

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



VOLUME 5 ISSUE 11

NOVEMBER 2005

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

NOVEMBER MEETING

The November meeting of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club will be held on Monday, November 14th at MPTC at 7:00 pm in room O-104. Election of Officers is on the agenda.

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Club Officers

President.....Ed Beltz
Vice-President.....Gene Olig
Treasurer.....Jeff Bechner
Secretary.....Dottie Olig
Sgt-at-Arms.....Dennis Paulin

THANK YOU

As of December, I will no longer be editing the Newsletter. Steve Smith (KC9IGE) will be bringing his talents to give you a new perspective on our Newsletter. Again, Thank you for allowing me to serve you

OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes October 10, 2005

The October 10, 2005 meeting was held at Moraine Park Technical College. President Ed Beltz called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. Introductions with names and calls were done all around. Ed asked if there were any additions or corrections to the September minutes as published in the club newsletter. There were no corrections or additions voiced. Doug Schultz made a motion to approve; second was made by Jack Heil and motion passed on voice vote.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff Bechner reported that the ending balance at the September meeting was \$2702.29. Income was \$13. Expenses were \$108.88 for picnic supplies, leaving a balance of \$2606.41. The balance is made up of the truck fund at \$523.18, repeater fund of \$1302.68, emergency services fund of \$218.68 and general use fund of \$561.87. Motion was made to approve treasurer's report by Stephen Smith; second was made by Jack Heil. Motion passed on voice vote.

Truck: Gene Olig reported no improvements were made this past month. Jack reported that the battery was charged and disconnected. Dennis and Louie did some tool shopping for the truck. Thanks to Louie for tools donated to the truck. Dennis reported on a plan for installation of a shelving rack for the truck, which will eliminate stuff kept on the floor.

Fund Raisers: Jack Heil ordered pizza tickets from Eaton's but has not received them at this time. Tickets will be available for purchase at the next

meeting. These make great Christmas gifts so get your orders ready!!!

Education: Information on classes for this winter is pending.

Testing: Doug Schultz reported that there will be testing December 3, Saturday, 9-12, in North Fond du Lac. \$14 is the cost for testing. Congratulations go out to Jason Schneider, General written test, Mike Miller General and Extra written test, Stephen Smith – Tech and Dan VandeKolk – Tech. Good job guys!

Awards: Jeff Bechner was presented awards by Gene Olig for 150 last counties and *last* county #158. Great job Jeff! Keep them coming!

Contesting: Randy Grunewald reported that the CQ World Wide Phone Contest would take place on October 29/30.

Correspondence: Ed Beltz received QSL cards, which were given to KB9KEG.

Repeater: Lloyd reported that progress is slowly taking place on the hole being dug for the repeater tower because of the clay and stone and so far “progress” is 32 inches deep. Any help is welcome and appreciated.

ARES/RACES: Dave Witt was unable to attend tonight’s meeting to report, however, Jack Heil reported that the SET went smoothly with a total of 18 messages and 12 people actively participating. Improvements were discussed. Lloyd reported that the door for the Red Cross is installed but needs to be framed and finished and doorknobs installed.

Field Day: Dennis Paulin discussed Field Day 2006. Plans were made for a few changes and improvements.

Public Relations: No report at this time.

Special Events: Doug Schultz reminded everyone of the Boy Scout Jamboree at Camp Shaganappi on Saturday, October 15. Members participating should be there by 9 a.m. and the plan is to be operating by 10 a.m.

Old Business: Question was presented in regard to the 501(3) C project. The 501(3) C is not being actively pursued at this time.

New Business: Louie Simon announced the plans for the CHRISTMAS PARTY, to be held December 11 at Pier 15. Cost will be approximately \$15 per ticket. Cocktails will be at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. There will be a gift exchange, which has always provided great fun! Every person should bring a \$5 (or more if you choose) gift to exchange.

There will be DOOR PRIZES! A guaranteed good time!

Club elections are in order for next month. Please consider running for one of the offices. We all support and help each other which makes the “tour of duty” easy! The nomination committee will be Doug Schultz and Gene Olig. They will be calling all members to get a commitment for nominations.

There being no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn was made by Gene Olig, second by Lloyd Vandervort. Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Program immediately following the meeting will be presented by KB9KEG, Randy Grunewald, on Echo Link.

Respectively submitted by Dottie Olig
Secretary – K9FDL, FDL Amateur Radio Club

[DX SCHEDULE](#)

Nov 5 – 7 ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW)
Nov 19 – 21 ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone)
Nov 26-27 CQ Worldwide CW Contest
Dec 2-4 AARL 160 Meter Contest
Dec 10-11 ARRL 10 Meter Contest
ARLHS Christmas Lights QSO Party
0001 hrs UTC on December 17, 2005 through 2359 hrs UTC on January 1, 2006.

<http://www.tcdxa.org/index.html>

The Anatomy Of An Amateur Radio Club

By KD9ZP

In the late 50’s when I first got my amateur radio license, Fond du Lac had an active radio club. We even had a Club House on the North end of Park Avenue at the entrance of Lakeside Park. The Club House was used for monthly meetings and even had several pieces of equipment that were used by those who could not afford their own gear.

Back in those days, you had to prove that you were active in order to retain your license. In my case, I went off to college, got my degree, and then went to work for Giddings And Lewis as a Field Service Engineer. Needless to say, I lost my ticket due to inactivity.

As I neared my 50th birthday, I decided to work get my license back. I also was resolved not to stop at the Technician level, but get at least my General. Thus, on my 50th birthday, I passed my General

and Advanced Class exams (including 13 WPM code), having passed my Novice and Technician a few months previously.

With my new Ticket, I tried to locate the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club. I had heard that they met at Petrie's on a Monday night. Thus, for the next few months, I went to Petrie's and waited. Finally after a few months, a group of Hams came in, had a few drinks, and then sat down for dinner.

At this point, I met N9EZF. We often sat together, had a burger and discussed Amateur Radio. On one occasion, about 15 members showed up. We sat at a long table, discussed Ham Radio, when someone brought up the fact that the Club had not had elections for several years. Someone made a motion to keep all the current officers; the motion was seconded, and passed by voice vote.

It was apparent that this group was only interested in the social aspect of Amateur Radio. Doug and I discussed this problem and decided there had to be something else to Amateur Radio beside social meetings.

At this point, Doug and I decided to do something about the problem. We decided not to do anything to aggravate the Club (like form a separate Club), but to focus on something the Club would never think about doing. **WE THEN DECIDED TO HOLD CLASSES FOR PROSPECTIVE HAMS.**

The format for the classes was simple. Each week, a fellow Ham would present a topic, like Circuit Theory. He would have a backup, who would take the class and a new topic the following week. We did this for several years and graduated many new hams including KF9GF (now a SK).

In my discussions with Doug, I proposed a MODEL for a Radio Club. The MODEL was a pie wherein each slice represented a different aspect of Ham Radio, like:

- Weather Spotting
- DX
- Field Day
- WI QSO Party
- Repeater

Each aspect of Ham Radio represented a Slice Of The Pie and all slices together made a Whole Pie. (Or a whole or solid Club.)

In the following years, several Hams got together, decided to write a Constitution and Bylaws, and hold elections. (Please note, I was not part of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club at the

time). When elections were held, a new group of officers were elected, and at that point all previous officers **WALKED OUT AND CLAIMED OWNERSHIP OF THE EXISTING REPEATER.**

In the next few years, the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club grew in membership. Additionally, a group of us got together, purchased a new repeater and obtained a frequency pair. The repeater was setup at K9IA's house on Martin Road. The Repeater Association (as the owners were called) vowed to keep the Repeater open to all and keep ownership within the contributing members. In this way, should the Club decide to disband, ownership could not be disputed.

Over the past several years, the Club has prospered, activities have increased and the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club has become the idol of many Clubs in the Fox River Valley.

- We have taken first place in the WI QSO party and Field Day over the last few years.
- We now own a Emergency Communications Van.
- We have a command station set up at the Red Cross for emergency purposes.
- We are active in ARES.
- Etc

In the past few months, I reevaluated my original MODEL of a PIE. It occurred to me that a better MODEL would be a BICYCLE WHEEL. Both are round and make a complete circle. However, in one case (the PIE) it is only complete when all pieces are in place.

In the BICYCLE WHEEL MODEL, each spoke represents an aspect of Amateur Radio. However, in the case of the BICYCLE WHEEL MODEL, as you remove spokes, the BICYCLE WHEEL BECOMES WEAKER!! Thus, the BICYCLE WHEEL MODEL is perhaps a better representation of a Radio Club.

Given the above thoughts,
Ask not what the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club can do for you, but, what you can do for the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club.

73's
KD9ZP

DATELINE CW

By Ed, KN4Y

Labor to keep alive in your fist that spark of celestial fire – CW.

The weather is cooler and I should be out in the yard doing fall things, but I have contesting logs to finalize. I remember the old saying; the job is not done until the paperwork is completed. I log the State QSO party and contest contacts with the Write log logging program. The procedure to enter the log in the Logbook of the World is simple after having done it many times. First I go to each contest file and obtain the log in ADIF format. Next using an ARRL program I sign the log. The ARRL program converts the log into a TQSL format I can e-mail to the ARRL to be entered into the Logbook of the World. Not being a computer person this is all hocus pocus to me. It all works as long as I follow the instructions. I am sending my last log, which is the Illinois QSO party, when I hear the roar of Gator's four-by-four down shifting coming off the main road.

I check the cooler and pantry and see the supplies are low but will have to do. I hear Gator's truck slide up to the recycled creosoted railroad tie. I yell, "Come in Gator." He comes in and flops down in the operating chair. He turns on the radio already tuned to the 30-meter county hunters CW net. I, out of curiosity ask, "What are you doing?" "Turning on your radio." I pop Gator on top the head, "I can see that Dufus, but why?"

"Well, you were bitching about not getting many Big Rig contacts. I was listening to the scanner and heard a big rig driver announce QRV so I ran over here to let you know he was running." I listen and sure enough he is in Jackson county Alabama. I need that county and I work him and log the contact. "Thanks Gator, since I do not hear many Big Rig drivers on the CW net anymore I just about have given up on getting the Big Rig award endorsed CW." "How many you got?" I go to the computer and check my award summary list. "I got 531 Big Rig contacts." Gator gets two 807's, "You will be several hundred years old before you get that award." I take a long swig, "Yes, Gator, you are right." "What do we need to do to get more Big Rig operators on CW." "Free Beer." "Gator!" "Well you asked." Gator is laughing as he gets to

more 807's. I wonder if anyone updates the Big Rig driver list at:

http://countyhunter.com/big_rig_drivers.html.

"Dude did you hear that on the CW net." "What?" "Two stations were talking at the same time." "That Gator is because neither CW station is using break-in keying." Gator looks at me, "Seems I remember Al saying his transceiver is capable of receiving signals during transmission spacing intervals."

"Yes, I think full break-in is available on all new transceivers." "Why don't everyone use full break-in?" "Probably many operators do not do enough CW to think about it, we need to mention it on the net sort of like a like public service announcement. Gator what is the Q-signal for can you work break-in." "That be QSK." That is correct, now get two more 807's."

"Sorry Dude my pager just went off, I have customers waiting and must depart." Gator is out door and soon roaring off through the canopy roads. I see no squirrels running to the trees. Where did I put that left over Halloween candy? I notice a note to myself; do not forget the ARRL Sweepstakes CW contest and the CQ Worldwide CW DX contest. I look at the clock, dang, almost missed my nap.

DIARY OF A Dxer

By KB9KEG

Our story begins today of a well-grounded ham operator that is pursuing his lifelong goal, working DX!!! The time is 4:15am local time and he turns on the lights in the radio shack, turns on the radio, and hits the wake up button of the N1MM logger program and the DXA real-time program.

K7C!!! ON 160 meters!!! And he can hear them!!!

Well for those who are not informed on K7C, it is a DXEXPEDITION on the Kure Island Atoll in the Pacific Ocean, among the Midway Island Chain.

- First, of all it is very rare for anyone to venture out there and activate the island because the trip takes 7 days on the boat.
- Second, this became the first DX the ham has ever heard on 160meters!
- Third, even though the DXEXPEDITION was heard, he could not get through and make a contact. Oh well, perhaps another year.

But all is not lost, because this breakthrough in hearing the exotic DX on 160 meters, I do believe, is because of the antenna that he has put into the trees.

It is called the KB9OFM inverted “V” antenna for 80 meters. The apex is up at about 45’, and the ends of the antenna are about 10’ – 15’ up off the ground. I will make a diagram of this antenna at a future date for all to see.

On a side note, the Solar Flux Index Numbers were:

SFI=75, A=15, K=2

So the numbers were not too bad, but the A (absorption in the atmosphere) was high. But I did get to work K7C once (I hope) on 80 meters CW and once on 40 meters CW. I also managed to work KH9/W0CN on Wake Island on 80 meters CW also. Not too shabby for the bottom of the sunspot cycle.

73 For now and many good DX to all of you,
Kb9keg Randy Grunewald

Field Day Results

In 2A Category in Wisconsin (1st)

“GREAT JOB PEOPLE”

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	W9EBV	9,740	2A	2,183	2	N9NE	WI	28	Fond Du Lac ARC
2	N9AW	6,220	2A	1,473	2	W9LR	WI	16	W/K ARC of Greater Milwaukee
3	N9VA	4,120	2A	1,086	2	N9ENR	WI	12	LeFrog
4	W9FK	3,864	2A	1,140	2		WI	14	West Allis Radio Amateur Club
5	W9ZL	3,582	2A	743	2	AB9IO	WI	67	Fox Cities ARC
6	W9MQB	2,598	2A	534	2		WI	15	Tri Cty ARC
7	KC9KQ	1,806	2A	285	2		WI	25	Hidden Valleys ARC & UW-Platteville ARC
8	W9NG	1,482	2A	397	2		WI	17	Tri-Cty Repeater Assn
9	KA9PKK	420	2A	185	2		WI	8	St Croix Valley Radio Amateurs

How we placed Nationally

In 2A Category (8th)

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	W9CA	13,154	2A	3,501	2	N9BR	IL	25	CorTek RA
2	W6KB	12,058	2A	3,936	2	N6CT	SF	27	Redwood Empire DX Assn
3	W1NVT	11,130	2A	3,629	2	W1PU	VT	23	Radio Amateurs of Northern Vermont
4	K0GQ	10,142	2A	2,785	2	AB0WA	MO	19	Raytown ARC
5	W5NC	10,140	2A	2,998	2	N5NXS	STX	52	Northwest ARS
6	W4TE	10,042	2A	3,390	2	W4KJ	GA	8	Buckhead Contest Club
7	NG5M	9,896	2A	2,927	2	K5UZ	AR	25	Batesville ARC/ NCAARS
8	W9EBV	9,740	2A	2,183	2	N9NE	WI	28	Fond Du Lac ARC

All Categories Overall Nationally (39th)

39	W9EBV	9,740	2A	2,183	2	N9NE	WI	28	Fond Du Lac ARC
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2005
FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
CHRISTMAS PARTY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11TH
Pier 15 Supper Club
Cocktails 5pm
Dinner at 6pm
Cost \$15.00 per Person

I would like to invite everyone to the 2005 Christmas Party this year. The cost will be \$15.00 per person, which includes Dinner, Door Prizes. On the menu will be Baked Chicken, Tenderloin Tips and Noodles, and possibly a third Entrée. Included with this will be all the trimmings plus Salad, Vegetables, Potato, and Desert.

As in the past, we ask that you bring a White Elephant Gift which will be included in the ever so popular round robin gift exchange, For those of you who are wondering what this, I guess you will just have to experience it to know what it is. We ask that the gift be at least \$5.00 or more as you wish.

I hope that all our newest members and their wives can attend, as this is a fun time and a time to reflect on the past years accomplishments. Along with those who have pasted on, and their accomplishments to the Amateur Radio Community. We will also hand out the “Ham of the Year” award also. There have been many people in our club that deserves this award, but unfortunately only one person can receive it.

Please contact me, Louie Simon (KB9VQM) at 926-9789, or louiej@charter.net with your reservation.

HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THERE