



FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

QSO'ER



P.O. Box 5233 Appleton, Wisconsin 54912

www.fcarc.us

• **CQ CQ CQ**

Volume 19, Issue 11
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New Tech Corner on fcarc.us!

Tech-Corner will be added to the web site for those who would like to write a tech-article.

This new topic will allow us to write tech-articles and have them grouped together under one icon. In addition to the tech-corner topic for articles, we'll be installing a new block for your download or view convenience of all the tech-reports we have had at general membership meetings.

This will take a few weeks to get all the articles in place and labeled in a way that you can retrieve them easily by date or topic heading.

If you have a tech-article you've published lately, please feel free to send it or them to one of the web masters and we'll upload them to the web server for all to view or download.

We would prefer all uploads to the web server to be a PDF, if you don't have your article in PDF format, don't worry we can convert it for you.

FCARC Officers

- *President— Brian Long (KB9LRD) 730-8485*
- *Vice-President— Dave Sprangers (ND9DW)*
- *Treasurer— Karen Long (KC9BMH) 730-8485*
- *Secretary— Mike Smith (N9IAT)*
- *Membership Co-ord— Jim Wierzba (WB9OJE)*
- **Members At Large—**
- *Andy Palm (N1KSN)*
- *Rick Kosiorek (W9RIC) 735-9565*
- *Tony Mach (AB9IO)*

This spot is reserved for you!

If you have an announcement that you would like to let everyone know about just send it in an email to mike@n9iat.com.

Inside this issue:

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September Meeting Minutes

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
General Membership meeting
Agenda for October 16th, 2006



Board of Directors FCARC

President: Brian, KB9LRD; Vice-President: Dave, ND9DW; Treasurer: Karen, KC9BMH
Secretary: Mike N9IAT; Membership Coordinator: Jim WB9OJE
Members at Large: Andy N1KSN, Tony AB9IO, Rick W9RIC

"Rick Kosiorek is our 2005 "Ham of the Year"

Presiding: President; Brian KB9LRD

Quorum count: Vice President; Dave Sprangers ND9DW

Call to Order: 7: 00 PM

Introduction of Members, Roll Call!

New Members:

Renewed Members: Frank N9LT, John K9IY, Greg W9IEI, Judy N9PBM, Karl W9SJZ

Hal Report: Andy N1KSN; Directional coupler – How it works.

Old Business:

(Motion): Adopt the 2006 By-Laws DRAFT:

One item to be removed by the By-Laws Committee with permission from the members present is Article III Section 6: Directors Absentee ballot. This entire new section is to be removed! - [No Objection](#)

Moved by: By-Laws Committee to be removed from the Table:

(2nd) _ND9DW_ (Discussion) (Move to Vote):__N1KSN__ (2nd) _KC9BMH_ Vote: (**P** / F)

Note:

Main Motion 05152006-1 Sponsored by: By-Laws Committee

Amendment 09182006-1 Sponsored By: Dan N9LVS

[ND9DW – rescind the motion for repeater director. 2nd - WB9OJE Vote \(**P** / F\)](#)

[Close discussion Andy N1KSN \(2nd\) Tom KC9IKS](#)

New motion Repeater Director to be added as a board (motion) N1KSN (2nd) KJ8RF Vote (**P** / F)

(A special Thank you to Kate Bradfiled KB0DKD for her effort in proofing this DRAFT)

B.) The Executive Board of Directors has decided to host our “July” meeting at the Goodwill Community Center for your comfort and convenience, instead of at Sunset Park in Kimberly. This would have been our meeting/picnic event. Motion N1KSN – reconsider 2nd N9YMC Vote (**P** / F)

Move to vote: KC9IZF 2nd W9SBU

New Business:

A.) Mike N9IAT was voted in with a unanimous vote by the Executive Board of Directors as a member of the By-Laws Committee.

B.) Dave ND9DW was voted in with a unanimous vote by the Executive Board of Directors as a member of the By- Laws Committee.

C.) The Website Committee is proposing a login requirement to receive the “Current” QSO’er, and all archived Newsletters.

Committee Reports:

Announcements:

Adjourn: (Accepting a motion to adjourn) N9YMC (2nd) WB9ZNA (V: M)

• Membership Renewal Reminders

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

- 10/1/2006 KC9EKV
- 10/1/2006 KC9FSH
- 11/1/2006 KC9EYA
- 11/1/2006 N9RJZ
- 11/1/2006 AB9AH
- 11/1/2006 KF6CHG
- 11/1/2006 K9STN
- 11/1/2006 N9QLP
- 12/1/2006 W9HM
- 12/1/2006 KF6MYE
- 12/1/2006 KC9IKV
- 12/1/2006 KC9IPU
- 12/1/2006 KB0KFX
- 12/1/2006 KC9IKW
- 12/1/2006 N9BPO
- 12/1/2006 KB0DKD
- 12/1/2006 K0TIW
- 1/1/2007 ND0L
- 1/1/2007 KC9IBG
- 1/1/2007 K9RFI
- 1/1/2007 W9ZC
- 1/1/2007 WB9LBE
- 1/1/2007 KC9IKS
- 1/1/2007 KC9BMH
- 1/1/2007 KB9LRD
- 1/1/2007 KC9HWF

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:

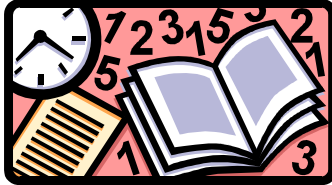
Call / Name	Specialty Area	Phone #
N1KSN– Andy	CW	720-0617
W9ZC– Bob	Tech. Code	725-7974
N9OEQ– Chuck	HF & VHF Digital Modes	788-5497
N9TNW—Bill	HF & Satellite	739-6827
N9LVS—Dan	FCC Personal Data Changes	205-4899

Have something Ham related to sell? If so, contact Mike (N9IAT) at mike@n9iat.com 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

•Upcoming Events

VE Testing Dates

Interested in Amateur (HAM) Radio?
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 2007:

Feb 17, 2007.

Wednesday 2 Meter Net

Net Control Operator schedule

Nov 1	KB9ENO Guest Net Control
Nov 8	KC9IZF
Nov 15	KG8RF
Nov 22	KC9FSH
Nov 29	ND9DW

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.

•Upcoming Events

Mon. Nov 13	Exec Board Meeting at Goodwill Comm. Center
Mon. Nov 20	FCARC Monthly Club Meeting at the Goodwill Comm. Center
Mon. Dec 11	Exec Board Meeting at Goodwill Comm. Center
Mon. Dec 18	FCARC Monthly Club Meeting / Christmas party
Sat. Feb 17, 2007	VE Testing - American Red Cross building

No other events on the calendar for 2007 yet

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

John KC9JZH, Richard K9GAD, William N8JQC

Renewed Members:

Jim WB9OJE, Gary KB9IAT, Jim K9OQO, Dolores KB9IRD, Dan WB9QFX, Dave KA9NMK, Bob N9LDA, Jeff KB9BYP, Martha N9JAD, Dave KB9WAF, Diane KC9HRD, Dave W9RAG, Hal NQ9F, Steve N9SGG

E-Bay for Smart People

A Guide for Hams

By Anthony L. Mach, AB9IO

E-bay has become the virtual marketplace where many hams go to buy and sell equipment. No doubt, many of you have heard horror stories of hams who have gotten ripped off. The purpose of this guide is to share some realities of doing business on e-bay from a buyer's point of view. This is because the buyer has the most to lose if a transaction goes sour.

I have been a member of e-bay for almost seven years now. While I have not used this "Mecca" to purchase very many items, I have been able to keep myself and others safe. My goal is to explain to you some of the techniques that I and others use so that you can have a positive e-bay experience.

First, let's start off with some harsh realities. I have come to the conclusion that there are three human attributes that crooked people use to take advantage of a person. If you are unlucky to possess at least one of these attributes at the wrong time, you are a prime target. These are:

1. Greed
2. Desperation
3. Foolishness

Well, I don't think that anyone wants to admit that they are greedy, desperate, or foolish! Unfortunately, we are human. Here is an example of what can happen if one of these "demons" cloud our judgment: Bob just found a nice mint Icom IC-7000 on e-bay with a low reserve. Because he did not bother to do any research, he ended up paying \$100 over what the radio would have cost new. Another IC-7000 closed soon after this one for \$300 under the cost of new. Does this sound ridiculous? I've seen things like this happen before!!! No doubt, Bob was not only foolish, but he was probably desperate to get *that* radio. Now, this wasn't the seller's fault. I can't say that Bob got taken, but he should have known better.

So, let's come up with a solution to prevent this type of transaction from taking place. Bob could have spent a few minutes researching the price of a new IC-7000 and based his maximum bid on that. He could have also *asked* others what they would have paid for it. It is easy to research instead of paying too much. Bob should have also decided what he wanted to bid on it and left it alone. Enough on this subject.

I hear a lot of people claim that they have been *sniped*! Sniping means bidding at the last possible second so that no one can re-bid against you. Sure sounds scary and illegal. Fortunately, it is perfectly legal and is the best way to prevent a bidding war and desperation from taking advantage of you. I know that people want things to be nice and fun, so they put their bid on an item and leave it there until someone overbids them. Then, they put a higher bid and someone overbids them. Then, they pay too much because they put so much time and effort into bidding that they *must* have the item. Sound familiar? Using a bidding site that automatically snipe bids for you at the last second prevents you from getting involved foolishly in the transaction until it is over. This also prevents others from participating in the bidding war and driving your cost up.

Beware of *shills*. Shills are friends of a seller that act in *collusion* to bid you up so that the seller can get the most for his / her item. If a shill ends up winning the item (unlikely), the seller just posts a positive feedback for the shill and re-lists the item. Shills are nearly impossible to spot, but they tend to have very low feedback and bid you up in very small increments. If you snipe you can almost always avoid the shill!

Probably the most common problem with an e-bay transaction is *misrepresentation* of goods. This means that Bob's mint IC-7000 ended up to be more like a destroyed IC-7000. Unfortunately, Bob has little recourse. While e-bay policy is on Bob's side, e-bay probably will not help him much to recover his funds. This is the truth. Along these lines, Bob could have received *no* radio and the seller disappears before Bob realizes this. This happens often enough. There are several ways to lessen your chance of being a victim of misrepresentation. Buy from reputable sellers and use *traceable* funds. To be honest with you, I like to buy things online from other hams in the U.S. While this policy does not prevent you from getting cheated, you can usually trust them more than non-hams. **Use postal money orders if you at all question the integrity of a seller.** If the seller cheats you, they have committed **mail fraud**. Now we have a friend on our side - the police.

Well, now that I have scared the hell out of you, I do have to say that e-bay is a powerful tool for buying and selling ham gear. There is probably more ham gear on e-bay at any one time than on all other trading sites on the internet *combined*. If you are smart, you can have a positive experience, too!

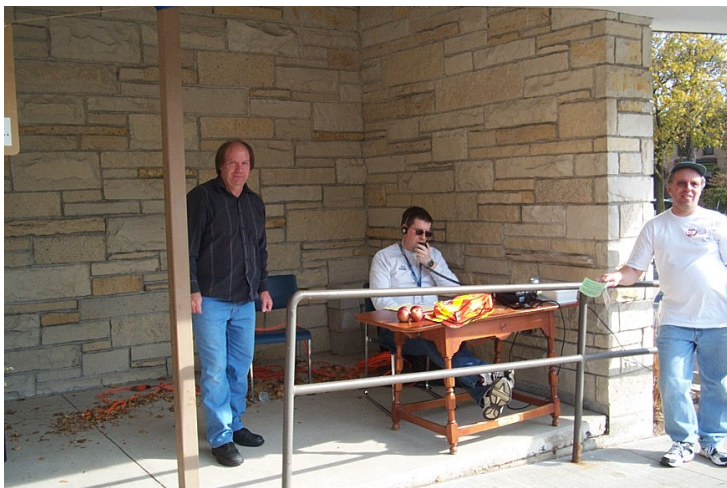
Let's go over my list of safety tips and tricks:

1. Don't be greedy, desperate, or foolish. Clear your head and be smart about your doings on e-bay. Do your research so that you know what you're buying, what it's worth, and who you are buying from. Ask others "in the know." If you cannot answer these question, don't bid. Period.
2. Find a reputable site that allows you to snipe bid on e-bay. Use it to your advantage to get better deals in the long-run and avoid the hated shill. Don't get into a bidding war at any time. Don't pay more than you want to for any item.
3. Buy only from reputable sellers. Try to buy from people (hams, if applicable) in this country so that you have the protections of law. Use postal money orders if you need to. Don't assume that e-bay or PayPal or any other organization will back you up if you get cheated. Search for items that are local to you and ask if you can pick them up to prevent unrealistic shipping charges - this is also a powerful tool against getting cheated because you can see the seller face-to-face!
4. Have fun and share your experiences with others so that we all may become wiser!

Walking to feed those less fortunate.

Submitted by Bernie – N9YMC

CROP Walkers put their hearts and soles in motion to stop hunger, one step at a time. On Sunday October 8, several hundred walkers from the Fox Cities gathered at the Memorial Presbyterian Church in Appleton to take on the 1-mile, 3-mile or 6-mile walking course around the Lawrence University area. Once again, the FCARC was there to offer a helping hand with communications. A fine relationship has been built between the CROP Walk organizers, The Salvation Army and the FCARC while doing this event the last few years. (By the way, the Salvation Army provides a water station at the halfway mark as well as a SAG wagon for the event).



Eric – **King George 8 Royal Fruit** was once again our net control station. The other operators joining this event were: Gene (K0TIW), Katie (KB0DKD), Kevin (KC9EYA), Andy (N1KSN), Karen (WB9ZNA), Ed (KC9HRC), Erick (KB9TLM) and yours truly Bernie (N9YMC).

While on the course, I was fortunate to talk with many of the walkers, some of which thanked the amateur radio community for being there to assist this event and for all that we do at other events, such as disasters. I wish I had gotten their names, as they were knowledgeable of what we do and could be good spokespersons for us. Also, it is noteworthy that Chaplain Karl of the Salvation Army approached a couple of us and asked if we would be interested in getting more involved with their people, not only for training but to develop a resource net in the Valley.

All in all the event was a success and I am thankful for such a wonderful relationship that has been developed between not only the CROP Walk organizers and the FCARC, but also the community as a whole. If you would like to get involved with a community event, the next one coming up is on November 4 in Menasha. This event is also a walk benefiting those less fortunate put on by the St. Joseph Food Pantry. For more information or to sign up, contact John (N9RJZ) at n9rjz@tponet.com (I am signed up already...look forward to seeing you there!)