



## PATOKA VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2025 – 6:00pm EST  
Jasper Public Library – Jasper, IN

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Mike Vogler.
- Mike Maffenbeier offered a prayer, and the pledge of allegiance was recited.
- Attendance – 21 licensed members and 2 guest (sign-in sheet attached)
- President Mike Vogler welcomed everyone and re-iterated our mission - “To recruit, foster, educate, and mentor amateur radio”

### **MEETING PRESENTATION**

- Gary Fritz gave an update on the new Dubois County System Fusion repeater. Gary stated that the repeater is a RACES repeater and is owned & operated by the Dubois County EMA. He made clear that during normal use the repeater will always support FM/Analog and C4FM digital. However, once the Dubois County EMA activates the repeater for emergencies, such as RACES or Skywarn, the system will then shift into a digital only mode with C4FM. The Dubois County EMA has decided to do this to resolve their noise issues with hearing all their weather spotters. The new repeater has corrected their issue, and all spotters are now legible with zero noise issues. There was some questioning by members present as to why the repeater would go into a communication mode that not everyone can access without purchasing digital radios or digital scanners. The point being, that during an emergency, wouldn't it be better to have a communication mode where more people could either hear or talk rather than using a digital mode that makes it impossible for some people to hear or communicate. Gary mentioned again that the EMA decided to do this so that they can have better communication between EMA and the weather spotters. This in turn helps to make sure reports are clearly understood before they are relayed to the National Weather Service. President Vogler then reiterated that the repeater is not a PVARC repeater and that we are only guests on it.
- Gary then went to a presentation on the Indiana QSO Party, N3FJP, and Ham Dash. The Indiana QSO Party is coming up fast on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and is from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on 160, 80, 40, 20, and 10 meters on SSB or CW. Gary discussed the N3FJP logging software. If you participate and use N3FJP please make sure you have the most updated version of the program. Gary went over the highlights of the program and how to set it up and log contacts. Cabrillo files are the only way to submit your contacts. Please make sure that you put the club's name (Patoka Valley Amateur Valley Radio Club) in

correctly so that we can get club credit. Gary then went over the online program Ham Dash. This program allows you to see the scores of the other PVARC members in real-time as the contest is going on.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

- Secretary/Treasurer
  - The March 18, 2025 meetings minutes were read, and no corrections were needed.
  - The Treasurer reported that the March 2025 bank balance was \$1,606.66 and fifty dollars is still safe in the petty cash box. A first quarter treasurer's report was also given with the same ending balance of \$1,606.66. Lee Ferrell made a motion to accept the minutes as read as well as the treasurer's report and it was seconded by Jody Denning. The motion passed without opposition.
- Vice-President
  - Ron let the club know that the Michigan QSO Party is this coming weekend, and that the Dayton Hamvention is May 16-18. There will be amateur license testing in Evansville on both April 21<sup>st</sup> and April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Director of Hospitality
  - Phil mentioned that Ron Sharp had hip surgery, and that the club had sent him a get-well card. On a side note, after the meeting Ron had mentioned that he very much appreciated the card.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

- Mike Goodpaster updated the club that we are still looking at doing a fox hunt with a date & time to be determined. It was mentioned that Mike and Calvin would get together soon to test out a transmitter that Calvin has been working on that we may use in the hunt. It was also stated that we may do a couple of fox hunts with the club members before we try hosting our own. It was suggested to also participate in other area clubs fox hunts to possibly pick up some ideas for our own hunt.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Mike (K9MLG) suggested that the club consider having a club POTA activation. We could pick a local POTA park, meet there, set up, and activate the park. There could be one or multiple stations set up. If members don't want to participate in the actual contacting, they could just bring a lawn chair and watch. This could also be tied in with our club fox hunt as well.
- President Vogler made mention that if the club gets much bigger that we may outgrow our meeting room. He said to go ahead and do your own recruiting, but we will temporally put a hold on mass recruitment.

- Mike (KA9GDW) once again mentioned an amendment to change our by-laws where it states that membership dues are due by the end of January with a grace period to the end of February. Mike would like to change that to the dues are to be paid for at the December meeting and no later than December 31<sup>st</sup>. If payment is received after December 31 the dues would be \$30. A grace period would only continue till January 31<sup>st</sup>. Mike made mention of Calvin's suggestion from the last meeting to raise the annual dues from \$20 to \$25. A voice vote was taken and passed to proceed to vote on the changes at the next meeting.
- Calvin Mitchem suggested that he thought the portion of the by-laws that state that our club meetings are to be held on the third Tuesday of each month should be changed or deleted. This way we could change when we are having a meeting without having to change the by-laws each time. It was Calvin's thought that changing our constitution or by-laws should be a big deal and not something that happens each year.

## **GUESTS**

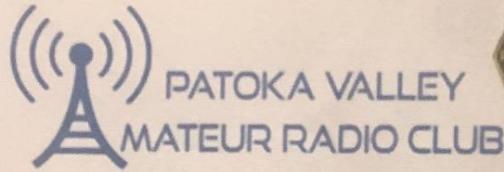
- Adam Mann (KB9UYN) and Levi Nigg (KE9DAW) were guests at our meeting. Levi addressed the club and told a little about himself and his interest in amateur radio and even filled out a membership application. President Vogler asked for a voice vote to accept Levi as a member of the club and the vote was passed with no opposition. Welcome to the club Levi.

## **DRAWINGS**

There were two drawings. The first was for \$25 and the second was for an Anytone 2M/440 radio donated by John Kaltenbacher. Mike Maffenbeier was the winner of the \$25. Owen Wagner's ticket was pulled as the winner of the radio. However, Owen graciously said to draw another name. Then, Mike Maffenbeier was then pulled out as the winner. Since Mike had just won the previous drawing, he also graciously said to draw another ticket. Third time was the charm for Mr. George McCormick (W9GMC) as he had the winning ticket. A round of "thanks" was given to John Kaltenbacher for donating the radio.

## **ADJOURN**

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM by Adam Mann and seconded by Jody Denning. The motion passed without opposition.



Meeting Sign-in Sheet – Date: APRIL, 15, 2025

Name	Call Sign	Member	ARRL Member #
Owen Wagner		✓	
John Kalkenbacher	KD9JYN	✓	✓
Jerry Hill	KD9VDI	✓	✓
Linus Mann	N9NAU	✓	✓
Adam Mann	KB9UYU		
Garry Smith	KD9WVS	✓	
PHIL Smith	KB9IAT	✓	✓
Colonel Child	N9COL	✓	✓
Mike Maffener	N9MZF	✓	✓
LEE FERRELL	N8LF	✓	✓
GEORGE McCormick	W9GMC	✓	✓
Levi Bigg	W9DAD		
STEVEN HEMMER	KE9APT	✓	✓
Rox Hickman	KD9KNB	✓	✓
Mark Hurdell	KC9NKI	✓	✓
CALVIN MITCHAM	KE8ICE	✓	✓
Jody Denning	KC9YIM	✓	
Mike Goodman	K9MGB	✓	
Mike Vogle	KA9GDW	✓	✓
Gary Frite	WD9LJB	✓	✓
Craig Vogler	KD9KNC	✓	
PAUL McFEATERS	W9PRM	✓	
Wally Hallander	KR9JML	✓	