

Mon County Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
December 21, 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, Allen Harris KD8BMI, Peter Billie WA8TGG, Ty Crawford WN3TYC, Michael Bond KE8LMT, Jack Martin KC3YLF, Alan Blosser KD8YLQ, Pete Knapp KN8PPY, Paul White KD8YDO, Ernie Hill KD8VME, Rick Faulknier N8DRF, Hasith Perera KE8TJE, Alex Lugo KD8NZX

Guests: Jeremy Raugh KE8WZW

Treasurer's report: Given by Steve Miller K8BBL. Only had one copy of the official bank statement. Had a few copies of the treasurer's report that was sent around at the meeting. The club currently has \$5192 in the bank. A few items were purchased for the black box, and the accounting service was paid for. The only other consistent bills are the trailer storage and insurance.

Dues: Everyone should be paid up on dues, but if anyone isn't, make sure you get money to Steve.

Black Box Discussion: Allen Harris KD8BMI talked about a friend in North Carolina that makes Hammo Cans. It has Anderson Powerpole connectors, 12 volt sockets, meters, etc. He is willing to make 6 more of them for for the club for \$200 total. They do not include a battery or radio so that people can choose what they want/need. Including those would also increase the price of the unit. Alex Lugo KD8NZX made a motion for the club to spend the money on the equipment. Pete Knapp KN8PPY seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous decision.

Repeaters: Peter Billie WA8TGG talked about the repeaters. The repeaters are sounding pretty good. Occasional interference, but nothing like what it once was. The 70 cm repeater output was down to S3 recently. Some people struggled to hear and hit the repeater around this time. Peter is usually listening on 442.600 if anyone wanted to get on there, say hi, and test their equipment.

Net Controllers: Who all is interested in running the Wednesday net on the .25 repeater? Around 8 people were interested and Steve Miller gathered the contact information to make a schedule. Alternate Net Control Operators can be taken on the day of, before the net. It was asked if we should make a yearly schedule, but that can cause problems with scheduling that far out. When people run the net, it is suggested to use a base station at home, but nets are run all kinds of different ways, and you just do whatever works best for you. If someone doesn't show up due to personal reasons or equipment malfunctions, there will be people on stand-by to jump in and run it. Thank you to all of the volunteers that stepped up and were willing to get on the schedule to be Net Control.

Merchandise: Dylan Warren W8DYL, presented his findings about 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. We ask that money is in-hand before we place the order so we aren't waiting on anything. The order form was sent around and nine people already put down what they wanted. One person has already paid. If you have any questions, please reach out to Dylan Warren.

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.

Winter Field Day: 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. The WVU Club may have an informal get together at their shack, and people can go and see the shack and participate that way if they wanted to. If anyone wanted to see it, call out on the repeater and one of the students can take you to the top floor.

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.

Along those same lines, Peter Billie WA8TGG is usually listening on the 6 meter calling frequency, 50.125, if anyone wanted to get on there and mess with their radios or make sure everything works the way it should.

WVAC: Steve Miller K8BBL talked about the West Virginia Auxcomm Club test net happening on Dec 21st. Starting at 7 PM, they were planning to try 7.235. The backup is 7.240. The second backup is 7.230. The third backup will be 80 meters – 3.81. Then they will do the same thing at 8 PM using 2 meter, and then echolink as the backup. Friendly reminder, when using EchoLink, don't just key up and start talking right away. Key up and then wait a few seconds so your words don't get cut off.

Build Day: Hasith mentioned trying to find a date for the antenna build days. It has been mentioned a few times, but no date has been decided upon yet. Hasith said his next semester was pretty busy, and the sooner the club could let him know of some dates, the better. When Chris Condon has mentioned this before, he was thinking of doing a Thursday and Saturday to allow everyone to be able to make it to one of them.

Frequency Friday: Hasith Perera KE8TJE talked about something that their school was doing where they would just get on the radio and rag chew on Fridays. Talk about anything and everything, and maybe tell some stories. Hasith said that if anyone wanted to participate to throw their callsign out and come and join them. There isn't a specific time, but usually in the afternoons or evenings since a lot of the students like to sleep in.

Website: Dylan Warren W8DYL talked about the website and the updates to it. There is a lot of information on the website that he is trying to keep up to date. There are net schedules, upcoming events, pictures, club information, etc. Soon to be coming will be documents for the antenna build and maybe even the net preamble and net control schedule. If there are any

problems with the information, Dylan can be contacted and the site can be changed.
Monradioclub.com.

In Search of Equipment: Jim Morris KF8BKH talked about an individual, KA5HWK, that was looking for a used HF radio in the \$500 range. Someone had mentioned to them that a 7300 was a good option. If you are trying to get rid of any radios or know of any good options, contact Jim. Then Steve Miller mentioned that Chris Deems KD8YYM was also looking for an HF radio, and Steve referred him to Peter and Allen. Pete Knapp talked about buying used equipment. The QRZ website has used radios for sale. But be careful of who you buy from, and don't buy from someone named Chris Fontaine.

Equipment Testing: Peter Billie WA8TGG talked about bringing in his equipment so people could test their radios, and make sure you are getting the power output you were expecting. Just because it says 5 Watts, doesn't mean that is actually what it is doing. Peter will let everyone know in advance of when he brings his testing equipment. That way, if anyone wanted to bring their equipment to test, they have the option to.

Education Segment: Roy Nutter offered to do a session on Grounding your radios. This will probably be coming in February with the Antenna Build Day happening sometime in January++.

Around The Room

Pete Knapp KN8PPY is now the West Virginia POTA Mapping Coordinator, in addition to the ones he had previously – Massachusetts and Maryland. He added 26 different parks already. There was discussion about some of the parks he added and the locations and boundaries of them. If there are other parks that you feel should be on the list, but aren't, let him know, and he will look into them. Remember that it has to be 100% managed and owned by a state or national entity (usually have .gov websites).

Pete Knapp KN8PPY gave an impromptu small presentation on his new HF radio he got after his G90 died. He is looking for a used G90 he can swap parts with and get his working again. The new radio he got is a Xiegu X6100 and it is paired with a few different Elecraft AX Antennas. It looks like a thick hand-held, and there is a PTT button, mic, and speaker built into the device. It will do 5W on battery power, or you can hook up an external power supply and go to 10W. He also showed the AX1 and 2 antennas and talked about how well they worked. All of this plus a few other features and hardware will all fit into a bag the size of a toiletry bag or small lunch box.

Jack Martin KC3YLF talked about DMR and a few issues they were having. They were thinking about taking their DMR off of Brandmeister and maybe putting it on the TGIF network instead. If anyone has experience with that, they are looking for help. They have been in contact with Allen Harris about it already. More information will come at a later time.

Peter Billie WA8TGG mentioned that if you knew any friends or maybe someone that was in HAM Radio, but not a part of a club to invite or bring them to a meeting so we can increase involvement and keep the membership full.

Black Box: The club took in \$140 for the black box raffle. Another \$45 was paid for dues.

With no other business to come before the club, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:22 AM. Have a Merry Christmas and happy remainder of the year. We will see everyone back in 2025.