



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

MSU ARC Meeting – March 4, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Diana Mishica, K4IRU, at 7:00 p.m.

She noted that it was the 771st meeting of the MSU Amateur Radio Club.

Roll Call & Question of the Night: Name, call sign, and “Do you have a vanity call sign, and if so, why?”

Programs: Bill Call, KJ4W, had a Ham Bit presentation: Winlink Updates From February 2025 Flood-Freeze Emergency.

- Winlink provides emails via the radio
- Learned a lot from the Kentucky floods – an email was posted to the Kentucky ham groups on behalf of Kentucky Emergency Management requesting hams to stand by for emergency communications
 - Suggested use of Winlink
 - Listed monitored frequencies
- Allowed hams to share information with Emergency Management via Winlink
 - 47 Winlink situation reports were sent via email
- Benefits
 - Winlink forms add clarity, efficiency
 - Details are sent quickly without a need to write them down by the receiver
 - 2 Pertinent Forms – Local Weather Report and Severe Weather Report
- Several hams volunteered to staff emergency operations in Frankfort
- Winlink email should be addressed to KY4EOC@GMAIL.COM
- Recommend that you subscribe to KyHAM remailer on www.Groups.IO
- The full presentation is on <https://K4MSU.com>

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB, presented on EMP and Ham Radio

- EMP, Electromagnetic Pulse, or TED, Transient Electromagnetic Disturbance, can be natural or artificial
- Current bursts that can destroy all electrical equipment
- Forms vary
 - Static electricity and lightning
 - Coronal mass ejections that form geomagnetic storms
 - Largest known – the Carrington Event
 - Caused worldwide auroras
 - Some blackouts but fortunately there was limited electricity used at that time - telegraphs affected
 - Artificial or man-made
 - Switching pulse
 - Broken spark plug wire that causes arcing
 - Nuclear EMP
 - Ground level explosions more limited than in-air explosions
 - Non-nuclear EMP
- Ham radios might be saving grace in event of huge event



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- Must be prepared
 - Dual band HT with a way to charge it and a longer antenna would be best
 - Solar panel with extra batteries and charges will be needed
- There are ways to protect your equipment
 - Stuart had a lot of information on how to store and protect equipment by sealing it in metal containers, each item separated from the others by tee shirts or bubble wrap, etc., and fully sealed by silver duct tape or metal tape
 - Cannot be any holes
- Old vacuum tube radios are much less susceptible to EMP damage
- Strongly recommended book: One Second After by William Forstchen, 2009
- Full presentation with more specific details available on <https://K4MSU.com>

PAARS and KYPOTA: Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, reported that the Simplex Net is going well but that there will be no net on March 24th due to people being encouraged to attend the Skywarn training.

No POTA report.

Vice President's Report: Diana Mishica, K4IRU, is asking that someone volunteer for Vice President next year as she would like to step down after this year.

Secretary's Report: Debbie Barton, W8IBT, moved for approval of the February minutes. Chuck Williams, K4CHW, 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: There were two deposits made, \$125.00 and \$30.00, which were for 2025 dues received. We had two disbursements: \$125 to the MSU Foundation for Arboretum use for Field Day, and \$69.88 to reimburse PAARS for the K4MSU.COM website fees. Bank balance is \$3,518.17. As of this afternoon 42 members have paid their 2025 dues.

Systems' Report: Bil Call, KJ4W, reported that the big systems issue the past month has been the 146.940 Motorola repeater. It malfunctioned on February 6 and Bill changed to the old backup repeater for several weeks while diagnosing the Motorola. Doyan Jennings, KA4BLZ, donated a similar Motorola repeater for use in troubleshooting, and Bill took modules from our repeater home to plug into the test repeater. Everything tested fine and when he plugged all the modules back into the repeater at Fine Arts, it worked fine again. He thinks that there was a loose or oxidized connection and in unplugging and re-plugging the modules it cleared up. In other words, this might happen again! The HF Winlink system computer crashed last Saturday night but restarting it was all that was needed. 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: We did not have a license exam session after last month's club meeting. There will be an exam session tonight as an upgrade exam has been requested.



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CERT Report: Josh Kerr, WV4O, reported that there were no CERT activations in February. There were some volunteers that assisted with the warming center at the VFW. He encourages people to register for the Skywarn training on March 24 at 6PM at the CFSB Bank at 414 S. 12th Street. Preregistration is required but the course is free and highly recommended. See the link on WWW.K4MSU.com or the Calloway County Emergency Management Facebook page. If you register through the weather.gov/PAH page, be sure to select the MURRAY training in the dropdown.

Net Manager Report: Chuck Williams, K4CHW, presented the statistics for February

- **4 Sessions**
 - 117 operators
 - 160 minutes
 - 312 operator hours
- **Details**
 - 02/03 33 stations for 44 minutes
 - 02/10 29 stations for 34 minutes
 - 02/17 28 stations for 41 minutes
 - 02/24 27 stations for 41 minutes
- **SKYWARN Net**
 - 02/15 24 stations for 38 minutes
 - 15.2 operator hours

Web Manager Report: No report.

Special Events:

- **MSU Amateur Radio Club election of officers will be at the April 1 meeting**
 - Pay your dues to be eligible to vote or serve
 - Please consider being an officer
- Cave City Ham Fest March 22
- Skywarn training rescheduled for March 24 at CFSB Bank, 414 S. 12th Street, 6PM
- NWS is offering a Spring Severe Weather Training on March 25 at the MSU Paducah campus and via Zoom. Registration is free but required on the weather.gov/PAH website
- Spring Foxhunt April 5th at the American Legion. Arrive by 1:30 for a 2:00 start. Potluck will follow
- Kentucky QSO Party June 7-8
- Field Day June 28-29 at the MSU Arboretum
- Kentucky POTA August 9

Old Business: None

New Business: Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, noted that John Coyle, W4PJC, had sent out a preliminary plan for the probable loss of our Murray State club space. PAARS has offered storage space if needed.

He requested that the club allow PAARS to use the second Icom 7300 since it was not used much except for Field Day. Chuck Williams, K4CHW, moved to approve PAARS to use the ICOM7300 so long as it was secured and insured at that location. Bill Call, KJ4W, seconded. Motion passed.



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Josh Kerr, WV4O, said that the grant request (through PAARS) for the tower work was still pending. For discussion only and for possible action at the next meeting, he noted that the West Kentucky Healthcare Coalition was having a MASH for show and tell of regional equipment. The tower trailer would be great to show for that event but it MUST have new tires. So if the grant does not arrive on time he would like consideration of funding for the tires by the club at our next meeting.

New Members: One application was received. Bill Call, KJ4W, moved for acceptance of Amberly Steen as an Associate Member until she receives her license. She will be a full member when that occurs. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, seconded. Motion passed.

Adjournment: Josh Kerr, WV4O, moved to move. Denis Barton, WB8SKP, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:24.

Attendance: 24 people

Chuck Williams, K4CHW

Charles Isele, N1CDK

Matt Freeman, WX4WKY

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, no call sign

Diana Mishica, K4IRU

Bill Call, KJ4W

George James, KY4GMJ

Donna Pursifull, K4DPE

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Clay Rekow, W3TAK

Jack Ellis, K9JLE

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Mark Germain, KC9FOC

Josh Kerr, WV4O

Jeff Steen, KR4ACO

Brent H. Brown, KQ4ZZI

2 visitors arrived late, no sign-in

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Pursifull, K4DPE, Secretary