



PATOKA VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

February 18, 2025 – 5:40pm EST

Jasper Public Library – Jasper, IN

- Before the meeting started, club members arrived at five o'clock for pizza provided by the Patoka Valley Amateur Radio Club.
- The meeting was called to order a little early at 5:40 PM by President Mike Vogler.
- Ron Hickman offered a prayer, and the pledge of allegiance was recited.
- Attendance – 16 licensed members and 2 guests (sign-in sheet attached)
- President Mike Vogler mentioned that he has changed the format of the club meetings and has moved the business portions to the end of the meeting.
- Mike welcomed everyone and re-iterated our mission - "To recruit, foster, educate, and mentor amateur radio"

MEETING PRESENTATION

- There was no "technical presentation" presented and instead there was a round-table discussion on how we could grow our club. President Vogler stressed that the club needs to stay active and keep innovating new ideas for club growth. The following items were all topics that were discussed:
 - Teamwork was stressed to help the club grow.
 - It was mentioned that if you are going to activate a POTA site and do not mind others in attendance, then let Vice-President Hickman know so he can spread the word to other club members that may want to join-in with the activation. The other member(s) could help that ham out or bring their own gear and antenna and set-up alongside.
 - Having members attend other Ham radio club meetings to see if any ideas can be obtained that we can use in our own club. Clubs in Martin, Lawrence, Knox, and Orange counties were mentioned as possible meetings to attend. Paul, W9PRM, mentioned that is what he is doing by being at our meetings. He is looking at our club to get ideas to take back to the Martin County club as it is still in its infancy. Paul said he likes being a member of our club because the PVARC has done a fantastic job in our area of the state and has several members show up at our meetings. He said that we are always doing something new to keep the club active. He would like to take these ideas and help the Martin County club grow.
 - Ham's Helping Ham's
 - High School Ham Clubs with both Jasper High School and Pike Central High

- School being mentioned as possible places for members to start a club.
- Boy Scouts – it was mentioned once again that doing something with local Boy Scout troops is a way to not only help the scouts earn a merit badge it can also help them get interested in ham radio at a young age.
 - Contacting all hams in the club members own counties to see if there is any interest in those hams joining our club. Websites such as the FCC, ARRL, and QRZ were mentioned as places to obtain a database. It was suggested to send these hams a postcard with club info on it to let these hams know of our club. Steve volunteered to generate a list for Dubois and other counties.
 - President Vogler said he would like to see more of our club members participate in Field Day. Even if it's only for an hour or two. We could have a simple station set up for whoever wants to operate it.

OLD BUSINESS

- VE Testing – Stephen stated that there were two people that passed their tech license. President Vogler asked if any of the club members would like to obtain their VE testing certificate. He said with more members having their certification helps in having an available test crew when needed.
- As mentioned at last month's meeting, the club is down three net control operators. President Vogler asked if any members would like to help and be an NCO. Steve Hemmer said he would step up and call some nets.

NEW BUSINESS

- A shirt order form was passed around for those wanting to order club shirts.
- President Vogler informed the club that having an ARRL membership allows members to take numerous online classes and courses involved in several different areas of amateur radio.
- Starting with the March meeting Mike asked the members that belong to the ARRL to write their ARRL member number on the sign-in sheet because he must turn in a report each year showing how many club members belong to the ARRL.
- Mike said he would like to see more of the members utilize both the 2 meter and 70 cm repeaters. If you are around your radio, then pick up the mic and let others know you are there and strike up a conversation.
- Mike appointed Phil Smith to be the Director of Hospitality (DOH). Phil will now keep in touch with club members and when a situation arises, he will have cards for the members to sign to send to other members that may be sick at home or in the hospital.

GUESTS INTRODUCED

- Both Derek Libbert and John Kaltenbacher joined our meeting and were introduced.

OFFICER REPORTS

- President
 - Mike welcomed everyone and re-iterated our mission - “To recruit, foster, educate, and mentor amateur radio”
- Secretary/Treasurer
 - The January 2025 meeting minutes were read. One correction was noted - Steve Hemmer was not the member that opened the meeting with prayer.
 - The treasurer reported that the January 31 bank balance was \$1,313.69. Fifty dollars is still safe in the petty cash box. Jody Denning made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected as well as the treasurer’s report and it was seconded by Steve Hemmer. The motion passed without opposition.
- Vice-President
 - Ron let the club know that there are some contests coming up:
February 21-23 is the 160-meter side-band contest as well as the North & South Carolina QSO parties
Saturday the 22nd is the ham fest in Dugger, IN
Ron also informed the club that there is a broadcast antenna company in Chandler, IN called Chandler Antennas. This might be something to look in to for a possible field trip or to have someone from the company present at one of our meetings.

DONATIONS

\$47 was collected for the 50/50 prize. Steve Hemmer was the winner and donated the winnings to the club treasury.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 7:04 PM by Jody Denning, seconded by George McCormick. The motion passed without opposition.