

Mercer County Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2011

The first formal meeting of the Mercer County Amateur Radio Club was called to order at 6:30 PM on the above date. Those in attendance were as follows:

- Glenn Phillips, N4VAY
- Michael Sims, KE4YUC
- Chuck Bugg, KK4EYF
- Wayne Hager, KD4CSX
- Linda Hager, KD4CSY
- Donnie Sims, KF4ALR
- Ben Sears
- Willie McFerron
- Andrew Garza
- Mark Ulanday

Please note that no officers had been elected at this point in the meeting, and there are no minutes to be read from any previous meeting. Accordingly, there was no Treasurer's report, Secretary's report, or old business to discuss.

New Business

- Name of the Club – the members present agreed that the name of the new Club shall be "Mercer County Amateur Radio Club."
- Officer Elections – the members present elected the following persons to hold office in the Club:
 - President – Mike Sims, KE4YUC
 - Vice President – Glenn Phillips, N4VAY
 - Secretary – Ben Sears
 - Treasurer – Willie McFerron
 - Trustee – Glenn Phillips, N4VAY
- Mike, KE4YUC, discussed bylaws for the Club, a copy of which will be emailed to all members during the following week.
- Repeaters
 - Mike, KE4YUC, discussed the 2-meter repeater project. Mike has received a "Report of Repeater Status" form from Jerry, K4TG, regarding the 145.390/144.790 repeater pair. This form will be submitted to the SouthEastern Repeater Association (SERA) frequency coordinator when the Club applies for coordination for the above repeater pair and will give the Club first access to this repeater pair which was recently vacated by the Anderson County Radio Club

(KY4LAW). Mike stated that we should likely have no trouble getting coordinated on these frequencies; they have been coordinated in Lawrenceburg for several years.

- Glenn, N4VAY, stated that he recently spoke with Rodney, WA4BCT, regarding locations for the new 2-meter repeater. The Club is going to be able to use the existing coax and antenna at the McCroskey Pike water tower. The club may consider moving the repeater to the McAfee Fire Department once the communications tower has been erected there. Unfortunately, the generator at the McCroskey Pike site is inoperable and cannot be reasonably repaired. The McAfee FD site will have backup power in the near future. Glenn states that he now has a trailer for his tractor and will be able to start digging for the new tower in the spring.
- Mike, KE4YUC, discussed controllers for the new repeater. Mike presented documents pertaining to two possibilities, the Pion & Simon Electronics PSE-508-2 and the NHRC-4/NHRC-M2/SC controller and interface board. Both of these controllers are specifically designed for our GE Mastr II repeater. Details about these devices will be emailed to the members.
- An EF Johnson[®] CR1010 UHF repeater has been donated to the Club. The repeater includes a factory installed receiver, power amplifier, two exciters (transmitters), and a basic controller that allows for programmable CTCSS and CW ID functions. The repeater is complete with the exception of a duplexer. Mike, KE4YUC, is going to research this repeater and determine if it is suitable for use in the 440 MHz ham band.
- Club members discussed the purpose of ham radio, accessing area repeaters, and the possibility of starting a license exam course in the near future.
- Blue Zoom WiFi is a wireless broadband ISP which is located directly across the street from the Club's meeting place, the McAfee Fire Department. Glenn, N4VAY, has been in discussion with this company regarding use of the Fire Department's tower for Blue Zoom's equipment and antennas once the tower is in place. High speed Internet access at the Fire Department may allow the Club to connect the repeater(s) to Echolink or a similar repeater linking service.
- Glenn, N4VAY, reports that Mercer County Fire Protection District members who obtain their amateur radio license will be allowed to have local ham radio frequencies programmed into their VHF fire department radios.

Presentation

Donnie, KF4ALR, brought a Baofeng UV-3R Mark II dual band handheld radio to the meeting. The members looked the radio over, including a demonstration of the built-in flashlight and other functions. More information about how to obtain one of these radios will be emailed to club members.

The next Club meeting date was set for December 14th, 2011 at 6:30 PM at the McAfee Fire Department training room.

The meeting closed at 7:47 PM.