



Polk County Amateur Radio Association  
1732 Forest Circle  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810  
[www.N9XH.org](http://www.N9XH.org)

**September 13, 2014**

Polk County Government Center - Balsam Lake - Wisconsin

**Attendance:**

Rick W9WS, Ed W9ABA, Chuck WD9GWG, Robert KD6TWC, Mel KF6OZ, Ona KE5QMJ, Bill WY9E, Chris KC9NVV, Greg N9CHA, Mike KD9BXO (new member, first meeting), Steve KC9WKY, Carlos N9GIM, Barb KC9LNY, Jason N9XYX, Kathy Poirier (Polk County Emergency Management Director), Kay Confer (Polk County Human Services, Program Manager)

**09:01 Meeting Called to Order:** Rick W9WS, President called the meeting to order. Welcome to guests! Mike KD9BXO first time, new member. Jason & Barb Winget, American Red Cross. Kathy Poirier, Polk County Emergency Management Director. Kay Confer, Polk County Human Services, Program Manager.

**Treasurers Report:** Chris KC9NVV PCARA Treasurer – Reported the club's bank balance.

**Old Business:** Bike Race – A date to explore the race route needs to be set. Participants thus far are: Kirk KD9AKU, Greg N9CHA, Chris KC9NVV, Rick W9WS, Mark WM9E. The event is scheduled for December 20th.

**New Business:** Greg N9CHA reported the fee for internet (CenturyLink) has increased from \$36/mo to \$58/mo. The customer service department at CenturyLink explained that the account is now no longer on a promotional rate. Motion: Pay the current bill, research other internet service providers, contact CenturyLink and try to negotiate a lower rate. Second by Chuck WD9GWG. Motion passed.

Rick W9WS informed the membership the cost of insurance went from \$80/yr to \$250/yr after submitting a comprehensive equipment list including all enhancements located at the tower shack and Taylors Falls link. Greg N9CHA has donated an extensive list of equipment for club use and asked it be insured by the club. Discussion regarding the cost was generally unfavorable. Suggestions to have the deductible increased to \$2000/per event. Greg N9CHA suggested he remove the additional equipment from the list and not have the club responsible for its loss. Rick W9WS will modify the list sent to the insurance company for re-evaluation.

**Skywarn:** Chris KC9NVV reported a significant wind, rain and hail event occurred on September 3<sup>rd</sup> for about 2 hours. A passing storm was tracked in Northern Polk County in the areas of Luck, Bone Lake, Laketown and the Village of Luck. Winds in excess of 70mph knocked down trees and power lines. No injuries or loss of life. 14 ham operators checked into the net held that evening.

**ARES/RACES:** Chuck WD9GWG, EC for Polk County. Chuck reported details pertaining to the SET 2014. Date is set, October 4<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 12pm. There are several Goals this year and Chuck detailed each to the group. Chuck presented the historical relationship between Polk County Government and the PCARA ARES/RACES. By resolution in 1996, Polk County recognizes the ARES/RACES members as contributing communication capabilities to the County. Chuck reviewed the modes of communications necessary for the SET, the staff required to operate the ham equipment, and their duties and responsibilities. He also reviewed the data which will be collected from each ham who wishes to participate. Chuck also reminded the group that the ARRL is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year and there will be Centennial Stations on the air which can be contacted for additional point credit. These Centennial Stations will be mostly on HF and can be contacted on October 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to log your contacts and report to Chuck. A description of the WECOMM repeater system by Greg N9CHA was presented since its use is encouraged during the SET.

Chuck introduced Barb KC9LNY and Jason N9XYX Winget from the American Red Cross for our area. The Red Cross region includes Northern Minnesota, Polk, St. Croix and Douglas Counties in Wisconsin. Jason explained the relationship between the Red Cross and Polk County Emergency Management. The Red Cross can be tasked to provide several services depending on need. Communications is largely accomplished using the internet. Emergency response equipment including satellite phones and data links are flown into affected areas. Hams may be needed for local communications between supply depots and shelters. The Polk County ARES/RACES hams would be called out by Kathy, Polk EM and tasked to assist with communications as needed.

Chuck introduced Kay Confer, Polk County Human Services. Kay informed the group that her department is involved with shelters when they are needed during an event. She explained that she had not known about amateur radio and the ARES/RACES group and was generally impressed and curious about how she might better utilize the group.

Chuck thanked his guests, Barb, Jason, Kay and Kathy and asked if they might want to help contribute during the SET by providing examples of messages which might be relayed during an event by a ham operator.

**Meeting adjourned: 11:00 am**

Respectfully submitted by:

Greg N9CHA PCARA Secretary