



PATOKA VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

November 18, 2025 – 6:00pm EST

Jasper Public Library - Jasper, 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 – 21 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
 - President Vogler read the October 21st meeting minutes. Mike Maffenbier made a motion to accept the treasurer’s report as written. It was seconded by Jerry Hill and the motion passed without opposition.

PRESENTATIONS

- Gary Fritz (WB9LIB) gave a presentation on Copyright Etiquette and the Risks Involved. This presentation was given due to the club receiving a “Copyright Infringement Notice”. A company notified Gary that the club used a copyrighted photo of a handheld radio in a presentation that we did not have authorization to use. The club was ordered to pay \$250 in damages. That photo, as well as several others, was removed immediately from our website. All PVARC presentations were pulled from our website as well. Gary employed two law firms at a cost of \$289 to confirm the notice was valid and to share advice on our situation. As it turned out that particular picture was not copyrighted with the associated press and the club cannot be sued for damages. Companies are now using AI to scour the web in search of copyright violations. Gary warned everyone to take notice and ensure that you have not posted any copyright material to your own websites or social media platforms. PVARC presentations are now posted on Google Docs and requires a google account to access them. You can no longer copy, download, or print our club presentations.
- President Vogler thought that Gary should be reimbursed the funds that he spent in fighting this copyright ordeal. Mike Maffenbier made a motion to fully reimburse Gary for all expenses he incurred. It was seconded by Jerry Hill. Garry Smith asked for an amendment to the motion stating he was in favor of paying Gary if it does not put the club in a bind financially and if need be to reimburse Gary as funds are available. Mike & Jerry both agreed to the amendment. President Vogler asked for a voice vote, and it passed without opposition.

- John Kaltenbacher gave an update on the club's Facebook page. He did mention that from now on that all posts you make to the club's Facebook page will be filtered through him. So, when you make a post it will not show up immediately.
- President Vogler informed the members that we are going on our 11th years as a club. Mike said they met where the old Jasper VFW was located and read a portion of a news release that was dated November 15, 2015. Mike said it was a lot of fun getting the club started, but that it was a lot of work.
- Stephen Goins updated everyone with the most recent VE testing results. Current PVARC member Derek Libbert (KE9CNX) passed his test and has upgraded to General. Congratulation Derek.
- Secretary/Treasurer Mike Goodpaster informed the members they could start renewing their memberships at any time. The 2026 membership fee is \$25.00 and can be paid either in person at a meeting or they can be mailed to him. He reminded the members that the dues would increase to \$30 if they are not paid by the December 31st deadline and that this grace period lasts until the end of January.
- President Vogler reminded the members that the PVARC Christmas meeting/dinner will be on Tuesday, December 16th at the Retro Mexican restaurant. The club would pay for the members' meals, but members would be responsible for the guests meal.
- The following nominations were received for the 2026 PVARC club officers:

President – Mike Vogler, motion made by Ron Hickman and seconded by Garry Smith

Vice-President – John Kaltenbacher, motion made by Jody Denning and seconded by Mike Maffenbeier

Secretary/Treasurer – Mike Goodpaster, motion made by Stephen Hemmer and seconded by Mike Maffenbeier

A voice vote was taken to confirm the three nominees, and it passed without opposition.

President Vogler asked the members since we are a month behind in our nominating process and because he didn't want to have election held at our next meeting, which would be in the middle of a restaurant, if the members would want to hold the election tonight. Several members agreed so President Vogler stated that according to the by-laws in the case of an unopposed slate of candidates that the President may make a motion for the Secretary to cast a single ballot. President Vogler made that motion and Mike Goodpaster, being the Secretary, accepted the slate of candidates that were nominated and passed by the members to become the 2026 officers.

Gary Smith (KD9WVS) mentioned that the members from the Martin County Amateur Radio Club get together for breakfast the first Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. at the Stoll's Lakeview Restaurant near West Boggs Park. He invited our members to join them as they stuff themselves at the breakfast buffet and talk ham radio. It's a good way to get to know other nearby hams.

Mike Maffenbeier said that there is a ham radio antenna company called Directive Systems and Engineering. Mike said that he has found that this company is cheaper than what Cushcraft was and they have better specs than M² antennas. Their website is directivesystems.com.

Ron Hichman talked about a Spencer County ham radio operator Pete Cetas (K9OGR) that was involved in a very serious auto accident. He is in a very long process of recovery and may not be able to go home. He has several antennas, some on towers, as well as radio equipment. Ron has heard that all these items may need to be sold and he was curious if there were any member that may be interested in helping take down and packaging the antennas and equipment. Ron just wanted to alert everyone and to think about helping if the time would ever come around.

DONATIONS

\$50 was collected for the 50/50 prize with \$25.00 going to the winner. Mike Maffenbeier had the winning ticket.

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Hemmer. It was seconded by Jerry Hill. Everyone then got up and left without a vote.