



MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



MSU ARC Meeting – July 5, 2022

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 what did you learn at Field Day.

Field Day: Review and Debrief: Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, facilitated a review and discussion of Field Day 2022. Tracy expressed the club's excitement to have so many young people interested and participating in HAM radio.

- Tracy mentioned that we will discuss the purchase of headsets for each station during the *New Business* portion of the meeting.
- Tracy brought up the importance of utilizing the sign-up sheets online and sticking to this schedule to ensure everyone who signs up is able to operate at their designated time. He mentioned that we may try to implement paper sign-up sheets posted at each station on the day of Field Day to help fill in any open spots. Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, brought up having more clarity on which station is which and what bands you are signing up to operate on. Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, agreed with keeping both the online sign-up leading up to the event and then have sign-up sheets posted at each station the day of Field Day. Tracy mentioned that this year we did have a guest come who wished to operate but there was only one station available at that time and the guest was not agreeable to that and ended up leaving. We will continue to review this and come up with a good plan for the next Field Day.
- Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, mentioned that we will now try to have all of the equipment for each station organized in a labeled box, to allow for easy testing and set up for future Field Days.
- Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, brought up the idea of also having separate equipment and boxes for Field Day and KYPOTA.
- We need bigger orange cones for the parking lot and Debbie Barton, W8IBT, mentioned putting some of our white Christmas lights around the antenna tower or guy wires for better visibility.
- Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, suggested that we have extra copies of the exchange script available for each station in case some are lost or misplaced during the event. He said that we should have a separate one created for the GOTA station.
- Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, requested that we have some way to disinfect the headsets at the next Field Day.



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Program: Bill Call, KJ4W, presented an informative and interesting program on ***Grounding, Bonding, and Related Lightning Protection Matters for the HAM Shack.***

- Bill explained that everyone should be concerned about lightning as he shared about his recent experience with a backyard lightning strike on May 15, 2022.
- Bill went over the various ways that you can reduce the chances of lightning damages by implementing the following:
 - Grounding
 - Bonding
 - Protective Devices
 - Replace wired devices with wireless
- Bill defined a few basic concepts and showed an illustration from the ARRL *Grounding and Bonding* book
 - Grounding – making a connection to the Earth
 - Bonding – connecting pieces of the station equipment together
- He explained that there are three different needs that we are trying to satisfy
 - AC safety
 - Lightning protection
 - RF management
- Bill went through some of the typical wire size requirements from grounds and bonds
- He also provided some information about ground rods
 - The standard ground rod is 5/8 inch in diameter and 8 feet long. It is made of steel with a copper cladding
 - You should use a properly rated clamp to connect the ground wire to the ground rod. An alternate method is to weld them together using a special welding powder and mold.
 - Standard rods and clamps are available at Lowes, Murray Supply, etc.
- Bill provided several illustrations and pictures of the details of AC house entrance wiring, a HAM station without ground bonding, a HAM station with different types of grounding, and his personal ground HAM shack set-up.
- He explained how lightning arrestors work and that they are beneficial if they are connected to a good ground and do provide additional protection
- Bill suggested an Order of Priority for Improvements to be made
 - 1. Inspect the home's AC wiring and correct any deficiencies, making sure every piece of equipment is grounded.
 - 2. Develop a Lightning Protection Plan and implement it as you can.
 - 3. Upgrade the AC Power Distribution to you station if needed.
 - 4. Install additional ground rods and implement ground bonding as needed, Install a SPGP.
 - 5. Install or upgrade the station bonding system.
- Bill answered any further questions and Jimmy Sholar, KJ4ZTC, shared his experience with AC and grounding with the club membership.



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

Secretary's Report: Josh Kerr, WV4O, moved to accept the minutes from last meeting; motion was seconded by Steve Sacco, W1KYL. Motion approved.

Advisor Report: Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, had nothing to report that can not wait until the next meeting.

QSL Manager Report: Debbie Barton, W8IBT, reports that there are 2 new QSL cards that the club has recently received and she will respond to those. She also stated that per Bill Call's, KJ4W, request she plans on sending QSL cards to the contacts from the KY QSO Party as a sort of advertisement for our club. She will mail those tomorrow.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that deposits were made for \$170.00 from dues and VE fees and for \$619.00 which was from dues, VE fees and the Field Day Raffle. There was one check for \$7.00 to W5YI-VEC for VE fees on 6/8, and another for \$21 for VE fees on 6/25. A check was written to Food Giant on 6/25 for Field Day food for \$98.30. Bill reimbursed himself for the 10-meter Field Day filter and cable for \$147.79. Current bank balance is \$4735.86. Prior to tonight's meeting, 86 members have paid 2022 dues.

System's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that the only work he has done on Systems has been for Field Day. The 3 Club repeaters, the 2 APRS digipeaters and the 2m Winlink system are all working OK as far as he is aware.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, advised we conducted a VE session after the June club meeting, where Eric Davies passed his Technician Class exam. We conducted another session at Field Day, where Nathan Knight and Alyssa Landis passed their Technician Class exams, and George Rose upgraded to Extra Class. He has not had any requests so far for an exam tonight. Bill also reminded everyone that the W5YI-VEC has issued new procedures which he needs to study, and he will print out new forms. The Technician Class Question Pool was replaced on July 1 so potential examinees should get a new study book.

CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that CERT member HAMS participated in siren testing on June 10. We are planning on conducting a CERT course this Fall. Thanks to Larry Morris, AD6QJ, who staffed the Welcome Tent at Field Day; and he got 4 people to sign up expressing interest in this Fall's class, two of which are Club members.

Net Manager Report: Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, presented the net reports as submitted by net manager: Chuck Williams, K4CHW, (not in attendance):

- *June 2022 Net Report:*
 - 4 sessions
 - 99 stations
 - 171 minutes
 - 282.15 operator hours.



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Special Events: **KYPOTA** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained what KYPOTA is and mentioned that John Coyle, W4PJC, will discuss more at the August meeting. KYPOTA will be August 13, 2022 and for additional information: <https://k4msu.com/kypota/>

Announcements: Bill Call, KJ4W, announced that Richard Palmer KM4JZX has stepped down as County EM Director, in order to take a full-time police job in Cadiz. He will continue as a Deputy EM Director. The Judge has appointed Jeff Steen, who was the EM Director before Bill was, to take the Director position again. Bill will continue to serve as a Deputy EM Director. Jeff is not a HAM but is supportive of our efforts; he is the one who initially recruited the radio club to become SkyWarn Storm Spotters. He is also supportive of CERT and conducted CERT classes before Bill did.

Old Business:

- **Club Surplus Equipment** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained that this project has been placed on hold for the time being; but we may be able to move forward with it soon after discussion of some possible purchases for new equipment tonight.

New Business:

- **Purchase of Heil Headsets** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, facilitated a discussion about the possible purchase of headsets to be used at Field Day and other club events.
 - The options for purchasing were presented as such:
 - 3 Pro 7 Headsets @ \$299 each
 - 3 Pro 6 Headsets @ 199 each
 - 3 Pro Set 3 @ 129 each
 - Josh Kerr, WV4O, moved to use \$800 of the club's Murray State account to purchase 3 Pro 7 Headsets and 3 Pro Set 3s and then the remainder of the balance will come out of the club's main bank account. Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX, seconded the motion. Motion was carried.
- **Purchase of Two ICOM 7300s** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, 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.
 - Debbie Barton, W8IBT, motioned to table the discussion of this purchase until next meeting along with a discussion about the club needing new laptops for operations. John Coyle, W4PJC, seconded the motion. Motion was carried.
- **Pledge of Allegiance** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, opened a conversation about the club possibly saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each meeting. This was presented to him by a club member who had seen it done at another club. Tracy has polled several of the members of the club but wishes to present it to the entire membership.
 - Josh Kerr, WV4O, motioned to table this discussion until a later time. Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX, seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

New Members: Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX reported that there was one new member applications tonight from Eric Davies, KE8VED. Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, motioned to approve the new members and Debbie Barton, W8IBT, seconded the motion. The new member was approved unanimously.



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Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Josh Kerr, WV4O.
Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Attendance: 41 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Bill Call, KJ4W

Brenda Call, WA4IJU

Joshua Sloan, KO4EAP

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

John Coyle, W4PJC

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Jack Ellis, K9JLE

Joe Wray, WD4GXI

Angela Wray, "Hamette", no callsign

Steve Sacco, W1KYL

Kami Spencer, no callsign

Dave Thomas, KO4QZA

Randall Winchester, WD4HVA

Rich Palmer, KM4JZX

James Flood, KJ4TKL

Ben Rudy, KO4LFZ

Will Rudy, KO4VLL

Alex Rudy, KO4YFI

Greg Gordon, KX4VI

Gary Bolton, K1DXI

Patricia Bolton, KO4ULZ

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Jimmy Sholar, KJ4ZTC

Sonja Sholar, no callsign

John Lewis, no callsign

David Wagoner, KQ4AJT

Robin Jones, KF4GCD – via ZOOM

Brian Lewis, AF1US – via ZOOM

Bill Barley, KO4TVH – via ZOOM

Tom Hendrix, KO4NVP – via ZOOM

Robert Bracken, K4FLT – via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary