

# Anderson Repeater Club, Inc.

May, 2020

Our regular meeting is planned for Tuesday, May 5, at 7:00PM **ON THE 146.820 REPEATER**. Due to the current virus situation our Officers have concluded that it's not in all of our best interests to meet in person. We will conduct our meeting by asking all members to check in when the meeting is called to order by the President, and the Secretary will maintain a listing of members who have checked in for the votes listed below. We will conduct the various topics in the sequence that we generally do, and vote on issues in accordance with the items listed below. We **WILL NOT** describe the items on the air or take questions beyond what is described below. The purpose of this format is to minimize specific details that our membership only has input rather than discuss it in a format for all listening but not having the benefit of past understanding of club business. See below the "QUESTIONS" that the membership will be asked to vote upon. If you have a question regarding these issues contact a Club Officer ahead of time by telephone for further information.

By the way, everyone will be welcome to check into the Club meeting, but only 2020 paid members will be asked to vote by the roll call of the Secretary (On Question #3 only).

The AGENDA will be as follows (our usual sequence of topics):

- Meeting call to order by the President.
- Members and visitors check in by identifying by call (instead of attendance sheet).
- Members vote on **Question #1** – (Minutes of last meeting).
- Members vote on **Question #2** – (Treasurer's report).
- Silent Keys or Sickesses.
- Correspondence that has been received by the Secretary.
- New Member applications having been received. Members vote on **Question #4**.
- .82 Trustee Report – KA9SYP
- .09 & IRLP Trustee Report – KB9VE (in his absence WA9CWE)
- 223.860 Trustee Report – NA9LA (anyone?)
- 443.350 Trustee Report – WA9CWE
- Weather Station Report - KB9VE (in his absence W9EEL)
- Web Site Report – KB9VE (in his absence W9EEL)
- VE Testing Report – WA9CWE
- Weather/Warning Division Report – KV9W
- EMA Update – KA9SYP
- ARES Update – W9GNR
- Old Business
- New Business – Members vote on **Question #3** – (Addition of signers to Checking Account).
- Upcoming Events & Announcements
- Show & Tell
- Technical Presentation
- Adjourn Meeting

**QUESTION #1:** A motion by N9VZL and seconded by W9GNR that the Minutes of the March meeting as printed in this Newsletter be accepted. All members will indicate their approval by remaining silent when the President asks for unanimous approval. If you have an issue identify with your call and you will be recognized to explain your concern.

**QUESTION #2:** Treasurer's Report: Initial Checking Account balance is \$2,838.78 from the March 3 meeting. Disbursements since the last meeting - \$11.00 for Stamps. Income since the last meeting - \$118.00 in Dues. The new balance is \$2,945.78. A motion to accept is offered by WA9CWE, with a second by N9VZL. All members will indicate their approval by remaining silent when the President asks for unanimous approval. If you have an issue identify with your call and you will be recognized to explain your concern.

**QUESTION #3:** The current Club checking account with Star Bank (unincorporated association by their definition) has the Treasurer, Tim Galbraith, KB9VE, and Secretary, Steve Riley, WA9CWE, as the ONLY signers on the account able to sign checks. It has been this way since July, 1997. Due to the illness of our Treasurer our Secretary has been taking care of treasury business and the PO box. The Officers (Board of Directors of the Club) have identified this as a risk should the Secretary also become incapacitated. Therefore, upon a motion offered by KA9SYP and seconded by W9EEL that the Club Checking Account add the current President, Ferrin Nice, N9VZL, and current Vice-President Gary Sherman, W9GNR, be added to the account with the authority to make deposits and Sign Checks for Club expenses. They are NOT authorized to make cash withdraws from the Club Account. All members will signify by answering "Yeh" or "Nay" when the roll is called by the Secretary.

**QUESTION #4:** The Secretary has received a Membership Application for Michael Ratican, W9RAT. Mike lives in Anderson and is a General Class licensee with 33 years experience as an FM'er. Mike is considered a temporary member until the membership votes. A motion to accept Mike as a full member of the Club is offered by WA9CWE, with a second by N9VZL. All members will indicate their approval by remaining silent when the President asks for unanimous approval. If you have an issue identify with your call and you will be recognized to explain your concern.

The last several weeks has been difficult for all of us. The good thing about our hobby is that we can participate in it from home while we are "self-quarantined". Since so many of us fall into the "senior citizen" category we've elected to stay away from crowds, meetings and other opportunities to be around others. We can still get plenty of interaction with others with similar interests via the airways.

With the hard work of some of our members and members of the County Club the ECC has been successfully moved to a new area of the EOC and all equipment is fully functional. There are plans in place for antenna improvements for HF, VHF and UHF.

I'm sorry to report that Norm McCain, K9NM, became a Silent Key on April 12. Norm was a 38 year member of our Club, but was last active in 2017. Norm was an Extra Class ham back when few were. He was an active CW operator for a lot of years, and participated in our Club and the County Club also. Norm participated in our CD/EMA communications group for a lot of years. He will be missed.

We welcome back to the area and to the Club Jorge Silva, N9JJK. Jorge is now an 18 year member of the Club, having left the area in 2014, but is now back again. We hope to hear him on as soon as he gets his station reassembled.

Most of us are familiar with the station **WWV**, located in Fort Collins, CO. Operated by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the signals are utilized all over our continent for accurate time and frequency standards. All signals are Double Sideband AM, have a male voice for the ID, and operate: 2.5 Mhz (2.5 KW), 5.0 Mhz (10KW), 10 Mhz (10KW), 15 Mhz (10KW) and 20 Mhz (2.5KW). We can usually hear the 10 Mhz signal and frequently the 5 Mhz one. I don't usually hear the others. **WWVB** transmits on 60 Khz (51KW), used for the "atomic clocks" that are readily available. **WWVH** is utilized out west, transmits from Hawaii, has a female voice and operate: 2.5 Mhz (5KW), 5 Mhz (10KW), 10 Mhz (10KW), and 15 Mhz (10 KW). I have heard that station infrequently, but when conditions are just right you can hear the female voice. You may notice that at 10 minutes after the hour there is a voice announcement about upcoming MARS (Military Affiliate Radio System) exercises. They do that 2 weeks prior to an exercise and during the exercise.

Another useful station is **CHU** Canada. This is another time standard transmitting station that has been in service for many years and can be heard in our area. They transmit from Barrhaven, Ontario, 15km southwest of Ottawa Canada. This station transmits AM with the lower sideband suppressed. The beep is a 300ms tone of 1000 hz on the second. They operate at: 3.330 Mhz (3KW), 7.850 (10 KW), 14.670 (3 KW). The 7.850 signal is usually readable from our area.

I hope that you are taking advantage of our club Web Site. Tom, W9EEL, has done a great job of keeping information added including our Newsletters and meeting presentations (under EVENTS). The information related to our Membership and Club History is also up-to-date.

There is an apparent renewed interest in amateur radio as a result of this virus situation. Therefore, we have prepared a basic information sheet similar to what we have handed out in the past at the StormNet training. It is found on our web site under Membership. Please download a copy and pass it along to anyone you know who might have an interest in getting licensed.

Our VE (Volunteer Examiner) Team has done well this year. With the cancellation of the April test session due to the virus outbreak we can report that for the first 3 months of the year: 10 Candidates, 6 new Licensee's, 3 License Upgrades. Our 11 member VE team averages almost 6 VE's present at each test session. If you would like to become certified as a VE check out the ARRL web site for information and the test required. We're always happy to have additional members and it's a good way to give back to the hobby we love so much. We hope to be able to conduct a test session on May 19, assuming that the Governor had relaxed the State restrictions and that the EOC Training Room is available to us. Interest in being tested is high, as we have already received inquiries from 7 potential candidates. Usually we don't hear from anyone until about a week before the test session. Of these 5 are new Tech candidates and 2 upgrades to Amateur Extra. It would not surprise me to hear of additional candidate interest. We'd like for you as a Club member to be one!

Another casualty of the Virus outbreak was our StormNet Training Class scheduled for March. The NWS cancelled all of their planned events, and the University was being cautious about

having group meetings too. Our EMA Staff concluded it was the appropriate thing to do in this situation to cancel. We'll utilize future regular meetings to refresh our observer skillset.

As you know our past President Alan, NA9LA, and current Treasurer Tim, KB9VE, have had significant medical challenges this year. I'm happy to report that Alan is making very good progress and we hope to have him back in our operating area in another 2 to 3 months. Tim has also made some good progress but it will be some time before he is able to be back with us. Tim is scheduled to be moved back to his home on May 1.

Our President, Ferrin, N9VZL, plans to have a "door prize" for each of our meetings. Make sure you attend and sign in on the attendance sheet to get a chance at the give-away.

As a result of being unable to gather for meetings due to the virus several organizations have been using "Zoom", an on-line video conferencing tool. Even though we are going to meet on-the-air, there might be a value in utilizing Zoom for those who cannot attend our regular Tuesday meetings. Is there any interest? Let us know if you would be interested in viewing our meeting using Zoom in the future. Dale, KV9W, has some experience using it for his church. Perhaps he can give us input as to the effectiveness and acceptance by users.

We also continue to look for interesting Technical Presentations. We've done really well this year with planned and unplanned presentations that are really interesting. If you have something of interest be sure to volunteer to share it with us. We have "On Deck" a presentation by Dave, WA9IVB, on re-furbishing old Tube Type equipment. This will be very interesting to those of us who have used equipment of this type in our earlier years of hamming.

You may have read in the May issue of QST (Page 39) about a NanoVNA Vector Network Analyzer (Also the Jan/Feb issue of QEX magazine). This is a very powerful piece of test equipment that can be used for not only circuit analysis, but also antenna analysis, cable troubleshooting and many other tasks. This type of analysis used to require laboratory type equipment costing thousands of dollars. Tim, W9TCR, bought one a while back and is very excited about it and what it can do. I just got one from R&L Electronics, two day delivery and a total cost of \$68.71. Haven't had a chance to play with it yet, as it's going to require some study, but I'm looking forward to learning how to use it, and to perhaps evaluate the repeater duplexer again. The next time we have a meeting I hope to have a show-and-tell on it. Dave, WA9IVB, will be much more of an expert on the topic than I, as he's used this type of equipment extensively, so perhaps he can give us the benefit of his experience at some point too. The only downside of this device is that it comes out of China.....Oh well, at least until the American manufacturing system comes back to life.

Hope to hear from you on our ON-AIR meeting on Tuesday, 7:00PM.

73,  
Steve

## Minutes of Meeting – March 3, 2020

The regular Club meeting was called to order at 1902 by our President, Ferrin, N9VZL. All present had signed in on the Attendance Sheet. There were no visitors noticed.

All reported having received the Minutes of the January meeting with the emailed Newsletter and upon a motion by K9TZJ and second by KC9DJU that they be approved as printed all present voted in favor.

**Sicknesses** reported on by Steve, WA9CWE, included an update on Alan, NA9LA and Tim, KB9VE. Both have had significant health issues but are improving. There were no other illnesses or Silent Keys noted.

**Correspondence:** A flyer for the Columbus Hamfest on April 4 was received and reported upon. Also the mailing address for the Club Insurance has been changed from Steve's home address to the Club PO Box.

**Treasurer's Report:** Since our Treasurer Tim, KB9VE, is still in the hospital, Steve, WA9CWE, has received the Treasurer's records to make the report. He reported that the records are current and easily understood, even though Tim has been our Treasurer for 40 years so he's not had a reason to use them. The Checking brought forward was \$2,438.78. There were no disbursements and income from dues for \$400. The new balance is \$2,838.78. Upon motion by K9TZJ and a second by KV9W that the report be accepted, all present voted in favor.

**145.390 Repeater Report:** Mike, KC9DJU, reported it's working fine. Wednesday night net check-ins have been good.

**146.820 Repeater Report:** Trustee Tom, KA9SYP, reported it's working fine also. There have been no reports of issues.

**147.090 Repeater Report:** Steve, WA9CWE, reported it's working fine and is full-time connected to the IRLP. There is a very nice "Tech Net" on Sunday evenings from 2000 to 2100 that originates out of Pennsylvania and is interesting to listen to. They conclude with a Swap Net. Other members have heard it too.

**223.860 Repeater Report:** No report.

**443.350 Repeater Report:** Trustee Steve, WA9CWE, reported it's still working. Little activity.

**Weather Update:** Dale, KV9W, provided a review of initial information on the Tornado that went thru Nashville, TN last night (1AM). He had radar images and video of the damage. Initial reports are that it was at least an F3 and may have been on the ground for 50-60 miles. Dale also reported on a new study: ERTAF – Extended Range Tornado Activity Forecast. This is a developing study in which the authors believe they can forecast the likelihood of a tornado 2 to 3 weeks in advance. This is based upon long term weather patterns. He'll continue to monitor this study.

StormNet Training is Tuesday, March 17, 7:00PM at the AU York Performance Center. A map is on the Club Web site. Jeff has a flyer completed and will send it out to everyone with the hope that they can find a place to post it where the public can find out about it.

Dale reports that the 3 month extended forecast is for warmer and wetter than normal conditions. He noted that the 30 day forecast has just reversed itself from the forecast just one week ago.

Doug, N9DR, reported that last night he was chasing DX and reported that the band was nothing but static, even on FT8.

**ARES Report:** EC Gary, W9GNR, reported that there is not a lot going on this time of the year. Last month had 96 man-hours reported. He expects that with the weather changing in the coming months our times will increase considerably.

**EMA Report:** Director Tom, KA9SYP, reported that the ECC move is essentially complete. All of the equipment is up and running. They are hanging stuff back up on the walls. StormNet training is coming up on the 17<sup>th</sup>. The biggest project is the State exercise in September where our EOC will be staffed daily for 4 days by our staff and other teams from central Indiana. The IMT's will be rotating in and out, and there will be 17 positions within the EOC to be filled. He expects 125-150 people each day to be coming and going (State/Regional/Federal). There will be additional training for our folks between now and then. We'll be exercising our County Plan. Communications will be by amateur radio, so we'll be exercising our "go-bags" at various sites. He's getting calls from many organizations that want to participate (PAI, CAP, Catholic Charities, etc.). It starts Sun Aug 31 and runs to Thursday, Sept 3. Will need help during the exercise and for setup and teardown. Our districts include 27 counties.

**VE Testing:** Steve, WA9CWE, reported that for the first 2 months we've had 7 candidates resulting in 4 new Technicians and 2 upgrades to Amateur Extra. The unfortunate thing is that they have not come from our County. We have 6 or 7 VE's at each session.

**Old Business:** Tom, KA9SYP, proposed that we make certain that we have at least 3 members on the checking account so that there aren't any issues if the Treasurer and Secretary (both on it now) are not able to follow. Steve will check with the bank to see if anyone else is on the account, and arrange to get a signature card for someone else to be added.

**New Business:** Jeff, K9DYZ, reminded everyone that this summer the EMA "Outreach" activity will continue and we emphasize amateur radio in it. We would like to continue with the communications function, so if anyone has any other ideas to pursue to help show off our hobby let him know.

Ferrin, N9VZL, plans to give away a "door prize" at each meeting, so if anyone has anything they'd like to donate let him know. Tonight's winner was Tom, KA9SYP.

**Announcements:** StormNet Training on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Jeff has flyers.

April 6 – MCARC Meeting

April 7 – Comm Div. Meeting

May 2 – Indiana QSO Party

May 6 – ARC Meeting

**Show and Tell:** Doug, N9DR, had attended the Orlando, FL "Hamcation" last month. It lasts 3 days and is the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest Hamfest in the country. He won an hourly prize, a "hot spot" and he showed it. He also bought a "Tornado Alert" device that is supposed to work on electrical activity. He's going to see how/if it works and let us know. Doug also had pictures of the Hamfest that he showed.

**Technical Session:** Steve, WA9CWE, presented information on Dummy Loads, including the Cantenna and other devices. The presentation will be posted on the web site. Dave, WA9IVB, showed an 800 watt solid state dummy load that he made based upon a part from the broadcast industry. He had used an "antenna analyzer" to evaluate it over a broad frequency range. He reminded everyone that 1) Resistance 2) Heat Dissipation 3) Reactance are the keys to a good dummy load. We passed around the devices. We also were reminded never to tune up on-the-air, use a dummy load to tune up then switch to the antenna. Dave also had other stories about his experiences.

Upon a motion by K9TZJ and second by N9ZAF the meeting was closed at 2018. There were **19 present**.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Secretary, ARC