

Mon County Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2025

The regular monthly meeting of 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 0906 and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance was: President Jim Morris KF8BKH, Vice-president Dylan Warren W8DYL, Treasurer Steve Miller K8BBL, Hasith Perera KE8TJE, Lisa Pessa, Lew Soccorsi KF8CEW, Ty Crawford WN3TYC, Peter Billie WA8TGG, Alex Lugo KD8NZX, Alan Blosser KD8YLQ, Allen Harris KD8BMI, Brad Fansler KE8TDQ, Rick Faulknier N8DRF, Jack Martin KC3YLF, Linda Marden KE8AMQ, Bob Harding KE8TUZ, and Secretary Chris Condon N2BNW.

No Guests were present.

Treasurer's report: Given by Steve Miller K8BBL. About \$5193 in the bank currently, and will soon be giving one to two hundred dollars to the accounting people so they can do our taxes for us. He had printed reports if people wanted them, or he could email them depending on people's preferred format.

Website: Steve Miller K8BBL talked about some problems with the website. Currently the bill is split into 3 parts. We got the bill and the new total was over \$700. QTH (a partner of QSL) has site hosting that we could use for less than \$150 per year. Jack Martin KC3YLF offered to host the website on his server, but it wouldn't be as user friendly as some of the other hosting platforms. Then the question was asked what would happen to the site once he graduated college and moved on with his life. There was some discussion on sustainability and not having the site go down at a later time. There was more discussion on some other suggestions like GitHub. Dylan Warren W8DYL will contact those that were in the discussion at a later time and work together to get something figured out for the club.

Trailer Discussion: Steve Miller K8BBL continued with some more issues to address – this time pertaining to the trailer. Currently it is costing \$90 a month, or almost \$1100 a year, to store a trailer that doesn't get used that often. Allen Harris KD8BMI has a contact that would store it for \$50 dollars bringing the cost down to about \$600 dollars instead. The only expense would be a onetime payment for a hitch lock of about \$75. Ty Crawford WN3TYC suggested a place in Preston County. And WVU offered to store it on their premises as well. There was also some discussion about letting WVU use the trailer too or working out a contract where they technically own it, along with some other ideas. The club tabled the WVU suggestion for now, and said we could work on that later. Allen Harris KD8BMI said that since it is a Mon County trailer, it should probably stay in Mon County instead of being stored in Preston, for quicker access in an emergency. Steve motioned to pay the \$50 a month and move the trailer to Brookhaven. Ty Crawford WN3TYC seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Once it is moved and fixed up, the club should be using it at events, in parades, etc. It can advertise who we are and get our name out there. There was some talk about what is in the trailer, and what equipment would be needed if we were to get a deployment call. If anyone has any ideas for events we could put the trailer in, or good spots to set it up at, please let one of the officers know and we will try to arrange it.

Repeater Report: Peter Billie WA8TGG talked about the nets/repeaters. There was some interference from the .075 repeater on the last Wednesday net. Then there was someone that

keyed up on the repeater and took everyone out for a few minutes. 70cm hasn't been much better in regards to interference. At the beginning of the 70cm net, signal was iffy before straightening itself out and doing better towards the end of the net. Our equipment is not the issue, it is just that 70cm is a weird band, and the propagation can be all over the place at times.

FCC Deregulation: Jim Morris KF8BKH talked about a public message that was released from the FCC talking about the efforts they are taking to deregulate the hobby. There is a lot of speculation for what that may mean. Examples could be no FCC fees, no license required, no more testing for licenses, etc. but again, that is not finalized or set in stone. If you want more information on it, you can look up "FCC Public Notice Docket 25-133".

Merchandise: Club merchandise has arrived! It was sent to Steve Miller K8BBL, and he said most everything was handed out to the people it needed to go to. Dylan Warren W8DYL received his sample name tag and told the club about it. It is an aluminum name tag with the Name, Call-sign, and Logo on it. It looks really nice and was passed around for the club members to look at. Dylan will find out pricing information and see if there are any takers on the name tag at the next meeting. Then we can get those ordered for members as well. Jim Morris KF8BKH asked about ordering patches for the club as well. Another member asked about hats, and Dylan said he would ask her about nametags, hats, and patches.

Events:

WEARSFest 2025: Hamfest on March 29, 2025. 8 AM to 1 PM. 349 Donohoe Road, Greensburg, PA. Talk-in on the 147.180 +.6, PL131.8. www.wc3ps.org for more information.

Dayton Hamfest: Hamvention will be held May 16, 17 from 9AM to 5PM and 18 from 9AM to 1 PM, 2025 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center. 210 Fairground Road, Xenia 45385. Go to <https://hamvention.org/> for more information.

Around the Room:

Project Update – Antenna Build: 3 or 4 people did not finish their antennas, and are planning to finish them after the meeting.

Education segment: Dylan Warren W8DYL said that he was talking to Repeat KN8PPY, about doing a POTA or QRP presentation. As long as Repeat is in town, he said he was willing, but Dylan will follow up on that and see what his schedule looks like.

Black Box: The club did the drawing to see who would win. Peter Billie WA8TGG won the raffle. The black box brought in \$140 to the club.

With no other business to come before the club, the meeting was adjourned at 0956.

License Upgrade: After the meeting, Lew Soccorsi KF8CEW and Bob Harding KE8TUZ took and passed their General exams. Lisa Pessa took and passed the Technician exam. Congrats to all three of you!

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream another dream." C.S. Lewis