

## Minutes, MSUARC meeting August 2, 2016

Present:

Bill Call KJ4W	Robin Jones KF4GCD	Bonnie Allen, guest
James Flood KJ4TKL	Glenn Myers KE4WK	Terry Ward KD4WCE
Dale Barrett WB7D	Valerie Barrett KG4OCJ	Emmalee Gordon, guest
Steve Gordon WA6LDV	Candy Aldrich KJ4OZU	Bob Aldrich WD8OWA
Bob Atkinson K9OIM	Helen Atkinson, guest	Richard Palmer KM4JZX
Mike Lyons KK4PDL	Gary Cooper KJ4EBQ	Larry Morris AD6QJ
Dan Reimer KZ0L	Sue Reimer AC0QD	Larry Call KD6UNL
Tim Edmonson KA4WWS		

The meeting was called to order at 7:01pm by Vice-President Mike Lyons KK4PDL. Self-introductions were made, with attendees giving their name, call-sign, and answering the question of the month: "What is your next equipment purchase going to be?"

No Minutes were available from the July meeting (does anyone recall who took them???)

Treasurer's Report: One check was written in July, \$34.04 to Debbie Barton for Field Day food and supplies. Two deposits were made, totaling \$245.00. Of that, \$100 was proceeds from the FD handheld radio raffle. Balance at end of July was \$2,372.32.

Systems report: all repeaters seem to be running smoothly, though the 70cm repeater seems to work better some days than others. Maybe a loose connection inside the antenna? The EchoLink re-build is still stuck on Bill's workbench. He hasn't yet looked inside the Orion rotator, either.

No report was received from the University Advisor.

QSL card manager's report: we are caught up now, after the rush of Field Day QSL exchanges. About 360 eQSL's were automatically responded to after this year's Field Day. We have responded to a total of 1421 eQSL's, dating to 2005. The Hungarian ham who requested a CW contact with Calloway County, which took place just after Field Day ended, has been paper-QSL'd and one received from him.

No report was received from the Net Manager.

No VE sessions have been held in the past month, and no one has requested one for tonight.

Old Business:

We plan to take a rental van to the Huntsville Hamfest, which is August 20. The cost should be about \$20-25 each depending on how many ride. Meet at I&T parking lot to leave at 5am. Let Josh KK4BKD know right away if you are interested. Those indicating interest who were present at the meeting included KE4WK, KA4WWS and possibly KJ4W.

Discussion was held on the plans for a Foxhunt, to take place on September 24. We are still considering whether to do a Hunt on the Aircraft ELB (Emergency Locator Beacon) frequencies near 121MHz. Larry KD6UNL brought a list of the frequencies available, and he might be able to borrow a practice transmitter. More research needs to be done on this. It turns out that more modern ELB's use higher frequencies such as 243MHz and 406MHz—and that one uses digital modulation. Members are asked

to examine the capabilities of their radios—do you have a handheld or mobile radio capable of receiving 121MHz AM transmissions? We'd have to have enough of those, plus arrange an antenna-building workshop, to be able to do such a Foxhunt.

Discussion was continued on a possible partnership with the Jonathan Creek repeater owners. We see plusses and minuses to such an arrangement: the plus is, besides helping a fellow Amateur group, we might could use their site and antenna to provide another remote "voter" receiver for the 146.940 repeater. The minus is, without careful stipulations in an agreement document, we could end up investing considerable money in a repeater that would not be ours to own or control. The consensus is that Bill should develop a proposed Memorandum of Agreement with the JC group and the tower owner, and bring it for consideration. There is not much urgency to this now, as the repeater failure which was mentioned at the last meeting was easily fixed by them.

New Business:

The Murray Ledger & Times had a nice insert with their newspaper of July 29, titled "Everyday Heroes". The MSUARC / ham radio operators were featured, with a nice review of Field Day and quotes given by several members. Say "thanks" to John Wright if you see him.

A mailing was received from the MSU Arboretum, stating that their membership period would change to July 1 – June 30 each year. We had just renewed our membership (which allows us to use the facility for Field Day) in May, which might be interpreted as for the past year. However, a statement in the letter is that those who had renewed their membership this past Spring would be good through next June 30. We probably should ask Chuck to check with the Arboretum, to make sure we are in good standing through next Spring.

We've received a notice from ARRL that it is nearly time to renew the K4MSU and W4GZ licenses. Has it been 10 years already??? At least this time there won't be a Vanity Callsign fee.

It was noted that the popular Dayton Hamvention will be moving to a new site next year.

Larry AD6QJ said that he had struck up a conversation with some members of the "Four Rivers K-9 SAR Team" recently, and that they have some interest in getting ham radio communications assistance or perhaps licenses for their members. Larry will make contact again and invite them to a meeting. We might should consider hosting a license class this Fall for this group and others.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Call KJ4W

Acting Secretary

Proudly wearing my new "50 Years an ARRL Member" pin