

Anderson Repeater Club, Inc.

March, 2020

Our March meeting is as usual, the First Tuesday, March 3, 7:00PM at the EOC. Our Technical Session will deal with “dummy loads”. This topic sets us up for a lot of snide remarks. Please plan to attend and contribute with your experiences after the presentation.

Welcome to our newest members, Paul Muething, KD9NHQ and Tim Vaught, W9TDV. We're also excited to have back David Sargent, KE9XF. We look forward to their active participation in Club activities.

Congratulations to the Officers for 2020. We thank the membership for your continued support and hope that you will offer constructive ideas to improve the Club and meet your needs.

The ARRL web site has been updated with the latest information on our Club and the Officers and also the calendar for our VE sessions in 2020. We hope that this readily available information will bring us some new members and general exposure.

Remember to submit your dues for 2020 if you have not already. As usual they can be mailed to the Club PO box (PO Box 615, Anderson, 46015) or better yet, bring them to the meeting. As usual \$20 per year. For those who have paid I'll have your membership certificate at the meeting. The Web Site has an up-to-date list of those who we have received dues. Please check it if you are uncertain if you've paid.

Keep an eye on the Club web site for information on our activities, meeting notes and presentations. We are making every effort to make available any slides from Club meetings and also Communications Division meetings for your review.

Our VE Test sessions have started our strong. At the January session we had 3 candidates resulting in 2 new Technicians. At the February session we had 4 candidates resulting in 2 new licenses, 1 Technician and 1 General and 2 upgrades to Amateur Extra.

A note regarding the testing....The 2020 – 2024 Extra class pool incorporates significant changes compared to the current 2016 – 2020 question pool, which expires on June 30. The number of questions in the pool was reduced from 712 to 622. The result was 239 modified questions, 49 new questions, and 139 questions removed due to changes in what was felt to be an abundance of outdated questions, while areas of new technology and subjects were added.

In addition, an effort was made to balance the difficulty level, removing or replacing some questions deemed too easy or too difficult compared to the rest of the pool. The 2020 pool has 10 diagrams, which have been renumbered because the new Question Pool has two fewer than the 2016 Question Pool.

As many of you know the ECC within the EOC is/has been moved from the front of the building to the back. Many of you have helped a great deal in moving equipment and storage cabinets to facilitate the new construction. Thanks for your effort. Our meeting location, in the Training Room, has not been significantly affected by this work. It should be noted that thanks to the effort of all the ECC was never totally "of the air". The equipment, including the HF rigs, were on tables on wheels that could be rolled to the antenna cables quickly. The VHF/UHF rigs were able to be set up quickly too. Great planning on the part of Tom, Jeff and the rest of the helpers.

I hope that you have Tuesday, March 17, 7:00PM marked on your calendar for our yearly StormNet Training session. As usual we encourage all who participate in our Tornado Observation program to attend yearly if possible. As in the past we'll have one of the Indianapolis National Weather Service guys present the latest information. Feel free to bring any family, friends, co-workers who have an interest in severe weather observation to this free event. Again this year it is at the Anderson University York Performance Center. For directions see the Club Web Site in the "Events" section. There is a nice pictorial of the location of the Center and the nearby parking lots.

Also this year we intend to introduce the opportunity for folks to obtain an Amateur Radio License by getting the Gordon West Technician License Manual, then attend our "Help" sessions prior to a VE Testing Session. Last year it resulted in several new hams, all of whom have become very active in our Clubs and EMA. We are hoping that this year will have the same results. If you know of anyone who has an interest in getting a license but might need some additional help or inspiration invite them to attend and pick up the information. Our expected timing is as follows:

Mar 17 Tue StormNet Training Class – Provide info and encourage getting the training mat'l
Apr 6 Mon MCARC Meeting – Welcome session for those interested
Apr 7 Tue Comm Div Meeting – Welcome session for those interested
Apr 11 Sat Help Session @ EOC – 8AM-Noon
Apr 18 Sat Help Session @ EOC – 8AM-Noon
Apr 21 Tue VE Testing Session – 7:00PM

Note also that this StormNet training is the third Tuesday of the month, our usual VE Testing night. For March only we have moved our VE testing to the Second Tuesday, the 10th. It is correctly noted on the ARRL site.

Jeff and Gary have been interfacing with our surrounding counties. The Hancock County (Greenfield) group provided this calendar:

SKYWARN Net every Tuesday @7:30PM, 145.330 Mhz.

March 12 ARES.RACES Meeting at EOC (Will discuss Winlink and Go-boxes)

March 25 HARC Meeting

April 6 Storm Spotter Training (At Ninestar)

May 27 HARC Meeting

June 24 HARC Meeting

June 27 Field Day Exercise @ St. Michael's Catholic Church (2PM Sat to 2PM Sun)

Their meetings are at their EOC. George Boaz, KD9GHS is their ARES EC.

If you haven't caught it yet, there is a really nice tech net on 147.09 IRLP on Sunday evening at 8:00PM. It is led by some guys out of Pennsylvania with checkins from many areas talking about equipment, satellites and technical projects and also list some "swap & shop" items.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

73,
Steve

Minutes of Meeting – January 7, 2020

The regular Club meeting was called to order at 1900 by the Vice President, Ferrin Nice, N9VZL. President Alan, NA9LA, is in the Hospital.

All had signed the Attendance Sheet, and with some new faces in attendance we all introduces ourselves.

There were two applications for membership submitted by the Secretary; Paul Muething, KD9NHQ, who has been a Temporary Member, and Tim Vaught, W9TDV, who was in attendance for the first time. Upon a motion by WA9CWE that they be accepted as full members and a second by KC9GBL, all present voted in favor. Both were welcomed into the Club for 2020.

All present indicated that they had received the Minutes of the November meeting in the Newsletter and upon a motion by K9TZJ and second by KE9XF that they be approved as printed all present voted in favor.

Treasurer Tim, KB9VE, reported: Initial Balance of \$2,646.98, Debits of \$25 for a memorial for WA9STB, \$322.20 for the Club Insurance Policy for a total disbursement of \$348.20. Credits were \$140 in dues for a new balance of \$2438.78. Upon motion by KC9GBL and second by KV9W that the Treasurer's report be accepted all present voted in favor.

Silent Keys – WA9STB, Dick Elmore and K9MI, Mike Brown. Secretary Steve noted that the spreadsheet of all past and current members of the Club lists 284 total members. 96 are known to be Silent Keys. 34%.

Sick Members – NA9LA, Alan Weber our President is in the hospital. He has indicated that he is not able to accept the position of President this year and has declined the nomination from last meeting.

.82 Repeater Report – Trustee Tom, KA9SYP, was not present, but no one indicated any known issues.

.09 Repeater Report – Trustee Tim, KB9VE, reported that it's working fine.

443.350 Repeater Report – Trustee Steve, WA9CWE, reported it's working with almost no activity.

223.860 Repeater Report – Trustee Alan, NA9LA, was not present to report.

Weather Station Report – Tim, KB9VE, indicated that the Anemometer has not been changed out yet, but the new part is here and awaiting a bucket truck.

VE Testing – Steve, WA9CWE, reported that in 2019 we had 13 testing sessions resulting in 47 candidates getting 28 new licenses and 16 upgrades. We averaged 5.7 VE's present at each session. Our VE Team has 10 members (26 % of the Club membership). We're always welcome to have more if anyone wants to become an ARRL VE.

ARES Report – Gary, W9GNR, the Madison Co. EC, reported that it's quiet. He hasn't heard anything from the State organization. For November there were 159 man-hours of training. For December there were 158 man-hours of training. For the year 2019 there were 2,342 man-hours donated and reported. There are 43 members on the active role.

Weather Report – Dale, KV9W, presented a number of models of the expected weather for our area. There was quite a bit of variation in the expectation, but it appeared to be rain, not snow. It was noted that Sand Bags are being prepared

for the public to come after at the County Highway Garage if needed. The 8-14 day forecast is warmer and higher rain than normal. The 3 month forecast is higher moisture and lower temperatures than normal. The discussion about river and creek monitoring encouraged anyone interested to make measurements, mostly as an indication of the rate of rise and fall. There are 4 river level monitors that Dale monitors. Jeff suggested observing specific items around a flood prone area to gauge the rate of water rise/fall.

EMA Report – Jeff has updated the calendar for activities. The budget for this year is 1% less than last year. We continue to have a very good reputation around the State and with our adjacent Counties. He and Gary have been checking into other nets for some time and that helps get to know our counterparts. There is a need for more FST members so if you know of anyone who might make a good volunteer let him know.

Old Business – None

New Business – Kyle, KD9JLA, reported that the MCARC was contacted by a family member of a Silent Key with a list of equipment items for sale. He had a list of the equipment. (K4KOR, James Martin).

Election of Officers for 2020 – Since nominated President Alan has declined the nomination due to illness, Ferrin, N9VZL, was nominated by K9DYR as President. Seconded by WA9CWE. Gary, W9GNR, was nominated for the Vice-President position by KB9VE and a second by KC9GBL. WA9CWE and KE9XF moved that the Nominations be closed and all agreed. Upon a motion by K9TZJ, that the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees. Seconded by KE9XF. All present voted in favor. Therefore, the Officers for 2020 are:

President: Ferrin Nice, N9VZL

Vice-President: Gary Sherman, W9GNR

Secretary: Steve Riley, WA9CWE

Treasurer: Tim Galbraith, KB9VE

.82 Trustee: Tom Ecker, KA9SYP

.09 Trustee: Tim Galbraith, KB9VE

Technical Committee: Tom Harbron, W9EEL, Dale Bales, KV9W, Gary Sherman, W9GNR

Announcements:

Jan 25 - Winter Field Day. KC9DJU reported that the Van will be set up in the EOC Parking Lot, we'll run the generator, and Pizza will be provided. They will be monitoring 2 meters. Operation will be a lot like last year.

Feb 2 – Madison County ARC Meeting

Feb 4 – EMA Communications Div. Meeting

Feb 8 – Hendricks County Hamfest (Steve and Dave reported it's a nice Hamfest)

Mar 10 – VE Testing (Usually the 3rd Tuesday, but for March it's the 2nd)

Mar 17 – StormNet Training at AU

May 2 – Indiana QSO Party

Technical Presentation – Steve, WA9CWE, presented information on the History of the EMA Tone Decoder board(s), along with how they worked and a possible plan for a future upgrade to a new design with components readily available. A demonstration of how they work was included along with actual boards being passed around. The presentation will be placed on the Web Site for review by the members.

New Year's Eve IRLP Activity – An around-the-world IRLP activity was conducted on New Year's Eve. W9GNR reported on his successful activity and Ferrin and Dave reported activity too.

Web Site Report – Tim, KB9VE, reported that it is working well.

Upon motion of KC9GBL and second by KB9NTG the meeting was closed at 2030. There were 21 present.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Secretary, ARC