



Polk County Amateur Radio Association
Meeting Minutes of the Organization
1732 Forest Circle
Balsam Lake, WI 54810
www.N9XH.org

May 13, 2017

Attendance: Chris KC9NVV, Greg N9CHA, Rick W9WS, Russ WQ0N, Wayne KC9RBL, Jack W9JET, Gale WD9HFT, Tom N0HWY, Bruce N9BLU, Kelly N9HBN, John N0TCN, John N9UPC, Bill K9WEN

Meeting Called to Order: 9:00 by Chris, K9NVV, President

Introduction of Guests & Announcements:

- There were no guests at the meeting

Treasurers Report:

- Jack W9JET, Treasurer, reported on the balances in the checking account and PayPal account

Old Business:

- Greg reported that new CAT5 cable was purchased at a very reasonable cost (about \$75) to replace the cable that flooded and caused the internet connection at the shack to fail. The club authorized up to \$200 for the cable at the previous meeting. He is looking for someone willing/able to climb the tower to install the new cable.

New Business:

- Bill K9WEN, VP, Net Control Manager – indicated net controllers are still needed for a few weeks in May, June and July. The sign-up sheet was sent around and returned to Bill.
- The APRS iGate is currently off-line. Greg is looking in to possible explanations. The I-Gate was reporting information wrong but Greg was able to reset and will reinstall soon.
- Chris KC9NVV, led a discussion regarding the club field day event this year. There was no strong support for organizing one, so the club will not have on this year. Rick W9WS, will be working field day from his pontoon boat on Balsam Lake (weather permitting). Contact Rick if you are interested in helping him to activate his pontoon.
- Greg N9CHA invited anyone interested to assist with a balloon launch from the Prior Lake Middle School on May 25th. In particular he is looking for folks to help track and recover the payloads via APRS in the area as well as tracking from home. The balloon will carry 3 payloads with GoPro cameras, Temp and BP sensors, GPS and one with an RH sensor and one with a satellite-based location communication system. Greg will send out more info via

the Yahoo group email. They are also looking for a couple of the extendable Crappie poles that could be used to pick payloads from trees if necessary

Skywarn:

- Chris KC9NVV reported there was a test activation of the Skywarn Net on April 20th at 18:40. Most members indicated they did receive the “One Call Now” phone notification. Three or four individuals indicated they got a single ring, or no call at all. Chris will look into the possible reasons.

ARES/RACES:

- The Monthly report was submitted to SEC and DEC by Greg N9CHA.

PETTY CASH REPORT: Jack W9JET, Treasurer – donations to the can were \$19.00 for the day

ADJOURN: Motion to adjourn at 10:45

PROGRAM:

- John N9UPC provided an in-depth presentation on digital modes and how the technology is evolving to both 1) reduce cost and 2) allow the different platforms (DStar, DMR, Fusion) to talk with one-another. His presentation included multiple show-n-tell items and real examples of managing digital modes in emergency communications in the state. The discussion also included lively exchange of views regarding where and how the internet “fits” in amateur radio and emergency communications when infrastructure fails.

Respectfully submitted by Russ WQ0N