



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

MSU ARC Meeting – March 3, 2026

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

He noted that it was the 795th meeting of the MSU Amateur Radio Club

Roll Call & Question of the Night: Name, call sign, and “Who’s bringing chicken to the Fox Hunt”? **Be sure to email Debbie at w8ibt.debbie@gmail.com with the food you plan to bring to the hunt.**

Program: Phillip Wright, NJ3J, presented on Meshtastic. Amateur Radio Adjacent

- Long range
- Uses lots of radios where each is a repeater
- Supports channels (can be encrypted if in non-Amateur service)
- Long range – does not mean higher power
 - Nodes operate <1watt
- Radio connects to cell phone via Bluetooth
 - Operate entirely through Meshtastic app
 - Alternately, a dedicated service may be used with keypad and screen
 - Nodes can be configured remotely over the mesh
- Open source
- Modem settings – different modem settings may be chosen
- Trade off between speed and range
 - More range requires longer symbol duration, more redundancy bits
 - Default: Longfast, which attempts to be a good balance
- Mesh Success
 - Line of sight plus low power so get nodes/antenna up high
 - Well-placed repeaters are critical
 - Our population density is too low
- Low bandwidth plus repeating hops
 - Too many messages clog the network
 - Don’t spam beacons with unimportant data
- Use Case: Disasters/SAR
 - Text messaging
 - Sharing of team member locations
 - Sharing POI (Pins)
 - Example – base station with amateur radio
 - Meshtastic node on pushup mast
 - Individuals with wearable devices
 - Can integrate with CALTOPO and ATAK
- Use Case – Infrastructure Outages
 - With batteries, small solar cell can run without problems – low power



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

- Privacy – no service providers
- Telemetry – can be connected to sensors to collect data from various sources and routed over a long distance
- Meshtastic vs Ham Radio
 - Doesn't require a license
 - If you have a license you can use more power – requires disabled encryption so no privacy
 - Much simpler than APRS
 - Very low bandwidth – no voice communication
- Purchase Area Mesh Vision – to connect to other clubs and individual nodes
- <https://meshtastic.org>
- Purchase Area Mesh – <https://nj3j.net/pam.html>

The presentation will be posted on <https://k4msu.com>

Vice President's Report: Matt Freeman, WX4WKY, shared that John, W4PJC, is planning to provide a program for the April meeting. His presentation will demonstrate the FT8 digital mode with a Xiegu G90 transceiver and a customized version of the PERformer antenna.

Matt said there are no programs currently scheduled for May or beyond. He mentioned a couple of program topics for consideration by anyone who may be willing to provide a meeting program. One idea is about using the Linux operating system for ham radio. This could be helpful due to Microsoft's more stringent requirements for Windows 11 and a lot of very usable hardware being deemed incompatible with the latest version of Windows, but remaining optimal for Linux. Another potential presentation topic could be the FCC's recent rule changes for the 60 meter band and how to use the allocations within the FCC's regulations. The 60 meter changes could also be a great ham-bit style presentation and wouldn't necessarily need to be the full length of a traditional program.

Matt mentioned he will not be able to continue serving as the club's vice president due to his work hours changing. He encouraged attending club members to be thinking about who they would like to nominate in the April meeting's officer elections.

Secretary's Report: The minutes were emailed by John and no changes or corrections were offered. Josh Kerr, WV40, moved for approval, Joe Wray, WD4GXI, seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Advisor's Report: No report.

QSL Manager's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, made one deposit of \$235.00. Expenses were: W5YI Licensing for VE fees \$21.00; and reimbursement to PAARS for \$67.00 for K4MSU website fees. Bank balance is \$3,276.89. As of this afternoon we had received 2026 dues from 43 members. Those who would like to vote on officer elections at the April meeting, or for other decisions, need to pay their dues by next meeting.



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

Systems' Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, installed a preamplifier and bandpass filter on the 146.940 repeater to try to reduce the noise issues. He doesn't think that it has helped much, but has another idea to try next. He still needs to replace the 443.800 repeater's bent mast. Other than that, the repeaters, digipeaters, EchoLink and Winlink nodes are all working OK now as far as he knows, with the 146.940 repeater still having those noise issues.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, said we held a license exam session after the February 3 club meeting. Chad Vaughn KR4INA upgraded to General Class and Hal Nance Sr. KR4TJ upgraded to Extra Class. Corbin Birdsong's attempt at Technician Class was close and he will hopefully try again soon. As of this afternoon we do not have any requests for exams tonight after the meeting. The General Class license study course began last Thursday night; only 3 attended last week but we have 7 signed up so hopefully more will be there this week. We are meeting on Thursday nights, usually 6 – 9pm but this week the start time will be delayed to 7pm so that those who wish to attend the CERT meeting downstairs can do so. We meet in room 237 just across the hall from the K4MSU station, which we are also using for equipment demonstrations.

CERT Report: Josh Kerr, WV40, reported that there is a CERT meeting on Thursday at 6pm. Alex Kudrika is presenting on radio communications for non-hams.

Josh has a new ID printer and will be printing badges for CERT volunteers. Stop by his office at 201 S. 4th Street to pick up your badge if you have passed a background check.

He also noted that he received a grant from Health Alliance to repair/upgrade the trailer donated to his office for use by the club. It will be moved to Post Oak and 94E warehouse for us to make repairs. Contact Paul Hendrix about volunteering.

There will be a siren test tomorrow at 9:07. This is a statewide test so all but cell phones will be activated.

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

- **4 Sessions of the 2 meter net**
 - 95 operators.
 - 151 minutes
 - 239.08 operator hours
- **Details**
 - 02/02 25 stations for 50 minutes
 - 02/09 24 stations for 38 minutes
 - 02/16 29 stations for 39 minutes
 - 02/23 17 stations for 24 minutes
- **SKYWARN Nets**



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

None reported

Web Manager Report: No report.

Special Events:

- Field Day venue site review tomorrow at 3:30, 93 Extension Way
- 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.

New Business: Consider dues increase for next year. A- PO BOX increase, B- Larger expenses with 2 trailers, C- Rental costs for Field Day

Bill stated that dues have always been \$15 per year (at least for 50 years). It's appropriate but we need to get more students interested and it might make it hard for students. Deb Barton suggested that we could have a lower rate for students. Deb will check at USPS about a PO Box. They refused to rent one before as we are affiliated with MSU. She will also check with the MSU President to see if we can get permission to receive mail at a PO Box.

New Members: No new member applications.

Adjournment: James Flood moved for adjournment. Candy Aldrich seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

Attendance: 30 People

John Coyle, W4PJC

Dale Peer, KF7ZBK

Colleen Pulcifer, guest

Josh Kerr, WV40

Brandon Wynn, KQ4YVP

Mark Germain, KC9FOC

Chad Hulsizer, KR4HRC

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Bill Call, KJ4W

Matt Freeman, WX4WKY

Chad Vaughn, KR4INA

Charlie Isele, N1CDK

Phillip Wright, NJ3J

Brenda Call, WA4IJU

Paul Hendrix, KJ4BCF

Bill Harrison, N9GVD

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, Guest

Joe Wray, WD4GXI

Tracy McKinney, W4IRT

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Steve Fricker, KQ4FCI

Jan Fricker, Guest

James Flood, KJ4TKL

Bill Barley, KO4TVH

Robin Bracken, K4MNM

Respectfully submitted,

*Donna Pursifull, K4DPE, Secretary
with thanks to Debbie Barton,
W8IBT*