



The Feedline

“W9JZ – SERVING AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1933”

VOL. 23 – No.7

July 2002

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS, etc.

Our club meetings are at the Red Cross building in Madison, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue. Regular meetings start with the business meeting at 7:30 PM, followed by the program unless otherwise noted. They are subject to change.

Saturday morning “Zilch” locations

The Eastside Zilches (ham breakfasts) are at 8:00 AM at the Green Lantern on the west end of Siggelkow Road in McFarland. The Westside Zilch is at 10:30 AM at Village Green at 7508 Hubbard Ave in Middleton. See you there.

Madison Area InfoNet: Thursday evenings on 147.15 at 8 PM; 146.76 is the backup frequency. Traffic and check-ins are welcome.

Madison Ham Web Page: Website is at <http://www.qsl.net/flarc> Keep checking the links page for new goodies!

Meeting dates and programs

July 16: K9IMM—Windows Based Contest Logging Software
 August 20: Fox Hunt
 September 17: K9REO--TBA
 October 15: K9MA—Contesting Techniques
 November 19: KB9LIE—Radio Vacation to St. Pierre & Miquelon/Budget Presentation
 December 3: Holiday Party
 December 17: Nominations

Prez Sez:

Hello, everyone. You will probably notice some changes with this edition of The Feedline. Last month was the last issue to be done by Gari NG9V, and Tim WO9U will be filling in for a short time. I am looking for someone to take over as newsletter editor. If you have the means and the interest in taking on this project, let me know. If we do not have someone in place by September, then we will probably drop down to putting out a newsletter every other month, and perhaps may only do email versions. I know this is not what you want, but if we do not have an editor, then there is simply no way to carry on with a monthly newsletter.

Now for some good news. FLARC did take part in Field Day! Chuck WA9ACI arranged for us to use the grounds at the American Red Cross, and he acted as our Field Day chair, coordinating the event. We had 3 stations running, each operating on ALL bands! The

first thing I noticed when I got out of my car was, well, all I could hear was people talking on the radios! All 3 stations were running on batteries or solar power! This was a first during my time with FLARC! Chuck provided a generator, but no-one chose to use it. Our participants all operated in the true spirit of Field Day. They proved they could set up portable/mobile stations, be frequency agile, make contacts, and not disturb the neighbors! Our operators did us proud, and I want to thank all of you who participated, and everyone who just stopped by to see what was happening and encourage our operators. I have to admit, this was one of the most enjoyable Field Days I have ever attended.

Dave NO9M and I have been talking about having a FLARC picnic. We have traditionally had a pot luck at Field Day, but since we did things differently this year, we were not able to do that. So Dave and I are working on a date, and when we get the details worked out, we will let you know!

If you missed last month’s meeting, you missed hearing John Welty W9ISC do an enthusiastic presentation on PSK-31. John really enjoys this mode, and you could tell. John brought along a door prize, a PSK-31 interface kit, which found a home with George W9WUU. Congratulations, George! John left some handouts with me for building your own interface, and I will bring copies to the July meeting in case anyone is interested. July’s program will be given by Ted K9IMM on Windows Based Contest Logging Software. If contesting is your thing, then you will want to hear what Ted has to say about various software available.

So with that, enjoy your summer, and keep an eye out for more info on the picnic. I should have more information by the July meeting. We also have a few items left for our monthly raffle, and there will be some discussion about Field Day. Don’t miss out! I hope to see you there.

73, Mary KF9ZB

FLARC Treasurer Report

6/18/2002

Balance

Balance of \$3,901.58 Members - 68

Marylynn - K9SAM

Why do we say that something is out of whack?
 What’s a “whack”?

WANTED

I'm seeking access to old call book(s), in the 1970-1980 period. Trying to find out more about when the Lakeshore Halls Association Radio Club on the UW-Madison campus abandoned the W9GOC callsign - - I'm hoping to identify the license trustee at that time, in hopes of getting the real information. Thanks,

Frederick, W9GOC@arrl.net

A note from the guy playing editor this month:

NG9V, Gari has stepped down from his post as editor of The Feedline, and I'm picking up the mouse this month and taking care of it. As Mary said, we do need a new editor for The Feedline. You need a computer. I bet you have one. I think Gari used WordPerfect, I'm using Microsoft Word. Use that with which you feel most comfortable. It's not as easy as tweaking your plate and tune knobs, but I'll bet it'll take less time than figuring out a new HT. Gari has done an excellent job with this publication - please give him your thanks when you see him next. 73 - Tim, WO9U

As we've done in the last several meetings, we have a few items to raffle at the next couple meetings. We ask a \$1.00 donation for a ticket, you must be present to win, as you get to pick your prize from the following items. One item will be given away each month until they are all gone!

(2) Micronta Range Doubler/43-range Multitesters

Personal Code Explorer Software w/manual & interface

VE Program

Tim, WO9U, is the VE Team Chairman. The exams are given at SPACE PLACE on South Park Street on the FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH.

Keep in touch with the ham action in Wisconsin by going to the Wisconsin section website: <http://www.eboard.com/w9ixg>

73, Don

On the weekend of September 21, 22 there will be a Technician Class License at Space Place. To register, send email to n9uw@sal.wisc.edu.

Buck Nite: Winner - NO9M!

Checker for the WAS Award: NG9V. When you are ready, just contact Gari, he'll be glad to do it, 608-221-2022 or n9v@arrl.net

Reflections on the FLARC Field Day, 2002

By W9GOC / Frederick

As one newly returned to Amateur Radio, I was certainly looking forward to this year's FLARC FD exercise. I didn't have a chance to participate in Field Day back in the olden days when I was a part of the W9GOC radio club at the UW campus; the fourth weekend in June found all of us college kids scattered off to our respective homes / summer activities. So, FD 2002 was my first Field Day as a participant.

My son, KC9ASI / William, is the one who gets credit for getting the old man playing radios again and inveigling other family members to sit for their license exams. He was looking forward to Field Day this year, too, but for some unexplained reason the Radio Shack Corporation hasn't declared Field Day weekend a national corporate holiday - - so he was manning the store instead of stringing antennae thru the tree branches.

So, part of the reason I was going to be a Field Day participant was as a surrogate for KC9ASI - - trying to learn enough to not impede the team effort for next year.

And then the talk at the FLARC meetings started to sound like FLARC wasn't going to be even doing Field Day this year! Dreaars!!! Something about "Can't use Blackhawk this year... no Field Day chairperson ... all the good sites are already taken ... nobody seems to want to do Field Day this year..." Humph!

Fortunately, WA9ACI / Chuck came through with an idea for a Field Day variant that didn't require a year of preparations, lined up use of the Red Cross parking area and gave us some rules of the day. And he provided a participation incentive, too (which certainly helped me motivate my team members into participating)!

WA9ACI's rules said it was open to all hams - we didn't all have to be FLARC members, so I invited the participation of the hams I could identify within our office. They agreed that it could be fun to get on the air again, and we registered with WA9ACI as a team.

Had we been doing ARRL rules, the guys running W9GOC would *all* have been eligible for running the GOTA station. My shiny new license had no HF contacts credited to it since its issue, KB9RRM / Steve tells me he has been mostly inactive for more than a year, and N9LB / Lloyd is an occasional guest op, but mostly (until FD 2002 Saturday, that is) inactive.

KB9RRM tells me he has done Field Days in the past, and it seems that N9LB is really a contester who was just going thru a dormant spell - - 'search and pounce' skills seem to re-awaken quickly! I am still working my way through the manuals on the radios - - the buttons-to-knobs ratio and nested menu choices for these new appliance radios need different skills than the 'adjusting the amplifier plate current on the d'Arsonval meter' that I remember.

For those of you who didn't manage to come play, some impressions from our team:

Chuck was sitting in his lawn chair when I arrived, with his vehicle and trailer parked to reserve parking spaces for us. He directed me to some parking stalls and I parked the motorhome across four of them. KB9RRM and his Outbacker and the 'lunar lander' tripod mount parked at the front of the motorhome, N9LB brought the operating table and the dipoles and parked at the rear.

When it got to be 8:00 AM, we started setting up. Awning out, operating table under the awning, folding chairs at the op positions, mast up, batteries and solar panels connected to the radios, coax run to the mast and the Outbacker, 2 meter /440 mag mount on top of KB9RRM's pickup, then we put up the 80 meter dipole. We had a Valor vertical on the top of the motor home, with coils for 10, 15, 20 and 40 in place, but it didn't see much air time at the Red Cross site.

I'll check the logs, but my recollection is that we were on the air by 1330 UTC. Since we were running according to FLARC rules, the rest of North America didn't know we were playing Field Day yet. We were 'asking for radio reports on the equipment we'd set up for Field Day' and a number of our contacts seemed interested that we were running on solar power but not QRP.

The dipoles up in the air seemed to have better success for us than the ground mounted Outbacker, but it was lots quicker for Steve to change bands by adjusting his flylead than to drop the coax from the mast and exchange the single band dipoles.

We put up the 80 meter dipole to start with, to identify the span and the tether points we'd need. The auto-tuner in the TS-450 gave us enough bandwidth to search-and-pounce, and our prompt start gave us a window before 80 closed down.

As ops with rusty or marginal CW skills, we admitted our limitations (some may say, 'wussied out...') and used the microphones. (we certainly had a chance to practice our Morse receiving skills anyway once the other team fired up -- their 100 watts less than 50 feet from their antenna to ours had NO trouble finding its way into our headphones, no matter *where* on the band we were tuned ...)

The toys worked as advertised. We had one small problem with the charge regulator for one of the solar panels, (traced down and field-repaired in the best Field Day tradition) which was caused by a faulty (factory made) crimp connection. (Guess which item we didn't test before Field Day??)

There seemed to be a bit of interest in our power distribution system - - the RigRunner from West Mountain Radio. (www.westmountainradio.com) This uses Anderson PowerPole connectors as have been currently adopted as a standard by the ARES teams in the Milwaukee area. Once all the equipment cables (and power sources) are fitted with these standard plugs DC connection to power supplies becomes as easy as connecting AC powered equipment using a

multiple outlet strip. Putting the PowerPole connectors on the equipment cables wasn't quite as easy (for me) as the web site said it would be. Because the connector pin needs to fit into the now-polarized connector body properly, one needs to pay some attention to how it is oriented on the wire before crimping (especially with Siamese cables). And while the specified Gardner-Bender tool works, I augmented the crimping process with a Thomas-Betts crimper to get connections that would pass the pull test (and then soldered them, too).

We had a nervous moment or two when the sky to the north clouded over and the wind hinted of rain - - debated the feasibility of throwing a plastic or rubber sheet over the radios if it got wet, or retreating inside the motorhome. Being good hams, we prepared both options - - and the rain passed us by.

We made our QSOs, changed dipoles and the flylead on the Outbacker, and made some more. 10 meters was looking to be stubborn on the Outbacker, but as we prepared to re-tune the 20 meter dipole to 10, Steve found the contacts we needed.

Since we were running from solar/battery power, we suffered from no generator-caused ignition noise. We did encounter some unusual QRM part way through the morning; it seems a certain sine wave inverter has a switch for activating a QRM-generating function (labeled "ON", I believe). Fortunately WA9ACI was able to bring his influence to bear to facilitate our relief and the noise generated from that source was discontinued.

The weather was certainly warmer than I would have chosen, but a Field Day is supposed to be a demonstration of our emergency preparedness. I'm told one doesn't always get to pick the weather on days when emergencies happen? We had lots of sunlight falling on the solar panels - - and the Red Cross location seemed to be mosquito free - - a claim that couldn't be made by a number of other Field Day sites.

One of the nice things that came from the FD exercise is that I had an answer to the question, "What did you do this weekend?"

"We turned sunlight into radio waves and talked with people throughout North America."

Thanks to KB9RRM /Steve and N9LB / Lloyd who did yeoman duty on the microphones while the newbie tried to figure out how this stuff is done. Thank you also to FLARC and WA9ACI / Chuck for giving us the opportunity to 'play radios'!

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Quick Links

Last month's presentation was on PSK31 - try it out!

DigiPan - PSK31 software: <http://www.digi-pan.net>
PC sound card to computer interface --
<http://www.qsl.net/wm2u/psk31.html>

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Last night I played a blank tape at full blast. The mime next door went nuts.

BUY — SELL — TRADE

ATTENTION FLARC MEMBERS: If you have amateur radio or computer items that you would like to BUY, SELL, or TRADE, you can do it in the *Feedline*. There is no charge for non-commercial advertising.

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Mission Statement

The Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club

The Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club (F.L.A.R.C.) is a non-profit, general interest club that exists to promote the growth and enjoyment of Amateur Radio in South-Central Wisconsin. The club's mission is to encourage new operators, enhance the skills and interests of those already licensed and to provide communications in the event of disasters or other emergencies. To accomplish this mission, F.L.A.R.C. will:

- ?? Schedule regular meetings with informational programs and the opportunity for informal fellowship.?
- ?? Publish a monthly newsletter for the membership?
- ?? Sponsor training classes?
- ?? Sponsor Volunteer Examinations

July Birthdays

- 1 K9IMM—Ted Gisske
- 3 N9UBZ—Scott Phillips
- 5 WA2DEU—Bruce Micales
- 6 N9OJN—Floyd Creamer
- 9 KB9KVA—Yolanta Graniero
- 11 KF9ZB—Mary Jones
- 24 N9DMS—Dave Schaefer
- 30 N9JGD—Pat Glancy

August Birthdays

- 5 W9CWD—Joe Imilkowski
- 8 W9ORS—John Wolozyn
- 24 WI9WI—Jim Fitzpatrick
- 26 K9SAM—MaryLynn Franzen
- 31 KB9LYM—Jackie Jeardeau

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For Sale

FLARC has RG-213 in stock for 47 cents per foot.
PL 259 connectors are \$1.25 each

The club is always looking for advertisers for our club. This helps defray the cost of the news letter some. If you have a candidate(s) in mind; see Marylynn or any board member for details. It is a good way for some business to get exposure and help the club out. It isn't very expensive at all. Contact Marylynn, K9SAM or Mary Jones, KF9ZB.

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Other Web Sites

- CWRA www.qsl.net/cwra
- FLARC www.qsl.net/flarc
- MARA www.qsl.net/mara
- WAR www.wi-repeaters.org
- BARS/W9YT w9yt.engr.wisc.edu

Note: The Wisconsin Association of Repeaters (WAR) site will provide a current list of all repeaters in the state of Wisconsin. You can get the list sorted by frequency, by city or by region. The list has the offset, tone frequency, availability of auto patch, emergency power, owner, if open and if it's associated with emergency nets.

Other interesting sites are www.qsl.net and www.qrz.com

There are many many links other sites, which promote things from antennas, antenna construction to software.

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Tom's Auto Clinic

**2652 E. Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53704
608-241-3391**

Steve - N9CK Marylynn - K9SAM

FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

FLARC MEMBERSHIP

Please start/renew my FLARC membership. Enclosed is my check or money order payable to the **FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. Please fill out this form so that we can keep the club records up-to-date. **THANKS!**

NEW MEMBER RENEWAL REGULAR \$20 SENIOR \$17 (65 Plus)
STUDENT \$10 (UNDER 18) ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS \$14 (ONE NEWSLETTER PER FAMILY)

NAME: _____ **CALL SIGN:** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **BIRTHDATE:** _____

CITY: _____ **STATE:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **ARRL MEMBER: YES NO**

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ **CLASS OF LICENSE** _____

RETURN TO: Marylynn Franzen K9SAM, 2652 East Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

c/o Tim Czerwonka, WO9U – Pretending Editor
880 Violet Lane, Oregon, Wisconsin 53575 USA



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

2002 FLARC Officers

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George Shands W9WUU- Vice President

Tim Czerwonka WO9U - Secretary

Marylynn Franzen K9SAM – Treasurer

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