

Anderson Repeater Club, Inc.

July, 2020

The regular Club meeting is Tuesday, July 7, 7:00PM at the EOC Training Room. Please plan to attend. We should have a lot to discuss since we held our last meeting on-the-air. At this point the State is in “Stage 4”, so masks are optional, but we’re still recommending them and we’re still set up for “social distancing”.

Our May meeting was the first on-the-air meeting that we had attempted and thanks to the pre-planning of our President, Ferrin, N9VZL, it went off very well. Many of our members checked in and we had several visitors too. The regular order of business was conducted and we handled one important piece of business effectively. Thanks to all who participated. Read the Minutes of the Meeting at the end of this Newsletter for details.

Our sponsored repeaters have been updated in the Indiana Repeater Council database. The Council implemented a new detailed database and coordination system recently and I had to learn how to get into it and update our information. It went from about 20 specific items that used to be required to 40 now. It wasn’t a problem, just different. As you know the IRC is the “official” coordinator for repeaters in Indiana and has been since 1971. Actually several of us were involved with the formation of the Council and some of us have been officers. Steve, WA9CWE, has been Chairman & Frequency Coordinator, Tim, KB9VE, has been Treasurer, and Dave, WA9IVB, has been Frequency Coordinator (just ask him to show you the scars of those battles!). Back in the ‘70’s there were “repeater wars” as we tried to find frequency pairs for systems that wanted to go on the air. We were limited by wide spacing between frequencies (60 Khz vs 15 Khz now), and between physical locations (150 miles vs about 90 now). Also all of our records were on paper and locations utilized a State map and a ruler to determine distances. Times have changed with the quality of radios having improved, physical locations now determined by GPS, and computer databases that maintain data and provide calculations. We really owe a debt of gratitude to the Council Officers who are willing to take on this important task. There was once a push to try to “nationalize” the coordination system, but individual States in most cases maintained control of their area.

By the way, the Indiana Repeater Council Web Site: www.ircinc.org has a really nice feature associated with the “Repeater Directory” selection. You can sort by Band, Frequency, Location, Distance or Sponsor. Then you can pull up a State Map that shows the location and frequency of the repeaters that you have sorted for. It’s really nice if you want to find repeaters within a certain radius of Anderson for instance on a given band. Give it a try!

Welcome to Mike, W9RAT, as a full member of our Club. We look forward to his participation in our meetings and nets.

As you know the Indy Hamfest scheduled for Saturday, July 11 has been cancelled this year. However, the Northeastern Indiana ARS is sponsoring a “free” Hamfest on the 11th, 9AM-3PM

(Setup 7 to 9) at the Auburn Cord Duesenberg Museum (1600 S. Wayne St. Auburn, IN 46706). There is an indoor table area, and outdoor flea market. I haven't been to this Hamfest, but it includes free admission to the museum, so it might be worth the drive up there. They are raffling off an ICOM 2730A and some other things. If you are wanting to get to a Hamfest, perhaps it's worth the trip. Auburn is north of Fort Wayne up I69 about 100 miles from Anderson. The Club received a notice about the Hamfest on May 18 and I forwarded it to our membership.

Our May VE Test session was a success! This was our first session requiring "social distancing" and face masks, so we were modifying our usual setup and paperwork flow. We had 14 candidates resulting in 8 new Technicians, 3 new Generals (1 an upgrade from Novice) and 3 new Amateur Extra's (2 upgrades). Tom has some pictures of the session on the Club web site. We had 5 ½ VE's in attendance (Jeff, K9DYR, has applied for his certification but it had not arrived yet, so we put him to work with non-grading paperwork). We had candidates from Chicago, Dayton, Fort Wayne, Kokomo & Indy area. Since there had been cancellations of test sessions in April and May there was a lot of interest. We actually had to decline several who wanted to attend since we weren't sure how the workspace would work out. It looks like we can handle up to 15 without issue. All candidates had been utilizing the various on-line practice test sites and all passed easily. If you have considered upgrading get on a practice test site and go at it. You'll do just fine in the actual test if you are passing the practice tests consistently. If you read carefully the May 28, 2020 issue of the ARRL Letter you will have seen an article about our test session! By the way, Jeff, K9DYR, is our latest "Volunteer Examiner" having received his credentials.

Our June VE Test session was successful also. We had 7 candidates resulting in 3 new licenses and 3 upgrades to Amateur Extra. We had candidates from Chicago, Indy, Fishers, Seymour, Columbia City, Anderson and Elwood. We did end up with 1 new Technician from Anderson! Face masks were recommended also and everyone complied. Our VE Team continues to contribute to the growth of our hobby.

From the Indiana Section May Newsletter: "The term "Elmer" means someone who provides personal guidance and assistance to would-be hams. The term first appeared in *QST* in a March 1971 "How's DX" column by Rod Newkirk, W9BRD (now also VA3ZBB). Newkirk called them "the unsung fathers of Amateur Radio." - We all try to be "Elmers" to new hams and potential hams in our area. Some of us have more opportunities than others, but we all have something to contribute to newcomers. Be sure to offer your advice and experience to our new friends.

Jeff, K9DYR, reports that the Pendleton "June Jamboree" will be from August 4 to the 8th. EMA will have a table in conjunction with the Sheriff's Department and we'll be doing the typical "Outreach" with Project Lifesaver, Literature and of course Ham Radio. Jeff will be looking for volunteers to staff the table as we've done in the past. Tuesday to Friday is 1700-closing, and Saturday is 1300-closing. If you want to help contact Jeff. It's always a good opportunity to promote Amateur Radio.

Our Web Site is "current" with regard to our Club membership, activities and other items. Be sure to check it from time-to-time and offer any suggestions as to information that might be of interest to the membership or others.

The hurricane season is upon the Florida area, and amateurs participate in the “Hurricane Watch Net”. This is conducted on 14.325 which we can hear up here usually, and also on a series of linked repeaters in the Florida area. If you have an interest whenever the state is being threatened with a hurricane tune in to the 20 meter net. It’s interesting. They get plenty of warning, unlike our Tornado activities which are much less predictable.

The weekend of June 13 & 14 was the “VHF Contest”. Although the 6 meter band was not particularly good there were still opportunities to work many areas known as “Grid Squares” in the contest world. Doug, N9DR, operated SSB along with FT8, Steve, WA9CWE, operated SSB, and Ferrin, N9VZL, operated some FT8 from the EOC. Doug reported making contacts not only on 6, but also on 2 and 432. Although repeaters are not used for contesting it’s still a VHF activity that all license classes can participate. It’s another aspect of our hobby. We’ll talk about it at the meeting.

In mid-June Kyle, KD9LJA, passed along a link to an On-Line auction in New Castle that I passed along to our membership distribution. It ran for about 5 days, and included a lot of radio equipment that belonged to N9ARZ(SK) from Spiceland. Several members of our Club took advantage of the available equipment and got some bargains. Hams that I noticed picking up lots of equipment included Bryan, W9BLF, Dave, KC9UKD, Steve, WA9CWE and Jorge, N9JJK. Auctions are a lot like Hamfests where you take a chance on what you buy, but it’s also an opportunity to get some decent equipment and test equipment at a good price.

We forwarded a message about the “13 Colonies” event, primarily on HF, although there has been a lot of contacts made on FT-8 VHF. It runs from July 1 to July 7, and several of our members have been collecting the special event station contacts already. If you have HF capability I hope that you will contact them. The link to the event web site is: <http://www.13colonies.us/>.

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting on Tuesday.

73, Steve

Minutes of Meeting – May 5, 2020

The regular Club meeting was called to order at President, Ferrin, N9VZL, as an on-the-air meeting on the 146.820 repeater. This is as a result of the Coronavirus situation that has made the EOC Training Room unavailable for in-person meetings. All were reminded of the Club web page www.andersonrepeaterclub.org.

The Club Officers were introduced and they checked in: Vice-President – Gary, W9GNR, Secretary – Steve, WA9CWE, Treasurer Tim, KB9VE (Not available), Technical Committee: Tom, W9EEL, Dale, KV9W, Gary, W9GNR. .82 Repeater Trustee – Tom, KA9SYP (Not available), .09 Repeater Trustee – Tim, KB9VE (Not available), 443.350 Repeater Trustee – Steve, WA9CWE, 223.860 Repeater Trustee – Alan, NA9LA (Not available), 145.390 Madison County ARC Repeater Trustee – Alan, NA9LA (Not available) so Mike, KC9DJU commented.

All present for the meeting then checked in as the Secretary recorded their participation (21 total participants).

Ferrin introduced **Question #1** for approval of the meeting minutes from the March meeting as were printed in the May Newsletter. Upon a motion by KD9NAW and second by W9GNR that they be approved, all present remained silent indicating acceptance as printed.

Ferrin introduced **Question #2** for approval of the Treasurer’s Report as printed in the March Newsletter. There were no questions and upon a motion by KB9NTG and second by KC9GBL that the report be accepted as printed in the May Newsletters, all present remained silent indicating acceptance as printed.

Ferrin mentioned Silent Key K9NM, Norm McCain a former member of the Club.

Illnesses of members included Tim, KB9VE, and Alan, NA9LA.

Correspondence: Secretary Steve, WA9CWE, reported that we have been notified that the repeaters coordinations with the Indiana Repeater Council needed to be updated. He is in the process of getting them submitted. Also member Guido, WB9ZJR, has moved to North Manchester.

Ferrin introduced **Question #4** for the new member application of Michael Ratican, W9RAT. Mike has been considered a temporary member until member vote. Upon a motion by KC9GBL and second by W9GNR that Mike be accepted as a full member all members indicated acceptance by remaining silent. Mike was welcomed as a full member.

A report by Jeff, K9DYR, with regard to the problem with the 145.390 repeater indicated that there appears to be an antenna or feedline issue. Since the Hospital is locked down it's difficult to get up there to resolve the issue.

.82 Repeater Report – Trustee Tom, KA9SYP, was not present so Jeff, K9DYR, reported that it is used daily and is working fine.

223.860 Repeater Report – Trustee Alan, NA9LA, was not present so Steve, WA9CWE, reported that as far as we know it is working. He has no equipment to monitor it.

443.350 Repeater Report – Trustee Steve, WA9CWE, reported that it is on the air and operational, but there is very little activity. He reminded everyone it is on the Fire Training Center tower.

147.090 Repeater Report – Trustee Tim, KB9VE, was not available, so Steve, WA9CWE, reported that it's working fine, is full time connected to the 9200 reflector which has a good bit of activity.

Weather Stations Report – Jeff, K9DYR, reported that the station at the EOC works OK and since Tim isn't available he has been learning about it and how to resolve issues. Mike, KC9DJU, reported that the South weather station is working fine.

Web Site Report – Tom, W9EEL reported that he's keeping it up-to-date with information submitted to him.

VE Team Report – In 2020 there have been 3 sessions resulting in 6 new licenses and 3 upgrades. There was no April test session. The Team has been testing for 10 years resulting in 142 new licensees and 98 upgrades. This year there are 11 VE's and we've had 17 different VE's over the years.

Weather/Warning Division Report – Dale, KV9W, reported that this has been a quiet spring so far. The April 8 StormNet alert lasted 2 hours with 5 spotters dispatched and 34 total stations participating. This is a cold period so the likelihood of severe weather is minimal until it warms up. Since we did not have spotter training this year due to the Coronavirus lockdown the National Weather Service has made available the training as videos. There are links to the videos on the Club website. It is the same training package they would have presented. Ferrin commented that he had review it and it was very good.

ARES Report – Gary, W9GNR, Madison Co. EC reported that the State ARES has a new reporting system for the monthly county reports. He's getting used to it. For March he reported 134 man-hours with 40 hrs of training and 94 hrs of nets. April was 189 man-hours.

Old Business – None

New Business – Ferrin introduced **Question #3** from the Newsletter and the Secretary polled all current members for their vote. **All present voted in favor (see attached list in permanent file), therefore the motion is approved.** From the Newsletter:

“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.”

Rick, W9CGA, asked for an update on the upcoming State EMA Exercise to be held in Madison County. Jeff, K9DYR, reported that the planning is progressing and it is still on, but we'll see what the State DHS actually ends up doing.

Upcoming Events – The Thursday MCARC Donuts meetings are cancelled until further notice.
The Saturday breakfasts at the Anderson Grill are cancelled until further notice.
The June 1 MCARC meeting location is still to be determined based upon the availability of the EOC.
The June 2 EMA Comm. Div. meeting will be determined later as to being at the EOC or on-the-air.
The May 19 VE Testing Session will be held at the EOC. See the ARRL Web Site for last minute details.
The July 11 Indy Hamfest has been cancelled for this year.
The East Central Indiana Hamfest in Randolph Co. scheduled for June 20 has been moved to August 15.
The Museum Ships Weekend event scheduled for June 6 has been cancelled for this year.

Gary, W9GNR, reported that the Anderson Grill plans to reopen on May 11, so there will be an opportunity to meet there again later in the month.

Technical Session – Steve, WA9CWE, reminded all users that it's good to wait 1 second after keying their transmitter before talking. This gives the repeater system time to fully come up, and additionally if stations are monitoring and "scanning" it gives time for the receiver to lock on the signal and perhaps not miss the first few letters of a call.

Door Prize – The door prize was awarded to Rick, W9CGA. Ferrin has the prize to get to Rick.

Upon motion of KC9GBL and a second by KD9NHQ, the meeting was adjourned at 1949.

There were 16 members in attendance and 5 visitors,

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Secretary, ARC