

Paducah Amateur Radio Association

Meeting Minutes- February 12, 2009

Minutes by Beth, KI4ZAK

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 PM by John, KO4XJ.

The minutes were read & approved. The minutes from previous meetings will be posted on the PARA web site, www.W4NJA.org.

The treasurer report was given and accepted..

There were several members still with no power & Elaine, N4VUQ & Don, W8FBX were running on DC power due to running out of propane.

Old Business

Audio Patch Box- Paul, KI4GKW is still in the process of building the boxes & volunteers were asked to assist. Jerry offered to assist Paul in the building.

PARA Constitution and By Laws- Bill, KY2O, reported no activity on revision.

Club Station-John, KO4XJ, reported the new director of the DES now understands the full capability of ham radio & the station is still in standby.

PARA Repeater- Walt, AI4SP reported the dues for the South East Repeater Association have been paid.

New Business

Ice storm- Because of the previous ice storm there was a lot of talk of emergency communications. John, KO4XG stated Mike KY4OEM requested the club be put on standby, because his mission had changed Mike had no contact with John. The power started going out on Tuesday morning and on Tuesday night John, KO4XJ received a message from Jim Brooks, KY4Z, and the regional section manger for the ARRL, requesting traffic be passed for an oncologist. At that time John went to the EOC to check on

things and inquired if radios were needed. The radios were then set up & they were able to get in contact with the region 1 EOC. On Thursday the bus was set up & a dipole was made & put up. Shank, W4KU, set up radios in Ballard County. The first few days there was a lot of traffic relayed including a request for a fly over to review damage. To get the antennas higher there was a request for a 40 ft man lift, the mast was also used for antenna purposes. Logan, KG4VKB, was at the EOC for 4 days & delivered several pieces of traffic. The repeater ran on emergency power for 5 days and eco link was set up but the cable internet was in & out making it difficult to use. The Kansas NWS contacted the EOC & requested contact with the Paducah NWS although Mike, KI4NXF was unsure of what was talked about. Orville, N5BZA set up win link and traffic was passed. On Sunday John, KO4XJ, spoke to the DES director & shut down the station. There was about 140-150 man hours that week & several peoples eyes were opened to the capabilities of ham radio. The EOC location was change to the Reidland Fire Department for unknown reasons and the club will be invited to the debriefing. There was talk about the club building several go boxes to put in different parts of McCracken County so if this ever happens again we can be ready. Dave, WB5YYA, inquired if there would be any funding from outside organizations and it was mentioned that KY7ARS received \$700000 for equipment. It was also mentioned we needed to stop relying on the command center because it may have other missions at the time of an emergency. John, KO4XJ also suggested the radios be simple that are added to the go boxes because they will be manned by all experience levels. Paul, KI4GKW suggested credentials be gathered for emergency communications and Dave, WB5YYA volunteered to start this process.

New Tech License Class- Due to the recent ice storm John, KO4XJ, has heard several different people interested in a class although no one volunteered to teach the class so it was turned down at this time.

Field Day- G5RV's need to be repaired & Walt, AI4SP will contact Greg, KY4A to fix them. Paul, ND4X suggested a butternut antenna be purchased so it could be broke down & put in one of the jump boxes. John, KO4XJ, stated that verticals were not good for emergency communications but Paul, N4DX made a motion to purchase a butternut with a limit of \$500; this motion was approved by the club with one vote against the idea.

Fox Hunt- The club will be hosting on 3/28 with a swap meet at 8AM & the fox hunt to follow, we will be meeting at the skate park next to Noble Park.

Antenna Updates- Shank lost everything including the tower that completely folding in two pieces. John, KO4XJ & Paul, KI4GKW also stated everything was taken down by the ice.

Misc Information- Mike, KI4NXF mentioned not put generators away as there was 50-60 mph wind coming in the next week.

Sunday Evening W4NJA Emergency Net Control:

02/15- Bill, KU4RC

02/22- Mike, KI4NXF

03/01- Beth, KI4ZAK

03/08- Dave, WB5YYA

The meeting was adjourned at 7:18 PM.

VEC Testing:

There was also two people test tonight.