

Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of January 8, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club was called to order on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 1830 by President Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, with 21 members 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 \$20,179.05. She wrote a check in the amount of \$20 to the Missouri Repeater Council for registration for the 146.685 and 146.820 repeaters, and she deposited \$175 in membership fees, leaving a balance of \$20,334.05.

Old Business

Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, reminded everyone that the Collinsville, Illinois, Winterfest will be held on January 27 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. He also mentioned that he has WAS cards as an aid if anyone is interested in working for a Worked All States award.

Ernie announced that the MARAC (Mobile Amateur Radio Awards Club) Board has been discussing the possibility of the club assuming the USACA (USA Counties Award) award program if the *CQ Magazine* ceases to exist. One suggestion was that the club could approach ARRL about a partnership in promoting the UCACA award program with a tie-in to the ARRL POTA program. Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, read a notice on the ARRL webpage (<https://www.arrl.org/news/status-of-cq-magazine>) about *CQ Magazine*'s delayed print subscriptions. Apparently there are plans to get the 2023 November and December issues to the readership "as soon as circumstances permit."

Barry Doyle, ACØWL, reported two weekly nets were held in December, totaling 6.25 hours. Repeater maintenance on the 146.685 repeater totaled 2 hours, and 8.25 hours were reported for ARES.

Barry visited the 146.685 repeater site and ran the normal tests; both the 440.200 and 146.685 repeaters were operating normally. The generator started on the first try, and its fuel level was at 60%. Barry also did some maintenance work for the tower engineer. Because the pager equipment in the room next to ours was whistling when he arrived, Barry contacted David Obergoenner, who asked him to power fail the UPS to manually bring it back up. Due to several consecutive power failures, the KRCU transmitter couldn't reset anymore, and the manual power fail corrected the problem.

Barry reported the 2023 ARES statistics. There were 28 ARES nets held during the year, with 210 check-ins for an average of 7.5 check-ins per net. The maximum number of check-ins was 11 and the minimum was 3. A total of 321 ARES man hours was reported for the year, of which 54.75 hours were for the weekly nets; 19 were for training; 217.25 were for Skywarn; and 30 were for tower and repeater work.

Barry also discussed the weather chart he created in 1996. The average temperature in 1996 was 57.93° and now is 58.05°, a difference of 0.12°. 2014 was the coolest year, 1998 was the warmest, and 2023 was the 3rd warmest.

New Business

Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, announced that after our meeting, Ron Morris, ADØBY, will give a demonstration on DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) radios. If there is time, Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, will do field strength and power testing.

Larry brought up the subject of fox hunts, and after some discussion it was decided that we would have a mobile hunt in late April or early May, and then a local park hunt in late September or early October. Larry also mentioned Field Day, held the last weekend of June, and that we will discuss the event as the date gets closer. The Stars and Stripes Museum was also discussed as a Special Event Station (SES) to be held in late spring or early summer, but this needs to be coordinated with the Museum director before we can proceed further.

Russell Goss, KD9FAL, reported that he taught at the Boy Scouts' STEM University on Saturday, held at the Southeast Missouri State University campus. Two sessions were held during the day to help Scouts earn their radio merit badges. There was a 2-hour lecture and a 30-minute radio activity, followed by an actual radio contact with several of our club members. During those two sessions, a total of 19 Scouts received their merit badges.

Barry Doyle, ACØWL, reported that there is a disturbing trend on FT8 whereby Technicians, who do not have privileges on FT8, are working stations. Be sure to check the caller's status before you respond to them on FT8. In response to that, Ron Morris, ADØBY, mentioned that Baofeng is selling HT radios for families to talk with each other – without a legal license.

Barry also noted that the ARRL Volunteer Monitor Program not only corrects radio misconduct but also offers positive feedback to those who are exemplary in their on-air operations.

Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, reported that regardless of mode, you still must give your call sign every ten minutes.

Ed Myers, ADØWN, announced that thousands of POTA (Parks On The Air) have been added this year, and Ed has recently helped add 5 of them. There were only 4 parks in Cape Girardeau County, but now there are 3 more, and Perry County, which formerly had none, now has 3. There are also new ones in Scott County and further down into New Madrid County.

Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, announced that our next club meeting will be held on Monday, February 5, 2024.

The January meeting of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club was adjourned at 1923.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Chiles, ACØCU
Secretary, SMOARC