



Murray State University

Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

MSU ARC Meeting – May 5, 2026

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

He noted that it was the 797th meeting of the MSU Amateur Radio Club

Roll Call & Question of the Night: Name, call sign, and “How much rain did you get so far?”

Program: Bill Call, KJ4W, led tonight’s program by presenting on Tower Climbing Safety

- There are key factors in deciding on a tower and its height:
 - HF or VHF/UHF
 - Subdivision or city restrictions
 - Rule of thumb: Rohn 20G will be 25-30 feet above the highest guy or bracket
 - Limit is around 60 feet
 - Rohn 25G can go 30-35 feet above the anchor to 200 feet tall
 - May need some space for guy anchors
- DANGER! You need:
 - Special equipment
 - Good helpers on the ground
- Risks
 - Falls
 - Equipment or tower failure
 - Electrical lines
- Costs
 - There are a number of used TV towers free/cheap
 - Ham groups often know of available towers
 - You can put multiple antennas on one pole
- Bill walked through a demo of helpful tools like a Yellowjack, lineup punches, ropes, pulleys, wrenches, climbing belts, harnesses.
- Bill and John, W4PJC, demonstrated the harnesses that they use.
- The presentation which includes helpful links will be added to www.k4msu.com

Vice President’s Report: The vice president position is current vacant and nominations will be received under new business.

Secretary’s Report: The minutes were emailed by John. Debbie Barton, W8IBT, moved for approval, Larry Call, KD6UNL, seconded. Motion passed.

Advisor’s Report: No report.

QSL Manager’s Report: No report.



Murray State University

Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

Treasurer's Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, made one deposit of \$293.00, and has a little money to deposit soon. He paid W5YI Licensing by debit card for VE fees of \$14.00. Bank balance is \$3,530.89. As of this afternoon we had received 2026 dues from 74 members. 2026 dues are now past due, and only those who are current members should be voting on club decisions.

Systems' Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, noted that we had one breakdown of the Motorola 146.940 repeater, a couple of weeks ago just before the Monday night net. Bill switched to the old backup repeater which had an unknown problem with the power amplifier switching, so its output power was very low. The Motorola problem seems to have been a loose connection and he had it back on the next day. He still needs to replace the 443.800 repeater's bent mast. Otherwise, system things have worked OK and the repeaters, digipeaters, EchoLink and Winlink nodes are all working OK now as far as he knows.

VE Report: Bill Call, KJ4W, noted that we had a license exam session after the April club meeting, at which we had a unique experience. Derek Ferguson had held an Extra Class license while in high school, but let it lapse. The FCC has a policy which allows a person with such an expired license to get that license class back by just passing the Element 2 Technician Class License exam. So at last month's VE session, Derek passed his Technician Class exam and now has Extra Class license NA4BK! Also at last month's VE session David Henderson WS4DAV upgraded to General Class. The General Class license study course has ended and Bill is hoping for some upgrades from those attendees soon, maybe tonight.

Other Updates: Bill announced that MSU will be doing remodeling work in this building this summer including in Freed Curd Auditorium. We will have to meet in a different location for June, July and possibly August. The office says that they will find a room for us, and we will announce the new location when we know it, **so pay attention to notices before our next meeting.** Also, Bill requested the K4MSU club station room for June 6 for the Kentucky QSO Party if we want to do that, and also for the June 20 Field Day preparation & training meeting, and those have been approved; but we may have to enter through the outside door off the patio.

CERT Report: Josh Kerr, WV40, expressed appreciation for the nine CERT volunteers who staffed the tornado shelter for the long duration of the last event. There were 78 people who signed in and an assortment of cats and dogs.

The CERT class list for the fall is already growing. Bill and Josh have set the starting date for the Fall 2026 CERT course to tentatively be the first Thursday night in September, which is the 3rd. We are starting earlier this time to allow more time for the Technician Class course that follows the CERT course).

Josh drove to Fulton today to pick up a donation of CERT backpacks and manuals that will be used in the Fall class.

Reminder: 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.



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

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

- **4 Sessions of the 2 meter net**
 - 100 operators
 - 139 minutes
 - 231.67 operator hours
- **Details**
 - 04/05 24 stations for 36 minutes
 - 04/13 24 stations for 35 minutes
 - 04/20 18 stations for 26 minutes
 - 04/27 34 stations for 42 minutes
- **SKYWARN Nets**
 - None reported

Web Manager Report: No report.

Field Day Update: Mark Germain, KC9FOC, reported on the layout for Field Day. He and Bill pointed out where the antennas would be placed, stations set up, etc. Everyone is excited about the new location and thanks also go to Robin Bracken, K4MNM, for getting us tied into the property. Field Day is June 27-28.

Josh, WV40, noted that Sign-up forms are now live on www.k4msu.com - Please sign up for operator slots and for food donations for the pot luck.

Club Spring Fox Hunt:

The Fox Hunt was finally run and congratulations go to Josh Kerr, WV40, and Emma Kerr for finding the wily fox in just 12 minutes! Thanks go to Debbie, W8IBT, for arranging the meal which everyone enjoyed. 19 people enjoyed the event.

Donna, K4DPE, shared a new traveling trophy for the Fox Hunt winners which will formally go to Josh and Emma as soon as a description plate is complete and attached.

Special Events:

- June 6-7, Kentucky QSO Party
- June 6, Princeton Tailgate
- June 20 Field Day prep
- June 27-28 Field Day
- Kentucky POTA Campout, Taylorsville Lake State Park, September 25-27



Murray State University Amateur Radio Club

Address: MSUARC
2580 University Station
Murray, Kentucky 42071

Website: www.k4msu.com

Old Business:

Nominations were opened for the Vice President position, and Bill Call, KJ4W, nominated David Barr, KA5JDO. He noted that David had a great deal of experience in other clubs and was willing to serve. Debbie, W8IBT, seconded. Motion passed. Congratulations, and thank you, David!

We still need a volunteer to coordinate Elmer days.

New Business: None

New Members: No applications

Adjournment: Debbie Barton, W8IBT, moved for adjournment. Josh Kerr, WV40, seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Attendance: 29 People

John Coyle, W4PJC

Brandon Wynn, KQ4YVP

Brenda Call, WA4IJU

Joe Thweatt, KO4ASK

Derek Ferguson, NA4BK

Mark Germain, KC9FOC

David Smith, guest

Jamie Brown, guest

Larry Call, KD6UNL

Bill Call, KJ4W

Chris Brisendine, KI4GYW

Charlie Isele, N1CDK

Donna Pursifull, K4DPE

Josh Kerr, WV40

Don Edwards, K4MKY

Brad Boggess, KR4DVK

Stuart Naulty, KN4RGB

Bob Atkinson, K9OIM

Helen Atkinson, Guest

David Henderson, WS4DAV

Phillip Wright, NJ3J

Denis Barton, WB8SKP

Debbie Barton, W8IBT

Bob Aldrich, WD8OWA

Candy Aldrich, KJ4OZU

Steve Fricker, KQ4FCI

Jan Fricker, Guest

Robin Bracken, K4MNM

Sherry Keller-Hudgins, KR4IJG

Respectfully submitted,

*Donna Pursifull, K4DPE,
Secretary*