

5/14/2024

The Martin County Amateur Radio Club met at 7pm at the Martin County EMA building. There were 11 people in attendance.

Congratulations were offered to Garry Smith for receiving his General License and Colonel Child for receiving his Technician License.

Reuben presented information on recent fire damage KA9JML, Wally, had occur at his home in Huntingburg. Wally has been very involved with multiple HAM groups in the area and provided weather updates for many of us as his health allowed. He checked in on the Shoals repeater daily for many years. The fire occurred in the room with his computers and HAM radio so there is fire and water damage to all his equipment. Reuben is seeking donations to provide him with resources to be able to communicate with members of our group and to be able to resume his weather work. Reuben is reaching out to the Patoka Valley Club as well to see if they are willing to participate in Hams helping Hams.

Reuben has the documentation needed to apply for a call sign for our group. He must submit meeting minutes signed by the board members and we will be assigned a call sign. We can then apply for a vanity sign if wanted.

Bylaws were presented by Cory for review. Suggested updates were that bylaws could be changed by a vote of 2/3 majority of the members present at the meeting. Information on dues are as follows: Annual dues of \$20.00 per member are hereby assessed for the purpose of providing funds for expenses. Membership dues are payable at the January meeting. Any member whose dues are not paid by the last day of February is considered inactive and placed on the inactive membership roster. Inactive members have no voting privileges. Termination of membership either by resignation or expulsion will not constitute a refund of dues paid. Dues for new members shall be prorated at \$10.00 for those members joining in the months of June through September. Those members joining in the months of October through December will pay a membership fee of \$20.00 and their membership will include the rest of the current year as well as next year. The Bi laws will be presented at the next meeting for a vote.

The group discussed on the need for a bank account for the dues collected. Julia will check with local banks for more information on fees and minimum balance for a club account.

Cory shared the Amateur Radio Newsline interview from their website arnewsline.org

Reuben got a post card delivered to all HAMs in Martin County with an active license. It has an invitation to our monthly meeting and weekly net along with other information. A few people showed interest in the group after receiving their card.

Paul provided an update on the most recent weekly net. It was suggested that a group text reminder be sent out as a reminder prior to the net and a reminder for the meetings. 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. Reuben discussed the possibility of doing a sky warn net or weather net if severe weather is in the area.

Loogootee repeater update-Cory will check with Jerry to see if he has made any progress on the current equipment. It was stated that new equipment might be necessary to link the Shoals & Loogootee repeaters. Pricing for new equipment was looked at. It was also discussed that if we are going with new equipment, a digital capable repeater would be a benefit. A new installation would probably need new coax, a battery back-up and possibly a tower if we want to choose a new location. Cory will look into grant opportunities for funding for a new equipment. It was also mentioned that upgrading and linking the repeaters would be a benefit for public safety during storms or other emergencies.

A membership application has been developed. Once a prospective member completes the application it is emailed to board members for approval. Once a new member is approved, a welcome email will be sent to the applicant.

A few possible logos for the club were presented. Members present voted and a logo was selected.

Upcoming events: Zenia Ohio is the site for the Dayton Hamvention the weekend of May 15th & 16th. There will be live videos on YouTube.

The next meeting of the Martin County Amateur Radio Club will be June 11th at 7:00 pm at the EMA building. The Net will be held weekly on Thursday at 9pm