

Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of February 3, 2025

The monthly meeting of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club was called to order on Monday, February 3, 2025, at 1831 by President Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, with 17 members and two guests present. Guests were Danica Miller and Laura Johnson.

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

Treasurer Karen Brewington, KDØJMO, reported a beginning balance of \$18,085.78. She wrote three checks: \$42.21 for the Ham of the Year award; \$20 for our Missouri Repeater Council dues; and \$327.38 to Kirk Barks as reimbursement for a backup battery. She deposited \$125 in membership dues, leaving a balance of \$17,821.19.

Old Business

Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, apologized for having to cancel our January meeting due to bad weather, but everyone agreed that for safety's sake, it was the right thing to do.

He also noted that Kirk Barks, WTØU, designed, created, and installed a lithium ion battery replacement for the lead acid battery. The 146.685 repeater and controller will automatically switch from the power supply to the battery if the power goes out – and the repeater works beautifully now.

Barry Doyle, ACØWL, reported that three weekly nets were held in December, totaling 5.75 hours, and repeater maintenance on the 146.685 repeater totaled 20.5 hours, for a total of 26.25 man hours reported for ARES. There were no Skywarn nets. He performed maintenance on the 146.685 repeater. He ran the generator for 35 minutes, and the fuel level was at 84%.

In 2024 there were a total of 28 ARES nets, with 238 check-ins. The average number of check-ins was 8.5, with a maximum of 11 and a minimum of 6. Barry reported 74.25 man hours for the nets; 40.75 hours for training; 110.25 hours for Skywarn; and 59.75 hours for tower and repeater work.

Barry reported three weekly nets were held in January, totaling 5.5 hours, and repeater maintenance on the 146.685 repeater totaled 13.75 hours, for a grand total of 19.25 man hours reported for ARES. There were no Skywarn nets.

He did not perform normal repeater maintenance at the 146.685 repeater due to the generator being down. It had a bad water sensor in the radiator, which caused it to not run as it thought it was low on water. After the sensor was replaced, the generator ran fine; then the battery charging circuit quit working. The fuel level was at 84%.

Barry noted that he has bought two surge protectors in the last two months, and we lost another surge protector to the ice storm. He worked with David Obergoenner on the KRCU transmitter and helped him get the main transmitter back on the air. They had blown several fuses in the main transmitter's power supply and one of their PA modules (an output transistor). Once that was replaced they were back up on full power.

The 444.200 repeater power supply failed when the surge protector blew out. Kirk Barks, WTØU, and Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, replaced it with one that was used with the club's old 146.685 Motorola repeater.

New Business

There will be a Skywarn storm spotter training session on Monday, March 3, at 6 p.m. at the Jackson Civic Center. This is the same time as our club meeting, but feel free to attend the spotter training. Registration is required: www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining.

There will also be an Earthquake Summit on Tuesday, March 18. It will be held at the Osage Center in Cape Girardeau and will start at 7:30 a.m., ending at 4 p.m. Part of the meeting will include ham radio's role in such an event. [Register at https://sema.dps.mo.gov/earthquake_preparedness/summit.php]

Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, reported that the Collinsville hamfest was well attended; 7 of our members were there. There are fewer hamfests than ever before; they are not as well attended, and prices are rising. The next hamfest will be at Godfrey, Illinois, on Saturday, March 15, starting at 7 a.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door, and tables are \$12.

Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, noted that the Boy Scout merit badge event on January 4 was very successful and that 23 Scouts earned their badges. He announced that if one of the Scouts is interested enough in ham radio to get his license, and shows proof of that license, the club will give him/her a UV5RM Baofeng handheld.

Larry announced that the EchoLink demo has been postponed to March or April, as well as a discussion for the date of a spring fox hunt for May or June.

He also announced that the Guardians of Liberty, formerly We The People, have asked us to attend their meeting on Tuesday, March 4, to present a program on ham radio. Barry Doyle, ACØWL, Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, and Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, will be attending, and any other ham is certainly welcome to attend as well.

Larry asked if the club would be interested in holding a health and safety net on a monthly basis. Betsy VanGennip, KDØQCY, said she would look into Jodie Rouse's old list of participants to see who is still around.

Judy Bradley, KCØWXS, reported that Larry Fluegge, KØRKW, is recuperating at the Lutheran Home. He would be pleased to receive any phone calls from members, but phone calls should be made in the evenings since he is in rehab during the day.

Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, announced that our next club meeting will be held on Monday, March 3, 2025.

The February meeting of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club was adjourned at 1914.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Chiles, ACØCU
Secretary, SEMOARC