

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Communications Division

Tom Ecker, Executive Director

Steve Riley, Director of Communications

February, 2021

The Communications Division meeting is as scheduled on Tuesday, February 2, 7:00PM **on the 146.820 repeater**. Please plan to check in and participate. Jeff has an interesting training session planned.

Here is information from Tom, W9EEL, with regard to our availability of weather RADAR: I've finally had time to update the radar page on the ARC website. Since the NWS destroyed their old server and put up a new one that isn't useful, we've been limping along with some pages from WU. I've spent the last few days hacking into WU and build a new radar page which is now installed on the ARC website. You may find it at <https://andersonrepeaterclub.org/WX/Radar.html>.

I have extracted the radar images while leaving behind all the ads and extraneous stuff, some of which doesn't work very well. Unless WU changes something, we now have access to clean, radar images. These do not have the high resolution that those of us using WeatherTap enjoy, nor I think, as high as the old NWS site. However, these pages load almost instantly, have useful animation, and should prove serviceable.

Two things you should know before using them: 1) I've programmed the images to fill the width whatever window you are using. If you want larger or smaller images, resize your window. 2) Occasionally when you click on a link nothing seems to happen. I think this is a glitch with WU. Just click again, or refresh the page. It's always worked the second time for me. These pages refresh automatically every 2.5 minutes, so they should always be close to current time, except for the National Radar which runs about 30 minutes behind.

While these images are not as good as the ones from the old NWS site, they should prove adequate and serviceable. any comments or suggestions are welcome.

On another weather related note a new Weather Station has been purchased for the EOC site and it is up and running. Thanks to Dale, KV9W, and the Anderson Repeater Club for this replacement of the 10 year old unit that has reached the end of it's useful life. Additionally, a new camera will be installed on the EOC roof (Jeff is waiting on really bad weather to make the install!) so that the EOC Weather Web Cam will be on-line again.

Dale, KV9W, our Warning Division Supervisor reports that we will NOT be able to conduct in-person Severe Weather Observer Training again this year. Therefore, the National Weather Service is offering live Webinars. Here is that information:

All NWS Indianapolis spotter talks this Spring will be held virtually and live. We will use GotoWebinar software, which can host up to 1000 people per session. I have scheduled 6 public sessions, scattered across various days and times in March. Those times are listed below. **Pre-registration will be required**, and I plan to ask for name, home county, call sign and contact email address. From this I can parse the registrations and send each county EM a list of those who signed up for the training by county.

Anyone can attend any of these 6 sessions as the training will be identical in content, and I plan to keep each webinar to around **90 minutes**. Unfortunately, due to copyright issues and privacy concerns, these webinars will not be recorded. Other opportunities for online training exist and will be shared during this training.

Below are the dates, times and registration links for each training opportunity. People only need to attend 1 of these sessions, but they must make sure they register using the unique URL for the date they wish to attend. This information and registration links are also available on our spotter training website at <https://www.weather.gov/ind/Spotter>

I know this is different and unique but we must adapt and press forward. Please let me know if you have any questions on this. Sam

Please register for NWS Indianapolis Spotter Training Webinar - **Mar 6, 2021 10:00 AM EST** at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7199577262341979664>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please register for NWS Indianapolis Spotter Training Webinar - **Mar 8, 2021 6:30 PM EST** at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1006691268592279824>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar:

Please register for NWS Indianapolis Spotter Training Webinar - **Mar 10, 2021 4:00 PM EST** at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2011932968426083600>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please register for NWS Indianapolis Spotter Training Webinar - **Mar 13, 2021 10:00 AM EST** at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7925758513000692496>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please register for NWS Indianapolis Spotter Training Webinar - **Mar 22, 2021 6:30 PM EDT** at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3726590565617200144>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Please register for NWS Indianapolis Spotter Training Webinar - **Mar 24, 2021 2:00 PM EDT** at:
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/892252998861824272>
After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Jeff forwarded this from the Hancock EMA Group:

For the technicians in our division I wanted to remind you of all the opportunities out there for your license level. I think everyone is aware of the 2m/440 repeaters and simplex frequencies, but there is quite a bit of activity out there on 6m, 10m, and 220 mhz. Below are some active frequencies around town and some different models of radios to look at!

6 meters - There are two local repeaters in Indianapolis, one of which is on the state police tower at 21st & Post.

53.010 no PL

52.700 136.5 PL

52.525 National simplex frequency

Net every Thursday at 7:30 pm on the 53.010

10 meters - FM and SSB are both utilized and technicians have SSB voice privileges from 28.300 - 28.500, and FM voice from there up to 29.700. While this is typically a "summer band", it's frequently

open periodically year round. My first Dx contact was in winter and I had numerous contacts in New England on an attic antenna!
Conversation net M-S at 8pm on 28.380

220 mhz - Primarily FM voice
222.100 SSB call
223.500 Simplex calling frequency
224.800 88.5 PL Willard Park
224.980 77 PL City County Building

As far as equipment, all the big names have pricy models out there, but for those on a budget look at Alinco, TYT, or Baofeng. The TYT 9800 is a direct clone of the Yaesu 8900 and has 2m/440/6m/and 10m FM for around \$220.. TYT makes a 60w 220mhz radio for \$130 which has gotten good reviews, then there is always used equipment on E-Ham or at hamfests. Attic antennas also work fairly well on all these bands and can be made easily from materials at Lowes or Home Depot. I would recommend a video Elmer I've followed from day one on YouTube, Randy Hall K7AGE. He has dozens of videos on antenna construction and my 10m attic antenna was his design.

Hope this helps, now get on the air!

Our December meeting was held on-air also and it worked out well. Our attendance was about the same as our in-person meetings. For those of you who weren't able to check in at the December meeting, please do so this Tuesday.

See you at the on-air meeting on Tuesday.

73,
Steve & Jeff