

Anderson Repeater Club, Inc.

November, 2018

Our regular meeting is Tuesday, November 6, 7PM at the EOC. Please plan to attend and participate in the nominations for Officers for 2019.

Welcome to our new members Alex Collins, KD9LMC and Kyle James, KD9LJA. Both received their licenses in our VE sessions this year and are actively participating in EMA and Club activities. When you hear them on be sure to reply and welcome them to our hobby.

Also Eric Wiseley, KD9JXV, has a new call, W9CGA.

Our Club Web Site has been rebuilt with a lot of effort from Tom, W9EEL, and Tim, KB9VE. We had to move to a new web host to get rid of some problems and Tom rebuilt the site and repopulated it with up-to-date information. Our site is very strong in weather and StormNet information so look there for the latest resource information. Tom reviewed the features of the site at the Comm. Div. meeting in October, but if you weren't there get on the site and find what is available. Links to a number of weather resources are easily available. Also Club history and membership information is posted. If you find any errors let me know and if you can think of other information that is likely to be useful to the membership let us know so that we can address the need. Note that the site is now a "secure certificate" site that meets the needs we discussed at the last meeting.

Mark your calendar for the Fort Wayne Hamfest on November 17 & 18 (their 46th year). Times are 9AM to 4PM on Saturday and 9AM to 2PM on Sunday. The admission fee is \$6, and the parking fee is \$6 this year. The ARRL Forum includes a presentation by ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and several other officials. The location is the same, The Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, 4000 Parnell Ave. Fort Wayne. This is a good Hamfest worthy of your drive up there. It's only an hour to get to from here.

The Run-The-Mounds Communications Exercise is Sunday, November 4. We'll meet at Mounds Park at 1PM and prepare for a 2PM race start. This year we'll operate on .52 simplex, so make certain you are programmed accordingly. Talk-in will be on .82 as usual. Everyone is invited to attend as this is a really fun event. We should be done about 3:30. Additional information will be provided ahead of the event.

Also remember to set you clock "back" on Sunday morning! Otherwise you'll be an hour early.

I'm sorry to report that Jerry Riley, N9ETL became a Silent Key on October 9. Jerry was a member of our Club from 1980 to 2001, Ham-Of-The-Year in 1984 and an active member of the MCARC back in the '70's & 80's. Jerry was very active in all Amateur Radio activities in the County for many years before becoming involved in RC aircraft. We'll miss Jerry. As a side note...The tower sections that were up at Linwood and now the new EOC were sand blasted and painted by Jerry before we put them up at Linwood. The paint job still holds.

At our meeting we'll be opening nominations for Club officers for 2019. This will be a special year as it's our 50th year. We have an opening for a Vice-President as our current VP Dave, KB9NTG, has indicated he'll not be available to serve after this year. If you have an interest in getting involved in the Club leadership volunteer yourself and/or let a current officer know. As in most clubs now-days our existing officer group is likely to be re-nominated and are willing to serve again, but we'd also like to get some other folks involved too.

At the January meeting we often announce the ARC "Ham-Of-The-Year" as selected by the membership. The plaque mounted on the wall at the EOC states:

"In recognition of outstanding achievement of the Anderson area amateur who distinguishes himself in public service, friendship, technological and other ideals of Amateur Radio". Past members who have been awarded can be found listed on our web site. If you would like to nominate someone for this award contact CONFIDENTIALLY Dale Bales, KV9W, at dibales@anderson.edu. Dale, our 2018 awardee will collect the nominations and if a significant number of votes are made for a given ham, that ham will be added to the plaque and honored at our January meeting. We'd like as many nomination votes as possible by December 1. Think about who you have seen make a real contribution and contact Dale.

As you may know the .82 antenna was moved on the tower on Saturday, September 29. The objective of the many hams who participated in making signal strength reports at various places around the County was to change and document the "shadow" that the tower seemed to make toward Frankton and Elwood. As a result of that test it was determined that the hardline "pigtail" at the base of the antenna had been damaged (lightning?) and needed replacement. A new pigtail was obtained and installed a few days later. At that time it was found that the lightning arrestor at the building end of the hardline was defective too. That was replaced also. It appears that the antenna pattern and the receiver sensitivity is now better than it was before. Additional testing may be conducted in the future, but things seem to be better now. We plan some additional maintenance such as retuning of the duplexers, etc. Thanks to all the hams who helped out with this test.

I might comment that in the course of this repeater testing Tom, W9EEL, who was making detailed mobile signal strength readings at specific locations across the county discovered some anomalies in his readings that weren't repeatable and inconsistent with expectations. As it turned out Tom had a bad connection in his mobile antenna. Had he not been watching signal strengths he might not have discovered his bad antenna until sometime when he really needed it. This is a good reason to participate in activities like this one and to watch and record your results carefully.

Mark your calendar for the 2019 StormNet/SKYWARN Training on Tuesday, March 19, 7:00 PM as usual. This year the presentation will be held at the York Performance Hall on the Anderson University Campus. As the time approaches we'll be providing directions, parking info, etc, but start planning and spreading the word to your friends & colleagues who are interested in severe weather observation. We hope that next year will also be an opportunity to pick up some new folks for our hobby & the club. 2018 was an outstanding year as we picked up several new hams

who are actively participating in our hobby. Thanks to Jeff, K9DYR, for leading this effort in 2018 and support him in 2019.

As you probably noticed this is the same evening that we typically conduct our VE Testing. For this month only we'll be moving our test session by a week. Info on that will be forthcoming. Our VE sessions continue to be productive for our hobby and we hope that you will use this local opportunity to upgrade your license if you want to increase your operating privileges.

We are accepting dues contributions for 2019 at this meeting. Feel free to bring your \$20 for 2019 to the meeting or you can send it to: Anderson Repeater Club, PO Box 615, Anderson, IN 46015. It can also be dropped off at our Treasurer, Tim, KB9VE (Anderson Automotive Color). We'll be collecting dues at each meeting with the hope of continuing to increase the membership headcount. Currently we are just holding our own on income and expenses, so additional members would be beneficial. Maintaining the repeaters and the functions of the Club is somewhat expensive. For example the pigtail that we replaced on the .82 antenna was \$75. That's the dues of 4 members! Thank goodness that we have occasional donations such as equipment that we auction off to add to the treasury.

Our Life Member Bob, K9IND, is reported to be in the hospital. We pray for his quick and complete recovery.

73,
Steve, WA9CWE (ARC Secretary)

Minutes of Meeting – September 4, 2018

The regular Club meeting was called to order at 1859 by the President, Alan, KC9JWO. There were no visitors and all had signed the attendance sheet.

All present indicated they had received the Newsletter and the attached Minutes from the July meeting. Upon motion of WA9STB and second by N9VRC all present voted to accept the Minutes as presented. Alan asked if the members were actually reading the Newsletter and most indicated that they were reading it thoroughly.

Correspondence: Nothing has been received in the mail. We did receive an email announcing the ARRL sponsored Microwave Symposium on October 11-14 in Dayton, OH.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tim, KB9VE, reported an initial balance of \$1,290.75, disbursements of \$8 to the Indiana Repeater Council and \$135 to the Madison County Amateur Radio Club. Income was \$94 in dues and \$170 to the MCARC for their share of the auction proceeds. The final balance is \$1,511.75. Upon motion of W9EEL and second by W9GNR all present voted in favor of accepting the report.

Silent Keys or Illnesses: There were none reported.

New Member Applications: Applications were presented for Alex Collins, KD9LMC and Kyle James, KD9LJA. Upon motion by WA9CWE and a second by K9DYR, all members present voted to accept both as full members of the Club. Both were welcomed.

146.82 Repeater Report: Alan reported that the license expires in Feb, 2019, so it will need to be renewed. Jeff, K9DYR, announced that the antenna will be moved on Saturday, Sept 22 at 9AM. Members are needed to be stationed around the County as the work is done so that we can confirm that we are accomplishing the desired result. Jeff has a map marked with the current "null" in the coverage pattern, It's about a 15 degree slice in the Frankton/Elwood area. The intent is to move it to a less important direction.

147.09 Repeater Report: Tim, KB9VE, reported it continues to work well. The IRLP is doing fine and is connected to the 9200 Reflector. He has not had to do any work on it since it was installed.

443.350 Repeater Report: Steve, WA9CWE, reported it's still working with little usage. He has heard a couple of new calls ID on it.

223.860 Repeater: Alan, KC9JWO, reported it's working and still ID'ing. He hasn't worked on it since it went back up and there's minimal usage.

Weather Station & Web Site Update: Tim, KB9VE, reported that the weather stations are working OK. The web site is very "dated" and is "not secure". We need an SSL Certificate @ \$37/year for each of the three sites we have. The MCARC site has the same issue. Since the site does not have the SSL Certificate many switches won't pass them through (the County system and also the Verizon site we use). Tim proposes that we eliminate the oldest site and buy certificates for the Club site and the weather station site. The sites will then be encrypted HTTPS: The sites needed will be andersonrepeaterclub.org and wx.andersonrepeaterclub.org. A motion was made by WA9CWE and seconded by KC9GBL that we buy the certificates for both sites for 1 year for \$74.00. This will give us time to look into combining them to only 1 site. All present voted in favor of this motion. Tim will take care of it.

VE Sessions: Steve, WA9CWE, reported that this year we've had 24 candidates with 15 new licenses and 9 upgrades. Several members present have taken advantage of these sessions. We discussed the "old" licensing requirements where you had to be tested by an FCC official at a site in Indy, Ft. Wayne or Chicago. Many of the older members were tested there. Steve also discussed the procedure that the VE's use to submit the test results to the ARRL/FCC.

EMA Update: Jeff, K9DYR, reported that the security fence will be going around the property in the next week or so. There will still be 3 gates that will be usually open. The conduit under the parking lot planned for antenna feedlines has been located. The EOC exercise held on the 28th went well and all present learned a lot. Thanks to those who participated.

Weather Update: Tom, W9EEL, reported it's still HOT! Hurricane Gordon is headed into the Mississippi Valley and will be moving up into northern Indiana by the weekend. Will mix with a cold front to result in some showers. No severe weather is expected.

Upcoming Activities: Mike reminded everyone that the Parks-On-The-Air is this Saturday noon until evening. The Club will be operating from MCU-2 at Mounds Park and everyone is invited. Will probably use the HexBeam and dipoles. After this event the truck will be going in for body work. November 17-18 is the Fort Wayne Hamfest. The Run-The-Mounds Communications Exercise is the first Sunday in November.

Old Business: None

New Business: Jim, N9VRC, has brought in several spools of hookup wire for the Club member use. Eric Wiseley has a new call – W9CGA. Steve, WA9CWE, is preparing a presentation for the Clubs 50th year of pictures of prior events and equipment. If anyone has any pictures of Club activities he'd like to copy them for the permanent record. He's also collecting pictures of the MCARC and CD/EMA. Any pictures would be appreciated. Steve also discussed the possibility of holding a weekend "training course" to obtain a Technician License. Other clubs have been successful in this method since we haven't had good luck in recent years at multi-week classes. He'd like suggestions. Tim suggested holding it after the StormNet Training since Jeff's effort this year was successful in getting several new licensees. Someone suggested contacting the Boy Scout organization also. Jeff mentioned the possibility of providing Boefeng radios to those who successfully become licensed. Steve also mentioned that nominations for Officers for 2019 will be opened next meeting and we have at least one opening if anyone is interested in becoming an officer. The Ham-Of-the-Year was discussed also. Years ago the Club also awarded a number of other "Awards" to members who deserved them. We would be happy to have more awards like them too.

Jeff mentioned that there is money in the "pop fund" and it's been suggested that the two Clubs get together for a social event to spend some of the money. The last time this was suggested it didn't find much interest.

Upon motion of KC9WJO and second by N9VRC the meeting was adjourned at 2006. There were 17 members present.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Secretary, ARC