Polk County Amateur Radio Association
1732 Forest Circle
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
www.N9XH.org

March 08, 2014
Polk County Government Center - Balsam Lake - Wisconsin
Note: Breakfast was held at Main Street Cafe, Balsam Lake.

Attendance:
Rick W9WS, Mark W9GWG, Greg N9CHA, Wayne KC9RBL, Jack W9JET, Ed W9ABA, Chuck WD9GWG, Mel KF6OZ, Robert KD6TWC, Greg W9GDH, Steve N0XC, Ben KC9ROI, Steve KC9WKY, Kirk KD9AKU

09:11 Meeting Called to Order
Rick W9WS, President called the meeting to order. Welcome to new member Kirk KD9AKU!

Treasurers Report:
- Chris KC9NVV PCARA Treasurer – Reported via Rick, we have positive balance at this time

Old Business:
- Update Luck Historical Society ham radio exhibit. Rick, Greg and Chuck visited the site on February 11th. Examined the exhibit space and scoped out antenna mounting capabilities. Need a desk to serve as the foundation of the exhibit. Steve KC9WKY volunteered to look at "Ruby's Pantry in Siren as they may have a desk available. Kirk KD9AKU also suggested he may have one but will have to wait for the snow to melt before he can gain access to his storage shed.
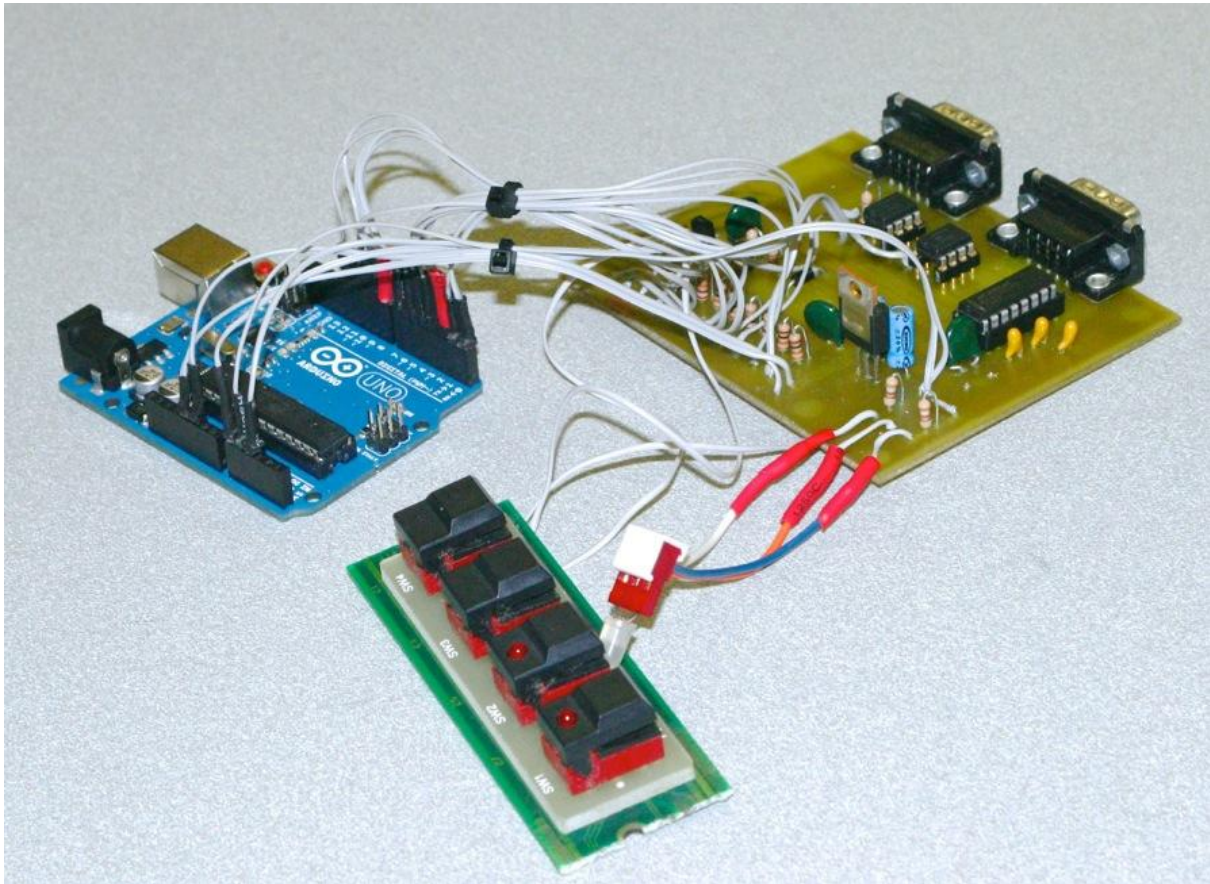
New Business:
- Chris KC9NVV – Club dues. Last chance! Please pay your dues to Chris. If you have any personal information that has changed, please e-mail Greg so he can update the roster. info@n9xh.org
- Rick W9WS - Birkie ski event review. The 41st annual Birkebeiner was held on February 22nd in Hayward, WI. Chris KC9NVV was the ham radio coordinator. Rick W9WS and Greg W9GDH were both at the event and said the most difficult obstacle was the weather and road conditions. On the Friday before the event there was a severe winter storm dumping over a foot of snow in the Cable/Hayward area. Roads were slippery and access to most of the checkpoints was impossible without 4-wheel drive.

ARES/RACES:
- Chuck WD9GWG, EC for Polk County passed out "clear view" maps of Polk County which had been developed years before by Chuck and Bud KB9ZAZ (SK). Bud was a dairy inspector and knew the county well. Recently Chuck had additional copies printed. He also secured new plastic envelopes for the maps. Included was a sheet listing NWS reporting instructions.
- Chuck WD9GWG passed out several documents supporting the roll ARES/RACES has in Polk County. A Polk County Resolution defines the purpose of ham radio and how the Emergency Manager is to coordinate the efforts of ham radio volunteers.
- Chuck WD9GWG announced Mark W9GWG as his assistant EC.

Program:

- Steve NØXC and his son Ben KC9ROI brought with them a custom K3 - AH4 interface they built. The device is pictured below. It incorporates the use of an Arduino microcontroller, push-button interface switches and a custom pc board including serial connectors and digital switching.
- The purpose of the K3 - AH4 interface is to allow the Elecraft K3 transceiver the ability to control the Icom AH4 remote auto-tuner. No such interface is available and the two components are otherwise incompatible.
- Ben wrote custom software to use a pulse based communications protocol for the AH4, turn that control code into a serial protocol which in turn can be used by the K3.
- The prototype, V1.0 is being redesigned and a new version will be available soon.
- Steve and Ben will write the project up for QST and QEX submission.

K3 - AH4 Interface - Steve NØXC & Ben KC9ROI
Photo: Rick W9WS

Meeting adjourned: 10:30 am
Respectfully submitted by:
Greg N9CHA PCARA Secretary