



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

MSU ARC Meeting – April 4th, 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 whether or not you are planning to attend the Memphis FreeFest.

Program: Bill Call, KJ4W, presented an interesting and informative program on Fox Hunting.

- He defined “Fox Hunting” in HAM radio terms as meaning to hunt for a hidden radio transmitter who is the “fox” and the searchers are “hounds”
 - Other titles for this are Hidden Transmitter Hunting; Radio Direction Finding or RDF or ARDF, Radio Orienteering, or Radio Sport (Europe and Asia)
 - He advised that there is good info to be found at www.homingin.com
- Bill explained the different methods of fox hunting
 - They are mainly conducted using the 2 meters and 80 meters bands
 - Hunts may be short distance and on foot, or longer distance allowing or the use of vehicles
- He shared how fox hunting teaches and allows HAMs to practice skills used to track down radio interference (unintentional and intentional) and non-radio interference. As well as, developing skills to search for someone lost or in distress.
- Bill explained the basic equipment needed for a fox hunt, including:
 - A radio with a good S-meter and decent DR
 - A directional antenna
 - An attenuator or attenuation method
 - A compass and map, or smartphone app
 - TDOA/ Doppler equipment (optional)
- He elaborated on some of the different types of antennas that may be used and explained the various ways to use the antennas and methods of attenuation.
- Bill provided the general hunting procedure and explained how our club usually conducts our fox hunts.
- He also taught on some of the serious applications of skills used in fox hunting and provided examples of how this has been used in real-world situations.

Vice President’s 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 as recorded. Debbie Barton, W8IBT, seconded the motion.

Advisor Report: Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, advised that she is trying to get the mailed forwarded to her office mail so that it will be more reliable in receiving it.

QSL Manager Report: Debbie Barton, W8IBT, has nothing to report tonight.



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Treasurer's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that one check was written to W5YI-VEC for VE fees for \$21.00. There were deposits for \$125.00, \$30.00, and \$95.00. Current bank balance is \$3,609.62. As of tonight, we have 77 paid members for 2023. At this point, only paid members may make or vote on motions at the meetings, or serve as an officer. A past member who has not paid their dues may catch up at any time during the year.

System's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that he had to reset the computer that is used for EchoLink and the 2m Winlink node following the Daylight-Saving Time changeover. MSU unplugged our network feed in the club station which took the HF Winlink node down, thinking they had detected some improper software. They notified both Jana and Bill. Bill met with 4 network guys to figure it out and it turned out that the Winlink software wasn't the problem, but a remote-desktop program that had been installed while the Winlink support folk were helping him get everything working back in January was suspicious to them. That program was removed and the network guys were happier. They want us to make some more changes; they want to replace the network switch that's in the room and to provide us with more network cable jacks from their switch instead. That is a fine plan in Bill's opinion. He does not think it will cost us anything and he is not sure when it will be done. The 2m Winlink gateway has a problem that he hasn't diagnosed yet. Other than that, the 3 Club repeaters, the 2 APRS digipeaters and the HF Winlink system are all working OK as far as he is aware. Bill has done some more cleanup work on the antenna trailer tower, stripping off old wiring, but he has not tried to erect it yet.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that an exam session was held after the March meeting. Mike Duvall, KQ4JMD, and Robert Mizell, KD9WGD, of Metropolis IL (Steven Mizell's father) both upgraded to General Class. Both of them had passed their Technician Class license exams with us last December. The General Class course on Thursday nights has finished, and some of those folks will try for their Upgrade tonight. A VE session will be held tonight after the meeting.

CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that CERT member HAMS helped with storm siren testing on March 10. There was a special "Stop-the-Bleed" training session for CERT members on March 16, and 37 CERT members participated. 4 CERT members (3 of whom were HAMS) also served as Storm Shelter Monitors last Friday night (March 31) at Racer Arena, and got their picture in yesterday's newspaper!

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

- *March Net Report:*
 - 4 sessions
 - 126 stations
 - 233 minutes
 - 489.3 operator hours



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Special Events:

- KY DMR Net, TG3121 Thursdays at 7:00 pm
- Memphis Free Fest, April 8, 2023
- Spring Fox Hunt is April 22nd, 2023
 - We will gather at the American Legion building at 1:30 p.m. and the hunt will begin at 2:00 p.m.
 - There will be a potluck following the hunt.
- 2023 ARRL Field Day is June 24-25
 - The Field Day committee has already met and is making progress on plans for this year's event.
- KYPOTA is August 12th, 2023
 - The main location will be at Cherokee Park/Kenlake State Park activated by John Coyle, W4PJC and operating under the club callsign **K4MSU**
 - There will be additional locations
 - LBL is being activated by Tracy McKinney, W4IRT and Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN operating under the special event callsign **K4Y**
 - Columbus-Belmont State Park is being activated by Michael Knight, KG4QPO
 - KY Dam Village is being activated by Bill Call, KJ4W operating under the club callsign **W4GZ**

Announcements:

- **PAARS** (Purchase Area Amateur Radio Society) - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, updated the club on the progress with the non-profit organization:
 - Articles for the organization have been approved by KY Secretary of State
 - Paperwork has been filed with the County Clerk
 - The organization was issued an EIN
 - The 1023ez has been approved by the IRS
- **Hyper-Reach** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded the club that Calloway County Emergency Management is now using Hyper-Reach instead of CodeRed to send out important weather announcement and other emergency information. He encouraged all to sign-up for notifications.
- **Fulton County Amateur Radio Club** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, announced that the newly formed Fulton Co. Club will meet on March 9, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at the Pontotoc Community Center.

Old Business: Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that there is no old business to address tonight.

New Business: Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that there is no new business to address tonight.



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Club Officer Elections: Officer Elections were held tonight in accordance with the club constitution and by-laws.

- **President:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT was nominated by Bill Call, KJ4W, and the nomination was seconded by Randall Winchester, WD4HVA. The nomination of Tracy as club President was approved unanimously.
- **Vice President:** Diana Mishica, K4IRU, was nominated by Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, and the nomination was seconded by Todd Hackathorn, W4GV. The nomination of Diana as club Vice President was approved unanimously.
- **Secretary:** Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX, was nominated by Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, and the nomination was seconded by Michael Knight, KG4QPO. The nomination of Corbie as club Secretary was approved unanimously.
- **Treasurer:** Bill Call, KJ4W, was nominated by John Coyle, W4PJC, and the nomination was seconded by Diana Mishica, K4IRU. The nomination of Bill Call as club Treasurer was approved unanimously. Bill Call will also remain as club trustee.
- **Managers:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that we will keep all the program managers the same as follows:
 - Debbie Barton, W8IBT, will continue to serve as the QSL manager.
 - Josh Kerr, WV4O, will continue to serve as the Web manager.
 - Chuck Williams, K4CHW, will continue to serve as the NET manager.
 - Tim Edmonson, KA4WWS, and Rich Palmer, KM4JZX will continue to serve as the Field Day co-managers.
 - John Coyle, W4PJC, will continue to serve as the KYPOTA manager.
 - Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, will continue to serve as University Advisor.

New Members: Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX reported that there was one new member application tonight from: **Jerry Holt, N1BLH**. Bill Call, KJ4W, motioned to approve the new members and Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, seconded the motion. The new member was approved unanimously.



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Attendance: 36 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Bill Call, KJ4W

Brenda Call, WA4IJU

Joshua Sloan, KO4EAP

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX

John Coyle, W4PJC

Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Paul Hendrix, KJ4BCF

Jessica Hendrix, KQ4FDS

Donna Pursifull, KQ4FEU

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

Joe Thweatt, KO4ASK

Michael Knight, KG4QPO

George James, KY4GMJ

Dave Thomas, KO4QZA

Jerry Holt, N1BLH

Richard Holt, K4HNB

Jordan Garcia, KN4AXN

James Flood, KJ4TKL

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Diana Mishica, K4IRU

Michael Inman, K4MWI

Randall Winchester, WD4HVA

Jack Ellis, K9JLE

Kevin Bailey, KK4BXG

David Wagoner, KQ4AJT

Jerry Johnson, KM4NUY

Joe Wray, WD4GXI

Dale Pentecost, AFOSI

Respectfully submitted,

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary