

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Communications Division

Tom Ecker, Executive Director

Steve Riley, Director of Communications

June, 2019

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If we have time this meeting I’ll have pictures of the history of EC/EMA here in Madison County to share with you. There is a lot of history that we can review in this walk down Memory Lane.

Perhaps you noticed in the April 13 issue of the Herald Bulletin that Gene Yates died. Gene was a very influential and active member of the Anderson community for many years although not a licensed amateur radio operator. His connection to our organization is that he was Director of the Madison County Civil Defense from 1968 to 1973. During that period our repeater site on the bank building at 10th & Jackson St. was made available, and also the SKYWARN program was established. Gene did a lot to help our organization become better funded and recognized. His Obit didn’t mention this important contribution to our County. Gene became Director after Charlie, K9TZJ, and was succeeded by Dick, K9FOI (SK).

We had our first actual StormNet alert on Sunday, May 19. Observers were dispatched to the northern part of the County as strong storms came into our County from the Tipton County area. Thanks to the stations that moved to observations points: W9CGA, W9BLF, K9LBB, KC9RMO, KC9LMC. Many other members were monitoring and had checked in. Gary, W9GNR was net control from the ECC along with the Warning Division guys.

We’ve had a number of additional nets for weather events. Thanks to all who monitor and check in. And special thanks to you who man the observation points. Our reports are of great importance to the Warning Division guys, and those who monitor our nets who are and are not hams. We all benefit from your observation reports, and various police and fire first responders are listening too. That’s only one reason why we must be very professional in our communications and be clear as to our location and observations. Remember we report what “is” not what “is not”.

One thing to remember with regard to the sequence of the dispatch of observers to the observations points; The Warning Division evaluates the incoming weather with regard to when it's likely to affect our County and where it is going to come in. The order in which the observation points are filled is according to information need. As a result observers who are A-1 might be assigned to a point not necessarily close to their home, but where the first information is needed. Please be flexible and respond to the requested location.

You may have seen a message floating around about the "ICE" repeaters in Indianapolis being shut down in the next few months. The Indianapolis Carmel Experimenters are a group that have supported over a dozen repeaters on all bands for many years. The one that I note is of particular interest to us is the 146.970 repeater that is used during severe weather to link to the National Weather Service office in Indy. We'll see what happens to fill that need in the future.

Dennis, formerly N9OWN has a new call. Now he's W9DO. Congratulations to Dennis. We'll all have to get accustomed to another new call to go along with a familiar voice.

Our White River Run communications Exercise today went very well. We had 13 communicators, and 5 were "first timers". As usual all did well practicing our net procedures and tactical call sign usage. There were about 150 runners/walkers this year, and I'm sure if you were on the course you got some "thank you" from the runners. They appreciate having folks along the route looking out for them. Thanks to WA9CWE, KC9DJU, W9DO, KC9GBL, W9GNR, WA9IVB, KC9LMC, KC9NAW, KC9NAU, KC9NHQ, KC9RAX, N9VZL, KV9W.

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73,
Steve

Notes from Communications Division Meeting
April 2, 2019

1. The meeting was called to order at 1900 by Jeff, K9DYR. This is to be a regular meeting plus an opportunity for potential hams to learn about Amateur Radio. The invitation was extended at the March StormNet Training Class. Two additional "help" sessions are scheduled on Saturdays prior to the VE Testing on the 16th.
2. Jeff led those in attendance in the Pledge to the Flag.
3. Introductions were made by all in attendance. There were 25 total attendees including 2 visitors from Hancock County (Greg Hicks-K9TLA and George Boaz-KD9GHS), and 5 prospective hams.
4. As an Amateur Radio introduction Jeff reviewed our Comm. Div. activities over the last year:
 - StormNet Training Class in March
 - EOC Exercise in Jan with 17 hams out of 34 in attendance
 - Run-The-Mounds Comm. Exercise in November
 - Flooding event where we measured water levels in rivers & creeks
 - EOC Exercise in August
 - Weather Event with the Moonsville Tornado
 - 4-H Fair communications demonstrations
 - White River Run Communications Exercise
5. Upcoming events involving our Communicators:
 - Indiana QSO Party – with equipment set up & operating outside
 - Field Day in June – National event
 - General Preparedness Training during meetings – ie Go-Bags
 - Damage Assessment training that communicators are prepared to do after an emergency
6. Jeff distributed and reviewed handouts of our StormNet procedures for this year. Similar to years past. Includes also a listing of adjacent County Net frequencies and times. Members are encouraged to check into other nets and learn their procedures.
7. Steve, WA9CWE, reviewed equipment that new hams might find suitable and cost effective. Several handhelds, 2 mobiles, and 2 HF radios were shown and briefly discussed including costs, benefits, etc.
8. Lew, K9LBB, discussed licensing and testing, resources, etc. He also fielded questions. There was a lot of input by our members to encourage the potential hams.
9. The meeting was closed at 1953 so that the potential hams could view the ECC and Mobile EOC. Members who brought their handhelds were able to have them checked on a Station Monitor for correct receiver sensitivity, power output, deviation, etc.

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