

Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of February 7, 2011

The monthly meeting of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club was called to order on Monday, February 7, 2011, at 1900 by President Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, with 27 members present.

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

Treasurer Irma Frye, NØJPJ, reported that last month's balance was \$2824.96. She deposited dues for sixteen members, leaving a balance of \$3234.96. The treasurer's report was approved as read.

Old Business

Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, reported that ARES participated in the January 27 earthquake preparedness drill, code named "Southern Sparks." Phil Nash, ACØIB, said that the Cape ARES group was a "shining star" and that he was well pleased with everyone's performance. The Cape EOC and Cape County EOC participated in the drill, as well as St. Francis and Southeast Hospitals. Dennis Ponsness, WBØWAO, said that the ARES members were very professional. He said that there are three areas that need to be worked on: 1) we need a local VHF net set up ahead of time (which is now in place); 2) there was an issue with the Bloomfield repeater bottleneck, which was out of our hands; and 3) we need to send long messages in a different format (i.e. a packet network). Tom Keene, WX9N, said that everyone did extremely well and were professional. He said that there were some problem areas that need to be addressed: 1) timed out repeaters; 2) long messages (i.e. packet); and 3) a reminder that as ARES members we need to maintain our professionalism and know our position in the chain of command. Dick Knaup, KDØBSP, said that J. D. Simmons was well pleased with our ARES members. He said that every aspect of communication was tested, and that the county plans to install packet and has the equipment on order. The next fully functional drill will be a 7-state drill on May 17-21, and we will be participating for three days, on May 17-19, one-half day on each day, from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Tom Keene, WX9N, reported that the 685 machine has range issues. The 440 and 685 repeaters use the same antenna. He will do some range tests to check for weakness in the antenna. It needs attention as soon as possible, requiring a tower climber and the probable replacement of hard line. The 82 repeater antenna and hard line do not look good either. He proposed that we get the 82 repeater up and running, transfer the nets to it, and repair the other two repeaters. He also proposed that we change the controller on the 685 repeater, and get a larger battery backup on the 82 repeater. Dennis Ponsness, WBØWAO, moved that we upgrade the three repeater systems as recommended, and Dan Russell, KDØIXM, seconded the motion; the motion passed. A Repeater Committee was formed with Barry Doyle, KDØJWE; Joe Lorberg, WAØZNI;

Harry Stone, KDØNFY; and Dennis Ponsness, WBØWAO; with Tom Keene, WX9N, as chair.

Special Events Co-coordinator Penny Wheeler, KDØGXZ, reported that she has spoken with Bill Piatt and he has secured the WØS call sign for the Stars and Stripes event which will be held on June 10-11. She has been unable to contact the Museum director for confirmation.

Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, reminded everyone of the swap meet at JCS in Cape Girardeau on May 14. He said the nine upcoming hamfest dates will be placed on our website. He also said the Special Events Committee will be coordinating Field Day.

We had no visitors this evening.

New Business

Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, thanked Mary Russell, XYL of KDØIXM, for all the work she put into preserving the club archives and making that material available on disc.

After a number of people expressed interest in a spring fox hunt, Ernie set the date for the next hunt on Saturday, April 16. Additional information will be available next month.

Training Officer Tom Keene, WX9N, said that Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, will have a training session at the March meeting on fox hunting, just in time for the April 16 event. Ron Doughty, KØMAJ, will have a training session at the April meeting on contesting, and at the May meeting, Phil Nash, ACØIB, and Mike McCrate, KDØGUH, will have a training session on emergency alternative power sources.

Tom Keene, WX9N, reported that he has four students in his general class. Barry Doyle, KDØJWE, will be teaching an upcoming technician class.

The February meeting of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club was adjourned at 2010 and Tom Keene, WX9N, then presented a training session on the packet network.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Chiles
Secretary, SEMO ARC