



The Feedline

“W9JZ – SERVING AMATEUR RADIO SINCE 1933”

VOL. 24 – No. 11

November, 2003

2003 FLARC Officers

Frederick Baguhn W9GOC - President
Sam Rowe KG9NG - Vice President
Gary Muskat KA9SRM - Secretary
Don Michalski W9IXG – Treasurer

Board Members at Large

Bud Morin K9ZT
George Shands W9WUU
Doug Ward W9DCQ

CALENDAR OF CLUB EVENTS, etc.

Our club meetings are usually held the third Tuesday of the month 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 Zilch (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 www.qsl.net/flarc Keep checking the links page for new goodies!

Meeting dates and programs

November 18: Club Meeting.

Topic: Show and Tell.

December 2: Christmas Party.

Prez Says –

Greetings to all!

“Thank you” to all who attended the October meeting, where we voted on the proposal to commit an additional \$800. of Club funds to the ARRL anti-BPL effort. After additional discussion of the proposal, the state of the Club treasury and current

obligations, and the likelihood that the BPL battle will be protracted, the voting members present decided to reject the proposed additional \$800. contribution at this time.

Immediately following the defeat of the \$800. proposal, another motion was made in support of the ARRL anti-BPL efforts, this time in the amount of \$500. Due to some confusion in the interpretation of the intent of the bylaws with regard to the \$200. discretionary limit, the vote on the proposed \$500. was deferred to the November meeting - - the one on the 18th.

So, the next paragraph looks quite familiar to those who read last month’s newsletter - - the issue is again before us.

ATTENTION - - ATTENTION - - we have a motion before the Club to commit a substantial amount of the Treasury balance for the purpose of supporting the ARRL’s efforts to publicize the test data showing the impact on the RF spectrum. Please attend this month’s general meeting and cast your ballot to vote your conscience on what we as a club should do on this issue.

Changing topics - -

Don/W9IXG’s October presentation on antennas was informative and enlightening, as usual. We learned about directional effects that occur as a result of height above ground, touched upon the benefits / drawbacks of vertical vs. horizontal polarization, types of wire suitable for antenna construction and tradeoffs in feedline selection. Don talked about using feedline segments as impedance matching transformers, and explained the adverse effects of antenna current flowing on the outside of the coax shield, as well as effective measures to suppress this undesired current.

FLARC Treasurer Report

10/21/2003

Balance in the treasury is \$3,519.48.

Membership: 83 members.

Don, W9IXG

Show and Tell Ideas

This is Not an exhaustive list - - just a starting point for those who haven't thought of something that might be suitable.

Personally, I'm hoping to see some PSK31 equipment come in; I don't know what Roger uses for RTTY, but I'd like to find out.

Tim's microwave toys show some very innovative construction techniques, as does his arrow antenna.

Some clubs have MCW circuits that facilitate using FM radios for CW practice - - a way to encourage Technicians to upgrade by getting them past the code hurdle. I don't know if anyone in our club has a design for such a project, but if so, maybe we could get some circuit boards fabricated and actually solder something at a future club meeting.

QRP setups, or HFpack - - both lend themselves to bringing for show-and-tell, and could expand the horizons of visitors in attendance. Altoids-tin radios, tiny keys and keyers, portable antenna setups, backpack / chestpack etc to allow one to port the radio, batteries, and an HF antenna and have a QSO at the same time - -

Test equipment one has made / modified / accessorized. Newbies don't know from grid dip meters; the old timers might be interested to see how stable the solid state version of the dip meter is. While most folks have seen / used antenna analyzers, not everyone has seen the adapters to allow the antenna analyzer to be used to check unlabeled crystals, find the value of an inductor, or measure the length of a cable using TDR principles.

Obviously there is a lot more to antennas than can be fit into one telling, and the club is fortunate to have members with Don's level of expertise in this area. Don made it clear that antennas are where the magic happens - - where the RF current that was previously running around in the transmitter circuits in a fashion we generally understand is now fed into this thing that, at other-than-RF frequencies, would be considered an open circuit*. And the current goes somewhere !!
*(Or, for loop antennas, looks like a short circuit.)

Sometimes, as we are busy making QSOs and using the radios for radio stuff, we overlook the *really neat* physics that is happening at the other end of the feedline. Every once in a while it is nice to give it a thought, and Don has given us a reminder of this. Thanks, Don!

18 October found W9JZ on the air in Stoughton, working with the Scouts of Troop 164. Doug/W9DCQ and Jim/WA9LJK acted as control operators along with Lloyd/N9LB, to facilitate Scout-to-Scout HF links. FLARC also thanks Lloyd/N9LB and Steve/WB9GQQ (formerly KB9RRM) for providing some additional equipment to make this effort possible. We look forward to working with the Scouts next year for their Jamboree On The Air effort, and hope you will be marking your calendars so more of us can actively participate.

This month's meeting program will not be a single presentation, but will instead be a Show-and-Tell program. Please bring a radio-related toy that you think is neat, and be prepared to tell a little about it. Bud will list some possible ideas elsewhere in the newsletter for those of you who are thinking, “_I_ don't have anything interesting to bring. ☹”

73,
Frederick

The 2002 ARRL handbook had plans for building an SMT manipulator - - I'd like to see one in real life.

A PIC programmer, and/or a project made with a PIC - e.g., keyer, direct entry keypad such as the John Hansen QSYer <http://www.john.hansen.net/keypad.htm> , a wireless remote control interface for the transceiver, etc.

Tips and techniques that work for winding toroids - -

APRS setup - -

ATV or SSTV - - WEFAX - -

software / hardware for PacTOR, AMTOR - -

software / hardware for working the satellites - -

Kits one has assembled or is assembling - -

And if someone would give a demonstration of the current version of the N1MM logger program, that would be nice, too.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party will be on December 2 , starting at 6:30PM at the Capital Brewery & Beer garden, 7734 Terrace Ave., Middleton. The cost is \$5.00 per person. FLARC provides the pizza and the pop.

Ham-of-the-Year

If you have any suggestions for a Ham-of-the-Year, please send them to Frederick, W9GOC.

Frequency Measurement Test

The ARRL will run a frequency Measurement Test (FMT) on 20 November at 0245 UTC (19 Nov, 8:45 PM CST). The FMT will begin with a QST from W1AW at exactly the above time, transmitting simultaneously on four amateur frequencies. The approximate frequencies are 3,517, 7,028, 14,051, and 21,054 kHz. The test will consist of three 60-second key-down transmissions, followed by a series of dits, followed by a station identification. Details at:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2003/09/14/1/?nc=1>.

If this doesn't work for you, try leaving off the ? stuff.

MDXC Scholarship Program

The Madison DX Club has initiated a student scholarship program for students attending post high school educational institutions. The intention is to promote amateur radio and help ease the financial burden that students encounter. If you know of a graduating high school student, or a student currently enrolled in a college who has a valid amateur radio license, please refer him or her to this program. The details are available at <http://www.madisondxclub.org>; click on Scholarship Program and then the Application button. Contributions are being handled by N9CHN, Bill Hanold, N3305 Tipperary Point Rd, Poynette, WI 53955. The programs administration details and a contribution form are also available at the web site.

A Request

Jim Emery, KG9PT, who is donating the J-poles mentioned above, would like to acquire a short wave receiver for a disabled friend. It could be a general-purpose receiver or one for amateur use but should cover 80, 40, 20, and 15 meters. If you have something he could use, call him at 608-233-4172.

Programs

We need some more ideas or topics for programs to present at the meetings. So let us hear from you.

FLARC Web Site

The FLARC URL is <http://www.qsl.net/flarc> If you see any errors, please let us know.

Elmers

If you are interested in being an Elmer, one who helps newcomers get started in ham radio, contact Gary Dennis, KG9FL.

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.*

Wisconsin Section

Keep in touch with the ham action in Wisconsin by going to the Wisconsin section website: <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WI>. The old site: www.w9ixg.eboard.com is no longer available.

73, Don

Buck Nite

The winner was Ed Wagner, AB9FN..

WAS Checker.

Checker for the WAS Award is Gari, NG9V. When you are ready, just contact him; he'll be glad to do it, 608-221-2022 or gberliot@ameritech.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.

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.

Birthdays

November

- 6 KC9CBT—Sarah E. Baguhn
- 12 AA9HS—Chuck Hansen
- 15 K9EMG—Roger Deicher

December

- 8 N9LGZ—Marvin E. VanCleave
- 13 WA9ACI—Chuck Forster
K9GRD—Dorothy Gable
- 14 WU9F—Terry Bachmann
- 28 N9NTB—Duane Brophy

Web Sites:

- MARA www.qsl.net/mara
- WAR www.wi-repeaters.org
- MDXC <http://www.madisondxclub.org>
- N9MW <http://www.n9mw.com> (DX-Cluster)
- Dane County
ARES/RACES <http://kb9orn.eboard.com>
(has a current listing of Public Service
Events)

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.

MDXC works with Internet Explorer and not with some versions of Netscape.

Other interesting sites are www.qsl.net and www.grz.com. There are many, many links to other sites, which promote things from antennas, antenna construction to software. Also www.ac6v.com and www.cpcug.org/user/wfeidt/index.htm are full of links about ham radio. The latter is NG3K Amateur Radio Contest/DX page with the link ADXO, Announced DX Operations.

If you click on some of these URLs, they may not work and you will get an error message. They are OK if you type them into your

browser.

For Sale

SK equipment for sale by widow:

- Drake R8 receiver \$350
- Grundig Sat-700 receiver \$250
- Sony ICF-2010 receiver \$150
- Radio Shack HTX-100 xcvr \$50
- discone antenna \$35
- Heathkit HD1410 keyer \$25
- JPS NIR-10 filter \$75
- voltmeter/mA meter \$5
- no name code practice key \$8

Contact Nancy Henry, 831-9367

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 Don 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 Don, W9IXG or Federick Baguhn, W9GOC.

Tom's Auto Clinic

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

Steve – N9CK

Marylynn – K9SAM

WA7BNM 13-Month Contest Calendar

Last updated September 26, 2003

Please send corrections and additions directly to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

For an e-mail version of this calendar, send a request to: calendar@hornucopia.com

Please note that you may not be able to operate during all of the total hours of the contests listed below. Total operating time may also vary by entry category. See individual contest rules for allowed operating hours.

November, 2003

IPA Contest, CW	0600Z	- 1000Z, Nov 1 and
	1400Z	- 1800Z, Nov 1
Ukrainian DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 1	- 1200Z, Nov 2
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 1	- 0300Z, Nov 3
North American Collegiate ARC Championship, CW	2100Z, Nov 1	- 0300Z, Nov 3
IPA Contest, SSB	0600Z	- 1000Z, Nov 2 and
	1400Z	- 1800Z, Nov 2
High Speed Club CW Contest	0900Z	- 1100Z, Nov 2 and
	1500Z	- 1700Z, Nov 2
DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	1100Z	- 1700Z, Nov 2
WAE DX Contest, RTTY	0000Z, Nov 8	- 2359Z, Nov 9
Japan Int. DX Contest, Phone	0700Z, Nov 8	- 1300Z, Nov 9
SARL Field Day Contest	1000Z, Nov 8	- 1000Z, Nov 9
OK/OM DX Contest, CW	1200Z, Nov 8	- 1200Z, Nov 9
EA-QRP Club Contest	1700Z	- 2300Z, Nov 8 and
	0700Z	- 1300Z, Nov 9
Anatolian ATA PSK31 Contest	1800Z	- 2400Z, Nov 8
All Austrian 160-Meter Contest	1600Z, Nov 15	- 0700Z, Nov 16
ARRL Sweepstakes Contest, SSB	2100Z, Nov 15	- 0300Z, Nov 17
North American Collegiate ARC Championship, SSB	2100Z, Nov 15	- 0300Z, Nov 17
RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest, CW	2100Z, Nov 15	- 0100Z, Nov 16
LZ DX Contest	1200Z, Nov 22	- 1200Z, Nov 23
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, CW	0000Z, Nov 29	- 2400Z, Nov 30

December, 2003

QRP ARCI Topband Sprint	0000Z	- 1200Z, Dec 4
ARRL 160-Meter Contest	2200Z, Dec 5	- 1600Z, Dec 7
PSK31 Death Match	0000Z, Dec 6	- 2400Z, Dec 7
TARA RTTY Melee	0000Z	- 2400Z, Dec 6
TOPS Activity 80m Contest	1800Z, Dec 6	- 1800Z, Dec 7
QRP ARCI Hol. Spirits Sprint	2000Z	- 2400Z, Dec 7
ARRL 10-Meter Contest	0000Z, Dec 13	- 2400Z, Dec 14

Great Colorado Snowshoe Run	0200Z	- 0400Z, Dec 14
AGB Party Contest	2100Z	- 2400Z, Dec 19
Russian 160-Meter Contest	2100Z	- 2300Z, Dec 19
OK DX RTTY Contest	0000Z	- 2400Z, Dec 20
Croatian CW Contest	1400Z, Dec 20	- 1400Z, Dec 21
International Naval Contest	1600Z, Dec 20	- 1600Z, Dec 21
DARC Christmas Contest	0830Z	- 1059Z, Dec 26
RAC Winter Contest	0000Z	- 2400Z, Dec 27
Stew Perry Topband Challenge	1500Z, Dec 27	- 1500Z, Dec 28
Original QRP Contest, CW	1500Z, Dec 27	- 1500Z, Dec 28

Send comments and corrections about this page to Bruce Horn, WA7BNM

Revision Date: October 30, 2003

© 1998-2003 Bruce Horn, WA7BNM, All Rights Reserved

Information is also available from the ARRL contest web site <http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html> and the ARRL Contest Rate Sheet at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rate-sheet/>. You can also get the Rate Sheet emailed to you once a week.

**Four Lakes Amateur Radio Club Membership Mail-
In Application**

Date: _____ Callsign: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Month & Day of Birth: (optional) _____

E-mail address: _____

ARRL Member: Yes ___ No ___

Newsletter delivery:

Email: _____ Standard Mail: _____

Dues: \$20 regular, \$17 Senior (65 plus), \$10 Student, \$14 additional family members.

(one newsletter per family)

Mail check and completed application form to:

**FLARC c/o Don Michalski
4214 Mohawk Dr.
Madison, WI 53711**