

# Madison County Emergency Management Agency

## Communications Division

Tom Ecker, Executive Director

Steve Riley, Director of Communications

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April, 2019

The regular Communications Division meeting will be on Tuesday, April 2, 7:00PM at the EOC. We will be reviewing our procedures for StormNet Alerts for this year in addition to our regular topics of information/discussion. Please make a special effort to attend. I'll have the Station Monitor available if you would like to check out your handheld as we did in the last ARC meeting.

We are also inviting folks who have expressed an interest in Amateur Radio at the StormNet Training to attend our meeting. This is an early opportunity to show them how our hobby provides public safety support. We're following this up with two Saturday "help" sessions to prepare them for the Technician Class License test at our regular VE test session on April 16. Our hope is that we'll again this year attract some really interested and talented people to our hobby, our group and our Clubs.

Our Net on March 19, at 10:15AM in support of the State Tornado Awareness Day was well supported as usual. Jeff reported that he had 27 check-ins. That is about normal for our alerts. Thanks to all who were monitoring and responded. It's hoped that you have used this test to prepare for potential severe weather alerts this year. Last year was quite unusual as we had only 1 StormNet alert. We usually expect 7 to 9 per year. Let's all get geared up to respond when the need arises this year.

During this State drill Jeff, K9DYZ, operating from our EOC also checked into nets in Delaware Co., Hamilton Co., and Hancock Co. on their frequencies. Jeff and Tom have been making contact with the Communications groups in all of our adjacent counties in an effort to better prepare us to offer assistance if asked, and to request assistance should we need additional communicators in a major event. Jeff is strengthening our ties with: State ARES, the State Comm. Director, Delaware Co., Hamilton Co., Howard Co., Hancock Co., Grant Co. and Tipton Co. (so far). Our interfacing with our neighbors and the counties in District 6 has gone up and down over the last 30 years as the various organizations have changed leadership and level of activity. There seems to be an added emphasis upon the amateur communications resource in many counties now, so we need to enhance our relationships again.

The StormNet Training held on March 19 was again a success. Our new location at Anderson University was great for those in attendance. The presentation by Mike Ryan from the Indianapolis Office of the National Weather Service was top notch as usual. Dale's information on the Warning Division function was informative, as was Jeff's presentation on our StormNet net operation and what we have upcoming. I've updated the list of hams eligible to participate in our local alerts. See the attachment to this newsletter. You might

want to print it out to aid you in putting names with calls, and to assist you should you have the opportunity to act as a Net Control for one of our StormNets.

As noted in the attached notes from the February meeting there is interest in members making Go-Boxes for their equipment. At the March Anderson Repeater Club meeting Tom, KA9SYP, and Alan, KC9JWO, again demonstrated their personal Go-Boxes and noted the improvements made since the last meeting. We're encouraging members to consider housing their equipment in easily transportable cases should the need arise for a temporary station set-up (or Field Day operation!).

Please continue to work on the Independent Study Courses available on the FEMA website. As you complete one forward the certificate link to Jeff or to me so we can update your records. Our 44 Active members have reported 415 completed courses as of the first of the year. I suspect that there are some not recorded. If you get a chance make a list of your completed courses and submit them to Jeff so he can update your file. For our newest members please focus upon completing ICS-100, 200, 700 and 800. Then look for others of interest to you. There are many interesting topics to increase your knowledge of situations that we might encounter.

KD9KOE has received a new Vanity Call. Franklin is now W9FND. Congratulations!

KI4JMJ, Derek, tells me that he's moving to Farimount and will no longer be in Madison County to participate with us. Best wishes to Derek.

See you Tuesday evening. Be sure to welcome any new-comers to our meeting.

73,  
Steve

**Madison County EMA Communication Division Meeting  
02-05-2019**

**Gary Sherman– W9GNR temporary recorder**

The meeting was convened at 190hrs by Jeff Dyer – K9DYR.

Jeff reported on events since the last meeting:

- Gary Sherman-W9GNR was accepted as Net Control Operator for the Storm Net, sharing the duty with Jeff Dyer – K9DYR.
- Gary Sherman – W9GNR has been appointed as Madison County Emergency Coordinator for A.R.E.S.
- Madison County EMA Conducted an exercise on January 23<sup>rd</sup> involving 14 Amateur Radio Communicators from the Communications Division. The exercise was a success and the Communicators practiced reporting conditions at simulated locations allowing messages to be forwards to the specific groups operating in the EOC.

Upcoming News:

- March 19<sup>th</sup> is the date of this year's Storm Spotter Training. The training will be necessary for all Storm Spotters and will be held at the York Performance Hall on the University of Anderson Campus.

There were no EMA updates per Tom Ecker-KA9SYP Madison County EMA Director.

Dale Bales – KV9W provided a weather scenario for the rest of this week, 1-3" of rain followed by freezing temperatures, but not sub 0°.

The presentation for this meeting was the preparation of Radio GoBoxes.

- The group watched a video made by KO0JE on the construction and lay out of a Radio GoBox in a Nanuk Case

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Youtube+Radio+Go+Box+by+KO0JE+&view=detail&mid=FF463CBFBE1ABA988EE9FF463CBFBE1ABA988EE9&FORM=VIRE>

Of interest was the battery "Topper" providing battery information, and connections.

- Tom Ecker-KA9SYP brought 3 GoBoxes he has built. Tom had an older tackle box modified for the radios and equipment and several case type GoBoxes. Of importance from Tom; understand what you want to accomplish and what you will need before finding the box. His biggest complaint with the 'case' type was the hinged top that became an obstacle once put into operation.
- Alan Weber-KC9JWO brought 4 different GoBoxes. The first box was a stereo equipment type box with rack style mounting. This case was not suitable for running around in the field and would be better suited and a command location. GoBox #2 was a "Ham-in-a-can" made out of a military ammo carrier. Alan had modified the hinge of the carrier to be removable. It was equipped with a TYT FT8600 Dual Band transceiver for size and weight and a 7Ampere-Hour battery. GoBox #3 was as soft side satchel type carrier mainly used for situations like covering marathons.
- The Rest of the meeting involved extensive discussions on radios, Antennas, Power supplies and connections Tom Ecker-KA9SYP brought out a solar panel unit and a solar panel control head.

GoBox containers all have their advantages and their disadvantages. The operator needs to know what he wants to accomplish, the equipment that will fulfill that accomplishment then review various containers taking into consideration their advantages and disadvantages.

Meeting was adjourned at 2020hrs. There were 18 present.