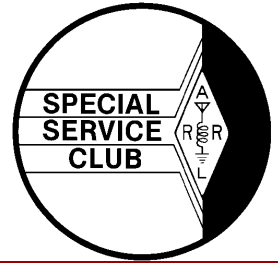




FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

QSO'ER



P.O. Box 5233 Appleton, Wisconsin 54912

www.fcarc.us

• CQ CQ CQ

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September 2006

Our club Swap meet is getting close. November 5th this year and again at Waverly Beach.

If you are interested in helping please let me know. Call or send an email. Advance help is still needed with advertising, vendor calls and other event planning. Send your friends links to the hamfest web page at www.w9zl.org.

Also remember if you need a flyer to post or give to someone you can print one from the hamfest website. There is a printer friendly link at the bottom of the main page.

Its going to be another great time.

Thanks, John, N9RJZ

FCARC Officers

- *President— Brian Long (KB9LRD)*
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- *Vice-President— Dave Sprangers (ND9DW)*
n9zhz@arrl.net
- *Treasurer—Karen Long (KC9BMH)*
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- *Secretary— OPEN*
- *Membership Co-ord—Jim Wierzba (WB9OJE)*
wb9oje@w9zl.org
- **Members At Large—**
 - *Andy Palm (N1KSN)- acpalm@concentric.net*
 - *Rick Kosiorek (W9RIC)- rick@kosiorek.com 735-9565*
 - *Tony Mach (AB9IO)- ab9io@yahoo.com*



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• Letter of Resignation

It's been a fun time being the FCARC newsletter editor but I am sorry to say that I must resign. September's newsletter will be my final newsletter that I put together. There are various reasons for me resigning but the major one is time. With the Christmas season quickly approaching us I'll be working longer days so I won't have much time left for other things, such as the newsletter. The other big factor is that I need to start looking into going back to school. I put that off for a year and now it is time to start looking at various technical colleges and trying to get into one of them. Between work and trying to go back to school I feel that I would not be able to devote the time that is required to publish a good newsletter for the club.

I have enjoyed doing the newsletter and hopefully whoever is appointed to the secretary spot will enjoy doing the newsletter. I must also thank everybody who has encouraged me throughout the past few months while I worked on the newsletter. Also thank you to everybody who submitted something to me for the newsletter. I don't think anybody knows how much just a little article will help the newsletter editor. Even if it is a short half page article it is better than nothing. Hopefully those of you who have continually submitted articles to me will continue to do the same for the new secretary.

In closing thanks for allowing me to have the opportunity to be the FCARC newsletter editor for the past few months. Who knows maybe in a few months or in a couple of years I'll offer to do it again. Thank you all again and good luck to the next secretary!

73 de KC9FSH

• FOR SALE: IC-T90a

For Sale:

Icom IC-T90A tri-band rig (6m, 2m, 70cm)

This was bought from an estate sale. You get the radio, instruction manual, Antenna w/ 6 meter section, alkaline battery tray and a recently purchased rechargeable battery.

PLEASE NOTE: It DOES NOT come with a charger. That was missing when I purchased it from the estate sale. You can still get a charger from Icom or a 3rd party. Radio is sold as-is but will not be DOA.

Price for everything is \$140 or best offer. No unreasonable offer will be refused.

If interested or you have questions contact me, Eric KG8RF, at:

920-720-9605 after 7:00 pm M & W, 5:00 T, Th and Fridays, anytime on weekend.

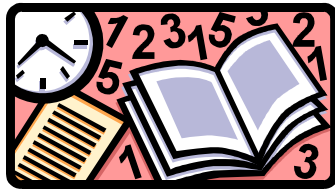
ebjorkquist@hotmail.com

VE Testing Dates

Interested in Amateur (HAM) Radio? November 5th.
 Need to upgrade your license? The FCARC can help you with both of these.

With the exception of the November test date, all testing is done at the Red Cross Building at 1302 E. Wisconsin Ave. in Appleton. Test check in is from 8:00 am until 8:30 am. The cost is \$14.00.

Here are the dates for 2006:



New Members

Join me in welcoming the following new members to the club!

Data Not Available

Wednesday 2 Meter Net

Net Control Operator schedule		
Sept 13	Tim	KC9FSH
Sept 20	Dave	ND9DW
Sept 27	Andy	N1KSN

•Upcoming Events

- Mon. Sept 11 Exec Board Meeting at Goodwill Comm. Center
- Mon. Sept 18 FCARC Monthly Club Meeting at the Goodwill Comm. Center

- Sun. Oct 8 SA Crop Walk– 8:00 am
- Mon. Oct 9 Exec Board Meeting at Goodwill Comm. Center
- Mon. Oct 16 FCARC Monthly Club Meeting at the Goodwill Comm. Center
- Sat. Oct 21 JOTA– Contact KC9EYA at it1usnr@new.rr.com
- Sun. Oct 22 JOTA

- Sun. Nov 4 St. Joseph Food Pantry Walk–8:00 am- Contact N9RJZ@tponet.com
- Sun. Nov 5 Hamfest at Waverly Beach in Menasha– 8:00 am
- Sun. Nov 5 VE Testing– Waverly Beach in Menasha– 8:00 am

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club (W9ZL) invites everyone to tune in on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM on 146.76/R 100hz PL to hear the *Newsline* broadcast.

Then stick around to check into the net immediately afterwards. This is an open forum net and anything can be discussed, including; technical questions, equipment review and for swap and for sale items.

• Membership Renewal Reminders

As a reminder only—following is a list of the membership renewals coming up this month and the following 2 months. If you have already renewed—thank you. If not, you can renew with Karen (KC9BMH) at the next club meeting.

N9MY	8/1/2006
W9SJZ	8/1/2006
KB3DRD	8/1/2006
W9PIP	8/1/2006
W9OP	8/1/2006
N9YAM	8/1/2006
W9IEI	8/1/2006
N9PBM	8/1/2006
KG8RF	9/1/2006
K9IY	9/1/2006
KC9GVM	9/1/2006
KB8MCZ	9/1/2006
N1KSN	9/1/2006
KC9BVQ	9/1/2006
WB9OJE	9/1/2006
KC9FSH	10/1/2006
K9OQO	10/1/2006
NQ9F	10/1/2006
KC9EKV	10/1/2006

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:

Call / Name	Specialty Area	Phone #
N1KSN— Andy	CW	720-0617
W9ZC— Bob	Tech. Code	725-7974
N9OEQ— Chuck	HF & VHF Digital Modes	788-5497
N9TNW—Bill	HF & Satellite	739-6827
N9LVS—Dan	FCC Personal Data Changes	205-4899

Have something Ham related to sell? If so, contact Tim (KC9FSH) at kc9fsh@arrl.net to arrange for it's insertion in the next issue of this newsletter. We will run it in the newsletter and on-line at www.fcarc.us

•Radio Scanning and Monitoring in Venezuela for 30 Days

Submitted by: Sam Fields, KC9GVM

Before I began the adventure to Venezuela, I asked several local hams about the legality aspect of taking a scanner to Venezuela. A friend of mine suggested that I post a question on QRZ.com. Originally, I wanted to learn the local ham and police frequencies so that I could pre-program my newly purchased Radio Shack Pro-83 Scanner.

I posted the following question on QRZ.com in the Question and Answer Forum, "Are scanners legal in Venezuela? Do Venezuelans Hams, police, fire and ambulance use the same frequencies as we do in USA? If they use similar frequencies, where can I get a listing of them?" I didn't realize how much the conversation would turn towards the political ramifications involved in Scanning in Venezuela. Within three days of the posting, there were 226 hits and 7 posts.

The two of the seven posts were warning me about the dangers in scanning in such as politically charged country such as Venezuela as "sophisticated equipment and lists of secret frequencies and you too can become an international incident." Another gentlemen wrote, "We Americanos are not viewed very positively by the Venezuelan government these days. The president of the country flat out doesn't like us at all." One ham did respond positively and optimistically to my inquiry. He stated, "I've been living in Venezuela for the last 9 years or so and have never had anyone even ask about radio equipment." In fact, this ham lived in the same city as I did four years ago. We even emailed about the city's recent changes and made arrangements to meet up when I arrive. Small world!

I programmed my radio with the same frequencies that I have for this area. I have the first 50 channels programmed to the local area ham repeater and the next 50 were of the local police and fire frequencies. I saved the last 100 channels for the channels that I picked up while scanning all bands.

While scanning I did not hear too much activity, but what was heard was interesting. Reception was not very good because I was scanning in a room on the first floor of an apartment building. Nevertheless, I tried scanning through the bands and the first option was the weather band. I scanned the weather bands realizing that there is no such organization in Venezuela called National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, but I tried it to eliminate my suspicions. The bands that were the most active were the 840 Mhz to 870 Mhz. These bands were mostly filled with taxicabs drivers, speaking Spanish, trying to either locate an address or to call to the cabs that were free to pick up cliental.

I did catch one ham frequency 147.300 Mhz in which it was clearly two-meter band. There were the two gentlemen were chatting about their day. However, after 30 minutes, (listening intently for the call signs) no call signs were given. So it is evident that there are different rules and regulations in Venezuela regarding the call signs for identity reasons. While scanning through the bands I did notice that there are plenty of trunking radios in use. I know that they use the trunking capabilities because of the rather loud buzz in the 800 Mhz range. In addition, there were huge bulletin boards advertising Motorola's latest Trunking radios. My Radio Shack Pro-83 did not have the trucking capabilities.

In conclusion, there was a great deal of trepidation about carrying the Radio Shack Pro-83 with me to Venezuela as per the conversation about the possible political ramification; However, I was clearly under no treat while monitoring, there were not many hams on the bands and specific two meter frequencies, but there were plenty of taxicabs drivers using the frequencies.

PS. A gallon of gasoline in Venezuela is twenty-five cents in US Dollars. Yes, \$0.25/gallon.

73's until next time,

This is KC9GVM

Sam Fields

Sheboygan, Wisconsin

•On the Road Again X2

Submitted by: John, N9RJZ

It's great when the weather is good and there is an easy excuse to put off painting the front steps or some equally distasteful task. Of course, there is almost no better excuse than a road trip to a hamfest. Conveniently, Saturday September 2nd, it was Grayslake weekend. Their Radio Expo, as they call it, is worth going to but it's not what it used to be. This year Radio Expo's date was moved so as to not be on the same weekend as the Peoria Superfest. Perhaps over the next couple of years the attendance will bounce back somewhat. In years past the outdoor tables, cars and campers took up almost all of the fairgrounds and the various buildings were packed. Even so, with the smaller attendance there was some good deal hunting to be had by everyone. Our group included Rick, W9RIC, Tim, KC9FSH, Tony, AB9IO and I. I found two brand new tubes to replace the 12AX7's in my old Swan 250. I saw the tubes at five different sellers. As you know, some people at hamfests are completely crazy about their prices. One guy wanted \$40 for a new tube and \$20 for a used one. What I ended up getting were two new 12AX7B tubes and that is a newer low noise variety for a bargain six bucks each.

Permit me to digress. Speaking of Swan. My interest in the old radios started with a purchase at the estate sale the club had recently for Jim, K9FBA. It's been interesting because with all the hamfests in the last few months I have come to realize how many models the Swan company made "back in day." I believe they ended production in the 1970's. The old 250 I have is supposed to be a 240 watt six meter radio. I have now seen various models of Swan up to the 700sx and a 2000 watt amplifier. I needed those two 12AX7 tubes because I took the tubes out of the 6 meter to get the other Swan I bought from the estate sale running.

It is a model 350 for bands 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meters. Both radios take two of the tubes. They are a triode and the problem has been that one side is usually bad. Greg, W9IEI helped me tune up the 350 once I had two working tubes and in 30 minutes or less he had four contacts out on the east coast. I've now talked to New Hampshire, Florida, Montana and even someone in California. According to Greg's power meter that he loaned me, the old radio is putting out about 200 watts. I'm not sure what the original power output was supposed to be so I have added the power tubes to my list of extra tubes to be looking for at hamfests. The power is feeding into a 102 foot G5RV that is 20 feet up at the lowest and about 36 feet at the highest. I should also mention that I am using a tuner that I bought at our hamfest last year at Waverly Beach. It is an old Dentron I bought from a ham who came over from Stevens Point. I think my "shack" will always be about 90% equipped from hamfesting.

All four of us bought various small items. Chuck, KC9GON, a guy from the Quad Cities, whose call sign I forget just now, who was at Dayton and bought a HT from Rick was there at Grayslake. He is a relatively new ham and the HT he bought from Rick was his first radio. After you go to a bunch of hamfests you start meeting people from all over so that is nice and interesting. We shared a few beers down there in Dayton at our spot and that is where Rick W9RIC, Tony AB9IO and Eric KG8RF first met Chuck.

Rick did some more research on repeaters I believe, asking questions and such. Unfortunately, we did not find any heavy iron to bring back. Tim and I want tower parts and Rick wants a spare repeater and Tony just wants good old stuff. He did have one of the more unpleasant shopping tasks, that being to find a PDA type computer. There was a guy there who had boxes and boxes of laptops. I mean boxes. He must have covered 30 feet with his boxes of laptops. He located his display in the Swine barn type shelter. Let's just say the floor was not entirely clean. In fact you had to watch your step at one end of the place. However, Tony did find a totally working NEC older PDA that runs windows CE. It boots up with IE and all that basic Microsoft software.

Continued on Page 7

•On the Road Again X2– Cont'd

Tower Electronics was there in the main building. Scotty had gone to another hamfest somewhere else, so it was part of his crew working the tables. I had our hamfest flyers out on the club table up near the raffle drum and announcer. We all had a polish or brat there at the event, but on the way back to Appleton stopped at an A&W that Tony recommended for another snack. I had a chili dog that was great. It was a fun day; we had left about 6 am and got back to Appleton about 4 pm.

So, OK, I ask you – is one hamfest a month enough? Nope, not this month. The Ozaukee Radio Club had their hamfest at Cedarburg on Saturday, September 9th. We knew it would be small, but sometimes that is where the real bargains are to be found.

First, however, you have to find the hamfest. Tim, KC9FSH and Eric, KG8RF were in the group this time. We left about 6:30 am, unsuspectingly with less than all the information needed. The published info for the hamfest gave the location as the parking lot of a bowling alley. Mapquest came up with a goofy route to get there so we got lost. I had plenty of W9ZL hamfest flyers, but somehow did not have one of theirs. We had a hard time finding their talk-in for directions help. We did get Tom, KC9IKS on the 76. He was on his way down to the hamfest with his wife. He looked up the clubs repeater in his repeater directory that he had with him in his van and he tried to get the info to us. Unfortunately, we were so far at the edge for the 76 that we were not able to copy any more than the PL. Hey Tom, a tip – next time give the frequency first. We finally raised someone in Sheboygan on simplex and he looked up the repeater frequency. Even though Tom must have been 30 minutes behind us, he arrived first. Oh well, we got there.

I took some of our hamfest flyers and put them on the main table down there. There was some good stuff there. I could easily have spent a couple of hundred, but resisted. There were a lot of reasonably priced radios. Tim picked up a very nice Navy surplus aluminum case, and we met Tom who was walking around with a nice 24 hour \$3.00 clock.

After a bit more bargain hunting we left and headed to AES about 20 more miles south. Tim left his HT there to have the SMA connector fixed and Eric bought a quick charger for one of his HT's.

On the way back we stopped in Fond du Lac to visit with Dave, N9WQ. A guy I met many hamfests ago. He goes to a lot of them around Wisconsin and Michigan. He has an amazing ham “shack” basically all equipped from hamfests. He also has an amazing antenna farm. He bought an extra lot beside his house in Fond du Lac and that has enabled him to put up two 65 foot towers. Fond du Lac rules only allow one antenna mast per lot. He had offered to give me some extra parts for a radio I bought from him at a previous hamfest and this was the first opportunity to stop and take him up on the offer. We thanked Dave for the hamshack tour and loaded Tim's car up with about 300 pounds of Motorola radios and headed home.

Over these last two hamfests I have maintained my status as an “interesting stuff buyer.” I usually only sell some stuff twice a year, at Dayton and at our Hamfest. See you at a hamfest soon!

•On the Road Again X2- Pictures



•Amateur Radio Station KG8RF

Submitted by: Eric KG8RF

Living in an apartment makes it hard to have a large setup. My station consists of mostly VHF / UHF radios. My main base rig is the Icom 2800 dual band radio. I have 2 power supplies; an Astron RS-35A and a Radio Shack 15 amp switching supply. All of this is mounted on a rolling cart that I can have next to my recliner for net control or general rag chewing. My base antenna is a Diamond X50A dual bander up about 25 to 30 feet.

As you can tell from the photos I like handheld radios. My collection consists of a Yaesu FT-60 that I use for a lot of public service events. My 220 Mhz handheld is the Kenwood TH-F6A which is actually a tri-bander (includes 2m/70cm also). I use this rig a lot when I travel to Chicago since it gives a full 5 watts on all three bands. My bells and whistles handheld is the black VX-7. Although it's listed as a tri-bander (6m/2m/70cm) it will also do the 220 Mhz band at 1/2 watt. Finally my last handheld is the VX-2. I use this one a lot for monitoring around the apartment and for cross band repeating through my mobile rig.

Speaking of being mobile, my setup there consists of the Yaesu FT-8800 dual band rig. I like this rig a lot since it gives me dual receive on 2m and 70cm. Another plus; it has memory banks similar to a scanner. I set up one bank with local ham frequencies, another with frequencies when I visit the U.P. and another with police/fire/commercial frequencies. That way if I only want to listen to local ham radio activity I'll go to that bank and start scanning the memory channels programmed there. My mobile dual band antenna is a Diamond NR770HNMO mag-mount.

The second mobile radio is my 220 rig. It's an Alinco DR-235T. It's a very nice single band radio. I'm able to hit all four local 220 repeaters without any problems (Yes, we do have local 220 repeaters, use them or loose them!). Audio quality on both receive and transmit are excellent. The antenna is a Hustler mag-mount single band for 220 Mhz.

My future plans for the station is to get into HF. I do have 3 HF rigs; Icom IC-706, Yaesu FT-840 and Yaesu FT-817 for QRP work. I would also like to experiment with 1.2 Ghz and maybe some digital voice modes like D-Star. Who knows when that will happen. It's all depended on time, money and my neighbors being patient (hi, hi).

73 de KG8RF.

Pictures for this article are located on page 10

• Amateur Radio Station KG8RF– Pictures



•W9ZL Newsletter Committee

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Tim Hale	KC9FSH	kc9fsh@arrl.net
Eric Bjorkquist	KG8RF	ebjorkquist@yahoo.com