



# 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 – March 5, 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:**

- Bill Call, KJ4W, did a couple of “HAM Bits” tonight.
  - The first one was “Wait a Second.” In which Bill explained and demonstrated how one should wait a moment before speaking after pushing the transmit but on their radio. This allows the system time to activate and the beginning part of your transmission is not cut off like it would be if you begin speaking as soon as you key the microphone.
  - The second “HAM Bit” was about the “Crosspoint Switch Failure” that we experienced with the 443.800 repeater in February. He explained and illustrated how the crosspoint switch works with the radios and repeater.
- Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, presented an informative presentation on “Common Mode Current.”
  - He explained what it is:
    - In the balanced or differential mode, current down on conductor is equal and opposite the current in the other conductor. When extraneous current is introduced into one of the conductors, the mode becomes unbalanced.
  - Stuart went over what causes common mode current:
    - Even “balanced” antennas such as a dipole may not truly be balanced. There are many factors that could cause it to be unbalanced.
  - He reviewed a few types of common mode current chokes and baluns that are easy to build yourself:
    - 1:1 Current Balun
    - Ferrite Bead Choke
    - Air Choke or Ugly Balun
    - Coiled Coax Cable
  - Stuart explained and demonstrated how to make some of these chokes and baluns.
  - He reviewed some results of how these chokes and baluns work.
  - Stuart concluded that:
    - Common mode current occurs in the outermost surface of the coax cable shield and has many causes.
    - It may be harmful to your radio.
    - There are different kinds of toroids, chokes, and baluns that can be used.
    - Be brave and make one yourself, you may be surprised at the results.

**Vice President’s Report:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, advised that Diana Mishica, K4IRU, is out of town but has nothing new to report tonight.

**Secretary’s Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, moved that the February meeting minutes be accepted as submitted. Chuck Williams, K4CHW, seconded the motion. Motion was carried.



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**Advisor Report:** Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, stated that there is nothing new to report. The university mail system is still not working as it should be.

**QSL Manager Report:** Debbie Barton, W8IBT, had nothing new to report tonight. Debbie suggested that we temporarily move have the mail sent to 105 S. 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Murray KY until Murray State University can get their mail system working properly.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reports that he made deposits (mostly dues) for \$705.00 and for \$70.00. A check for \$100.00 was written to the MSU Foundation for the Arboretum dues. A debit card payment for \$7.00 was made to W5YI-VEC for VE fees. Bank balance is currently \$4032.56. Bill reminded everyone that dues may now be paid for 2024, and 56 members have paid as of tonight's meeting.

**System's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that we had an "interesting" failure with the 443.800 repeater on February 13, which produced a white noise that drowned out all other audio. That failure was found to be an integrated circuit used as a "crosspoint switch" in the repeater controller. That IC is obsolete. One was found at an eBay vendor in China, and installing it on March 3 fixed the problem. The cost was \$10.71 which Bill has not yet reimbursed himself for. The Hamlin repeater amplifier has been repaired again and back up to full power on March 4. Bill has had to restart the computers used for both HF Winlink and 2m Winlink after they stopped. 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.

One other note, Bill attended the Board meeting of the SERA (SouthEast Repeater Association) last weekend in Pigeon Forge, TN. It was the first in-person Board meeting that has been held since COVID. Bill reports that they did a lot of organizational work but no big changes in coordination procedures.

**VE Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, advised that there was a VE session after the February club meeting, at which Ward Adams, KQ4OPJ, of Cadiz passed his Technician Class exam with 100%. He is back tonight to attempt to upgrade to General.

## **CERT Report:**

- It was reported that there was a meeting and training session of the CERT group on February 15, at 6:00pm here. Jeff Steen led a discussion of Donations and Distribution Management and the possible role of CERT in that. Josh Kerr, WV4O, advised that the CERT team will start holding quarterly meetings and have started a VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in a Disaster) group. A couple of follow-up meetings to expand on that development are being held.
- Several CERT members as well as other HAM radio operators attended the Skywarn training on Tuesday evening February 20.
- The annual statewide Tornado Drill will be held tomorrow, March 6, at 9:07am and CERT members who are HAM radio operators will be participating in that as observers.



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**Net Manager Report:** Net Manager, Chuck Williams, K4CHW, presented the net reports tonight:

- ***February Net Report:***
  - 4 sessions
  - 112 stations
  - 194 minutes
  - 362.13 operator hours

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

**Field Day Report:** Rich Palmer, KM4JZX, will continue to be our Field Day coordinator this year. Field day will be on June 22-23 at the MSU Arboretum. We are trying to get as many Murray State students involve as we can.

**Special Events:**

- ***West TN HAMFest and SwapMeet:*** March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. at the National Guard Armory at 1460 Industrial Park Dr., Trenton, TN 38382
- ***Memphis Free Fest:*** April 6, 2024
- ***Spring Fox Hunt:*** April 20<sup>th</sup> will be our Spring Fox Hunt. at 1:30 p.m. 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 the main location will be at Cherokee Park/Kenlake State Park using callsign K4MSU.
  - Additional locations as in years past will be at:
    - Colson Overlook in LBL using callsign K4Y
    - Columbus-Belmont State Park using callsign K4E
    - KY Dam Village using callsign W4GZ

**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:*** Jack Ellis, K9JLE, advised that the trailer project is going well. Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU, asked Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, to remind everyone of the next work day on the trailer.

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



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## **New Business:**

- Bob Atkinson, K9OIM, recommended that the club rebroadcast the American Radio Newline on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. After some discussion, the club decided that we will rebroadcast it on Friday evenings at 7:00 p.m. on the 440 repeater and Bob will be in charge of running it.
- Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, asked if we could have a “HAM Bit” as a refresher of the SkyWarn protocols at the next meeting. Bill Call, KJ4W, stated that he would present that or have John Hart, KO4ZE, give that presentation. Michael Inman, K4MWI, asked if there was a copy of the protocol on the website and Josh Kerr, WV4O, confirmed that there is.

**New Members:** Corbie Orten, KO4ARX, reported that there was one new member applications tonight for Ward Adams, KQ4OPJ. Bill Call, KJ4W, motioned to approve the new member and Debbie Barton, W8IBT, seconded the motion. The new members were approved unanimously.

Jana Hackathorn, KN4MWE, moved to adjourn the meeting; Josh Kerr, WV4O, seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.



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**Attendance:** 32 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

Charles Isele, N1CDK

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Paul Hendrix, KJ4BCF

Jessica Hendrix, KQ4FDS

Mark Germain, KC9FOC

Matt Freeman, WX4WKY

Jack Ellis, K9JLE

Randall Winchester, WD4HVA

James Flood, KJ4TKL

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Michael Inman, K4MWI

“Pepper” Sullivan, WF1RE

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no callsign

Eli Day, no callsign

Chris Brisendine, KI4GYW

Ward Adams, KQ4OPJ

Chuck Williams, K4CHW

Van Allen, no callsign

Michelle Allen, no callsign

Michael Jackson, KC1UFQ

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Corbie Orten, KO4ARX, Secretary*