



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



MSU ARC Meeting – September 1, 2020

Meeting was called to order by President, Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, at 7:10 pm

Roll Call & Question of the Night: “What are your plans for Labor Day Weekend?”

Secretary’s Report: Jana Hackathorn, KN4WME, moved to accept the minutes from last meeting; motion was seconded by Bill Call, KJ4W. Motion approved.

Advisor Report: Jonathan Barrett, KG4OCI, advisor not in attendance; no report available.

QSL Manager Report: Sue Reimer, NR4R, nothing to report.

Treasurer’s Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported writing one check to the MSU Foundation for the use of the Arboretum in the amount of \$100.00. Another check was written to W5YI in the amount of \$14.00 for VE exam fees. Bill states he has more checks to deposit into the club account and will try to get that done in the next few weeks. **Current Balance is \$3,733.59.**

System’s Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, states everything is running well, nothing new to report.

VE Report: J.W. Groves, KO4FYM, passed the Technician Class exam and Josh Gregory, KU8N, passed both the General and Extra Class exams after last month’s meeting. A test session will be held immediately following tonight’s meeting.

CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W. Nothing to report.

Net Manager Report: Chuck Williams, K4CHW, is not in attendance; but Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, presented reports.

- August Net Report: 5 sessions, 147 stations, 236 minutes, 578.2 operator hours.
- Summary of Covid-19 Nets (March through August):
 - 91 sessions
 - 1699 stations (18.67 stations per net report)
 - 1159 minutes (12.7 avg net length)
 - Actual clock time (reported) 1159 mins/19.32 clock hours
 - 5143.55 operator hours (reported)

Special Events:

- KYPOTA – John Coyle, W4PJC, and Scott Holt, KN4IRQ.
 - August 29th, 2020 KYPOTA event was postponed due to inclement weather. Event has been penciled in to be held on October 24th, 2020 from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm.
 - Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, asked if there were any logs submitted from stations trying to work the event on August 29th, there were none submitted.



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Special Events (cont):

- Fox Hunt is still scheduled for September 12th, 2020 starting at 2:00 pm, will be held at Tracy McKinney's, W4IRT, 100 N. 5th Street location.
 - Bill Call, KJ4W, will be the fox.
 - If weather permits, we will have food set up in pavilion type tents outside.
 - Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, motioned that the club buy BBQ and participants bring their own sides and drinks (picnic style). Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, seconded the motion. Motion was carried. Tim will be in charge of getting the BBQ to the event.
 - Members are encouraged to bring their own camping chairs to ensure enough outside seating.
- Club equipment inventory will be done on September 26th, 2020.
 - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT; Rich Palmer, KM4JZX; Bill Call, KJ4W; Josh Kerr, WV4O, will complete this.

Old Business: Changes to MSU ARC Constitution need to be voted on, not enough paid members present to meet quorum and vote. Vote was tabled until after program is presented to allow additional paid members time to arrive. After program presentation, several additional paid members had arrived for vote on constitutional changes and quorum was met. Proposed changes were reviewed by Tracy McKinney, W4IRT.

- The constitutional change (see Appendix B) – article 3 section 5 and article 10 – It is being proposed that we change the wording of “faculty sponsor” to “university advisor”. This is consistent with the university wording.
- Article 3 section 5 - refers to the amount of money that can be spent by members of the executive council without voting from the club. It is currently \$50 – it is proposed that it be increased to \$500.

Josh Kerr, WV4O, motioned for changes to be accepted as presented; Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, seconded motion; motion was carried unanimously to proceed with constitutional changes as presented.

Program: Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, conducted a Field Day AAR of how we handled our Field Day event during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the Governor's restrictions of no social gatherings of more than 10 people and MSU not allowing any university affiliated activities, along with the 1000 ft. radius guidelines of field day; how was this year's event different and what can we learn from our experiences. This was an interactive program, allowing for feedback from Field Day participants and focusing on the positives, negatives, and things learned this year during our current pandemic situation.

- Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, mentioned the pavilion at Cherokee Park was rented and several members gathered there to participate, everyone had a good time, and it was well suited for the event.



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Program (cont.):

- Bill Call, KJ4W, stated that his Field Day experience was very different this year as he chose to participate from his home station with his grandson, Joshua, KO4EAP, who had recently upgraded to General Class. He set up in his home radio shack and used prime power and his normal antenna set up. He learned that his home station worked much better than the usual, portable stations used for field day and that we should consider planning ahead to set up more efficient stations for traditional field days if we want to be more competitive.
- Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, participated from home station but used battery power.
- Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, set up at home station with Honda generator, states needs a longer antenna, but made good contacts.
- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, initially set up at campsite with super antenna and battery, only 2 contacts were made as was in a valley and surrounded by trees, tough to make contacts. Next morning moved to 100 N. 5th Street location and used base station there, several contacts were made. All in all, it was enjoyable.
- Josh Kerr, WV4O, also set up at Cherokee Park with solar panels which worked well when sun was out, but it was a mostly cloudy, rainy day. One positive at Cherokee park location was there was no noise, whereas MSU Arboretum is often noisy with powerlines and surrounding houses. Suggests we may want to go out prior to next field day event and check for noise before deciding on a location.
- Todd Carr, W4TZX, participated from his home with his station up on a hill, states he was impressed with how well his vertical Hustler 6-band antenna worked and contacted 47 states.
- Joe Wray, WD4GX1, participated from home using a 10-meter Ham Stick that was mounted approximately 10 ft. off the ground. He stated that he started with battery power then switched to prime and only worked 10 meters making contact with over 40 states.

New Business:

- Christmas Party will be December 1, 2020 at 7:00 pm and will be held at the Sirloin Stockade since that worked well for everyone last year. Members are encouraged to order and pay for meal, gather in designated area and wait for the food to be blessed before going to the buffet. Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, mentioned that we need to find out if gratuity is included with meal price and ensure that servers are being tipped well. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, stated he would check into this.
- Bill Call, KJ4W, reminded everyone that we will discuss the HAM of the Year at next club meeting.
- Two new member applications were submitted and approved unanimously:
 - Tom Radja
 - Robert Bracken, KJ7RJB

Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, moved to adjourn the meeting and motion was seconded by Larry Call, KD6UNL. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.



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Attendance: 36 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Bill Call, KJ4W

George James, KY4GMJ

Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ

Jeremiah Bagley, KO4ART

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Barbara Call, KM4ZTU

Todd Carr, W4TZX

Jeff Robinson, KM4YCU

Matt Freeman, WX4WKY

Josh Gregory, KU8N

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Randall Winchester, WD8HVA

Carolyn Winchester, WD4IEC

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

Tom Radja, no callsign

Robert Bracken, KJ7RJB

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Mike Rossi, KO4ASE

Charlotte Edmonson, KY4GAL

Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS

Greg Gordon, KX4VI

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

John Michael Clay, KO4HAN - guest

Dave LaFramboise, KN4PGA

Joe Wray, WD4GX1

Rich Palmer, KM4JZX

Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Respectfully submitted,

Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX, Secretary