

Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of March 4, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club was called to order on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 1830 by President Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, with 28 members and 2 guests present. Guests were Arthur Myracle and William Clark.

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 \$20,434.05. She deposited \$355 in 14 membership fees plus a \$5 donation, and she wrote one check for \$23.17 to GoDaddy for our club domain name, leaving a balance of \$20,765.88.

Old Business

Barry Doyle, ACØWL, reported 3 weekly nets were held in January, totaling 6 man hours. Repeater maintenance for the 146.685 repeater was 1 hour, and maintenance on the 146.820 repeater was 2 hours, totaling 9 man hours for ARES. There were no Skywarn nets. He performed the normal tests on the 440.200 and 146.685 repeaters, and both were operating normally. The generator overcrank horn was going off at the repeater site and he reported it to engineer David Obergoenner. The generator started on the second try and was run for 23 minutes; its fuel level was at 58%.

Barry also reported 4 weekly nets were held in February, totaling 14.25 man hours. Repeater maintenance for the 146.685 repeater was 1 hour, totaling 15.25 man hours for ARES. There were no Skywarn nets. He performed the normal tests on the 440.200 and 146.685 repeaters and both were operating normally. The generator started on the second try and was run for 25 minutes, and the fuel level was still at 58%.

Barry announced that a basic weather-spotter training session will be held on Monday, March 18, at 6 p.m. at the Jackson Civic Center. An elite Skywarn spotter training session will be held on Tuesday, April 2, at 6 p.m. at the Osage Center in Cape Girardeau; this session is for those who have already taken the basic spotter course and is more into meteorology. Registration is required for both: www.weather.gov/pah/spottertraining.

There was no report from the Office of Emergency Management.

New Business

Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, announced that Bob Heil, K9EID, is a silent key. Bob was a multi-talented man who was a great friend to ham radio.

Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, reported that next hamfest will be the Lewis and Clark club hamfest in Godfrey, Illinois, on March 23; the Memphis Freefest in Bartlett, Tennessee, on April 6; and the River Hills club hamfest in Perryville, Missouri, on April 20. He noted that April 6 is also one of the two days that the Missouri QSO party will be occurring. A notice was sent to all club members regarding the MOQP that will be held on April 6 – 7.

Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, asked club members if there was any interest in holding a tailgate before one of our club meetings later this year. The general feeling was positive, so he asked everyone to think more about it and he will reintroduce the topic at the April meeting.

Kirk Barks, WTØU, gave a presentation on how cell towers work and how to understand the limitations and problems with cell phones. Originally each cell phone company had its own towers. Spaces are now leased from tower companies, so there can be several carriers on one tower. There may be several different towers in an area, so if something happens to only one tower, all phone companies are not necessarily down. Conversely, if several companies are on one tower, they could all be down at once. An earthquake could take out all towers in an area, and this is where the ham radio can be used to communicate to state officials.

Neil LaVanchy, ACØUT, reported that the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) is a great way to work on CW. They work at about 13 – 15 WPM, and they have Elmers to help. Their suggested operating frequencies may be found at https://www.qsl.net/n4emp/SKCC_Freqs.pdf.

Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, announced that our next club meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, 2024.

The March meeting of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club was adjourned at 1924.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Chiles, ACØCU
Secretary, SEMOARC