



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



MSU ARC Meeting – January 5, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President, Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, at 7:00 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 Chuck Williams, K4CHW. Motion approved.

Advisor Report: Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, reported that everything is going well and that MSU plans to continue with the current protocol for all university affiliated events or meeting to be done virtually next semester, with no in person gatherings due to the pandemic. Bill Call, KJ4W, asked if that would include the upcoming Winter Field day and it was determined that club members should participate individually if they are interested in the event, as to avoid any unnecessary risk of illness to the club membership.

QSL Manager Report: Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported on behalf of Sue Reimer, NR4R, that there are no new QSL cards for the club. Dan Reimer, N4ZY, and Sue are presently at the Mayo Clinic for Dan's treatment and hope to be home soon. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that checks have been written to SERA (SouthEast Repeater Association) for \$35 for annual dues; to WKMS/MSU Foundation for \$120 to contribute to the transmitter project; and to reimburse himself for the new antenna which was installed at the Hamlin repeater, \$464.10. The cost of the antenna was higher than the original estimate due to exceptionally high shipping charges of \$195 because it was classified as oversized. No deposits have been made since last meeting. Current balance is \$3287.15. A few members have paid 2021 dues already. Bill hopes we will be able to meet in person soon, at least before April; but if members wish to mail their dues to him that will be fine. Bill's address is: 1515 Coles Campground Road, Murray KY 42071. Members can also mail their dues to the Club PO Box, but that would be a slower process.

System's Report:

- Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that the new antenna for the Hamlin repeater has been installed, on one of those rare days that were nice in December. Initial reception reports have been disappointing. There were no improvements over the old antenna, and actually received signals are a bit weaker at the two stations who have carefully observed. Bill stated that he used a shorter mast pipe so the new antenna is about 6 feet lower in height. He did not think that would make much difference, and maybe that's not the issue; but states that at some point he plans to change the mast pipes to get it back to the original height and we will see if there is improvement. Bill explained that the new antenna has more solid internal construction and that should result in more reliable operation and less received noise, in other words the receive sensitivity may be improved; but that's harder to measure. Bill advised that he has a new-to-us power amplifier donated by Doyan Jennings, KA4BLZ, and it is almost ready to install at the Hamlin site.



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System's Report (cont.)

- Bill reported that the clock on the 440 repeater is out of sync once again, he believes it is due to New Year's rollover since he is not aware of any power failures at Faculty Hall. He mentioned that he did receive an email advising that others had experience the same problem and the company stated it was a firmware issue. Bill stated he will try to get to the site to reset it soon, and do other work on the system while he is there. The 94 repeater has not required any attention, and all 3 repeaters are working well.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that no exam sessions were held in December. None are scheduled at this point.

CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that warning sirens were tested on Friday, December 11, 2020; and thanked the CERT member HAMS who helped by observing and reporting back to him. One of the sirens did not sound during the test.

Net Manager Report: Chuck Williams, K4CHW, presented the net reports as follows:

- *December 2020 Net Report:*
 - 4 sessions
 - 102 stations
 - 208 minutes
 - 353.6 operator hours.
- *Wellness Net*
 - 5 sessions
 - 105 stations
 - 64 minutes
 - 112 operator hours

Special Events: John Coyle, W4PJC, advised that there is a need for a few more volunteers for the KYPOTA committee for the 2021 event. If you are interested in being on this committee and helping with the KYPOTA event please email John at jcoyle347@yahoo.com. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, inquired about the gentleman who won the award for the most contacts in the 2020 KYPOTA event. John stated he has not heard anything from him; and Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that he knows the gentleman personally and believes he may have not responded due to experiencing health issues.

Old Business:

- **DMR:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, facilitated a discussion regarding some club members' interest in setting up a DMR repeater for this area. There has been lots of talk about DMR and interest since the last club meeting when the discussion on this topic was initiated; however, the club still needs to consider the pros and cons of investing in expanding the club's capabilities to support the DMR mode.



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Old Business (cont):

DMR(cont):

- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that a committee has been created to research information on the DMR mode and installing a repeater for our area. The committee members are: Josh Kerr, WV4O; Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB; Brock Kirk, KO4ASA; Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN; Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE; Richard Palmer, KM4JZX; Bill Call, KJ4W; Tracy McKinney, W4IRT; and Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX. The committee will look at the pros, cons, expense, maintenance, location, and need for a DMR repeater and will then communicate the information with the rest of the club membership. Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that he will email an article regarding DMR to the club members to read if they are interested in learning more; and stated that Bridgecom is a good source for information regarding the DMR mode. Bill has also been helping Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, with setting up his repeater.
- It was mentioned that we should try to have an Elmer Day for those who are interested in learning more about the DMR mode.
- Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, reported that he has set up a DMR repeater at his home and provided the information to connect to it. Tim also explained that in order to use the DMR mode a DMR capable radio and hotspot are needed OR a DMR capable radio and access to a repeater in your area.

Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS DMR REPEATER

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • RX 442.875 | * Must be the repeater frequencies |
| • TX 447.875 | * Talk group is number 312254 |
| • Color Code 1 | * Must have digital contact 312254 |
| • Both Times slots are used | * Must have color code 1 |
| • Local Contacts use Time Slot 2 | * Must have time slot 2 |

Program: There was no program presentation tonight.

New Business:

- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that the FCC will now be charging a \$35 fee for all new licenses, renewals, vanity call sign requests, and all modifications. Josh Kerr, WV4O, also reported that a valid email address will now be required by the FCC.
- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, expressed his thanks to those who donated to WKMS for their new transmitter. All politics aside, the club has had a good relationship with WKMS and we have supported each other throughout the years; and it is beneficial to the club to maintain that mutual respect and working relationship with WKMS.



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New Business (cont.):

- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, presented an idea proposed by Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU regarding the club sponsoring a MSUARC scholarship to a university student. The proposed amount was \$500 and the scholarship recipient would have to meet certain criteria in order to receive the scholarship. A scholarship of this type would promote Amateur Radio and increase student involvement in the hobby and with the club.
 - Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, agreed that this is a good idea and stated that she is on a scholarship committee with the university and would be willing to research this option for the club. She also mentioned that the club could possibly assist with exam and licensing fees for the recipient of the scholarship.
 - Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, mentioned that perhaps the club could consider providing an inexpensive hand-held radio to the recipient as part of the scholarship package.
 - Bill Call, KJ4W, also stated that he is familiar with the scholarship process and he would be willing help with getting that process started as he believes it is a good idea as well. He mentioned that the club has helped new HAMs in the past with getting a radio once they passed the technician license exam.
 - Josh Kerr, WV4O, pointed out that there could be hundreds of applicants and the process of culling through those and choosing a recipient may be daunting.
 - Chuck Williams, K4CHW, mentioned that this is a good way for the club to reconnect with MSU and strengthen the relationship with the university. He proposed that a percentage of the membership dues each year could be earmarked in order to finance the scholarship.
 - Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU, agreed that this is a good way to strengthen ties with the university. He stated he would be willing to help with the process and be on a committee to choose a scholarship recipient.
 - Tom Radja, KO4HCL, presented his perspective as a newer HAM and suggested that the club consider providing classes or Elmer sessions to students or any new HAMs just getting started with amateur radio.
 - Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, agreed that the scholarship idea is good but states he does not believe it will necessarily increase interest in the hobby. He suggested that the club consider helping with exam and licensing fees to help students get started.
 - A committee was formed to pursue the proposal of a MSUARC Scholarship program. Committee members volunteered and are as follows: Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE; Bill Call, KJ4W; Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU; Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX; Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN; Chuck Williams, K4CHW; and Debbie Barton, W8IBT.



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New Business (cont.):

- There were no new member applications tonight. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, and Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX, both mentioned that they have had people ask about getting licensed; and they both provided information on resources to study for the exam. Tracy asked Bill Call, KJ4W, if there was a possibility for a Zoom Class to be offered to those who would be interested in obtaining their Technician Class license. Bill stated that he was not sure how that would work but would consider it as a possibility.

Chuck Williams, K4CHW, moved to adjourn the meeting and motion was seconded by Randall Winchester, WD4HVA. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Attendance: 31 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT	Don Edwards, K4MKY	Diana Mishica, KN4IRU
Josh Kerr, WV4O	Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB	Randall Winchester, WD4HVA
Bill Call, KJ4W	Rich Palmer, KM4JZX	Bill Husfield, K9MMW
Brenda Call, WA4IJU	Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX	Jeff Robinson, KM4YCU
Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN	Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA	Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS
Debbie Barton, W8IBT	Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU	
Denis Barton, WB8SKP	Scott Holt, KN4IRQ	
Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE	James Flood, KJ4TKL	
Todd Hackathorn, W4GV	Robin Jones, KF4GCD	
Bob Atkinson, K9OIM	Chuck Williams, K4CHW	
Helen Atkinson, no callsign	John Coyle, W4PJC	
Tom Radja, KO4HCL	Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU	
Brock Kirk, KO4ASA	Charlton Young, KJ4CY (left early)	

Respectfully submitted,

Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX, Secretary