

Mon County Amateur Radio Club  
Meeting Minutes  
January 18, 2025

The first regular monthly meeting of the year of the Mon County Amateur Radio Club met at the Post 174, American Legion, 3470 Earl L Core Rd, Morgantown, WV. The President, Jim Morris KF8BKH, started the meeting at 0905 and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance was: President Jim Morris KF8BKH, Vice-president Dylan Warren W8DYL, Treasurer Steve Miller K8BBL, Pete Knapp KN8PPY, Chaplain Chuck Strahin KD8TYQ, Paul White KD8YDO, Alex Lugo KD8NZX, Peter Billie WA8TGG, Alan Blosser KD8YLQ, Jack Martin KC3YLF, Hasith Perera KE8TJE, Secretary Chris Condon N2BNW

No Guests were present this time.

Treasurer's report: Given by Steve Miller K8BBL. Made some copies of the report and outsmarted his printer convincing it to print double sided. Congratulations, Steve, the world thanks you! About \$5300 in the bank currently, and will soon be giving a couple hundred dollars to the accounting people so they can do our taxes for us. Also has a report for the entirety of last year.

Dues: Steve said that everyone present at the meeting was paid up at least and was good for the most part. Send Steve an email if you want the current roster. The rosters now show license expiration date, so if it comes close to that time, the club can bug you and make sure it gets done so you don't lose any of your privileges on the air.

W5YI License Renewal: Steve Miller K8BBL continued after the treasurer's report and talked about W5YI which will help with license renewals when the time comes. \$10 and they will fill out all of the forms for you, but you have to pay the FCC their \$35. For \$80, they will do everything for you, including filling out the paperwork, paying the FCC, and mailing you a printed version of the new license. Feel free to send the date of your license expiration to Steve and he will add it to the roster, so the club can remind you when you are getting close to expiration. You can only renew 3 months before it expires.

Repeaters: Peter Billie WA8TGG talked about the repeaters. He said that everyone was doing a great job running the nets. He appreciates the break, and it's good to get others in that position to learn what to do/how to do it. Check-ins are lower for the winter season, but that seems to normally happen; possibly due to everyone being wiped out from shoveling and in bed already. The Thursday 70 cm net usually has 4 to 6 check-ins, depending. Both repeaters are doing pretty good, with only minor, occasional interference.

Merchandise: Dylan Warren W8DYL, presented more information and deadlines for the merch. Worked with Created By Amy and got an order sheet going. The options include a heavy hoody, medium weight hoody, long and short sleeve T-shirt, long and short sleeve Polo, and a windbreaker. It will be callsign, name, and club logo on the apparel. Navy blue clothing with a "see through" logo so any blues on the logo would just be the shirt. We have printed copies and digital to be sent around with information about each type of apparel. Money needs to be in hand by the Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. The order will be placed 2/17/25 (the Monday after the meeting). Some people have already paid, but if you haven't, the club can take cash or check made out to MCRAC. You can do it in hand or send it to PO Box 364, Dellslow, WV 26531.

## Events:

**Annual Radio Swap Meet:** From the Pioneer Amateur Radio Association in Glenville, WV. Setup starts at 8 AM on Feb 22, 2025 at the Gilmer County Recreation Center. Event starts at 9 AM and goes to 2 PM. \$10 per table, and \$5 entrance fee.

**Rag Chew:** After the normal nets (9:15 or 9:30 PM), people will usually rag chew and just say hi on 2m upper sideband. 144.210 simplex. If you don't hear anyone, throw your callsign out or call CQ. They usually go until 10 PM.

**Build Day:** Antenna Build day will be the second Thursday in February. Feb 13, 2025 at 5:30 to 8:00 PM. We will be building j-poles for anyone that is interested. Anyone (even non-members) is welcome to attend. The easiest way to find where the space is, would be just to throw out a call on the WVU Repeater 146.760 MHz (-.6MHz), PL 103.5 and the members could direct people/come out and show us where to go. It will be at the University Engineering Building, and they have a bunch of tables and soldering irons and tools that some have never seen before. It should be a good event. If there is inclement weather predicted to hit, it will be announced on the Wednesday net before the Build Day (2/12/25).

**Education Segment:** Roy Nutter will be speaking at the February meeting on Grounding your radios. He will bring a computer, and we have the projector. They are supposed to get the wall done before the next meeting, which we may be able to project onto that, but we need a better screen, just in case it isn't done by that time. The one we have currently is a little small.

## Around the Room:

**Winter Field Day:** Peter Billie WA8TGG Talked about Winter Field Day. It is the last weekend in January (1/25-26/2025). Many times, people just operate from home, but you are welcome to get outside if you want to. 1600 UTC on Saturday (11 am EST), the 25th, and ends at 21:59 UTC on Sunday, the 26th (4:59 pm EST)

**Outside Activity:** Alex Lugo KD8NZX inquired about an upcoming POTA activation, and when that might occur. Rest assured, we will have something planned. Right now though, there is nothing scheduled as we are waiting for the cold weather to pass.

**POTA:** Pete Knapp KN8PPY talked more about POTA and things that not everyone may know. You don't have to announce that you are doing POTA. You can hunt others, but you can also just talk in to any QSO parties going on, give them the information they need, and log your calls. Once you get your 10 contacts, you successfully activated the park and can keep going, or call it quits whenever. The activator is the only one that is required to upload logs to the POTA website. If you do a Park to Park (PTP) contact, both operators upload their logs since they are both activators, and then POTA will do the behind-the-scenes work and make the connection between the two logs for a PTP contact.

**Equipment Suggestions for WVUARC:** Hasith Perera KE8TJE talked about an accident with their trailer that caused them to get some money from insurance. They were wondering what our club would suggest that they need for their club, or what the best use of the money might be. There was some discussion about getting another trailer, pros and cons of a trailer, different types of generators, and also the fact that the students that are there now that know how to take care of the equipment, won't always be there. Pete Knapp suggested a battery bank and solar panels that can work together to give their club options and multiple fuel sources (i.e. solar, or a

small generator). If you have any other ideas for them you can email Hasith at [ke8tje@gmail.com](mailto:ke8tje@gmail.com) or Dylan Warren at [ddozer0801@gmail.com](mailto:ddozer0801@gmail.com).

Black Box: No black box was present, as it got snowed in. Dylan Warren W8DYL said that the money people were going to spend on it, could go towards merch payments instead.

With no other business to come before the club, the meeting was adjourned at 9:51 AM.

**“The best preparation for tomorrow is doing your best today.” ~ H. Jackson Brown, Jr.**