



# Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC  
2580 University Station  
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: [www.k4msu.com](http://www.k4msu.com)

## MSU ARC Meeting – November 7, 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 your favorite radio and why?”

**Program:** Bill Call, KJ4W, presented an informative program entitled, “What Radio Should I Buy First?” about getting started with HAM radio equipment. He went over some of the typical questions that people ask when considering what equipment to start out with. Bill went through different options within the categories of hand-held, mobile, base, and VHF or HF.

For most new HAMs, Bill recommends starting with a basic VHF/UHF handheld radio. The two that he suggested as good starter radios are:

- ***Baofeng UV -5R:*** which is a 2m/70cm analog FM, dual watch. There are several variations available with many features. It claims to do 5 watts and has decent performance and is a little harder to operate. Priced around \$32.95
- ***Yaesu FT-60 R:*** 2m/70cm analog FM, one band at a time. Can do 5 watts and it is rugged, has excellent performance, and is easier to operate. Priced around \$154.95

When considering a mobile or base, basic VHF/UHF radio, Bill recommended the following radios:

- ***Alinco DR-735T:*** Priced around \$330
- ***Icom IC-2730A:*** Priced around \$310
- ***Yaesu FTM-6000R:*** Priced around \$300

These are all 50-watt output, analog FM, high-quality radios with remote control heads. They will work fine as a base station radio with a suitable antenna and 12VDC power supply.

For HF starter radios, Bill recommended the following:

- ***Icom IC-7300:*** Priced around \$1000
- ***Yaesu FT-710 Field:*** Priced around \$900
- ***Kenwood TS-590SG:*** Priced around 1,600

These are all 100-watt output, SSB/CW/data modes, high quality radios, covering 160 through 6 meters with an internal antenna tuner and sound card. There are other higher performance radios available that are more expensive, and smaller radios that could be used for mobile HF. Bill also mentioned that there are some HF radios that include VHF and UHF capabilities, but he does not recommend these for a new HAM.

Bill explained the different qualities of each type and brand of radio mentioned. He reviewed things to look for in a radio for a new HAM and cautioned buying used radios, although they can provide a valuable learning experience.

**Vice President's Report:** Diana Mishica, K4IRU, had nothing new to report tonight.



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**Secretary's Report:** Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, moved that the September meeting minutes be accepted as submitted. Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

**Advisor Report:** Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, reported that there is no mail at this time.

**QSL Manager Report:** Debbie Barton, W8IBT, had nothing new to report tonight.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that there was one deposit for \$68.00 made and one payment was made by debit card for \$70.00 to ARRL for the trailer tower insurance. One payment was made to W5YI-VEC of \$14.00 for VE fees. He reports that the current bank balance is \$3,682.56. Prior to the meeting we have 94 paid members for 2023.

**System's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that the only issue this month has been that he had to restart the HF Winlink computer when MSU forced an update to the operating system. Bill still hasn't finished the repair on the Hamlin repeater amplifier so it is still running at reduced power. Other than that, the 3 Club repeaters, the 2 APRS digipeaters and the two Winlink systems are all working well at the moment as far as he is aware.

**VE Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that we had a VE session after the October meeting. Michael Inman, K4MWI, and Phillip Wright, KK4AHW, who is now NJ3J, both upgraded to Extra Class. No exams have been requested for tonight.

**CERT Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, informed the club that the Fall 2023 CERT course finished last week. The class started with 16 attending, and 11 finished; 4 of these are HAM radio operators presently. He reported that five CERT members plus one relative of a member have signed up to take the HAM radio course which will begin this Thursday, November 9. Bill expects other people to attend the license course as well, besides the CERT graduates.

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

- **October Net Report:**
  - 5 sessions
  - 126 stations
  - 203 minutes
  - 426.3 operator hours

**Web Manager Report:** Josh Kerr, WV4O, has nothing new to report tonight.

**Field Day Report:** Nothing new to report tonight.

**PAARS Report:** Josh Kerr, WV4O, reported that the "HAM and Coffee" event went well.



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## Special Events:

- **Technician Study Class** will begin on Thursday November 09, 2023 from 6pm to 9pm at the Calloway County Fire Rescue Station 1 located at 101 E. Sycamore St. Murray, Ky. There will be 5 to 6 classes and they will skip the Thanksgiving Thursday. If they hold six classes, the testing session will be on December 21, 2023. Contact Bill Call 270-293-0068 for additional information.
- **Christmas Parade** will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023 at 5:00 p.m.
- **Christmas Party** will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at The Keg. There will be a Dirty Santa gift exchange with a limit of \$15 or 30 lbs of radio equipment.
- **Santa Project** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded everyone that the club has donated \$250 for gifts to be bought for the Santa Project. If individual members would like to donate on their own, they can see Debbie Barton, W8IBT, after tonight's meeting. She and Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, will coordinate a shopping trip and will deliver the gifts to the school resource center.

## Announcements:

- The Santa Net is back on 3.919 MHz for the 18<sup>th</sup> year! Starting Friday, November 24<sup>th</sup> children can talk to Santa Claus via HAM radio nightly starting at 7:05 pm Central. The Santa Net will run every night through Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup> 2023. You can schedule a time for your child to talk to Santa by visiting their website.
- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, asked that the club keep several members and friends in their thoughts and prayers including: Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ; Charlotte Edmonson, KY4GAL; George James, KY4GMJ; Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU; Charles Isele, N1CDK, daughter, Emily; and Julie from the Aloha Net.

## Old Business:

- **Christmas Parade** will be on December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023 at 5:00 p.m. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, led a discussion about decorating the float as we usually do for the parade. We will plan to meet on November 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at the Calloway County Fire Rescue Station 1 as in years past to decorate the float. Bill Call, KJ4W, will confirm that it is okay for us to use the CCFR garage and will notify the club if anything changes. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, will check on the time everyone needs to gather to set up for the parade on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and will communicate that with the club. It is usually at 3p.m. Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, and Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, will get straw bales for the trailer.
- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reminded the club that we will be voting for HAM of the Year tonight. He reminded everyone of the nominations and a vote was conducted via secret ballot. The following members are the nominations to be considered:
  - **Debbie Barton, W8IBT** – nominated by Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE
  - **Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB** – nominated by John Coyle, W4PJC
  - **Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE** - nominated by Debbie Barton, W8IBT

The committee to count the votes consisted of John Coyle, W4PJC; Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, and Josh Kerr, WV4O and the winner will be announced at the Christmas Party.



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## **New Business:**

- **Winter Field Day**, - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, facilitated a discussion about participating in Winter Field Day. There did not seem to be any interest from the club in this.

**New Members:** Corbie Orten, KO4ARX reported that there were no new member applications for tonight.

**Attendance:** 30 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Bill Call, KJ4W

Brenda Call, WA4IJU

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Barbara Call, KM4TZU

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Corbie Orten, KO4ARX

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

Robin Bracken, K4MNM

John Coyle, W4PJC

Charles Isele, N1CDK

Ian Albertson, no callsign

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

Richard Holt, K4HNB

Jerry Holt, N1BLH

George Rob, KK4SRR

James Flood, KJ4TKL

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Diana Mishica, K4IRU

Michael Inman, K4MWI

Mark Germain, KC9FOC

Randall Winchester, WD4HVA

Cory Wentz, KD9ISM

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Corbie Orten, KO4ARX, Secretary*