



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

October 12, 2013

Polk County Government Center - Balsam Lake - Wisconsin

Note: Breakfast was held at "Doc's" for the first time after "The Angler" was closed. Even though the owner of Doc's had been notified of the club's intent to have breakfast at 8am, the staff were not informed and thus not expecting us. This caused a serious delay in the mornings schedule.

Attendance:

Greg N9CHA, Jim N9QFW (founding member), Steve NØXC, Ben KC9ROI, Bob NØBJV (guest), John NØTCN, Mark W9GWG, Mel KF6OZ, Robert KD6TWC, Chuck WD9GWG, Gino W9EEH (guest), Carlos N9GIM, Paul AA9FW (founding member), Steve KC9WKY, Rick W9WS, Chris KC9NVV

09:37 Meeting Called to Order

Rick W9WS PCARA President: Welcome to the founding members Paul AA9FW and Jim N9QFW for attending this month's meeting. Also welcome to guests Gino W9EEH and Bob NØBJV.

Treasurers Report:

Chris KC9NVV PCARA Treasurer - Report on Assets and Liabilities

1. Current check book balance
2. Paid \$100 for new battery, repeater shack, September 26, 2013. (Note: former battery lasted 3 years and was donated to the club by Carlos N9GIM.)
3. Battery was purchased from Scott KC9IUM, (Scott's Tire, Osceola). Actual price was \$140. Chris KC9NVV recommended that Scott's gift to the club could be "repaid" by honoring his 2014 membership dues. Motion by Mark W9GWG, second by Robert KD6TWC. Motion passed. Scott's 2014 are considered paid.

Old Business:

Chuck WD9GWG PCARA Emergency Coordinator - Review of the Simulated Emergency Test conducted on October 5th.

- Review set-up at the Incident Command, Trade River Campground, West of Cushing. Members included Greg N9CHA, Steve KC9WKY and Michelle KC9TYL. Equipment included a "drive-on tipper" mast system, dual-band antenna and Yaesu FT-8800.
- Review set-up at the Frederic Shelter, Frederic High School, North of downtown Frederic. Members included Mark WM9E, Mark W9GWG and Mike KK9MC. Equipment included a portable packet system, TNC, Alinco DR-135 transceiver, mag-mount antennas. A special cross-band voice repeater was set-up near a local car dealership using an Icom IC-2720 and gel-cel. A portable mast with a dual-band antenna and a 50' length of LMR-400 cable. A plastic container was used as a weather-proof enclosure. A special KA-NODE (WINODE) was also deployed to allow packet radio communications to be relayed out of the shelter. A Motorola M100, Kantronics KPC-3+ TNC, gel-cel battery, NEMA water-proof enclosure. A tripod, 12' of mast and a dual-band X50 antenna was also used.
- Review net-control set-up at the Government Center. Members included Rick W9WS and Bill K9WEN. It was determined that separate operating position be set up to handle UHF and Simplex traffic. The main VHF repeater had too much traffic for one operator to handle. The use of packet radio was excellent, messages sent as Bulletins were printed using "Outpost Packet Messenger" software.
- ARRL Wisconsin ARES/RACES Northwest DEC, Chris KC9NVV observed the SET at Net Control.

New Business:

Greg N9CHA - Repeater Builder - Review of Barron County - Polk County repeater linking project.

- The Skywarn Workshop grant which was applied for was awarded to a ham club in Mankato, MN. Thus the funding for the project failed.
- Members of the project including Chuck WD9GWG, Greg N9CHA, Rick W9WS, Greg W9GDH, Mark W9GWG and Chris KC9NVV expressed an interest in continuing support for the project.
- \$500 is needed to purchase a CAT-250 Repeater Controller for the Barron repeater, and a CAT Port Expander for the Polk County repeater. No source of funding has been determined.

Steve NØXC & Ben KC9ROI - JOTA Event - Osceola - October 19th operating event.

- Boy Scout Troop 131 will set up radio equipment at Schillberg's in Osceola on Saturday the 19th. The Boy Scouts operations will be set up at their Troop building, behind the High School. Access is made off of Education Avenue, SE of the HS parking lot.
- The Polk County Sheriff's Department has volunteered their portable Command Center for use.
- Scouts will have an over-night starting Friday. Video games will be the theme.
- HF dipole, Icom 706 transceiver, dual-band HT's will be utilized.
- Operation 09:00 to 13:00 Saturday
- JOTA, Jamboree-on-the-Air is an annual Scouting event held on the third full weekend of October.
- Osceola Troop 131 is part of the Eagle River District, of the Northern Star Council, BSA.

Chris KC9NVV - Bring Your HT to the Meeting Day

- Review of various manufacturers of current model HT's
- Does price make a difference? Inexpensive Chinese HT's get passing grade from ARRL.
- Caution, Part 97 and Part 90 compliant. Not authorized to TX on commercial/government frequencies.
- Display and discuss HT's from Kenwood, Yaesu, Icom, Motorola
- Ease of use. Programming software makes it easy to load channel information
- Which HT is the easiest to use? Yaesu FT-60 got the vote of club members.

10:40 Meeting Adjourned

Motion by Mark W9GWG, Second by Steve NØXC

Respectfully submitted by

Greg N9CHA for

PCARA Secretary, Mike KK9MC

-more-

Post Meeting Activities

Jim N9QFW and Paul AA9FW were invited to review the ham shack and the repeater shack.

Stories shared between them and Chuck WD9GWG about the origins of the club: Jim and Paul and their families lived in St. Croix Falls in the early 90's. They decided to build a repeater built from commercial mobiles that Paul received from a local ambulance service. The trustee was Jim N9QFW who applied to the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters and received the 147.195 coordination.

The "founding members" Chuck WD9GWG, Jerry N9MMT (sk), Paul AA9FW, Jim N9QFW and Jim K9HDF approached Richard Fabrini (sk), Polk County Emergency Manager for cooperation between hams and County Emergency Management. The formation of an ARES/RACES group was named at the time and became the foundation of the Polk County Amateur Radio Association. Jerry N9MMT served as the club's first President.

A demonstration of cross-band capabilities by Jim N9QFW so impressed Fabrini that he immediately offered cooperation. Paul AA9FW wrote up a Memorandum of Understanding between Polk County Emergency Management and the newly formed PCARA (1995). He reported he outlined the duties and responsibilities of each group.

In 1996 the PCARA was allowed to install a repeater at the Government Center. Paul AA9FW ordered and built a Hamtronics repeater. (Receiver first, transmitter later with diode-matrix ID module) Paul became the trustee at that time. The system consisted of a 25 watt PA, Wacom duplexer, Hustler antenna. Paul AA9FW remembers a significant amount of de-sense, always a problem at that location. Paul engineered a split antenna scheme, one for RX the other for TX.

Jim N9QFW remembered using a CD-ROM database to filter out local zip codes to send out invitations to join the PCARA. Chuck WD9GWG remembered each of the founding members having a phone list of local hams and calling them, inviting them to join the PCARA.

Jim N9QFW currently lives in Bloomer, WI

Paul AA9FW recently moved from Menomonee to Eau Claire, WI

Jim K9HDF currently lives in Hudson, WI

Chuck WD9GWG currently lives in Osceola, WI

Jerry N9MMT (sk) lived in Balsam Lake, WI