

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Communications Division

Tom Ecker, Executive Director

Steve Riley, Director of Communications

April, 2021

Our April meeting will be on Tuesday, April 6, 7:00PM at the EOC Training Room. Please plan to attend. Masks and social distancing is still appropriate. There is an informative training session planned to include personal preparedness and also a summary of battery types that would be suitable for Go-Boxes or other portable or fixed radio stations. It will be worth your time to attend to see an interesting video and a PowerPoint presentation. Jeff will also be discussing communicator priorities & strategies and briefly discuss radio go-bags, personal go-bags, task books and Winlink.

As you know the Weather Station at the EOC has been replaced. Additionally, the web cam that faces west to observe weather coming from that direction has been replaced. Thanks to the Anderson Repeater Club for funding the replacement station and Dale, KV9W, and Jeff, K9DYR, for getting it up and running. It is felt that this upgrade will increase the reliability of what was the 10 year old station that was in place first at Linwood, then on Mounds Road, and finally at our new EOC.

Our StormNet Severe Weather training for this year was conducted on-line since the National Weather Service was not able to send out presenters, and our usual places for training of a large group of people were closed due to the Corona Virus situation. We did conduct 2 sessions at our recently re-opened EOC so that a small group of our observers could watch the presentation together. Both sessions resulted in 6 to 10 participants. Others watched the presentation from their home and forwarded their certificate of participation to Jeff for inclusion in our training records. In the past we've had 30-35 hams attend our training. This year we are up to 25 who have reported participation.

The State Severe Weather Test conducted by the National Weather Service in Indianapolis was held on Tuesday, March 16. As is our usual practice we held check-in nets on the 146.82 repeater in the morning and the evening. Jeff reported that we had 19 check-ins in the morning, and 19 check-ins for the evening alert. Thanks to all who took the time to respond.

From the ARES Letter for March 17, 2021:

Letters: Preparing for an EMP Incident

With an increasing number of bad actors with EMP (electromagnetic pulse) devices these days, the disruption of the country's electronic infrastructure is tempting. Many veteran radio amateurs have older V/UHF/HF mobile radios and handhelds; it may be a good idea to store them in a small steel trash can, along with a roll of RG58, mag mount or other kind of antenna, and light line to hoist the antenna into a tree. There is little or no cost involved, and this puts older gear to potential use in an EMP incident.

While not too likely, the military and other government entities do pay attention to the possibility of such an incident that could cripple the internet, power grid, copper pair telephone, and much of the sensitive modern lower voltage circuitry.

Many hams licensed since the end of the cold war may have little or no knowledge of what an EMP blast can do, and how difficult it is to protect against. "When all else fails" means being prepared for the unlikely. -- *Doug McCray, K2QWQ, Southampton, South Jersey*

He referenced in info sheet from the Washington State Dept. of Health. It's dated (2003), but interesting to read and think about:

https://www.doh.wa.gov/portals/1/Documents/Pubs/320-090_elec_puls_fs.pdf

I hope that you can make it to the meeting. It will be good for us to get together in person again. Remember too that our Newsletters/Meeting Notes can be found on the Anderson Repeater Club web site should you want to review a meeting you weren't able to attend.

73,
Steve

February 2, 2021 Meeting Notes:

1. The meeting was called to order at 1900 by Jeff, K9DYR. This meeting was held **on-air on the 146.820 Repeater** due to the EOC being closed to meetings this month.
2. **Check-ins:** K9DYR, KB9NTG, W9GNR, K9TZJ, K9GBH, KD9NHQ, KD9NAU, KV9W, N9VZL, KC9DJU, KD9PSR, W9EEL, KA9SYP, WA9CWE, N9PVI, KD9NAW, KD9LMC, W9CGA (**18 total**)
3. Gary, W9GNR, reported for ARES numbers: **December-250 volunteer hours. January-178 volunteer hours.**
4. Jeff, K9DYR, reported that Communications **Division activity for 2020 was 1,932 man-hours** and he thanked everyone who participated. There have been 428 man-hours since the last meeting in December.
5. The active members have reported completion of **402 ICS courses.**
6. 22 Members have completed ICS-100, 200, 700 & 800.
7. Review of Activities – There have been no major activities as a result of the Covid issue. No outreach, exercises, etc.
8. **MCU activity** has resulted in 91 man-hours since the last meeting, mostly related to support of the County Health Department and Law Enforcement.
9. There were no Project Lifesaver activities.
10. **Upcoming Activities** – Dale, KV9W, reported that the weather is entering a different phase with polar weather expected. We can expect some rain/snow on Friday to Sunday, then next week the temperatures will drop to mid-teens and below.
11. The **EOC weather station** has been replaced and is working correctly. It can be accessed from the Anderson Repeater Club web site. For more detail go directly to www.weather.andersonrepeaterclub.org. It can also be accessed thru weather underground. Our station has the designation "**kinander59**" which is the new station. A backup is "kinander19". The new camera has not been installed yet, awaiting better weather.
12. **StormNet training this year** is planned by the National Weather Service **to be virtual** in 6 different sessions. The schedule has been distributed to the members previously. We are planning to open the EOC on 3 sessions so we can get together. Hoping to hold the attendance to around 10 for each session. **1) Saturday March 6, 10:00-11:30 2) Monday March 8, 6:30-8:00 3) Monday March 22, 6:30-8:00** . Email Jeff at K9DYR@arri.net to reserve a spot as one of the sessions.
13. **Director's Report:** Tom, KA9SYP, reported that the EOC continues to be restricted to few people, a maximum of 10 people right now, but trying to minimize usage as an increase in Covid cases is expected in

March. Only emergency responders are to use the building now. The Logistics State Exercise that was cancelled last August has now been moved to 2022. Tabletop exercises planned have been delayed also. 37 Counties are expected to participate and we are still planning to host it. We will begin training ourselves, hopefully in March.

14. Charlie, K9TZJ, reported that he checked out the amateur station at **St. Vincent's Anderson hospital** last week and it's operational. Gary and Jeff assisted with radio checks.
15. **Training Topics:** Keep working on your **Task Book**. If you have to stay at home it's a good opportunity to work on **Independent Study Courses (ICS)**. If you need help contact Jeff for assistance. Be sure to forward your completion certificate to Jeff for inclusion in the Training Records.
16. Jeff presented some "**Public Service Tips**" from an older document found by WA9CWE.
 - 1) Avoid saying "It's not my job" . We do whatever we can.
 - 2) At a shelter you may have to wear many different hats. Do what is needed.
 - 3) Tactical call signs benefit an operation where several different operators may be assigned over time to one particular location. The tactical call minimizes confusion since it defines a specific location/task.
 - 4) Never alter a message you are asked to transmit. Pass it exactly as it is presented so the intent is not unintentionally altered.
 - 5) Don't use VOX (voice keying of PTT).
 - 6) You are your own "Safety Officer". This is particularly important for us if we are out on a StormNet Observation point.
 - 7) Every piece of equipment can break down, including you. Be prepared to fix things including yourself. Take breaks, have food, water, and be aware of the situation.
 - 8) Listen to the Net Control station for instructions. Be specific and answer questions but don't add in other comments that may delay other traffic. Be quick and efficient.
 - 9) Keep it brief especially for tactical net operations.
 - 10) Keep learning. Participate in exercises and training opportunities. Utilize the FEMA courses. Be well trained to be more effective and safe.
 - 11) Make certain you have power for your radio. Spare batteries and other sources depending upon the situation.
 - 12) Push-Then-Talk. The repeater takes a short time to "come up" when it receives a signal. Key up then wait 1 second before talking so that all of your message will be heard.
 - 13) Fire Extinguishers are good to have. You never know in a portable operation what may happen.
 - 14) Mark your equipment so that it doesn't get mixed up with other similar equipment at an event.
 - 15) Specific Operating Procedures have been developed and debugged over time. Follow them as a best practice.
 - 16) Have spare fuses for a portable operation.
 - 17) Don't avoid exercises. They are one of the best ways to learn and be prepared for other events.
 - 18) It's OK to be noisy but have headphones at a portable location. Provides security of communications and blocks other noise to provide for easier listening.
 - 19) If operating outdoors remember the weather and be prepared. Have your go-bag ready and include food and water.
 - 20) When done with an event review what went right and wrong. Rethink how you did it and learn from it.
17. Remember to notify Jeff if you want to attend one of the weather training meetings at the EOC & pay attention to nets and emails for any changes in our schedules.
18. The On-Air meeting was closed at 1933.