

4/8/2025

The Martin County Amateur Radio Club met at 7:00 pm at the Martin County EMA building. There were 13 people in attendance. Club vice-president Reuben Montgomery called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Paul presented a Technician Class Amateur Radio Licensing Ham Study. It is designed to be a jump start for those wanting to get their license. He showed a method to remember key points needed to pass the test. There are 424 questions in the test pool and 35 questions on the test. Those taking the test must get 26 correct in order to pass.

Cory continued the meeting after the presentation. The group discussed recruiting for people interested in testing. If there is enough interest, Paul will present the Ham Study course.

Minutes from the March meeting were presented for approval. Paul made a motion to approve the minutes. Jay made a 2nd to the motion and all voted in favor.

The treasurer's report is as follows: Julia received dues from a new member so there are 22 paid club members. There is \$440 to be deposited as soon as the bank account is opened. Cory has not heard anything from the IRS so we are still waiting for the number to be issued. Once that information is provided to the bank the account can be completed. Julia will make a deposit at that time. Garry made the motion to approve the treasurer's report. Reuben made a 2nd to the motion. All voted in favor of accepting the treasurer's report.

Old Business: Garry reported that the shirts are not finished yet. He will have them by the next meeting.

Garry is proceeding with the Ham breakfast plans. A date has not been scheduled yet but he will let everyone know during the weekly net. The group decided to meet for breakfast at 8:00 am.

Garry reported an update on Field Day which will be the weekend of June 28th & 29th. The shelter houses at Boggs are already booked for that weekend. He tried to contact the Martin State Forest but had to leave a message. If that isn't available, he will see if we can use the Hindostan shelter house. Paul suggested not doing overnight since it's our first year. There was discussion about available antennas and utilizing more than 1 frequency. Garry would like everyone to make a list of equipment they would be willing to let the club use for Field Day and bring it to the next meeting. The net control will also announce this during the weekly net as a reminder. Flyers and handouts will be developed prior to Field Day.

Barry gave a testing committee update. The committee met and all team members submitted their paperwork to be testers. We should be able to start scheduling testing dates soon. Stephen, N9PE, will have to oversee our first testing session. Our testing site will need to have at least 3 exams per year that must be scheduled by November 1st for the following year. The club can add additional dates to the calendar or reschedule dates if needed. Those wanting to test will need to fill out an application and preregister so the testing committee has the information needed to complete their paperwork ahead of the testing time. Walk-ins can attend on testing dates. Club members administering the Laurel test must have a license category above the level they are testing. Our club currently has at least 5 extra class

license holders. Future testing dates will be chosen to alternate with other surrounding counties so if someone is ready to test, they could easily find an option close to home.

Reuben and Andy provided an update on the application for a linking frequency. They tested 2 possible frequencies. The company setting up the new equipment for the Loogootee repeater needs to know the frequency in order to program the equipment prior to shipping.

Reuben reported that the antenna on the Loogootee repeater has been fixed after the storms. He expressed thanks to Nathan for climbing the tower to fix the antenna.

Reuben reported that the Paoli repeater is back online after many years. Orange county is developing a club utilizing and the old Paoli frequency for their net. Reuben has been in contact with them and is encouraged that other areas are starting to utilize ham radios again. They have their repeaters set up to receive in either digital or FM but to rebroadcast in FM so those without digital radios can hear. Many new hams do not have digital radios and are unable to hear those transmissions if they are broadcast in digital only. The group discussed how this would work with the linking of the 2 Martin County repeaters. Reuben suggested the Loogootee repeater be set up like this. Cory would like Reuben to email this information to club members and we will discuss it at the next meeting. This can't be done on the Shoals repeater due to the Indiana Link South. The group also discussed that in an emergency, everything will be transmitted in FM.

Cory suggested that we try to conclude all meetings by 8:30 to 8:45 in order to keep the meetings from running too long.

Garry reported that he is having antenna issues and isn't able to get into the Loogootee frequency all of the time. Those checking into the net were unable to hear him. When he is net control, he may need someone else to do the net for Loogootee. Paul and John volunteered to cover for Garry if he is unable to conduct the Loogootee net.

The next meeting of the Martin County Amateur Radio Club will be May 13th at 7:00 pm at the EMA Building. The Net will be held weekly on Thursday at 9pm on the Shoals repeater and 9:30 pm for the Loogootee repeater.

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