

Mon County Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 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 by Vice President Alex Lugo. Alex opened the meeting at 0910. 'Repete' Knapp led the Pledge of Allegiance. Alex led a "once around the room" for introductions.

Those in attendance were: Alex Lugo, KD8NZX, Vice President; Steve Miller, K8BBL, Treasurer; Alan Blosser, KD8YLQ; Hasith Perera, KE8TJE; Chris Condon, N2BNW; Jim Morris, KF8BKH; Peter Billie, WA8TGG; Paul White KD8YDO; Mike Bond, KE8LMT; Pete Knapp, KN8PPY; Dylan Warren, W8DYL; Linda Marden, KE8AMQ and Paul Casto, KE8CLL.

Steve asked Hasith Perera, who is from Sri Lanka, to tell the group what amateur radio is like in his home country. He gave a detailed talk to the group and answered questions.

Alex conducted the elections for the officers for the next (2 year) term. The following were nominated (or volunteered) and all were unanimously voted in by the membership: President; Jim Morris (KF8BKH), Vice President, Dylan Warren (W8DYL), Treasurer, Steve Miller (K8BBL), Secretary, Chris Condon (N2BNW). The position of Club Chaplain is not yet official, the membership will be notified when the nominated person accepts or declines.

Steve brought up the subject of the comm trailer. There was a discussion about insurance. Allen Harris has (after the meeting) agreed to be the custodian of the trailer. Steve will discuss the insurance issue with him.

Steve mentioned that dues are due for the July 01 2024 – June 30 2025 year. Several members paid their dues.

Peter Billie explained the situation with the Hamtalk link system causing problems on our two repeaters. He said that it has been better on both repeaters the last couple weeks. He did not know if there was work done to rectify the issue or if we 'just got lucky' and the problems did not come up.

Peter then advised the members (and passed out flyers) about the Statewide Amateur Radio Convention on July 27, 2024 in Flatwoods and several other upcoming hamfests. He requested we run an ad in the flyer for the state convention to support it. Steve will contact Ed Messenger ref this.

Peter passed out copies of an article on grounding equipment and told of the issues we had at field day that were caused by the poor grounding and soil conditions.

Peter also discussed folding antennas that are available and can be easily carried for a POTA type event. Members can contact him for more information.

Peter told the group about the VHF contest that starts today (07/20/2024) and runs through tomorrow. Popular frequencies are: 6m 50.145, 2m 144.200, 70cm 432.100. These are not the only frequencies, just some popular ones. Any frequency in the band is acceptable. Simplex only, no repeaters.

Chris Condon spoke about the upcoming Chambersburg (PA) and Washington (PA) hamfests.

Steve advised the club that Fred McMullen, the meteorologist from NWS Pittsburgh will be at the Mon Wireless Assn (MWA) monthly meeting on October 15, 2024 to speak about winter weather spotting. The meeting will held at the Red Cross building in Morgantown on Tuesday October 15, 2024 at 7:00 PM. All are invited!

'Repete' Knapp (KN8PPY) gave a detailed talk on POTA and told the group that there are over 200 new USA parks in the database. He will look into setting up another POTA outing for the club this year and let the members know.

The Black Box collected \$185 this month and was won by Paul Casto (KE8CLL).

With no other business to come before the club, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1025 AM.

Steve Miller
Acting as Secretary
07/20/2024