



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



MSU ARC Meeting – November 2, 2021

Meeting was called to order via Zoom 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: Dan Reimer, N4ZY, presented part two of a very informative program on ***“Taking a Spin Through the HF Bands.”*** Dan explained that the purpose of this presentation is to help those who are new to HF gain an understanding of some of the characteristics and qualities of each band and help them decide how they want to set up their home station based on what bands they plan to operate on. Dan went through some of the different characteristic of a few of the amateur radio bands and recommended checking out bandplans.com for more detailed information (such as: net frequencies, known segments for different modes, known beacons, etc.) on each band.

- **20 Meters – 14 MHz to 14.350 MHz**
 - Upper side band is used here
 - Premier band for long haul DX'ing
 - Less atmospheric noise than on the lower bands
 - Good daytime DX propagation, but not good at night
 - Not a local band
 - Can be crowded since it is such a great band
 - Antennas are short and easy to build
 - Half wave dipole is only about 33 feet
- **17 Meters – 18.068 MHz to 18.168 MHz**
 - Upper side band is used
 - Less atmospheric noise
 - Propagation is similar to 20 Meters
 - Antennas are even shorter and easier to build
 - Only available to General, Advanced, and Extra Class licensees
- **15 Meters – 21.000 MHz to 21.450 MHz**
 - Upper side band is used
 - Little atmospheric noise and little competition
 - Can have excellent daytime propagation for DX'ing
 - Good during sunspot cycles, horrible with no sunspots
 - Antennas are small and easy to build
- **12 Meters – 24.890 MHz to 24.990 MHz**
 - Little atmospheric noise and little competition
 - Can have good daytime propagation for DX'ing when the sunspot cycle is good
 - Antennas are small and easy to build
- **10 Meters – 28.000 MHz to 29.700 MHz (HUGE Fantastic Band)**
 - Little atmospheric noise
 - This band has a little bit of everything
 - Antennas are small and easy to build



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Program (cont.): Dan then reviewed the different antennas that he has and suggested different options for people to consider. Dan recommended that if you could only choose two HF bands to get started on, he would choose 20 Meters and 40 Meters.

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 their was no mail for the club tonight.

QSL Manager Report: Sue Reimer, NR4R, reported that she sent out another QSL card; and also we received a certificate from the 13 Colonies QSO Party.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that there were no deposits in October. He advised that one check was written for \$7.00 to W5YI-VEC for VE fees; one to John Coyle, W4PJC, for \$50.00 to reimburse for KYPOTA food; and one transfer was made to himself of \$125.92 for parts purchased for system repairs. Current bank balance is \$3520.42. As of tonight, we are at 80 paid members for 2021.

System's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that he installed a new-to-us amplifier donated by Doyan Jennings, KA4BLZ, on the Hamlin repeater. The power output is now about 45 watts instead of 15. Bill stated that he replaced the coax cable on the Broad-Band Dipole antenna at the club station --the old cable had been chewed open by squirrels. He advised that the antenna itself still needs to be replaced with the new Broad-Band Dipole, before the HF Winlink station goes into service; but he has a long way to go on finishing that setup. Bill reports that the new 2-meter Winlink station destined for Mayfield has been on for testing at his QTH and works well. He hopes to get it installed soon, but we have to get another antenna mounted on Doyan's tower first. We also will need a cabinet to house it in, and Richard Palmer, KM4JZX, may have come up with a cabinet for the Mayfield location. The 3 repeaters, the 2 APRS digipeaters and the 2-meter Winlink system are all working okay as far as he knows.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that an exam session was conducted last month after the October meeting with Josh Kerr, WV4O, managing it in Bill's absence. Bill Barley passed his Tech exam and was issued KO4TVH. We can have an exam session tonight if anyone is interested.

CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that the 2021 CERT course will conclude this Thursday night with 11 graduates; 6 of these are already ham radio operators. He reports that so far, one participant who isn't licensed has signed up for the Fall Technician Class course, and one participant has signed his wife up for the course. The Tech class starts Thursday of next week, November 11; 6:00-9:00pm at CCFR Station 1. Bill states that he has several other names of folks not in the CERT course who plan to take the HAM class.

Additional Information: Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that he has been completely dragged out of retirement now. Chesley Thomas, who replaced him as County EM Director, is no longer in that position. Judge Imes has named Bill as the EM Director again. A search is being conducted for a longer-term replacement. Bill hopes this will be a short-term thing, to be concluded by the end of the year or sooner. In the meantime, he will not have as much time for ham radio activities.



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

- *October 2021 Net Report:*
 - 4 sessions
 - 100 stations
 - 201 minutes
 - 335 operator hours.
- *October 15th SkyWarn Net Report:*
 - 8 stations
 - 38 minutes
 - 5.06 operator hours.
- *October 30th Special SET Net Report:*
 - 12 stations
 - 15 minutes
 - 3 operator hours.

Special Events:

- Technician Licensing Class will start November 11, 2021
 - 6:00-9:00pm at CCFR Station 1
- Club Christmas Party will be December 07, 2021
 - 7:00 p.m. at Los Portales
 - For those that want to participate in our Dirty Santa Gift Exchange, please remember the following: the gift limit is \$15.00; and if the gift you bring is "old" radio equipment, please remember 30 pounds is the maximum weight limit.

Old Business:

- ***HAM of the Year Voting***
 - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, presented the HAM of the Year Committee as the following individuals:
 - Rich Palmer, KM4JZX
 - Larry Call, KD6UNL
 - Josh Kerr, WV4O
 - Denis Barton, WB8SKP (alternate)



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Old Business:

- **HAM of the Year Voting (cont.)**
 - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, then reviewed the HAM of the Year Nominees as follows:
 - James Flood, KJ4TKL
 - Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE
 - Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN
 - Voting for HAM of the Year was then conducted both in person and via ZOOM connection for those not in person. Tracy advised that the winner will be announce at the Christmas Party and the club trustee will present a certificate to the winner at that time.
- **October 16th 2021, Fall Fox Hunt Results**
 - Josh Kerr, WV4O – 1ST Place at 28 minutes
 - Todd Hackathorn, W4GV and Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE – 2nd Place at 35 minutes
 - Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN and Tracy McKinney, W4IRT – 3rd Place at 37 minutes

** A special “Thanks” to Gus for the delicious bean rolls! **
- **10 Meter Filter, Cable Bridges, Cable Spools** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported that the purchase of these items for Field Day 2022 is still on agenda, but it can be addressed at a later time.

New Business:

- **94 Repeater**
 - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, opened a discussion about the 94 Repeater; with the questions being: “Do we want to leave the Motorola in place?” or “Do we want to replace the Motorola with Fusion?”; as well as “Will it require a new amplifier?”
 - An email was sent out to the club that covered the different options and prices.
 - Bill Call, KJ4W, states that the Motorola repeater is currently working and recommends that we leave it as is and keep the Fusion repeater as a backup to the Hamlin or 440 repeater. He advised that a good amplifier to go with the Fusion repeater is fairly expensive.
 - Bob Atkinson, K90IM, agrees with Bill’s suggestion.
 - Debbie Barton, W8IBT, commented that since we had to vote to originally install the Fusion repeater; we should vote this time if we are going to decide not to keep using the Fusion repeater.
 - Josh Kerr, WV4O, agrees that we should keep the Motorola in place and have the Fusion as a backup not only for the other repeaters, but also in case of an emergency it could possibly be used as a field repeater. Bill agreed that is a good idea but we would have to buy a duplexer for it to be operable as a field repeater.
 - Joe Wray, WD4GX1, stated that the Motorola seems to work better as he is able to hear better with it and living further away from its location.



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New Business:

- **94 Repeater (cont.)**
 - Debbie Barton, W8IBT, motioned that we vote to keep the Motorola in place and keep the Fusion repeater as a backup. Chuck Williams, K4CHW, seconded the motion. Vote was held and motion was carried to keep the Motorola repeater in place and have the Fusion repeater as a backup.

- **Rotary Christmas Parade – December 4, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**
 - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, opened a discussion about the Christmas Parade and whether or not the club wants to participate in it this year.
 - Josh Kerr, WV4O, moves to participate and spend \$250 on supplies for the float and candy to hand out. Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, seconded the motion. Motion carried without further discussion or opposition and details will be worked out via email with anyone who is interested in participating.

New Members: Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX reported that one new member application was submitted via mail. Josh Kerr, WV4O, motioned to approve the new member and Chuck Williams, K4CHW, seconded the motion. The new member was approved unanimously: **Jon Rose, W1WD.**

Brenda Call, WA4IJU, moved to adjourn the meeting and motion was seconded by Debbie Barton, W8IBT. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



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Attendance: 38 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT – *via ZOOM*

Bill Call, KJ4W

Brenda Call, WA4IJU

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN – *via ZOOM*

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF – *via ZOOM*

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Joe Wray, WD4GXI

Rich Palmer, KM4JZX

Dave Thomas, KO4QZA

John Coyle, W4PJC

James Flood, KJ4TKL

Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

Dale Barrett, WB7D – *via ZOOM*

Valerie Barrett, KG4OCJ – *via ZOOM*

Robin Jones, KF4GCD – *via ZOOM*

Tom Radja, KO4HCL

Bill Barley, KO4TVH

Chuck Williams, K4CHW

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Dan Reimer, N4ZY

Sue Reimer, NR4R

Greg Gordon, KX4VI

Jack Ellis, K9JLE

Dale Pentecost, AF0SI

Gary Bolton, K1DXI

Patricia Board, KO4ULZ

Scott Johnson, AD5U – *via ZOOM*

Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU – *via ZOOM*

Respectfully submitted,

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary