

Anderson Repeater Club, Inc.

OUR 50TH. YEAR

July, 2019

Our regular Club meeting is Tuesday, July 2, 7:00PM at the EOC. Our Technical Session will be presented by Dave Hood, WA9IVB. Dave will be discussing the various digital modes that we have all talked about, but don't know much about. Come out to hear this interesting information.

Our VE Testing sessions continue to be well received and productive. Our May session resulted in 2 new Technicians and 2 Upgrades. Our June session resulted in 1 new Technician and 2 Upgrades. So for the first half of the year we've had 16 new licensees and 10 license upgrades. Congratulations to our Vice President Ferrin, N9VZL, for upgrading to Amateur Extra in May. By the way test questions are updated every 4 years. New General questions start July 1, 2019, Amateur Extra July 1, 2020 and Technician July 1, 2022.

I don't know if any of you have heard of SMIRK...It's the Six Meter International Radio Klub. This group promotes activity on the Six Meter Band. It's been around for a long time as I was member #1972 in June, 1972. They have over 7000 members now (once a member always a member). If you want to learn more about the group and especially learn about the band, propagation, etc. check out their web site: www.smirk.org. They have some interesting links to various amateur related sites. The site also includes a nice chart on the bandplan that is commonly used on the 50-54 MHz band. You may have also noticed that the ARRL has a book about 6 Meters called "Magic Band Antennas for Ham Radio". It's full of interesting information about the band and has info on how to build simple beams and other antennas for 6.

In early June I forwarded pictures of "vintage" amateur radio equipment that Alex, KD9LMC, had information about. It doesn't directly benefit our club, but it's always fun to have a shot at equipment that's old and inexpensive. Several of those rigs were AM, which was the "in" thing until FM picked up interest in the late 1960's. Usually they were crystal controlled, so everyone seemed to stay on the same frequency (just like repeater use!). The receivers were tunable, thank goodness. Then VFO's came about and that was wonderful. That was the precursor to synthesizers which we all utilize on our VHF rigs today.

As a bit of Trivia, I investigated other repeaters on 146.820 in Indiana and all of our adjacent States. It turns out there are 2 in Indiana, 4 in Ohio, 3 in Illinois, 4 in Michigan and 1 in Kentucky. Only the Parma, Ohio K8ZFR repeater has the same PL as us, so it's unlikely that users of other repeaters would bring us up unless there was very good band conditions in the direction of northern Ohio. If you want to hear only our repeater then use CTCSS on your receiver. In my case since I have a decent antenna on my base station I use CTCSS on my receiver so I hear only ours (and Northern Ohio during very good conditions). I use carrier access on my handheld and mobile receivers to maximize the sensitivity.

We have 32 paid up members for 2019, our 50th year. Let's hope that other new hams in the area will be interested in joining our Club. Make certain you invite them to come to our meetings. Hopefully that will show them that we have a lot to offer besides maintaining the repeaters.

Take a look at our Web Site from time to time. Tim and Tom are keeping it refreshed and we also post the Newsletters from our Club and the EMA Communications Division. If you want to review what's happened in the last few years you can do it on the site. Additionally, if you have pictures or other Club/amateur radio related information get it to Tom (W9EEL) for inclusion on the site.

If you change your email address, or want me to use one different than how you are getting this Newsletter be sure to let me know. A "reply" will get to me.

A couple of us attended the East-Central Indiana Ham-Tailgate Party at Winchester (Randolph County 4-H Fairgrounds) on June 15. This Hamfest is sponsored by 11 different Clubs in the area. I found it to be very nice and the site was good as was the food. The door prizes were many and good. This was the first year, but they intend to continue to improve. There were probably 300 folks there over the course of the morning. You might consider driving over for it next year (takes an hour to get there).

Mark your calendar for the Indianapolis Hamfest on Fri/Sat July 12 & 13 at the Marion County Fairgrounds (southeast side just off of I465). Always a good Hamfest. You can get details at www.indyhamfest.com. It says it's their 49th Hamfest. At 1100 Saturday there is a forum on EMCOMM Go-Boxes.

See you at our meeting.

73,
Steve, WA9CWE

Minutes of Meeting – May 7, 2019

The regular Club meeting was called to order at 1902 by President Alan, KC9JWO. We welcomed a new amateur visitor and provided introductions for all present.

Alan asked if all had received the Minutes of the last meeting in the Newsletter and all indicated that they had. Upon a motion to accept the Minutes of the March meeting as published by WA9STB and a second by KC9GBL, all voted in favor.

Treasury - Treasurer Tim, KB9VE, reported an initial checking account balance of \$2,911.89. Disbursements of \$28.89 for batteries for the weather stations, and income of \$140 from dues. The new treasury balance is \$3,023.00. KC9GBL moved that the report be accepted and it was seconded by W9GNR. All present voted in favor.

Correspondence – None

VE Report – Steve, WA9CWE, reported that to date we've had 20 candidates tested resulting in 13 new licenses and 6 upgraded. That's good news for the hobby, but most have come from outside of our County. We do have a few new County Technicians and hope for more at the next test session. We're averaging 6 VE's per session present.

.82 Repeater Report – Trustee Tom, KA9SYP, reported that there is nothing to report.

443.35 Repeater Report – Trustee Steve, WA9CWE, reported it's working OK.

.09 Repeater Report – Trustee Tim, KB9VE, also reported it's working OK.

223.86 Repeater Report – Trustee Alan, KC9JWO, reported it's working!

Weather Update – Warning Officer Dale, KV9W, indicated that the weather has been nice and will be OK until Thursday when it will change. Not likely to be severe.

EMA Update – Director Tom, KA9SYP, reported that the last EOC Exercise on May 1st went well. There were 4 National Weather Service Forecasters present to participate with 22 total participants. The situation was a severe tornado in the County. MCPD, Fire Departments, the Coroner were participating also. Dale commented that this was a good exercise that resulted in good conversations and a different situation since there were casualties.

For the ECC he's working on minor upgrades with a couple of antennas that need fixing. We're continuing to support the District concept with monthly Director meetings. There is also a Regional approach developing with Districts 5, 6 and 7 (central Indiana) meeting and planning to work together. We continue to reach out to the surrounding Counties and in the last exercise 4 Counties were contacted to report on support personnel they might provide. Some Counties have only 4 or 5 people, but they are still looking for something to do and this level of cooperation is helpful to them. Jeff has collected names, TX numbers and band plans from these Counties. WinLink is used in Hamilton County and we're looking at it too instead of Packet. The State is trying to catch up on this mode.

ARES Update – EC Gary, W9GMR, reported that he's sending in reports on our County activity. The State has been looking for a Packet Node to be placed in our County, but there hasn't been any interest. This resulted in conversation about past Packet activity when Dave, WA9IVB, had a packet node set up at the WLHN tower site. He remembered that at that time there were over 30 stations with 2 meter packet capability here in Madison County.

Old Business – None

Upcoming Activities – May 17-19 is the Hamvention; May 21 is VE Testing; June 3 is the MCARC Meeting; June 4 is the Comm. Division meeting; July 22 to Aug 1 is the Boy Scout World Jamboree & will be on the Air as NA1WJ; June 15 is the Winchester Tailgate Party (Mike, KC9DJU will be taking MCARC stuff over to try to sell); June 1 is the White River Run Communications Exercise

New Business – None

New Member Application – Steve, WA9CWE, presented the membership application of Mike, KC9DJU. Upon motion of WA9CWE and second by K9TZJ, all present voted in favor of full membership for Mike & he was welcomed.

Technical Session – Dale, KV9W, passed out information on a portable antenna that he has made and used. It's a multiband inverted Vee for 80, 40 & 20 meters that's easy to set up in a portable situation. He had pictures of his setup and described how it works. He uses 12 gage stranded wire and it can be set up very quickly by one person.

Charlie, K9TZJ, passed around some early pictures of his station and his "first license".

Steve, WA9CWE, shared pictures of the history of the Anderson Repeater Club from the early '70's on. We had a good discussion of those pictured in the many activities and the early repeater equipment. He also has pictures of the CD/EMA organization and the Madison County Club activities that will be shared in their future meetings.

Upon motion of KC9GBL and second by W9EEL the meeting was closed at 20:35.

There were 16 members and 1 visitor present.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Secretary, ARC