



The Feedline

"W9JZ – SERVING AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1933"

VOL. 23 – No. 6

June 2002

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS, etc.

Our club meetings are usually 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 and 8:30 AM at the Avenue Bar on East Washington Avenue in Madison. 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 www.qsl.net/flarc Keep checking the links page for new goodies! Also, a new, permanent contact for FLARC is now at w9jz@arrl.net

Meeting dates and programs

- June 18: W9ISC and PSK-31
- June 22-23: Field Day @ American Red Cross
- July 16: K9IMM - Windows Based Contest Logging Software.
- Aug 20: Fox Hunt
- Sep 17: K9REO on ?. TBA
- Oct 15: K9MA - Contesting Techniques
- Nov 19: KB9LIE-Radio Vacation to St. Pierre & Miquelon Budget Presentation
- Dec 3: Holiday Party
- Dec 17: Vote on Budget/Nominations for 2003

Prez Sez:

Well, here we are, summer at last. My favorite time of year, and a busy time for everyone. There has been some good news and some bad news since the last edition of The Feedline, so I have plenty to share with you this month.

First, the good news. Field Day IS happening. Chuck WA9ACI has arranged for us to use the Red Cross grounds for the event. We will run a scaled down operation, and only operate for Saturday afternoon. Then we will tear down and go find a place to gather and discuss how the day went. I had about 10 people sign up to participate at the last meeting. A couple more have expressed interest.

Anyone planning on taking part in Field Day, please get in touch with Chuck Forster WA9ACI via email (cforster@phasorlabs.com), or by landline if you do not have access to email. He needs to know who to expect. There will be some discussion at the next meeting about Field Day, but the bulk of the planning will be done in direct contact with Chuck. There will be some very specific rules with this event that will make it different from Field Days in the past. Do not let this discourage you from participating. Just keep in mind the true purpose of Field Day, to practice emergency communication techniques.

At last month's meeting, Tim WO9U gave an excellent talk on computer viruses and spyware. This month, John Welty will be coming in to talk to us about PSK-31. This is a relatively new mode of operation that is causing quite a stir, so this should be a great program. **TAKE NOTE, WE ARE HAVING THE PROGRAM FIRST THIS MONTH**, and then the business meeting AFTER the break. If you want to see the program, be sure to be there at 7:30PM!

Now for the bad news. The results of the WI QSO Party should be posted on the West Allis web site by the time you are reading this. Unfortunately, FLARC did not come out on top this year. I do not have anymore details at this time, but if they are posted online by the June meeting, I will have the info printed up and bring it along. Any way you slice it, we did a good job this year. I want to thank everyone again who participated this year.

Finally, we are looking for a new newsletter editor. Gari has decided it is time to let it go. The Feedline is important to FLARC, and we need someone to step up to bat and take it over. Don't count on someone else doing it. If you have knowledge of this sort of thing, or care to learn, now is the time to talk to me... NOW!!!

Well, that's it for this month. Remember, if you have any questions or comments about the club, be sure to talk to me about it. I'm always willing to listen, and if I don't know the answers, then I'll find out who does. That's my job! This is how we keep the club running smoothly. So don't leave me out of the loop...

73 Mary KF9ZB

FLARC Treasurer Report

5/21/2002 Balance:

Checking \$ 3,901.50

Membership 68

Marylynn - K9SAM

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.

Get your upgrading done!

On July 1, 2002 the question pool goes from 600 to 800 questions!

This is a big deal! For those wishing to upgrade, the question pool is going to have 200 questions added! That's 200 more on the study list that you have to deal with and be prepared to answer when you go for your upgrade. This is the pool only! The test is not being increased!

This would be a good time!

Buck Nite

Mary pulled my old trick, used the name tags; and I left mine at home! The winner is **K9ZT!**

The dollar drawing prize was **W9JOC !**

The program was Viruses & Spyware by WO9U. Tim had a very nice program prepared with many overheads. You can get an overview of his show and see the overheads by going to his website at www.qsl.net/wo9u. Thanks Tim.

WAS

FLARC has a *Field Checker* for the WAS Award. Me, NG9V. When you are ready, just contact me, I'll be glad to do it, 608-221-2022 or ng9v@arrl.net

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.

For Sale

I have a Hy-Gain 4 element, 6 meter beam for sale....Has a 12 foot boom . \$50.00
Contact Fred Weigt, W9VFD
608-836-1509 or w9vfd@cs.com

FLARC has RG-213 coax and silver plated PL-259's.

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.

Contests

June 22-23, 2002 Field Day

July 27-28 ,2002 RSGB IOTA

June Birthdays

- 2 K9YXW—John Schroeder
- 12 WD9BFV—Richard Lindgren
- 14 W9JEK—Wilbur Jensen
- 21 N9MW—Ed Toal
- 28 K9XZ—Jake Kitzinger
- 29 W9DCQ—Douglas Ward

We have items to raffle at the next few 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

Mirage 2 Meter Power Amplifier

MFJ Multi-Mode Data Controller-Model MFJ-1278B
w/manuals & software

Personal Code Explorer Software w/manual & interface

Simpson Reflected Power Meter

An upgrade. Jim Andersen, KA9VHG, upgraded to Extra!
Congratulations Jim.

The new president of CWRA is Ken Dixon, W9XM.

Tom's Auto Clinic
2652 East Washington Ave.
Madison, WI 53704
608-241-3391

Steve N9CK

Marylynn K9SAM

FLARC Name Tags

\$7.00

See Marylynn, K9SAM

608-241-3391

Programs

What would you like to see for programs? Would you like to give one? Do you have a program on tap by some group or individual that you would like to share? I should imagine that just about anything goes. Not necessary that it be ham radio.

Contact any of the Board members on the cover or send it to me. My address is on the return and my email is n9v@arrl.net

More Mobile Antennas

In the May 2002 The Feedline, Gari included an article on mobile antennas, which was very timely and interesting. I'd like to add a bit to it.

Sometime in the 1979 to 1981 we ran a similar exercise as an ARES event. Mobiles were put on a circular track at the Dane County coliseum and measurements were made from the Red Cross building at 1202 Ann Street. We used a quality attenuator in front of a receiver with an S-meter and noted the attenuation required to achieve the same S-meter reading at each position the mobile was at on the circular test track. This procedure seemed to be quite accurate and usable as the radio itself was used only as a device to tell us when all things were the same. The calibrated attenuator was giving us the actual measurements. The tests were run on 146mhz.

The same results were noted as reported in Gari's article. The roof mounted antennas simply blew away the ones mounted at trunk or hood level, including antennas reporting a lot of gain. In general, as I recall, we saw an average difference of 20 to 30db difference. (those records are long since lost) Universally, we found a

simple 19" roof mounted whip outperformed anything mounted on the trunk or hood.

But, we were looking for something else in these tests, radiation pattern. As could be expected, roof mounted antennas had a much more uniform radiation pattern. Again as I recall the event, we demonstrated that some trunk and hood mounted antennas had severe nulls in certain directions. This is NOT a good thing when dealing with VHF or UHF mobile operation.

Folks are reluctant to install roof mounted antennas is the fear of reducing the value of their car. My personal experience, having traded in probably 8 to 10 cars in this period, is that no dealer has ever mentioned the hole in the roof. I have either stuck a 50 cent hole pug in the hole or stuck a cellular antenna on the NMO mount.

Appearance is another issue to many. With dual band (146/440mhz) cellular look-a-like antennas available, the visual effect is minimized. Regardless, sometimes it does make the car look like some form of distorted curling stone. What I have done is installed two NMO mounts to balance out the appearance and used the second for my cell phone. It isn't much more work adding the second mount while you're at it and just as in ham radio work, the cellular performance is emphatically improved as well. If appearance still seems a problem, using standard whip antennas, about 2" for a cellular and 7" for a 440mhz antennas almost completely eliminates any visual aspect. As for clearance problems, we have such an antenna setup with dual band cellular look-a-like antennas on both of our vehicles, a SUV and a truck. In the lowest of parking ramps I have to remove the antennas from the truck, but not the SUV. But, you have to wonder why I'm even trying to get the truck into one of those ramps to start with, eh?

Ed, N9MW

For Sale

Mirage B108 2 Meter Amplifier. 10W in and 80 W out. SSB and FM modes. Mint. \$75

Kenwood TR2500 2 meter HT. Has a new 1600 Mah battery, a just rebuilt 600 Mah battery, a leather case, car charger, desk charger, speaker mic. Very good condition. \$125.

Ed Toal - N9MW
W8471 State Road 39
Blanchardville, WI 53516
608-523-5545 or n9mw@tds.net

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)

CALLSIGN: _____

NAME: _____

BIRTHDATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

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

ARRL MEMBER: YES NO

TELEPHONE: _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

Marylynn Franzen K9SAM, 2652 East Washington Avenue, Madison, WI 53704

RETURN TO: _____

FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

**c/o Gari Berliot NG9V, Editor
5326 Knightsbridge Rd. Madison, WI 53714**



FIRST CLASS POSTAGE

2002 FLARC Officers

- Mary Jones KF9ZB - President**
- George Shands W9WUU - Vice President**
- Tim Czerwonka WO9U - Secretary**
- Marylynn Franzen K9SAM - Treasurer**

Directors

- Gary Muskat N9DRA - Board Member**
- Bud Morin K9ZT - Board Member**
- Daniel Gomez-Ibanez W9DGI - Board Member**

