

MSU ARC Meeting – April 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order by President, Mike Lyons, KK4PDL, at 7:05 pm

42 people in attendance:

W8IBT, Debbie Barton	WB8SKP, Denis Barton
KN4IRO, Don Edwards	KN4IRN, Steven Dabbs
KN4IRT, Tracy McKinney	W4TZX, Todd Carr
KJ4SYV, Charlton Young	KJ4EBQ, Gary Cooper
KD6UNL, Larry Call	Carmack Johnson, guest
KY4SR, Sue Reimer	N4ZY, Dan Reimer
WA4IJU, Brenda Call	KJ4W, Bill Call
WD8OWA, Bob Aldrich	KJ4OZU, Candy Aldrich
Mitchell Moss, Guest	K4CHW, Chuck Williams
Jeffrey Newnum, Guest	Logan Paulik, guest
KK4PDL, Mike Lyons	KK4SRR, George Rob
KN4IRM, Kenneth Cohoon	KK4BKD, Josh Kerr
K4ELR, Eric Rich	KN4IRW, Darcy Rich
WX4MET, Matt Freeman	K9AVN, Art Nolan
KM4ZTS, Lisa Armstrong	KM4ZUJ, Brent Armstrong
KM4ZUD, Michael Wright	KN4IRX, Christa Wright
KG4OCI, Jonathon Barrett	KI4BBT, John Barrett
WB6ITI, Mike Mc Nerthney	KJ4TKL, James Flood
KY4GAL, Charlotte Edmonson	KA4WWS, Tim Edmonson
KK4BXG, Kevin Bailey	KM4ZTT, Joanna Bailey
KO4ZE, John Hart	KN4LFL, Richard Barrgs

Question of the Day was “What’s your favorite part of Field Day?”

Secretary’s Report – Motion to accept minutes emailed, was made by Chuck Williams, K4CHW, seconded by Charlton Young, KJ4SYV and the motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report – Bill Call, KJ4W, reported expenses of \$1055.00 for license exams to W5YI, \$24.00 Post Office Box rent, order checks \$20.40 and also \$40.03 from cash paid for license exam fees and deposits of \$371.00 and \$60.00 for dues and testing fees for a current balance of \$2295.09. Paid membership is now at an all-time high of 65. Motion to accept by Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS and seconded by Charlton Young, KJ4SYV. Motion carried.

Systems Report, Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that the 94 Fusion machine has been running barefoot and the noise was cut dramatically. He has now connected a different amplifier (previously hit by lightning that he rebuilt) to the Fusion and the noise did not return. He had to make a service run to the Hamlin machine late one evening due to it being stuck on transmit and would not timeout. As soon as he arrived on site the transmitter quit transmitting and returned to normal conditions. Bill is currently building a remote controller for Hamlin, but the machine has not acted up again. The 440 repeater has Echolink connected to it and it has lost the date and time a couple of times and had to be reset so people would be able to remotely check into the Monday night net. RCOM Controller for the Fusion machine has a module for a real-time clock that would bypass the firmware updating of the clock. Bill will check on the cost involved to update our firmware for the RCOM controller and also possibly adding the real-time clock module.

Faculty Advisor Report, John Hart, KO4ZE reported that Eric Rich, K4ELR and Jonathon Barrett, JG4OCI have agreed to take over as Advisors for the club. He also stated that the club is a recognized student organization and we really need to try to have more students involved with the club. The club has a proven record of assisting with communications/emergency communications for the county and the university has received letters of support from the police and emergency management for the county. He is also trying to reclassify the room the club station is located in so that it's not listed as a classroom.

QSL Manager Report, Sue Reimer, KY4SR, reported no new QSL cards received.

VE Report, Bill Call, KJ4W, reported one testing session scheduled for after tonight's meeting with 2 examinees. One test session last month with about 15 examinees, resulting in 2 new licenses and 12 upgrades.

Net Manager Report, Chuck Williams, K4CHW, 4 sessions, 87 stations, 0 traffic, 147 minutes and 213.15 operator hours.

Old Business: Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, reported on the Field Day Committee Meeting from earlier this evening, Field Day will be held at the MSU Arboretum, June 23-24.

Project Ideas are needed. We will have a practice session, June 9th at 1:00 pm in the classroom. This will be to set-up the radios, computers and teach anyone interested how to operate the radios and logging program that we will be using. Make sure everything is networked together and ready to go for Field Day. We will have 3 stations plus the GOTA station. Two of the stations will be capable of digital communications, one with PSK31/RTTY and the other for FT8. The GOTA station will have a simple radio and paper log to make it less intimidating to operate. This year we will set-up the GOTA station at our Welcome station. We can earn up to 100 points if we have at least 5 people under age 18 make at least one contact each. Possibly have a VE session in the early evening on Saturday, June 23rd. We are planning on using the 20 meter beam and tower mounted to the trailer, 75 meter dipole, 40 meter dipole and possibly a fan dipole for 75/40/20 meters for the GOTA station.

The following is a list of who's doing what:

Tim Edmonson – Chair of Committee and Raffle to cover cost of membership dues for Arboretum

Chuck Williams, K4CHW – Batteries, and the Educational station as well as advertising with media.

Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU – Public Relations.

Dale Barrett, WB7D – Solar Panels

Dale Barrett, WB7D & Denis Barton, WB8SKP - N1MM software update and networking computers

Mike Lyons, KK4PDL – Safety Officer and support brackets for cables/coax

Debbie Barton, W8IBT – Food organization and copy W1AW Bulletin

Josh Kerr, KK4BKD – Operating schedule, sign-up sheet at next month's meeting

8:00 am Saturday, June 23, Set-up Volunteers – Denis Barton, WB8SKP; Eric Rich, W4ELR; Don Edwards, KN4IRO; Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN; John Barrett, KI4BBT; Jonathon Barrett, KG4OCI; James Flood, KJ4TKL

9:00 am Saturday, June 23, Equipment Pick-up – Bill Call, KJ4W; Dan Reimer, N4ZY; Sue Reimer, KY4SR; Ken Cohoon, KN4IRM

1:00 pm Sunday, June 24, Take-down Volunteers – James Flood, KJ4TKL; Denis Barton, WB8SKP; Mike Lyons, KK4PDL; Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA; Dale Barrett, WB7D; Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ; Josh Kerr, KK4BKD

Overnight Operation and Security – Jonathon Barrett, KG4OCI

Advertising budget for Field Day, ordering more business cards and advertising on social media. Motion was made by Charlton Young, KJ4SYV to approve spending up to \$100 on advertising, second was made by Eric Rich, W4ELR, and motion passed with all in favor.

New Business: Josh Kerr, KK4BKD informed us of the MSU Arboretum Spring Plant sale, which will take place on April 21st. If you need plants please support the Arboretum as they give us an excellent deal on the rental of the Arboretum for Field Day.

Program: “Skywarn Reporting via Ham Radio” was presented by Bill Call, KJ4W. Josh will post the PowerPoint presentation on the website. I will list the Important Do’s and Don’ts otherwise known as “Net Procedures – Best Practices”

- Listen Before Transmitting
- “Directed” vs “Free” Net Operation (Skywarn and Monday Night Nets are Directed Nets)
- Identify As Appropriate, But Not Excessively
- Make Sure Your NCS (Net Control Station) Knows Your Location
- Make Transmissions Meaningful, But Brief
- DON’T Repeat Reports Heard On Other Services, Unless They Are VERY RELEVANT
- If A Base Station, Have A Battery Backup And As Low-Profile An Antenna As Possible, That Will Work Well

In addition, the 2nd person checking into a net (the 1st is the net control operator) should be a back-up net control operator. This person should write down all the check-ins so they are able to take over if the net control operator has to leave for one reason or another.

We had five new member applications. Todd Hackathorn, KN4JMM; Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU; Kenneth Cohoon, KN4IRN; Arthur Nolan, K9AVN; and Christa Wright, KN4IRX. Chuck Williams, K4CHW; made a motion to accept these new members, Josh Kerr, KK4BKD; seconded and the motion passed. Congratulations to our new members.

Election of Officers

Secretary – Time Edmonson, KA4WWS, nominated Debbie Barton, W8IBT, the motion was seconded by John Barrett, KI4BBT, Debbie declined but was ignored and motion passed ☺ Eric Rich, W4ELR, has offered to learn the ropes for the Secretary position with the plan that he will run for Secretary next year, and his help has been accepted.

Treasurer – Chuck Williams, K4CHW nominated Bill Call, KJ4W, to continue as Treasurer, motion was seconded by Josh Kerr, KK4BKD and motion passed.

Vice President – Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, nominated Dan Reimer, N4ZY, the motion was seconded by Josh Kerr, KK4BKD and motion passed.

President – Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU, nominated Mike Lyons, KK4PDL, the motion was seconded by Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS and the motion passed.

The following positions were appointed by the President, Mike Lyons:

QSL Manager – Sue Reimer, KY4SR

Web Master – Josh Kerr, KK4BKD

Tim Edmonson made a motion to adjourn, everyone seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm with a test session to follow.

VE Report, Bill Call, KJ4W, reported one testing session scheduled for after tonight's meeting with 2 examinees. One test session last month with about 15 examinees, resulting in 2 new Technician licenses, 8 upgraded to General and 1 upgraded to Extra. (FYI, tonight's session resulted in Don Edward, KN4IRO upgraded to General and Jeff Newnum received his Technician class license).

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Barton, W8IBT, Secretary