

5/13/2025

The Martin County Amateur Radio Club met at 7:00 pm at the Martin County EMA building. There were 14 people in attendance. Club vice-president Reuben Montgomery called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm.

Minutes from the April meeting were presented for approval. Nathan made a motion to approve the minutes. Tony made a 2nd to the motion and all voted in favor.

The treasurer's report is as follows: Julia received dues from 22 members. There is \$440 to be deposited as soon as the bank account is opened. Cory has filed a job ticket about our application since we still have not heard anything from the IRS about our EIN number. Once that information is provided to the bank the account can be completed. Julia will make a deposit at that time. Garry gave Julia a \$20 donation at the meeting which brings the total club funds to \$460. John made the motion to approve the treasurer's report. Barry made a 2nd to the motion. All voted in favor of accepting the treasurer's report.

Barry gave a testing committee update. The committee hosted their first test on April 24th. The committee is now registered with Laurel to be an official testing site. The club 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 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. Information on how to contact Barry to set up a testing time or to register for an existing testing time will be shared on our website and social media account. Our testing site is also listed on Laurel. Club members administering the Laurel test must have a license category above the level they are testing. Our club testing committee is Barry, John, Max and Chad. Paul is also a registered VE with Laurel and is willing to assist as needed. The group discussed future testing dates and decided Saturday mornings work best with their schedule. Dates will be scheduled for 2 additional times this year and other testing times can be added if 2 or more people are ready to test. John suggested hosting 1 testing date per quarter. Reuben would like to see it offered monthly. After some discussion, Paul made a motion to schedule 2 additional testing dates this year and add other dates as needed. Andy made a 2nd to the motion. All voted in favor.

Garry reports there were several attended the 1st Ham breakfast. The breakfast will be held on the 1st Saturday of the month at 8:00 am at Stoll's Lakeview Restaurant. The next date will be June 7th.

Reuben said Cory is wanting to move forward with ordering the additional supplies needed for the Loogootee repeater. The previous equipment order has been received and Cory would like to move forward with getting everything installed. Reuben shared information from the tech committee on what is still needed to complete the installation. We will still need to purchase the antenna, coax and brackets to secure it to the tower. The only thing that still needs to be determined is the length of coax to order. The water tower that the antenna is installed on is scheduled to be painted in the future but the group didn't want to wait until after that time to get the new equipment installed. The tech committee will provide Andy with the information on the remaining items needed so he can order them. Nathan reported that the section of tower that is mounted to the water tower catwalk is very secure. He looked at the current installation when he straightened the antenna last month. He said the coax going to the

existing antenna has no extra slack. Installation was discussed and the group decided it would be best to attach the new coax to the existing coax and attach the linking antenna on the tower section below the existing antenna. The linking antenna must be pointed toward the Shoals repeater and installing it at this point should work well.

Garry reported that most of the club logo shirts are complete and were handed out at the meeting. He has spoken to those missing an item and will get it to them ASAP.

Dayton Hamvention is scheduled for this weekend, May 16th through 18th.

Garry reported an update on Field Day which will be the weekend of June 28th & 29th. He filed an application for the Martin shelter houses the Martin State Forest and paid the fee. There was discussion about available antennas and equipment they would be used for Field Day. Andy, Garry, Jay and Paul will all bring equipment. The club will grill hamburgers and hotdogs and have a pitch-in meal at 6pm on the 28th. Garry will provide a cooler of bottled water. It will be decided at the next meeting the hours that Field Day will operate. Garry reported he will be there early on the 28th to begin set up. The group also discussed logging software for those participating in Field Day. No decision was made on logging software. The net control will also announce reminders about field day during the weekly net. Flyers and handouts will be developed prior to Field Day.

An opportunity for Martin County EMA to apply for some free equipment was sent to Andy recently. There are 2 bundles being offered. 1 bundle includes radio equipment and the other bundle includes a tower. The group discussed use of the proposed equipment in areas of the county with little coverage. The group expressed interest in applying for the tower but worry about the added expense of taking the tower down and moving it. Also, if EMA must apply for the tower, it might not be able to be used on private property. The group discussed the possibility of applying for a grant to cover installation costs if we receive the tower. Andy will reach out to the owner and let him know interest in the tower if no one else wants it. Reuben suggested seeing if the owner would consider donating it to the club instead of EMA. If it was donated directly to the club it could be set in whatever location the club chooses.

Paul reports he updated the Technician Class Amateur Radio Licensing Ham Study to include questions from the current testing pool. It is designed to be a jump start for those wanting to get their license. Jay has a few people interested. Paul will schedule the training and it can be added to our web page in case others are interested.

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. The next ham breakfast will be June 7th at 8:00 am at Stoll's Lakeview Restaurant.

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