

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Communications Division

Tom Ecker, Executive Director

Steve Riley, Director of Communications

October, 2020

Our October meeting will be as usual on Tuesday, October 6, 7:00 PM at the EOC Training Room. Please plan to attend. Bring along your Task Book if you have any signatures to request. Our training this month will focus upon skills and understanding needed for specified tasks and information provided in ARRL EC-001 (required for Level 2).

Our White River Run Communications Exercise on Saturday, September 5, was another success and good training opportunity. We had 19 communicators along the course and as Net Control and other support. After the safety briefing and assignments the observers went to their locations. Using tactical call signs for each location we practiced a "Controlled Net" operation which worked out very well. We observed and reported upon 161 runners and walkers over the 1 hour 39 minutes that they were on the course (first runner completed in 35:25). No injuries or other incidents were reported. Our communicators were: K9BLK, WA9CWE, KC9DJU, W9DO, N9DR, K9DYR, N9EOT, W9FND, KC9GBL, W9GMR, N9JJK, KD9NAW, KD9NHQ, KD9PSR, N9PVI, KD9QFV, KA9SYP, N9VZL, KV9W. We were fortunate to have a few "first timers" participate with us and they were paired up with another member who was experienced in this type of event. We operated the Net Control from the MCU parked outside the EOC. Thanks to all who were able to work this into their schedule. If you participated come to the meeting prepared to share your experience and any improvements in our communications effort that we can implement next year (or at the Run-The-Mounds).

The Run-The-Mounds Communications Exercise is on Sunday, November 1, at Mounds Park. Information will be forthcoming, but as usual plan to be there by 1:00PM for a 2:00 start. We should be completed by 3:30. Our operation will be similar to the White River Run, and everyone is encouraged to participate. Mark your calendar! It's always a fun time and a good exercise for us.

On Saturday, October 17, the MCARC will be supporting JOTA, the Boy Scout Jamboree On The Air. The intent is to set up several stations over at a campground with several troops and demonstrate Amateur Radio to the scouts. Mike and Jeff are coordinating that effort, so if you have an interest be sure to help out. The MCU-2 will be there to operate from and around. This is another good opportunity to set up a temporary operating position in a new environment.

There continues to be a lot of activity in the EOC "Barn". Jeff will fill us in on the latest project(s).

We continue to look for new amateurs who want to participate in our public service support of EMA. If you know of new folks be sure to invite them to our meeting.

See you on Tuesday.

73,
Steve

**Notes from Communications Division Meeting
August 4, 2020**

1. The meeting was called to order at 1900 by Jeff, K9DYR. Jeff led us in the Pledge to the Flag.
2. There were a few visitors present, so all present introduced themselves.
3. There were no show-and-tell presentations offered.
4. Jeff discussed again the "Task Book" that was distributed at the last meeting. These follow the ARES format with only a few additions to support our county procedures. It provides a "credential" of the training and skill set of our communications volunteers. It also documents what is recognized as needed skills of a trained communicator. Even if you don't want to complete and get signed off it is a good listing of important skills.
5. There were no activities in the last 2 months to discuss.
6. Steve, WA9CWE, presented the preliminary plan for the White River Run Communications Exercise on September 5, in support of the Anderson Road Runners Club. We have helped with this yearly since the mid '90's with only a few exceptions. The course is different this year so we have identified locations for our communications observers. We discussed these and the general communications plan and tasks. We also discussed the general equipment that everyone needs to be prepared with. At this point we have a list of 20 hams who plan to participate. We plan to deploy MCU-1, MCU-2 and the Mule at this exercise. Other counties are being invited to participate with us if they wish. The final document will be distributed prior to the event.
7. Steve discussed the commonality of the Clubs and EMA membership:

Madison County Organization Members as of 04AUG2020						
<u>Call</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>MCARC</u>	<u>ARC</u>	<u>Comm Div</u>	<u>ARES</u>	<u>All Groups</u>
WB9AZY	Dick Bickel	1	1	1	1	YES
W9BLF	Bryan Frank		1		1	
K9BLK	Alex Valdez	1	1	1	1	YES
W9CGA	Rick Wiseley	1	1	1	1	YES
WA9CWE	Steve Riley	1	1	1	1	YES
KC9DJU	Mike Cook	1	1	1	1	YES
W9DO	Dennis Owen	1		1	1	
N9DR	Doug Rose		1	1	1	
KB9DXO	Doug Townsend			1	1	
K9DYR	Jeff Dyer	1	1	1	1	YES
KB9ECQ	Bill Legg	1			1	
W9EEL	Tom Harbron		1	1	1	
N9EOT	Brian Jones			1	1	
W9FND	Franklin Dudley	1	1	1	1	YES
AC9FT	Chris Lehman			1	1	
KC9GBL	Tim Young	1	1	1	1	YES
K9GDH	Gerald Hollon	1	1	1	1	YES
W9GNR	Gary Sherman	1	1	1	1	YES
KD9ISO	Tom Cole			1	1	

WA9IVB	Dave Hood		1		1		
KC9IYF	Gene Vincent			1	1		
WA9JCF	Miriam Jones			1	1		
KB9JFS	Vera Griffin			1	1		
N9JJK	Jorge Silva		1	1	1		
N9JKU	Brent Jensen			1	1		
NA9LA	Alan Weber	1	1	1	1	YES	
K9LBB	Lew Baker	1		1	1		
KD9LJA	Kyle James	1	1		1		
KD9LMC	Alex Collins			1	1		
W9MTU	Bob Shoemaker		1		1		
KD9NAU	Mark Mace	1		1	1		
KD9NAW	Gary Wigner	1	1	1	1	YES	
KD9NHQ	Paul Muething		1	1	1		
KB9NTG	Dave Bendt		1	1	1		
N9PVI	Duane Hoak			1	1		
KD9PSR	Tim Bailey	1	1	1	1	Yes	
KB9QIY	Dave Leisure			1	1		
N9RAB	Jerry Johnson	1			1		
W9RAT	Mike Ratican	1	1		1		
KC9RAX	Scott Shepler			1	1		
N9RDC	Rodney Conner			1	1		
KC9RMO	Jeff Sisk	1	1		1		
KB9SCC	Larry McCoy			1	1		
N9SVM	Tony Misner			1	1		
KA9SYP	Tom Ecker	1	1	1	1	YES	
W9TDV	Tim Vaught	1	1		1		
N4TZ	Terry Zivney	1			1		
K9TZJ	Charlie Jones	1	1	1	1	YES	
KC9UKD	Dave McFarland		1		1		
KB9VE	Tim Galbraith		1	1	1		
N9VRC	Jim McAlhaney		1		1		
N9VUQ	Teresa Farmer			1	1		
N9VZL	Ferrin Nice	1	1	1	1	YES	
KV9W	Dale Bales	1	1	1	1	YES	
KE9XF	David Sargent	1	1		1		
N9XXT	Bill Griffin		1	1	1		
N9ZAF	Cautt Dowden		1	1	1		
WB9ZJR	Guido Politano		1		1		
		58	28	36	44	58	17

8. Jeff, K9DYR, presented information on WINLINK as a needed communications tool for our group. It is essentially an email tool that doesn't rely on the Internet, although it can interface with the Internet. This benefits our communications effort by providing a method of errorproofed message text or data. This can be used from location to location utilizing radio communications to an Internet connection, or Peer-To-Peer, which will be beneficial to us also. The software is free (www.winlink.org) and a computer, radio and an interface unit (roughly \$100) is necessary. Some of us already have the interface if we've been using PSK or other digital modes. Another benefit is that it will auto-fill the various EMA communications forms that we use. Tom, KA9SYP, indicated that there are several counties already using it and it's likely to be a more necessary skillset in the future. (It's required for the Level 3 Task Book). This can be used on any frequency, HF or VHF, so we're going to support it and try to get other counties on-board too. Jeff showed a YouTube video of how to set it up. If you need help Jeff or Tom will help.
9. Tom, W9EEL, provided an update that the ARC Weather Page has been updated as a result of changes in WeatherUnderground. The Weather pulldown has been rearranged. Tom demonstrated the changes. He also discussed the value of WebCams. The one at the EOC has failed and is being replaced.
10. Doug, N9DR, discussed the pictures that are being transmitted from the ISS and that passes today and tomorrow should be copyable with a handheld and the app on your phone. Each picture download takes about 2 minutes. Doug reported the time and elevation of each of the passes for tomorrow for anyone interested.
11. Director Tom, KA9SYP, discussed overall activities. The State is starting to get back to normal from the Covid activity. The major exercise planned for our region at our County has been cancelled and will be rescheduled next year. The training schedule that we cancelled will be rescheduled next year too. Tom will be giving presentations around the State around our plan and preparedness and what has been learned from our Covid support. Our County had 5-6 "CPODS" to distribute supplies to the residents. A plan had been developed and it was updated based upon learnings. The National and State EMA Conferences have been cancelled for this year. Our County has been the central point for the 13 Counties in our District for the distribution of PPE's (for PD's, EMS, Schools). Another project is to obtain 2 sign board trailers with AM Broadcast transmitters for our County. Working with Federal Signal. Has a range of about 3 ½ miles. Tom has been using the Drone with the Sheriff's Crash Fatality Team and a Purdue University group to do accident reconstruction. Our County is getting in on this early.
12. The meeting was closed at 2054 with **26 present**.