



# MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



## MSU ARC Meeting – October 5, 2021

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 the question of the night was “Where are you from/located?”

**Program:** There was no program presented tonight due to a full business agenda. Programs will resume at the November 2021 meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, moved to accept the minutes from last meeting; motion was seconded by Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA. Motion approved.

**Advisor Report:** Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, reported that everything is going well and that the club will not be participating in Tent City/MSU Homecoming Weekend with the Industry and Technology department since they are not setting up a tent this year. However, Jana stated that she does plan on participating individually with the Psychology department and will take some flyers and information about the club to pass out while she is there. Jana also reported that she has not yet checked the mail, but will do so.

**QSL Manager Report:** There was no QSL manager report as Sue Reimer, NR4R was not in attendance tonight.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, who was in attendance via ZOOM reported one deposit of \$70.00, also one check for \$14.00 was written to W5YI-VEC for VE fees. The current bank balance is \$3703.34 with 78 paid members for 2021.

- John Coyle, W4PJC, turned in a receipt for the food he purchased for the KYPOTA event. Josh Kerr, WV4O, will give the receipt to Treasurer Bill Call, KJ4W, for reimbursement to John.

**Systems' Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, who was in attendance via ZOOM presented the Systems' report as follows:

- Bill advised that the "patio club station" worked very well for the Collegiate QSO Party. He built an extension cable with some quick-connectors for the antenna rotator controller; and the big Log-Periodic beam did a great job on 20 meters. The old Broadband Dipole worked well on 40 meters as well.
- Bill reports that he needs to do some repairs on the coax cables damaged by squirrels before winter, and maybe change to the new Broadband Dipole. We are still using the Motorola MSR-2000 repeater and the old Cush-Craft Ringo Ranger antenna on 94, and they seem to be doing well.
- Bill advised that he had to do computer updates on the 443.800 site to get the scheduler working right again (to connect EchoLink to 94 on Monday night). A new version of EchoLink was installed while doing that but he hasn't seen any difference in performance.



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## Systems' Report (cont.):

- Bill states that he still hasn't gone to Hamlin to install the amplifier for that repeater, or done any more on the HF Winlink project. But he has started putting together the equipment for the 2 meter Winlink station for Mayfield.
- Bill reports that the 3 repeaters, the 2 APRS digipeaters and the 2m Winlink system are all working well as far as he knows.

**VE Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, who was in attendance via ZOOM advised that an exam session was conducted last month after the September meeting; Gary Bolton K1DXI and Joseph Siedel KO4ASH both upgraded to General Class. Also, a session is planned for tonight, for at least one entry-level exam (for Bill Barley). Josh Kerr, WV4O, will conduct the exam in Bill Call's absence. He will need 2 or 3 examiners to stay with him for the VE session.

**CERT Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, who was in attendance via ZOOM reported No CERT activities took place this past month, except for the CERT course starting. The Fall CERT course is currently underway, with 14 participants; about half of the participants are HAM radio operators. The instructors include Larry Morris, AD6QJ; Josh Kerr, WV4O; and Larry Call, KD6UNL. Bill advised that he plans to conduct a Technician Class HAM radio license course following the CERT course. Bill also reported that the siren testing was planned but cancelled three times.

**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:

- *September 2021 Net Report:*
  - 4 sessions
  - 101 stations
  - 184 minutes
  - 309.73 operator hours.
- There were no SkyWarn Nets held in September.

## Special Events:

- **Fall Fox Hunt** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that the Fall Fox Hunt will be held on October 16, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. We will gather in the parking lot of the Collins Building at the MSU ARC Radio Club station. After the Fox Hunt we will meet at the Murray City Park under the pavilion on the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Payne for a picnic lunch. Tracy reported that Bill Call, KJ4W; Brenda Call, WA4IJU; and Joshua Sloan, KO4EAP, will be our foxes.
- **Technician Licensing Class** to start November 11, 2021- additional information to follow.
- **Club Christmas Party** - December 07, 2021, Los Portales



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## Old Business:

- **KYPOTA** - John Coyle, W4PJC, reported that the event worked well with having 3 different locations activated under different call signs. There were 14 club members who participated and several visitors who stopped by to see what was going on. John reported that Jerry Shouse, K4TG, was the winner of the KYPOTA event. He advised that the next KYPOTA event date will be set for August 13, 2022. He stated that we are going to try to have a set reoccurring date of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of August each year. John also asked that members be thinking of suggestions to increase the participation of Kentucky residents in the event and pass those ideas along to him.
- **Collegiate QSO Party** – Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, reported that the Collegiate QSO Party was held on September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and it went very well. The club made 111 phone contacts and we received 500 bonus points (100 points per hour operating). The club had one contact with another college and our total points were 626 points. The results of the contest have not yet been posted. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, mentioned that we did have one contact with the Czech Republic and he hopes we can participate in the event next year. Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA, thanked Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, for being the outreach person and trying to stir up student interest in the club.
- **Hamlin Amplifier** – This topic was addressed by Bill Call, KJ4W, in the Systems' Report.
- **10 Meter Filter, Cable Bridges, Cable Spools** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported that the purchase of these items for Field Day 2022 is still on the business agenda, but will not be covered tonight.
- **Final QSL Card Design** – Tracy Mckinney, W4IRT, presented the winning design in the QSL Card Design Contest.
  - Tracy advised that the club can have 250 cards (3.5x5.5) printed with the color picture on the front and black ink only on the back for \$53.00. Dave Thomas, KO4QZA, motioned for the club to proceed with the purchase of the cards as presented; Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, seconded the motion. There was some further discussion regarding whether or not this would be enough cards and whether there would be a better discount if a higher quantity of cards is purchased. After the discussion, the motion to purchase the 250 cards as presented was carried.
  - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, announced that Josh Kerr, WV4O, is the winner of the QSL Card Design Contest. As a prize, Josh will have 1 year of his club membership fee waived and **BRAGGING RIGHTS!** Josh mentioned that the club now owns the design of this card and it can easily be changed to a different image for special events if needed. *CONGRATULATIONS to Josh!!!*



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## Old Business (cont.):

- **Surplus Equipment** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reviewed the topic of selling some of the club's old equipment that is not being used in order to raise funds to purchase new equipment or repair old equipment.
  - **Proposed Items to Sell:**
    - ICOM IC 251 A HF
    - ICOM IC-720A HF, BASE
    - YAESU FT 620B, 6 METER
    - CAROLINA WINDOM 160
  - Debbie Barton, W8IBT, motioned to sell the equipment as proposed; Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously with no questions or concerns from the membership.
  - **Proposed Items to Put in the Lending Program:**
    - YAESU FT-840 (x2)
    - TEN-TEC ARGONAUT V
  - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained the lending program that has been proposed by members, officers, and program managers which would allow club members to borrow club equipment for personal use. This would enable them get more involved with HAM radio and provide an opportunity for them to operate different equipment while deciding what equipment they would like to purchase for themselves. He advised that all the club's equipment has been logged in the inventory system and explained the **lending program guidelines** as follows:
    - The initial lending period would be for 90 days
    - The individual must have an antenna in place
    - The individual must hold, at minimum, a General Class license
  - Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF, raised a question about whether or not the borrower has to be a member of the club. It was discussed and determined that participation in the lending club program should be a benefit of club membership and will be added to the lending program guidelines.
  - Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA, suggested that after a year or so of the lending program being in place, the club re-evaluate any equipment that is not being lent out and consider placing it up for sale at that time.
  - Jana Hackathorn, KN4WME, asked about what happens if club equipment is damaged while in the possession of the borrower. Tracy explained that this is a risk that the club is willing to take and equipment is being lent out in good-faith.
  - Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, motioned to accept the Lending Program as proposed; Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF, seconded the motion. Motion was carried unanimously.



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## New Business:

- **HAM of The Year** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, opened a discussion about HAM of the Year. He advised that the three committee members will be Josh Kerr, WV4O; Rich Palmer, KM4JZX; and Denis Barton, WB8SKP. Tracy opened the floor for nominations and the following people were nominated:
  - **James Flood, KJ4TKL** – nominated by Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA
  - **Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN** – nominated by Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE
  - **Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE** – nominated by Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Joe Wray, WD4GXI, motioned to close the nominations; Dave Thomas, KO4QZA, seconded the motion. Motion carried and time was allowed for each nominator to present their comments and reasons for their nominations. Tracy advised that the club will vote on the HAM of the Year at the November meeting. Depending on the format of the next meeting, we may do online voting as we did in 2020. Tracy will discuss the voting format with the officers and notify the club membership prior to the November meeting.

- Debbie Barton, W8IBT, proposed that since the club has enough funds in our account to purchase a new amplifier with Fusion capability for the 94 repeater that we go ahead and purchase a new one at this time. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained to the membership that there have been problems with the amplifier on the 94 repeater and it has been temporarily replaced with an older set-up for the time being. Tracy advised that he will add this to the business agenda for next month's meeting. Joe Wray, WD4GXI, inquired about power capabilities of the Yaesu equipment. We will research prices and capabilities to discuss at the next meeting.
- Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, asked if the club has an official invoice that she can submit to the MSU athletic department so that they can pay us for the football game security job that we performed. She has our club account set up but needs an invoice to send to them. Tracy instructed Jana to go ahead and create an invoice with the club information to submit to them. Jana also mentioned that the athletic department has inquired about the club helping with parking at some of the MSU basketball games. She will find out more information and dates of the basketball games to present to the club for consideration at the next meeting.

## Announcements:

- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded everyone to keep fellow club members who are sick or otherwise facing difficulties in our thoughts and prayers.
- Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF, announced that there will be an Earthquake Presentation by the section manager of the Illinois ARRL on October 11, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Heartland Worship Center on 4777 Alben Barkley Dr. in Paducah, KY. The presentation is geared toward HAM radio operators and emergency personnel. There will be plenty of room in the auditorium for social distancing.



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**Announcements (cont.):**

- Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF, also invited club members to the Fort Massac Encampment in Metropolis, IL on October 16 & 17, 2021. There will be a special events HF station set up and all HAMS are invited to help with security by walking the campground and being the eyes and ears for local law enforcement during this event.
- Anyone can contact Ruben at [WB5WTF@ARRL.NET](mailto:WB5WTF@ARRL.NET) for more information on either of these events.
- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, mentioned planning a group trip to Lambert’s Café in Sikeston, MO. If anyone is interested in going, they can email Tracy and a date will be set.

**New Members:** One new member application was submitted. Dave Thomas, KO4QZA, motioned to approve the new member and Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, seconded the motion. The new member was approved unanimously: **Bill Barley.**

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN moved to adjourn the meeting and motion was seconded by Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

**Attendance:** 29 people (including ZOOM attendees)

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Todd Carr, W4TZX

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX

Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Bill Call, KJ4W – *via ZOOM*

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB – *via ZOOM*

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Dale Barrett, WB7D – *via ZOOM*

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Valerie Barrett, KG4OCJ – *via ZOOM*

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Jon Rose, W1WD – *via ZOOM*

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

Robin Jones, KF4GCD – *via ZOOM*

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Tom Radja, KO4HCL – *via ZOOM*

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Tom Ryerson, KC8PPN – *via ZOOM*

Ruben Fuentes, WB5WTF

Bill Barley, no callsign - guest

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Joe Wray, WD4GXl

Angela “Hamette” - no callsign

Rich Palmer, KM4JZX

Dave Thomas, KO4QZA

John Coyle, W4PJC

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary*