



## PATOKA VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2025 – 6:00pm EST

The Chicken Place - Ireland, IN

- The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by President Mike Vogler.
- Ron Hickman offered a prayer, and the pledge of allegiance was recited.
- Attendance – 13 members were present
- President Mike Vogler welcomed everyone and re-iterated our mission - “To recruit, foster, educate, and mentor amateur radio”

### OFFICER REPORTS

- Secretary/Treasurer
  - The September 16, 2025, meeting minutes were read with two corrections noted. First, Stephen Goins last name was to be corrected, and Steve Hemmer was not the one that offered the prayer.
  - Treasurer's report – Mike (K9MLG) reported that the September 2025 bank balance was \$900.64 and fifty dollars is still safe in the petty cash box. Mike let the club know that he had been gone for three weeks after the last meeting and never had a chance to deposit the donations from the September meeting. Ron Hickman made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and the corrected minutes. It was seconded by Steve Hemmer and the motion passed without opposition.

### PRESENTATIONS

- Mike Maffenbeier gave a presentation about his new Gemini 2 1400W linear amplifier. Mike stated that his involvement in EMA is what made him want to upgrade his station. His prior 2-meter amplifier only put out approximately 180 watts. He said when trying to check into the state EMA station, it is very difficult from his location. Mike stated that he looked around quite a bit and found that most amplifiers topped out at 600 watts and he was looking for more wattage. He found a company called LINEARamp out of England that makes high quality equipment and runs at 100% duty cycle. This new linear is approximately 50 pounds, runs off of 220 volts, and is the size of a small microwave. Mike said the linear is secured to a huge heat-sink that is 3/4<sup>th</sup>s of the case. It took five months to even get on the build list. It took around a year total for him to receive it after it was ordered because of build times and customs. Mike noted that no one talks about the other equipment that you currently have in your shack needs to be durable enough to handle the increase in wattage. He found that most equipment, such as coax and coax

connectors, are not built to handle the high wattage. Mike upgraded his coax to some manufactured by Messi & Paoloni out of Italy (Extraflex Bury 13 cable) because his previous coax could not handle the new power at 100% duty-cycle. Mike said he is talking simplex with people in surrounding states and if the conditions are favorable, he can talk much further.

- President Vogler informed those present that the club received a notification from a company stating that we owed them money due to having a picture on our website that was a copyrighted photo. Thinking it was initially a scam, Gray contacted an attorney. The attorney informed Gary that it was indeed legit and that it is something new that has started. These companies use AI scrubbers to scour the internet web pages looking for pictures that are owned and “copyrighted” by another person or company. When there is a positive id on a picture the company sends out a notification alerting this person that they have been fined and where to send the fine money to. President Vogler then asked John Kaltenbacher to give an update on our club’s Facebook page. John stated that he put a pause on the club’s Facebook page so he could scrub all prior posts, about six years’ worth. This was done just in case there were any issues with posted pictures. Going forward, anytime someone posts something to the club’s page it must now go through the administrator of the page who acts as another set of eyes before it gets posted. Gary (WB9LIB) will give a more in-depth presentation on this at our next club meeting in November.
- President Vogler asked the club members if they thought the Question of the Week was an impediment to people checking into the weekly net. Most of the members present said the Question of the Week was not that big of a deal and was not keeping people away. It was suggested that if it was your turn to call the net and you cannot think of a good question to ask then maybe just not worry about asking it at that time.
- VE testing is on November 15<sup>th</sup> and Stephen believes he has someone interested in taking the test. President Vogler suggested that more members get their VE certification.
- Gary, WB9LIB, could not be in attendance, but asked President Vogler to mention that he had received a request from a club in Ohio to use one of our clubs’ presentations that is found on our website. They also asked if Gary could do the presentation via Zoom.
- The ARRL is asking all ARRL club affiliated members to contact their senators and representatives in congress in reference to HR1094 and SB459. President Vogler stated that he would email the letter he is going to send in so everyone can get an idea on how to write their letters.

- The club was going to have officer nominations at the meeting, but due to a lack of a quorum it was not possible. President Vogler asked all the members present to return to next months meeting in hopes that there would be a quorum.
- President Vogler stated that his HEX beam antenna sustained damage last year and needed to be repaired. Phil and Gary went over to Mike's place, and they repaired the beam. Another example of Hams Helping Hams.

### **DONATIONS**

\$34 was collected for the 50/50 prize with \$17.00 going to the winner. Mike Maffenbeier had the winning ticket and donated \$12 of his winnings back to the club treasury.

### **ADJOURN**

President Vogler adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.