

Mon County Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2025

The second 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, Chaplain Chuck Strahin KD8TYQ, Paul White KD8YDO, Ian MacDonnell N0IAN, Hasith Perera KE8TJE, James Deems KE8YYM, Lisa Pessa (New member), Lew Soccorsi KF8CEW, Ty Crawford WN3TYC, Peter Billie WA8TGG, Alex Lugo KD8NZX, Mike Bond KE8LMT, Alan Blosser KD8YLQ, Ernie Hill KD8VME, Allen Harris KD8BMI, and Secretary Chris Condon N2BNW.

Guests: Larry Lee N8BL, Dr. Roy Nutter N8BHI

Dr. Nutter N8BHI lead us in an exceptional presentation on grounding. He talked about bonding ground rods together, how to improve your grounding system, what to do vs what not to do, the importance of grounding your equipment, what causes damage to your equipment, and using Single Point Ground Panels, among other things. It was a great presentation and was very educational.

Treasurer's report: Given by Steve Miller K8BBL. About \$5465 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.

Weekly Wednesday Net: Peter Billie WA8TGG talked about the nets, and how everyone was doing a great job and how good they sounded. We have an ongoing rotation that we are following and it was just sent out recently. If you are not on the schedule, but want to be, reach out to Steve Miller at K8BBLsteve@gmail.com. Alex Lugo KD8NZX asked if we could get the alternate net control more involved by having them read off the announcements instead of the net control station. We said this would be fine, as long as there is an alternate. Sometimes there isn't an alternate net control, in which the responsibility would fall back on the net control station.

Merchandise: Dylan Warren W8DYL, presented more information about the merch order. 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. There were a few minor changes to the design. It will still be navy blue clothing but instead of a "see through" logo showing the color of the shirt, it will be the official blue like what is on the logo. All money was turned in at the meeting/through the mail. The order was placed after the 2/15 meeting. There may be another round of orders at a later time so if you missed it this time, you still have an opportunity to get clothing with your name and call sign. Thanks everyone!

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.

Project Update – Antenna Build: Antenna Build day was a success. There was about 13 people present. Some people finished their antenna, but there were a few others that didn't. There was some talk about when the next session would be. A weekend was discussed, and as long as we give WVU enough of a heads-up, they should be able to get someone there, and help make that a possibility. There was also talk of maybe finishing what was needed on a few people's antennas after a monthly meeting. They are tentatively shooting to finish after next month's (3/15) meeting.

Around the Room:

Event/Education Ideas: Dylan Warren W8DYL asked the question of what people wanted to see as a presentation and what they wanted to do for activities. Education Segments included: POTA, QRP (Low Power), DMR digital mode. Activities included: a YAGI tape measure build, a fox hunt, and 2nd POTA Picnic. We will try to bring these into fruition in the upcoming months.

Black Box: Steve Miller K8BBL explained what the black box was. Then the club did the drawing to see who would win the raffle. The black box brought in \$130 to the club.

With no other business to come before the club, the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 AM.

License Upgrade: After the meeting, Jim Morris KF8BKH took his general test and passed. Congrats Jim!

“Life doesn't get easier or more forgiving, we get stronger and more resilient.” Steve Maraboli