



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



MSU ARC Meeting – May 4, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President, Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, at 7:01 p.m.

Roll Call & Question of the Night: Roll call was done and the question of the night was whether or not you plan on participating in the KY QSO Party on June 5th.

Program: Don Miller, K4ENE, presented a very interesting and informative program on Amateur Satellite Tracking. He explained that there are many communication satellites over the earth and some of them are amateur radio equipped. Don provided some terminology and basic information regarding satellite tracking.

- He explained that these satellites are used for a variety of functions such as: television, weather, government, and other secret operations. Most of these satellites revolve around the earth, and there are only 3 HAM radio equipped satellites that are geosynchronous (stay in one location over the earth's surface).
- Don advised that the majority of the satellites operate on 2m or 70 cm and the altitude of the satellite will determine its footprint on the earth's surface. The higher the altitude of the satellite, the larger it's footprint will be.
- He explained that FM satellites work much like a repeater and are often very crowded with HAM operators trying to make contact while the satellite footprint is over their location.
- He described SSB satellites as functioning more like linear transponders and operate on a spectrum of the frequency band.
- Don explained that when tracking satellites it is important to take into account the polarization of your antenna as the satellites rotate as they pass over the earth. He showed an example of a helix antenna he has built for his home station to account for this rotation and polarization challenge.
- He reviewed the equipment needed for amateur satellite tracking and recommended using SatPC32 computer programming for anyone interested in pursuing this aspect of the HAM radio hobby.
- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, asked whether Don tracked satellites at a specific time of day and what locations he had been able to successfully contact. Don explained that much of it depends on the footprint size of the satellite and when it will be passing by his location at a trackable angle to the horizon. He also mentioned that most HAM operators only want your callsign and grid square information as the satellite pass is fairly quick; however, he has made contact with some HAMs who will have a conversation as long as the "bird" is within range.

Secretary's Report: Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, moved to accept the minutes from the last meeting; motion was seconded by Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE. Motion approved.



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Advisor Report: Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, advised that the club had received some mail from WKMS requesting donations in their bi-annual fundraising campaign. It was determined that the club would not donate anything at this time since we recently donated to WKMS for their transmitter project. Jana also reported that she will be submitting all necessary paperwork to the university for us to remain an official club.

QSL Manager Report: Sue Reimer, NR4R, had nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that one deposit was made for \$285.00. One check was written to W5YI-VEC for VE fees for \$7.00; and Josh Kerr, WV4O, was reimbursed \$300 tonight for the club's insurance premium. Bill also advised that he has not yet figured the reimbursement for the Winlink project. The current bank balance is \$3,773.15. As of tonight, 70 members have paid their 2021 club membership dues.

System's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, states that the new Winlink digipeater and gateway seem to be working well, although he has had to work on it several times. Bill advised that it seems to hang up during storms. Bill reported that Denis Barton, WB8SKP, helped in finding a setting that has stopped the random hanging-ups that were a problem earlier. Bill reported that he has not yet gone to Hamlin to install that amplifier; and that none of the repeaters have required any attention. All 3 repeaters and 2 APRS digipeaters are working okay.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that we had one examinee after the meeting last month. Dan Eakin passed his Technician exam and has been issued call sign KO4PDT. A test session will be held immediately following tonight's meeting, if there is anyone wishing to test. For prospective new hams, the FCC now requires online registration in advance to receive your FRN, and then you enter your FRN on the exam form instead of your Social Security number. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, had the details of this in Monday's e-mail.

CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, advised there is nothing new to report.

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:

- *April 2021 Net Report:*
 - 4 sessions
 - 103 stations
 - 183 minutes
 - 314.15 operator hours.



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Net Manager Report cont.:

- *Wellness Net*
 - 5 sessions
 - 64 stations
 - 50 minutes
 - 53.33 operator hours

Special Events: Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reviewed the upcoming HAM related events and advised that details would be in an email as per normal.

- **Elmer Day** – We will have an Elmer Day on May 15th at 10:00 a.m. at 103 N. 4th Street, Murray KY 42071 (parking lot behind Tracy McKinney's, W4IRT, downtown location) The objective of the Elmer Day is to learn and hone fox-hunting skills.
- **Mayfield Amateur Radio Society Meeting** – The Mayfield club will hold a meeting at the Cuba Church of Christ gym on May 20th at 7:00 p.m. Bill Call, KJ4W, will present a program at that meeting. The address to the church is 51 Cuba School Road, Mayfield KY 42066
- **KY QSO Party** – Our club has been invited to participate as a bonus station in the KY QSO Party on June 5, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. We will be able to operate from the club station at the university, COVID-19 precautions will still need to be followed.
- **Field Day** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded everyone that this year's Summer Field Day will be on June 26th and 27th. Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, advised that the Field Day planning committee will meet again on May 17th to continue with planning and preparations for the event.
- **Cave City HamFest** – The Cave City HamFest will be held July 10th, 2021 as an outdoor event only. There will be about 40 vendor spots available and the rest will be tailgate spots in the parking lot of Cave City Convention Center.
- **KYPOTA** – There is still a need for 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 date of the KYPOTA event is August 14, 2021.



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Special Events: cont.

- **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 there may be limits on those. Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, informed that the Embassy Suites has been booked up and that if anyone is interested in camping while in Huntsville, there is a campground nearby that a few members have decided to stay at.
 - 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/>

Old Business:

- **Spring Fox Hunt Results**
 - We had a total of 10 teams participate in the fox hunt. The teams consisted of 2-3 people each and we had a few participants join us from the surrounding areas. It was a great turn-out.
 - **3rd place** – Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA, and Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU – 30 minutes
 - **2nd place** – Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, and Sean Rife, KM4DMG – 25 minutes
 - **1st place** – Bill Call, KJ4W, Brenda Call, WA4IJU, Joshua Sloan, KO4EAP, and Luke – 14 minutes
 - A special thanks to our Wiley CJ Foxes, George James, KY4GMJ and Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ, for doing an excellent job as the foxes.

New Business:

- **Club Liability Insurance** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained that the club's insurance policy has been renewed. He advised that it is necessary that the club carry insurance since we are liable for participants and guests at any club function or event. Murray State University does not carry insurance coverage for their affiliated clubs. Tracy also advised that he received written confirmation that the club is covered in multiple locations, which is important since many events are held at locations other than what is listed as the club's main location. Our policy also covers non-owned and hired auto. The premium is \$300 per year for a \$1 million policy.



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



New Business cont.:

- **SkyWarn Nets** – Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA, reminded everyone that when participating in a SkyWarn Net it is important to use the correct terminology when discussing “watch” versus “warning.” We need to be conscious that there are many people in the community who monitor and could be falsely alarmed or worry if we use the term “warning” incorrectly. Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, mentioned that we may possibly consider having a program about participating in the SkyWarn Nets.
 - *Anyone who has ideas for future programs can contact Dan Reimer, N4ZY, as he is now organizing and planning programs for our club meetings.*
- We did a quick rundown of the damage from the Tuesday morning storms.
 - There were over 6000 Calloway County residents who lost power
 - There were many trees down and several power lines down around the county
 - There were no injuries, loss of life, or loss of homes
 - Several surrounding counties suffered more damage
 - The National Weather Service determined that the damage in the southern part of the county was caused by a 95 mph microburst
- There were no new membership applications tonight.

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, moved to adjourn the meeting and motion was seconded by Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Attendance: 20 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT	Rich Palmer, KM4JZX
Josh Kerr, WV4O	Don Miller, K4ENE
Bill Call, KJ4W	Randall Winchester, WD4HVA
Brenda Call, WA4IJU	Don Edwards, K4MKY
Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN	Carmack Johnson, KN4LZC
Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE	Dan Reimer, N4ZY
Todd Hackathorn, W4GV	Sue Reimer, NR4R
Bob Atkinson, K9OIM	Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF
Helen Atkinson, no callsign	Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA
George James, KY4GMJ	
Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX	

*Respectfully submitted,
Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary*