



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

### **November 9, 2013**

Polk County Government Center - Balsam Lake - Wisconsin

Note: Breakfast was again delayed this month. The staff at "Doc's" was not able to start taking breakfast orders until 8:30. This caused another serious delay in the mornings schedule.

### **Attendance:**

Greg N9CHA, Steve NØXC, Mark W9GWG, Robert KD6TWC, Chuck WD9GWG, Carlos N9GIM, Steve KC9WKY, Rick W9WS, Chris KC9NVV, Bill K9WEN, Marv KC9IRT, Ed W9ABA, Josh AG9K

### **09:25 Meeting Called to Order**

Rick W9WS PCARA President: Introduced a special report by Steve NØXC and Mark W9GWG.

#### Special Report :

Steve NØXC reviewed the JOTA event of October 19<sup>th</sup>. Details can be found on the N9XH.org web site. Troup 131 from Osceola participated with support from Rick W9WS and Ben KC9ROI. Photos and a story were sent to the BSA for inclusion in an upcoming publication. Steve reported that the event was so successful he'd like to include several more Scout Troops in the Council next year. A special thank you to Mark W9GWG for the use of his spud-gun.

#### Special Report:

Mark W9GWG brought in his certificate for achieving 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the recent CQ WPX Contest for Low Power 20 Meters, Single Operator for District 9. Congratulations to Mark for this excellent achievement.

#### Treasurers Report:

Chris KC9NVV PCARA Treasurer - Report on Assets and Liabilities

1. Current check book balance
2. Donations via the "can" did not quite cover the expense of the Internet Fees at the tower shack. Robert KD6TWC asked if the IRLP is being used much. General censuses is no, with just a few contacts a month. He reported not being able to use the system because his DTMF tones are not being decoded. Greg N9CHA offered to assist by measuring Robert's DTMF tones in the coming week.

#### Old Business:

Mark W9GWG Net Manager – Sign up for 2014 Monday Night Net

- Mark sent around a sign-up sheet asking that that everyone take at least one Monday Night in 2014.
- An updated list will be emailed to Webmaster Greg N9CHA.

#### New Business:

Rick W9WS – Call for nominations – 2014 club leadership

By unanimous consent, the following slate was adopted for the 2014 club elections to be held on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

President – Rick W9WS  
Vice President – Mark W9GWG  
Treasurer – Chris KC9NVV  
Secretary – Greg N9CHA

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#### Rick W9WS – Club QSL Card Request

- Rick received a QSL card request from a ham who says he contacted the club station in July 2013 on 10 meter SSB.
- No log of that contact was made and no one at the meeting knew who made the contact.
- It was emphasized by Rick that when using the club station, please log all contacts.

#### Chris KC9NVV – District Emergency Coordinator – Wisconsin NW District

- Chris reported on his recent visit to the Wisconsin ARES/RACES State Conference, October 19<sup>th</sup> in Wisconsin Rapids.
- A state wide emergency VHF/UHF simplex plan was revealed.
- Chris encouraged us to be sure the simplex frequencies are programmed into our radios and that the programming file on the Yahoo Groups be updated with this new information.
- Chris was appointed the Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator for Training. Congratulations to Chris for this achievement.
- The WI leadership suggested the 2014 conference be held in Wausau or Stevens Point for 2 days.
- Chris revealed a “jamming devise” is being used by over the road truckers to confuse their corporate GPS units in hopes of achieving anonymity from their dispatchers. Recent use of this device in Newark, NJ has proven to not only jam GPS but also law enforcement public service communications. This is considered a criminal act.
- A new state wide ARES/RACES net is being held on the last Thursday evening at 7pm on the WeComm repeater network.

#### Chuck WD9GWG – Polk County Emergency Coordinator (interim until approved)

- A handout was provided to the membership listing the 7 requirements for being a member in the clubs ARES/RACES group. Those requirements are:
  1. Participate in 12 home county ARES/RACES training nets per year.
  2. Participate in 1 ARES/RACES activation per year.
  3. Attend 1 ARES/RACES meeting per year.
  4. Send 1 NTS or Radiogram per year indicating the member is still interested in retaining membership.
  5. Be a contributor to the team in the “eyes of the EC.”
  6. Attend Skywarn Training at least every 2 years.
  7. Completion of ICS-100 and ICS-700 FEMA courses.
- Chuck listed those members he has certified as having their FEMA ICS required training.
- Chuck reviewed the ICS-213 message form and handed out a number of explanation pages for the completion of the ICS-213.
- A list of communications capabilities must be maintained by each member.

#### Greg N9CHA & Chris KC9NVV – Barron County Repeater Project

- Since the club did not receive the Minnesota Skywarn Workshop grant, Greg N9CHA, Rick W9WS, Chris KC9NVV and Mark W9GWG decided to go ahead with the project anyway and find independent financial sources.
- Greg W9GDH decided in late October to no longer participate in the hobby of amateur radio and removed the Barron County VHF and UHF repeaters from the air. He also notified WAR and the Barron County Emergency Manager that he no longer will be the trustee for the two repeater coordination’s.
- Chris KC9NVV stepped up and notified WAR and the Barron County Emergency Manager that he would like to have the Barron County Repeaters administratively re-coordinated using his call sign and become the trustee.
- Greg N9CHA asked the members of the club if they would be willing to take on the duties and responsibilities of the Barron County repeaters in the interim since there is no Barron County ham radio ARES/RACES or general interest club at this time.
- A Motion by Mark W9GWG was made to formalize the relationship between the PCARA and the Barron County repeater operations until such time there is an organized ham club or ARES/RACES group that can take on the responsibilities of operating the systems. Second by Steve KC9WKY. Motion passed by unanimous consent.

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- Greg informed the group that he purchased a CAT-250 controller, RME-200L, RLS-1000B and RME-200L Cabinet Box for implementation into a newly acquired Motorola MSF-5000 repeater which Chris had reprogrammed.
- There is both a VHF and UHF antenna mounted on the Barron County “Poskin Tower” for amateur use.
- A lively discussion between all members concluded in a consensus that while a county political boarder does exist between Polk and Barron, it does not define the ham radio community and the support that will be offered. The PCARA will offer any support necessary to organize, train and solicit hams in Barron County.

**11:15 Meeting Adjourned**

Motion by Mark W9GWG, Second by Carlos N9GIM

Respectfully submitted by  
Greg N9CHA for  
PCARA Secretary, Mike KK9MC