



# Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC  
2580 University Station  
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: [www.k4msu.com](http://www.k4msu.com)

## MSU ARC Meeting – February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Meeting was called to order by President, Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call & Question of the Night:** Roll call was done and there was no question of the night.

**Program:** Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA, presented an informative program on the history of HAM radio and the progression of the equipment throughout the years and how it has impacted the hobby.

- Bob discussed the different types of radios throughout the course of history, including Hallicrafters, the Morrow Armchair Hamshack, the Conelrad, Heathkits, the Clegg Zeus Transmitter, and other radio equipment or antennas.
- He also explained how the war affected HAM radio.
- Bob also included information about his own personal radios throughout the years. As well as, contributions to the HAM radio world from our very own, Bill Call, KJ4W.

**Vice President's Report:** Diana Mishica, K4IRU, reported that Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, will present the program next month. Bill Call, KJ4W, will present a brief "HAM Bit" next month as well. Don Edwards, K4MKY, suggested that someone present on POTA equipment from minimalistic to extensive set ups.

**Secretary's Report:** Larry Call, KD6UNL, moved that the January meeting minutes be accepted as submitted. Debbie Barton, W8IBT, seconded the motion. Motion was carried.

**Advisor Report:** Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, stated that there is nothing new to report. The university mail system is still messed up but we did have 1 piece of junk mail. Jana advised that she has heard rumors that a new post box office is being built on campus.

**QSL Manager Report:** Debbie Barton, W8IBT, had nothing new to report tonight.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that he has not made any deposits or expended any funds since the January meeting, though he does have some dues money to deposit. Bank balance remains at \$3,364.56. Dues may now be paid for 2024, and we have had 50 members to pay so far.

**System's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that in mid-January the 146.940 repeater operation was switched to the old backup repeater for a couple of weeks so he could remove the remote-control module from the Motorola repeater and repair it. Bill had to replace a bad DTMF Decoder chip. We are back on the Motorola repeater with remote shutdown capability. The Hamlin repeater amplifier has failed again so that repeater is running at reduced power. The antenna SWR seems to be a little high and that may be stressing the amplifier, but he needs to do more testing to know. Other than that the 3 Club repeaters, the 2 APRS digipeaters and the two Winlink systems are all working well at the moment as far as he is aware. Bill has received several "thank you" notes from users of the HF Winlink system saying that it is working well for them and they appreciate it being available.

**VE Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that we did not have a VE session after the January club meeting. As of now, he has had one request for a Technician Class exam for tonight after the meeting.



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**CERT Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that three CERT members plus Josh Kerr, WV4O, managed the Warming Center at the old Racer Arena during the cold spell. There will be a meeting and training session of the CERT group Thursday night of next week, February 15, at 6:00pm here. Jeff Steen will lead a discussion of Donations and Distribution Management and the possible role of CERT in that. Bill expects that the annual statewide Tornado Drill will be held the last week of February or the first week of March, and CERT members who are HAM radio operators will be participating in that as observers. CERT members as well as all HAM radio operators are invited to attend the SkyWarn training on Tuesday evening February 20; please register at NWS to attend that.

**Net Manager Report:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, presented the net reports as Net Manager, Chuck Williams, K4CHW, was not present tonight:

- *January Net Report:*
  - 5 sessions
  - 132 stations
  - 233 minutes
  - 512.6 operator hours

**Web Manager Report:** Josh Kerr, WV4O, has nothing new to report tonight.

**Field Day Report:** Nothing new to report tonight. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, mentioned that we may need to find a new Field Day manager if Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, is not able to help with Field Day this year.

### **Special Events:**

- ***SkyWarn Spotter Training:*** Will be held on February 20, 6:00-9:00pm in the Freed Curd Auditorium. A link to register is available on the Paducah National Weather Service website
- ***Memphis Free Fest:*** April 6, 2024
- ***Spring Fox Hunt:*** A discussion was held and April 20<sup>th</sup> will be our Spring Fox Hunt. We will gather at 1:00 p.m. and the hunt will begin at 2:00 p.m. George James, KY4GMJ, or Don Edwards, K4MKY, will verify that we can continue to meet at the American Legion building.
- ***2024 ARRL Field Day:*** Will be on June 22-23. Ian Albertson, KQ4NLH, will confirm that we have the MSU Arboretum reserved for those dates and was given a check to pay the "Friends of the Arboretum" membership dues.
- ***KYPOTA:*** is August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Cherokee Park/Kenlake State Park
  - Additional locations as in years past will be:
    - Colson Overlook in LBL
    - Columbus-Belmont State Park
    - KY Dam Village
  - John Coyle, W4PJC, stated that the new rules have been posted on the website and the special callsigns for the event have been requested



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## Announcements:

- **Officer Elections:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that club officer elections will be held at the April club meeting. You must be a current member to hold an office and to vote in officer elections.
- **Antenna Tower Trailer Project:** John Coyle, W4PJC, thanked Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU, for the use of his property as a location to work on the club's antenna trailer. He stated that lots of progress is being made in getting the tower operational, including Bill tracking down some issues with a bad capacitor that kept tripping the breaker. If anyone would like to help work on the trailer, you can contact John and/or Mitchell.
- Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, relayed a special thanks from Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN, for all the positive thoughts and prayers.
- Bill Call, KJ4W, mentioned that he had talked to Dan Reimer, W9YZR, and he is doing very well.
- George James, KY4GMJ, gave a brief update on Gary Cooper, KJ4EBQ.

**Old Business:** There was no old business to discuss at this time.

## New Business:

- **Field Day:**
  - Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, mentioned that we may need to find a new Field Day manager if Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, is not able to help with Field Day this year.
  - Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, initiated a discussion about finding a new location for Field Day that will accommodate the trailer tower. It was decided that we would continue using the Arboretum this year since it is a convenient, central location.
  - Ian Albertson, KQ4NLH, will confirm that we have the MSU Arboretum reserved for June 22-23 and was given a check to pay the "Friends of the Arboretum" membership dues.

**New Members:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported that there were three new member applications tonight for Chris Brisendine, KI4GYW; Rebekah Burgess, no callsign; and Eli Day, no callsign. James Flood, KJ4TKL, motioned to approve the new member and Bill Call, KJ4W, seconded the motion. The new members were approved unanimously.



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**Attendance:** 44 people

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Bill Call, KJ4W

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE

Corbie Orten, KO4ARX

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

Robin Bracken, K4MNM

John Coyle, W4PJC

Charles Isele, N1CDK

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Paul Hendrix, KJ4BCF

Jessica Hendrix, KQ4FDS

Donna Pursifull, K4DPE

George Rob, KK4SRR

Joe Wray, WD4GX1

Mark Germain, KC9FOC

Bonnie Germain, no callsign

Matt Freeman, WX4WKY

Cory Wentz, KD9ISM

Jack Ellis, K9JLE

Randall Winchester, WD4HVA

James Flood, KJ4TKL

Dale Barrett, WB7D

Valerie Barrett, KG4OCJ

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Diana Mishica, K4IRU

Michael Inman, K4MWI

Ian Albertson, KQ4NLH

Rebekah Burgess, no callsign

Justin McCann, no callsign

Jackson McCann, no callsign

Todd Carr, W4TZX

“Pepper” Sullivan, WF1RE

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

George James, KY4GMJ

Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU

Eli Day, no callsign

Chris Brisendine, KI4GYW

Ward Adams, no callsign

John Hart, KO4ZE

*Corbie Orten, KO4ARX, Secretary*