



# 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 – April 1, 2025

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

He noted that it was the 772nd meeting of the MSU Amateur Radio Club.

**Roll Call & Question of the Night:** Name, call sign, and “What can MSUARC do for you or do better?”

Some highlights from the answers: more publicity/PIO Officer; continue good informational programs; quarterly Elmer days; engage newer members more – maybe use club station for contesting with Elmers there to help newer members; 10 meter net; a meeting “greeter”; work toward engaging more young people in college and high school

### **Programs:**

**Bill Call, KJ4W, presented “An Intro to Fox Hunting (High Tech Hide & Seek)”. Highlights:**

- It’s a hidden transmitter hunt
- Wwww. Homingin.com is good website
- Usually hunt over a short distance – 2 meters and 80 meters primarily
- Can be useful
  - Track down interferences
  - Search for someone lost or in distress
- Need
  - Radio with good S-meter and decent DR
  - Directional antenna
  - Attenuator or attenuation method
  - Optional
    - Compass and map
    - Smartphone app
    - TDOA/Doppler equipment
- Basic procedures
  - Get bearings with directional attenuator
  - Move toward target
  - Stop and repeat
  - Rules: <https://K4MSU.COM/fox-hunts/>
- Practical applications
  - Find arcing power line
  - Locate malfunctioning radios/jammed radios, etc.
- Bill’s presentation can be found on [WWW.K4MSU.COM](http://WWW.K4MSU.COM)

**Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, presented on “Ham Radio Equipment and Insurance – Are You Covered?” Highlights:**

- Know the types of coverage you have: Fire/lightning, wind, hail, ice/snow, etc.
- Know what you are insuring: Equipment, coax, antenna, etc.



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- You have options for providers
  - Homeowners
  - Ham Radio Insurance Association
    - No membership required
    - All risks covered
    - Won't result in surcharge on homeowners
    - Coverage on specified/scheduled items only
  - ARRL
    - Membership required
    - Worldwide coverage
    - Won't result in surcharge on homeowners
    - Coverage on specified/scheduled items only
- Some policies require you to specify each item, including serial numbers, model numbers, etc., and only those items will be covered
- Be sure to verify your coverage with your agent (and get it in writing if possible)
  - Named vs open perils
  - Deductibles
  - Actual vs replacement value (and effects of depreciation)
  - Exclusions
  - Surcharge for claims
  - Deadlines for claims
- After Loss
  - Need proof of ownership
  - Need proof of loss
- Tracy's presentation can be found on [WWW.K4MSU.COM](http://WWW.K4MSU.COM). Note that the PowerPoint was originally prepared with Steven Dabbs, KN4IRN

**PAARS and KYPOTA:** Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

No POTA report. The 7:00pm Simplex Net is going very well. They are asking for more volunteers to facilitate the net.

**Vice President's Report:** Diana Mishica, K4IRU, no report. Thanks to Bill and Tracy for tonight's presentations.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes were emailed by John and no changes or corrections were offered. Bill Call, KJ4W, moved for approval. Debbie Barton, W8IBT, seconded. Motion passed.

**Advisor's Report:** No report.

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

**Treasurer's Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that there were two deposits made, for \$60.00 and \$170.00, which were mostly for 2025 dues received. We had two disbursements: \$14.00 to W5YI Licensing Services for VE fees, and \$300.00 to renew the ARRL Club Liability Insurance. Bank balance is \$3,434.17. As of this afternoon 67 members have paid their 2025 dues.



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**Systems' Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that the HF Winlink system computer crashed on 3/25 but restarting it was all that was needed. He had predicted some more problems this month with the 146.940 Motorola repeater, but it has run perfectly and has even had less noise the last couple of nets. The Hamlin 147.240 repeater's Wires-X connection failed a few days ago but Josh Kerr, WV40, says that was a computer problem and I believe that restarting it has fixed that problem. The repeaters, digipeaters and gateways are all working OK as far as he knows, with the Hamlin repeater still on reduced power due to the amplifier failure which he has not worked on yet.

**VE Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, said there was a license exam session after last month's club meeting, at which Brent Brown, KQ4ZZI, upgraded to General Class and Jack Ellis, K9JLE, upgraded to Extra Class. There will be an exam session tonight, a Technician Class exam has been requested.

**Southeast Repeater Association (SERA) Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, said that on the weekend of March 7-9, he drove to Pigeon Forge, TN, to attend the annual SERA board meeting. He brought two items of business to the Board: one was to reduce the dues for Associate Membership, which was approved but has not yet been implemented on the website; the other was to approve an assistant to help me with repeater coordinations in eastern Kentucky. That person was also approved but he has not yet begun to serve.

**CERT Report:** Bill Call, KJ4W, noted that CERT volunteers were being requested for Wednesday's tornado shelter. Information was sent via email from Josh Kerr, WV40.

**Net Manager Report:** John Coyle, W4PJC, presented the March statistics from Chuck Williams, K4CHW, who was absent.

- **5 Sessions**
  - 131 operators.
  - 198 minutes
  - 432.3 operator hours
- **Details**
  - 03/03 35 stations for 41 minutes
  - 03/10 27 stations for 42 minutes
  - 03/17 20 stations for 45 minutes
  - 03/24 21 stations for 34 minutes
  - 03/31 28 stations for 36 minutes
- **SKYWARN Net**
  - 03/30 24 stations for 84 minutes
  - 33.6 operator hours

**Web Manager Report:** No report.

## **Special Events:**

- **Due to inclement weather, the April 5<sup>th</sup> Foxhunt has been postponed. A new date will be announced soon.**
- Field Day planning meeting, May 8, 5:30, 102 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street
- Kentucky QSO Party June 7-8



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- Field Day June 28-29 at the MSU Arboretum
- Kentucky POTA August 9

## **Old Business:**

Bill Call, KJ4W, moved to delay the April 5 Foxhunt due to predicted heavy rainfall. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, seconded. Motion passed.

John Coyle, W4PJC, said he was still trying to secure the correct-sized pvc pipe for an Elmer Day to create tennis ball launchers. He has checked with previous suppliers but they don't know when they will order more. One option would be to use a 1.5" barrel and to shoot bags with line but the tennis ball launchers are the preferred launchers if he can locate the pipe.

John also discussed the potential move of our radio room. Bill Call, KJ4W, had been in contact with the Murray State Department Chair who assured him that there was nothing imminent in the timing of the move but they will keep us updated as they know more.

## **New Business:**

Election of Officers: Debbie Barton, W8IBT, brought up a point of order related to not having a university advisor. It could put us in peril with MSU and said that the bylaws indicated that we needed an advisor as we had elections. Michael Inman, K4MWI, is resigning due to work with Calloway County Fire and Rescue. Bill noted that we did not have to name a new advisor for MSU until the fall semester and that our advisor does not have to attend our meetings, although a ham would be preferred. Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, is reaching out to Alan Fowler to see if they have interest.

The election of officers proceeded

President - Donna Pursifull, K4DPE, moved to nominate John Coyle, W4PJC, with Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, seconding the motion. Election was unanimous.

Vice President – Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, moved to nominate Diana Mishica, K4IRU, with Debbie Barton, W8IBT, seconding the motion. Election was unanimous.

Treasurer – Debbie Barton, W8IBT, moved to nominate Bill Call, KJ4W, with Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, seconding the motion. Election was unanimous.

Secretary – Debbie Barton, W8IBT, moved to nominate Donna Pursifull, K4DPE, with Bill Call, KJ4W, seconding the motion. Election was unanimous.

**New Members:** No applications submitted – a couple were picked up to be returned at a future meeting.

Adjournment: Donna Pursifull, K4DPE, moved to move. Denis Barton, WB8SKP, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:24.



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**Attendance: 31 people**

**John Coyle, W4PJC**

**James Flood, KJ4TKL**

**Charles Isele, N1CDK**

**Dale Peer, KF7ZBK**

**Matt Freeman, WX4WKY**

**Tracy McKinney, W4IRT**

**Bob Atkinson, K9OIM**

**Helen Atkinson, Guest**

**Diana Mishica, K4IRU**

**Bill Call, KJ4W**

**Brenda Call, WA4IJU**

**George James, KY4GMJ**

**Donna Pursifull, K4DPE**

**Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA**

**Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU**

**Tim Bradshaw, Guest**

**Chris Kunkel, KR4AHT**

**Don Edwards, K4MKY**

**Mark Germain, KC9FOC**

**Debbie Barton, W8IBT**

**Denis Barton, WB8SKP**

**Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB**

**Larry Call, KD6UNL**

**Bill Barley, KO4TVA**

**Randall Winchester, WD4HVA**

**Ward Adams, KQ4OPJ**

**Brent H. Brown, KQ4ZZI**

**Robin Bracken, K4MNM**

**George Rob, KK4SRR**

**Joe Wray, WD4GXI**

**Brad Boggess, Guest**

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Donna Pursifull, K4DPE, Secretary*