



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

MSU ARC Meeting – May 7, 2024

Meeting was called to order by President, Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, at 7:00 p.m.

Program:

- John Hart, KO4ZE, did an informative “HAM Bit” tonight on the Weather Net operating protocol.
 - He discussed the difference between a social net and emergency net operations.
 - Social nets are for fun and more relaxed operating procedures are used to allow for chatty communications.
 - Emergency nets (particularly weather nets for this presentation) are for passing along first-hand reports of weather conditions accurately and quickly through the Net Control Operator to the National Weather Service.
 - John went over the general weather net procedures.
 - The Net Control Operator (NCO)
 - Is in charge of all communications but may delegate functions to others.
 - May modify net procedures to fit the specific needs for a particular weather threat
 - Maintains overall situational awareness.
 - Monitoring Stations
 - Report conditions observed at their location
 - Checking into the net
 - After the NCO opens the net for check-ins, you transmit your callsign and location only once.
 - There is no need for phonetics
 - There is no need to repeat you callsign several times
 - Phonetics and unnecessary repeating take time and block the repeater from use by other monitoring stations. The NCO will ask for a repeat if necessary.
 - John explained that reports should be first hand observations, given accurately and quickly only when the NCO requests them.
 - First Hand
 - Report only what you see at your location.
 - Do Not report anything heard on any other service
 - Accurately
 - Give the size of hail (eg. Nickel-sized hail)
 - Give the measured or estimated wind speed and direction
 - Quickly
 - Organize your report before you transmit to keep your transmission short.
 - Give your report only once without repeating information. The NCO will ask for a repeat if needed.



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- He talked about the exceptions to waiting for the NCO to ask for a report
 - Extraordinary Conditions – conditions which threaten the safety or property at the location of the Monitoring Station
 - Emergency Traffic – concerns imminent danger to life or threat of injury at the Monitoring Station location
 - In these instances, transmit your callsign once and the word “break” and wait for acknowledgement
 - Remember that if you are transmitting, then no one else can use the repeater, including the NCO. Another station may have emergency traffic.
- John went through a couple of examples of an emergency weather net transmission.
- Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, briefly spoke about the HamSCI project that he wrote a grant application for our club to participate in. It covers setting up a radio propagation monitor on 5, 10, and 15 Mhz that focuses on gathering propagation information mainly before and during the upcoming solar eclipse on April 8th but will continue collecting data at least through the rest of 2024.

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

Secretary’s Report: Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, moved that the March meeting minutes be accepted as submitted. Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

Advisor Report: Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, stated that there is nothing new to report. The university mail system is still not working as it should be. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported that Michael Inman, K4MWI, will be the new club advisor and will take over the position when the new semester starts in August.

QSL Manager Report: Debbie Barton, W8IBT, advised that the post office will not allow the club to forward our mail to another address as we are part of Murray State University and considered a business in regards to receiving our mail. She stated that we will have to continue to work with the university to get our mail situation straightened out.

Treasurer’s Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that he made one deposit (mostly dues) for \$80.00. A debit card payment for \$21.00 was made to W5YI-VEC for VE fees, and another for \$300.00 to renew the ARRL Club Liability insurance. Bill transferred \$10.71 to reimburse himself for the IC to repair the repeater controller. Bank balance is \$3780.85. As of tonight, 69 members have paid 2024 club dues. We will accept 2024 dues at any time through the end of the year, but only those who have paid 2024 dues may hold office, make motions or vote at meetings.

System’s Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that we had lots of noise on the 146.940 repeater on the Monday night net a week ago (March 25). On Sunday afternoon March 31, Bill lowered the antenna mast and retightened screws on the Ringo Ranger antenna and replaced portions of all 4 guy ropes, which had broken. There was some moisture in the hardline connector but not much. He thinks that birds attacking the ropes are the problem with them breaking, and plans to switch to steel wire rope. Bill has had to restart the computers used for both HF Winlink and 2m Winlink after they stopped, which is a common situation. He plans to turn off the HF Winlink gateway after the meeting tonight, to allow the



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broadband antenna to be used for the eclipse propagation experiment that Randall will talk about. Bill tentatively plans to change back on Wednesday of next week, unless a regional communications emergency comes up which needs HF Winlink. 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 March club meeting, at which Ward Adams, KQ4OPJ, upgraded to General Class.

CERT Report: Josh Kerr, WV4O, reported that there have been no CERT activations in the last month. He reminded everyone of the VOAD working group that will be meeting on April 29th, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. in the courthouse annex. Anyone who is interested in helping out may attend the meeting. Josh also mentioned that the KY Emergency Management is planning on doing a communications exercise in June and will be utilizing HAM radio operators. He will provide more information on that as it is available.

PAARS Report: Josh Kerr, WV4O, advised that the PAARS nonprofit organization has submitted a grant request to Amateur Radio Digital Communications (ARDC) for \$6500 to potential get new tires, brakes, antennas, and do general maintenance on the portable antenna tower. Now we just wait to see if it is approved.

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

- *March 2024 Net Report:*
 - 4 sessions
 - 99 stations
 - 174 minutes
 - 287.1 operator hours

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

Field Day Report: Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, reported that the Field Day committee met last Monday to begin planning for this year's Field Day. He advised that everything is the same as it has been over the last couple of years except for the new portable antenna trailer. Ian Albertson, KQ4NLH, advised that he spoke with the manager of the MSU Arboretum and they have given us permission to set up the portable antenna tower in the back gravel lot. Rich advised that it is the plan to set the tower up as an extra operating station this year. We will still operate our normal set up and hang antennas in the trees. Rich encouraged everyone to go ahead and sign up for operating spots and food for the potluck. Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, will bring a laptop to the next two meetings and allow people to sign up at the meeting if they would like to do so.

Special Events:

- ***Memphis Free Fest:*** April 6, 2024
- ***Spring Fox Hunt:*** April 20th will be our Spring Fox Hunt. at 1:30 p.m. at the American Legion building.



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- **2024 ARRL Field Day:** Will be on June 22-23 at the MSU Arboretum.
 - The Field Day committee has already met and is making progress on plans for this year's event.
- **KYPOTA:** is August 10th, 2024 the main location will be at Cherokee Park/Kenlake State Park using callsign K4MSU.
 - Additional locations as in years past will be at:
 - Colson Overlook in LBL using callsign K4Y
 - Columbus-Belmont State Park using callsign K4E
 - KY Dam Village using callsign W4GZ

Old Business: There was no old business to discuss at this time.

New Business: There was no new business to discuss at this time.

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

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

- **President:** John Coyle, W4PJC, was nominated by Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU, and the nomination was seconded by Bill Call, KJ4W. Josh Kerr, WV4O, moved that the nominations cease. The nomination of John as club President was approved unanimously.
- **Vice President:** Diana Mishica, K4IRU, was nominated by Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, and the nomination was seconded by Corbie Orten, KO4ARX. Josh Kerr, WV4O, moved that the nominations cease. The nomination of Diana as club Vice President was approved unanimously.
- **Secretary:** Donna Pursifull, K4DPE was nominated by Bill Call, KJ4W, and the nomination was seconded by Corbie Orten, KO4ARX. Josh Kerr, WV4O, moved that the nominations cease. The nomination of Donna as club Secretary was approved unanimously.
- **Treasurer:** Bill Call, KJ4W, was nominated by John Coyle, W4PJC, and the nomination was seconded by Corbie Orten, KO4ARX. Josh Kerr, WV4O, moved that the nominations cease. The nomination of Bill Call as club Treasurer was approved unanimously. Bill Call will also continue to serve as club trustee.
- **Managers:** John Coyle, W4PJC, asked 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.
 - Rich Palmer, KM4JZX will continue to serve as the Field Day manager.



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- John Coyle, W4PJC, will continue to serve as the KYPOTA manager.
- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, will maintain the club's private (members only) Facebook page; and Josh Kerr, WV4O, and Chuck Williams, K4CHW, will maintain the club's public Facebook page.
- Michael Inman, K4MWI, will serve as University Advisor as previously discussed.

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, said a few words and thanked everyone for their help as he has served as president over the last few years. He stated that he has always said "one more year" and that he has enjoyed being a part of the club and having the honor to serve as its president.

Bill Call, KJ4W, thanked Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, for serving as president and doing such a wonderful job. He accredited the much of the club's growth and stability through Covid-19 to Tracy's leadership and dedication. Bill told Tracy and the club that he has done a great job and that we all thank him and love him.

John Coyle, W4PJC, thanked Tracy as well. Said a few words and provided his contact information to the club. His email address is jcoyle347@gmail.com and his phone number is 504-487-9130.

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, moved to adjourn the meeting; Josh Kerr, WV4O, seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.



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Respectfully submitted,

Corbie Orten, KO4ARX, Secretary