

Mon County Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2024

The regular monthly meeting 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, Peter Billie WA8TGG, Hasith Perera KE8TJE, Allen Harris KD8BMI, Ty Crawford WN3TYC, Secretary Chris Condon N2BNW, Joel (Ed) Bowlby KE8WIC, Jackson Martin KC3YLF

Guests: Tracy Stamey

Treasurer's report: Given by Steve Miller K8BBL. As of 10/18, there is \$4735.26 in the bank. Monthly payments include the storage of the trailer, which has already been paid this month. There is also a bi-annual expenditure of \$85 for the PO Box which Allen paid already. Steve gave the opportunity for people to take the report with the request that it doesn't end up laying around.

W5YI License Renewal: Steve Miller K8BBL continued after the treasurer's report and talked about the club's parent organization (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. 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.

ID Cards: Everyone's ID is updated, and no one needs the new one.

Repeaters: Peter Billie WA8TGG talked about the repeaters, and the few developments we have had. The average amount of people checking in on the Thursday night 70 CM net is about 6 people. The .925 Repeater hasn't had anything done to it yet, it is just working for the most part, with some sporadic issues scattered throughout. There was talk about the link system, but right now, we don't think that is the issue. It could be the WVU hospital paging system, and members of the school plan to reach out and try to rectify the issue per Hasith Perera KE8TJE. This prompted some discussion on signal strength from/to certain people, filters, other paging systems, and unlicensed operators that buy equipment and just get on the air.

Trailer: Allen Harris KD8BMI, brought the trailer to the meeting and it was outside if anyone wanted to take a look at it. (After the meeting, most members that were present looked at the trailer and saw the potential and asked a few questions about it.)

Merchandise: Dylan Warren W8DYL, presented his findings about the merch. He found out that the shirts would have logo, callsign, and name on them. But, as of this club meeting, Dylan had asked for a picture of what the logo would look like on the shirts, and asked about winter apparel, but has not heard back yet and is hoping to hear more by the November meeting.

Dylan gave Allen a flashdrive with the club logo on it so Allen could order more patches.

Events

National Weather Service Presentation: Jim Morris KF8BKH, gave a summary of the NWS Presentation at the MWA meeting. He said it was a very good presentation and covered many different aspects, some of which were very technical. One of the things that was covered was how the radar ends above Morgantown and they really rely on Ham Operators to tell them what is going on on the ground.

Allen Harris then talked about CoCoRaHS which is a system where you can self report what is going on with the weather in your area. They also have things you can buy like weather equipment, emergency radios, and rain gauges, etc. You can find more information at <https://www.cocorahs.org/>.

Weather Net: Peter Billie WA8TGG informed everyone about the weather net on Wednesday nights. It doesn't last very long and it doesn't have to be very formal. Sky conditions, road conditions, temp, wind speed, whatever you have available. 9 PM on the 145.350 repeater.

Christmas party/dinner: Allen Harris KD8BMI talked about his findings for the Christmas Dinner. He looked into Lakeview and they want \$1600 for 30 people. Other places he contacted were all booked up. At Bourbon Prime, you can go and order off of the menu but they want a definite head count, which we don't have at this time.

Then the club members talked about the headcount sheet that Dylan had sent out. Some people were having issues accessing it, and could not respond to the email because the sheet would not allow it. Instead of filling out the sheet, we will just email Dylan with how many people are planning to attend.

POTA Picnic: November 2nd. Location will be at Cooper's Rock overflow parking lot. 10 am until 1pm or 2pm (whenever people get done). Also planning to do another one in the Spring to try and get a better turnout from the cold weather. .925 repeater will be used as talk-in for directions and questions.

JOTA (Jamboree On the Air): If you hear any scouts on the air, make sure you say hi to increase involvement and allow them to get their contacts that they want/need. No official hours – all weekend long. Maybe if someone hears scouts on a specific frequency, they can jump on the repeater and let everyone else know what frequency it is so others can reach out to them.

WVU Weather Balloon: Hasith Perera KE8TJE talked about a grant they got to do weather balloon launches. They are looking for other students, especially high school age to get involved and learn about radio and weather. Timeline will be for beginning of next year, Jan, Feb of 2025. They will be using APRS to track the balloon and be able to retrieve it.

Projects: Per Chris Condon N2BNW, the project for building an End Fed antenna will take off after Christmas and you will be able to build an antenna that allows you to get on the air. Hasith offered the Makers Place HUB at WVU to everyone. It can accommodate 25 people, and anyone who attended would just have to sign a safety waiver. Chris liked this idea and will work with Hasith to find a date that works, and the lab would be open.

Tech-in-a-day: Hasith Perera KE8TJE talked about the tech-in-a-day class they have coming up. It will be November 9th at 9 AM. They have a lecture and some videos, going over some things before the test. Then they have testing for anyone that wants to participate.

Educational Presentations: Steve Miller will give the first presentation on basic electricity at the November meeting. The plan is to alternate between some sort of project, and an educational component for most meetings.

Silent Auction: 5 people submitted bids on 8 items. Richard Clemmons won the Hellicrafter radio. Allen won the AD4 Switch. Hasith won the VHF Tranciever. Chuck Strahin won the amplifier. After the meeting, the club will open bids to anyone. Anything that isn't bid on or taken already, anyone can bid on it today and take it home.

Around the room

Bluetooth microphone: Ed Bowlby KE8WIC displayed his little wireless microphone that can connect to a few different radios. You can put your Baofeng outside with good connection to the repeaters and still be inside talking on your radio. Might also be good for backpacking or riding bikes and being able to communicate efficiently.

School Club Roundup: Hasith Perera KE8TJE talked of a contest event coming up between the different schools. They try to make contacts and even contact other schools.

Antenna Presentation: Chris Condon N2BNW gave a short presentation on J-pole antennas. What they are made out of, some of the benefits, use cases, half wave vs full wave antennas, matching impedance, adjustments, etc were all covered in the presentation. The plan is to send some of the instruction sheets and presentation material to Dylan so he can upload them on the website for anyone to access. As discussed earlier in the meeting, the build day for these antennas is coming soon and details will be announced soon.

Website: Dylan talked about the website. He mentioned the website is being updated as often as possible. It includes upcoming events, pictures, who we are, and more.

<https://monradioclub.com/>

With no other business to come before the club, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 AM.