

Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club

Minutes of November 4, 2024

The monthly meeting of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club was called to order on Monday, November 4, 2024, at 1830 by President Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, with 22 members and 1 guest present. Our guest for the evening was Mark Randol, AE5SJ.

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 \$18,134.46. Because there were no debits or credits, the balance remains at \$18,134.46.

Old Business

Barry Doyle, ACØWL, reported that four weekly nets were held in October, totaling 13.25 hours, and repeater maintenance on the 146.685 repeater totaled 1 hour, for a grand total of 14.25 man hours reported for ARES. There were no Skywarn nets. He performed maintenance on the 146.685 repeater. He ran the generator for 25 minutes, and the fuel level remained at 87% which will allow the generator to run for about 18 days. The UPS dropped to 71 minutes of power during the 3-minute key down test.

Barry announced that on November 2 our new Kenwood 146.685 repeater package was installed by Kirk Barks, WTØU, Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, Larry Rickman, KDØLBL, and Barry Doyle, ACØWL. Signal reports are showing better audio quality and better coverage, and overall everyone is very happy with the results. The deep cycle battery is not connected yet, and we have only 40 minutes of run time on the UPS available, but Kirk is designing a relay system that would switch to the deep cycle battery automatically in the event that the UPS runs out of power.

There are several notable improvements with this new system. Announcements will no longer interfere during a Skywarn net because they will automatically stop when it is keyed up. Announcements are set up on a timer for several times a day, but messages can also be keyed up manually. Another nice feature is that the repeater quickly resets after the courtesy beep. If anyone interferes with the repeater, we have the ability to shut it down and bring it back up after the interference has stopped.

New Business

Ernie Chiles, WØRMS, reported that we are in a holding pattern for hamfests; the next one is at Collinsville, Illinois, on January 18, 2025.

Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, commented on ham radio etiquette, noting that the FCC requires that we give our call sign every 10 minutes, as well as at the end of each transmission. He also mentioned that EchoLink is becoming more popular, and he would like to have an EchoLink demonstration on how to set up a phone to do that.

Voting was done by paper ballot for the 2024 Ham of the Year, which will be awarded at the Christmas party.

Larry announced that we will vote on the 2025 officers at the December meeting. Judy Bradley, KCØWXS, will be stepping down as Treasurer, and Karen Brewington, KDØJMO, has agreed to be a nominee for that position. If anyone else wishes to be a nominee for any of the offices, please announce that at the December meeting.

Ed Myers, ADØWN, reminded everyone of our Christmas party at BG's Deli in Cape Girardeau, to be held on Saturday, December 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you would like to be a part of the gift exchange – under \$10 – please mark the tag with Male, Female, or Either (or leave the tag blank).

Larry Mohundro, KEØTGI, announced that our next club meeting will be held on Monday, December 2, 2024.

Kirk Barks, WTØU, gave a CHIRP demonstration; CHIRP is a free tool for programming radios and can be downloaded on your computer. The most important piece of equipment, other than the radio and computer, is the programming cable; the cheap cables often don't work, so you need to pay for quality – check on line for the recommended BlueMax49ers cable.

Google Download – CHIRP and click on the site. Connect the cable to the radio, connect to the computer, and turn the radio on. Download and follow the directions, then fill in the chart with the frequencies you wish to use. When you are finished, be sure to save the profile. CHIRP is a great tool for quickly programming a radio because of the time it saves compared to keying the information manually.

The November meeting of the Southeast Missouri Amateur Radio Club was adjourned at 1946.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Chiles, ACØCU
Secretary, SEMOARC