



# MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



## MSU ARC Meeting – April 5<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.

**Special Presentations:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, discussed the importance of having youth involved in the HAM radio hobby. He advised that our ARRL section manager, Steve Morgan, W4NHO, has recognized our club's youth members for their involvement in HAM radio. Steve even invited Will Rudy, KO4VLV, to speak at the Cave City HamFest about his involvement in HAM radio and why he enjoys the hobby. Tracy then presented Alex Rudy, KO4YFI, and Joshua Sloan, KO4EAP, with the same award that was presented to Will at the Cave City HamFest for their outstanding contributions to the HAM radio. The three boys spoke for a moment on why they decided to get involved with HAM radio.

- Will and Alex's father Ben Rudy, KO4LFZ, shared some information about YACHT (Youth Amateur Communication Ham Team) and the Nets that they hold for youth HAM radio operators.

**Program:** Richard Palmer, KM4JZX, presented a very informative program about **Go Bags**. Rich explained the reason for having a "Go Bag" as: If an evacuation is a consideration, possibility, or immanent, a "Go Bag" is a requirement for each family member and animal that is "Go-ing".

- He explained that protecting your family, home, business, and friends is very important. Everyone may have different reasons or needs for their individual bag; and the bag is as important as the person who needs it. Your "go bag" is only as good as you make it, maintain it, and where you keep it. A "go bag" may not always be a "bag." There could be different sized containers with different levels of essential items.
- Rich discussed the difference between a "go bag" and a "travel bag"
  - **Go Bag:** A bag that is essential when displaced from normal living conditions.
  - **Travel bag:** A bag that supplements your normal living conditions at other locations other than your home.
- He explained that the bag, or container should be of proper size for the person to carry it without issue. A backpack is of good choice so that it will leave your arms and hands free for other essential tasks. You can start out small and work your way up to a larger bag. The focus for a complete bag should be able to sustain yourself for 72hrs (3 days). This is a bag per person for 3 days each. A quality bag is important so that it will handle the environment and use that may be required. Color of the bag may be important if you want to be "Gray Man".
- He also explained that you may have several different bags to meet different needs or situations that may arise such as: an every day carry bag, a car bag, a get home bag, etc.



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## **Program: Go Bags (cont.)**

- Rich went over the basic items that need to go into your “go bag”
  - Personal Items (ID, health insurance card, SS card, Passport, and Medication).
  - Self Defense (your own preference), fixed blade knife.
  - Multi tool, signal whistle and/or mirror, N95 mask, 50ft 550 cord.
  - Water or ability to filter water.
  - Food source, spork, trash bag.
  - Temporary shelter.
  - Fire source (lighter, waterproof matches, feral rod).
  - Travel sized toiletries, Dawn dish soap, wet wipes, Small first aid kit, insect repellent, sun block.
  - Cellular telephone with charger.
  - Flashlight or lighting device other than your cellular phone.
  - Spare batteries for carried items.
  - Ham Radio programmed with more than basic channels.
  - Money in small increments.
  - Spare keys, socks, seasonal long sleeve shirt.
  - Paper, pen, local map, electrical tape.
  - Gas valve wrench, water wrench, Channel lock style pliers.
  - SD Card / Thumb Drive
    - What goes on the SD Card/Thumb Drive?
      - Birth Certificate, SS Card, Driver’s License, Passport.
      - Health insurance card.
      - List of emergency contacts / family names and addresses / phone numbers.
      - Current family photographs, friend photographs.
      - Medical records and shot records.
      - Marriage license, adoption records, citizenship documents.
      - Home deed, car titles and registration.
      - Credit card information, banking information.
      - Power of attorney and will.
      - Pet information.
- Rich answered questions from the meeting attendees. He also provided links where some more information can be found. <https://www.ready.gov/kit> and <https://www.thespruce.com/emergency-go-bag-4165380>



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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 Chuck Williams, K4CHW. The nomination of Tracy as club President was approved unanimously.
- **Vice President:** Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, was nominated by Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, and the nomination was seconded by Chuck Williams, K4CHW. The nomination of Todd as club Vice President was approved unanimously.
- **Secretary:** Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX, was nominated by Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, and the nomination was seconded by Bill Call, KJ4W. The nomination of Corbie as club Secretary was approved unanimously.
- **Treasurer:** Bill Call, KJ4W, was nominated by Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, and the nomination was seconded by Josh Kerr, WV4O. The nomination of Bill Call as club Treasurer was approved unanimously. Bill Call will also remain as club trustee.
- **Managers:**
  - Debbie Barton, W8IBT, has volunteered 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.

**Secretary's Report:** Dave Thomas, KO4ARX, moved to accept the minutes from last meeting; motion was seconded by Bill Call, KJ4W. Motion approved.

**Advisor Report:** Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, reported that everything is good and that the club has earned \$909.00 by helping with the Murray State University sporting events. She just figured out how to access the funds from the club's university account for pending reimbursements. Jana advised that she cannot reimburse to a personal credit card, so she is working on a solution on how to best hand current and future expenditures. Jana reported that we did not have any mail at this time. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that we had received a "thank you" letter from Joseph Siedel, KO4ASH, thanking those who helped with communications and other tasks after the December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Mayfield tornado.

**QSL Manager Report:** New QSL manager, Debbie Barton, W8IBT, had nothing to report at this time.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that there was one deposit for \$275.00 and one for \$15.00. One check was written for \$7.00 to W5YI-VEC for VE fees and one was written to John Coyle, W4PJC, for \$169.58 to reimburse him for the cable bridges purchased for Field Day or other operating events. Current bank balance is \$4021.95. Currently there are 72 members who have paid 2022 dues.



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**System's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that he had to do updates and reset the time on the EchoLink computer after the time change. No other club projects have been worked on during the past month, though some individual ones have been. 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, reported that a VE session was conducted after the March club meeting, at which Todd Price, W4WKY, of Cadiz upgraded his license to Extra Class. Bill explained that the General Class License study course has concluded, and several from that course plan to take their upgrade exams tonight. There may be one or two Tech applicants as well.
- Bill advised that the FCC has announced that the \$35 License Application Fee will begin on April 19<sup>th</sup> 2022. However, license modifications including address changes and **UPGRADES will not** be charged the fee. Remember, the MSUARC has voted to pay the \$35 fee for any applicants who test with us who are under 18 years of age. We have also voted to match the ARRL program to reduce the Exam Fee for applicants under 18 to only \$5.
  - Bill Call, KJ4W, motioned that the club make the reduction in the exam fee to \$5 effective immediately and not wait until April 19<sup>th</sup> 2022 for those under the age of 18 who take the exam with us; Chuck Williams, K4CHW seconded the motion. Motion carried to be effective today.

**CERT Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that CERT members monitored the tornado warning sirens in Murray and Hazel during the statewide test on March 2, 2022. The warning siren on the southside of Murray didn't work, and they reported that.

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

- *March 2022 Net Report:*
  - 4 sessions
  - 105 stations
  - 196 minutes
  - 343 operator hours.
- *March 2022 SkyWarn Net Report:*
  - 2 sessions
  - 37 stations
  - 122 minutes
  - 75.23 operator hours.



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## Special Events:

- **Memphis FreeFest** – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that the Memphis Ham convention will be held on April 9, 2022. He mentioned that there may be a few interested in going and a group message/email would be sent to those interested to finalize details.
- **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. Tracy is working on details about food with Gus Gomez and further details will follow closer to time for the event.

## Old Business:

- **10 Meter Filter** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported that the purchase of the filters has been approved but they have not been ordered yet. Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that he will get those ordered soon.
- **Cable Spools** – Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that Doyan Jennings, KA4BLZ, donated a cable spool to the club.
- **Club Surplus Equipment** - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, explained that this project has been placed on hold for the time being.

## New Business:

- **Field Day 2022** –
  - Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, reminded everyone that Field Day 2022 is coming up soon. The initial Field Day committee has already been held and future meeting will follow to begin planning for this year's event.
  - A discussion was held about releasing a either a weather balloon or a party balloon as our educational activity this year. Josh Kerr advised that it would probably cost between \$150-\$175 for supplies for this activity. Jeff Robinson, KM4YCU, mentioned that the club may want to check into helium prices before deciding on or purchasing supplies for this project, as helium may be expensive and difficult obtain. Dave Thomas, KO4QZA, motioned that the club not spend more than \$200 for the balloon, equipment/supplies for educational activity; Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, seconded the motion. Motion was carried.
  - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that the fee for renting the MSU Arboretum has gone up \$50 more than previous years due to the club needing the space for 2 days. Tracy also mentioned that the club will purchase chicken from Food Giant as in previous years and have the members volunteer to bring side dishes/desserts via Sign-Up Genius.
- KYPOTA – John Coyle, W4PJC, reminded everyone that KYPOTA event will be held on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 barring any inclement weather. He mentioned that the club did get a 3<sup>rd</sup> callsign of **K4Y** as we did last year to utilize during this event.

**Announcements:** Diana Mishica, KN4IRU, wished to thank Tracy McKinney, W4IRT; Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN; and Bill Call, KJ4W, for getting her tower and antenna set up.



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***New Members:*** Corbie Gomez, KO4ARX reported that three new member applications were submitted. Josh Kerr, WV4O, motioned to approve the new members and Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, seconded the motion. The new members were approved unanimously: **Dan Eakin, KO4PDT; Jessie Rudy, KO4ZBV; and Alex Rudy, KO4YFI.**

*Josh Kerr, WV4O, moved to adjourn the meeting; and Dave Thomas, KO4QZA, seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.*

**Attendance:** 47 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Bill Call, KJ4W

Brenda Call, WA4IJU

Joshua Sloan, KO4EAP

Luke Sloan, no callsign

Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Rich Palmer, KM4JZX

Carla Palmer, KM4ZUA

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

Robert Bracken, KJ7RJB

Robin Bracken, KO4VLS

John Coyle, W4PJC

Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Bill Barley, KO4TVH

Don Edwards, KK4MKY

Ben Rudy, KO4LFZ

Jessie Rudy, KO4ZBV

Will Rudy, KO4VLV

Alex Rudy, KOYFI

Dale Barrett, WB7D

Valerie Barrett, KG4OCJ

Chuck Williams, K4CHW

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Diana Mishica, KN4IRU

Joe Thweatt, KO4ASK

Dan Eakin, KO4PDT

Jeff Robinson, KM4YCU

Dave Thomas, KO4QZA

Micah Orten, WD4FXX

Lindsay Eddy – guest, no callsign

Marc Huddleston, KO4VLZ

Robert Noack, KO4VLU

Michael Knight, KG4QPO

Steve Adcock, KF4KNF

Jack Ellis, K9JLE

James Flood, KJ4TKL

Paula Flood, K4PCF

Robin Jones, KF4GCD – *via Zoom*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Corbie Gómez, KO4ARX, Secretary*