

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 7 ISSUE 6

JUNE 2007

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

Upcoming Events

Field Day

Scheduled for June 23rd and 24th, Field Day is a test of our ability to set up and operate ham radio stations “in the field” independent of the commercial power grid.

Much pre-planning goes into preparing for Field Day so that things go smoothly during the event. Monday’s Club meeting will be devoted to discussions of our past Field Day activities and in planning for this year’s event.

We have been able to achieve First Place in the 2A Category for the past four years among Wisconsin Clubs and groups entering that category (there are many different Field Day categories) and will be working to make it five years in a row this year! Needless to say, there are many other Clubs who would like to win that honor and they will all be working to “knock us off” this year.

Our success, as always, depends on the support and cooperation of our Club members. Please attend Monday’s meeting and “sign up” to help at Field Day this year.

A videotape of previous year’s Field Day activities will be shown at the meeting.

Field Day Planning

The Big Event is fast approaching! And we are working to be ready.

The event will again be held in the north parking lot of the University of Wisconsin, Fond du Lac.

Two new tents have been purchased, with dark skins to reduce the amount of light inside the tent during the day –so operators will be more comfortable.

Plans call for a CW tent, a SSB tent and, for the first time, a separate GOTA tent (that’s “Get On The Air” where non-hams can actually operate a ham rig and experience the wonder of ham radio directly).

There will be a “shelter tent” outside the main food tent that will allow people to gather and eat or converse (or both) while sheltered from sun and/or rain.

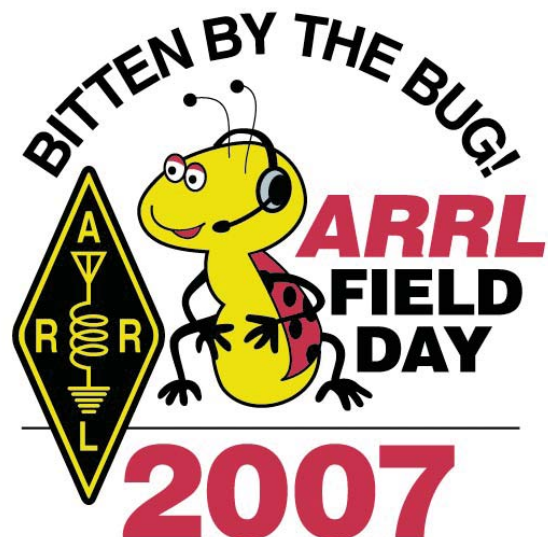
And, our Mobile Communications Van will be open for public inspection. (See page 4)

Letters of invitation are being sent to public officials and all county hams who are not already Club members. A free brat and soda are being offered as an incentive to get non-members to visit and see “what we’re all about.”

And, of course, articles about Field Day and our participation will be sent to the local news media.

June Meeting

The June Meeting of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club will be held on Monday, June 11th at 7 pm at Moraine Park Technical College Room O-103.



FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, Inc.

Minutes of May 14, 2007, Meeting

The May 14, 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 April minutes as published in the club newsletter. There were no corrections or additions voiced. Ed Beltz made a motion to approve; second was made by Lloyd Vandervort and motion passed on voice vote.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Steve Smith reported the following balances:

Truck Fund	\$305.33
Repeater Fund	\$1,064.55
Emergency Services Fund	\$309.68
General Use Fund	\$1,008.91
Petty Cash	\$25.00
Savings	\$25.00
Total Net Worth	\$2,738.47

Bills needing approval to pay – Truck plates approximately \$120, general liability insurance \$250, truck insurance \$577 for one year. Motion was made by Ed Beltz to approve bills presented. Motion was seconded by Dan Vandekolk. Motion was made by Doug Schultz to approve treasurer's report; motion was seconded by Andy Martin. Motion passed on voice vote.

Fund Raisers

The first brat fry will be the first Friday, Saturday and Sunday in June at Lomira. Sign-up sheet was passed around for volunteers to work. The next brat fry will be August 11 at Lomira.

Field Day

The Field Day Cookout will be at the Olig's on Monday, June 25.

New Business

None.

Old Business

None

The program for tonight will be on antennas, presented by KB9IE and W9OP.

There being no further business to discuss, Doug Schultz made a motion to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.; motion seconded by John Meyst.

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

ARRL CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Level 1 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course EC-001

Senior Hams are encouraged to participate!

Description

Introduction to Amateur Radio Emergency Communications. A basic course to raise awareness and provide additional knowledge and tools for any emergency communications volunteer. This course has 23 lesson units, is expected to take approximately 25 hours to complete over an 8-week period, and earns 1.5 CEUs.

The Program Fee is \$45.

Brat Fry June 1st, 2nd & 3rd at Lomira

Thanks to Louie Simon, Gene & Dottie Olig, Jack & Marj Heil, Neal & MarJean Buck, Ed & Karen Beltz, Dennis Paulin, Doug Schultz, Dave Witt, Peter Fox, Andy Martin, Ed Schumacher, Tom Gabel and Steve Smith for their help at the Brat Fry.

The recent improvements to the Brat Shack area--added gravel, a raised platform, and drainage pipe--helped us stay high and dry during the inevitable June rains.

And we had our share of rain on Saturday and Sunday, which affected our sales...especially the Saturday deluge, which happened right at lunch time. As you can see by the photos, the rain pooled up around the Brat Shack and at

one point we began to wonder if we were in danger of being flooded out .

Sunday's rain came after lunch, fortunately, but it dumped a lot of water on us in a short time, combined with high winds. The storm blew up quickly and we did not have time to take the tents down. The only solution was to 'hold the tents down' manually. As Louie, Ed Schumacher Peter and Steve will attest....that's no easy task!

The good news is that the brats and burgers were very tasty as usual, and all things considered, the Brat Fry was a success and well worth the time invested!



Several of us also made some QSOs from the Club's Communication Van...and QSL cards have been sent to everyone we contacted during the Brat Fry. Amazing how well the new Kenwood 480 SAT works on 20 meters with just a simple mobile antenna! And, wonder of wonders, we even made a couple of contacts in Texas using the new 6 Meter FM radio on 52.525 Mhz. Yep, Texas! Band conditions were extraordinary just before the storm on Saturday.

Mobile Communications Van Upgrades New Radio Gear, Antennas Added



Far left workstation: The new radio on the left is a Six Meter FM transceiver that Steve Smith donated. A dedicated six meter base-loaded whip was also installed. On the right is the (existing) FT-8800R 2-Meter and 70 cm transceiver with cross-band repeater capability.



Second workstation: Three new FT-1802 2-meter radios. These are primarily used to monitor County Sheriff, City PD and City Fire frequencies. All three have been programmed with the same set of surrounding county's public service and amateur radio repeater frequencies. Each radio has a dedicated "whip" antenna mounted on the roof of the Van.



Third workstation: Left is a MURS transceiver, donated by Jack Heil. This rig also has a dedicated base-loaded whip antenna on the roof. At right is the control head of the new Kenwood TS-480 SAT Transceiver. 160 thru 6 meters, all mode. This rig requires an external antenna to operate. There are two antenna connectors and an internal antenna tuner.



Far right workstation: Left is the control head for the 480 SAT. To the immediate right is the 480 SAT Transceiver. Below the 480 is a 16 channel GMRS transceiver donated by Lloyd Vandervort. To the right of it is a Marine Radio with built-in weather alert. (This came in handy at our Brat Fry...the weather alert...we did not need the marine radio, but we came close!) Both the GMRS and Marine Radios have dedicated antennas.

In addition to this gear, a CB radio was installed in the cab of the Van. The purpose of all this new equipment is to expand our ability to communicate during a disaster. Stay tuned...more improvements are in the works.