

6/11/2024

The Martin County Amateur Radio Club met at 7pm at the Martin County EMA building. There were 15 people in attendance.

Introductions were made by everyone present. Minutes from the 5/14/24 meeting were presented for approval. Paul made a motion to approve the minutes as written. John made a 2nd to the motion and all voted in favor.

Reuben gave an update on donations received through Hams helping Hams for Wally (KA9JML). He received several donations prior to the meeting and additional donations at the meeting.

Reuben has applied for a call sign for our group and paid the \$35 processing fee. He is waiting on the call sign paperwork to arrive and then we can then apply for a vanity sign if wanted.

Bylaws were tabled until we receive the call sign. At that time it will be added to the bylaws and voted on at the next meeting.

The group discussed on the need for a bank account for the dues collected. Julia checked with Crane Credit Union and the club will need to apply for an EIN number before we can open an account. Cory will complete the application.

Cory reported he is starting a folder of all MCARC information and documents. The file will be stored in the EMA director office at the EMA building.

Loogootee repeater update-Cory spoke to Jerry and he suspects that the controller is going bad due to age. Other counties who had the D10 equipment have had the equipment go bad recently due to age. Andy reported that Knox county EMA has similar spare equipment we could use for a back-up if needed. Reuben found info on linking the Shoals & Loogootee repeaters. He may be able to test the current equipment to see if they can be paired without the purchase of new equipment.

Reuben asked the group about continuing FM and Digital formats. Others in the group mentioned they thought it worked and that digital is the future of HAM radio. FM radios are more affordable for entry level HAM's. Those in attendance were OK to continue with both. A few in the group have updated to digital.

Shoals is connected to Indiana Link South so mobile units can travel Evansville and still talk to Shoals. That link can be disconnected at any time. Reuben and Melvin can do it in the event of a local emergency. It is also disconnected automatically for our weekly net on Thursday evening.

The Governor of Indiana signed a proclamation for Amateur Radio Appreciation week June 17th-23rd.

A logo was approved at the last meeting.

Reuben developed a group email reminder for the weekly net and monthly meeting. There isn't an easy way to automatically do a group text. He will continue to email reminders.

The group discussed the need for disconnecting their equipment during storms. Most of the group do not. There is a chance of a lightning strike but most use their equipment in case of emergencies so choose to keep it connected.

A Skywarn net script is being developed. Net control will make announcements for tornado warning. During this time all traffic should be weather related only. HAM's should report funnel clouds, shelf clouds, high wind, hail, heavy rain or severe damage. Net control can report to the National Weather Service. It was discussed not to announce every severe thunderstorm since they occur so frequently. Cory discussed the possibility of assigning areas for spotters to be during the storms and check damage after so it can be reported back to net control. APRS has a tracker feature that can show where HAM's have been. It can also be used to track those using hand-held radios if a search and rescue is necessary. The radio or related equipment must be APRS capable to use the APRS feature. Josh Greene, Martin County Sheriff, offered to utilize a HAM in the 911 dispatch center during emergencies. A station could be set up with a radio and outside antenna where communications could be relayed directly to the 911 dispatchers in case of phone outages or other issues. The cost of setting up a station and what items would be needed was discussed. Signal strength in that area behind the hill was a concern. Josh is willing to work with someone to come by the jail and test signal strength. Reuben will work on this before the next meeting.

It was discussed that Lost River Fire Department assign priority to certain roads to for clearing after storms so that traffic can be restored between the highways in case of other emergencies.

The group discussed the need for battery/generator back-up for the repeaters in the county. Melvin has a generator and can connect the Shoals repeater if he is home.

Field Day is coming up. The group felt we need to plan for that for next year. Any HAM can participate. Reuben suggested that anyone interested visit another group to participate in their activities this year. Groups near us hosting include Patoka Valley, Knox County (Vincennes/Lawrenceville, IL) and Evansville on June 22nd and 23rd.

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

With no other business to discuss, Jay made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Andy made a 2nd to the motion and all voted in favor.