



**Polk County Amateur
Radio Association
1732 Forest Circle
Balsam Lake, WI 54810**

**July 9, 2010 Meeting Minutes
Polk County Government Center – Break Room**

Members present: President Rick W9WS, Vice President Mark W9GWG, Treasurer Carlos N9GIM, Jim KØKFC, Bill WY9E, Len KC9TPV, Diana KC9SLN, Mike KK9MC, Chris KC9NVV, Greg N9CHA, Ed W9ABA. Guests: Ted Aronson (Balsam Lake), Toby KC9UFN (New Richmond)

OPEN – Meeting called to order. 9:04am, President Rick W9WS

TREASURERS REPORT- Carlos N9GIM – report on our checkbook balance.

OLD BUSINESS

Rotor Repair – Rick W9WS reported that the used rotor and control the club purchased was repaired and worked well during field day. The total cost of the repair was about \$200. Rick asked the club to reimburse him for \$100 of the repair bill and he'd donate the rest. Motion by Mark W9GWG, second by Len KC9TPV to have the treasurer reimburse \$100 to Rick. Motion passed.

Field Day - Mark W9GWG reported field day 2011 was a success. Mark was on vacation and placed Greg N9CHA in charge of the event. Mark asked if there were any complaints, none. He then suggested the club make an effort to develop a step-by-step operators guide for the counties motor coach (Mobile Command Center). Items like how to get the AC working, how to operate the control panel, etc. Rick W9WS will contact Kathy Poirier to see if this would be acceptable. Chris KC9NVV reported the mast to rotor adapter be looked at as the holes for the through-bolts did not align properly. Greg N9CHA reported the final field day points total and number of participants (22). Details can be found on the N9XH web site.

Monday Night Net- Mark W9GWG Mark passed around a sign-up sheet requesting additional NCS's and backup NCS operators.

Repeater – Greg N9CHA provided a detailed assessment of the power line noise that now plagues the repeater site, making the repeater, packet and APRS systems less effective. Through efforts by Mark W9GWG, Chuck WD9GWG and Greg N9CHA on July 2nd, the power line noise was located near a farm on 150th street south of Balsam Lake. The power company, Northwestern Wisconsin Electric Company was notified on July 5th. A detailed explanation of the noise source along with a map was sent to the utility. Due to recent storm activity in the area, the utility is actively engaged with repair work. Thus, no response has been given. The members discussed the issue and recommend no further contact with the utility be done for at least 4 weeks, allowing them to continue their repairs without the club pestering them for power line noise abatement.

ARES/RACES/SKYWARN - Chris KC9NVV reported that there was no activation by Burnett County during the violent storm activity and straight line winds which occurred on the evening of July 1st. Rick W9WS asked if we in Polk County actively listen to the Burnett Skywarn system, Chris reported that we do, but reported their reports go through Duluth NWS and not Chanhassen NWS.

Mike KK9MC reported that his QTH lost power during the storm. Both his back-up generator and battery did not function. He recommended to the other club members that these things be checked on regular intervals and take advantage of his lessons-learned.

Chris KC9NVV reported he would like those who check into the Skywarn Net to stay by their radios while checked in. He said if you must leave, be sure to tell the NCS you'll be away, and check out.

Chris KC9NVV asked how many members present owned weather radios. All but 2 said they owned them. He also asked about anemometers (wind speed). A few members reported they owned them as well. Jim KØKFC commented that they should be of the "peak" reading variety.

Chris KC9NVV requested \$50 to help off-set the cost of travel to Shell Lake in late July for a conference he's going to attend. ICS300 training is being offered, and Chris would like to complete his certification this year so he can offer training classes. Motion by Mark W9GWG, second by Josh AG9K to have the treasurer reimburse \$50 to Chris. Motioned passed.

Len KC9TPV inquired about the weather software Chris and others used during Skywarn. The GR-Level 3 software is separately owned by Chris, Josh AG9K and Mark W9GWG. Len asked about the club purchasing a copy. Discussion revolved around licensing issues by the author. No motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Technician Classes – Len KC9TPV reported he knew of several people in our area wanting to get their ham license. Employees at Osceola Medical Center and members of the North Pines Mounted Search & Rescue groups are interested. Greg N9CHA offered to organize the teaching materials and present the Technician Class over a 2 weekend time period. Len offered to organize the interested group and set a September schedule. Rick W9WS asked, then offered to hold a VE session on the last day of the class.

Air Conditioner for Tower Shack – Greg N9CHA presented the group with data regarding the tower shack temperatures during the hot days of summer. The shack experiences +20 degrees to outside ambient temps as recorded by a telemetry device installed last year to the packet radio system. Greg suggested while the repeater is commercial grade, it's now 25+ years old and may experience system failure due to heat. The remaining equipment in the shack is not commercial grade, but ham grade. Excessive heat can easily damage this equipment. Greg asked the club for \$175 to off-set the expense of an air conditioner. Motion by Mike KK9MC, second by Len KC9TPV to have the treasurer reimburse Greg \$175. Motion passed.

CLOSE – President Rick W9WS made a motion the meeting adjourn. Jim KØKFC second. Adjournment at 10:02am.

Meeting Minutes submitted by Greg N9CHA in Secretary Mark KC9GHQ's absence.