



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



MSU ARC Meeting – March 2, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President, Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call & Question of the Night: Roll call was done and we had several new people joining for the meeting tonight.

Secretary's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, moved to accept the minutes from last meeting; motion was seconded by Debbie Barton, W8IBT. Motion approved.

Advisor Report: Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, advised that the Murray State University President says that in-person classes, meetings, and events will be back to normal in August of this year.

QSL Manager Report: Sue Reimer, NR4R, reported that the club had received 5 QSL cards, one of which was requesting a return QSL card from the 2014 MSU ARC Field Day (which was the first field day held at the MSU arboretum). Sue mailed out the QSL cards as requested.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that deposits were made for \$160.00, \$174.00, and \$35.00 since our last meeting. Checks were written to W5YI-VEC for \$35.00 for VE fees, and to Josh Kerr, WV40, for \$66.00 for website renewal reimbursement. The club's current bank balance is \$3590.15. He reports that 35 members have paid their 2021 dues already and he has a couple of checks to deposit. Membership dues are due by the April meeting, which is our next meeting.

System's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, states that he managed to fix the hum that had crept into the 443.800 repeater. He also reports that the new Winlink digipeater and gateway are working and are temporarily at his house for testing and fine-tuning. That equipment will be taken to Faculty Hall in the next week or two. Bill advised that he will publish more information about it when it's more permanent. Bill states that he has not yet gone to Hamlin to install the amplifier at that site. The 94 repeater has not required any attention, and all 3 repeaters and 2 APRS digipeaters are working okay.

- He mentions, one more systems' topic, though it's not our system: he has been helping Allen Fowler, KD4JME, with the new WKMS-FM transmitter installation, which the Club and several club members have contributed to. For those who don't know, the club's K4MSU-5 APRS digipeater is housed at the same location, which is in the northern part of Land Between the Lakes.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that a VE session was held Saturday morning, February 6. One new licensee resulted, Melton Mashburn, KO4MJU, of Hopkinsville. Also, Micah Orten, WD4FXX, of Hopkinsville (Corbie Gomez's, KO4ARX, brother) and Vickie Siedel, KO4ASI, upgraded to General Class. We have not yet scheduled a VE session for this month and Bill states he is not available this upcoming Saturday morning; but one might could be arranged for another Saturday if there is anyone ready for an exam. If anyone would like to take an exam, please let Bill know right away. E-mails can be sent to either wcall@murraystate.edu or wcall@mchsi.com.



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that the annual statewide Tornado Safety Drill that was previously scheduled for tomorrow morning has been postponed due to recent weather and flooding events in other parts of the state.

Net Manager Report: Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, presented the Net Reports as submitted by Chuck Williams, K4CHW. The net reports are as follows:

- *February 2021 Net Report:*
 - 4 sessions
 - 126 stations
 - 240 minutes
 - 504 operator hours.
- *Wellness Net*
 - 4 sessions
 - 87 stations
 - 58 minutes
 - 84.1 operator hours

Special Events:

- KYPOTA – John Coyle, W4PJC, advised that there is still 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. The current plan is to change the date of the KYPOTA event to August 14, 2021. John also mentioned that they are going to try to get some special event call-signs for the KYPOTA event instead of using the K4MSU-1,-2, or -3. John advised that they plan to publish a back-up date in the rules for the event, in case it needs to be postponed due to weather like our last one. He has submitted a draft of the rules for the event and will finalize those soon. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, gave a brief explanation of KYPOTA event for any new attendees or those who are unfamiliar with the event.

Old Business:

- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reviewed membership dues.
 - Renewal membership dues are due by the April club meeting for anyone who wishes to continue with the club. These dues must be paid in order to be allowed to vote on club officers or any other club business.
 - New member applications are invited at any time for anyone wishing to join the club and dues will be collected with the application.
 - The fee is \$15 per member, and \$5 for any additional member within the same household.
 - Tracy also reviewed the different membership levels available:
 - Full (License and MSU affiliated)
 - Associate (not affiliated with MSU)
 - Not applying, just contributing (anyone who uses club repeaters/equipment but does not want to be a member is encouraged to contribute \$10)



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Old Business: cont.

- To obtain a membership application you can email Tracy at tracydeon@gmail.com, pick up an application at our next in-person meeting, or download from the club website at https://k4msu.files.wordpress.com/2017/03/msuarc_app_info_form2.pdf
- Officer elections will be held at the April meeting. At this time, it is our plan to hold the April meeting in person in the Freed Curd Auditorium at the Center for Industry and Technology on Murray State University Campus. We will follow all Covid-19 guidelines.

Program:

- Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, presented a very interesting and informative program on the DMR mode. He provided a basic intro to DMR radio mode with a brief overview of the history, cost, terminology, radio options, hotspot -vs- repeater options, use, and application to the HAM radio hobby. A copy of his presentation will be posted on the K4MSU website for anyone who would like to revisit the information.
- Bill Call, KJ4W, asked about having to use a password for the Brandmeister networks.
 - It was explained that a password is only required for those using a hotspot and connecting in to the Brandmeister networks.
- John Coyle, W4PJC, asked if there is a cell phone service version for DMR use.
 - It was explained that Android phones do have an app called Droid Star that can be used for DMR mode.
- **MANY THANKS** to Stuart for the informative presentation and to **ALL** those who have worked on bringing the DMR mode to the club for further exploration and learning.

New Business:

- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that there are several who are wanting to start a Simplex Net using the C4FM mode. The target date for starting this net is March 11, 2021 at 7:30 p.m., which would be after the Thursday evening Wellness Net at 7:00 p.m. The net would be on 146.550.
 - Tracy also mentioned that Chuck Williams, K4CHW, is needing to resume the ARES Net. It is a possibility that this is combined with the C4FM Simplex net; however, this is still to be determined as ARES may need to be conducted on analog.



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



- **HUNTSVILLE HAMFEST**

- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported details on the Huntsville Hamfest. Several members are already planning on attending and have reserved their hotel rooms. If you plan to attend make those reservations soon and buy your tickets online as soon as they are available as there may be limits on those.
- 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/>

James Flood, KJ4TKL, moved to adjourn the meeting and motion was seconded by Joe Wray, WD4GXI
Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Attendance: 39 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT	Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB	Dan Reimer, N4ZY
Josh Kerr, WV4O	Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX	Sue Reimer, NR4R
Bill Call, KJ4W	Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA	Matt Freeman, WX4WKY
Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN	Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU	Melinda Stallons, WD4INT
Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE	Robin Jones, KF4GCD	Patrick Stallons, KN4FPK
Todd Hackathorn, W4GV	Bonnie Allen, no callsign	Micah Orten, WD4FXX
Bob Atkinson, K9OIM	John Coyle, W4PJC	Debbie Barton, W8IBT
Helen Atkinson, no callsign	Diana Mishica, KN4IRU	Denis Barton, WB8SKP
Chuck Williams, K4CHW	Dale Barrett, WB7D	Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU
Larry Call, KD6UNL	Valerie Barrett, KG4OCJ	Paul Hendrix, KJ4BCF
Barbara Call, KM4ZTU	Jeff Robinson, KM4YCU	Matt Brown, KO4ARU
Don Edwards, K4MKY	Joe Wray, WD4GXI	Robert Bracken, KJ7RJB
James Flood, KJ4TKL	Jeremiah Bagley, KO4ART	Larry Williams, no callsign

Respectfully submitted,

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary