



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



MSU ARC Meeting – March 1st, 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 the question of the night was “Are you planning to help with the Special Olympics Polar Plunge and 5K or are you going to the Cave City HamFest on March 5th, 2022.”

Program: Richard Palmer, KM4JZX, presented a very informative program about ***Storm Shelters and Safe Rooms***. Rich defined a storm shelter as a space above or underground designed to provide near absolute protection from severe storms, particularly tornadoes.

- An average storm shelter for a single family is built close enough to the home to allow instant access in an emergency, but not so close that the house could tumble on the door during the storm, trapping the occupants inside. The door is generally at a slant which allows debris to blow up and over the door. The slanted door keeps sand and other debris from blocking the door and keeping the occupants trapped inside.
- Rich reviewed the Tornado intensities on the EF Scale (Enhanced Fujita Scale), which is based on wind speeds.
- He went over the differences between a storm shelter and a safe room.
 - A storm shelter is generally built below ground or put on top of the ground and dirt mounded around the shelter. A storm shelter usually has provisions, such as food and water for a set number of hours or days. There are usually communications inside the shelter to monitor what is occurring about ground and communicate with other people.
 - A safe room is generally an interior room inside a dwelling or business. This is usually built to be considered a safe room in the event of a home invasion or robbery. These generally have communication built in and/or have a panic alarm to call law enforcement. These rooms are bullet resistant and cannot be accessed in any other way other than the door. Only one way in and one way out.
- Rich reviewed what to consider when building a storm shelter or safe room.
 - Location: water table, trees that might fall on it, debris that may block the door, and is the door facing away from the direction that storms usually track in your area.
 - Number of people who will be using the shelter: more is not better in this situation.
 - Special medical needs: oxygen, medication, a need for space to be able to move around.
 - Claustrophobic occupants: closer is not better in these situations; try one out before you buy it; look at other people’s shelters to get an idea of what you need.
 - Small babies or children: babies have special needs and sleep patterns, as well as special food needs like formula or breast milk that may need to be kept frozen. Also need to consider that you may have to be changing diapers while in the storm shelter.



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Program (cont.): Storm Shelters and Safe Rooms:

- Rich went over the different materials and construction options, showing a few pictures as examples. He also mentioned lining the outside of the structure with bentonite clay as it helps to protect from water.
 - Concrete: reinforced walls that are at least 8 inches thick and will withstand 4,000 psi.
 - Fiberglass: budget friendly, weighs less, and can be relocated.
 - Steel: most durable option and most expensive
 - Polyurethane: tanks or other ideas that people might use. Care should be taken with this option as the tank may not be rated to withstand the earth enclosure around it.
- A discussion was held about communication logistics and alternate options for those who cannot afford to purchase a storm shelter.

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, reported that everything is good and that the club has earned \$909.00 by helping with the Murray State University sporting events. She is currently trying to figure out how to access the funds from the club's university account. Jana also advised that the club received a bill for our web domain; Josh Kerr, WV4O, has already paid this bill as he is the one who maintains that site.

QSL Manager Report: Sue Reimer, NR4R, advised that we just received one new QSL card.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported there was one deposit for \$275.00. One check for \$66.00 to Josh Kerr, WV4O, for web site registration and hosting. The current bank balance is \$4008.53. Bill states that it is his understanding that there are some other club expenses that are going to be paid for using the money we have received for doing parking duty at ball games. The club's insurance dues are coming up on April 20th, 2022. As of tonight's meeting, 58 members have paid 2022 dues.

System's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that he hasn't had to work on any of our systems this past month. He advised that we did have some noise in the 94 repeater during last night's net, which he hopes was a fluke that doesn't keep bothering us but we will have to see. The antenna rotator direction indicator is still not working. Bill states that he has been 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. Hopefully progress will be made on these things this month. Bill repaired the Mayfield repeater problem, which turned out to be a bad lightning arrestor--a much easier problem to solve than a bad antenna or hardline. The club's three repeaters, the two 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 have had a request for an exam session tonight so Bill will need some examiners to stay after the meeting. The General Class License study course has begun and has met 3 times. It is meeting on Thursday nights, 6-9pm, in room 237.



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CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that there was no CERT activity over the past month. The club was reminded of the state wide tornado drill scheduled for Wednesday March 2, 2022; and also, possible strong weather coming up on Sunday, March 6th, 2022.

Net Manager Report:

Chuck Williams, K4CHW, presented (via ZOOM) the net report as follows:

- *February 2022 Net Report:*
 - 4 sessions
 - 102 stations
 - 191 minutes
 - 324.7 operator hours.

Special Events:

- **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.
- **Western Kentucky Polar Plunge** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded everyone 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 Williams, K4CHW, has asked for volunteers to help with communication needs for transportation, food, and other things.
- **Spring Fox Hunt** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded the membership that the Spring Fox Hunt will be held on May 7th, 2022. Tracy is working on details about food with Gus Gomez and further details will follow closer to time for the event.
- **2022 Club Officer Elections** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised 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.

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** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that these were ordered and have been delivered.
- **Cable Spools** – Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that Doyan Jennings, KA4BLZ, may be able to donate a spool to the club.
- **Club Surplus Equipment** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained that he has been working with Dan Reimer, N4ZY, on finalizing details of this program.



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New Business:

- Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, reminded the club that Field Day 2022 is coming up soon and we will need to begin to make plans for this event.

New Members: Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX reported that two new member applications were submitted. Bill Call, KJ4W, motioned to approve the new members and Dave Thomas, KO4QZA, seconded the motion. The new members were approved unanimously: **Ben Rudy, KO4LFZ**, and **Will Rudy, KO4VLV**, from Hickman, KY.

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, moved to adjourn the meeting and motion was seconded by Dave Thomas, KO4QZA. Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Attendance: 37 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT	James Flood, KJ4TKL
Bill Call, KJ4W	Dave Thomas, KO4QZA
Brenda Call, WA4IJU	Larry Morris, AD6QJ
Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX	Diana Mishica, KN4IRU
Josh Kerr, WV4O	Richard Palmer, KM4JZX
Bob Atkinson, K9OIM	Denis Barton, WB8SKP
Helen Atkinson, no callsign	Debbie Barton, W8IBT
Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB	Larry Call, KD6UNL
Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ	Joe Thweatt, KO4ASK
Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA	Dale Peer, KF7ZBK
Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU	Tom Radja, KO4HCL – <i>via ZOOM</i>
Bill Barley, KO4TVH	Chuck Williams, K4CHW – <i>via ZOOM</i>
Don Edwards, K4MKY	Dan Reimer, N4ZY– <i>via ZOOM</i>
Steven Adcock, KF4KNF	Sue Reimer, NR4R– <i>via ZOOM</i>
Mike Davis – guest – no callsign	“Pepper” Sullivan, WF1RE – <i>via ZOOM</i>
Jack Ellis, K9JLE	Robert Bracken, KJ4RJB – <i>via ZOOM</i>
Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN	Kevin Bailey, KK1BXG – <i>via ZOOM</i>
Todd Hackathorn, W4GV	Robin Jones, KF4GCD – <i>via ZOOM</i>
Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE	

Respectfully submitted,

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary