



# 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 – January 7, 2025

The meeting was called to order by President John Coyle, W4PJC, at 7:00 p.m.

He noted that it was the 769<sup>th</sup> meeting of the MSU Amateur Radio Club.

**Roll Call & Question of the Night:** Name, call sign, and did you get new equipment over the holidays?

**Notes:** Cory Wentz, KD9ISM, has invited members to participate in the Mayfield Amateur Radio Society's Winter Field Day. It will run from 10AM on January 25<sup>th</sup> through 3:59PM on the 26<sup>th</sup> from the Sedalia Volunteer Fire Department station at 5414 State Route 97 in Sedalia. They have a heated building and will be having a lunch potluck on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, and chili and sandwiches for lunch on Sunday. Let Cory know if you are coming to eat, and all are welcome to participate in the field day.

The Christmas Potluck was at Hop Hound Restaurant on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA, was named Ham of The Year. Congratulations Bob!

Float decorating was December 5<sup>th</sup>. The parade was the 7<sup>th</sup>. Kids along the route really seemed to enjoy hearing themselves over the speakers when asked to say Merry Christmas or hello through the handhelds of members marching with the float.

**Programs:** Bill Call, KJ4W, presented on How to Get Started with Ham Radio – First Steps. His full presentation will be available on the [WWW.K4MSU](http://WWW.K4MSU) club site. He walked through radio purchase considerations of type, brand, and cost and provided some suggestions and warnings along the way. First radio recommendations ranged from the \$16.90 Baofeng UV-5R, which is cheap but works reasonably well, to the Yaesu FT60-R that costs \$159.95 and is a great handheld. He drilled into cost/performance/purchase considerations of mobile and base units, discussed connecting with repeaters, and suggested other ways to learn more and be involved, including: checking into nets, attending club meetings, participating in the June 28-29 field day and fox hunts, contests, Kentucky POTA August 9<sup>th</sup>, the June 7-8 Kentucky QSO Party, Ham Fests like the March 22 Cave City event, Elmer Days, Christmas party, Skywarn training, and attending PAARS meetings. Work on license upgrades, listening for the ISS, and more! See the full presentation or let an officer know if you need an emailed copy.

**Vice President's Report:** Diana Mishica, K4IRU, noted that Josh Kerr, WV40, would be our speaker at the February meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, moved for approval of the November minutes. Debbie Barton, W8IBT, seconded. Motion passed. Note that there was no December meeting due to the Christmas party.

**Advisor's Report:** Michael Inman, K4MWI, was absent. No report.

**QSL Manager's Report:** Debbie Barton, W8IBT, said that no QSL cards had been received.

She also reported on the Santa project where over \$500 was donated and spent on 8 children. They were able to fulfill all specific requests except for one specific sweatshirt.

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, made one deposit in November for \$65 and one today for \$163. We have had the following disbursements since the November meeting: \$7 to W5YI Licensing for VE fees in November and \$70 in December; \$250 to Debbie to purchase Christmas Gifts for the Laker-Tiger Christmas Project. Bank balance is \$3,331.05. We ended 2024 with 81 paid members. That is a good



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membership number, but it is 15 fewer members than we finished 2023 with. Bill is accepting 2025 dues now.

**Systems' Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, noted that the 443.800MHz repeater developed a problem this morning, with a lot of white noise during conversations. It turned out that the crosspoint IC in the repeater controller had failed again—that's 3 times within a year. Bill at first thought he had used all the ICs that he had bought for this, but then remembered that he had placed another order for spares, so he got the replacement done this afternoon and the repeater seems to be working properly again. Bill doesn't know why these ICs are failing so often. He had to restart the HF Winlink computer twice in November. Other than that the Winlink systems have been stable. He has not replaced the HF Winlink computer. The Health Care Coalition folks—this is the group who donated most of the Winlink equipment to us—have suggested that we should consider moving the 2m Winlink gateway to be at the same location with the HF gateway. The reason for that is that in the event of Internet failure, area hams could leave e-mails on the 2m station which the HF station could then forward via HF radio. It's a complicated setup. Bill told them he would study on it if they would help us again with equipment; he would like to leave the existing 2m station set up on Faculty Hall as a digipeater, since that location would be higher than we would have here at the I&T building.

**VE Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that the Fall Technician Class license course ended with 8 passing their Technician Class exams! 7 of these have received their callsigns so far, and the 8<sup>th</sup> one should be issued soon. There should be at least a couple more from that class who will be testing tonight or next month. Josh Kerr, WV40, and Bill will probably offer a General Class course but not until February. W5YI Licensing, our VEC, is encouraging us to look at purchasing tablet computers and go paperless for the exam sessions; or at least for the students to fill in the Form 605 applications. This would speed processing up at the VEC and should reduce the number of typos made when the VEC types in their information. Bill is not ready to jump on this yet but will be looking into it. The VE fees we collect should cover the cost.

**CERT Report:** Josh Kerr, WV40, noted that there had been no recent CERT activations. There is a warming center open at the VFW behind Sirloin Stockade. CERT members should stay tuned in case extra volunteers are needed there. Let him know if you are interested.

The Skywarn Weather Spotter training is February 18 and will be provided by the National Weather Service. It will be at the CFSB on Sycamore, second floor, at 6PM. Preregistration is required but the course is free and highly recommended. See the link on [WWW.K4MSU](http://WWW.K4MSU) or the Calloway County Emergency Management Facebook page. If you register through the [weather.gov/PAH](http://weather.gov/PAH) page, be sure to select the MURRAY training in the dropdown.

**Net Manager Report:** John Coyle, W4PJC, presented the November 2024 Net Report as Net Manager, Chuck Williams, K4CHW, is not present tonight.

- **4 Sessions**
  - 102 operators
  - 196 minutes
  - 333.2 operator hours
- **Details**



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- 11/04 29 stations for 52 minutes
- 11/11 24 stations for 59 minutes
- 11/18 24 stations for 40 minutes
- 11/25 25 stations for 45 minutes
- **SKYWARN Net**
  - None for November

He also presented the December 2024 Net Report

- **5 Sessions**
  - 120 operators
  - 217 minutes
  - 434 operator hours
- **Details**
  - 12/02 25 stations for 36 minutes
  - 12/09 23 stations for 43 minutes
  - 12/16 23 stations for 54 minutes
  - 12/23 24 stations for 53 minutes
  - 12/30 25 stations for 31 minutes
- **SKYWARN Net**
  - None for December

**Web Manager Report:** No report.

**Special Events:**

- Winter Field Day is January 25-26 but there are no current club plans for participation
  - See the earlier note about the invitation to join with the MARS club in Sedalia
- Weather spotter free class February 18 (prior registration required)
- Cave City Ham Fest March 22
- Spring Foxhunt tentatively scheduled for April 5<sup>th</sup>
- Kentucky QSO Party June 7-8
- Field Day June 28-29
- Kentucky POTA August 9

**Old Business:**

John Coyle, W4PJC, is seeing if he can coordinate an Elmer Day with Richard Palmer. We may want to discuss an Elmer Day to build some antennae.

**New Business:**

The ARDC grant request for rehabilitation of the tower is in process with John Coyle, W4PJC, drafting the request with Josh Kerr, WV40.



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President Coyle also asked if everyone agreed with setting the spring Foxhunt for the first Saturday in April for annual planning. No one indicated a problem with this so that is the date from here forward.

**New Members:** New member applications were submitted by Brent H. Brown, Jr., KQ4ZZI, David Pool, KR4ADT, Risa Perry, KQ4ZZE, Jeff Steen, KR4AC, Brandon Ferguson, KQ4ZUL, Justin Perkins, WQ2Y, and approved after a motion by Josh Kerr, WV4O, and seconded by Corbie Orten, KO4ARX.

Adjournment:

Josh Kerr, WV4O, moved for adjournment. Seconded by Corbie Orten, KO4ARX.

**Attendance: 37 people**

John Coyle, W4PJC

Charles Isele, N1CDK

Matt Freeman, WX4WKY

George James, KY4GMJ

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no call sign

Diana Mishica, K4IRU

Bill Call, KJ4W

Mitchell Moss, KN4KYU

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Brandon Ferguson, KQ4ZUL

Robin Bracken, K4MNM

Jack Ellis, K9JLE

Clay Rekow, W3TAK

Randall Winchester, WD4HUA

Cory Wentz, KD9ISM

Duane Rose, K4FWO

Corbie Orten, KO4ARX

Joe Thweatt, KO4ASK

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

Justin Perkins, WQ2Y

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Barbara Call, KM4ZTU

Mark Germain, KC9FOC

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Joe Wray, WD4GXI

Mike McNerthney, WB6ITI

Brad Hale, KQ4SLK

Julie Lambert, testing

Donna Pursifull, K4DPE

Brent H. Brown, KQ4ZZI

Jeff Steen, KR4AC

Chris Kunkel, KR4AHT

Michael Jackson, KC1UFQ

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Donna Pursifull, K4DPE, Secretary*