

Mon County Amateur Radio Club  
Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 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 Vice-President, Dylan Warren W8DYL, started the meeting at 0900 and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance was: Vice-president Dylan Warren W8DYL, Treasurer Steve Miller K8BBL, Peter Billie WA8TGG, Ty Crawford WN3TYC, Secretary Chris Condon N2BNW, Joel (Ed) Bowlby KE8WIC, Jack Martin KC3YLF, Alan Blosser KD8YLQ, Pete Knapp KN8PPY

Guests: Jeremy Quick KB8TGC

Treasurer's report: Given by Steve Miller K8BBL. The club has almost \$5300 in the bank account. Steve has copies of the general ledger at the front of the room that anyone can take/look at with the request that it doesn't end up laying around after the meeting.

Steve also has an updated roster of club members with people that haven't shown up in a while removed from the list. If you know of people that haven't been to a meeting in a while, reach out to them, and see if they would want to come back.

Repeaters: Peter Billie WA8TGG talked about the repeaters, and had a few pleasant updates for us. The frequency of the 147.00 machine in the Link-Talk system was changed, and it has fixed all problems we had with the .925 repeater. They went to a negative offset instead of positive and that fixed all of the problems it was causing. The .925 repeater is sounding really good now. 70cm repeater is working as well and all repeaters are sounding a lot better than they were. This also means that if you have that repeater saved in any radios, you will need to change the 147.000 to a negative offset instead of positive if you want to talk/listen on that repeater.

Nets: Peter Billie also asked the question of alternating net controllers. We need to get a list of who wants to do it and then get a schedule going.

Merchandise: Dylan Warren W8DYL, presented his findings about the merch. Worked with Created By Amy and got an ordersheet 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. We ask that money is in-hand before we place the order so we aren't waiting on anything.

#### Events

POTA Picnic: Had a great activation on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. There was about 6 people present at Cooper's Rock and we made 35 ish contacts. We took a lunch break and had some Ham soup, which was fitting, amongst other things. We played around with multiple bands, antennas, and radios. Another one is in the works for Spring once it is warmer.

#### Event Ideas:

- Test handheld radio propagation out in the woods and see how the trees mess with the signals and stuff

- Foxhunt?
  - All simplex?
  - Maybe we don't know the area?
- Maybe we combine the two ideas together?

Emergency Preparedness: There was some discussion on real-world scenarios especially with all of the hurricanes that just happened recently. In a real-world situation, you have to use what you have, and won't have a lot of time to get ready - you just have to go. No one should have the mindset of X won't happen to me, or that isn't something I have to worry about.

Pete Knapp KN8PPY talked about some things he heard on the Florida coverage from Ham Radios. There was one person that ran a great net where emergency traffic was being transmitted and he was getting messages to where they needed to go and was doing a great job. In contrast, for the second set of Hurricanes, they had a state-wide link system and everyone was keying up the repeater seeing if their hand-held could hit it, which would then broadcast that signal to the whole state, and the link system just collapsed. Nothing could be heard on the system at that point, and no one could get a word in.

Christmas Party: Not a lot of responses back on the emails about the party. Steve Miller recommended scrapping the Christmas Party for this year. Lots of people are traveling and just aren't here for the holidays. Maybe a Christmas in July celebration instead, when everyone is here. Normal meeting at 9AM on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Christmas Parade: Steve Miller talked about the MWA Christmas Parade. They always need help with communications, if you wanted to help. Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30. N8OZY = Randy Crow who is the liaison for the event.

Build Day Project: Chris Condon N2BNW said that he was in communication with the WVU club and was thinking maybe a Thursday and Saturday would work best. They already have soldering irons that we could use. Chris said he would try to find time to contact WVU members and find an exact date to build the antennas.

Electricity Presentation: Steve Miller K8BBL gave a great presentation on basic electricity. What is an electron, what is a proton, where sine waves/frequencies come from, how amps are different from volts, series vs parallel circuits, circuit breakers, thermal couplers, GFCI outlets, grounding, and bonding were all discussed. Everyone present learned something new during the presentation.

Black Box: We explained what the black box was to our guest, but we didn't have it present so we decided to skip it this month.

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

After the meeting, Jeremy Quick tried an upgrade test. He passed and is now a General.