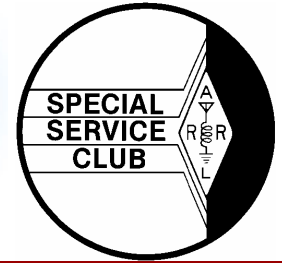




FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

QSO'ER



P.O. Box 2346 Appleton, Wisconsin 54912

www.fcarc.us

• **CQ CQ CQ**

Volume 21, Issue 2
February 2008

VE Test Session

Saturday, February 16th

The FCARC VE Team will be holding a testing session Saturday Feb.16th at the Red Cross Building in Appleton starting at 8:00 a.m.

The Red Cross Building is located at 1302 E Wis. Ave. in Appleton, WI.

Start time is 8:00 a.m. with walk-ins welcome until 8:30 a.m. and a cost of \$14.00.

You will need to bring 2 forms of identification and a copy of your current license for the VE's to keep and send in with your paperwork.

If you can't make Feb 16th there will be another test session on April 16, 2008 also.

FCARC Officers

- *President— Frank Livermore (N9LT)*
- *Vice-President— Dave Sprangers (ND9DW)*
- *Treasurer— Karen Long (KC9BMH)*
- *Secretary— Mike Smith (N9IAT)*
- *Membership Co-ord— Dan Vanevenhoven (N9LVS)*
- *Technical Director— Andy Palm (N1KSN)*
- **Members At Large—**
- *Tim Hale (KC9FSH)*
- *Tom Riederer (N9UY)*
- *Tony Mach (AB9IO)*

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Amateur Radio Classes

Dates: February 19th, 2008 - April 8th, 2008

Time: 6:30PM-8:00PM

Place: Goodwill Community Center, 1800 Appleton Rd.
Menasha, WI 54952

Contact Name: Frank Livermore, N9LT

Contact Phone: (920) 968-4685

Contact E-Mail: frank@franklivermore.com

Check out the FCARC **6 Meter Net** Thursday nights at 8 pm on 52.570 FM

**Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
General Membership Meeting
Agenda for January 21st, 2008**

Board of Directors FCARC

President: Frank N9LT; Vice-President: Dave ND9DW; Treasurer: Karen KC9BMH
Secretary: Mike N9IAT; Membership Coordinator: Dan Vanevenhoven; Technical Director: Andy N1KSN
Members at Large: Tony AB9IO, Tom N9UY, Tim KC9FSH
“Tony Mach AB9IO is our 2006 “Ham of the Year””

Presiding: President, Frank Livermore N9LT

Quorum count: Vice President; Dave Sprangers ND9DW

Call to Order: 7: 00 PM

Introduction of Members, Roll Call!

New Members: Terry WAØITP, AB9NN

Renewed Members: Charles W9SBU,

Old Business:

QSL Card designs due by the February Board Meeting

B.) Awards Banquet Speaker – Jeff Last, NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist

C.) Ham of the Year Nominations

New Business:

A.) Motion 01142008-1 Passed: To discontinue Newsline until further notice.

B.) Motion 01142008-2 Passed: To allow 50/50 raffles and/or raffle drawings for prizes at meetings.

C.) Motion 01142008-3 Passed: To have N9LVS investigate the prices of club wears with other companies.

D.) By-Law revision suggestions from the membership

Committee/Coordinator Reports:

Awards Committee – Frank N9LT

WQSO Party – KB9LRD

Hal Report:

Baluns and Balun Losses – N1KSN

Announcements: 2008 Awards Banquet to be held February 9th at 5PM at the Darboy Club, Amateur Radio Classes begin February 19th at Goodwill – Contact Frank for more information, FCARC Nametags are still available from Fox Stamp

Raffle Winner

Adjourn: (Accepting a motion to adjourn) N9YMC (2nd) KC9IZF (V: M)

Ham Of The Year Nominations Accepted

W9RIC, N9UY, K9KI, ND9DW, N9YMC

Ham Of The Year Nominations Declined

N1KSN, KC9BMH, KB9LRD

• 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.

1/1/2008 KC9BMH
 1/1/2008 KD7OOT
 1/1/2008 ND0L
 1/1/2008 WA0ITP
 1/1/2008 KB9GKC
 1/1/2008 WA6UWY
 1/1/2008 KC9JCR
 1/1/2008 N9UY
 1/1/2008 KC9BEP
 1/1/2008 KB9TLM
 1/1/2008 KB9LRD
 1/1/2008 W9WTY
 1/1/2008 KC9IBG
 1/1/2008 N9ECS
 1/1/2008 WB2LBE
 1/1/2008 K9RFI
 2/1/2008 AB9IO
 2/1/2008 ND9DW
 2/1/2008 K9JEN
 2/1/2008 AB9NB
 2/1/2008 W9IYZ
 3/1/2008 K9IK
 3/1/2008 N0ZKC
 3/1/2008 KC9DJQ
 3/1/2008 WA9YRL
 3/1/2008 KC9JPX

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.fcrc.us

•Upcoming Events

VE Testing Dates

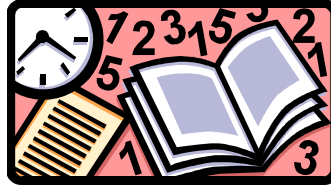
Interested in Amateur (HAM) Radio? Need to upgrade your license? The FCARC can help you with both of these.

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 2008:

February 16, 2008

April 12, 2008



Thursday 6 Meter Net

Day: **Thursday**

Time: **8:00 pm**

Frequency: **52.570 FM**

If you would like to be a net control please contact Frank N9LT

•Upcoming Events

Feb 16, 2008	VE Testing
Feb 18, 2008	General Membership Meeting
Feb 19, 2008	Amateur Radio Classes Start
March 9, 2008	WI QSO Party

Wednesday 2 Meter Net

Net Control Operator schedule

Feb 13	N9SGG
Feb 20	KC9FSH
Feb 27	N9LT

Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club (W9ZL) invites everyone to tune in on Wednesday evenings at 8:00 PM on 146.76/R 100hz PL

Check into the Wednesday night net. This is an open forum net and anything can be discussed, including; technical questions, equipment review and for swap and for sale items.

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

Renewed Members:

Mark Michels W9OP, Joan Michels W9PIP, Rick Kosiorek W9RIC, Judy Kosiorek WJ9K, Gene Bradfield K0TIW, Katie Bradfield KB0DKD, Mike Moen (no call), Scott Zastoupil KB0KFX, Jon Kreski KB9NN, Terry Fletcher WA0ITP, Chuck Hubbard WB2LBE

A little preparation can be a big help.



Scott, N7FSP, a friend of mine, called recently after he nearly died due to a misdiagnosis and shared a few thoughts with me. His story is not as important as the message he wanted to share with others in the amateur community and that is just what will happen to our stuff when we are gone. I don't want this to appear to be all gloom and doom, but let's face it, we are all going to become a silent key (SK) at some point. If that were to

happen unexpectedly, do you have your shack in order? This article is to promote a bit of thought process when you are sitting in the shack, and the bands are a bit slow.

What Is This Stuff?

We recently lost a fellow here, and he, like many of us, was a total pack rat. It appears that he was not able to walk through a hamfest, flea market, yard sale or any location related to acquiring stuff without bringing some of it home. He passed away quietly in his sleep, and his daughter was left to dispose of his "stuff." I have been involved in a number of SK estate sales, and know first hand what can happen when the survivor, be it a daughter, son, wife or husband, has no idea what things in the shack even *are* let alone what they may be worth. And I think we have all seen at some point what happens when the "vultures" move in after the death of a ham. Items that may be worth thousands of dollars are let go for pennies. I was fortunate to have been called by the widow of another local ham who told me she would like to just give the stuff away to Goodwill. I talked her out of that, and after taking an inventory and making a trip to a local swap meet, she was shocked when I was able to hand her a check for nearly \$5000.

Some Things to Think About

Now as I write this, I am guilty of not being prepared myself, but I felt it more important to share this information with others, to get folks thinking about this before another untimely death leaves a survivor wondering just what to do with it all.

So, here are my suggestions, but I think they are sound ideas.

1. Like the title of this article states, designate a friend or two who can help if something were to happen to you. Ask them first, of course, and make sure others know about them. Perhaps even name them in your will. (You might check with your lawyer about this.)
 2. Make an inventory of everything in your shack that you feel is worth more than a buck. Okay I know this may take some time, but you can work on it waiting to nab that "rare one" or while listening in on the local net. If you have a box of things that are just miscellaneous items list them as such, but if you repack or rearrange them later, make a note in your list.
-

3. For all the items that are higher dollar amounts, list the price you paid and the amount it is worth now. You may need to update this every few years, but it will help those who need the help when the time comes. Just because you paid \$800 for it new does not make it worth that now. Many estate sales fall into this trap in that “well we paid that much for it.” We all know that the value of gear drops pretty fast for most items, so let’s give our survivors a good head start on the price.

4. Towers, masts and feed lines: If you are the only one on the planet who knows how you got that 85 foot tower up in your 60 x 20 back lot, let someone in on the secret. I have helped to take down many towers over the years and some of them were real buggers until we figured out how they were put up. Hams are *very* creative at tower installations, and when the procedure is lost with the original installer, things can go wrong. A map or diagram of how the feed lines and control cables are routed out of the shack and out to the antenna support is very handy as well.

5. Repeaters and packet nodes: These are another whole problem, if you are a packet sysop, or repeater owner, do you have a plan so your most often used equipment will continue to serve the amateur community? Does anyone know who your leases are with? Are they written or verbal? If verbal does anyone know whom to contact to make arrangements to take over the lease? And then what becomes of the equipment? Are you planning to donate it to a club or group if you depart this world? Or will someone be forced to have to deal with it after you’re gone? I hold two leases for packet nodes with thousands of dollars worth of equipment. Do I have a “successor” for these sites? No, but I am working on it now. Do you have a written plan for your site?

This could go on forever with things to think about, but is intended to get your thought process going on just what will happen to your gear. I know I am going to work on mine so if anything happens, those who live on will not be left with a burden to remember me by. Much of this could have legal implications, so if you do have a will it would be beneficial to talk to your lawyer to insure what you have stated is what will actually be done.

By: Mark J. Tharp, KB7HDX
kb7hdx@arrl.org
January 23, 2008