

Lifestyle

Radio Group Elects Officers, Seeks New Members



Feb 07, 2024

NEWPORT – The Pend Oreille County Radio Group, the 2-way radio club in Newport, elected officers at their November meeting.

The officers of the Pend Oreille County Radio group. Pictured are treasurer Dale Weathers, vice president Jack Davis, secretary Jennie Zubaugh, transmitter trustee Pat Molvik and president Shannon Mossman Courtesy photo|Pend Oreille County Radio Group

Shannon Mossman was elected president, Jack Davis president,

Jennie Zubaugh secretary, Dale Weathers as the treasurer and Pat Molvik as the transmitter trustee.

The Pend Oreille County Radio Group is a community-based organization that welcomes new users, those without any first-hand knowledge as well as advanced users in radio communications. The group has a club breakfast each Tuesday morning at the Hospitality House in Newport at 9 a.m. The group's monthly meeting is held the third Saturday of the month. The next meeting will be held at the Diamond Lake Fire station at 10 a.m.

The Pend Oreille County Radio Group is committed to building upon its current membership base to promote 2-way radios for general or emergency communication needs and helping provide opportunities for all users to learn and improve their skills and be a resource to the community in times of need.

The club's primary purpose is to provide radio communication support and situational awareness to the communities in Pend Oreille and Bonner counties

and during disasters that can overwhelm local public services. These include events such as cellular outages, windstorms, fires, severe winter conditions and other weather-related events.

The newly elected team brings experience and expertise to the club.

Mossman, the new president, is a co-founder of the club, along with Mark Ford, Warren Webber (Silent Key), and Karl Shoemaker. Mossman holds an Amateur Extra Class License, a GMRS license, and is active in the Air Force Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS) and is the Vice Commander and Communications Officer for the Lake Pend Oreille Coast Guard Auxiliary (CGAUX) Flotilla as well as the (CGAUX) Division Communications and Finance Officer. He emphasized the importance of teamwork and collaboration to achieve the club's goals.

Davis, the former acting president, and new vice president, expressed gratitude to the club members for their support. He also highlighted his experience in ham radio communications. He promised to use his knowledge to support the president and the rest of the leadership team.

Zubaugh , the new secretary, spoke promised to keep the club members informed about upcoming events and activities. She also emphasized the importance of keeping accurate records, which she believes is essential for the club's success.

Weathers, the club's treasurer, has been treasurer since 2022. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, he said he looks forward to managing the donations from the community and club members, maintaining the club's finances, club memberships, and the group's assets and inventories. Weathers ensures that the club's financial resources are used effectively and updates the members monthly on the club's financial position.

Molvik, the repeater trustee, holds a technician license (KK7KPB), and a

GMRS license (WRVY667). Molvik is also active in the club as a trainer and a volunteer with the Pend Oreille County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). Molvik is a U.S. Navy mechanical engineer who enjoys building his own radio equipment, computer programming, robotics, 3D printing, and problem solving.

The new leadership team is working on several initiatives, including a Ham Radio Field Day event, an annual summer community barbecue lunch and a Christmas Family and Friends event. These events promote community awareness and involvement.

“Community involvement is a key resource for having a radio club in our community,” the group announced in a news release. “Participation in our communication events, called Nets, has reached as far north as Metaline Falls to as far south as Elk and east to Priest River using the club’s radio repeaters.”

The group encourages community involvement by providing opportunities for members to participate in community events and activities. This helps community members make new friends and feel more connected to their neighbors.

Alternative and emergency forms of communication are another benefit of having a two-way radio club in the community. The club provides these methods of communication through the club's two-meter and GMRS radio repeaters on Cooks Mountain. The recent addition of CB (Citizens Band Radio) by some of the club members is another method to reach out to the community to see what interest or involvement there might be. The method of communication the club regularly tests via point-to-point radio is called simplex communication. These communication methods can be helpful during natural disasters and other emergencies when traditional communication is unavailable.

Public safety is another benefit of having a radio club in the community. The

club promotes public safety by providing emergency communication services during natural disasters and other emergencies.

The Pend Oreille County Radio Group is open to anyone interested in 2-Way radio communications, including those on HAM, GMRS, and FRS. The group also works with local law enforcement, specifically the Pend Oreille County Sheriff's Office, via Undersheriff Rusho, who also is a group member supporting the Washington State ARES that operates nets on the POCRG Cooks Mountain repeater.

For more information about the Pend Oreille Radio Club, visit pocrg.org or contact Jennie Zubaugh, the club's Secretary, at secretary@pocrg.org.