

Mon County Amateur Radio Club
Meeting Minutes
April 19, 2025

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 0901 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, Hasith Perera KE8TJE, Lisa Pessa, Lew Soccorsi KF8CEW, Ty Crawford WN3TYC, Peter Billie WA8TGG, Alex Lugo KD8NZX, Allen Harris KD8BMI, Linda Marden KE8AMQ, Pete Knapp KN8PPY, Mike Bond KE8LMT, Ernie Hill KD8VME, Randy Crowe N8OZY, Secretary Chris Condon N2BNW, and Paul White KD8YDO.

No Guests were present at the meeting.

Treasurer's report: Given by Steve Miller K8BBL. About \$4992 in the bank currently, and will soon be giving a few hundred 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. A bank statement was available to look at, but Steve doesn't make copies of that. The club's monthly bills went down due to the trailer and web hosting services. It was \$90 per month for the trailer, which is down to \$50 since we moved locations. The new web hosting price is 10.25 a month which means monthly bills are about \$60 now.

Merchandise: 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. The name tags are \$10 plus shipping costs. Dylan continued with hats, and three different options available to the club. Some are adjustable, and some aren't, plus there are a few different materials as well. The club took a vote and the majority liked the FlexFit Delta (not adjustable) hat. Dylan will find out pricing information and color options for that specific hat and will get back to the club. He also asked Amy about patches, and she said that she is not very good at patches, and it would have to be sewn onto something. We will have to find a different vendor for that.

Website: Dylan Warren W8DYL contacted Jack Martin KC3YLF and Ty Crawford WN3TYC and talked about best options for the website. They decided that QTH would be the best and started transferring the site over to the new host. As of the club meeting, it is transferred over and 100% running on the new site. Ty even checked some records behind the scenes and was able to confirm the new host. The site is still at <https://monradioclub.com>, and you shouldn't really see much difference from the old site, which is the point. While Dylan was doing all of that, he updated it with some new pictures and upcoming events. So, it is mostly updated, barring a few pictures Alex Lugo KD8NZX gave Dylan before the meeting. Those will be on there soon.

Trailer Discussion: Allen Harris KD8BMI got the trailer moved over to the new location. It is at Brookhaven Rd. now.

Repeater Report: Peter Billie WA8TGG talked about the nets/repeaters. 70cm repeater still having some problems. The club needs to get over there and look at the antenna and see why we are having problems. Maybe a bad cable, or an issue with the grounding stuff. The receive

side is what is having problems. We also may or may not be responsible for mowing the grass around that area.

Amateur of the Year Nomination: Randy Crowe N8OZY from the Mon Wireless Association was here with a special announcement. As a ham radio operator in the state of WV, everyone is a part of the West Virginia State Radio Council. The council has one meeting a year in Flatwoods, WV. A part of that meeting is nominating and voting on an Amateur of the Year. Randy made a nomination and passed a form around for people to sign if they wanted to vote for said person. He will take the form to the meeting and make sure our voices are heard. He/She may be the only person nominated, or there could be others and a vote would take place – it is up in the air.

Events:

- BreezeShooters Hamfest Sunday June 8, 2025, 8am-2pm at the Butler Farm Show Grounds, Butler, PA. <https://breezeshooters.org/ns/hamfest/> for more information.
- Skyview Ham Fest - August 24th, in New Kensington, PA at their clubhouse.
- Gabfest – August 9th in Uniontown
- 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.

Next Project: Chris Condon N2BNW talked about how we built j-poles last time, and how we might be doing that again. We are also working on getting the supplies needed for an end-fed antenna which can be good for emergencies or even permanent use. Instructions have been found, and will soon be on the website next to the last set of instructions.

Parks On The Air (POTA) Presentation: Pete “Repeat” Knapp KN8PPY gave a great little presentation on POTA and how anyone, even you, can get started with it. He started with the very simple rules, and the website to go to for more information. He went over the golden rule, spotting users/yourself, activating a park, QRP, submitting your logs, errors in your log submissions, awards for all the different things you can do, and more. After the presentation, he answered some questions and ensured that everyone understood what he went over. This was a great presentation, and he passed on a lot of knowledge to us, but this is only scratching the surface. There is so much more that he could go into at a future time. If there are any questions for the time being, you can reach out to Pete and ask him.

Around the Room:

Hasith Perera KE8TJE – His boss is leaving for SC, which means he is going as well. He said he has had a great time getting to know everyone and working with them. There are a lot of memories here, and he will miss all of us, and I’m sure the feeling is mutual. Good luck though, Hasith. We all hope everything goes well for you. And if you are ever in the area again, don’t be afraid to stop back in.

Peter Billie WA8TGG – Talked about license expiration dates. If you provide your license’s expiration date to Steve, he can put it in the spreadsheet and we can remind you when it is getting close to that date so your license doesn’t expire and you start talking on the air illegally.

Peter also had a few vertical antennas that he showed off. There was one that was a collapsible pole that he had marked for the different bands. It works well for portable activations – POTA,

field day, etc. It is easy and fairly cheap to make but will get you on the air. You can also make a 40m antenna with chain link fence.

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. ARRL responded to the FCC and Jim had a printout of the changes they requested, and even went through the document and highlighted the important parts for our club members to read.

Randy Crowe N8OZY – Said that someone secured the Boy Scout camp again for Field Day, and someone will probably be reaching out soon to give more information.

Black Box: The club did the drawing to see who would win. Lisa Pessa won the box and chose her prize. The black box brought in \$205 to the club.

With no other business to come before the club, the meeting was adjourned at 10:24.

License Upgrade: After the meeting, Kenny Wright KF8DYY, Lisa McCloud KF8DZA, and Todd Crawford KF8DZB all tested for their technician license and passed! Congrats to all three of you, and welcome to the exciting world of Ham Radio.

“The greater the difficulty, the more glory in surmounting it.” ~ Epictetus