



# MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



## MSU ARC Meeting – September 6<sup>th</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 there was no question of the night.

**Program:** Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA, presented a very informative and entertaining program on the ***Condensed History of Amateur Radio (part 1)***.

- Bob provided interesting history of how several key individuals contributed to the world of Amateur radio. Including:
  - Michael Faraday
  - James Clerk Maxwell
  - Sir Humphry Davy
  - Heinrich Hertz
  - Guglielmo Marconi
  - Lee de Forest
  - Reginald Fessenden
  - Edwin Howard Armstrong
- He explained many of the major ideas, inventions, and discoveries that were made during the development of amateur radio. Including:
  - Maxwell's prediction of waves of oscillating electric and magnetic fields; and that these waves travel at the speed of light.
  - Hertz's incorrect thought "I do not think that the radio waves I have discovered will have any practical application."
  - Marconi patenting the ideas and science of scientist before him
- Bob talked about the early days of amateur radio:
  - By 1905 there were probably over 1000 American men and boys (and probably women too) experimenting with amateur radio.
    - During this time there were no rules or regulations.
    - Most amateurs had a transmitting range of 1/8 mile to 100 miles
  - Military and commercial wireless users were plagued by amateurs because they could use any wavelength, power, and type of transmitter that they wanted
    - Many amateurs found jamming naval and commercial stations a fun pastime and it was not illegal
  - In 1906 the International Wireless Telegraph Convention was held in Berlin, Germany
    - Amateurs were not considered or even mentioned, because the participants at the convention felt that there was no place for such a thing as amateur radio



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**Program: Condensed History of Amateur Radio (part 1) (cont.)**

- As Fessenden and others began to experiment with voice transmissions, articles on wireless sets and their home construction began to appear in popular magazines.
  - We began to see a dividing line between commercial and amateur stations to define who we are.
- From 1908-1910 more amateurs began using tuning circuits in their stations
- January 2, 1909 the Junior Wireless Club, Limited, of New York City was formed.
  - There were only 6 members and each held an office. The president of the club was just 11 years old and the average age was not much more than that.
  - This eventually became the Radio Club of America, which is now one of the most respected clubs in the world
- 1909-1912 There were several attempts at Navy control of radio
- 1911 There were about 4000 amateur transmitters in the U.S.
  - That operated at 250 to 1000 meters (300 kHz to 1.2 MHz)
  - Marconi Company sided with amateurs to help defeat several regulatory bills with a focus on tuning ability of amateur operators
- Radio Act of 1912
  - Placed regulations on amateurs to try to take the fun out of it. There were no real enforcements of the regulations, but if there had been amateur radio would have probably faded away before WWI

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

**Secretary's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, moved to accept the minutes from last meeting; motion was seconded by Chuck Williams, K4CHW. Motion approved.

**Advisor Report:** Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, states that the university has messed up our mail. She mentioned that the entire university post office is gone and she is working on trying to get that straightened out. Jana also advised that she has completed and submitted all of the paperwork for our club to remain an official club with the university.

**QSL Manager Report:** Debbie Barton, W8IBT, reports that she will send out QSL cards from the KYPOTA event; but nothing else new to report.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that one deposit was made for \$20.00. Also, one check was written to W5YI-VEC for VE expenses of \$7.00, and a transfer of \$100.00 was made to himself to reimburse for the Arboretum dues. The club's current bank balance is \$4648.86. We are up to 90 active members as of tonight's meeting. Bill also stated that he is holding some contribution money to buy the trailer tower that will be discussed later.



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**System's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that he had to reset and update the computer that runs EchoLink, Winlink and the 443.800 repeater; these were just routine updates. He stated that he has been doing more study and testing on the HF Winlink Gateway system at home, and has ordered equipment to add both Vara and ARDOP modes. Bill advised that he and Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, have gone through the computers in the Club station and Stuart is working on getting them all tested and updated. Bill reported that the three Club repeaters, the 2 APRS digipeaters and the 2m Winlink system are all working well as far as he knows. Chuck Williams, K4CHW, asked if there is anything we can do about the overmodulation problem on the EchoLink. Bill stated that he is aware of the problem has not had the chance to work on the issue.

**VE Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that we conducted a VE session after the August meeting, and John Lewis passed both Element 1 and 2 and was issued KQ4CKG, General Class. We have two requests for an exam tonight.

**CERT Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, stated that there were no CERT activities in August. We will help with siren testing which is planned for September 16, 2022. Bill also advised that Calloway EM Director Jeff Steen has also asked if CERT members would be willing to help staff Racer Arena when it is being used as a Storm Shelter. Please let Bill know if you are interested and he will send more information. Bill reported that the Fall CERT course is nearly full, with only two slots left. It will be held on Thursday evenings beginning September 15. He stated that seven of the 18 signed up are HAMs already. Hopefully we will be able to generate enough interest in those who aren't already licensed to be able to follow the CERT course with a Technician Class license study course, as we have done in the past.

**Net Manager Report:** Net Manager, Chuck Williams, K4CHW presented the net reports as:

- *August 2022 Net Report:*
  - 5 sessions
  - 128 stations
  - 299 minutes
  - 488.53 operator hours

**Special Events:**

- **KYPOTA** – John Coyle, W4PJC, reviewed the KYPOTA results. We had 9 logs submitted and Jerry Shouse, K4TG, received 1<sup>st</sup> place with 288 contacts. Second place was Ray Powell, N4NP, with 136 contacts. Third place was James Caudill, KO4YMX, with 40 contacts. Our club had a total of 212 contacts. John asked if the club would like to host KYPOTA next year and the club agreed to do so.



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## Announcements:

- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, has recruited help and revived the **KY DMR Net** on Thursday nights at 7:00 p.m. on Talk Group: 3121.

## Old Business:

- **Trailer with Tower** –John Coyle, W4PJC, explained to the membership that he had found a trailer with a 106-foot antenna tower that he and two other club members have agreed to pay a percentage of the cost of the trailer/tower purchase and will ask the club to also pay up to \$500. A discussion was held about the capabilities and possible uses for the tower. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, and Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that we do have the monies or pledges for contribution for the purchase of the trailer/tower.
  - Bill Call, KJ4W, made a formal motion that MSU ARC purchase the trailer and tower that John Coyle, W4PJC, has located for the purchase price of \$3,000 which has been covered by donations and the club will include the travel and transportation costs of getting the tower and trailer back to Murray, KY. Josh Kerr, WV4O, seconded the motion and the motion was carried.
  - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, appointed John Coyle, W4PJC, as a temporary purchasing agent for the club to handle any expenses involved in getting the trailer and tower transported back to Murray, KY. This position will expire after the trailer and tower have been successfully relocated.
- **Fall Fox Hunt** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded everyone that the fox hunt will be held on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We will meet at Club Station parking lot at 1:30 p.m. and start hunting at 2:00 p.m.
- **Club Surplus Equipment** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained that no action has been taken on this topic yet.
- **Non-Profit Exploratory Committee** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, mentioned that the committee did meet and good discussion of pros and cons was held. Follow-up meetings will be held to continue discussion on this topic.



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## Old Business (cont.):

- **Club Laptops** – Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, has worked on 10 computers out of the club's station. Out of those 10 computers he has got eight of them upgraded and working well, and the other 2 he has used for parts. He advised that he resurrected and donated an old laptop that he had so that the club still has 5 laptops to use for Field Day. He has upgraded the desktop computers as well. Of the nine computers that the club currently has working, we have a designated use for 8 of them, so there is only one extra for any additional project that may come up. He has 5 more computers to look at and believes that he may only get 1 or 2 of them working well. Stuart advised that the work he is doing on the computers is just a stop-gap to keep them working well for the time being until the club can gradually purchase new computers. He advised that we check with the university to see if they have any surplus computers that the club may be able to use. He also mentioned that the club members may want to donate personal computers that they are no longer using. He suggests that the new computers be at least Windows 11 compatible. Stuart also mentioned that the club could look into special seasonal sales like Black Friday for the purchase of new computers.
- **Pledge of Allegiance** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reopened a conversation about the club possibly saying the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each meeting. Tracy advised that he has included a reminder in each of the weekly emails since last month's meeting, that we would vote on this topic at tonight's meeting.
  - John Coyle, W4PJC, motioned that we table the discussion and vote on this issue due to the divisive nature of the topic. Tracy advised that tabling the vote would only postpone it until a later date. John then retracted his motion to table.
  - John Coyle, W4PJC, motioned to permanently remove the voting on saying the Pledge of Allegiance from the agenda. Bill Call, KJ4W, seconded the motion. Discussion was held on the motion to remove the topic from the agenda. Ben Rudy, KO4LFZ, called for the question. And a vote was held for the removal of the topic from the agenda. There were 23 yays for the removal of the topic from the agenda and 4 nays. The motion was carried to permanently remove the discussion and voting on saying the Pledge of Allegiance at club meetings from the agenda.

## New Business:

- **Christmas Party** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, opened a discussion about the annual Christmas Party which will be held on December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Tracy asked that everyone begin to think about where we want to have it this year.
- **Christmas Charity** – Debbie Barton, W8IBT, motioned that the club work with the schools again this year to help provide Christmas gifts for families in need. Chuck Williams, K4CHW, and Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.



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**New Members:** Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX reported that there were two new member applications tonight from: Angela Ivy (no callsign) and John Lewis, KQ4CKG. Josh Kerr, WV4O, motioned to approve the new members and Chuck Williams, K4CHW, seconded the motion. The new members were approved unanimously.

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**Attendance:** 38 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

John Coyle, W4PJC

John Lewis, KQ4CKG

Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Bill Barley, KO4TVH

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Steve Adcock, KF4KNF

Jack Ellis, K9JLE

Brad Hosford, KD4ASB (expired callsign)

Jonathan Tompkins, no callsign

James Flood, KJ4TKL

Ben Rudy, KO4LFZ

Will Rudy, KO4VLV

Alex Rudy, KO4YFI

Chuck Williams, K4CHW

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Greg Gordon, KX4VI

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Diana Mishica, KN4IRU

Jeff Bigelow, no callsign

Joe Wray, WD4GX1

Angela Ivy, "Hamette", no callsign

Steve Sacco, W1KYL

Kami Spencer, no callsign

Dave Thomas, KO4QZA

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary*