



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



MSU ARC Meeting – August 3, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President, Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call & Question of the Night: Roll call was done and the question of the night was, “What topic would you like to see presented in one of our meeting programs?”

Program: Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, presented a very informative program on “**Insurance: Are You Covered?**” Steven explained the importance of knowing what the current worth of your equipment is and having the proper insurance coverage for your HAM radio equipment in case of the event of a loss. Steven defined what insurance is and then reviewed the different types of losses that could occur such as lightening, wind, fire, hail, and theft. He compared the different aspects of Home Owners’ insurance versus ARRL insurance coverage.

- Things to consider with **Home Insurance**
 - Named VS Open Perils
 - Blanket Coverage
 - Deductible
 - Special Limits
 - Replacement Cost VS Actual Cash Value
 - Exclusions (such as power surge)
 - Surcharge for Claim
- Things to consider with **ARRL Insurance**
 - Special Form
 - Replacement Cost
 - \$50 Deductible
 - Affordability - \$1.40 per \$100
 - No Surcharge on Homeowners
 - Worldwide Coverage
 - Scheduled Items Only
 - A list of the items, their stated value, description, make, model, and serial numbers
 - It is important to update your schedule list when you buy or sell equipment to ensure everything is covered.

Steven then reviewed the formalities of your duties after a loss.

- Proof of Ownership – Receipts, damaged equipment, photos, videos
- Proof of Loss – Proof of damage by a “qualified” business, evidence supporting the type of damage, decision to repair or replace, photos

Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF, inquired about whether or not computers, tablets, and phone are covered under such insurance policies. Steven explained how they would be covered under each type of policy and emphasized that one cannot make claims on both a home owners’ policy and a policy through ARRL, as that would be insurance fraud.



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Program (cont.): “Insurance: Are you Covered?” – Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, asked what the burden of proof would be in the event of a theft. Steven explained that a police report must be filed and receipts, pictures, or other form of evidence showing ownership of the equipment lost would be needed. He also mentioned that evidence of forced entry is needed for the loss to be deemed as a theft.

Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU, asked if the club has the ARRL insurance policy. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained that the club has the ARRL General Liability insurance coverage but it does not cover any equipment. The liability insurance covers the club in the event of an incident, accident, injury, etc. during club operations or events.

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, recommended that members take out the ARRL insurance policy for their HAM equipment; and Josh Kerr, WV4O, reminded everyone that you must be a member of the ARRL association in order to take out an insurance policy through them.

Secretary’s Report: Bill Call, KJ4W moved to accept the minutes from last meeting; motion was seconded by Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF. Motion approved.

Advisor Report: Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, reported that everything is going well and that she has officially re-registered the club with the university for this school year. She advised that the Tent City event application process is not open yet, but she will apply for a spot for our club once that is opened up to do so and will email the committee for the Tent City event to start planning what we want to do for outreach to the MSU students. Jana also mentioned that she will check on vendors and prices for some sort of swag such as ink pens to pass out at Tent City.

QSL Manager Report: Sue Reimer, NR4R, reported that she received one QSL card tonight and will respond to it accordingly. Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF, inquired about what Sue does as the club’s QSL manager; and Sue explained her duties.

Treasurer’s Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that there was one deposit, for \$465.00, which he had noted would happen during the July meeting. Bill advised that \$340 of that was proceeds from the Field Day Raffle, and the remaining amount was from dues and VE fees. Bill reported that one check, for \$38.28 was written to Tracy McKinney W4IRT, to reimburse him for a balun that was used for a Field Day antenna. There was also a Credit Union transfer of \$162.14 to Bill for reimbursement for the Winlink project supplies (\$25); repair of lights in the Club Station (\$81.58); the antenna rotator repair (\$55.56 which includes capacitor and the special connectors that he had to buy to hook the rotator and control box together for testing). Bill advised that he has not yet been reimbursed for the Log-Periodic antenna balun. Current bank balance is \$3959.39. As of this evening, 78 members have paid 2021 dues.



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System's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that he and Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, reinstalled the rotator on the tower, with help from Tracy McKinney, W4IRT. Bill advised that the replacement balun has arrived from M-Squared and he hopes to install it whenever we can line up a man-lift of some kind. Bill reported that he has communicated with Dr. Claiborne about that and he wants to talk with Facilities Management before we take any further action. Bill advised that he has not yet gone to Hamlin to install that amplifier, nor done any more on the HF Winlink project. All 3 repeaters, the 2 APRS digipeaters and the 2m Winlink system are working okay at the moment.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that no exams were conducted last month. We have one request for an exam tonight. The FCC has not yet announced a date to begin collecting the \$35 license transaction fee.

CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, advised there are no CERT activities to report this month. He reminded everyone that a CERT course will be held this fall. It will start September 16. Bill has flyers for anyone interested. Bill will plan to conduct a Technician Class ham radio course following the CERT course.

Net Manager Report: Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, shared the Net reports as provided by Net Manager, Chuck Williams, K4CHW, who is not in attendance tonight. The net reports are as follows:

- *July 2021 Net Report:*
 - 4 sessions
 - 101 stations
 - 196 minutes
 - 329.93 operator hours.
- There were no SkyWarn Nets held in June.

Special Events:

- **KYPOTA** – John Coyle, W4PJC, explained what the KYPOTA event is in detail and advised that the current date of the KYPOTA event is **August 14, 2021** and the back-up date for the event is August 28th, in case it needs to be postponed due to weather. John took a count of how many may be attending the event at Cherokee Park so that he will have enough hotdogs and snacks available. He explained that we have had some emails from possible participants expressing interest in the event. John reported that there will be three parks activated for this KYPOTA event: **K4MSU** will be activating at Cherokee Park at Kenlake, **KY4** will be activated by Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, and Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, at Fenton Campground in Land Between the Lakes; and Bill Call, KJ4W and Brenda Call, WA4IJU, will activate under **W4GZ** at Kentucky Dam Village with Joshua Sloan, KO4EAP. Bill Call, KJ4W, mentioned an interesting historical note that the club had their first Field Day event at the hilltop above Fenton in LBL.



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Special Events(cont.):

- **HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST**
 - Several members are already planning on attending and have reserved their hotel rooms. There are also some members who plan to stay at the local campground.
 - The details are as follows:
 - **DATES:** August 21 – August 22, 2021
 - **TIME:** Saturday August 21 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **and** Sunday 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - **VENUE:** Von Braun Center South Hall
 - **ADDRESS:** 700 Monroe St. SW, Huntsville, AL 35801
 - **WEBSITE:** <https://hamfest.org/>

- **CERT Training** - September 16, 2021 through November 04, 2021.

- **Collegiate QSO Party:** September 18th 0000 UTC to September 19th 2359 UTC. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised everyone to refer to the email regarding this and reported that we will discuss this and make further plans at the September meeting. Here is a link for those interested in additional information: <https://collegiateqsoparty.com/> Todd, W4GV has been gathering information for this event and will share at the next meeting.

- **Technician Licensing Class** to start November 11, 2021- additional information to follow.

- **Vette City HamFest and 2021 Great Lakes Division Convention** – The Vette City HamFest will be held October 2nd, 2021 in Bowling Green, KY. This would be a good event for us to attend as we are a part of the ARRL Great Lakes Division and this convention is usually held in Michigan or Ohio. This may be a good opportunity to get the club's name out there and hopefully promote the club as being part of the university which may encourage young HAMs to choose Murray State University for their academic future.

- **Club Christmas Party** - December 07, 2021, Los Portales

Old Business:

- **QSL Card Contest** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained that we had 7 submissions for the QSL card contest. The winner will have 1 year membership fees waived and bragging rights.
 - A discussion was held and it was determined that cards 1,2, and 3, would be considered and grouped one submission as the only thing different was the back of the card. Once a winner is chosen Sue Reimer, NR4R, will determine which back to use with the card.
 - A vote was held and it was determined that card #6 received the most votes. Bill Call, KJ4W, mentioned that it does need to be edited to include the club address as 2580 University Station (no P.O. box) and a space for the stamp. Submission #4 was the runner up. Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, suggested we also add a QR code to the card.



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Old Business (cont.):

- **QSL Card Contest (cont.)**
 - A discussion was held about choosing a print shop for the cards and inquiring about prices. Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, and Sue Reimer, NR4R, will check into prices and if costs prohibit the use of card submission #6 then they have the authority to choose the runner up submission as the QSL card to be used. An official winner will be announced once prices have been determined.
 - Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, brought up a point about the grid square needing to be a 6-digit code. Tracy mentioned that we can revisit the topic after we have cost information from the print shops and finalize a design.
- **10-Meter Filter and Cable Bridges** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, opened a discussion about the club purchasing a 10-meter filter and cable bridges for Field Day.
 - Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, motioned that we set aside funds to purchase a 10-meter filter and cable bridges.
 - John Coyle, W4PJC, advised that he had been investigating the purchase of cable bridges and had found some on Amazon; however, they are pricey.
 - A discussion was held about trying to plan the cable routes better for the next Field Day to have them come from mostly all one direction. The most important goal is the safety of members and guests attending Field Day and the fall hazard that the exposed cables present.
 - Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, amended his motion that we only purchase the 10-meter filters at this time and table the discussion of the purchase of the cable bridges so that further information can be gathered. Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, seconded the motion and motion was carried unanimously.
- **Club Equipment Liquidation** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reviewed the topic of selling some of the club's old equipment that is not being used in order to raise funds to purchase new equipment or repair old equipment.
 - All bids will be sealed bids only
 - Dan, N4ZY, will research the values and he will name a reserve price for each item.
 - Cash and carry only -- no exceptions and no financing
 - The equipment would be checked out prior to the sale to make sure it is operational. **However**, there will be **NO** guarantees or warranties
 - The club will trade anything not bought by club members on new equipment with the retailer that gives us the best deal.



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Old Business (cont.):

- **Club Equipment Liquidation (cont.):**
 - Tracy noted that he has sent out a copy of the club asset list and then presented a list of club assets that may be proposed options to liquidate.
 - ICOM IC 251 A HF \$150 to \$200 Value EBAY AND QRZ
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 - KENWOOD TM241A VHF Mobile \$59.00 Value EBAY
 - YAESU ft-810 X 2, HF BASE, \$500 EACH QRZ
 - KENWOOD TS-590S, BASE, \$750 QRZ
 - ICOM IC-720A HF, BASE \$180 EBAY, \$150.00 QRZ
 - YAESU FT0620B, 6 METER, \$100 QRZ
 - The total value if all items sold for top dollar would be around \$2,289.00 max. The question was raised whether or not it is worth selling the equipment or do we just purchase a new ICOM 7300 which are around \$1100 at this time. We could possibly do some sort of fundraiser to raise the funds for a new radio.
 - We want to ensure that we are fair with this process and that we do what is right for the club.
 - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, opened the floor for discussion.
 - Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, inquired about the Kenwood TM241A being on the list. Bill Call, KJ4W, mentioned that it is usually in use for monitoring the 2-meter repeater and he isn't sure why it has been disconnected. Tracy stated that it will be removed from the proposed sale list, since it is still in club use.
 - Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, asked what the goal of the sale was. Tracy explained that some of the membership had expressed interest in selling the equipment to raise funds for the purchase of 2 new ICOM 7300 and repair of other club equipment.
 - Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, inquired about the "cash and carry" rule. She asked if someone was interested in purchasing but could not physically attend the sale, would they still be able to participate via sealed bid. Tracy explained that they would be able to participate; however, there will be no credit or payment plan extended to members wishing to purchase items.
 - Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, asked if the reserve amount for items would be posted so that members know where to start the bid. Tracy explained that it would not be posted.
 - Mike Lyons, KK4PDL, stated that he would donate his Kenwood 281 to replace the Kenwood TM241A, if the club decided that they still would like to sell the item.
 - Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, stated that he thinks we should offer the items to the club member, and anything that does not sell would remain with the club at this time.



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Old Business (cont.):

- **Club Equipment Liquidation(cont.):**
 - Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, motioned that the executive officers compile a finalized list of items to offer up for sale to the club membership via sealed bids; and any items that did not meet the reserve or were not purchased by the membership would remain in the club inventory and the club could reassess at that time what to do with the remaining equipment.
 - Mike Lyons, KK4PDL, inquired about whether or not any of the vendors had been contacted to see what they would offer for the equipment proposed to be liquidated. Tracy explained that no vendor has been contacted yet.
 - Dan Reimer, N4ZY, presented an idea of setting up a loaning system with the equipment that is not being used (especially the HF equipment) to new HAMs to use the equipment to get familiar with operating on the HF bands and help them decide what radio equipment they may want to purchase for themselves. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, agreed that the equipment does need to be in use. Bill Call, KJ4W, also agreed that a lending program would be a good option if we have any takers. He stated that previously there has been little interest in a similar program with the VHF equipment.
 - Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, suggested that the club focus on selling the HF equipment that is not in use (specifically the Kenwood TS-2000 and the Kenwood TS-590S) that will raise enough money to purchase the new ICOM 7300s. Tracy advised that the Kenwood TS-2000 was not on the proposed sale list as the club still uses it for events.
 - Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF, inquired if there are any storage issues with the equipment and Tracy advised that at this time there is not any issues with storage.
 - Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, asked about the equipment that cannot be sold. Tracy explained that the club can not sale any equipment that is considered the university's property. Tracy also referenced the Ten-Tec equipment that was donated to the club by Ten-Tec under the condition that it would never be sold. The details and conditions of this donation were conveyed to the club officers via an email from Randall and a copy of the email has been indexed in the club's inventory management system.
 - Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, withdrew his motion to have the executive officers compile a finalized list of items to offer up for sale to the club membership via sealed bids; and any items that did not meet the reserve or were not purchased by the membership would remain in the club inventory and the club could reassess at that time what to do with the remaining equipment.
 - Bill Call, KJ4W, motioned that we table the discussion of liquidation of club equipment as this time and revisit at the next meeting. Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF, seconded the motion. Debbie Barton, W8IBT, asked that the executive committee finalize the sale list for the next meeting. Motion was carried.



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New Business:

- Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, mentioned that Collegiate QSO Party is coming up in September and it would be an excellent opportunity for the club to set up on campus and create interest from the students. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, agreed and reminded everyone that he has sent out an email regarding the event. It will be discussed in detail at the next meeting.
- Denis Barton, WB8SKP, revisited the topic of the club having a variety of radios for people to try out and learn how to use. He said that if more people in the club were willing to be Elmers, then anyone who would want to check out different types of radios could learn from various members of the club in their personal stations and also see a variety of other equipment that different members use. He proposed that we come up with a list of members who are willing to act as Elmers and what equipment they have. That list could be made available to the membership for anyone who may be interested in learning about a particular type of radio or other station equipment. Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU, agreed with this and added that a “Round Robin” type event could be organized for the membership to see how other members have their stations set up and what equipment they are using.
- Bill Call, KJ4W, stated that we received notification that the membership dues of \$100 for the MSU Arboretum need to be renewed. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, stated that it was previously voted to be an automatically approved payment, and Bill can go ahead with the payment of those dues.

New Members - One new member applications was submitted via application and membership dues turned in to Tracy McKinney, W4IRT. Josh Kerr, WV4O, motioned to approve the new member and Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, seconded the motion. The new member was approved unanimously:

- Dwain McKinney, KO4ASD

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE moved to adjourn the meeting and motion was seconded by Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX. Meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.



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Attendance: 33 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT	Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ
Dan Reimer, N4ZY	Josh Gregory, KU8N
Sue Reimer, NR4R	Randall Winchester, WD4HVA
Bill Call, KJ4W	Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS
Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX	Charlotte Edmonson, KY4GAL
Josh Kerr, WV4O	Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA
Larry Call, KD6UNL	Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU
Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN	Denis Barton, WB8SKP
Todd Hackathorn, W4GV	Debbie Barton, W8IBT
Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE	Robert Bracken, KJ7RJB
Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB	Robin Bracken, no callsign
James Flood, KJ4TKL	Don Edwards, K4MKY
Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU	Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF
David Thomas, KO4QZA	Scotty McNaughton, KO4RKY - guest
John Coyle, W4PJC	Tracy Johns, no callsign – guest
Tom Radja, KO4HCL	Dave Gossett, no callsign – guest
Mike Lyons, KK4PDL	

*Respectfully submitted,
Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary*