

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 7 ISSUE 10

OCTOBER 2007

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

Upcoming Events

Section Emergency Test (SET)

The SET is scheduled for Saturday, October 6. Many of our members are also members of our County ARES/RACES Team and will be participating in this exercise. The SET is designed to provide an opportunity for ARES/RACES Team members to practice their emergency communications and message handling skills. One of the goals of the exercise this year is to pass messages to the Wisconsin EOC in Madison using as many different modes of operation as possible. So we will be using FM on the 440 MHz linked repeater system; SSB on HF bands; digital modes (for e-mail) on the two meter band and possibly some other modes. Another important aspect of the SET is to establish communications with surrounding counties in a regional net. This will occur on two meters and 440 MHz. ARES/RACES Team members should expect to be alerted sometime Saturday morning.

October 8th Meeting Program

Dick Engle, of Amateur Electronic Supply in Milwaukee, will be on hand to share some of the latest and greatest new ham gear with us.

JOTA

The Annual Boy Scouts of America JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) event is scheduled for Saturday, October 20. Members of the Club, led by Doug Schultz N9EZF, will be providing an opportunity for cub and boy scouts to communicate with their peers around the country and the world via ham radio during this event.

October Meeting

The next meeting of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club will be held on Monday, October 8th at 7 pm at Moraine Park Technical College Room O-103.

From the President - KD9ZP

Do you remember where you were on 10/4/57?? I do. I was at Marquette studying for my EE degree and as I recall I was in a classroom on the East side of the college probably taking a Statics or Dynamics class.

On that day, Russia launched Sputnik and suddenly America had a 'wake up' call.

There were several articles in the October issues of QST and CQ. My favorite was the QST article written by W7ETS – it brought back a lot of memories. If you read his article, you get a flavor of Amateur Radio in the late 50's. He talks about the 'beep – beep' from Sputnik and how his parents 'hovered' over him and listened to that sound. Thinking back, I remember hearing that sound and it could not have been from my radio equipment, but, had to be University's radio station. I had received my Tech+ license and was 'locked' into 6 Meters. I had a 6 Meter (only) 50 MHZ to 54 MHZ receiver and a tube transmitter with crystals.

If you read the article, John talks about how Sputnik used 20.005 MHZ and fortunately, it was close to WWV which use 20.000 MHZ so he could reference his S-40 Hallicrafter's general coverage receiver which drifted as it warmed up. He also talked about the 90+ minute orbit.

Today, Hallicrafter is an antique and exists only in some of our memories and a few antique collectors. There are dozens of satellites up there and we all take them for as a way of life and don't even give them a second thought. And, who has a transceiver that needs 'warm up'.



Now, on another subject. About several weeks ago, I happened to hear a 'Joe Streeter' on Wisconsin Public Radio talking about a new book out called 'Private Solders'. It is written by Captain Benjamin Buchholz and chronicles a year in Iraq of the Wisconsin 2-127th National Guard. It includes interviews of Iraq civilians and many photographs of the day-to-day life of the 127th.

Now what makes the book interesting is that one of the photographers was Staff Sergeant Joseph Streeter, a Fond du Lac native, and a past member of the Fond du Lac Amateur Club – AA9TV. Small world.

73's de KD9ZP

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, Inc.

Minutes of September 10, 2007, Meeting

Vice President Louie Simon called the meeting to order at 7:02PM in Room O-102 at MPTC.. We then had introduction of club members and guests attending the meeting. Louie asked if everyone had read the minutes from the August, 2007 meeting that were published in the newsletter. Jack Heil made a motion to accept the minutes as published and Lloyd Vandervort seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Steve Smith reported the following balances:

Truck Fund	.....\$163.58
Repeater Fund	.....\$1,064.55
Emergency Services Fund	.....\$309.68
General Use Fund	.....\$1,867.65
Petty Cash	.....\$25.00
Savings	.....\$25.00
Total Net Worth	.....\$3,455.46

The board of directors directed Steve to take out a 1-Yr. CD for \$1500 which pays 4.85% interest. (This has been done.) Steve also listed the bills that have been paid from Field Day, the picnic, the Brat Fry and training activities:

Picnic (Meat)	.....118.42
Picnic (buns)	.....13.69
Cooker & Roaster	.....73.48
Aluminum Foil (for wrapping)	.....23.28
Gas for Truck	.....48.72
Tech & General ARRL Manuals	.....187.10

Jack Heil made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report and Jeff Bechner seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote.

Brat Fry

Louie Simon reported that the Brat Fry was very successful because we pre-cooked the brats in the turkey cooker this which saved us about \$1.00/ lb on brats and then we found a lower cost source for the burger patties. It was

decided that the soda and chips that was left over from the brat fry would be donated to the Red Cross since they can't be stored over the winter. Thanks to all who helped with the Brat Fry!

Old business

Vice President Louie Simon brought up the picnic and thanked Dave Witt for roasting the corn at the picnic.

New Business

Jack Heil then reported that the club would be holding Technician and General training classes on Sept. 22-23 at UWFDL.

Doug Schultz reported that the club has been approached about participating in the *Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air* by the Bay Lakes Council JOTA coordinator Brian Long of Appleton. It will be held on October 20-21. If we can set a couple of stations in the truck at the UW-FDL campus on Sat. October 20th we should be able to take care of any scouts who want to participate. We will need 3-4 operators for about 4 hours. It was decided that our club would participate. Volunteers should contact Doug Schultz.

Randy Grunewald explained the NEWDXA organization and the purpose of this DX organization.

Jeff Bechner received first place in the Oklahoma DX Association contest in the CW-only Class this year.

Louie Simon then explained the rules for the fox hunt that was planned after the meeting. Steve Smith showed first and second place prizes for the winners of the fox hunt. The prizes were donated by Vern Diegel, KB9EME.

Lloyd Vandervort made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Dave Witt seconded the motion. The motion passed on a voice vote to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by
Acting Secretary Doug Schultz N9EZF*

Equipment For Sale

A reminder to all that the Club Web Site includes a "For Sale" section, where members can post items they want to sell, with full descriptions and prices. If you have not checked this out lately you might be surprised at what you will find there. Go to www.fdlhams.org and click on the spinning "For Sale" button. If you have an item you want to sell, contact Louie Simon to have it included on the site.

New Members

We welcome this new member:

Joe Lauber KC9MDY

**For those of you who are keeping score, we now have
64 members in the Club, up from 42 in 2006.**

Training Classes

Technician Class Program



Colleen Gouin
KC9MEI



David Kick
KC9MEK



Dustin Kick
KC9MEL



Larry Temperino
KC9MEM



Robert Van Rotz, Jr.
KC9MEJ
(Robert did not take the class,
but came in for the exam on
Sunday and passed.)

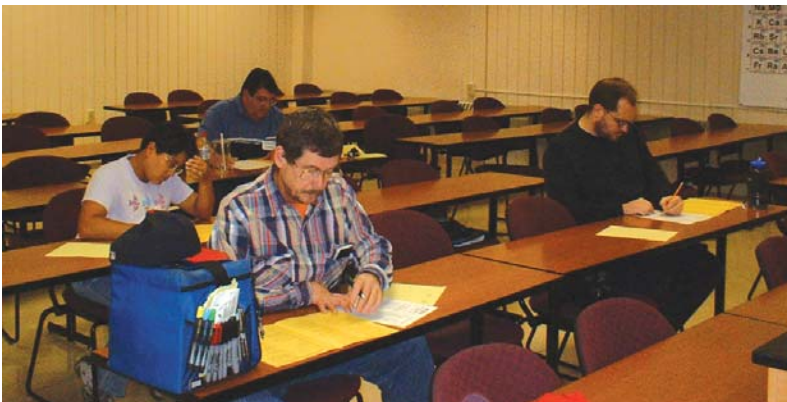
General Class Program



Robert Pendergast N5JYW
stopped in to audit the
General program.



We only had two students in the General Training Class – Rick Ericksen KC9LFK and Joyce Keyes KC9KIJ. Joyce passed her General exam on Sunday. Rick came up just a little short, but put forth a valient effort.



This time we hosted both Technician and General programs simultaneously! Instructors were Jack Heil, Doug Schultz, Don Kroes, Peter Fox, Gene Olig and Steve Smith. Kudos to Jack Heil for working his buns off to complete the PowerPoint General Class training materials in time for the program. Louie Simon stopped by on Sunday to help with the exam session.

Photos: (Upper Left) Exam session. It's "do or die" now! (Upper right) Peter Fox taught the Technician 'Antennas & Propagation' session. (Left) Jack Hiel is right at home (almost literally) teaching again in his old classroom at UW-FDL.

Exam Session

The Club sponsored another Exam Session on Saturday, September 15th. VEs (Volunteer Examiners) Doug Schultz, Gene Olig, Don Kroes. Jack Heil and Steve Smith handled the exam paperwork. Four aspiring hams took the Technician test and three passed. David VanDensen also took the Technician test and passed. Then he announced that he wanted to take the General exam. He

passed that. Then he said, to the surprise of those of us present, that he wanted to take the Extra Class exam! He did and passed that also! (*Editor's note: If I recall he had a perfect score on both the Tech and Extra exams and had only one incorrect answer on the General exam!*) According to Doug, this is the first time that anyone has passed all three exams in Fond du Lac at one sitting.



Joe Lauber KC9MDY
Fond du Lac



Nicholas Pierce KC9MEA
West Bend
Nicholas is the son of William Pierce
NC5B, and is 11 years old.



Roger Palmer KC9MDZ
Appleton

Dave VanDensen sent us a note:

Thank you for your letters dated 9-20-07 and 9-21-07, and for the telephone call advising me of my new call. Well, I guess I have the privilege of being one of the few to be able to pass all of the exams in one sitting. I have been a SWL (short wave listener) for over 30 years and had always wanted to become a ham, but always ran short on time, so this has fulfilled a dream of mine. I know that older amateurs are upset with the licensing requirements from no code to the ability to take all tests at a single sitting as past requirements have prevented this, and I could tell that not all of your VEs were ecstatic about this, but I do understand it. However, I have no intention of turning the amateur bands into a CB band, and look forward to being a good operator.

I have successfully sold all my shortwave receiving equipment on ebay and will be putting together an HF station soon, and possibly 2 meters in the near future. I would have liked to stay longer and asked some questions – because while passing the exams is one issue, experience in operating a station is quite another – but I had to pick up my son and get him to his destination.

Thank you for allowing me to come and take the exams at your club location, and for your time donated to the public for these exam sessions.



David VanDensen
AB9PM

—David Van Densen AB9PM

Ham Shack? No! Brat & Burger Shack!



Gene Olig and Dave Witt took upon themselves the task of cleaning up and painting (two coats, mind you!) the Brat Fry stand down by Midwest Shooter's Supply outside of Lomira. Compare the finished product above with how it looked in early September. They also had an outside outlet installed so that there is handy place to plug in the trailer – and the Yellow Banana. The outlet is GFCI protected and on a separate breaker so as to relieve the interior circuits from the occasional overloads we've had in the past. Nice job, guys!



This new outlet is around the back of the Brat Shack.

Fox Hunt

The Club had a Fox Hunt following the September meeting. Five teams participated. Several guests and newcomers to ham radio rode with our members. Ed Beltz was the 'fox' and was hiding on the FDL County Fairgrounds, behind some metal bleachers. He had a mobile antenna (which was mounted on the rear of his van) laid backwards and down, so it was pointing toward the ground. His signal bounced off the bleachers and was spread out 'far and wide'...confusing the hunter's direction finding equipment. After almost an hour of searching, the first team to locate the 'fox' consisted of Peter Fox and Justin Buell. (The irony of Fox finding the 'fox' first has not been lost on the rest of us!) Second was the team of Steve Smith and Club visitor Paul Bleuel. Steve reports that Paul suggested, after only their second reading, that the 'fox' might be at the Fairgrounds. Steve thought 'more readings' should be taken before leaping to any conclusions. Next time, if there is one, Steve says he's going with Paul's hunches! Third in was Andy Martin. Then, at Dave Witt's suggestion the rest of the hunters abandoned the search. The hunt was both fun and a great learning experience. The skills used are useful in search and rescue operations and in locating 'illegal transmitters' when they become a problem.

Tower Available

We received a phone call from Mrs. Julie Hellwig last week. She reports that they own a home at 307 Breister in Fond du Lac (Breister runs north from behind the dental clinic located on the corner of Johnson and Wilson Streets.) The house was formerly owned by a ham radio operator. The tower is a standard 'TV Antenna tower'. There are two antennas located on top of the tower. One is a simple ground plane antenna, the other is a vertical of some sort, maybe 2 or 6 meters.

They are selling the house and think that having the tower removed might help make the home more attractive. The tower and antennas are free for the taking if you are willing to remove the tower.

If you are interested, you can contact Mrs. Hellwig at 922-5682.