



Pine Valley Repeater, LTD-W9PVR

The December 11, 2023, monthly meeting of the W9PVR Amateur Radio Club was held at the Galaxie Skate Center in Richland Center.

The meeting was called to order by President, Mike Kaufman, at 7:03 P.M.

The following members attended in person: Dick Neumann (W9JR), Mike Kaufman (WB9SLI), Phil Wallace (KC9QQQ), Earl Streeter (KD9YCQ), Jeff Williams (N7TTQ), Chris Kanable (KC9CMD), Adam Rastall (KC9MRV), Glen Dunne (KC9GPD), Rodney Arneson (KD9POL), Ralph Hendrickson (KC9LBO), Bob Walsh (WD9WWD), Casey Marshall, and Linda Kaufman (KC9HHF).

Members on ZOOM included David Schoettler (W1MOZ), Les Hyland (KA9USV), and Ray Gill (WX4RAY).

Visitors in person: Dave Owen (N9TUU), Melody Owen (N9ZWZ), Daniel Brown (WX9E), Daline Brown, Ashli Marshall, and Larry Stephen (KD9UFQ).

Visitor on ZOOM: Bob (unsure of last name).

The minutes of the 11/13/2023 meeting were approved as printed on motion of Phil Wallace, seconded by Adam Rastall. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Ralph Hendrickson. The Club has a current bank balance of \$2,846.05. Motion to approve the report as given was made by Chris Kanable, seconded by Dick Neumann. Motion carried.

The Net Control Operators for the month of January will be as follows:

January 7-Phil Wallace; January 14-Ralph Hendrickson; January 21-Jeff Williams; January 28-Linda Kaufman.

Club's sandwich board update on billing from Hynek Printing--no new information is available.

Ray Gill discussed the work on the W9PVR website. Ray tries to work on getting the site updated about 9 hours per week. There are some minimal costs involved with the updating, and reimbursement to Ray for those costs that he has incurred was made on motion of Phil Wallace, seconded by Rodney Arneson. Motion carried.

Jeff Williams discussed the importance of training other Club members on the equipment in the trailer. There is a lot of excess stuff in the trailer, which needs to be removed, but no place has been found for the items. Laminated "cheat" sheets will be necessary to have in the trailer for reference. Jeff has stated that at least 5 persons should be proficient in the usage of the trailer/equipment. April of 2024 will be the target date for training (after the winter) and before the severe storm season begins.

Mike Kaufman discussed 2 newly purchased repeaters (\$399 each/sale price) from Ham Radio Outlet. The repeaters are VHF (1) and UHF (1). He will sell them for actual cost, but any buyers must have the units operational within 90 days. It is hoped that areas lacking coverage for FM/D-Star equipment will want to purchase the repeaters to provide better coverage to amateur radio operators in general. Mike also discussed the grant money still in the Club's bank account. The money was donated to the Club for a tri-plexer, which was later unable to be ordered supposedly due to the item no longer being sold. That was found to be a false statement, but the price of the tri-plexer has increased considerably from the grant money received initially. The tri-plexer was for the 1.2 GHz module and the 1.2 GHz data module. There are minimal amateur radio operators in the Club with the equipment able to use these frequencies.

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Dave Owen and Adam Rastall are involved in the Southwest District (13 counties) ARES/RACES group. Things to consider for the future regarding the ARES/RACES affiliation is that 1) it is an organization but not a club; 2) there are certain qualifications required. It was stated by several persons at the meeting that there seems to have been a definite decline in the attitudes of Emergency Management personnel toward the amateur radio clubs and their involvement with the government. It was specifically noted that a club should not force itself on the government emergency management departments, but rather show them what the Club can do proficiently if the need arises during emergencies.

Jeff Williams discussed the recent addition of a packet node on Tower Hill. Ken Weigel (W9GM) who was at the recent Skywarn Recognition Day at the National Weather Service in La Crosse, got into a lengthy discussion with Jeff and Mike. Ken lives in the La Crosse area, but he was willing to drive to Richland Center and bring equipment for the Club to use and help install the node. This is two-directional data communication and can hop to the next gateway in Minnesota due to the node in the Viroqua area owned by Larry Kapp (WT9M).

Motion to adjourn at 8:00 P.M. was made by Chris Kanable, seconded by Adam Rastall. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Kaufman KC9HHF

***Special thanks to Phil Wallace and the Galaxie Skate Center for hosting our Christmas party and meeting.**

Next monthly meeting is Monday, January 8, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. at the Galaxie Skate Center.

Reminder: 2024 Dues (\$25 per person) are due now.

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