



# MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



## MSU ARC Meeting – December 1, 2020 via Zoom

Zoom meeting was called to order by President, Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, at 7:10 p.m.

**Roll Call & Question of the Night:** There was no roll call or question of the night.

**Secretary's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W moved to accept the minutes from last meeting; motion was seconded by Dan Reimer, N4ZY. Motion approved.

**Advisor Report:** Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, reported that everything is going well and that the MSU ARC is a legitimate club. She stated that Murray State University is okay with the club not actively recruiting or doing any sort of outreach to MSU students this year due to the current pandemic situation. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, mentioned that he has also spoke with Dr. Claiborne on a couple of occasions and believes he feels the same way.

**QSL Manager Report:** Sue Reimer, NR4R, received a QSL card from someone who participated in the POTA event. Sue stated that it really is nice to receive the QSL cards at her home address now, and not depend on someone to bring them to her from the club's received mail.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that one check was written to W5YI-VEC for \$7.00 for an exam fee. No deposits have been made. He stated that he has received the new antenna for Hamlin but it has not been installed, so that expense hasn't been billed as of yet. Current balance is \$3906.25. We have 95 paid members for 2020, and a few have already contributed 2021 dues.

**System's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that the clock on the 440 repeater has gone out of sync again. He stated that he will try to get to that site to reset the clock soon. Bill has not been to the Hamlin site yet to install the amplifier. The new antenna for Hamlin has finally arrived; but Bill has not had a chance to get it installed due to back problems and now the colder weather. The 94 repeater has not required any attention and all 3 repeaters are working okay.

**VE Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, stated that an exam session was held on Saturday November 14, 2020, at which John Michael Clay, KO4HAN, upgraded to General Class. Congratulations to John! There has been one request for an entry-level exam and one upgrade exam; Bill has not yet scheduled an exam session but will try to do so around the middle of December as long as the pandemic situation does not get entirely out of hand. There will be no exam session tonight, since we are not meeting in person. If anyone is ready to take an exam, let Bill know so that arrangements can be made.

**CERT Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that warning sirens will be tested on Friday, December 11, 2020; and CERT member HAMS will be requested to observe and report.



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**Net Manager Report:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, presented reports as submitted by Chuck Williams, K4CHW.

- *November 2020 Net Report:*
  - 5 sessions
  - 144 stations
  - 273 minutes
  - 655.2 operator hours.
- *Wellness Net*
  - 4 sessions
  - 73 stations
  - 49 minutes
  - 59.62 operator hours

**Special Events:** No special events to discuss at this time.

**Old Business:** HAM of the year has been decided!

- ***HAM of the Year 2020:*** The nominees are:
  - Rich Palmer, KM4JZX
  - Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE
  - Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Bill Call, KJ4W, announced the winner of the HAM of the Year award is **Richard Palmer, KM4JZX!** With all that Rich does for the club as Vice President, helping organize events, securing locations for events (especially during the current pandemic), coordinating presentations and HAM Bits for club meetings, working on the Mayfield repeater, helping fellow club members when needed, and his community service – Rich is very deserving of this award and we are lucky to have him as a vital part of our club. Congratulations to Rich and the other nominees of 2020! A plaque will be presented to Rich at a later date.

**Program:** There was no program presentation tonight.

**New Business:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, facilitated a discussion regarding some club members' interest in setting up a DMR repeater for this area. Setting up a DMR repeater for this area would support those club members who are already into DMR and possibly encourage others to get involved; however, the club needs to consider the pros and cons of investing in expanding the club's capabilities to support the DMR mode.

- Bill Call, KJ4W, went over some of the options for a DMR repeater and location as well as brought up the fact that it could cost anywhere from \$500 to \$2500, depending on what system the club decides on and what equipment the club has versus what it would have to purchase.



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## **New Business (cont.):** DMR Discussion

- Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, mentioned that he enjoys DMR even though it is harder to set up and use than the Yaesu System Fusion mode. Stuart also mentioned that the main benefit is that one can be linked in to different talk-groups all over the world; but he was not sure if something like this would be of interest to everyone. Stuart did bring up that the cost of a HT radio for DMR is considerably cheaper than an HT with Fusion or other digital capabilities; and that DMR seems to be the mode that is trending to be most popular for future digital use.
- Josh Kerr, WV4O, mentioned that building a hotspot for DMR would be a good idea for a future Elmer project, once the current pandemic situation is better controlled.
- Both Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, and Joe Wray, WD4GXI, stated that they would like to know more about DMR and suggested that a presentation be made at a club meeting to help people get a better idea of what DMR is all about and how it works.
- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, suggested that we keep an open discussion about this topic and pursue having a presentation on the topic at a club meeting; and then revisit the club members' ideas on installing a DMR repeater for this area.

**Member News:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, updated everyone on several of the club members' progress with health issues.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



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**Attendance:** 35 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Bill Call, KJ4W

Brenda Call, WA4IJU

Jeff Robinson, KM4YCU

Matt Freeman, WX4WKY

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

Joe Wray, WD4GX1

Rich Palmer, KM4JZX

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Bill Gage, W4BCG

Scott Holt, KN4IRQ

James Flood, KJ4TKL

Robin Jones, KF4GCD

Dale Barrett, WB7D

Valerie Barrett, KG4OCJ

Dan Reimer, N4ZY

Sue Reimer, NR4R

Bonnie Allen, no callsign

Tom Radja, KO4HCL

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Barbara Call, KM4ZTU

Diana Mishica, KN4IRU

Randall Winchester, WD8HVA

Bill Husfield, K9MMW

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary*