



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

MSU ARC Meeting – February 3, 2026

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

He noted that it was the 793rd meeting of the MSU Amateur Radio Club

Roll Call & Question of the Night: Name, call sign, and “Did you have any recent storm damage”?

Program: Matt Freeman WX4WKY and Joe Wray WD4GXI, presented on and demonstrated the “PERformer antenna” which was recently described in QST Magazine as a great choice for portable and emergency communications use.

- The developer was a licensed ham and active POTA participant with over 1,000 activations
- The PERformer antenna won 2nd place in the 2024 QST antenna design contest
- It’s portable, highly efficient, resonant
- Covers 6-20 meters with a 17 foot whip
 - 30-40 meters with the use of a coil
- Solves the problem of loss with a ground-mounted vertical
- Most components will fit into PVC pipes or a small bag
- Setup and band changes are fast
 - Arranging radials 90 degrees apart offers some directional gain
- Easy to make. You need:
 - Vertical radiator
 - Chameleon antenna
 - SS17 is \$70, SS25 is about \$100
 - Hamstick style can be used if swapping the hamstick for each band
 - Radials – 1 tripod or alternative and a feedline choke
- Joe and Matt demonstrated their equipment and setup styles
- The KJ6ER web site has antenna setup photos and dimensions for more information
- The full presentation will be on WWW.K4MSU.COM

Mark Germain, KC9FOC, then briefly spoke about initial plans for the 2026 Field Day

- Location secured – Calloway County Extension Office north of town
- Committee will meet on February 23 at 5:00 at the PAARS Office
- Please let him know if you can help with any of the planning or setup
- A site visit will be arranged when the weather clears
- Email kc9foc@gmail.com to get added to his mailing list
- Field day is June 27-28

Vice President’s Report: Matt Freeman, WXYWKY, said that Phillip Wright, NJ3J, had agreed to present on Meshtastic for the March meeting. He still needs other presenters and topics for future meetings.



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Secretary's Report: The minutes were emailed by John and no changes or corrections were offered. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, moved for approval., Debbie Barton, W8IBT seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Advisor's Report: No report.

QSL Manager's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that he made one deposit of \$345.00. Expenses were: W5YI Licensing for VE fees \$28.00, and reimbursed himself for the backup battery for the 443.800 repeater's controller for \$21.19. Bank balance is \$3,129.89. We received dues from 28 members at the January meeting.

Systems' Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, said that we installed the tower sections we donated to the PAARS, including reinstalling the link antenna to the Hamlin 147.240 repeater's WIRES connection. He cleaned up an apparently bad connection on the Hamlin repeater's power amplifier and reinstalled it, and it seems to be working fine. As noted in the Treasurer's report, Bill installed the backup battery for the 443.800MHz repeater's controller. He still needs to replace the 443.800 repeater's bent mast, once the weather gets decent for that work. Other than that, the repeaters and digipeaters are all working OK now as far as he knows, with the 146.940 repeater still having occasional noise issues.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, said that we held one license exam session after the January 6 club meeting. David Henderson passed his Technician License exam and has been issued KR4JCJ, and Hal Nance Sr. KR4IJI and Brandon Wynn KQ4YVP both upgraded to General Class. Something went wrong at the FCC and it took 2+ weeks for these results to be posted, and that only happened after I sent an inquiry to W5YI-VEC. We have requests for exams tonight after the meeting. Bill would like to begin the General Class license study course the week after the SKYWARN class, on Thursday nights, so that would begin on February 26. We will use a classroom, TBD, and the K4MSU station for equipment demonstrations. Those who are interested in attending, please sign up or e-mail Bill.

CERT Report: SKYWARN class on February 17, pre-registration at NWS Paducah website required. Josh is still needing background check forms turned in. The next quarterly CERT team meeting will be March 5 at 6:00 in the OSH Training Room and emails will be sent. A CPR certification class is in the works and there will be forms at the meeting for volunteer background checks and for volunteers to opt into text notifications when activations are needed. Bill, KJ4W, additionally noted that a General License class will be offered on Thursday nights beginning February 26. Please email Bill if you are interested – it's a big help for CERT volunteers to have their licenses.

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

- **4 Sessions of the 2 meter net**
 - 91 operators.
 - 154 minutes



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- 233.56 operator hours
- **Details**
 - 01/05 22 stations for 38 minutes
 - 01/12 24 stations for 44 minutes
 - 01/19 23 stations for 35 minutes
 - 01/26 22 stations for 37 minutes
- **SKYWARN Nets**
 - None reported

Web Manager Report: No report.

Special Events:

- Cave City Ham Fest – March 7
- Spring Fox Hunt – April 4
- Club officer elections – April 7
- Kentucky POTA Campout, Taylorsville Lake State Park, September 25-27

Old Business:

We still need a volunteer to coordinate Elmer days. John noted that last year's POTA winner was already asking about this year's KYPOTA dates. He also has updated the rules and created special bonus points for contacting a bonus station: K9OIM Bob.

New Business: Tracy, W4IRT, offered thanks on behalf of PAARS for the donated antenna and volunteers who helped get it mounted after recent storm damage.

He also said that he had been contacted by a local boy scout group who are interested in ham events that they might participate in. It is unsure if the intent is to get a set goal of contacts to earn a badge but the Kentucky QSO Party might be a good event to include them. Tracy will forward their request to John for a follow-up.

New Members: One applications was received from Chad Vaughn, KR4INA. Bill Call, KJ4W, moved for approval. Seconded by Debbie Barton, W8IBT. New member approved unanimously.

Adjournment: Jana Hackatorn, KN4MWE, moved for adjournment. Josh Kerr, WV40, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.



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Attendance: 35 People

John Coyle, W4PJC

Dale Peer, KF7ZBK

Colleen Pulcifer, guest

Josh Kerr, WV40

Brandon Wynn, KQ4YVP

Cory Wentz, KD9ISM

Mark Germain, KC9FOC

Chris Kunkel, KR4AHT

Chad Hulsizer, KR4HRC

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Bill Call, KJ4W

Matt Freeman, WX4WKY

Hal Nance, KR4IJI

Todd Carr, W4TZX

Chad Vaughn, KR4INA

Jana Hackathorn, Kn4MWE

Corbin Birdsong, Guest

Todd Hackathorn, W4GV

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, Guest

Joe Wray, WD4GXI

Donna Pursifull, K4DPE

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Clay Rekow, W3TAK

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Joe Thweatt, KO4ASK

Steve Fricker, KQ4FCI

Jan Fricker, Guest

Duane Rose, K4FWO

Paul Ellington, WA9WYW

Justin Perkins, WQ2Y

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Pursifull, K4DPE, Secretary