

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



VOLUME 5 ISSUE 9

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

AUGUST MEETING

The September meeting of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club will be held on Monday, September 12th at MPTC at 7:00 pm in room A-103. A report on the Brat fry of August 19th, 20th and 21st in Lomira will be discussed.

IN THIS ISSUE

September Meeting

Club Officers

August Meeting minutes

Dateline CW

August Brat Fry Results & Comments

Club Officers

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

AUGUST MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Minutes August 8, 2005

The August 8, 2005 meeting was held at Moraine Park Technical College. President Ed Beltz called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Ed asked if there were any additions or corrections to the July minutes as published in the club newsletter. There were no corrections or additions and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Jeff Bechner reported that the ending balance at the July meeting was \$2017.96. Expenses were 348.28, leaving a balance of \$1,669.68. The balance is made up of the truck fund at \$523.18, repeater fund of \$430.68, and the emergency service fund of \$250.35 and general use fund of \$465.47. Motion was made to approve treasurer's report by Louie Simon, seconded by Lloyd Vandervort. Motion passed on voice vote.

Truck: Dave Witt reported on the quest for a special license plate for the truck. He said that he talked with Townsend regarding the plate and was told that there would/should be a bill drafted that would include Amateur Radio to be eligible for special plates (that being the "easiest" route). The truck will be weighed at the truck scale on the way to the Brat Fry or picnic so we have that information for licensing.

Fund Raisers: Louie reported on fund raising. There is a brat fry at Lomira for the 19th, 20th and 21st. Help is needed for Friday.

Education: There possibly will be a General License class held in the fall or winter.

Testing: Doug Schultz reported that there would be testing in September and the first week in December.

Awards: Gene Olig presented Jeff Bechner with County Hunter awards. The QSO Party award received by the FDL Amateur Radio Club was passed around to everyone in attendance. Doug will submit an article and pictures on the QSO party for publicity.

Contesting: Randy Grunewald reported on upcoming contesting, including Lighthouse Contesting.

Membership: Jeff reported that there are 39 paid members and that dues will again be collected in December.

Repeater: There was extensive discussion regarding the repeater. A topographical survey was done on the SMS property and the property on UU and Hwy. 23. This is being considered for a tower and a move for our repeater. A tower will cost about the same as the solar panel that was being considered previously. Various decisions will have to be made regarding the repeater location. Ed Beltz is going to get some information on the property on CTH. UU.

ARES/RACES: Dave Witt reported that there would be a Set offered on October 1st weekend, which is a repeat of last year.

Old Business: Doug Schultz reported that there will be a Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air scheduled for October 15th & 16th. The club van will be used for this at Camp Shagonaby in Calumet and Dennis will operate. Volunteers are welcome!

New Business: Everyone should meet at the deer farm for picnic setup at 2:30 p.m. Cooking will start at 3 p.m. Help is needed with tent setup. Jason is doing signs. Any help will be appreciated in setting up tents.

Ed mentioned that help is needed for the Fond du Lac Labor Day parade. There being no further business to discuss, motion to adjourn was made by Louie Simon, seconded by Lloyd Vandervort. Respectively submitted by Dottie Olig Secretary – K9FDL, FDL Amateur Radio Club

DATELINE CW

By: Ed, KN4Y

**The history of radio is radio itself
The history of CW county hunting, the
individual.**

There are so many State QSO parties and contests with so little time for paper work. The pile of logs to be sent to the ARRL LOTW is growing exponentially. I am about to actually start reducing the logjam when I hear Gators four-by-four barking louder and louder. Oh well, I have good intentions. I turn on the hot plate to heat the boiled peanuts I got in Dixie County when I hear the door open. “Come in Gator, I am heating the boiled peanuts. What’s up?”

Gator is excited and looks disgusted at the same time. “Dude, I heard the FCC is proposing to eliminate Morse Code, tell me I heard wrong.” “Calm down Gator before you have a heart attack. Yes the FCC has published a NPRM to do just that. The FCC is asking for comments but at this stage of the game it is just bureaucratic pimping and soon CW will no longer be a got to do but will be a want to do.” Gator gets a few 807’s. Next he puts a paper towel in a bowl and dips out some of the hot boiled peanuts, “What you mean, want to do?” We sit in silence and eat boiled peanuts stopping only long enough to partake of the 807. We put the empty shells in the bottom half of a bleach container.

“Gator, CW is just one of the modes used by amateur radio operators, like sideband, digital, RTTY, fast scan TV to mention a few. An amateur radio operator who wants to be a CW county hunter will have to learn the code because he wants to be associated with the amateur radio operator elite, not because it is required. See what I mean?” “No, people are not going to learn something they do not need to.” “Gator, you talk a lot on CB with the truckers and high wattage jaws.” “Sure do, what is that to do with CW?” “Stay with me Gator, no license is required and having a CB rig is not required by law, so why do you do it?” “Because I want to; okay Dude you made your point. The Dude will want to participate in CW contests and the CW county hunters net and will learn the code to achieve this goal.” I motion towards the cooler; this talk of no CW is dehydrating. Sometimes it takes a while to get through to a knucklehead.

AUGUST BRAT FRY

By KB9VQM

Gator turns on the two meter rig and we listen to a sexy voice give us the time. "Will this make any changes on repeater activity?" "Probably do away with the CW identifier, no one will be able to copy it." We have a giggle and eat a few more boiled peanuts. "Maybe the truckers will start using the repeaters and give out some environmental reports." "Environmental reports?" "Yes, you know, Smokey Bear Sightings." I throw a peanut at Gator who is laughing hysterically. Gator picks up a registration form off the floor.

"I see you are thinking about going to the Southeast Mini, are you going?" "No Gator, I would like to see the new location this year which is Chattanooga, Tennessee. The dates are Oct 6, 7 & 8, 2005 but I have a schedule conflict." Gator is looking at the places to visit, "I have been to that Ruby Falls and it is a way down happening." "There are a lot of things to do in Chattanooga, and I did want to visit with the CW county hunters." "You mean BS'ing and drinking." "Yes" "Bet Al and Jerry will be there" "Why?" Gator gives me a look that would shock an electric eel. Gator's pager sounds off, "Well Dude I have to get back to the supply depot, see you tomorrow." Gator is off down the road at full speed, all the squirrels have their paws over their ears. Gator will never be a customer for a hybrid vehicle.

I am really excited as this month is the Arkansas QSO party, Gator will want to work Al in Toad Suck and Booger Holler. There is the Tennessee QSO party and, of course, the Texas QSO party and I heard from a reliable source that Norm, W3DYA will be operating mobile. And of course In the Northwest is the Washington State Salmon Run. (You have not lived until you work a Salmon on CW). I better start stocking up on naps, but first I will finish off the boiled peanuts. I shut off the hot plate. A nap is one of the greatest retiree happenings.

Well another year of fundraisers has ended, well at least for Brat Fry's they have. This last one was very successful in terms of monetary returns. The Repeater Association will benefit mostly from this due to the fact the 430 Repeater needs a new home. I would like to see the club benefit also, since our General Fund is starting to run low. There is always the ever-delightful Christmas Party coming up that needs funding also.

We managed to raise \$1,170 from this last brat Fry. The people that were there worked some long and meaningful hours. On that note, I was a little disappointed at the number of people that showed up Friday morning to get things ready. There were two of us, Gene Olig, and myself. Some serious thoughts of "Is this really worth it" went through my head. I made a few phone calls, and people responded positively by coming out and lending a hand.

I wasn't able to pull all the way through the weekend, due to some medical problems, but was very thankful for the fellows that were able to come out and make this all possible.

I would like to thank Gene Olig, Dave Witt, Randy Grunewald, Dennis Paulin, Doug Schulz Jeff Bechner, Dottie Olig, Ed Beltz, and Arron Whittaker.

If I missed someone, it wasn't intentional. But rather, I am grateful for all your help in making this possible.

This has turned out to be one of the best fundraisers this club has seen in awhile. I plan to put in for 2 dates in 2006, so please if you can make arrangements to help at either one, it is appreciated.

Thank You
Louie Simon KB9VQM

