



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

MSU ARC Meeting – May 6, 2025

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

He noted that it was the 773rd meeting of the MSU Amateur Radio Club.

Roll Call & Question of the Night: Name, call sign, and “do we want to order new caps and tees?” The consensus was yes! Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, offered to coordinate the effort. Chris Kunkel, AR4AHT, noted that he had a printing operation and said he could help.

John noted that we had a new faculty advisor thanks to Randall, WD4HVA. Allen Fowler has agreed to serve as the club advisor.

He also congratulated the winners of the Spring Fox Hunt. Congratulations go to Josh Kerr, WV40, Donna Pursifull, K4DPE, and Robin Bracken, K4MNM. They will serve as the wiley fox in the next fox hunt which is scheduled for October 4. He also noted that the club was getting a lot of good press from recent articles in the Murray Ledger and Times.

Programs:

John Coyle, W4PJC, presented on GMRS and whether or not this might be a good move for K4MSU.

Highlights:

- In an effort to reach more of the community in an emergency, adding a dedicated stand-alone GMRS repeater might be a good idea
- Do we need/want one? Is there individual interest?
- Would be a good combination of FRS, Family Radio Services and GMRS, General Mobile Radio Services
- FRS
 - No license needed
 - Useful off the shelf
 - Simplex only
 - Low power, about 2.5 watts
- GMRS
 - License required, but no test
 - Multi user license is granted for the entire household
 - Simplex and repeater
 - Up to about 50 watts
- There are 106 licenses in the 10 closest zip codes
 - 11 are current MSUARC members
- The repeater/duplexer equipment is not outrageously expensive
- Can be a lead-in to ham radio interest – some current members took that route
- PAARS has a steering committee looking into this right now per Tracy McKinney, W4IRT
 - They will let us know what they find



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PAARS and KYPOTA:

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, set up a POTA station last week and got the minimum 10 contacts. The 7:00pm Simplex Net is going very well.

Vice President's Report: Diana Mishica, K4IRU, has resigned due to health issues. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, is temporarily filling in and the club will vote on a new VP at the June meeting. The June meeting will focus on Field Day and ARRL reporting changes. We all noted that Diana was missed and we wish her all the best.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were emailed by John and no changes or corrections were offered. Larry Call, KD6UNL, moved for approval. Debbie Barton, W8IBT seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Advisor's Report: No report. Allen Fowler is now the new MSU Advisor.

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 no deposits made, though he does have some money that needs to be deposited. We had one disbursement of \$14.00 to W5YI Licensing Services for VE fees. Bank balance is \$3,420.17. As of Monday night, 64 members have paid their 2025 dues.

Systems' Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that the HF Winlink system computer crashed again last Sunday night May 3 but restarting it was all that was needed. The 146.940 repeater went silent on Thursday April 24. Bill looked at it the next day and found that a construction worker had tried to move the duplexer cabinet and in doing so he tore the coax cable out from the connector on the back of the cabinet. Bill borrowed a cable from Allen Fowler's shop until he could make up a replacement cable, a much stronger one, and installed it on Sunday. The repeaters, digipeaters and gateways are all working OK as far as I know, with the Hamlin repeater still on reduced power due to the amplifier failure which Bill has not worked on yet.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that we had a license exam session after last month's club meeting, at which Tim Bradshaw passed his Technician Class exam and has been issued KR4CWR. There will be an exam session tonight, Tim will attempt an upgrade to General Class and a couple of Technician Class exams have been requested.

CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, noted that fall CERT class was already almost half full with early inquiries.

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

- **4 Sessions**
 - 103 operators.
 - 148 minutes
 - 254.06 operator hours
- **Details**
 - 04/07 30 stations for 38 minutes
 - 04/14 24 stations for 37 minutes
 - 04/21 21 stations for 34 minutes
 - 04/28 28 stations for 39 minutes



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- **SKYWARN Nets**
 - 04/02 41 stations for 181 minutes
 - 04/02 13 stations for 23 minutes
 - 04/04 19 stations for 36 minutes
 - 73 stations, 240 minutes = 292 operator hours

Web Manager Report: No report.

Special Events:

- **Field Day planning meeting, May 8, 5:30, 102 N. 5th Street**
- Kentucky QSO Party June 7-8
- Field Day June 28-29 at the MSU Arboretum
- Kentucky POTA August 9
- Fall Fox Hunt, October 4

The QSO party is a contest that is run from the club station. It is two days and has a conflict with the Princeton Ham Days. It's a good opportunity to show MSU on the air and promote our club. The looming move of our club area has been postponed at least until July so we can do it from here this year. It's a good opportunity for hams to get experience on club equipment.

Old Business:

John Coyle, W4PJC, is ready to sign people up for the launcher-building Elmer day. Once he has numbers, we can pick a day and place. Tracy volunteered the PAARS building for the Elmer Day. The cost will be around \$143 but may be a little less. John has a signup sheet tonight and has asked for a partial deposit to help him buy equipment.

New Business:

Continued discussion of new caps and tee shirts occurred. Donna Pursifull, K4DPE, moved to have a design contest with the winner receiving a free tee shirt. Debbie Barton, W8IBT, seconded. Randall Winchester, WD4HVA, will work with Chris Kunkel, KR4AHT on the logistics.

The question was raised about name tags. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, noted that the hamcrazy.com web site was a good resource for those.

New Members: We had one application from Tim Bradshaw, KR4CWR. Debbie Barton, W8IBT, moved for approval. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, seconded. Tim was approved – welcome!

Adjournment: Debbie Barton, W8IBT, moved to move. Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.



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Attendance: 32 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

Amberly Steen, No Call Sign

Bill Call, KJ4W

Phillip Wright, NJ3J

George James, KY4GMJ

Donna Pursifull, K4DPE

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Courtney Aldrich, guest

Tim Bradshaw, KR4CRW

Chris Kunkel, KR4AHT

Jessica Hendrix, KQ4FDS

Paul Hendrix, KJ4BCF

Jeff Steen, KR4ACO

Clay Rekow, W3TAK

Mark Germain, KC9FOC

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Jack Ellis, K9JLE

Larry Call, KD6UNL

John Lombardo, No Call Sign

Randall Winchester, WD4HVA

Joe Thweatt, KO4ASK

Joe Wray, WD4GXI

Brad Boggess, No Call Sign

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Pursifull, K4DPE, Secretary