

Minutes, MSU Amateur Radio Club Meeting of May 3, 2016

Members Present:

Bill Call KJ4W	Josh Kerr KK4BKD	Mike Lyons KK4PDL
Bob Aldrich WD8OWA	Candy Aldrich KJ4OZU	Debbie Barton W8IBT
Denis Barton WB8SKP	Rich Beam K4ADW	Dale Barrett WB7D
Valerie Barrett KG4OCJ	Jonathan Barrett KG4OCI	Gary Cooper KJ4EBQ
Tim Edmonson KA4WWS	Glenn Myers KE4WK	James Flood KJ4TKL
Richard Palmer KM4JZX	James (Smitty) Smith N3NRJ	Chuck Williams KJ4HBK
John Tony Piper WB4ZZT	Robin Jones KF4GCD	Bonnie Allen visitor
AL Grant KG4SZQ	Charlton Young KJ4SYV	Jerry Johnson KM4NUY
Powell Henderson KI4SII	Dale Pentecost AF0SI	

President Josh called the meeting to order at 6:59pm. He showed photos of the van trip to Memphis hamfest; there were 9 or 10 who went together in a rented van. Maybe do this again for the Huntsville Hamfest on August 20?

Self-introductions were made, with the question of the month being “What is your favorite mode and time for Field Day operating?”

Secretary Betty was not present and there were no Minutes for the previous meeting.

Bill gave the Treasurer’s Report. One deposit was made in April, \$ 110.00 for dues. There were no expenses paid, but by next meeting the 2m antennas and the new interface for the 443.800 repeater will be paid for. Balance the end of April is \$ 2831.61. Note: these numbers are updated from what was read at the meeting, I had missed the deposit.

Systems Report: progress has been made on the new EchoLink interface for the 443.800 repeater, but it is still some time from being finished. Bill showed the rack shelf he had put together with the now-assembled interface PCB. The new 2m antenna on the 146.940 repeater seems to be working OK, without as much noise as the old Ringo Ranger; but sensitivity still isn’t always what we would like to have.

No report had been received from the University Advisor.

Candy reported one new QSL, from Kansas.

No net report for April has been received.

Bill reported that no License Exams have taken place recently. A VE session is planned for Saturday evening at Field Day.

There was no Old Business.

In New Business, Dale suggested that the antenna rotator for the big LP array should be replaced, if it isn't practical to repair it, with the Club contributing the cost. Bill hasn't worked on the unit yet; one problem is not having a jumper cable with those oddball connectors for bench testing. No action was taken until at least a brief diagnosis can be made.

The Program consisted of a Field Day Committee report, primarily given by Tim. A Class 3A + GOTA + 6m + 2m/70cm setup is planned, plus bonus activities. We plan to use the trailer-mounted tower again but probably with just rotatable dipoles instead of a beam. There was discussion of details. We also plan to launch a balloon to lift a 160m/80m antenna. Debbie will coordinate the meal, Rich KM4JZX will cook meat and he also offers to smoke and sell Boston Butts, 10# for \$40.

Mike moved and Charlton seconded that we have Field Day at the MSU Arboretum again, paying the \$100 membership fee. Motion passed.

We will try to hold a setup and testing session of the radio and logging and network gear the Saturday prior to Field Day, i.e. June 18, 1pm at MSU I&T Building.

Tim will coordinate a raffle similar to last year's.

Signup sheets for operating times were placed out and members are requested to sign up to operate for shifts. NOTE: subsequent to the meeting, an idea was developed to invite Boy Scouts and encourage them to operate to fulfill that part of their Radio Merit Badge requirements; we would also provide Counselors for them to answer the research questions for the other parts of the Merit Badge. It is hoped that we might generate interest in some getting a license. Preliminary efforts have taken place towards this. It will be vitally important that the GOTA station be manned Saturday afternoon and evening by members who are willing and able to coach and counsel the Scouts.

Bill will purchase Field Day T-Shirts for those who wish them. A separate e-mail will follow to describe this opportunity.

Discussion was held on doing a foxhunt in the Fall. September 17 is a tentative date. Bill described how he had recently used skills developed in fox-hunting to track down a malfunctioning SO radio that was causing much interference to fire and police channels.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Call KJ4W, Acting Secretary