PATOKA VALLEY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEETING MINUTES

August 18, 2026 – 6:10 pm EST Jasper Public Library – Jasper, IN

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM by President Mike Vogler. Steven Hemmer offered a prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Attendance – 15 members and 1 guest; Adam Scherle

Mike welcomed everyone and re-iterated our mission - "To recruit, foster, educate, and mentor amateur radio".

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Secretary/Treasurer Mike Goodpaster read the July minutes with no corrections needed. Mike also read the July Treasurer's Report with the balance at the end of July being $589.57. Ron Sharp made a motion to accept the minutes and the treasurer's report. It was seconded by Steven Hemmer and passed without opposition.

CONSTITUTION

Due to the club now being incorporated, there needed to be a few changes to the club constitution. Those changes were emailed out to the club members after the last meeting. Mike Goodpaster then read the updates to the members. President Vogler made a motion to accept the changes to the club constitution. It was then seconded by John Kaltenbacher and passed without opposition.

VE TESTING

President Vogler stated that once again there were no candidates signed up for the club VE testing session. President Vogler asked the members what we could do to improve this. It was suggested to allow walk-ins for our testing sessions. It was discussed to have a way to look up a candidate's FRN number to not slow down the process. It was decided to table the topic until next month's meeting.

PARKS ON THE AIR

Mike Goodpaster informed the members that the club POTA activation will be at the Ferdinand State Forest on Saturday, September 12. It will be at the same place we went to last year, the Sycamore shelter house. Set-up will begin around 9:00 a.m. and we will start the POTA activations around 10:00. There will be a club FOX hunt after everyone is done with POTA. Mike said to bring a lawn chair and a cooler and enjoy the fun.

OPEN DISCUSSION

John Kaltenbacher said that he was asked to give a presentation to the Holland Kiwanis Club. He explained what ham radio is and then spoke about the different modes such as CW, Digital, DMR, etc. Since he was indoors, he could not put up an antenna. So, he pre-recorded a video of himself doing a Parks on the Air activation and imbedded that into his presentation. He also talked about the use of ham radio in weather emergencies and SKYWARN.

Ron Hickman said he had an idea for our club. He said that the club should put together something where clubs surrounding PVARC (50 to 100 miles out) could all come together once a year for a big meet & greet. We could hire someone from the ARRL to come in and give a forum type presentation to the entire group. Like a ham fest only there would not be a flea market. It is something to think about.

PVARC MONTHLY DINNER

John Kaltenbacher mentioned that he really enjoyed the get together at Culvers last month and he thinks that it should continue. Members started discussing how they all like going to the Martin County club's breakfast on the first Saturday of each month at Stoll's outside West Boggs Park. It was then decided instead of having our own get-together that our members would just attend the Martin County club's monthly breakfast which would give us all a chance to get to know their members. It was then mentioned to have our club's Christmas dinner at Stoll's this December. The members present agreed that it would be a good idea since the food is good and we could be off in a separate area by ourselves where it would be a lot less noisy.

DONATIONS

$42 was collected for the 50/50 prize with $21.00 going to the winner. Lee Ferrell was the winner, and he donated his winnings back to the club. Thank you, Lee.

ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn at 7:23 PM by Ron Sharp and seconded by Bud Mann. The motion passed without opposition.