

Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of August 5, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club was called to order on Monday, August 5, 2024, at 1830 by President Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, with 24 present.

Minutes of the last meeting were read by Secretary Patty Chiles, ACØCU, and were approved as read.

Treasurer Judy Bradley, KCØWXS, reported a beginning balance of \$20,574.43. She deposited \$37.50 in membership fees. She wrote two checks, one in the amount of \$25 to the City of Jackson for pavilion rental, and one in the amount of \$148.85 to Barry Doyle, ACØWL, as reimbursement for surge protectors, leaving a balance of \$20,438.08.

Old Business

Barry Doyle, ACØWL, reminded everyone that there will be no ARES nets until the Tuesday after our September club meeting. Repeater maintenance on the 146.685 repeater totaled 1 hour. He ran the generator for 27 minutes; the fuel level was at about 90%, which would allow it to run about 18 days. He also ran the usual 3-minute key-down testing.

Barry reported on the recent ARRL data breach. It definitely was a ransomware attack, and the ransom was paid because it was less expensive than hiring people to return the system. There were no credit card breaches, and Log of the World was secured, but ARRL employee information may have been exposed. The ARRL has offered to pay for 2 years of cyber protection for their employees. Barry advised everyone to avoid ransomware attacks by cleaning any computers bought at hamfests, and if the computer has anything older than Windows 10 – trash it. He also encouraged everyone to change their passwords often.

Larry Rickman, KDØLBL, read a report from Director Sam Herndon from the Office of Emergency Management. They are not yet in the new building. Once an official date is announced for moving into their building, Sam will set up a time to start moving radios, including ham radios.

New Business

Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, reported that the Washington hamfest was a big success and well attended. The last hamfest of the year in this area will be the St. Charles – actually located in O'Fallon – hamfest on Sunday, August 11, starting at 8 a.m.

Ernie also announced that our next fox hunt will be held on Saturday, September 21, at 1 p.m. at Shelter No. 5 in the Jackson City Park. Everyone should bring a sack lunch to eat at noon, and desserts to share are encouraged. The hunt will be restricted to the grounds of the Jackson City Park.

Patty Chiles, ACØCU, reported that in 2025 the ARRL will no longer be doing paper ham radio exams; everything will be digital. She has contacted the ARRL for more information, because testers will need laptops or tablets – which means internet will be needed. The ARRL has not contacted VECs to let them know exactly how to go about this.

Ed Myers, ADØWN, announced that our Christmas party will be held on Saturday, December 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at BG's Deli in Cape Girardeau. There will be a gift exchange (under \$10!) for those who wish to participate.

Kirk Barks, WTØU, reported that he spoke with an Arcom representative regarding options on what controllers would be compatible with our Yaesu repeater to give us our courtesy beep, messaging ability, and use of our WAV files for announcements. We have three options. We can 1) do nothing and leave things the way they are; 2) use a partial package costing about \$690 to interface with our Yaesu, which we would set up ourselves; or 3) we can replace the entire system with a complete new Kenwood repeater package for about \$2200 which would be all set up for us, and use our Yaesu as a backup. Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, moved that we proceed with the package deal of the Kenwood radio with the RC-210 controller, spending a maximum of \$2500. Stan Sides, KØQMV, seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Klaus Mueller, WØLKE, thanked those who helped take down his antenna last week. He is moving to Kansas City, and he will be missed by us all.

Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, announced that our next club meeting will be held on Monday, September 9, 2024.

The August meeting of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club was adjourned at 1925.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Chiles, ACØCU
Secretary, SEMOARC