

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Communications Division

Tom Ecker, Executive Director

Steve Riley, Director of Communications

December, 2019

Our last meeting of the year is Tuesday, December 3, 7:00PM at the EOC. Please plan to attend. We'll be discussing communications learnings from the RTM and also have a detailed discussion on CTCSS/PL.

Keep working on the Independent Study courses if you can. Remember that we'd like all members to have completed IS-100, IS-200, IS-700 and IS-800. When you complete any course please forward the link for your certificate to Jeff, K9DYR, so that he can get it into your permanent file. It's important that we are able to show that we have trained and qualified personnel on our team. Completion of these courses support that. If you have difficulty finding the web site contact Jeff for assistance.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 7:00PM for the annual StormNet Training. It will again be at the Anderson University York Performance Hall. More information will be forthcoming, but start talking it up and make sure that any hams, relatives and friends interested in severe weather know about it and that they are welcome.

Many things of interest to our Group are available on the Anderson Repeater Club web site. We try to add to the "Events" section of that site information about our activities. Check it out if you don't regularly. www.andersonrepeaterclub.org.

Our Run-The-Mounds Communications Exercise on November 3 was another success. The Warning Division guys came thru again with an excellent weather day! Although it was a bit cold, in the range of 50°, the sun was shining and it was a fine day. The Anderson Road Runners Club had things well prepared as usual, and it was reported that there were nearly 400 participants for us to observe. Our group consisted of: K9BLK, W9CGA, WA9CWE, W9DAC(Tipton Co.), KC9DJU, N9DR, K9DYR, W9EEL(from QTH), KC9GBL, K9GDH, W9GNR, W9KJH(Tipton Co.), NA9LA, KD9LMC, KD9NAU, KD9NAW, KD9NHQ, N9PVI, KC9RAX, KB9VE, N9VZL, KA9WJD. That comes to 22 hams participating. There were no injuries reported although the Chesterfield EMS folks were on hand with 2 ambulances. From the starting gun until all were finished it was about 1½ hours. We used 146.580 Simplex for our communications and there was no problem with anyone reaching anyone else. Mike brought out MCU-2 for us to run the Net Control from, and it worked out great. Jeff and Mike had done a lot of pre-planning, so we had all we needed with backup power and other things if needed. Alan, NA9LA, got there early and helped keep the parking lot we use free for our members and the other responders. From a communications standpoint NC was able to hear everyone full quieting, and it was reported that everyone heard everyone else. Tom, W9EEL, monitored from his house with an antenna in the attic and he reported that he could hear nearly

everyone. He's about 3.5 miles away from the park. Also Duane, N9PVI, checked in from his house after he got home and NC could hear him on his handheld.

There are several "learnings" from our exercise: **1)** Have your radio pre-programmed and checked out ahead of time if possible. **2)** Some radios, particularly the Chinese ones, when you go from Memory Channels to VFO mode, carry the overall setup with them. So if you have PL or transmit offset it shows up in VFO mode and you may not realize it. Check that out ahead of time. **3)** Some radios have a "tone burst" feature that transmits a tone when you key up. The result is a tone transmitted instead of your audio for the first second or so. Make sure it's turned off (Hopefully you have your manual). **4)** If your radio has a "lock" feature use it once you get on the operating frequency so you don't inadvertently change something. **5)** If you have a physical condition that makes it difficult to walk far or other restrictions be sure to speak up so that the NC doesn't assign you to somewhere you have difficulty getting to. All of us are getting older and have "issues" that restricts what we are able to do, so don't be embarrassed. **6)** A couple of folks who had planned to attend had problems that prevented them participating. That was no problem. We also had 4 who weren't on the early list that showed up, so it was great. **7)** A couple of the guys came with their "Go-Boxes" and this was an opportunity to see how they worked. Temporary antennas over a tree limb are easily tested in an exercise like this one. **8)** Most everyone using the radio provided antenna worked just fine. **9)** Having warm clothes and heavy jackets make our vests tight as compared to the summer when we are wearing only shirts. Perhaps some XXL vests might work out better in a fall/winter situation. Otherwise you have to leave it unbuttoned in front. **10)** A camp chair might be beneficial, especially since many of us came early and we spent a lot of time talking/planning/sharing prior to the 1:00PM start of the Safety Talk. **11)** Simplex works! We all get accustomed to using the repeater and having a full quieting signal. It's not the only alternative.

Again thanks to everyone who was able to participate. This is our largest turnout in the 26 years that we've conducted this exercise.



Gary, W9GNR, and Jeff, K9DYR, have been checking into regular nets for our surrounding counties. This is building bridges that are going to benefit us and our neighboring counties. Thanks to them for making this effort.

Remember too, our regular net on Sunday evening at 8:00PM on 146.82. The regular attendance has been in the high 20's and that's great.

We've been honored this year to have a number of new members added to the Communications Division. It's great that they want to actively participate with us and is also a positive reflection upon each of you and your professional approach to our mission.

From the ARRL Letter of Nov. 7: SKYWARN Recognition Day ([SRD](#)) will mark its 20th anniversary on December 7, 0000 to 2400 UTC. This is the day each year when radio amateurs operate from National Weather Service (NWS) forecast offices across the country, celebrating the long relationship between the amateur radio community and the National Weather Service SKYWARN program. The purpose of the event is to recognize amateur radio operators for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local NWS offices.

Developed in 1999, SRD is cosponsored by ARRL and the NWS. Traditionally, radio amateurs have assisted the mission of the NWS through providing near real-time reports of severe weather and storm development. Reports received from radio amateurs have proven invaluable to NWS forecasters.

During SRD, participants exchange contact information with as many NWS stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters, plus 70 centimeters.



The latest Information we have relative to the 146.970 and 442.650 Repeaters in Indianapolis that are used for the Central Indiana SKYWARN link to the National Weather Service office is that they are going to stay on the air. The locations will stay the same but there will be a call sign change on the UHF repeater. A number of the links from southern Indiana have been shut down, but that shouldn't affect us getting to the NWS office.

See you on Tuesday,
73, Steve

**Notes from Communications Division Meeting
October 1, 2019**

1. The meeting was called to order at 1900 by Jeff, K9DYR. He led us in the Pledge to the Flag.
2. Jeff announced that Franklin, W9FND, has a birthday today.
3. All had signed the Attendance Sheet.
4. Since we had a visitor from Tipton County, David Copp, W9DAC, we all introduced ourselves.
5. Jeff briefly mentioned the many activities that the Communication Division members participated in: Elwood Glass Festival, Frankton Heritage Days, Pendleton Public Service Day. It was a very good opportunity to inform the public of the things that we do including Amateur Radio and Project Lifesaver (Lew is a great ambassador).
6. There were 2 StormNets since the last meeting. They were good nets with good spotter reports.
7. Upcoming events: Richland Twp VFD Public Safety Day this weekend we think. Run-The-Mounds Communications Exercise in November.
8. Jeff reported that we have Winlink working on the IC-7300 in the ECC. Jeff also has it set up for his 897.
9. Gary, W9GNR, provided an EC Report indicating in August there were 360 man-hours reported and in September 188 man-hours. Since January he's reported 1,876 man-hours.
10. The Comm. Division has 43 members.
11. Jeff reported in Tom's absence that there is an exercise planned before the end of the year and will focus on Communications with our neighboring Counties.
12. Warning Division Report by Dale, KV9W. Dale presented information by Global Weather Oscillations, Inc. a group that studies the "natural climate pulse" and cycling of weather events. They identify 230 year cycles and 15 year cycles from warming to cooling. They are predicting normal precipitation and near normal snowfall this winter for our area.
13. This weekend we should see cooler air with temperatures in the 60's.
14. We briefly discussed how the Comm. Div. assists the Warning Division and the opportunity for Shelters to be manned if needed. The needs in winter events is different than our weather responses.
15. For training we discussed how on our Sunday evening net thru the repeater we don't need to "relay" reports. However, if we are operating simplex it's probable that the Net Control station might not hear someone calling in. We went thru a scenario demonstrating how a station should handle relaying in a station.
16. We were all reminded that we need to know how to get to simplex channels on our radios and preferably have them pre-programmed. 146.580 is in our plan as a simplex channel, so we all need to be prepared to get to it.
17. Steve, WA9CWE, discussed in detail the upcoming Run-The-Mounds Communications Exercise. We reviewed the updated map with observation points and how we are going to operate, this year on 146.580. We also discussed the reporting and record keeping for the run. Many present plan to participate in this yearly (our 26th year) exercise. Handouts were distributed and this information will be on the Repeater Club web site.
18. We closed the meeting at 2000. There were 23 present.