



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

MSU ARC Meeting – January 3, 2023

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, “What is a HAM radio related goal that you have for 2023?”

Program: Dr. Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, presented an informative program about the NanoVNA H4.

- He explained what a vector network analyzer as follows:
 - It is a device to analyze, diagnose and simulate networks. A network can be 4G on your cell phone, the WiFi network in your home, the computer network at the office. In this case it is the RF network we create when we transmit and receive with our ham radios. The most common use for HAMs is checking the VSWR of our antennas.
- Stuart shared three useful things that the NanoVNA H4 can be used for:
 - Measure the length for an unknown piece of coax cable
 - Verify that a filter is working before it is connected it to the radio.
 - Check the VSWR of an antenna.
- He explained the different interfaces that can be used to read the graphs and explained how to read them.
- Stuart also advised that the NanoVNA H4 may not be for everyone and went over the price comparison of it versus other analyzers.
- His presentation can be viewed on the club’s Facebook page and a copy of the PowerPoint slides was included in the Monday email sent by Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, on January 9th, 2023.

Vice President’s Report: Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, had nothing new to report but, as always, we encourage input regarding future presentations.

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

Advisor Report: Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, advised that the mail situation still remains problematic but she is working on it and hopes to have it figured out by the February meeting. Josh Kerr, WV4O, suggested that we consider getting a P.O. Box; this suggested was tabled until we hear what Jana is able to find out in the next meeting.

QSL Manager Report: Debbie Barton, W8IBT, reports that we do not have an QSL cards since we did not receive any mail this time. Debbie also reported that with the \$300 from the club and the additional \$300+ collected from individual club members, she and Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, were able to purchase lots of Christmas gifts and deliver them to Max’s Towing for Toys for our Christmas charity project.

Web Manager Report: Josh Kerr, WV4O, advised that fees for our website service are due in February.



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

Treasurer's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that checks were written to reimburse Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, for insurance for the trailer tower for \$70.00; to reimburse Debbie Barton, W8IBT, for the Laker/Tiger Christmas gifts for \$300.00; and to reimburse John Coyle, W4PJC, for towing expenses for the trailer tower for \$390.00. A check was also written to W5YI-VEC for VE fees for \$98.00. Bill advised that one deposit for \$275.00 which included dues and VE fees and an anonymous contribution of \$100.00 towards the trailer tower moving expenses. Our current bank balance is \$4,101.86. We finished 2022 with 93 active members. 2023 dues may be paid now.

- Bill also advised that our annual SERA dues need to be paid but he is waiting for the Credit Union to deliver a Debit Card to do that. He will be submitting expenses for the Winlink system components, and Bill suggests that we become a supporting member of Winlink which is \$24 and purchase a VARA license which is \$69.

System's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, explained that he fixed the dropout and hum problems on the EchoLink connection to the 94 repeater for Monday night nets. He stated that he needs to go reset the scheduler again, it seems. Bill advised that the HF Winlink Gateway system is up and running from his house, and he hopes to move it to the Radio Lab this week. He reported that John Coyle, W4PJC, ended up doing all the work to take down and move the antenna trailer tower, and it is at Bill's house for now. Bill states that he has repaired the broken jack on it and as weather and schedule permit, he will be doing more work to get it more suitable for our purposes. Bill explained that we need to buy at least one tire since one blew on the trip and John placed the spare on it. Bill advised that he will try to find a used tire for now. The 3 Club repeaters, the 2 APRS digipeaters and the Winlink systems are all working OK as far as Bill is aware.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that the Fall license course has concluded and had their exam session on December 15 with 10 new HAMs! He advised that an exam session will be held tonight after the meeting. He also reports that we have had 10 sign up for the General Class course to be held this Winter. It will be on Thursday nights, 6-9pm, beginning the last Thursday night of January, which is the 26th. Bill believes it will be using Room 237 down at the end of the hall.

CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, explained that CERT members helped with siren testing on December 16 and on staffing the Warming Center December 22 & 23 and the Storm Shelter last night. Bill expressed his gratefulness for their support. CERT members also participated in the Murray Christmas Parade by decorating a float and walking or riding with it, along with some other club members

Net Manager Report: Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, presented the net reports as Net Manager, Chuck Williams, K4CHW, was not present tonight:

- *November 2022 Net Report:*
 - 4 sessions
 - 95 stations
 - 198 minutes
 - 313.5 operator hours



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

Net Manager Report (cont.):

- *December 2022 Net Report:*
 - 4 sessions
 - 110 stations
 - 229 minutes
 - 419.83 operator hours

Special Events:

- **General Licensing Class** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded everyone that the General Class will begin Thursday, January 26th, 2023.
- **KY DMR NET** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded the club that this NET takes place on Talk Group 3121 at 7pm on Thursday evenings.
- **Winter Field Day 2023** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that this event is scheduled to start Jan 28, 2023 1700Z and end Jan 29, 2023 1700Z. One can operate from the comfort of their warm home station or one can set up a remote station. For additional information, please click on the following link: <https://winterfieldday.com/>. If anyone is interested in the club setting up, please let Tracy know ASAP.
- **Cave City HAM Fest** – Tracy McKinney advised that the Cave City HAM Fest will be held on March 04, 2023 and explained that it could be a fun camping trip for those who are interested.

Old Business:

- **Field Day Results** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised the club that we were the TOP SCORE KY in Class 3A, beating the Paducah radio club by 28 points!
- **HAM of The Year** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded the club that John Coyle, W4PJC, won HAM of the Year and thanked him for his dedication and involvement with the club.
- **Club Surplus Equipment** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained that no action has been taken on this topic yet, but he and Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, will meet to discuss this soon.
- **Non-Profit Exploratory Committee** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, mentioned that no further action has been taken on this topic yet; but a meeting will be scheduled soon to continue this discussion.



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

Old Business (cont.):

- **Purchase of Two ICOM 7300s** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, re-initiated a discussion about the possible purchase of two more ICOM 7300s for the club to be able to use at events like Field Day and KYPOTA, to avoid having to use club member's personal radio equipment.
 - Tracy advised that the ICOM 7300 is currently \$999.95 after a mail-in rebate
 - Dave Thomas, KO3QZA, suggested that we proceed with the purchase of the 2 new radios.
 - Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, suggested that perhaps we purchase a Yaesu radio for diversity and to provide experience operating different radios.
 - John Coyle, W4PJC, asked about purchasing new computers as was discussed in a previous meeting. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained that Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, has updated the computers and therefor improving the function and extending the life on them.
 - Debbie Barton, W8IBT, suggested that we purchase the radios this year and then get new computers next year.
 - Todd Carr, W4TZX, asked what income we expect to receive from the liquidation of the surplus equipment. Tracy explained that we do not know that information at this time.
 - Jerry Holt, N1BLH, made shared some observations he has had about each radio.
 - Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, motioned that the club purchase one ICOM 7300, the motion was seconded by Dale Barrett, WB7D. Motioned carried.

New Business:

- **WinLink Membership** – Bill Call, KJ4W, suggests that we become a supporting member of Winlink which is \$24 and purchase a VARA license which is \$69. Larry Call, KD6UNL, motioned to proceed with Bill's suggestion, Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, seconded and the motion was carried.
- **More Club Operations** – Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, suggested that the club should operate more and utilize the club station. A discussion was held about trying to operate at least one Saturday out of each quarter.

New Members: Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX reported that there were four new member applications tonight from Mike Duvall, KQ4FDC; Donna Pursifull, KQ4FEU; Kate Mizell, KQ4FDF; and Stephen Mizell, KQ4FDG. Josh Kerr, WV4O, motioned to approve the new members and James Flood, KJ4TKL, seconded the motion. The new members were approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

Attendance: 53 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Bill Call, KJ4W

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

John Coyle, W4PJC

Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ

Todd Carr, W4TZX

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Bill Barley, KO4TVH

“Pepper” Sullivan, WF1RE

Jerry Holt, N1BLH - guest

Richard Holt, no callsign – guest

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Steve Adcock, KF4KNF

Abigail Adcock, no callsign – guest

Mattheu Adcock, no callsign - guest

Dave Thomas, KO4QZA

John Lewis, KQ4CKG

Todd Carr, W4TZX

Paul Hendrix, KJ4BCF

Jessica Hendrix, KQ4FDS

Joe Wray, WD4GX1

Angela Ivy, No callsign – “Hamette”

James Flood, KJ4TKL

Ben Rudy, KO4LFZ

Jessie Rudy, KO4ZBV

Will Rudy, KO4VLV

Alex Rudy, KOYFI

Dale Barrett, WB7D

Valerie Barrett, KG4OCJ

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Gary Bolton, K1DXI

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Diana Mishica, KN4IRU

Jeff Bigelow, KQ4DBJ

Joe Thweatt, KO4ASK

Stephen Mizell, KQ4FDG

Kate Mizell, KQ4FDF

Donna Pursifull, KQ4FEU

Mike Duvall, KQ4FDC

Charlie Isele, N1CDK

Kevin Bailey, KK4BXG

Stephen Smith, no callsign - guest

Jimmy Sholar, KJ4ZTC

Sonja Sholar, no callsign

Respectfully submitted,

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary