



# MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



## MSU ARC Meeting – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 participate in the Spring Fox Hunt?”

**Program:** Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, presented an interesting program on ***POTA: Parks on the Air.***

- He explained what it is all about, as it is an activity for international portable amateur radio operations that promotes emergency awareness and communications from national/federal and state/provincial level parks.
- Todd also went over the 2 roles you can participate in for POTA: Hunter or Activator
  - The Activator is the one that physically goes to the park
  - The Hunter tries to make contacts from home.
  - You can be both with a Park to Park contact.
- Todd explained the rules as follows:
  - One log per park
    - The log can include multiple days and operators
  - Must be from within the park boundary
  - Must be at a park listed on the site
  - Only the Activator sends logs
  - You need 10 QSOs
    - You should submit logs either way so that the Hunters get credit
  - Land based repeaters are not allowed for contacts
- He went over the basics of how to get started:
  - No registration is required to be a Hunter
  - If you want to be an Activator, or if you want to track your progress, you need to sign up at <https://pota.app/#/>
  - Live maps and the spotter board can be found at <https://pota.app/#/map>
- Todd explained the Activation role:
  - Find a good spot and start calling CQ
  - Logs:
    - Laptops and N1MM or paper
    - iPad app called HamLog
    - Provide an ADIF formatted log
    - The required fields for your log are:
      - QSO date, time on band, mode, and call
    - The logs are submitted via email (see site)



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## **Program (cont.): POTA: Parks on the Air.**

- He gave the basics of a portable setup
  - You'll want a mobile rig with an antenna mounted to your vehicle
  - Miscellaneous products available on the market
  - Home-built radial antenna
  - You want to be able to be in and out in 1-2 hours with setup and tear down included.
- Todd explained that POTA offers many different awards
  - Awards for 10, 20, 30 different parks
  - Rapid deployment (RaDAR) Awards
  - Late Shift – between 00:00z and 12:00z
  - All states; all parks in a state/territory
  - Repeat offender (working the same park many times)
  - Park to Park
  - And more...
- Todd opened up the floor to questions and comments. A discussion was held about different modes, software (Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, mentioned HAMRS), KYPOTA, SOTA (Summits on the Air), and the equipment that Todd uses when he does POTA.

**Secretary's Report:** Josh Kerr, WV4O, moved to accept the minutes from last meeting; motion was seconded by Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE. Motion approved.

**Vice President Report:** Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, asked for input regarding future presentations. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, suggested that the June presentation be about Field Day.

**Advisor Report:** Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, reported that Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, would be using her credit card to purchase the stuff for the weather balloon for Field Day so that the expenditure can be reimbursed through our account with Murray State. She is still working on figuring out how the reimbursement process works from MSU. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, mentioned that he still needs reimbursement for the QSL cards. Jana also reported that she has re-submitted the new officer information to the university and has checked the club mail.

**QSL Manager Report:** Debbie Barton, W8IBT, does not have anything to report tonight as she is the new QSL manager.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that there was one deposit for \$240.00 and one for \$50.00. One check for \$63.00 was written to W5YI-VEC for VE fees and another for \$21.00. The club's current bank balance is \$4,227.95. As of tonight's meeting, 81 members have paid 2022 dues. Bill also mentioned that he has not yet reimbursed himself for the club's ARRL liability insurance.



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**System's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that he hasn't needed to work on any club equipment this past month. The 3 Club repeaters, the 2 APRS digipeaters and the 2m Winlink system are all working well as far as he is aware. Bill stated that we do need to replace the Broadband Dipole before the Ky QSO Party. Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, asked about the noise that has been on the 94 repeater. Bill explained that he believes that the connections have loosened up and need to be re-tightened. Joe Wray, WD4GXI, mentioned an issue with the audio level with EchoLink during our Monday night nets. Bill says that the audio feed from the 94 repeater to EchoLink can be adjusted but it is a pretty big job to do so. Bill also reports that he did order the 10-meter Field Day bandpass filter and it has arrived.

**VE Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that a VE session was conducted after the April club meeting, which was just after the General Class License study course concluded. There were 7 upgrades from Tech to General Class: Bill Barley, KO4TVH; Robin Bracken, KO4VLS; Marc Huddleston, KO4VLZ; Michael Knight, KG4QPO; Diana Mishica, KN4IRU; Robert Noack, KO4VLU; and David Thomas, KO4QZA. Two of those folks --Marc Huddleston and Robert Noack-- drove from the Nashville area to attend the General course. Then last Saturday another VE Session was conducted at the request of a MSU worker who works with Randall Winchester. His wife also wanted to test but works at night so couldn't come to a Tuesday night session. Both of them passed, he (Steven Rowhuff) with General Class and she (Kellie Rowhuff) with Technician. The Rowhuffs live in Paducah so Bill was not sure how much we will see of them. Bill advised that David Wagoner of Murray also passed the Technician Class exam, and he will be applying for club membership. Bill advised that no one has asked for an exam session to be held tonight. Bill reported that there is now also a delay with callsigns being issued from the FCC due to their new method of collecting fees.

**CERT Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that there has been no CERT activity this month, except that Richard Palmer, KM4JZX, is working towards conducting a CERT course next Fall. He also mentioned that Rich is working on a course to get more people certified as CERT instructors.



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

- *April 2022 Net Report:*
  - 4 sessions
  - 115 stations
  - 181 minutes
  - 346.92 operator hours.
- *April 13<sup>th</sup> 2022 SkyWarn Net Report:*
  - 1 session
  - 33 stations
  - 84 minutes
  - 46.2 operator hours.

**Special Events:**

- **Spring Fox Hunt** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded the membership that we will gather for the Spring Fox Hunt at 1:30p.m. on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in the parking lot here at the club station. The first hunters will leave out at 2:00p.m. The Fox Hunt will end at 4:00 p.m. and we will have our meal and announce the winner at 4:15 p.m. in Room 237. Maps of the county can be found at the Chamber of Commerce. Bill Call, KJ4W, stated that he could unlock the room prior to the Fox Hunt so that people can drop off the food. Debbie Barton, W8IBT, volunteered herself and Denis Barton, WB8SKP, to stay and guard the food. Tracy paired up individuals who needed a group to hunt with on Saturday.
- **KY QSO Party** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded everyone is scheduled for June 4th, 2022. A discussion was held and it was decided that we would operate from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the club station. For additional information, please click on the following link: <https://kyqsoparty.org/> I would like for us to operate from the Club Station. We will create a signup sheet for operating times. The Princeton tailgating “hamfest” is also this same weekend if anyone is interested in attending.
- **KYPOTA** - John Coyle, W4PJC, reminded everyone of the KYPOTA event. Our club hosts the KYPOTA and this year it will be August 13, 2022. For additional information: <https://k4msu.com/kypota/> . Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, shared a story about one of his friends who happened to accidentally show up at last year’s KYPOTA and had very kind words about the club members who offered him food and tried to convince him to talk on the radio.



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**Announcements:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded everyone of the sign-ups for Field Day and the potluck which are on the club's website.

**Old Business:**

- **10 Meter Filter** - Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that these were ordered and have arrived.
- **Cable Spools** – Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that Doyan Jennings, KA4BLZ, donated a cable spool to the club. Also, Debbie Barton, W8IBT, was able to obtain 3 more cable spools for the club.
- **Club Surplus Equipment** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained that this project has been placed on hold for the time being.
- **Food for Fox Hunt** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, went over the food list for the Fox Hunt.

**New Business:** There is no new business to be discussed.

**New Members:** Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX reported that four new member applications were submitted. Josh Kerr, WV4O, motioned to approve the new members and Larry Call, KD6UNL, seconded the motion. The new members were approved unanimously: **David Wagoner, KQ4AJT, Brian Lewis, AF1US; Brandelyne Lewis, KV4SF; and Michael Knight, KG4QPO.**



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**Attendance:** 37 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Bill Call, KJ4W

Brenda Call, WA4IJU

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

Robert Bracken, KJ4RJB

Robin Bracken, K4MNM

John Coyle, W4PJC

Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Bill Barley, KO4TVH

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Joe Thweatt, KO4ASK

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Diana Mishica, KN4IRU

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Steve Sacco, W1KYL

Connie, no callsign

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Michael Knight, KG4QPO

Dan Eakin, KO4PDT

Joe Wray, WD4GXI

David Wagoner, KQ4AJT

Dave Thomas, KO4QZA

Greg Gordon, KX4VI

Vickie Siedel, KO4ASI

Robin Jones, KF4GCD – *via ZOOM*

Bonnie Allen, no callsign – *via ZOOM*

Paul Hendrix, KJ4BCF - *via ZOOM*

Randall Winchester, WD4HVA - *via ZOOM*

Ben Rudy, KO4LFZ - *via ZOOM*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary*