9BZR) and Bill (N9ZIC)

Special Announcement: Executive Board meeting to meet at a new location, Little Chute Civic Center/Library 625 Grand Ave. Little Chute, WI Room #S2 at 7:00 PM

Old Business:

- A.) The Echolink system on the internet and on Fox Valley VHF Associations 145.33-R
- B.) Thanks to all who helped with the 2002 Hamfest at Sabre Lanes, Menasha. It was a great time and a good show. John (N9RJZ) was the Hamfest chairman and did a good job.

Discussion: Old Business

New Business:

- 1) Winnebago County ARES has asked if the FCARC would be interested in sharing the responsibilities for the Fox Cities Marathon. The 2003 Fox Cities Marathon and alternating on a yearly basis after each event. The Winnebago County ARES did an excellent job with the 2002 event and will be willing to work with the FCARC 2003 Fox Cities Marathon Chairman.

Motion tabled till a later date. Motion: Karen (WB9ZNA) 2nd : Bill (N9TNW) Vote: Passed

Discussion: New Business

Guest speaker (s): None

Committee Reports:

Discussion: Open format

Announcements:

Vote on the Hamfest 2003 and Elections for the Hamfest Chairman will be December 16, 2002. Christmas wreaths for sale by Brent (KC9BQK) 727-9146 or archbuull1@aol.com

Adjourn: 7:40 PM

Accepting a motion to adjourn Bill (N9TNW) 2nd: Chuck (N9OEQ) Vote: Passed

Program to follow:

FYI ~ A club financial report, agenda and printed copies of the QSO'er are available at the Directors table for all members before each meeting along with other information of interest. For the consideration of others, during the business meeting please refrain from side conversations. Please...we ask all of you, **NO SMOKING.**

Thank you. **FCARC**



**Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club
Executive Board
Minutes for November 25th, 2002**

Board of Directors FCARC: President: Brian (KB9LRDP), Vice-President: John (AB9AHA), Treasurer: Karen (KC9BMHP), Secretary: Robin (K9MOO), Membership Coordinator: Steve (N9SGGP), Members at Large: Steve (KB9OALP); Bill (N9TNWA); Chuck (N9OEQA).

Call to Order: 7: 00 P.M. Closed: 8:05 P.M.

Minutes: Approval of the Executive Board minutes from: October 25th, 2002
(Motion to accept) Steve KB9OAL (Second) Steve N9SGG (Vote: M) Pass

Old Business:

Hamfest 2002 John N9RJZ.
Report to be published at the general membership meeting 12/16/02.
Special purpose funds converted to general fund balance.
Reaffirmed unanimous vote by Executive Board 11/25/02.

Fox Cities Marathon 2003, Greg (KB9SZP).

Greg would like to be the chairman for the 2003 Fox Cities Marathon. Winnebago County ARES would like the FCARC to permanently handle this event. Greg (KB9SZP) would like another club member to chair this event in 2004, Greg (KB9SZP) indicated he would help whomever through all the necessary procedures.

Winnebago County ARES will be supporting the FCARC in all future Fox Cities Marathon events.

Discussion: Old Business

New Business:

Awards Banquet date: February ??

Dates that are being considered -- 02/2, 02/22

From the Floor:

Moving the Exec. Board meeting to the "Dome" in Neenah.

Discussion only – No Vote taken.

W9ZL License copy will be available to all W9ZL events.

Discussion only – No Vote taken.

Discussion: New Business:

Ways to increase revenue: Brat fries at Wal-Mart and Oktoberfest -- John (N9RJZ)

Adjourn:

Motion to adjourn. Karen (KC9BMH) (2nd) Brian KB9LRD (V/M) Passed

Announcements: None to report.

Reflections on the Recent 2002 Hamfest

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped contributed greatly to the success of the event. There was the help before the event with publication and distribution of hamfest information, and also a great amount of effort went into compiling mailing information for notices and flyers and getting all of those items to the post office. The help by many with the advance purchases of everything from door prizes to food items went smoothly. The room setup of tables was completed Saturday and two vendors set up that day and Steve N9SGG got most of the club tables ready.

Security at the event went better than ever. The wrist bands for everyone really helped. Even so, without the door guards there is no doubt admission dollars would have been lost. A big thank you to all who helped with admissions security. Pat handled some very early admissions, later Hal, Mary, Don and his wife did a great job at the ticket and cash admissions desk. Thanks to Brian and the helpers he had in the kitchen, a profit was made on the food helping the bottom line of the event.

A Special thanks to the operators in the EC Van. I talked to them and call in traffic was lower this year than last. Most people seemed to know where the event was this year either because of coming last year or the maps that were sent out in various ways. We had very favorable comments on how easy it was to find, as well as favorable comments on how nice the facility was for a hamfest.

Overall, I would say because there were more volunteers helping, the event completed with no problems. All the people and vendors I talked to seemed pleased with just one exception from one lady who wasn't selling "anything" as she put it.

We had more vendor tables sold this year. Admission ticket sales were down somewhat. Raffle ticket sales were very much lower. That and the lower admission price were our greatest negative factors on the bottom line. If you are a new club member – Just a note, the financial report will be at the meeting because financial data is not published in the newsletter.

There is some really good and revealing data from the hamfest. Remember, for the hamfest of 2001 the hamfest committee decision was to introduce separate tickets for admissions and raffle. Also started were the Club Member Signup sheets for a \$50.00 prize. That gave us very good data about where visitors were coming from for the event. If you did not know, previously the ticket stubs were given to Tower Electronics and they took care of the mailings for the club. That was very helpful and gracious of them, but going into being the hamfest chairman I had no idea of whom or from where most visitors came. What surprised most when those first tickets were analyzed was how regional our event looked.

The information is the same this year. We have a very regional event the way we are doing thing now. Basically, advertising was changed this year and we drew a somewhat different mix of the potential attendees in this Northeast Wisconsin area. We are pulling about 8 to 10 percent of the possible attendees for our region.

This might interest you. The flyers distributed at Dayton were different than the ones at Grays Lake for example. In addition flyers mailed were also different and the form to print from the web site was changed. The only advance registrations we got back were from those mailed or from the web site. I remember talking to Scott at Tower Electronics and he was emphatic that mailing are the most effective way to promote a hamfest. All the hamfests around here that have basically died don't do mailings.

We can be more than a regional event. First lets review the basics of what we have done.

In 2001 flyers were used, about 300 direct mail pieces went out to previous hamfest attendees, packets of 5 to 10 flyers were sent to each club in the state (about 27), help was asked to talk up the event on repeaters in Madison. We advertised in the Post Crescent (4 times for about 380,000 impressions) and we got in some magazines including QST.

In 2002 flyers were used, about 1300 post cards went out with details and referencing the web site, direct mail was reduced to about 100 pieces, we again asked for help on repeaters and got in some magazines again including QST.

Here is what it looks like are SOME of the things we need to do.

Don't screw around about deciding to have a hamfest. If you want a big hamfest and more dollars made you need to authorize the event as early as possible. The committee needs to be formed and get to work.

The main door prizes need to be selected almost immediately. It was delayed this past year to the last minute because of a potential big donation. If something like that happens great – but the main prize needs to be picked early so 'advertising' can be spiced up with prize information.

The 1st weekend in November needs to be dumped. It should be the 2nd weekend. It hurts advertising placements and cuts advertising effectiveness of magazines. Trying to time things for a 1st weekend is hard. An October issue, which comes out in September, is too early and a November issue is too late.

The event needs to be moved again to a new location.

The ticket price needs to go back to where it was in 2001. I was not in favor of lowering the price. We lost about \$150 this year I figure because of that.

Because of time restraints from volunteer helpers, this year post cards were used for most mailings. Next year all mailing should be flyers with more details, not less.

More work needs to be done on major vendors that might attend and also efforts to broaden the event need to be continued. One of the most popular vendors this year, was the company selling used laptop computers. A sold table who did not show was a vendor who would have had computers. They could not come at the last minute because of a new store opening but they paid for the reserved table anyway. Having Radio Shack again represented by Dan N9LVS was great and he reported a good event as far as they were concerned.

A simplex freq. has always been used for the talk in. That tradition needs to be changed and we need to get permission to use the widest possible repeater. Especially considering next year, I feel we need a new location. To get a place that has better prices we may need to be a little more "off the beaten track." I know some have talked about out around Hwy 41 like at the baseball stadium but that place is around \$1000 a day. We can't afford it. The committed has been looking at practical locations. And then we all need to talk up the event more.

Those are some ideas. A lot of experience is built up now doing this for the club among various members. We have great computer resources for managing the lists and things like the web site. I think you have a group in the club now that knows what works and what does not work. Its known we need to start early, on donations, on vendor contacts, on advertising and on possible co-event

activities like seminars or meeting space for other groups. If you did not attend a committee meeting this year you should consider getting more involved next year.

You may have noticed that we had the big US Flag behind the podium again this year. I got a lot of comments in 2001 about it and again this year people remarked to me about it being nice. There is a little bit of a story about it being there. It seemed necessary to me in 2001 with our event being so soon after September 11. So now it has been used two years. That flag came from a Veterans Organization. Since I have had the flag, it has been loaned out to Boy Scout troops and Cub Scouts to practice folding a US flag. It's big and thick; the kids have an easy time with it. We had it hanging out in front of our house and a neighbor noticed it and that is how the loan out to groups started. With all the increased awareness about the importance of amateur radio in emergencies I think we should use a flag at events when practical. So the flag is "officially" available to the club or any member who might need it for an event or to help a scout troop for which you might be a leader...

Again, everyone's help was appreciated. Running the event was great. I appreciated the opportunity to help and would do it again for the club.

Thanks, 73's John (N9RJZ)

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 Newslite 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.



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Local Nets

Sunday


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

8:00 p.m. - 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.

8:30 p.m. - 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


7:30 p.m. - 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.



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Seasons Greetings

Special FCARC Net Info

A warm welcome to Brent (KC9QWC)

*A special thanks to
Greg (W9IEI),
Jon (AB9AH)
Steve (N9SGG)
for their efforts.*

Also a note that Al (KB9BYQ) will be doing "News line" while Steve (N9SGG) is gone on vacation.

After I added these vintage Pyrex antenna insulators to my 40-meter dipole, I began to hear weird and exotic DX signals in my receiver. But how could this be? Was it my imagination? Or was it....

THE STRANGE POWER OF THE GLASS DOOBIES



(and other mysteries)

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED ON THE TITANIC

The fantastic power of the doobies is known to but a select few. Legend has it that the most sought-after examples were **RCA president David Sarnoff's** personal set of green Pyrex insulators, which were said not only to have been responsible for his receiving the **TITANIC's** distress signals, but to have pulled in the squawkings of distant galaxies!

Not so on the ill-fated **TITANIC**. The 6-wire, flattop antenna installed by the Marconi Company had hard rubber insulators at its end junctions. Wireless operator **Harold Bride** begged to be allowed to replace these with glass or porcelain type insulators, but both Marconi and White Star Lines management refused, stating "we find no particular advantage to modifying the present system". On April 15, 1912 as the Titanic was sinking, Bride desperately tapped out his distress call for several long minutes before the first reply was heard. "UR SIGS WEAK OM" answered the vessel **Carpathia**, "TRY USNG GLASS INSLTRS". Back in New York, young David Sarnoff listened in fascination as the signals poured into his headphones.

In light of the subsequent disaster and loss of life, shipboard and coastal wireless installations promptly replaced existing rubber and wood insulators with glass or porcelain ones. In radioman's slang, these new antenna insulators were called "**doobies**".

I FIRST ENCOUNTER THEM

You won't find these at any Radio Shack store. I first observed their otherworldly properties after finding them at a flea market table in **Derry, New Hampshire** many years ago, quite by accident. I purchased two of them for 50 cents, and set them to work on a 40-meter dipole made from hard-drawn copper wire that same day. My aged **Hammarlund Super Pro** fairly leaped to life. Signals began to drift in from the Arctic Circle to the Caspian Sea! My speaker thudded with bleeps and groans, the cacophonous honks and tweets of legions of ham operators pounding telegraph keys in far-flung lands!

That night, the old Super Pro glimmered in the darkness, its twenty-odd tubes thumping with the barrage of microvolts pulsing through their circuits. I found that I typically enjoyed up to **3db gain** in received signals. Had I run across an odd temperature inversion, sunspot surge, solar flare, or other temporary anomaly of ionospheric propagation? No, by God -- **it was the doobies!**

LOST AND FOUND AGAIN

When it was time to move, I packed them away, thinking I'd save them for some future day when they'd serve as part of the ultimate antenna system. Years passed. Boxes were shuffled about. When I next went to look for them, they'd vanished. Over the course of several moves, they'd somehow been

misplaced. I searched high and low, to no avail. I resigned myself to the fact that they were indeed gone forever. But the mystical power of the doobies would draw me to them anew. Just last year, I ran across a notice on the Internet for a small ham radio flea market to be held in -- of all places -- Derry, New Hampshire! Something told me that this was not mere chance. I begged **Hank**, my friend in New England, to go there in search of these elusive talismans. After much persuasion, exhortation, and outright threats, he relented.

On that chilly Saturday in October, Hank drove through torrential rains and hubcap-deep mud to arrive at a centuries-old Elks lodge nestled among the pines. In the basement, a handful of damp figures milled among worn-out radio gear. Hank searched the sparse tables for signs of insulators, but none appeared. Finally, as he was about to leave, he spotted an old gentleman hacking a throatful of phlegm behind a card table in the dank cellar. He approached him and asked, " You don't by any chance have any glass antenna insulators?". With great difficulty, the old man produced a crumpled box from beneath his table. "How many of the dang things do ye want?" he wheezed. There, before Hank's eyes were the fabled Pyrex insulators of legend in their original boxes! He quickly negotiated for four of them at \$5 each. "Ayep. I almost didn't come out heah this morning," added the man, "c'ept I knew I had to sell off these things before I die, which'd be any day now".



And so, once again, the sounds of faraway lands burble and burp from my speaker. No matter how weak, or how distant, there's nary a signal that can't be heard by my fashionable Japanese transceiver. Because tonight, out at the ends of my dipole antenna, a pair of pristine, Pyrex doobies glint in the moonlight.

Submitted by Gerry, WA9GON
from this web site <http://www.qsl.net/wb1gfh/doobies.html>

HOW TO COOK A HAM

"IS IT HOT IN HERE OR IS IT JUST ME?"

INGREDIENTS:

**I HAM FULLY SEASONED. (TECH. GENERAL OR HIGHER)
I PARABOLIC REFLECTOR (100FT DIAMETER)
I MEGAWATT TRANSMITTER
I FCC (EXPERIMENTAL PERMIT)
I POUND BROWN SUGAR**

PROCEDURE:

**PLACE HAM INTO MAIN LOBE OF DISH
COVER WITH BROWN SUGAR...MOVE BACK
TUNE TRANSMITTER TO 100GHZ CW.
APPLY FULL POWER UNTIL EYES OF HAM
START GLOWING GREEN...OR ANY OTHER
COLOR FOR THAT MATTER...CONTINUE ROASTING
UNTIL HE YELLS**



Hamfest Test session results

The test session took place at Sabre Lanes along with the Hamfest, on November 3rd, 8 AM to about 10:30 AM.

Participating volunteer-examiners were:

George Croy (W9MDP)
Chuck Hanson (N9OEQ)
Tom Prust (N9WI)
Jerry Clusen (K9USN)
John Meyer (NZ9Z)
Gary Keating (ND9Z)
Bill Vincent (N9TNW).

There were 5 candidates.
Three took Technician class tests. Two passed and one failed.
Two people took General class and both passed.
One of these candidates also tried the Extra class but failed it.

Thanks to everyone involved. Bill (N9TNW)

For Sale 40 foot tower with antenna.
For Ham Radio.... Cheap.
Call Brian, 740-2443 (located in Menasha)

For the December general membership meeting 12/16/2002

1. Elections for the 2003 Hamfest Chairperson
2. Nominations for "Ham of the Year" will be accepted.
3. December meeting will be a "Club Social" food will be served after the meeting.