

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Communications Division

Tom Ecker, Executive Director

Steve Riley, Director of Communications

February, 2018

The February Communications Division meeting is Tuesday, February 6, 7:00PM at the EOC. One major topic of discussion will be led by Tom, W9EEL, related to the effects of EMP saturation as it may impact our people and our equipment.

I hope that you had a chance to listen to the Podcast when Dale, KV9W, discussed the important functions of the Warning Division. There are additional Podcasts planned for the other functions of our County Emergency Management. We'll notify you when they become available.

We have discussed at several meetings the planned implementation of Radio Direction Finding (RDF) in a program to locate people who because of medical conditions wander away from their home. This program is ready to be implemented in our County. In January a three day training session was held. Four members, Tom-KA9SYP, Doug-N9DR, Jeff-K9DYR and Lew-K9LBB became certified in the use the equipment and search techniques, and also to become trainers. They performed a number of searches over a wide ares and were successful in all cases to find the transmitter in short order. Come to the meeting to learn more about this program and how the equipment is used. Over time more of our communicators will be trained in the use of these devices.

On Saturday, January 27, the Winter Field Day was held and the first use of the new mobile communication van being outfitted by the MCARC was tested. Dale-KW9W, and Mike-KC9DJU along with others have been working hard to get the inside set up with multiple operating positions and temporary antenna supports on the outside. With the DC power source and the AC generator trailer there was plenty of power and operating room for up to three stations (with plans for another). HF operations were conducted for a few hours as we discussed additional things to be done to improve the van. Those who stopped by included: KV9W, KC9DJU, KC9GBL, WA9CWE, KB9VE and K9TZJ.

Remember the StormNet Training on Tuesday, March 6, 7:00PM at Hoosier Park. Remember that we'd like all active participants to attend this training at least once every three years. Bring along anyone you know who is interested in severe weather recognition.

Jeff reports:

We are trying to increase the number of amateur radio operators in Madison County. Our numbers have dwindled and that causes problems with some of the programs we want to maintain and initiate. Tom has designed a promotional card and our push will be at the Stormnet training on 3/6. We will also use social media and possibly a paid ad in the paper. The promotion will be for **a ham orientation program at the EOC on 3/13**. The intent is to present

different areas within amateur radio that might draw people to the hobby. We want to have demonstrations and presentations.

You probably read in the Newspaper that EMA is taking over the responsibility for activation of sirens in the County (pending local official's approval). Tom will have an update on this project.

There are several other projects scheduled for 2018. Come to the meeting to be updated.

In case you are wondering about Alan's 220 repeater, he returned it to the manufacturer to be checked out and retuned. It's never performed up to expectations, so he elected to have them go over it again. It should be back and on the air soon. This system can provide a relatively secure (not too many people are capable of scanning 220) communications resource for our County.

We have been having between 15 and 20 regular checkins to the Sunday evening Tone Alert Test. Remember this is a good opportunity to test out your handhelds and other equipment that may not be regularly used. Also you can be reminded of upcoming events. Try to take time to check in on Sundays.

See you Tuesday evening.

73,

Steve

Madison County EMA Comm Division Meeting Notes

12/5/2017

Meeting was called to order by Jeff-K9DYR at 1900.

EMA Comm Division activities include:

- a) EMA tabletop exercises (3)
- b) White River Run exercise
- c) Run The Mounds exercise
- d) Tornado Drill
- e) Cub Scout tour and demonstration
- f) IDHS Director Visit
- g) 3/6/18 Stormnet Training

Training: Steve Riley gave a presentation on water level measurements. Designated points around the county waterways at specific bridges have been marked for identification. Steve demonstrated the apparatus we can construct to make the measurements. Procedures for obtaining measurements were outlined. Data will be collected and reported per the communications techniques used by the Communications Division. This presentation will be added to the training archive and hopefully, accessible from the web site.

Tom-WA9SYP provided information about Project. A three day training will take place in late January for a small group. This group will be certified to train others. Striping will be done shortly in the parking lot. The new access road to the EOC from Broadway is now accessible.

The Government Center will be closed for the removal of asbestos. Some IT personnel will be using space at the EOC as offices during the procedure.

2040 Meeting adjourned

Respectively Submitted,
JEFF DYER