

Anderson Repeater Club, Inc.

OUR 50TH. YEAR

May, 2019

Plan to attend our regular meeting on Tuesday, May 7, 7:00PM at the EOC. Our last meeting had a very good member attendance and we hope that you all will make this meeting too. If you have any projects that you have been working on bring them along for show-and-tell.

This being our 50th year as a Club we will be reviewing the early history of Club activities and the repeaters. There are many old pictures that I'd like to show at the meeting. Please plan to attend and enjoy this "walk down memory lane".

As noted in the Treasurer's report at the last meeting our treasury is recovering thanks in a large part from you members bidding on the equipment that was donated to the Club by two of our now Silent Key members.

Our Member Franklin, KD9KOE, now has a new Vanity Call. He's now W9FND. Congratulations Franklin.

Don Hughes, KC9AKJ, became a Silent Key on March 30. Don was an active member of our Club from 2002 until 2016. He was also active in the Communications Division (and FST) and could be counted upon to man a StormNet Observation Point when needed. We'll miss Don.

Seth Dowden, KB9ZLT, became a Silent Key on March 30. Seth was an active member of our Club from 2003 until 2010. He was also active in EMA activities until his health deteriorated. Seth is survived by his wife Susan, KC9AHQ, and brother Cautt, N9ZAF. We'll miss Seth also.

Our membership stands at 31 right now. We hope that if you have not yet submitted your dues for this year that you will do so soon. We'd like to increase our membership by not only providing the kind of activities and information that attracts renewals, but also to encourage new hams in our County to take a look at our Club. Remember too that the Club has some test equipment available for loan to members, perhaps the most useful of which is a Bird Model 43 Wattmeter with elements for the VHF and UHF bands.

Perhaps you noticed in the March 14 ARRL Letter that there is a Petition for Rule Making before the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician Licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, 15 and 10 meters. It is hoped that this will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio and increase retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licensees. Phone privileges would be 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz. RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters are provided. Maximum HF power level would be 200 W PEP.

There's also a proposal for a new "tyro" class (a novice or beginner) of Amateur Radio license that would require a minimal online examination and require mentoring by an Amateur Radio licensee. This license would have operating privileges in the 430-440 MHz segment on 99

channels. "It allows ARES to solve CERT's communication problems." This might also spur growth within Amateur Radio making entry into the hobby nearly as simple as obtaining a GMRS license.

The health of our hobby was outlined in an April QST article noting a growth of about 1% in 2018 to a total of 755,430. Nearly 51% of the Amateur Radio population in the US is Technician class.

384,145	Technician class	(50.9%)
175,949	General class	(23.3%)
147,369	Amateur Extra class	(19.5%)
39,607	Advanced class	(5.2%)
8,360	Novice class	(1.1%)

There were 31,576 new FCC licenses issued last year.

Our VE Test sessions continue to be well attended and supported. In March we had 3 new licensees, 1 Technician and 2 Generals, and 2 upgrades to Amateur Extra. The April test session resulted in a new record for our team. We had 10 candidates resulting in 7 new Technicians and 3 upgrades to Amateur Extra!

Due in a large part to an effort by Jeff, K9DYZ, we have provided an opportunity for prospective hams to learn about our hobby at the StormNet Class, attend the Comm. Division meeting, have 2 "help" sessions on Saturdays, all prior to our April VE Test session. All of this is focused upon helping new folks obtain their Technician class license. Jeff recruited help from Dale, KV9W, Gary, W9GNR and Steve, WA9CWE to mentor at the help sessions. We recommended obtaining the W5YI Technician Manual which seemed to work out very well, especially with the help of n-line testing programs like QRZ.com and HamTestOnline.com. We had 5 attend the Comm. Div. meeting/orientation, 5 attend the first Saturday help session (plus 6 hams), 6 attended the second Saturday session (plus 9 hams). Our VE session tested 3 who had attended and all obtained their Technician license. We expect the remaining folks to be prepared to test next month. The Saturday help sessions were very well received by the candidates. They found them to be the most helpful way to learn/understand the concepts presented in the question pool.

From the ARRL Letter of April 4, 2019:

Department of Defense to Transmit Interoperability Exercise Info via WWV/WWVH

The US Department of Defense (DOD) plans to start making use of a provisional time slot on WWV and WWVH to announce upcoming HF military communication exercises and how the Amateur Radio community can become involved in them. The announcements will occur at 10 minutes past on WWV and at 50 minutes past on WWVH. WWV and WWVH transmit on 2.5, 5, 10, 15, and 20 MHz.

"DOD's use of the broadcast time slot on WWV/WWVH will benefit the MARS program's mission of outreach to the Amateur Radio community," said US Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY. "The actual messages to be broadcast are coordinated by the DOD Headquarters that the MARS program supports."



The initial announcements are set for the period from April 20 - May 3, which coincides with the "Vital Connection" interoperability exercise to be held in Wisconsin. Future time slots will coincide with the Vital Connection exercise Ohio in June; DOD COMEX 19-3 in August, and the DOD COMEX 19-4 in October. Following the proof of concept this year, DOD anticipates making use of the WWV/WWVH broadcast time slot full-time, year-round.

At the outset, broadcast messages will likely be static. For future exercises, announcements could be updated throughout an exercise. The messages will direct listeners to a specified website to provide reception reports and feedback.

The reception report will also ask the listener to submit a survey that will be shared among DOD, MARS, and WWV/WWVH personnel. English said that the survey will ask listeners questions about how often they listen to WWV/WWVH signals, how they use them, and what types of messages they would like to hear, but he notes that the survey is still under development.

"We want to provide feedback to WWV/WWVH to improve situational awareness of who is using their service and how it's being used, as well as future considerations," English said.

From the ARRL Letter of April 18:

"Hamvention® has announced that it will open the gates to all, without charge, on Sunday, May 19, the final day of the annual gathering at Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio. Hamvention 2019 General Chair Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, said the idea is to encourage the curious to see what attracts some 30,000 visitors to Hamvention each spring." Sounds like a good opportunity to decrease the overall cost of going to the Hamvention.

For many of us it's been some time since we took (and passed) our last Amateur License exam. As I prepared to help with the Technician Help Sessions I reviewed the questions and was amazed at how much I had forgotten or at least had to think about to choose the correct answer. Anyway, I decided it'd be interesting to review the Amateur Extra questions since they had been updated a couple of times since I passed mine. It was interesting to find that there are a lot of questions about digital technology that I had not been exposed to. I've been taking the test over and over to get caught up on current information. I'd suggest that you take a shot at your license question pool too. It's free to take over and over at QRZ.COM. Log in and choose the "Resources" pull down, then "Practice Amateur Radio Exams". It keeps track of your pass percentage each time you take it. This source doesn't give you an explanation of answers if you are incorrect the way that HamTestOnline does, but it's not paid for either! I'm really enjoying these tests. Give it a shot, and if you need to upgrade choose the next class up and go to work.

While you are logged into QRZ.COM you might take a look at some of the Biography information on hams you know. Interesting way to see others stations and their amateur radio history. Look at WA9IVB, KV9W, K9DYR for example.

Hope to see you at our meeting Tuesday.

73,
Steve

Minutes of Meeting – March 5, 2019

The regular Club meeting was called to order at 1900 by the President, Alan, KC9JWO. Jeff, K9DYR, introduced his friend and potential ham Gary Wigner. He's studying for his Technician license. All present introduced themselves also.

Alan asked if everyone received their Newsletter and upon a motion by WA9STB and second by K9TZJ all voted in favor of the motion to accept the Minutes of the January meeting as printed in the Newsletter. A listing of member email addresses was sent around to allow everyone to confirm that the address in the Club records was correct.

No additional Silent Keys or illnesses were reported beyond those in the Newsletter. Mike, KC9DJU, keeps the Silent Key Plaque current as needed courtesy of the Madison County Amateur Radio Club.

Treasurer's Report: Tim, KB9VE, reported the following: The initial checking balance was \$1,709.89. Disbursements of \$20 for HOTY engraving, \$320 for Insurance, \$25 for WD9AES memorial and \$8 to the Indiana Repeater Council for a total disbursement of \$373.00. Income is \$100 for dues, \$895 for WD9AES Equipment Opportunity and \$580 for K9IND Equipment Opportunity for a total of \$1,575.00. The new balance is \$2,911.89. This is the highest balance our club has had since 2014. A motion to accept the report was made by K9DYR and seconded by KV9W. All present voted in favor.

Correspondence: A notice of the upcoming Columbus Hamfest was received along with three acknowledgments of the memorials that the Club had made (3 total).

New Member Applications: None received.

.82 Repeater Report: Trustee Tom, KA9SYP, reported that it's working OK. Last week a field test was conducted by he and Jeff to confirm that the "shadow" from the tower had moved dramatically. It's now between 500N and 700N at the west county line with a 5 watt signal. The study was done with 1 mobile at 5W, 25W, 50W and a mobile gain antenna. This study confirmed that a handheld isn't suitable at those ranges, but a mobile and gain antenna should be adequate. StormNet Observation Point "F" is on the edge of the shadow area, so a high power transmitter would be needed. Jeff showed a map of the original shadow and where it now appears to be. With the antenna mounted on the side of the tower we can't do much about this effect now.

Jeff also reported on the success of the "simplex" test after the Sunday evening Tone Alert Test.

.09 Repeater Report: Trustee Tim, KB9VE, reported it's working fine. The IRLP was down a few days due to the loss of the internet connection, but it's back up now.

443.35 Repeater Report: Trustee Steve, WA9CWE, reported it's working normally, but there is little activity.

222.860 Repeater Report: Trustee Alan, KC9JWO, reported it's "ID'ing away" with no usage reported. It's running about 35 watts output.

Weather Station Report: Tim, KB9VE, reports that all stations are working fine. He mentioned that the wind direction on the Pendleton stations seems to be a bit off. Mike, KC9DJU, suggested that it might be due to the building being west of the station location.

Web Site Report: Tim, KB9VE, says that it's up-to-date thanks to the hard work of Tom, W9EEL, who works on it. Steve, WA9CWE, indicated that the membership list is kept current so you can look at it to confirm you've paid your dues.

VE Testing Report: Steve, WA9CWE, reported that last month we had 4 candidates, and for the testing session next week he's heard from 4 who plan to attend. We have 10 VE's so we are well staffed, but if anyone else wants to get their VE certification we'd be happy to have you. It was also noted that the General Class question pool changes effective July 1. The updated question pools on the other licenses have added more questions related to digital and other new modes. Most of our candidates have come from outside of our County, but it's still good to get new amateurs into our hobby.

Weather Update: Warning Officer Dale, KV9W, reported that spring is nearly here. He presented information on the tornados from last Sunday that went thru Georgia and Alabama including reports, an analysis of the radar images from the storms and an explanation of "Dual Polarity" radar that is now being used by nearly all NWS offices. He explained the added benefits of that technology. The Indy NWS office has that radar type, but he's not certain about the TV stations. Weather over the next 30 days doesn't indicate any particular issues and will be in the 40's next week. The tornados in

the South remind us that this can occur at any time during the year and we must remain vigilant. Also everyone is reminded to set their clock forward an hour next Sunday.

EMA Report: Director Tom, KA9SYP, reported that there is a planned exercise upcoming in the next couple of months similar to the ones that have been held at the EOC over the last several months. This one will probably be a “massive tornado”, appropriate since the one down south had occurred last weekend. At the last EOC exercise we had 3 State Level EMA officials observing along with 17 of our 34 Comm. Div. members participating. The State guys were amazed at how we actually exercised our communications rather than just talk thru it the way most groups do. As usual our County excelled in our response. At the next one we may actually activate a couple of the designated shelters and set up temporary communications stations in them.

Tom is working on adding to the Master Plan a section on “unsolicited donations” and has a committee established just today. In most major events there is much in the way of donated items that are not needed, not appropriate or excessive. It takes a lot of resources to manage and utilize these items. We’re getting a plan in place to deal with this situation.

Activity: Dave, WA9IVB, discussed the event from last month where the International Space Station transmitted Slow Scan TV signals during passes over the US using FM, 145.800MHz. Dave explained his station setup and showed pictures of the received signal and his antenna. He used free software called RFSSTV with his computer and sound card plus his two meter base station and “Egg Beater” antenna. Dave explained the construction and how the antenna worked for successful satellite reception. (<https://www.m2inc.com/categories/amateur/antennas/vhf-uhf-microwave-antennas/satellite-products.html>). Kyle, KD9LJA, reported on his reception of 6 of the passes and showed pictures of the received images using his phone and the recommended app. He even heard it from his mobile. Jeff, K9DYZ, said the MCARC guys copied it at their breakfast meeting on a handheld with an antenna laying on the table. Steve, WA9CWE, received it on his base station with his vertical antenna in the attic and said he’d heard from at least 6 members who had received the images or at least heard the signal.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Upcoming Events: This Sunday it's time to change your clocks. The first Saturday in May is the Indiana QSO Party. June 22-23 is Field Day. The Columbus Hamfest is April 6. The Dayton Hamvention is May 17-19.

The StormNet Training is Tuesday the 19th at 7:00PM at Anderson University, Info and map is on our web site. We’re working on finding new hams and Jeff has completed a handout about our upcoming help sessions. We passed out copies of the handout and talked about the timing for the help sessions and testing.

Also on the 19th is the Statewide Tornado Drill at 10:15 AM. We’ll hold a check-in net as we usually do. They are not having an evening drill this year.

Steve mentioned that the ARRL Letter had info about the upcoming WWV Special Event Station. There will be more information out, but this will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to contact this 100 Year event.

Show-And-Tell: Tom, KA9SYP, discussed the “Go-Boxes” that he has constructed. He had them set up and explained the one he has with two VHF/UHF radios and needed accessories along with 2 roll-up antennas. He also uses this one at home. It’s self-contained except for the power source which he’s improving upon. He also demonstrated his HF box that is also self-contained. He does have a separate vertical antenna that he showed and demonstrated. It includes a battery inside the box.

Alan, KC9JWO, demonstrated his Go-Box built in an ammo can. It’s completely self-contained for VHF/UHF.

Each of the three units weigh in at about 22 pounds. The hope is that these will give other members ideas about how to set up their own portable station should the need arise to operate from a shelter or other site.

Steve has a Station Test Monitor set up so that members who brought their handhelds can check the performance. (6 members took advantage of the testing).

Upon motion of K9DYZ and K9TZJ the meeting was closed at 2042. There were 21 members present.

Respectfully Submitted,
Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Secretary, ARC