

4/9/2024

The Martin County Amateur Radio Club met at 7pm at the Martin County EMA building. There were 16 people in attendance. Everyone attending the meeting introduced themselves and told where they were from.

The Loogootee repeater, located on the City of Loogootee water tower, was worked on Saturday, March 23rd. Jerry Purcell replaced the current repeater with a loaner replacement while he takes the original for repairs. Paul reported the SWR is really low on the existing antenna and feed line coax. Jerry has software to generate coverage maps for repeaters. Andy will speak to the D10 Alliance to determine who has ownership of the repeater and is responsible for upkeep. Both the cans and duplexer need to be tuned. Andy reported that the City of Loogootee plans to have the water tower where the repeater is located painted soon. He will meet with the City to ensure that our antenna will not be removed. It was suggested that he see if the placement of the antenna can be moved to the top of the tower so the additional Rohn antenna piece can be removed.

It was also reported that sensitivity may be a little low on the Shoals repeater. The feed line and antenna need to be checked. There was a discussion of what happens if digital traffic is interfering with local traffic. Melvin and Reuben can both shut off the digital feature if needed.

Testing dates in nearby communities-May 11th in Jasper, Evansville hosts testing 2 times per month and Boonville hosts testing monthly. Hamstudy.org (a fee is involved) and ham radio prep (free) were mentioned as good training sites for people who wish to study for a test.

May 4th & 5th is the Indiana QSO party.

Reuben has secured MCARC.club and martincountyamateurradioclub.com for the group. A website has been developed-MCARC.club. It was free and has no adds to deal with.

A membership application has been developed. Once a prospective member completes the application it is emailed to board members.

Google Groups has been set up to email information to members. It can store documents in a file in case it is needed again. Andy can add new members to the group as needed.

Reuben has developed a post card he is mailing out to all HAM's in Martin County with an active license. It has an invitation to our monthly meeting and weekly net along with other information.

Reuben provided an update on the weekly net. The first week there were some minor issues that have since been resolved with the repeater. The 2nd net went well. It was suggested that

net control be a shared roll among any members who are interested. A script is available but net control for the evening would be responsible for logging check-ins on a document that can be shared. It was discussed that it would be ideal to do the net on the Loogootee repeater as well until the 2 systems can be linked. The weekly net is on the Shoals repeater Thursday evening at 9:00 pm. After the conclusion of Shoals, a net will be held on the Loogootee repeater.

Jay developed a Facebook page for the group. Meeting dates, events and other information can be shared easily on the page. Both libraries are interested in having an informational session on what HAM radio is.

We need a club call sign. A search of available call signs can be done online or we can apply and be assigned one. Reuben will search for one for the club.

A few possible logos for the club were presented. Members can develop and submit a possible logo. We will vote on them at the next meeting.

By-laws were discussed. Cory presented a draft for review. A group discussion was held with a few suggestions for changes. They will be finalized and emailed out to members to review. They will be presented at the next meeting for a vote.

Cory discussed having a training session with each meeting. Anyone willing to lead a training or has an idea for a topic can let him know.

After Cory presented the information on the club at the Commissioners meeting a write up was in the local newspaper. This generated interest from some potential new members. It also was seen by a writer for Amateur Radio Newsline. Cory was interviewed and information will be featured on an upcoming news article on their website arnewsline.org

Andy announced the EMA will be hosting a Weather Spotters class on April 23rd at the EMA building.

The next meeting of the Martin County Amateur Radio Club will be May 14th at 7:00 pm at the EMA building. The Net will be held weekly on Thursday at 9pm