

Cusick repeater adds significant communications boost

By **NICK IVIE**
The Beacon

CUSICK – Can you hear me now?

The answer is now an emphatic affirmative for north end Pend Oreille County residents who can hear loud and clear after having a repeater established in Cusick that will improve radio communications.

The Pend Oreille County Radio Club brought the vision to fruition, installing the repeater atop an existing tower at the county dispatch site. The project was made possible thanks to the generous support of the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, who donated \$5,060 from the Kalispel Charitable Fund.

"This funding was pivotal in completing this project aimed at strengthening community resilience through improved radio communications," POCRC said in a press release. "This project marks a significant accomplishment for the Pend Oreille County Radio Club, highlighting our commitment to training, outreach, and fostering relationships within the community."

The antenna is now operational, transmitting on the two-meter amateur radio frequency 147.14+ PL 100.0, alongside a General Mobile Radio Service repeater on 462.550+ PL 141.3.

It took hard work from the radio group and nerves of steel from a key member of the team, Will Welker, who heroically tackled the challenge of climbing the 80-foot tower.

The entire leadership team chipped in sweat



– Courtesy photo **PEND OREILLE COUNTY RADIO CLUB**

Will Welker had the courage to climb the 80-foot tower and install the antenna.

equity, including President Shannon Mossman, Vice-President Jack Davis, Trustee Pat Molvik, and Emergency Communications Coordinator Geoff Rusho.

With this expansion, POCRC have extended the coverage of their Amateur and GMRS Repeaters to northern parts of Pend Oreille County, including Tribal Lands, ensuring reliable communication for the community, public safety officials, and first responders.

The Radio Club also wishes to collaborate

with the Tribe to equip and train members in the use of GMRS and HAM radio for both social interaction and emergency communications.

POCRC is a nonprofit organization that works hard to be a resource for communities. They share a simple vision to provide local communities and public agencies with alternative and emergency forms of communications via use of two-way radios.

The club project covers band plans that are accessible to the community such as

Amateur Radio, Family Radio Service, Multi-Use Radio Service, and GMRS. Many local agencies and communities have associated with the group.

These entities all share the same communications plan and channel line-up. This provides for continuity in communications and channels.

POCRG provides training, education and radio programming to ensure alternative forms of communication exist. Unlike most radio clubs, the POCRG, amateur club call sign W7POC, is open to everyone.

"We would be lying if we said that our goal wasn't to get you licensed in the Amateur Radio Service," POCRG said. "It is. But, we would love to have you as a member, no matter which radio service you choose."

A license is required to talk on Amateur Radio Frequencies. Multi-use radios start at \$23 and can be programmed to receive emergency broadcasts from

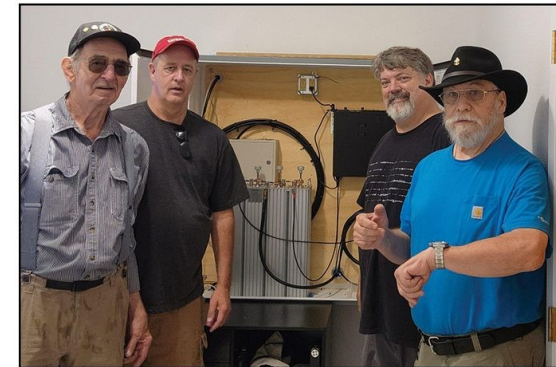
communities, Emergency Management, ARES/RACES, local and state agencies, receive NOAA weather radio, talk on MURS, FRS, GMRS with no license required, and talk on Ham radio frequencies with a license.

The FCC license fee is \$35 and is valid for 10 years.

POCRG has a host of repeaters including Cooks Mountain, 145.470- PL 100.0, Kalispel 147.14+ PL 100.0, Sullivan Road 145.630- PL 100.0, Diamond Lake 146.900- PL 100.0, and Diamond Lake 442.275+ PL 100.0. Their GMRS repeaters are Kalispel 462.550+ PL 141.3 and Sullivan Road 462.675+ PL 141.3.

The club meets for coffee and breakfast at the Newport Hospitality House each Tuesday at 9 a.m. Their monthly meeting is held at the Diamond Lake Fire Station every third Saturday at 10 a.m.

For more information visit www.pocrg.org.



– Courtesy photo **PEND OREILLE COUNTY RADIO CLUB**

The Pend Oreille County Radio Club recently established a repeater atop an existing tower in Cusick. Jack Davis, left, Geoff Rusho, Pat Molvik, Shannon Mossman.