



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



MSU ARC Meeting – February 1, 2022

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 there was no question of the night.

Program: Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, and Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, presented tonight's program entitled "***HamFest Season is Here! Are You Ready?***"

- Jana explained how the Huntsville Hamfest was her and Todd's first hamfest to attend and it was a much larger event than she had anticipated.
- Jana defined a "hamfest" as a convention for ham radio operators that combines a tradeshow, flea market, educational forums, trainings, activities, and socializing.
- Jana talked about where to stay, mentioning the Embassy Suites, which is conveniently connected to the Von Braun Convention Center where the Hamfest is held. She also shared about the campground where she and Todd stayed in their camper.
- Todd talked about some of the HAM radio equipment that was in the vendor area of the Hamfest.
- Jana explained that there were many different educational forums that you can choose to attend that cover a variety of topics.
- Jana talked about the Youth Station where young people could participate in HAM radio related activities. Bill Call, KJ4W, mentioned that Huntsville Youth Program is the best that he has seen at any Hamfest that he has attended.
- Jana explained that we mostly bought HAM radio stuff, sat and socialized, then shopped for more HAM radio stuff, then ate and socialized more!
- Todd reviewed some of the HAM radio stuff that the club members bought while there.
 - Hamfest Life Lesson: Wait until you actually get to the Hamfest to buy the things and **NOT** before, or you'll probably pay more!
- Jana reviewed some of the upcoming Hamfest events that are within driving distance. Bill Call, KJ4W, mentioned that the grand-daddy Hamfest is the Dayton HamVention in Xenia, Ohio which will be held May 20-22, 2022.

Secretary's Report: Chuck Williams, K4CHW, moved to accept the minutes from last meeting; motion was seconded by Rich Palmer, KM4JZX. Motion approved.

Advisor Report: Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, reported that everything is good. She has not had a chance to check the club mailbox yet, but will do that soon. Jana reported that she believes the total amount that the club earned from helping with the MSU parking is \$697, and she has submitted the invoice. Jana will check the club's account to see if the money has been paid out yet.

QSL Manager Report: Sue Reimer, NR4R, advised that there was nothing new to report tonight.



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Treasurer's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that there was one deposit of \$290.00 made since the last meeting. One check was written to Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, in the amount of \$71.89 for cables purchased for 2021 Field Day. The current bank balance is \$3799.53 and we are currently collecting 2022 membership dues. Bill advised that as of tonight, 34 members have paid their 2022 dues. No one will be delinquent until April 2022.

System's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that he worked on a computer in the Club Station and replaced the power supply using one from another computer. He tested the antenna rotator and it does turn the Log Periodic, but the direction indicator is not working. Bill advised that most likely this means the intermittent potentiometer in the rotator has quit working in the cold weather. This is all of the Club Systems work that he has done the past month. Bill states he is waiting for good antenna weather to install the new Broadband Dipole antenna and the HF Winlink station, and also the new 2 meter Winlink station destined for Mayfield. Bill did go over to Mayfield and found there is a problem with their repeater, which he thinks is water in the hardline, but he has not confirmed that yet. The three Club repeaters, the 2 APRS digipeaters, and the 2m Winlink system are all working well as far as he knows.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that there was not an exam session after last meeting. We can have an exam session tonight if anyone is interested. He hopes that the General Class License study course can begin next week, if weather and COVID permit. It will meet on Thursday nights, 6-9pm, in room 237.

CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that there was no CERT activity over the past month.

Additional Note: Bill Call, KJ4W, encouraged everyone to please register for and attend the National Weather Service SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotting Course which is Tuesday night, February 15, 6-9pm in Freed Curd Auditorium. Registration link and more info at <https://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>. And in a related matter, be aware of severe winter weather forecast for this Thursday, February 3rd, 2022.

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

- *January 2022 Net Report:*
 - 5 sessions
 - 147 stations
 - 262 minutes
 - 641.9 operator hours.



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Special Events:

- **SkyWarn** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded of the National Weather Service SKYWARN Severe Weather Spotting Course which will be taught by Christine Wielgos on Tuesday night, February 15, 6-9pm in Freed Curd Auditorium. Registration link and more info at <https://www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining>.
- **Cave City HamFest** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, announced that the Cave City HamFest will be held on March 5th, 2022. Gates open at 8:00 AM at the Cave City Convention Center and there is a \$5.00 admission fee.
- **Spring Fox Hunt** - Bill Call, KJ4W, explained what a Fox Hunt is for those who have never participated in one before. A discussion was held about when to hold the club's Spring Fox Hunt. The membership decided to hold the Spring Fox Hunt on May 7th, 2022. Details will follow closer to time for the event.

Announcements:

- **Western Kentucky Polar Plunge** - Chuck Williams, K4CHW, announced that the *Western Kentucky Polar Plunge and Polar 5K* will be held on March 5th, 2022 at the Kentucky Dam Village to raise money for the Special Olympics Kentucky. Chuck asked for volunteers to help with communication needs for transportation and other things. He also asked if the club would be willing to volunteer serve donuts and coffee to prior to the event getting started, as the organization that has helped with that in the past will not be participating this year. They will need 6-7 volunteers to serve donuts and coffee at the Kentucky Dam Village Convention Center. He will need to know by the next Monday night NET on February, 7th. Chuck also advised that anyone in the club, other organizations, or individuals are invited to participate in the 5K Walk/Run
- **2022 Club Officer Elections** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded the membership that club officer elections will be held in April. He asked that everyone be thinking about who they would like to nominate to serve as club officers.
 - Dan Reimer, N4ZY, who is our current club Vice President, announced that he and Sue Reimer, NR4R, our current club QSL Card manager, will be moving to Wisconsin soon due to his health concerns and needing to be closer to the Mayo Clinic. They will be selling their house with the tower and antenna, if anyone is interested in buying their home. The club will especially need to think about who to nominate as Vice President and QSL Card Manager. We will miss Dan and Sue tremendously and hope they visit.
- **Inclement Weather** – Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, made an announcement regarding the upcoming Winter Weather Warning. He encouraged everyone to make sure they are prepared for treacherous conditions and possible power outages resulting from sleet and ice accumulation. Rich also asked that everyone like, follow, and share the Calloway County Emergency Management Facebook page for updates happening in our area.



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Old Business:

- **10 Meter Filter** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported that the purchase of the filters has been approved but they have not been ordered yet.
- **Cable Bridges** – A discussion was held regarding the purchase of cable bridges to be used at the next Field Day. It is important that we consider the safety of our club members and visitors during Field Day and loose cable wires do pose a tripping/fall hazard. Dave Thomas, KO4QZA motioned that the club authorize a purchase amount of up to \$100 for the cable bridges. Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, seconded the motion and it was carried. John Coyle, W4PJC, will look into purchasing these, order them, and then submit invoice to the club for reimbursement.
- **Cable Spools** – After a brief discussion, Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that we would research obtaining cable spools and it would be addressed at a later time.
- **Club Surplus Equipment** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained that he has been working with Dan Reimer, N4ZY, on finalizing details of this program.

New Business:

- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported that there is no new business to be discussed tonight.

New Members: Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX reported that one new member application was submitted. Josh Kerr, WV40, motioned to approve the new member and Bill Call, KJ4W, seconded the motion. The new member was approved unanimously: **Micah Orten, WD4FXX**, from Hopkinsville, KY.

There was no VE Session held tonight. Josh Kerr, WV40, moved to adjourn the meeting and motion was seconded by Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN. Meeting was adjourned.



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Attendance: 33 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Bill Call, KJ4W

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Micah Orten, WD4FXX

Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Chuck Williams, K4CHW

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Rich Palmer, KM4JZX

Dave Thomas, KO4QZA

Jerry Holt, N1BLH – guest

Mike Davis, no callsign, – guest

James Flood, KJ4TKL – *via ZOOM*

Dan Reimer, N4ZY– *via ZOOM*

Sue Reimer, NR4R– *via ZOOM*

Denis Barton, WB8SKP– *via ZOOM*

Greg Gordon, KX4VI– *via ZOOM*

Robert Bracken, KJ4RJB – *via ZOOM*

John Coyle, W4PJC – *via ZOOM*

Bill Barley, KO4TVH – *via ZOOM*

Robin Jones, KF4GCD – *via ZOOM*

Brian Lewis, AF1US – *Via ZOOM*

Brandelyne Lewis, KV4SF – *via ZOOM*

Kevin Bailey, KK4BXG – *via ZOOM*

Respectfully submitted,

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary