

# FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



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

## Upcoming Events

### New Ham Training

Doug Schultz, Jack Heil, Gene Olig and Steve Smith are working on another Technician Training Program for people interested in becoming hams. The program will be on Saturday, March 24th and Sunday, March 25th with the test being administered after the program concludes on Sunday afternoon. Tell your friends. If you know people who are interested, start encouraging them to “sign up” after the first of the year. Students must purchase and read a copy of the ARRL Technician License Manual before they come to this program. The manual is available through the Club for \$24.95. As you know, no code knowledge is required.

### Christmas Party

The Club's Christmas Party will be held on December 10th at Pier 15 Restaurant in Fond du Lac. (See details in the Club minutes, page 2)

### Communications Van

The Club Communications Van, our “Yellow Banana” and now, the Club “brand”, will be stored for the winter about mid-December. Look for her to be “on the road again” after salting season.

## December Meeting

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

## Election of Officers

Elections were held at the November meeting and the current slate of Officers was re-elected for another term.

Gene Olig KD9ZP, President; Louie Simon KB9VQM, Vice-president; Dottie Olig K9FDL, Secretary; Stephen Smith W9GPI, Treasurer. Dan Vandekolk KC9IGD was elected Sergeant-at-Arms.

## Changes planned for 2007

Your Board of Directors agreed on some changes to Club operating and meeting procedures for 2007.

Committees will be established as follows: Program, Education, Truck, Repeater, Fund Raising, Field Day, Publicity & Recruiting (more are possible, if needed). Each committee will consist of three or four volunteers. A Chairperson and co-chairperson will head the committees and the Chairperson will report the committee's activities at each meeting. The goal is to get more members involved in the Club's activities and decision making processes.

Club meetings will be held to one half hour. The expectation is that the committees, having worked things out in advance of the meeting, will be able to report decisions and actions with a minimum of discussion taking place during the meetings. This will create time at the end of each meeting for a program of interest to the members.

The Program Committee will endeavor to plan programs which will appeal to all interest areas. (Not every time, of course, but over the year there should be a program that will appeal to your specific interest(s)). Initial programs will include: The Global Position System (not APRS, but the system as a whole); DX Activities and QSL handling systems; A Fox Hunt; Towers and Antenna Installations; June will be dedicated to Field Day preparations; July's meeting will be a picnic and brat fry at Gene Olig's home.

The Program Committee would like members to make suggestions as to future programs. Contact Doug Schultz, Chairman.

## Member Profile

# Randy Grunewald KB9KEG

Born in Watertown, Wisconsin, Randy was sandwiched between two sisters. He grew up in Watertown and graduated from Watertown High School. Randy says that from the time he graduated HS until 1989 he “worked at various companies and just made money to pay the bills.” He also found time to marry Beverly in 1988. (They have three children, two girls and one boy.)

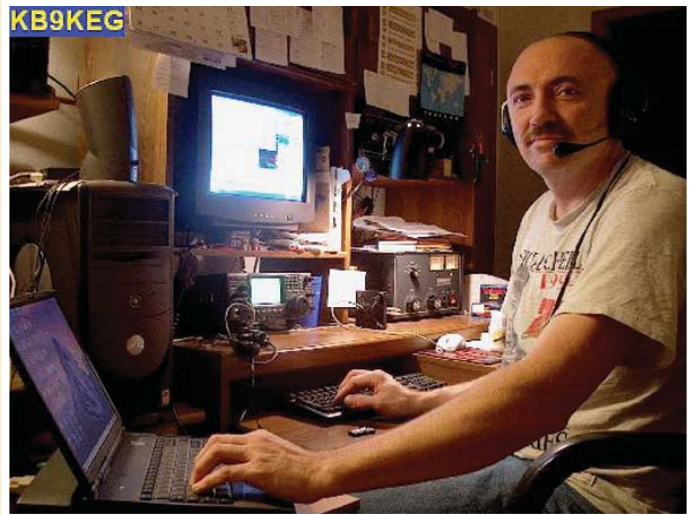
Randy worked for Lindberg in Watertown from 1989 to 1995, then snagged a job with Crown Audio in Elkhart, Indiana. While there he attended a pilot program at the Elkhart HS put on by Vincennes University. The course was basic AC/DC Electronics. Randy says it was a 5 days per week, 3 hours per day program and he “had to learn 200 formulas and all the rest that goes with the course.” He earned complete credits for the course and achieved a 4.0 grade point average while simultaneously working 10 hour days for Crown Audio from 4 p.m. to 2 a.m., four days a week. His stint with Crown Audio lasted from November of 1995 to August of 1996. But then he became homesick for Wisconsin.

The family moved back to Wisconsin in 1996 and Randy began working at Grande Cheese Company in Brownsville. He has just celebrated ten years with the company. Randy lives in North Fond du Lac, has a cabin on Lake Puckaway (near Marquette, WI) and a house in Watertown.

Randy’s interest in amateur radio began in March, 1995, when he started studying for his Technician license. He took the Tech written and 5 wpm code test to qualify for his Technician Plus license at South Milwaukee in April, 1995. Then he went on to earn his Advanced Class license in July and his Extra Class license in August of 1995. (Note that at that time the testing included a 13 wpm code requirement.)

Randy reports that he is “fully equipped” as a ham now with an ICOM 706 MK IIG in the van; an ICOM 746 at home in NFDL (feeding a right angle inverted V up 60' in the air); a Kenwood 870 at Lake Puckaway (feeding a horizontal double delta about 30 plus feet in the air); and an Alinco DX70 in Watertown (feeding an inverted V loop, along with a Cushcraft Yagi MA5B...“not very high off the ground.”)

Most of you know that Randy is really big on ‘contesting’ and is probably the Club’s strongest advocate of that part of our hobby. He earned his DXCC award in 1999 and participates in almost every contest that comes up. (He has been the Club’s ‘total up the scores and submit them to the ARRL’ guy for several years, which is one of the reasons that our test results are both comprehensive and on-time to the ARRL.)



Randy Grunewald in his “shack”

But did you know that Randy is also an ARRL Official Observer; an ARRL Technical Specialist; an ARRL Official Relay Station (traffic mover); an ARRL PSHR (Public Service Honor Roll) operator; and a member of the Brass Pounder’s League? Yep, all of those.

And he likes to hunt and fish. (He has been ‘written up’ in Field & Stream and Outdoor Life magazines.) He is also into astronomy. “Do you have any idea just how big the universe is?” he asks? “Really big,” I reply. “Huge!” he says. And he owns a telescope. *(This is an interest we share. I told him that I only have DVDs of images through some telescopes...but they’re really big telescopes! – Editor)*

He’s also been written up in CQ (August, 2003), although he reports it’s a ‘small article.’ But you will find his name in almost every issue of QST with scores in one contest or another.

Randy also is active in several area nets: The Badger Weather Net, the Badger Emergency Net, the Wisconsin Sideband Net and the Sunday Wisconsin ARES/RACES Net. He has served as net control for all of those nets and is used to handling traffic.

Randy is getting ready for the upcoming ‘Christmas Lights QSO Party’ which runs from mid-December to January 1st. He and some other club members will operate from the bandstand at Lakeside Park (that’s as close as we can get to the Lighthouse these days) during the contest. The object is to work as many other lighthouses and Amateur Radio Lighthouse Society members as possible during the two-week period.

So, keep an ear out for Randy on both VHF and HF. Talk to him on the air and give him another ‘point’ for whatever contest he’s in this week...

# FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## Minutes of November 13, 2006, Meeting

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The November 13, 2006 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 October 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 Jack Heil and motion passed on voice vote.

### Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Steve Smith reported the following balances:

Truck Fund . . . . .	.625.09
Repeater Fund . . . . .	1,064.55
Emergency Services Fund . . . . .	.309.68
General Use Fund . . . . .	1,111.23
Petty Cash . . . . .	.25.00
Savings . . . . .	.25.00
Total Net Worth . . . . .	\$3,110.55

Motion was made to approve treasurer's report by Jack Heil, seconded by Lloyd Vandervort. Motion passed on voice vote.

### Introductions & New Members

Introductions went around as three new license holders (class members who tested) joined the FDLARC tonight. They are, Joyce Keyes KC9KIJ, Karen Beltz KC9KII and Ed Schilling KC9KIP. (*John Meyst KC9KIL, Paul Taddey KC9KIO and Bruce Monroe KC9KIN from the class have also joined the Club.*) Congratulations to all!

### Truck

Discussion was held as to canceling the truck insurance for winter. Motion was made to continue the insurance for the full year by Ed Beltz, seconded by Lloyd Vandervort. Motion passed on a voice vote.

### Repeater

Lloyd Vandervort reports everything in good operating order.

### Red Cross

No report at this time.

### ARES/RACES

There will be no special session on the IS-700. Regular meeting will be held 11/27/2006 at Moraine Park. (*This meeting was later cancelled. The Holiday Parade will 'take the place of the meeting.'*)

### Tech Classes

Steve Smith reported that 11 people passed the tech test. It was determined that ads, word of mouth and the ARRL

website were all instrumental in bringing people to the classes. It was suggested that another training session and testing be held Saturday, March 24 and Sunday, March 25. (*Planning will go forward on that basis.*)

### Old Business

Saturday, December 2nd, 5 p.m. is the Christmas Parade. The list is set and parking lot order is set. There are about 62 entries and volunteers are asked to show up at 3 p.m.

### Christmas Party

The Club Christmas party will be on December 10, at Pier 15. Cocktails at 5:30, dinner at 6. Please bring a \$5 gift. Motion to invite the newly licensed techs was made by Dennis Paulin and seconded by Louie Simon. Motion passed on a voice vote.

### New Business

Doug Schultz announced that December 9 would be the next VE testing session for all license grades.

### Ham of the Year Award

There was discussion regarding selection of "Ham of the Year." Motion was made to keep the traditional means of selection by Dennis Paulin, seconded by Louie Simon. Motion passed on a voice vote.

*Respectfully submitted*  
—Dottie Olig, Secretary, K9FDL

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## ARES/RACES

There will be no ARES/RACES meeting in December!

A final reminder that each member of the Fond du Lac County ARES/RACES Team is required to complete two training programs before the end of the year: IS-100 and IS-700. Here is the status to date:

21 of 25 have completed IS-100 Training  
13 of 25 have completed IS-700 Training

Remember, Wisconsin ARES/RACES rules require completion of these programs in order to qualify for your 2007 Credentials.

Both programs are available on-line at:  
<http://www.training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>

# Technician Training Class

Saturday, November 4th & Sunday, November 5th



Tech Class Graduates: (L to R) Paul Taddey KC9KIO; Joyce Keyes KC9KIJ; Valerie Hotzfeld KC9KIQ; Valerie's daughter, Natalie Harding KC9KIR (from Burlington, WI); Bruce Monroe KC9KIN; Carol Delwicke KC9KIM (from Greenville, WI); Ed Schilling KC9KIP; Karen Beltz KC9KII. Not available when the photo was taken: John Meyst KC9KIL, Jenna Saul KC9KIK and Jay Gross KC9KJD (Jay held KA9MST in the past and is trying to get his old call back under the Vanity Call program.)



Most of the Club's VEs came in to help with the paperwork required for the exams. Shown here (L to R) are Randy Grunewald KB9KEG, Dave Witt WD9W and Doug Schultz N9EZF. *NOTE: Your photographer apologizes for not taking more photos! Instructors for the program were Doug Schultz, Gene Olig, Jack Heil and Steve Smith.*

# License Exam Session

Saturday, December 9th



Congratulations to the new Generals! Paul Taddey KC9KIO (left) passed the Code Test on Saturday. (Paul had earlier passed his written General exam). Ed Schilling KC9KIP (right) passed both the code test and General exam on Saturday. Both Paul and Ed had recently joined the Club.



Paperwork is a big part of the Amateur Radio license exam process. Here VEs Gene Olig, Dave Witt and Doug Schultz process candidate's exams. (Not shown: Steve Smith gave the CW exams on Saturday.)



We had a bit of a surprise at the Exam Session...five students from Beloit College came in to take the Technician Test. Three of them passed the test. Shown, left to right, Erika Curry-Elrod, Andrew Dautermann, Oroku D. Busia, Ryan Seelback and Gordon Merchut.