



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

May 10, 2014

Polk County Government Center - Balsam Lake - Wisconsin

Note: Breakfast was held at Main Street Cafe, Balsam Lake.

Attendance:

Rick W9WS, Steve N0XC, Ben KC9ROI, Ed W9ABA, Chris KC9NVV, Bill K9WEN, Mark W9GWG, Carlos N9GIM, Mike KK9MC, Chuck WD9GWG, Jon KC9PJG, Kevin KC9EMJ & Son William, Kirk KD9AKU & Son Cade, Greg N9CHA, Dale W9DKB

09:24 Meeting Called to Order

Rick W9WS, President called the meeting to order. Welcome to guests!

Kevin KC9EMJ and his Son William became members of the PCARA, welcome!

Treasurers Report:

- Chris KC9NVV PCARA Treasurer – Reported the club's bank balance.

Old Business:

- PCARA Constitution and By-Laws Amendment. Pursuant to the by-laws, suggested changes must be presented to the membership at a meeting (April). A Motion must be made to recommend the changes and discussion. The proposed changes are posted via email and a vote to ratify the changes must be then taken at the following months meeting (May). Motion to accept bylaw changes, Mark W9GWG. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Review of ARISS contact, Prior Lake Hidden Oaks Middle School. Rick W9WS, Greg N9CHA, Ben KC9ROI, Steve N0XC, Chris KC9NVV participants. Greg read a letter posted to the group by ARISS Technical Mentor, John AG9D regarding the importance of assisting teachers and students with access to the ARISS program and thanked the volunteers for their efforts.
- Greg N9CHA announced he is now serving (February 2014) as the Secretary to the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters. Their first meeting was May 3rd in Milwaukee. Significant developments listed by Greg include the new ARRL policy of no longer accepting repeater coordination records via bulk data upload, but rather by a web based form found on the ARRL web site which authorized trustees can use to keep the data current.
- Chris KC9NVV reported on his attending the annual WeComm leadership meeting held in Wausau. Significant developments include the WeComm repeater system is now trunked 24/7 (all repeaters linked VoIP). New systems to go online in Dodgeville and Plymouth soon with another one to be located in the center of the State by this Fall. Chris also announced that Greg N9CHA (Osceola) and Jack W9JET (River Falls) now serve and Directors on the WeComm Board of Directors.
- Mark W9GWG - Monday Night Net - Net control ops needed for July, August, September
- Bill K9WEN - Field Day 2014 Update. Bill is coordinating the club's efforts for FD 2014. He passed around a list of equipment he can provide, equipment from the clubs hamshack and asked others for help. He will present a more complete report at the June meeting. Anyone wanting to participate should contact Bill.

- Mark W9GWW asked about the linking project between Barron and Polk. Greg N9CHA reported the club is still waiting for a tower climber to accomplish the task of mounting new antennas and feed lines. Mark made a Motion to have Greg find a tower climber that can get the job accomplished rather than continue waiting for Len N9QIP to become available. Motion passed.
- Kirk KD9AKU announced there will be a bike race event on May 18th. Anyone interested in helping out can volunteer with the race organizers in St. Croix Falls. Kirk also suggested the club consider helping with communications during this and future bike events as many of the pathways are off-road and remote enough to not support cell phone coverage. Several members indicated they would be interested in helping out at a future event. Greg N9CHA suggested he would meet with the race organizers and develop a communications plan.
- Chris reported there will be a "Paypal" button on the web site so members can pay their dues or/and make contributions to the club. Chris and Greg will work on the logistics and announce when it's ready.

Skywarn:

- Chris KC9NVV provided updates regarding Skywarn activities
- Chris reviewed the April 24th is the NWS "test" There was some confusion as to the time it was to start. Several club members checked in.
- Chris asked for more net control operators to get involved. See Chris if you'd like to volunteer.

ARES/RACES:

- Chuck WD9GWW, EC for Polk County. Chuck will present "An Emergency Communications Scenario" at the June meeting.
- Chuck reported he will be submitting a roster of ARES/RACES to the DEC and SEC by the end of June.
- Chuck asked if anyone would like to become a member of ARES/RACES to please see him. ICS100 and ICS700 training is required and the certificates must be on file with Chuck.
- Chris KC9NVV, DEC for NW WI reported the State will be implementing a credentialing process this year. He also reported that background checks are not going to be required and that County EM's and EC's will continue to vouch for those who participate in local events.

Program:

- Dale W9DKB provided an outstanding presentation on antenna tuners. He showed how antennas, feed lines and any other inductors or capacitors make up a "system" and depending on several variables, how the power is transmitted from your radio into the antenna. Dale presented drawings illustrating various matching network components and compared various models of home-built and commercial tuners. Steve NOXC brought with him some commercial grade inductors he's going to use in a home-built tuner. Dale passed around a balun, home-built tuners, commercial auto-tuners and commercial network tuners and explained how they were built.

Meeting adjourned: 11:45 am

Respectfully submitted by:
Greg N9CHA PCARA Secretary