

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 7 ISSUE 5

MAY 2007

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

New Members

We welcome these new members to the Club this month:

MarJean Buck, KC9LFI - FDL
Neal Buck, KC9LFN - FDL
Don Chapman, KC9KZQ - FDL
Brian Turkiewicz, KC9LFR - New Holstein

And we welcome these Returning Members:

Dan Vande Kolk, KC9IGD - FDL
Justin Buell, KB9YET - FDL

Upcoming Events

Dayton Hamfest

May 18, 19 & 20 marks the 56th Dayton Hamfest. It will be held at the Hara Arena. Theme of this year's event is "Local Clubs - The Heart of Ham Radio." You can still snag a ride on the Charter Bus sponsored by the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, Inc. Check out our Club web site at www.fdl-hams.org for more info on the bus schedule and room rates at the hamvention.

Brat Fry

Our first Brat Fry fund raiser will be on June 1-3 in Lomira. We need your help to make it a success. Contact Louie Simon to volunteer your services.

May Meeting

The May Meeting of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club will be held on Monday, May 14th at 7 pm at Moraine Park Technical College Room O-103.

From the President - KD9ZP

The radio club "President's Round Table" at the Ozaukee Radio Club's hamfest on May 5th produced some smoke, but not much light. Seven clubs were represented, along with Don Michalski, ARRL Section Manager.

I discovered that most of the clubs met in local bank or church basements. We appear to be one of a very few that uses public buildings (schools, for example) for meetings. Meetings are generally short with a program either before or after the meeting. Few clubs are holding new ham training classes at the level that we have in the past year. Most clubs in the southeastern part of Wisconsin are larger than ours--on the order of 75 or more members, but their meeting attendance rates are typically only 15 to 20% of their membership; while our attendance rate is around 50%.

The Ozaukee group maintains non-profit 501c3 status, and boasts a very hefty cash balance because they are able to accept contributions that represent tax write-offs for the donors. They use some of their monies to sponsor scholarships in their area.

The topic of the gathering was "What Makes Clubs Grow?" but not much discussion directly addressed that question.

All of the clubs agreed that we need to reach out to the younger generation and get more teens and young adults interested and involved in ham radio.

I think we're presently on the right track, based on what I found other clubs were doing.

Wisconsin QSO Party

While the results of this year's Wisconsin QSO party are not yet complete, Gerry Radtke, WA9GON, recently sent a note that said, "The Fond du Lac Club from 1996 to present has represented itself very well," in this contest:

1996 - 4th	2002 - 2nd
1997 - 3rd	2003 - 1st
1998 - 3rd	2004 - 1st
1999 - 2nd	2005 - 1st
2000 - 1st	2006 - 1st
2001 - 2nd	

Thanks for the note, Gerry; and kudos to all who have participated and helped us achieve this modicum of success over the years!

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, Inc.

Minutes of April 9, 2007, Meeting

The April 9, 2007 meeting was held at Moraine Park Technical College. President Gene Olig called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Gene asked for any additions or corrections to the March minutes as published in the club newsletter. There were no corrections or additions voiced. Louie Simon made a motion to approve; second was made by Ed Beltz and motion passed on voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Steve Smith reported the following balances:

Truck Fund	\$52.33
Repeater Fund	\$1,064.55
Emergency Services Fund	\$309.68
General Use Fund	\$1,208.92
Petty Cash	\$25.00
Savings	\$25.00
Total Net Worth	\$2,232.47

Phil Majerus offered a Kenwood TS-480 to Gene Olig for the truck, half paid by Phil and half by the club. Louie Simon made a motion to pay for half the cost of the Kenwood 480 with \$253 from the truck fund and \$250 from the general fund. Jack Heil seconded motion. Motion passed on a voice vote. Motion was made by to approve treasurer's report by Lloyd Vandervort, seconded by Ed Beltz. Motion passed on voice vote.

Fund Raisers

The first brat fry will be the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday in June at Lomira. Volunteers can contact Louie Simon to schedule a time to work.

New Business

Reminder to all. 2007 Storm Spotter Program - April 19, 6:30 - 8:30, there will be a special session of the National Weather Service's Storm Spotter program held at the City-County building for ham radio operators. There was a special effort made to arrange this program for the FDL hams and an exceptional attendance is strongly encouraged in appreciation.

Volunteers are needed for the Hobby Expo at the Public Library from 9 - 3 p.m., April 14. The club will have an information table and the Club's Mobile Communications Van will be outside for demonstrations for the public. Volunteers and operators are needed.

On May 5, there will be a Swap Fest at Cedarburg.

License Exams

Doug Schultz announced a testing session at NFDL for April 21.

May Program

The program for May will be on antennas, presented by KB9IE.

Old Business

Gravel and blacktop was spread around the brat barn in Lomira. Phil Majerus provided the equipment and the blacktop. The back of the barn, where the grills are placed, still has to be filled in.

The MS Walk will be Saturday, May 6, 2007. Club members will provide communications services for the Walk.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, Randy Gruenwald made a motion to adjourn at 7:30 p.m.; motion seconded by Jack Heil.

Program immediately following the meeting will be a DVD presentation by Gene Olig KD9ZP on the 3X0X Peter Island expedition.

*Respectfully submitted by Dottie Olig, K9FDL
Secretary
FDL Amateur Radio Club, Inc.*

Weather Spotter Training

Thirty club members participated (there were over 70 attendees) in the NWS Weather Spotter Training program at the FDL County Emergency Government Center on April 19th. A 'thank you' letter was sent to Tony Zelhofer, Deputy Director of Emergency Management, for making this training possible. Rusty Kapella, of NWS, put on his usual great presentation. Club members participating:

Ed Beltz N9PJQ	Mike Miller KC9DOA
Karen Beltz KC9KII	Gene Olig KD9ZP
MarJean Buck KC9LFI	Dottie Olig K9FDL
Neal Buck KC9LFN	Ed Schilling KC9KIP
Justin Buell KB9YET	Jason Schneider W9SGT
Don Chapman KC9KZQ	Calvin Schneider KC9IOK
Gary Doyon KG4RUE	Doug Schultz N9EZF
Peter Fox KB9WZD	Ed Schumacher KC9JRH
Tom Gabel N9RPQ	Louie Simon KB9VQM
Jack Heil KG9IN	Barb Simon W9MER
Marj Heil KC9BEN	Dave Simon KB9YRI
Joyce Keyes KC9KIJ	Steve Smith W9GPI
Don Kroes W9VAK	Dan Vande Kolk KC9IGD
Andy Martin KB9ZLL	Lloyd Vandervort N9RPU
John Meyst KC9KIL	Aaron Whittaker KC9GNG

License Exam Session

Saturday, April 21, 2007

Four more new amateur radio operators earned their licenses (Nano Guardi earned both his Technician and General) and Herb Kleinfeld earned an upgrade to General at this exam session.

Not shown:
Scott Ader KC9LMX
from Chilton



Herb Kleinfeld III
KC9GAA - General



L to R: Benjamin Neu, KC9LMY - Technician,
from Menomonee Falls;
Keefe John, KC9LMZ - Technician,
from Germantown;
and Robert Guenther, W9RCG...who drove.



Nano Guardi KC9LNA
Technician & General
*Nano is a police officer
in Chicago.*



Volunteer Examiners Jack Heil, Doug Schultz, Don Kroes and Steve Smith conducted the exams.
(Guess who took the photo?)

Library Hobby Expo

Saturday, April 14, 2007



Club members took part in the “First Annual” FDL Public Library Hobby Expo on April 14th. Don Kroes, Doug Schultz, Joyce Keyes, Gene Olig and Steve Smith talked ham radio with Library visitors. Gene operated 20 meters in our Mobile Communications Van and made contact with other hams around the U.S. Several area hams “dropped in” from time to time, including Jason



Schneider, his wife and son, Calvin. Calvin helped explain our hobby to a few of the ‘younger generation’ at the Expo. Many people stopped at our table to talk, and quite a few toured the Van.

Cheryl Loehr, Assistant Director of the Library, got us a great parking place. Ms. Loehr reports that nearly 3,000 people came through the doors that Saturday.



Club Supports MS Walk Sunday, May 6th

Club members again provided communications support for Fond du Lac's MS Walk this year. Mother Nature came through with a reasonable spring day...sunny in the morning; cloudy in the afternoon and cool with a strong breeze.

Ed Beltz, Doug Schultz, Mike Miller, Lloyd Vandervort and Peter Fox provided Walk progress updates from the various Rest Stops. Dan Vande Kolk coordinated the activities of the SAG vehicle. Ed Schumacher "shadowed" one of the race directors inside Forest Mall, passing progress info and requests for support from the Rest Stops while Steve Smith operated as Net Control from inside our Mobile Communications van.

When it was all over, we were thanked for our support by the Race Director and fed hamburgers, hot dogs and cookies at the finish line area.

HAM from the ARRL web site...

"Ham: a poor operator. A 'plug.'"

That's the definition of the word, given in G. M. Dodge's *The Telegraph Instructor* even before radio. The definition has never changed in wire telegraphy. The first wireless operators were landline telegraphers who left their offices to go to sea or to man the coastal stations. They brought with them their language and much of the tradition of their older profession.

In those early days, spark was king and every station occupied the same wavelength--or, more accurately perhaps, every station occupied *the whole spectrum* with its broad spark signal. Government stations, ships, coastal stations and the increasingly numerous amateur operators all competed for time and signal supremacy in each other's receivers. Many of the amateur stations were very powerful. Two amateurs, working across town, could effectively jam all the other operators in the area. When this happened, frustrated commercial operators would call the ship whose weaker signals had been blotted out by the amateurs and say "SRI OM THOSE #&\$!@ HAMS ARE JAMMING YOU."

Amateurs, possibly unfamiliar with the real meaning of the term, picked it up and applied it to themselves in true "Yankee Doodle" fashion and wore it with pride. As the years advanced, the original meaning has completely disappeared.

....Now you know!

Ham It Up For The Troops Saturday, May 26th

From QRZ.com...

Once again Amateur Radio Operators will be on the air to show support and appreciation for our Troops, Veterans, Military Retired, and 1st Responders.

Amateur Radio will "Ham It Up For The Troops" on May 26, 2007 beginning at 0900 EST. ARMAD includes all Coalition Forces and Military Veterans worldwide.

We invite Amateur Radio Clubs, and individual operators from their homes, portable locations, and mobiles to get on the air and express messages of thanks and appreciation to those that serve.

ARMAD has conducted this Special Event for the past three years, and has become a hit with the public, and our Military members. Those that sacrifice need to know that we support them, and live interaction via Amateur Radio is a great way to promote the hobby while providing a great public service.

Over the years several groups have joined in to help Amateur Radio during this event. One group is *Operation Tribute To Freedom* -- a branch of the U.S. Army Public Affairs. They provide soldiers that will visit an Amateur Radio Club's local ARMAD event to greet visitors, and speak over the airwaves. Other groups also help with public relations and advertising the event. This has helped boost the awareness of Amateur radio to many that would not have other wise been exposed to the hobby.

The Stardust Radio Show "United We Roll" has also offered to help promote the event by having any local Amateur Radio Club representative on the show as a guest to talk about that club's local event.

Working together we can promote the hobby, and provide a meaningful public service event that touches many lives. Get involved and help us "Ham It Up For The Troops."

To learn more about ARMAD visit <http://www.armad.net> and then spread the word.