



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

MSU ARC Meeting – January 2nd, 2024

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 “Did you get any new HAM radio equipment for Christmas?”

Program: Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, presented an informative program titled: “Adventures in RF – Antennas”

- He discussed different types of popular early antennas like the umbrella, inverted L, T aerial, and vertical fan.
- Randall showed the membership several pictures and diagrams explaining the different types of antennas.
- He went on to discuss some of the history of antennas and how radio moved to some of the more modern options including the T2FD and T3FD. He then compared these two antennas and presented results on performance.

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

Secretary’s Report: Chuck Williams, K4CHW, moved that the November meeting minutes be accepted as submitted. Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Advisor Report: Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, was not present tonight. Todd Hackathorn, W4GV, reported that there is no mail at this time or anything new to report.

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

Treasurer’s Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that since the November meeting he has made one deposit, for \$75.00. Checks were written to Debbie Barton for \$250 for Christmas purchases and to John Coyle for \$45 for a replacement tire for the antenna tower trailer. Payments were made by debit card to W5YI-VEC of \$63.00 for VE fees and to the SouthEast Repeater Association for \$35 for annual dues. Bank balance is \$3,364.56. We ended 2023 with 96 paid members. Dues may now be paid for 2024.

System’s Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that he lowered the antenna on the 146.940 repeater and shook water out of the hard line connector and tightened antenna joints, and that has greatly reduced noise in that repeater. He also replaced guy ropes which had failed again. Bill suspects birds may be cutting the ropes since the failures are always near the roof but he is not sure. He stated that he had to restart the HF Winlink computer several times for some reason, and the 2m Winlink computer once or twice. With Charlie’s help, they added a mast pipe to the 443.800 repeater’s antenna, so it is about 9-10 feet taller. Bill reports that he finally finished the repair on the Hamlin repeater amplifier so it is back at full power. The 3 Club repeaters, the 2 APRS digipeaters and the two Winlink systems are all working OK at the moment as far as he is aware.



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VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that we had a VE session at the last night of the Fall Technician Class course on December 21. There are four new hams as a result: Ian Albertson, KQ4NLH; Tyler Goldman, KQ4NLA; Daniel “Butch” Marquardt, KQ4NKL; and Miranda Bailey whose callsign hasn’t been issued yet. Four others tried but didn’t pass the exam that night. Kevin Bailey, KK4BXG, upgraded to Extra Class. As of now, no exams have been requested for tonight.

CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that the Fall 2023 CERT course finished last November. We started with 16 attending, and 11 finished plus two more who only lack the Final Exercise; 4 of these were HAM radio operators to begin with. One of the CERT graduates, Butch Marquardt, has passed his Tech exam and several others are still studying.

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

- *December 2023 Net Report:*
 - 4 sessions
 - 86 stations
 - 163 minutes
 - 233.63 operator hours

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

Field Day Report: Nothing new to report tonight. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, requested that everyone keep Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, and his family in your prayers.

PAARS Report: There was nothing new to report.

Special Events:

- ***SkyWarn Spotter Training:*** Will be held on February 20, 6:00-9:00pm in the Freed Curd Auditorium. A link to register will be available in the future.
- ***Winter Field Day:*** Winter Field Day is January 27, 2024 and if you would like additional information on it please click on the following link: <https://winterfieldday.org/> Cory Wentz, KD9ISM, has expressed interest. After some discussion the club does not show interest in participating in this event as a club. Corey advised that the Mayfield Amateur Radio Society will be participating.

Announcements: There were no new announcements at this time.



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Old Business:

- **Christmas Parade:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported that the parade went well and that we did not spend the full \$250 that had been voted on for the parade decorations and candy canes.
- **Christmas Party:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported that the Christmas Party held at the Keg went well.
 - **HAM of the Year:** A special congratulations to Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, for being nominated as HAM of the Year! We appreciate his dedication and all he does for the club.
- **Breakfast:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported that several members met for breakfast at Martha's and enjoyed the food and fellowship.

New Business: Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, facilitated a discussion about the antenna tower project. He advised that we have members who are willing to work on it but that we need an accessible location for the tower to be available for people to work on it. Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU, offered his place as a location to make the tower accessible to members who would like to work on it. Joe Wray, WD4GXI, mentioned that we should always have at least 2 people present while working on the tower for safety precautions. Don Edwards, K4MKY, mentioned that we might check with the American Legion location and contact George James, KY4GMJ, if we think we would like to use that location. It was decided that Bill Call, KJ4W; John Coyle, W4PJC; and Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, would go out to scout locations on Wednesday January 3rd to determine the best possible location to place the tower.

New Members: Corbie Orten, KO4ARX reported that there was one new member application tonight for Phillip Wright, NJ3J. Bill Call, KJ4W, motioned to approve the new member and Debbie Barton, W8IBT, seconded the motion. The new member was approved unanimously.



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Attendance: 35 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Bill Call, KJ4W

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Corbie Orten, KO4ARX

Michael Knight, KG4QPO

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

Robin Bracken, K4MNM

John Coyle, W4PJC

Charles Isele, N1CDK

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Donna Pursifull, K4DPE

Chuck Williams, K4CHW

Diana Mishica, K4IRU

Randall Winchester, WD4HVA

Cory Wentz, KD9ISM

Bill Barley, KO4TVH

Jack Ellis, K9JLE

James Flood, KJ4TKL

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

Diana Mishica, K4IRU

Michael Inman, K4MWI

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU

Matt Freeman, WX4WKY

Mark Germain, KC9FOC

Joe Wray, WD4GXI

Angela Ivy, no callsign

Ian Albertson, KQ4NLH

Respectfully submitted,

Corbie Orten, KO4ARX, Secretary