

# FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



VOLUME 15 ISSUE 11    www.fdlhams.org    November 2014

Join Us On Sunday Evenings For Our Weekly Net — 1930 hrs. 145.430 MHz — Tone 97.4 Hz

## 2014 Club Officers

President .. Donald Larson KC9UVJ  
Vice-President .. Brad Freund KC9QYP  
Secretary .. Lloyd Vandervort N9RPU  
Treasurer .. Doug Schultz N9EZF  
Sergeant-at-Arms .. Mike Miller KC9DOA

Board Member .. Dave McCumber N9WQ  
Board Member .. Randy Grunewald KB9KEG  
Board Member .. Larry Mielke KC9RUE

## Committee Chairs

Contesting .. Randy Grunewald KB9KEG  
Education/Scholarship .. Jack Heil KG9IN  
Field Day .. Grunewald, Heil  
Fund Raising .. Open  
Net Manager .. Doug Schultz N9EZF  
Newsletter .. Donald Larson KC9UVJ  
Public Service .. Ed Beltz N9PJQ  
Publicity/Program .. Joe Scheibinger K9VY  
Repeater .. Lloyd Vandervort N9RPU  
Testing .. Doug Schultz N9EZF  
Truck .. Brad Freund KC9QYP  
TVI .. Lloyd Vandervort N9RPU  
Web Site .. Steve Smith W9GPI

Each committee has several members. If you are interested in serving on a committee, please contact the chairperson and volunteer your services.

## Club Nets

Sunday Evenings - Open to all  
6:15 pm Ten Meter SSB Net-28.450 MHz  
7:30 pm Two Meter FM Net-145.430 MHz PL 97.4

## FDL County ARES Net

Sunday Evenings  
For ARES Team Members. Now combined with the Club Net at 7:30 pm.

## Successful Testing

The club held a testing sessions for those wishing to earn their Technician License or upgrade to General or Amateur Extra Class on October 18, 2014 at the American Red Cross building in Fondy. We had a great turnout with seven people showing up for the tests. Five of them passed and are moving forward with their HAM Radio career.

Those passing their exam are:

Ian Moore (General)    James Sullberger (General)  
James Balthazar (Extra)    Leroy Shipley (Technician)  
Penni Parkinson (Technician)

Unfortunately I arrived too late to get pictures of those passing the tests but our team of examiners were still there. Many thanks to them for taking the time to support HAM Radio by administering the test. Doug Schultz N9EZF who coordinates the testing was out of town and unable to be there.



Front: Nancy Meyers, Doug Wagner KCORNS  
Rear: Dennis Paulin KB9OFM, Brad Freund KC9QYP

Our next testing session will be on December 6, 2014 from 9AM til noon at the American Red Cross Office at 272 N. Main St., Fond du Lac, WI. If you are interested, please contact Doug Schultz at 920-922-3088 or by email at: n9ezf@fdlhams.org

# FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



## Annual Elections

The November Meeting is one of the most important ones of the year as we will be electing our officers for 2015. These dedicated members will be the ones who will be carrying the tradition of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club forward. It is important that we all give good thought to this decision. If you are willing to participate in the club leadership feel free to throw your hat in the ring for one of the offices.

So far, the nominees for next years officers are:

President (One Year Term)

Lloyd Vandervoort  
Stan Cram

Vice President (One Year Term)

Donald Larson  
Don Chapman  
Tom Powell

Secretary (One year Term)

Joe Scheibinger

Treasurer (One Year Term)

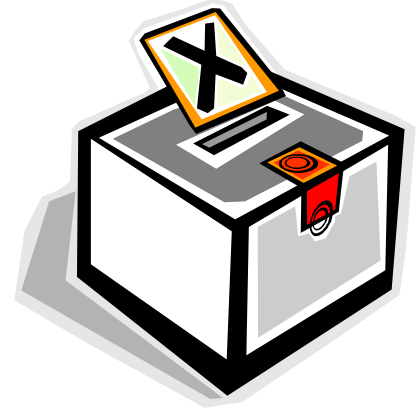
Doug Schultz

Sargent at Arms

Larry K  
Lloyd Vandervoort

Board Member (Three Year Term)

Mike Miller  
Lloyd Vandervoort  
Don Chapman  
Ed Beltz  
Brad Freund  
Stan Cram



# FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



## Quick & Easy Zip Cord Antennas

By [Lowell Rieger](mailto:ny4dradio@gmail.com) (ny4dradio@gmail.com)

With summer over and road trips, camp outs, Field Day, and vacation cabins in the past, it might be time to explore a light weight HF antenna that works well and takes advantage of whatever antenna supports "of convenience" you might encounter in your travels.

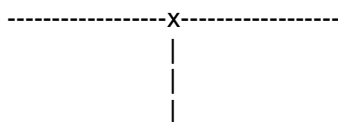
At almost any hardware, big box home store, or your local Radio Shack you will find what is called zip cord in varieties designed for lamp cord replacement, speaker wire, etc. With a 100 foot roll you can make an antenna or two to tote along and get on the air anywhere you can find a handy tree branch or other support to hang it from.

The basic concept is to unzip the zip cord into your dipole element lengths. Use the still zipped together line for the feed line. Secure the feed line to element junction with zip ties or an electrician's knot.

Make sure to have a way to hang the middle and just tie the ends directly to nylon twine or fishing line to the end supports. I generally use 16 or 18 gauge speaker cord. Avoid the very thin 20 to 24 gauge wire. A zip tie or two will be used on the antenna where it separates from the feed line. With another zip tie you can make a loop to hang the antenna from. Some thin nylon line to hang it with and to tie the ends with and you are good to go.

So let's make one. How about a version of the G5RV? From your 100 foot roll you will unzip 52 feet of wire. Wrap a zip tie or two where the two wires separate from the still zipped together line. And before you tighten that zip tie add another to serve as a loop to hang the antenna from if your location favors the inverted vee approach.

Tie some thin nylon line or some monofilament fishing line right to the ends of the antenna to stretch the ends out to your end supports. Now we're left with 48 feet of feed line. You have two choices here. The first is to just leave it intact and run it to your antenna tuner to the balanced output terminals. Or you can cut the remaining line down to 30 feet or so, connect your coax there, and run that to your antenna tuner or to your rig if it has a built in tuner.



In the diagram the horizontals on each side of the x are 52 feet each. The x is where the zip ties are. The vertical section is the still zipped together zip cord, around 30 feet or so of it. The ends can be tied to whatever supports are available by tying the antenna ends directly to your nylon (a good insulator) line. This is shown as a horizontal antenna but it is more likely you will hang it as an inverted vee.

That's all there is to it. Does it work? Yes pretty much like any other G5RV. If you're a stickler you can trim the vertical drop for lowest swr on 20 meters. In theory the length should be 25 feet or so due to the lower velocity factor of zip cord vs ladder line, But that will have little effect on 40 and 80 so it may be best just to leave that longer length.

If you just want a single band antenna then use the standard dipole lengths for insulated wire in all the handbooks. But here's the trick for getting the feed line length right so you won't need a tuner. An electrical half wavelength of feed line will mirror the antenna impedance at the end of that half wave of feed. Figure that half wave section like this: 492 times .7 (velocity factor) divided by the frequency. So for 20 meters we would have 24.25 feet At that point you could attach 50 ohm coax and run it to the rig and should be very close to a match. Always best to start with a longer length and trim down however. Keep in mind though that the velocity factor of whatever zip cord you buy could be noticeably different ARRL has tested several kinds of wire that all come out close enough to a 70% velocity factor. So stick to the number 16 or 18 zip cord and you should be ok, ARRL has also tested the loss of zip cord and found that it does have somewhat higher loss than say RG-58 cable. For that reason keep feedline lengths shorter than 50 feet if possible. This works out fine for 40 meter versions and of course the higher bands will be shorter. For 80 just use the G5RV version to keep the feed line length in the lower loss zone. You can hang one of these antennas just about anywhere you can find a support. They are light, almost invisible, and will get you plenty of contacts if hung in the clear and as high off the ground as you can get them. Even though these antennas aren't designed for permanent use I had a 20 meter version up for several years. It still worked fine when taken down but was starting to look a little ratty. The clear insulation of the wire I used was obviously not designed to withstand Georgia sunshine for long periods of time. But for a temporary antenna this won't be a worry.

# FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



## The Great Circle

By [Lowell Rieger](mailto:ny4dradio@gmail.com) (ny4dradio@gmail.com)

We all have a preconceived notion of what direction the stations we hear and work are. We can always go to qrz.com, look up a station, and get a bearing. But that's a rather tedious process, and we may get a bearing that "doesn't seem right," based on our notions of geography. So based on how radio waves travel, here is a short true/false quiz:

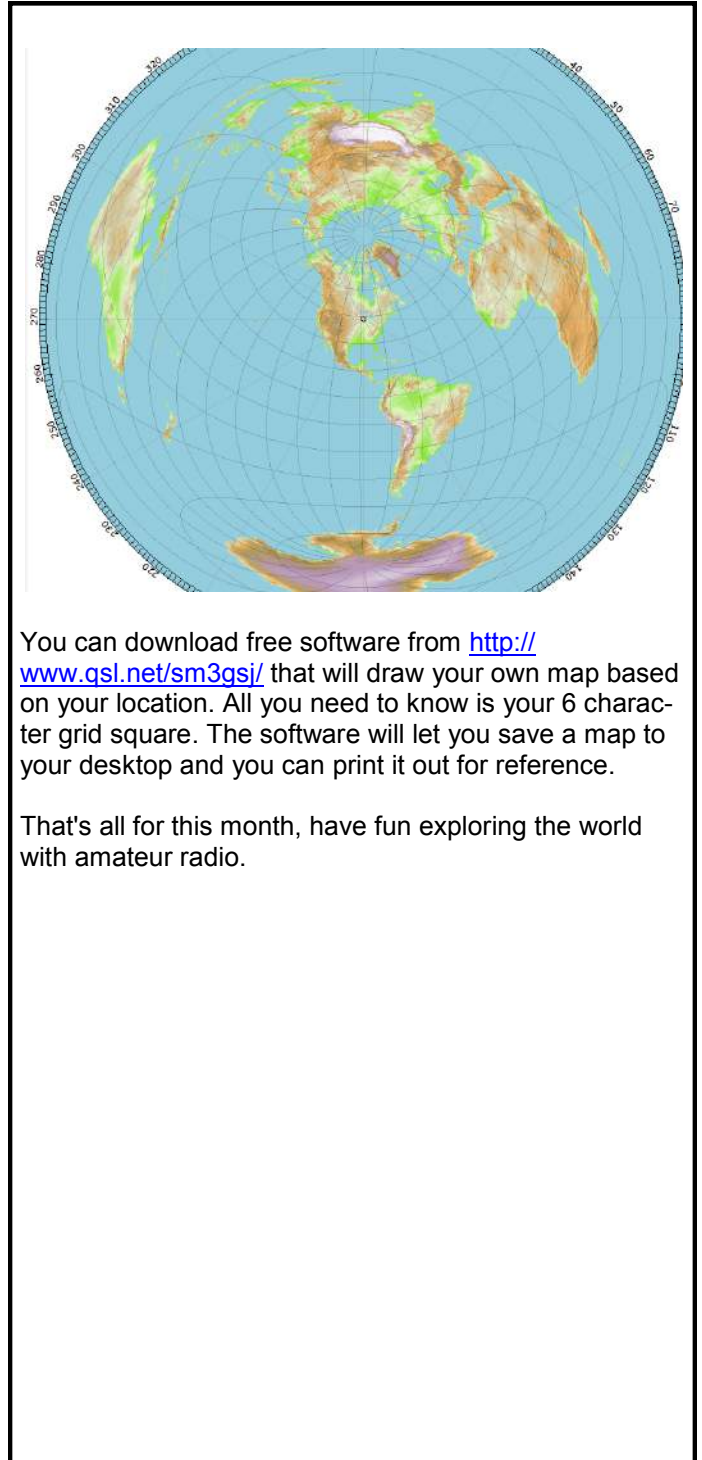
1. Europe is due east of us
2. Asia is due west of us
3. South America is due south of us
4. California is due west of us

Did you answer them all correctly? The answer to each of them is False. Surprised? We have been looking at rectangular grid maps for so long that we have developed some erroneous notions about where in relation to "us" most other places are.

For local VHF and UHF signals the short distances mean that our line of sight direction is easy to understand. But radio waves travel the same way airplanes fly, by the "great circle" which is the actual shortest distance between two points. Here's a picture of a great circle map centered on Thomasville GA. So you can see that Europe is centered on a 45 degree (northeast) bearing. Most of Asia is North of us. Almost all of South America is Southeast of us. None of California is due west of us, but part of Baja California in Mexico is.

If you took the General License class the questions refer to the Great Circle map as an "azimuthal projection," meaning it shows you the azimuthal compass point from you to a second point on earth, by the shortest distance possible. If you are erecting any kind of directional antenna (even a dipole is directional) this is information you need to know.

For example, from Fond du Lac most of the US is covered by an antenna where the main horizontal lobe is centered on 300 degrees. The rest is covered pretty well with an antenna that is directional due north. This is good information for Field Day, for instance. Most of Europe is at 45 degrees. And so on around the globe.



You can download free software from <http://www.qsl.net/sm3gjs/> that will draw your own map based on your location. All you need to know is your 6 character grid square. The software will let you save a map to your desktop and you can print it out for reference.

That's all for this month, have fun exploring the world with amateur radio.

The above two articles were taken, with the permission of the author—Lowell Rieger, from the Thomasville, Georgia Amateur Radio Club Newsletter. I thought they were well written and the material presented in an easy to read manner. My thanks to Lowell for giving his permission to reprint them.



# FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



## FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Minutes of Monday, October 13, 2014

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:04p by President Larson.

### Approval of the Minutes

A motion was made by Don Chapman, KC9KZQ, to approve the minutes from September. Seconded by Dave McCumber n9wq. Motion carried via a voice vote.

### Treasurer's report

Truck Fund .....	\$0.00
Emergency Services Fund .....	\$894.25
General Use Fund .....	\$2,845.27
Savings Account.....	\$25.00
Petty Cash Fund .....	\$25.00
Repeater Fund .....	\$626.13

A motion to approve the Treasurer's report was made by Tom Powell, KC9VXR, and seconded by Ed Beltz n9pjq. The motion carried via voice.

A bill for a new grill \$205.73 (was \$349) was presented. A motion to pay bills Lloyd Vandervoort n9rpu and seconded by Jack Heil kg9in The motion carried via voice.

### Old Business Fox cities marathon

The Bay com repeater was not on so ham repeaters were used all went well

### New Business

An Exam session will be held on Oct 18 at the Red Cross office. Three VE's will be needed. Another exam session will be held on Dec 6.

The annual Christmas parade will be held on Dec 6, 2014 from 2:00 to 3:00 pm see Ed Beltz n9pjq to sign up



The clubs annual Christmas party will be held on Dec 7, 2014 at Jim and Linda's Lakeview Supper Club. More info will follow. The price will be \$17. We have not decided on whether we will offer door prizes. We will have gift swap bring a \$5 gift to swap. We will plan to invite Phil Majerus and his wife compliments of the club.

We will hold the election of officers for 2015 at the Nov meeting. We will be electing the following offices:

President	Vice President
Secretary	Treasurer
Sargent at Arms	One Board Member

### Business from the Floor Program Suggestions

A set of Tech class power point slides have been located and will negotiate usage

We need volunteers to read the Standard announcements at the Sunday evening net

We need someone to run and update our website as Steve Smith w9gpi will no longer be able to do it after Dec. 31, 2014, Buddy will help

There will be a convention of survivalists (Wis storm chasers ) in Appleton on Oct 25 they were interested in having someone give demonstrations on ham radio no one was interested in going

### Announcements

No announcements were offered.

### Adjournment

A Motion to adjourn was made by Dave Witt wd9w and seconded by Lorie Beltz kc9yqs All approved by a voice vote and the meeting ended at 8:16 pm.

The 50/50 raffle was won by Tom Powell kc9vvr with ticket 806.



# FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



## November Meeting

The next meeting of the Fond du Lac Amateur Radio Club will be held on Monday, Nov. 10, 2014 at 7 pm at Moraine Park Technical College Room A-102

## 2014 FdL Ham Calendar Items

### November 10—Club Meeting

7:00p at MPTC Room A102

### December 6—License Exams

9:00a—12:00p at Red Cross FDL  
Contact Doug, N9EZF to register

### December 7 - FDL Holiday Parade

Volunteer Contact: Ed Beltz, N9PJQ

### December 7 - Club Christmas Party

At Jim & Linda's Lakeshore Supper Club



## ARRL Contests

### November 1-3

Nov. Sweepstakes—CW

### November 8-9

EME—50 to 1296 MHz

### November 15-17

Nov. Sweepstakes—Phone

### December 5-7

160 Meter

### December 6-7

EME—50-1296 MHz

### December 13-14

10 Meter

### December 21

Rookie Roundup—CW

For information on these contests and more, visit [www.arrl.org/contest-calendar](http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar)



# FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



## Upcoming Special Event Stations

I picked out several Special Event Stations that I thought might be of interest from the official ARRL list. For information on many, many more Special Event Stations, visit [www.arrl.org/special-event-stations](http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations)

### **11/07/2014 | 39th Anniversary Sinking of the Edmund Fitzgerald**

**Nov 7-Nov 9, 0114Z-1401Z, W8F**, Livonia, MI. Livonia Amateur Radio Club. 7.260 14.260 21.360. Certificate. Bruno Walczak, 16601 Golfview, Livonia, MI 48154. [LivoniaARC@yahoo.com](mailto:LivoniaARC@yahoo.com) or [www.livoniaarc.com](http://www.livoniaarc.com)

### **11/08/2014 | Hillsboro Lighthouse Special Event**

**Nov 8, 1000Z-1400Z, W4BUG**, Pompano Beach, FL. Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association. 14.240 14.220 14.200 14.180. QSL. Gold Coast Amateur Radio Association, POB 773, Pompano Beach, FL 33060. [www.w4bug.org](http://www.w4bug.org)



### **11/08/2014 | USS Cobia WWII Sub Celebrating Vets Day and Commemorating the 52 Subs and Crew Members Lost in WWII**

**Nov 8-Nov 9, 1400Z-2100Z, NB9QV**, Manitowoc, WI. USS Cobia Amateur Radio Club. 14.250 7.240. QSL. Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, 4932 S 10th St, Manitowoc, WI 54220. [www.grz.com/db/nb9qv](http://www.grz.com/db/nb9qv)

### **11/08/2014 | Veteran's Day Commemoration**

**Nov 8, 1500Z-2300Z, W9V**, Hopedale, IL. Peoria Area Amateur Radio Club. 28.445 21.345 14.245 7.245. QSL. Peoria Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 3508, Peoria, IL 61612. QSL with SASE [www.w9uvi.org](http://www.w9uvi.org)

### **11/15/2014 | 151st Anniversary of "The Lincoln's Gettysburg Address"**

**Nov 15-Nov 23, 0500Z-0500Z, W1G**, East Berlin, PA. WO4L. 24.945 18.150 14.260 7.185 other bands as prop allows. Certificate & QSL. Bob Hess, 74 Curtis Dr, East Berlin, PA 17316. Please follow specific instructions on QRZ to receive a 11x 14 certificate and or QSL card. [bigbob7388@gmail.com](mailto:bigbob7388@gmail.com), [www.grz.com/db/wo4l](http://www.grz.com/db/wo4l) or [www.grz.com/db/w1g](http://www.grz.com/db/w1g)



### **11/21/2014 | 98th Anniversary of HMHS Britannic Sinking**

**Nov 21-Nov 24, 1800Z-0000Z, KC9HYY/WSL3**, Muskego, WI. KC9HYY. 28.365 21.265 14.265 7.165. QSL. Nathan Banks, AttnP: HMHS SES, PO Box 324, Muskego, WI 53150. [kc9hyy@yahoo.com](mailto:kc9hyy@yahoo.com) or [www.grz.com/db/KC9HYY](http://www.grz.com/db/KC9HYY)

### **11/29/2014 | The First Pilgrim Landing at Plymouth**

**Nov 29-Nov 30, 1300Z-1900Z, N11X**, Plymouth, MA. Whitman Amateur Radio Club. 18.160 14.260 7.260 3.860; EchoLink: WA1NPO-R, IRLP:8691. Certificate & QSL. Whitman ARC, PO Box 48, Whitman, MA 02382. [www.wa1np.org](http://www.wa1np.org)



### **12/06/2014 | 73rd Anniversary of Civil Air Patrol**

**Dec 6, 1700Z-2300Z, N0C**, Saint Charles, IL. Illinois Wing Civil Air Patrol. 18.125 14.250 7.255. QSL. Maj Ron Walerowicz, ILWG CAP, PO Box 4027, Saint Charles, IL 60174. Frequencies will move as band conditions change; info at [www.n0c.info](http://www.n0c.info)

# FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB NEWSLETTER



## Remembering our Fathers ....

This doesn't really relate to HAM Radio but I came across it a few weeks ago. I think its something that many of our older members can relate to. The picture comes from a Kentucky HAM Newsletter and shows a father son team. It's a reminder that we can make our hobby a family affair.

4 years: My Daddy can do anything!

7 years: My Dad knows a lot...a whole lot.

8 years: My father does not know quite everything.

12 years: Oh well, naturally Father does not know that either.

14 years: Oh, Father? He is hopelessly old-fashioned.

21 years: Oh, that man-he is out of date!

25 years: He knows a little bit about it, but not much.

30 years: I must find out what Dad thinks about it.

35 years: Before we decide, we will get Dad's idea first.

50 years: What would Dad have thought about that?

60 years: My Dad knew literally everything!

