



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

MSU ARC Meeting – January 6, 2026

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

He noted that it was the 792nd meeting of the MSU Amateur Radio Club

Roll Call & Question of the Night: Name, call sign, and “did you get new toys for Christmas”?

John showed photos of the Christmas parade and thanked those who decorated and participated.

Ham of The Year: Bill Call, KJ4W, presented the Ham of the Year award to Matt Freeman, WX4WKY. Matt was recognized for his donations to the club, including serving as Vice President, providing several informative programs to the club, and participating in our Kentucky POTA efforts. Congratulations from all of us, Matt!

Program: Josh Kerr, WV4O, presented the official results from our Spring 2025 Field Day.

- Numbers were down from 2024, with 3,038 points in 2024 and 2,570 points in 2025
- There were 476 contacts, down from 500 the previous year
- There were fewer bonus points: no educational activity, no elected official, no satellite contact, but even without those, we did well
- MOST POINTS
 - Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA, 1,176 points ALL CW!
 - Matt Freeman, WX4WKY, was second
 - ANONYMOUS (no sign-in other than K4MSU) was 3rd
- Paducah came in first overall, and we were fourth but we had the most participants overall!
- The full presentation will be on WWW.K4MSU.COM

Vice President's Report: No report.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were emailed by John and no changes or corrections were offered. Debbie Barton, W8IBT, moved for approval. Tracy McKinney, W4IRT, 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 \$75.00. Expenses were: Christmas gift shopping \$250.00, candy for the Christmas parade \$60.00, new Credit Union checks \$24.33, SERA dues \$35.00, W5YI Licensing for VE fees \$35.00 and \$7.00, and American Legion Post 73 for \$53.00 for building use in April for the foxhunt. Bank balance is \$2,834.08. We are now receiving 2026 dues.

Systems' Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, had to restart the 2m Winlink / EchoLink computer once due to a power glitch; it turns out that the backup battery has failed. He has ordered and received a



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replacement battery and will install it soon. He worked on the 146.940 repeater noise problem and with the help of Brad KR4DVK, we replaced the antenna and a coax jumper; the noise is greatly reduced now. The replacement antenna is a Comtelco commercial grade fiberglass antenna which we tried once before and weren't satisfied with at that time, but I think is worth trying again. We had some brief noise interference on the net last night, but none the week before; my suspicion is that the remaining occasional noise may be interference from the cell phone systems, which we have had in the past. We are back to using the Motorola repeater and full transmit power. The 443.800 repeater needs to have its mast replaced, as the windstorm of December 28 has bent the mast. The repeater works but will have diminished range, especially to the West. Other than that, the repeaters and digipeaters are all working OK now as far as Bill knows, with the Hamlin repeater still on reduced power due to the amplifier failure which I have not worked on yet. For those who were not at the Christmas party and haven't heard the announcement, MSU has given us a reprieve on the K4MSU club station room; they will not be taking it anytime soon for other uses.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that we held two license exam sessions at the conclusion of the Technician Class license study course, on Thursday nights December 11 and 18 at CCFR. There were 5 who passed their Technician Class exams on the 11th: Elliott DeLauro KR4IJK, Steven Hayward KR4IJJ, Sherry Keller-Hudgins KR4IJG, Charles Mix KR4IJH and Hal Nance Sr. KR4IJI. On the 18th David Easmunt of Hardin, who was not in the class but heard about the exam opportunity, came and passed both Tech and General, and is KR4IPI. Several others plan on taking the exam tonight or after the next club meeting. Josh and Bill will probably conduct a General Class license study course, to begin in February. Final arrangements will be made at the February meeting.

CERT Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, reported that Josh is still asking to have background checks turned in for anyone who wants to be an active CERT volunteer. He will soon have forms for this group to provide preferred cell numbers for text notification when volunteers are needed.

Josh, WV4O, has TENTATIVELY scheduled a SKYWARN training on February 17th, 6-9pm, at the CFSB bank on 12th and Sycamore. He also noted that Racer Arena is once again available for storm shelter use.

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

NOVEMBER:

- **4 Sessions of the 2 meter net**
 - 96 operators.
 - 168 minutes
 - 268.8 operator hours
- **Details**
 - 11/03 27 stations for 54 minutes
 - 11/10 22 stations for 32 minutes
 - 11/17 25 stations for 40 minutes



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- 11/24 22 stations for 42 minutes
- **SKYWARN Nets**
 - None reported

DECEMBER:

- **5 Sessions of the 2 meter net**
 - 101 operators.
 - 161 minutes
 - 271.02 operator hours
- **Details**
 - 12/01 22 stations for 39 minutes
 - 12/08 21 stations for 36 minutes
 - 12/15 17 stations for 28 minutes
 - 12/22 22 stations for 32 minutes
 - 12/29 19 stations for 26 minutes
- **SKYWARN Nets**
 - None reported

Web Manager Report: No report.

Special Events:

- Winter Field Days – January 24, 25 at the PAARS building. Setup can start at 10am Friday. Tracy will email details soon.
- 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. We may need a Net Control February 23 if Larry is not available.

New Business: The PAARS tower was damaged in a recent windstorm. Bill Call, KJ4W, moved that MSUARC donate two sections of used Rohn 25G tower from its inventory to the PAARS club station, to replace its damaged antenna tower sections which also supports the MSUARC Yaesu System Fusion WIRES link to the W4GZ 147.240 repeater. Seconded by Larry Call, KD6UNL. Motion passed. A crew will fix the tower tomorrow.



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The 443.800 antenna on the side of Faculty Hall was also damaged in the windstorm – it's badly bent. We will need to replace the bottom two sections but it still works for now. It may not work as well to the west until it gets straightened. Bill, KJ4W, recommends mast replacement.

The club discussed the pros and cons of holding the Spring Field Days at the Arboretum vs the Calloway County Extension Office. Josh Kerr, WV40, moved that we change venues this year to the Extension property. Seconded by Tracy McKinney, W4IRT. Motion passed. Josh noted that we are still paid Friends of the Arboretum members so we can hold another function there this year if we wish.

New Members: Applications were received from Chad Hulsizer, KR4HRC, Hal Nance, KR4IJI, and Brandon Wynn, KQ4YVP. Bill Call, KJ4W, moved for approval. Seconded by Josh Kerr, WV40. New members approved unanimously.

Adjournment: Debbie Barton, W8IBT, moved for adjournment. Seconded by Josh Kerr, WV40. Meeting adjourned at 7:58.

Attendance: 34 People

John Coyle, W4PJC

Charles Isele, N1CDK

Dale Peer, KF7ZBK

Colleen Pulcifer, none

Josh Kerr, WV40

David Henderson, none

Brandon Wynn, KQ4YVP

Brenda Call, WA4IJU

Mark Germain, KC9FOC

Chad Hulsizer, KR4HRC

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Bill Call, KJ4W

Matt Freeman, WX4WKY

Hal Nance, KR4IJI

Jessica Hendrix, KQ4FDS

Paul Hendrix, KJ4BCF

Lauren Brand, none

Josiah Brand, none

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, Guest

Bill Barley, KO4TVH

Joe Wray, WD4GXI

Donna Pursifull, K4DPE

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Carl Lovett, K4AUF

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Ward Adams, KQ4OPJ

Jerry Holt, NIBLH

Richard Holt, K4HNB

Clay Rekow, W3TAK