

## **PCARC Meeting Minutes**

### **September 10, 2026**

#### **Opening**

A meeting of the Perry County Amateur Radio Club was held on this date via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 1903 by Matt.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were read. Kurt made a motion to approve and Tom seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **Reports**

The treasurer's report was read. Current account total is \$1001.54. JD has not been made aware of any upcoming bills. Matt stated that there should be upcoming website fees in October.

Kurt made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Tom seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously.

Sam reports an expected cost of \$97.38 to renew website for this year.

#### **Old Business**

EMA - Kurt reports that the EMA director who we were previously communicating with has retired. The deputy director, Wes Smith, has been appointed as the new EMA director. Discussion was held regarding further antenna relocation work that needs to be completed on the roof of the EOC. The club is searching for an individual who can climb the county tower and perform the necessary work to relocate antennas. Multiple ideas were explored including asking the county radio maintenance people to perform the work the next time they are on the roof, investigating the feasibility of hiring a tower climber, or finding other local hams with the knowledge and experience to assist with the work.

Nathaniel reports that he has been working with the local Meshtastic group to attempt to grow the footprint within the county and surrounding areas. He mentioned that the group may have a willing tower climber who would complete the necessary antenna relocation in exchange for a site within the county to place a Meshtastic node. He will ask the group and report to Matt if that is something the group is open to before requesting permission from the EOC to place a node on the roof.

ARES - Sam is working on the necessary requirements to be appointment County EC. Several members voiced conflicting information on what level of ARES Taskbook requirements must be completed before an EC could be appointed. Matt will reach out to Ralph Brandt and Jay King for clarification. Members are still strongly encouraged to complete at least the Basic level of Taskbook requirements and should attempt to reach the Intermediate level if possible.

VE - Matt reports that the next VE session will be Sunday, Nov 22nd at 2pm. Due to his ongoing health issues and lack of examinees for the last few sessions, Matt has changed the team's preferences from

being open for walk-ins to preregistered applicants only. Currently, no potential examinees have reached out about the November test session.

Matt also reports that the Technician class exam has changed and the new question pool was released. The existing paper tests are now out of date, and he will work on printing new tests prior to the next test session.

The team is also looking at using the ExamTools website to give exams. The website should streamline the workload of the VE's during test sessions. Please look for an email from Matt to attend a training session for the ExamTools website.

Digital Net - The digital net has been meeting on Thursday evenings with an alternating time schedule (6pm and 9pm) for several weeks. Matt reports that attendance has been low but invites all club members regardless of experience level with digital modes to join. Sam requested a schedule for the net so he can post it to the club website. Matt will email a schedule for the remainder of the year to Sam.

GoFundMe - Funds donated to the GoFundMe had been returned. Sam investigated and discovered that the GoFundMe requires a bank account to be linked to the fund to stay open and receive additional donations. The club does not want to link the primary bank account to a website due to risk of losing what funds we have. Sam is also hesitant to link his personal accounts to the website given that the funds belong to the club.

Sam requested that he be permitted to seek out local organizations who could submit for and collect funds on behalf of the club in exchange for a finder's fee. Matt made a motion and Tom seconded. A vote was held and passed unanimously.

### **New Business**

PA QSO Party - Matt reports that the PA QSO Party is the second weekend in October. The club sponsored a plaque for the winner of last year's County Line Single Op award.

Matt requested to sponsor the plaque again this year if the opportunity arises after the 2026 QSO Party. Sam made a motion to approve the expense and Rich seconded the motion. Kurt expressed concern about spending money on the plaque given the minimal influx of funds to the club. A vote was held and passed.

November VE Session - Tom reports that Gloria made a flyer for the club to announce the November VE test session. The flyer was presented and minor changes were suggested. Tom will email the flyer to the groups.io page so members can print and post in their local areas.

Traffic Handling Net - Rich reports that the 21 Repeater Group has been holding an emergency traffic handling net on Sunday evenings after their Tech Net. The traffic handling net begins at 9pm on the 145.210 repeater. The net is open to all interested parties and Rich suggested members attend to aid our efforts in ARES and emergency communications procedures.

### **Open Discussion**

Sam reports that he came across a mobile phone and desktop application called FT8HERO recently. The app allows for remote access to your station and he believes it works for remote control of the radio in all modes, not just FT8.

Sam requested Matt send him the dates for the PA QSO Party so they can also be posted to the club website.

Sam asked if a date could be set to hold a rag chew night on the repeater, not a net. Simply a round table discussion type of event that could be held regularly to increase repeater traffic and keep members in touch. Matt will send out an email to see what day/time works best for the majority of the group.

### **Adjournment**

Sam made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconded the motion. Vote was held and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2012.