

Minutes, MSU Amateur Radio Club Meeting

January 12, 2016

Present:

Bill Call KJ4W	James Flood KJ4TKL	Josh Kerr KK4BKD
Mike Lyons KK4PDL	Bob Aldrich WD8OWA	Candy Aldrich KJ4OZU
Richard Palmer KM4JZX	Don Snodgrass K4QKY	Stephen Gordon WA6LDV
Emmalee Gordon, Visitor	Richmond Beam K4ADW	Kevin Krause KK6CAT
Larry Morris AD6QJ	Julie Morris KE6CZT	Dale Barrett WB7D
Valerie Barrett KG4OCJ	Tim Edmonson KA4WWS	Gary Cooper KJ4EBQ

President Josh Kerr opened the meeting at 7:03pm. The question of the month was “What goodies did ‘Solder Clause’ bring you this year”? There was general agreement that Steve Gordon’s present—a bride, Emmalee—was the nicest received; and that Mike Lyons’ was the nicest given, when he and Marie traveled to Mississippi on Christmas Day for Red Cross to help storm victims.

The “Show us your shack” photo was of Robin KF4GCD’s station.

The Minutes of the November meeting had been approved at the December Christmas Party gathering. No Minutes were taken for December. The “Ham of the Year” award was presented at that meeting to Josh Kerr KK4BKD.

The Treasurer’s Report was given by Bill Call. There has been only one expenditure paid since the November meeting, \$7 to W5YI-VEC for VE Fees. A second new Diamond 2m repeater antenna has been purchased but not yet installed; Bill will be reimbursed for both later. Current balance is \$2,366.61 with 2016 dues now coming in.

Systems Report: all repeaters working, with the same setup as last time. Bill has managed to modify the Henry 450MHz amplifier that Doyan KA4BLZ donated to work well at 443.800MHz, except that it needs 10 watts driving power and the System Fusion repeater is only adjustable to 5 or 20 watts output. A 3dB power attenuator, similar to the 6dB attenuator that was purchased to make the previous amplifier work, would be one solution with a cost of around \$25-30. No more has been done on the EchoLink computer yet or on the third YSF repeater. Josh noted as an addition to the Systems report that he is now uploading the 146.940 repeater’s audio to the Radio Reference web page, and Tim is uploading the audio for the 443.800 repeater. It would be nice for someone to do that for the 147.240 repeater, too. Mike noted that he copied the Monday Night Net while in Mississippi by using this service. He recommends the “Police Scanner” app for Android to do this.

No report was received from University Advisor John Hart.

QSL Manager Report: Candy has responded to 2 Field Day eQSL's and 14 Ky QSO Party eQSL's; 3 mailed QSL cards were picked up tonight, from the Ky QSO Party.

Net Report for December: 58 check-ins, no traffic, 122 air minutes, 117.9 operator hours. There was also a Skywarn Net, conducted on December 23 when a strong storm system moved through. 22 stations participated and the net lasted 2 hours 54 minutes, with several spotter reports being phoned in to the National Weather Service office.

VE Report: at the exam session following the November meeting, Jerry KM4NUY upgraded to General Class. No new exam requests have been received.

Ham Bits: Josh presented some information on the ARRL's "National Parks on the Air" which is a yearlong operating activity, primarily for HF. The idea is to help acknowledge and celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the National Parks System by operating from or contacting an operator who is set up at a site which is managed by the NPS. Details here: <https://npota.arrl.org/>. There are no NPS "units" locally; the closest to us seems to be the "Trail of Tears National Historic Trail" of which there are trail sections to our west, in Graves through Hickman Counties culminating at Columbus-Belmont State Park, and other sections to our east, see: <http://www.nps.gov/trte/index.htm>. All logging/reporting is done on Logbook of the World.

There was no Old Business.

New Business: Dale moved and Steve seconded that the Club purchase a 3dB power attenuator to adapt the donated amplifier for the 443.800MHz repeater. Motion passed.

Mike mentioned that the Polar Plunge is scheduled for February 20. No request for our assistance has been received but it is likely.

There was some discussion concerning Field Day. Results from last year's FD have been published in QST. We are hoping that Chuck will be present next time to go over them, and that we could begin planning for this summer's FD. Should we do another balloon launch? What site should we use? The Committee will try to meet before the next Club meeting.

The program was an interesting video about the big Voice of America transmitting site located near Cincinnati, Ohio.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Call, KJ4W Acting Secretary