

Anderson Repeater Club, Inc.

May, 2021

Our regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 4, 7:00PM at the EOC Training Room. Please plan to attend. We will be having an interesting Technical Session related to coaxial cable.

This message has been received:

Friends,

On behalf of the EMA and the Warning Division, I would like to express our thanks for the generous financial help given to update and rebuild the weather station and to replace the weather webcam housed at the EOC. The installation is completed and the station is functioning along with the new webcam. We believe that we have a more robust system now as it was possible to create a backup system operating along with the renewed main station. The system is being monitored to eliminate any bugs that may still be hanging around.

Again, your generous support has been key to the completion of this project.

Sincerely, Dale Bales

As you may remember our Club as financed and supported the primary weather station at the EOC for the last 10 years at least. It was first at the Linwood EOC, was moved to the Mounds Road EOC, and finally our new EOC on Delaware St. It was old and no longer supportable so our new one will take us into the next decade of weather monitoring.

Our VE Testing is back on now that the EOC is available for use. At our March session we had 2 candidates and each upgraded, 1 to General and 1 to Amateur Extra. We had 6 VE's present. In April we had 2 candidates upgrade to General. Congratulations to Tim Bailey, KD9PSR, for his upgrade.

As you may have read the new \$35 fee to the FCC for new and renewed licenses might have been implemented in April. However, there are other requirements that must be completed before it can actually be implemented. We have not yet heard when it will be implemented, but you can be certain it will happen. If you are considering upgrading now is the time to do it. As a bit of trivia, in 2020 our Club membership was 25% Technician, 33% General, 42% Amateur Extra.

According to the ARRL there are 778,078 Licensed Amateurs in the US (as of 3/19/21) and the percentage breakdown is:

Novice – 0.9%

Technician – 51.0%

General – 23.6%

Advanced – 4.8%

Extra – 19.7%

Indiana had 15,840 licensees, 2% of the Amateur population.

There are a number of interesting articles in the April issue of QST related to sunspots, Cycle 25 and how it affects HF and VHF propagation. An article on Cycle 25 starts on Page 31, another starts on Page 58, and the "Public Service" section starting on Page 72 talks about it. The "How's DX" starting on Page 82 covers it too. There seems to be a lot of excitement with the

return of sunspots and how it will positively affect our propagation. These articles focus more upon HF, but we'll see it also on 10 meters and VHF and UHF. We can look forward to improved band conditions in the coming years. Time to get geared up for it now. There is another researcher that is predicting an even stronger and sooner sunspot activity than others who have used past conditions for their predictions. We'll see who is correct but those of us who were around in the '60's remember some outstanding band conditions on 6 and 2 meters.

Our equipment opportunity (auction) is underway on the equipment donated by the family of Gene Sample, K9RPZ (SK). One half of the money raised will go into our treasury, and the other half to the MCARC. Thanks to Jeff, Charlie and others who have helped check out some of the items prior to our offerings. I hope that you have bid well and that you will enjoy your purchase. By meeting night we will have concluded 2 weeks of the 3. For the first week the total bids were \$455. Week 2 is on track to be a similar total. If you end up winning a lot in week 2 plan to pick it up on meeting night if you can. Week #3 will be underway by then.

As I tried to implement an accurate email distribution list of the three memberships I utilized what Jeff and I thought are the current emails of everyone. Some of us use legacy emails from long ago, but many of us also use the ARRL forwarding service that is available to all members. If you are not already set up you might consider it. Your available email becomes your call@arrl.net. You can then have it forwarded to whatever email you usually monitor. Another plus is that if someone does not know your email address they can try this address. Maybe it'll work! I've done that in the past and managed to make contact with someone from long ago. Several members are also using their call @ gmail.com and yahoo.com. Those addresses would also be unique and might be handy for you. Just a thought.

We welcome our new member Charlie Dixon, KD9RZG. He is a temporary member until we vote to accept him at this meeting as a full member. Charlie recently received his Technician license at our VE session. We hope that he will become an active member of our club.

See you on Tuesday,
73, Steve

Minutes of the March 2, 2021 Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 1900 by the President, Ferrin, N9VZL at the EOC Training Room now that the County Covid situation has improved and we can now have meetings. Everyone indicated that they had signed the attendance sheet and since we had a number of visitors (2 licensed and 2 awaiting their license) everyone present introduced themselves.

New Member Application: A membership application was received for Art Buckner, KA1PJT, who had moved to Anderson recently and has been a ham since 1980. Upon a motion by WA9CWE and second by W9GNR that Art be accepted as a full member of the Club all present voted in favor. Art (who was present) was welcomed to the Club.

Ferrin asked if everyone had received the Newsletter and **Minutes of the January Meeting** and all indicated that they had. Upon motion of KB9NTG and second by KD9NAW, all voted in favor.

Ferrin reported that Alan, NA9LA, is still not back in the area as he is still recovering. There were no other reports of illnesses or Silent Keys.

Treasurer Gerald, K9GDH, reported a balance in January of \$2,797.78. There were deposits of \$340.00 in dues, and expenses of \$323.20 for insurance, \$596.12 for the new Weather Station, and \$22.00 for the Corporate submission to the State. The current balance is \$2,196.45. Upon a motion by K9DYR and second by W9GNR that the report be accepted all present voted in favor.

There has been no correspondence received.

.82 Repeater Report: Trustee Tom, KA9SYP, reported that he is “watching” it. There might be an issue as it seems to be fine all day and night, but on the Sunday night 8PM net, and again this evening as members came to the meeting there seemed to be interference or something unusual interfering with received signals.

.09 Repeater Report: Trustee Jeff, K9DYR, reported that it’s working.

443.350 Repeater Report: Trustee Steve, WA9CWE, reported that it’s working, but there is very little activity on UHF right now.

Weather Report: Dale, KV9W, reported that the prediction is for warmer and wetter weather for the next 3 months. This could result in early severe weather, so we need to be ready. He hopes to have the camera at the EOC up this week. The EOC Weather station can be accessed at the Old and New addresses at WeatherUnderground. The link at the Club Web Site provides all of the available information, ground temp, etc.

ARES Report: EC Gary, W9GNR, reported that things have been slow so far this year with no outreach. There were 178 man-hours reported in January, and 166 man-hours in February.

EMA Report: Director Tom, KA9SYP, reported that the Statewide Exercise is still on for next year, but he’s unsure that it’ll actually happen. If so, it’ll still be conducted from our EOC. There have been a series of exercises planned for this year and there has already been 1 Workshop last week with 94 people participating, mostly from Central and Southern Counties, and the State. He has been able to open up the EOC as the Covid situation has improved in our County. We expect to be able to continue to use the EOC for the year. Outreach activities are up in the air. There is a plan for the Pendleton Safety Day, the Elwood Glass Festival and the 4-H Fair. We want to have Amateur Radio demos in our display and Jeff is working on plans for it. There are 2 new awnings with flags and side curtains available for use. Both prominently display amateur radio logos. Daily tasks continue. He explained that our County was the Logistics Staging Area for our 13 County district for distribution of PPE’s from the State to all except hospitals. Our stock was in pretty good shape prior to Covid, and it’s been rebuilt now, so our County is in good shape.

Club Web Page: Tom, W9EEL, explained the problem with the NWS Radar web site and how he has worked around to other sources to get the same information in a more timely fashion. The site isn’t as fancy as the old NWS site, but it’s functional, quicker and will be very usable.

Doug, N9DR, mentioned that you can go to Weather Underground and find the display, and there are other layers that can be turned on to give “tracking” and other information.

Dale reminded everyone of the upcoming Spotter training hosted by the NWS on-line and we’ll get together at the EOC on Saturday at 10:00AM or Monday at 6:30PM to view it as a group for anyone wanting to attend. The session is to go for 1 ½ hours. Gives us an opportunity for discussion.

VE Testing: Steve, WA9CWE, reported that after missing 4 months we are back on schedule for the 3rd Tuesday of every month beginning in March. We have several candidates who have indicated that they want to test. We are hoping for good turnouts this year.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Ferrin mentioned that he and Gary has put together business cards with basic information about both Clubs that we can carry and pass out to interested hams. He has some by the door for anyone to pick up.

Announcements: Thursday at 9AM is the Donut Meeting at the EOC Communications Room and Saturday at 9AM is breakfast get-together at the Anderson Grill. Everyone is welcome. The 16th is VE Testing at the EOC. The next MCARC meeting is April 1. The EMA Communications Div. meeting is April 2, and the next ARC meeting is May 4. Field Day is in June, and Mike reminded everyone of the Indiana QSO Party in May.

Technical Session: Steve, WA9CWE, presented information on building various 6 meter antennas and included information on polarization, antenna patterns, how to construct 3 different types of antennas, and information related to power/dB gain/S meter readings. Dave, WA9IVB and Doug, N9DR offered additional insight in the course of the discussion.

Dues were accepted from members who had not already paid, and each member received their 2021 Membership Certificate.

The meeting was closed at 2034 upon motion of W9EEL and W9CGA. 20 members and 3 guests present. One of our largest meetings ever!

Respectfully Submitted, Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Secretary, ARC