

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



VOLUME 5 ISSUE 3

MARCH 2005

Come Join Us On Sunday Evenings For Our Weekly Net 1930 hrs 145.430 – 107.2

MARCH MEETING

The March meeting of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club will be held on Monday, March 14th at 7:00 pm at Moraine Park Technical College in a room O-104.

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AMATEUR CLASS

Well another session of Amateur Radio class have ended, and it is time to thank those who took time out from their daily routine to help make it possible. Thanks goes to Jack Heil, Gene Olig, and Dennis Paulin for the time they took to make this all possible. There were successes and there were failures, but that still doesn't deter from the fact that these people made it all happen. Again, take time to thank these people when you see them, they deserve a pat on the back.

ANNUAL CLUB AUCTION

The annual club auction will be held this month after the regular meeting. Bring your unwanted items for auction. You know what they say, "Someone else's junk is someone else's fortune" Proceeds will go towards the Club's annual budget. Hope to see you all there, and bring your pocket book also.

February Meeting Minutes

President Ed Beltz called the Feb. 14th meeting to order at 7:10PM in Room O-104 at Moraine Park Technical College. Ed asked if everyone had the minutes from the January meeting that were published in the club newsletter. Ed also asked if they're any corrections or additions. None was brought up so he then asked for the Treasurer's report. Jeff Bechner reported that the balance at the January meeting was \$2,192.69 and we had income of \$104.00 and expenses of \$356.90 during the month. The new balance for this meeting is \$1,939.79. The balance is made up of truck fund at \$587.31, repeater fund of \$430.68, emergency service fund of \$250.35 and \$666.45 in the general fund. Paul Beard made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Doug Schultz seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

President Beltz reported on the correspondence the club received during the month. Free Spirit Riders are in need of volunteers. MPTC is offering Spanish classes. St. Mary's Springs sent a thank you letter for \$100 donation the club made for the repeater.

Jeff Bechner then had one bill to be approved and it was the \$10.00 fee for renewal of our incorporation with the state. Lloyd Vandervort made a motion to pay to the \$10 bill and Doug Schultz seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Ed then reported that he has new winches for the Field Day trailers, but will need to get them mounted. Ed also reported that four people were taking the Technician class.

Jeff Bechner reminded everyone that Wisconsin QSO Party is coming up on March 13th.

Ed then reported that ARRL Field Day rules are changed this year on the GOTA station and we will have to check out the rules. Jeff Bechner reported that we had 28 paid members.

Lloyd Vandervort reported that the repeater now has backup battery power. He wanted to thank Peter Fox and Andy Martin for the help they provide in getting the backup power supply installed.

Ed Beltz then reported that ARES/RACES would be having a meeting on Feb. 21 at 7:00PM for a meeting at the Red Cross.

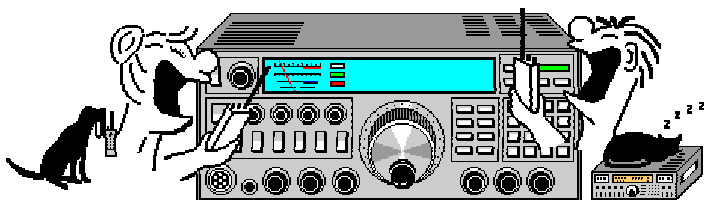
President Beltz brought up Old Business and reminded everyone that the March meeting program will be a club auction. So clean out your shack and basement and bring it to the club auction on March 14th.

Under New Business Ed brought up the ARES/RACES will be using the following simplex frequencies 147.435 and 146.400 for local events. Ed Pahle then spoke and passed out lists of ham gear from his dad's estate.

Doug Schultz made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Jeff Bechner seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:33 PM.

The program for the evening was a great video presentation by veteran storm chaser Kinney Adams from Milwaukee.

Respectfully submitted by Acting Secretary Doug Schultz



EXAM SESSIONS

The Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club VE's will be holding exam sessions on March 5th and May 7th in 2005. The exam sessions will be held at the Community United Methodist Church, 701 Minnesota Avenue, North Fond du Lac from 9:00 AM until Noon. The exam fee for 2005 is \$14.00. Please bring a photo ID, as well as a copy of license along with the original and any CSCE to the exam. If you need more information please contact Doug Schultz at 922-3088 or via email at: n9ezf@fdlhams.org.

DATELINE CW

By Ed, KN4Y

How glorious it is, and also how painful it is, to be a CW county hunter.

Time flies when you are working counties on CW, I am listening and working mobiles on the 30-meter CW net and the 20-meter CW net. It is important the mobiles run on 20-meters so the DX stations can work the counties, but lately the DX window is stuck shut. I hear the barking engine as Gator down shifts coming off the hard road. Good thing I restocked the cooler. I wait until the final backfire then yell, "Come in Gator the doors unlocked." Gator comes in carrying a bag of pretzels and jalapeno cheese dip. "Though you might be hungry after that DX contest and the Minnesota QSO party last month." I go get a couple cool ones to complement the dip.

Gator asks, "How you do on the Minnesota QSO party Dude?" "Did only CW and worked 60 counties." "That is great, how about the CW DX contest?" "Made 355 contacts and worked 152 DXCC countries." I go to the desk and get the scissors to open the bag of pretzels. I come back and Gator is reading something on the computer.

"I read that the MARAC convention is in Virginia. Be sure to bring me a ham." "Okay Gator, I will bring you Ray, WG6X?" Gator gives me that look he had when he heard the Governor's Mansion in Little Rock burned down and took out the entire trailer park. I hand him a cool one before he has a heart attack. "I mean one of the

smoked 15-pounders. Are you going to the convention?" "Thinking about going, not sure yet, why?" "I see there are some tours planned. You can ride Virginia Dare, that sounds like fun." I look at the computer. "That is the name of a boat, dummy." Gator is laughing, "had you going Dude." I go get two more cool ones. CW makes a person thirsty.

"I read that you will see railroad artifacts, what be that Dude?" "Years ago they had steam engines that pulled railroad cars and delivered stuff all over the country. There will probably one of those engines on display." "I saw one of those engines on the wild west movie. That sounds interesting." "Maybe to you Gator, but I worked for the New York Central Railroad and saw it all in action. But it always good to reminisce." "You actually saw a steam engine running?" "Yep; and you could always tell when a train had gone by." "How that be Dude?" "You would see its tracks." There is a pause; Gator has that look when he heard that New Jersey has a new three million dollar State lottery. The winner gets three dollars a year for a million years. I am laughing hysterically.

Gator ignores my humor and opens the bag of pretzels and jar of cheese dip. We swig and dip with no thought of future repercussions. Gator looks at the computer again, "I see they will have a hospitality room. Will Al be there?" "That is the reason it is called a hospitality room you kitty-waampus." Gator smiles, "Remind me to take you snipe hunting." We have a good laugh and continue to swig and dip. Gator continues to look at the computer, "Wow Dude, you can run counties on the Blue Ridge Parkway." "That sounds like a great adventure if you have good brakes, what are the dates?" "It starts July 20 and ends after the banquet on July 23. You may not want to go Dude, there is no mention of a CW meeting." "There is always a CW meeting Gator, something important has to be accomplished at a convention." "Had me worried Dude, was going to call Al and get him to lean on the CW committee." "Better call Jerry, he is a younger leaner." We have a good laugh and dip and swig a few more times. "Gator, from what web site are you reading the convention information?" "It be www.countyhunter.com."

I hear Gators pager buzz, "Looks like I have to leave Dude, see you later. As Gator drives off he yells," If someone says a penny for your thoughts and you put in your two cents. What happens to

the other penny?" I do not try to yell above the barking engine so I give him thumbs up, I think is was my thumb.

I go back into the shack, got to get ready for the Oklahoma, Virginia, Wisconsin QSO parties and the ten-ten mobile contest. I lean back in my recliner and do a Norm.

Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course Grant-sponsored Reimbursement Ending!!

In June, the last seat to be offered under the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)-sponsored grant will open. After that, only a small number of reimbursable seats in each course will be offered under the United Technologies Corporation (UTC) grant through October.

At this time, no further grant-sponsored reimbursement for EmComm course students is on the horizon.

The monthly registration calendar is found online at <http://www.arrl.org/cce/calendar.html>. Registration can be done on-line during the applicable registration window at <https://www.arrl.org/forms/cce/>. As stated at <http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>, registration via regular mail is also an option. Please include the course you wish to enroll in, your age group, gender, veteran status, preferred email address, and telephone number.

This has been a very successful program, thanks chiefly to the support and participation of the ARRL Field Organization. We sincerely appreciate your efforts and hope that with your continued support, these grants will conclude on a successful note.

If you have any additional questions, please send them to cce@arrl.org

BADGER WEATHER NET NEEDS YOU

Do you enjoy using your hobby to work for a Cause, e.g., ARES/RACES, SKYWARN, or Public Service events? If so, here is another one that could use your help -- collecting important weather data at your home for the National Weather Service. Every morning a number of Wisconsin amateurs check into the nation's oldest weather net -- the Badger Weather Net on 3985 KHz to pass the 24 hour high and low temperature plus precipitation and snow fall.

This "Ground Truth" data is used by the NWS to update their radar models that estimate precipitation from the reflected radar images. It is, also, used to provide input to the Wisconsin River Forecast Model, the FEMA (to determine amount of disaster relief), FAA, etc.

A very worthwhile cause! So, before you jump into your car for the ride to work, just check into the BWN and give your figures to the Pickup Station on duty. You're in and out in a couple of minutes! The net operates 7 days a week from 5 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. We need more reporting stations and I hope you can become a member of the BWN! For more information, contact [W9IXG](http://www.w9ixg.com). The National Weather Service invites you to look at their web site dedicated to the [Badger Weather Net](http://www.badgerweather.net).