



April 2015

Next Meeting

7:00 PM
Monday, April 6th
at the EOC

Donut Meeting
10:00 AM Thursday
April 2nd

MCARC Nets

Wednesdays at
8:00 PM

2M net
on 145.390
pl 151.4

Informal ragchew
on 28.465 Mhz

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President's Message

Welcome to the April edition of the Madison County Amateur Radio Club newsletter. I hope everybody enjoyed that one day of 70 plus degree weather. To start off, I'd like to thank Dave, WA9IVB, for showing his radios to the club. Good job!

I think all of the members enjoyed checking them out. We've been working on the club's radio area in the Com room. Its coming together pretty well. I know Dale, KV9W plans to work on the Hex beam project on several Saturdays, so, check your emails and check in to the net on Wednesday nights at 8pm to keep updated on work days that are scheduled.

The next scheduled "donut meeting" date is April 2nd at 10 am. And the following Monday night, April 6th, at 7 pm, will be the monthly meeting. I'm going to try and get a little ahead this month, and remind everyone of the Indiana QSO Party, the first weekend in May. We usually do real well and work a lot of different stations. Not all of them may be in Indiana, but we have a good time working whom ever we can. It is a 12 hour event, I believe starting at 12 noon till midnight. So, we have a lot to get ready for. Then the next month, June, will be Field Day. So, we need to get ready.

The net is going well on Wednesday nights, so check in and join in the discussion. There will be a "snow bird" or two coming home soon, I think, so, listen in for them. Then, remember every Saturday morning at 9 am at Eva's on Broadway, across from the Prairie Farms Dairy. We've had a good turnout, and still have more room!

I think that's about all I have for now. So, get out, make any antenna improvement that you need, while the weather isn't quite up to par, because antennas stay up better if they are hung in bad weather. And, try a different band, or mode, and get on your radio and call CQ! You may be the grid square, city, state, or country that someone needs. Plus, you may make a new friend.

"73" Mike, KC9DJU

"I'm proud to pay taxes in the United States; the only thing is, I could be just as proud for half the money"
Arthur Godfrey, K4LIB (SK)

>>> NEWS FLASH <<<

FCC TO REINSTATE MORSE CODE TEST

"It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits FCC official

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Washington, D.C. – April 1, 2015 - Today, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC) approved Report and Order 15-987af which reinstates the Morse Code test for General Class and Amateur Extra Class licensees. "It was a big mistake eliminating the Morse Code test," admits Dotty Dasher, the FCC's director of examinations. "We now realize that being able to send and receive Morse Code is an essential skill for radio amateurs. As they say, it really does get through when other modes can't."

Not only will new applicants have to take the test, but General Class licensees who have never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 5-wpm code test. Similarly, Amateur Extra class licensees that never passed a code test will have one year to pass a 13-wpm test. Those amateurs that fail to pass the test will face revocation of their operating privileges. Materials for administering the examinations will be distributed to Volunteer Examiner Coordinators by the end of April, so that they can begin the testing on May 1, 2015.

"This isn't going to be one of those silly multiple-choice type tests," noted Dasher. "We're going to be sending five-character random code groups, just like we did in the old days. And, applicants will have to prove that they can send, too, using a poorly adjusted straight key."

Technician Class licensees will not be required to take a Morse Code test, nor will a test be required for new applicants. "We discussed it," said Dasher, "but decided that since most Techs can't even figure out how to program their HTs, requiring them to learn Morse Code seemed like cruel and unusual punishment."

When asked what other actions we might see from the FCC, Dasher hinted that in the future applicants taking the written exam may be required to draw circuit diagrams, such as Colpitts oscillators and diode ring mixers, once again. "We're beginning to think that if an applicant passes an amateur radio license exam it should mean that he or she actually knows something," she said.

For further information, contact James X. Shorts, Assistant Liaison to the Deputy Chief of Public Relations for the FCC at (202) 555-1212 or jim.shorts@fcc.gov. For more news and information about the FCC, please visit www.fcc.gov.

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No-Nonsense" amateur radio study guides and a leading amateur radio blogger. You can find his study guides by going to his blog at www.kb6nu.com. You can contact Dan by e-mail at cwgeek@kb6nu.com, or, after you pass the test, by CW. Look for him at the bottom of just about any HF band.

**MCARC – Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, March 2, 2015
Location: EOC, 3528 Mounds Road, Anderson, IN**

7:00 Mike-KC9DJU called the meeting to order.

Minutes: Motion to accept with no changes by Dick-WA9STB / Dave-KB9NTG - passed.

Treasurer report by Jeff, K9DYR:

| | | |
|----------------------|------------|--|
| Balance in Checking: | \$3,440.93 | |
| Payable: | <\$552.97> | Hex beam, Tower trailer license, Rep. Repair |
| Funds available | \$2,887.96 | |

Motion to accept Treasurer report by George-AC8GT / Dale-KV9W - passed.

Officer Reports:

VP, John KC9PDG: Net check-ins range from 9-16.

Newsletter Editor, George-AC8GT: The method of emailing links to the newsletter seems to be working fine.

Tech Committee, Doug-N9DR: Nothing new to report.

Activities, Dale-KV9W: brings our attention to the current calendar of events. The following is a summary:

| | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 3/28-29 | CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB |
| 3/- - - - | Work days for Hex Beam – as scheduled |
| 3/11 | Stormnet training at Hoosier Park |
| 5/2 | Indiana QSO party |
| 5/15-17 | Dayton Hamvention |
| 6/27 | Field Day |

Other business:

The move from Linwood should be winding down. There is no water or heat and the electricity needs to be cut off very soon.

8:10 Alan-KC9JWO/George-AC8GT move to adjourn- passed

NEXT MEETING: April 6, 2015 at the EOC

***** NOTE: Many Thanks to Kathy-KD9CGT for taking care of standing in for the Secretary last month.**

Respectfully submitted, Jeff Dyer, K9DYR

April 2015 Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------------------|---|---|--|---|-------------|---|
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| CQWW 160 Meter SSB Contest | | | April Fool's Day 8:00 PM 2M Net on 145.390 pl151.4 Ragchew on 28.465 | 10:00 AM Donut Meeting at the EOC1 | Good Friday | 9:00 AM Breakfast at Eva's |
| 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| Easter | 7:00 PM MCARC Meeting at the EOC | 7:00 PM EMA Communications Meeting at the EOC | 8:00 PM 2M Net on 145.390 pl151.4 Ragchew on 28.465 | | | 9:00 AM Breakfast at Eva's |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| | | | Tax Day 7:00 PM VE Testing Madison County EOC 8:00 PM 2M Net on 145.390 pl151.4 Ragchew on 28.465 | | | 9:00 AM Breakfast at Eva's North Central Indiana Hamfest Peru |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| ARRL Rookie Roundup SSB | | | 8:00 PM 2M Net on 145.390 pl151.4 Ragchew on 28.465 | | | 9:00 AM Breakfast at Eva's |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| | | | 8:00 PM 2M Net on 145.390 pl151.4 Ragchew on 28.465 | 10:00 AM Donut Meeting at the EOC | | 9:00 AM Breakfast at Eva's |

More information about the contests can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

VE Testing

Sponsored by the Anderson Repeater Club

7:00 PM on Thursday April 15th

The Madison County Emergency Operations Center - 3538 Mounds Road

Walk-ins welcome

<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

For Sale

Updated 3/24/2015

**Kenwood HF TS-570D 160 to 10 Meters with
MC 60 desk microphone and a
Pyramid Gold Series model NO. PS-21K power supply** **\$600.00**

Can sell this power supply separately for \$50.00.

Astron RS 12A power supply **\$45.00**

A 2 meter base station ground plane for **\$15.00**

Bob Hayworth wd9gwm@comcast.net or call 765-524-5864

**ICOM IC-7000 HF Transceiver with remote cable
and RT Software** **\$950.00**

LDG AT-7000 Automatic Antenna Tuner **\$100.00**

MFJ-991B Auto antenna tuner **\$150.00**

Dave Hood WA9IVB - dhood@sbcglobal.net

To list something for sale please send your listing to w9vcf.mcarc@gmail.com

Madison County Amateur Radio Club Contact Information

Madison County Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3044
Anderson, Indiana 46018

 www.w9vcf.org
 w9vcf.mcar@gmail.com
 www.facebook.com/w9vcf
 [@w9vcf](https://twitter.com/w9vcf)

Officer Contact Information

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| President..... | Mike Cook..... | KC9DJU..... | cook3909@sbcglobal.com |
| Vice President..... | John Krieg..... | KC9PDG..... | jkrieg1401@aol.com |
| Secretary/Treasurer..... | Jeff Dyer..... | K9DYR..... | k9dyr@arrl.net |
| Activities..... | Dale Bales | KV9W..... | dibales@anderson.edu |
| Trustee..... | Mike Brown..... | K9MI..... | k9mi@comcast.com |
| Technical Committee Chair..... | Doug Rose..... | N9DR..... | n9dr@arrl.net |
| Newsletter Editor..... | George Alderton..... | AC8GT..... | ac8gt@arrl.net |

And, of course...

W9VCF - 145.390 - PL 151.4

Meetings at the Madison County EOC
(The old Bronnenberg Children's Home)
3538 Mounds Rd
Anderson, IN 46017

40° 5' 24.1440" N - 85° 37' 54.3576" W

Mounds Road just East of S Rangeline Rd
Go through the gates, turn right at the "T"

Editor's Notes

Thanks

First off, I'd like to thank Dan Romanchik, KB6NU for permission to re-print his April Fool's article from last year. You can check out Dan's web site and blog at...

<http://www.kb6nu.com/>

It's full of interesting content and he has "No-Nonsense" Study Guides available to download there.

Building Better Radio Clubs

On Saturday, March 7th Alan (KC9JWO) and I attended a "Building Better Radio Clubs" workshop that was organized by the Indiana Radio Club Council. About twenty people were in attendance, representing radio clubs from all over the state.

We were divided in to small groups and given a list of questions regarding the challenges that clubs face and some of the reasons and solutions people had found. After recording our answers, there was a group discussion and our notes were summarized (the raw notes will be sent along with this newsletter)

The first few questions were about declining membership numbers,(what are the indications and the reasons) the rest were about what we could do about it.

The Problem

Folks seemed to agree that lower meeting attendance, net participation and lower turnouts for hamfests were all signs that we need to make some extra effort to generate more interest and activity.

The Reasons

The reasons discussed were broadly...

- Clubs losing members through attrition.
- Problems recruiting younger members.
- Other activities competing for time.

What to Do?

It was encouraging to hear all the ideas people had to make things better. Some had already been successfully implemented, some were things still to try.

Here are some of the highlights...

- Keep the meetings interesting and fun. Have a speaker. Limit the business discussions.

- Don't forget the "social aspect" of the club. Have family events (picnics, dinners, etc..)

- Get the word out .

Word of mouth, nets, web pages, social media, APRS, repeater voice announcements.

- Engage the general public. Newspaper, Radio PSAs, Local festivals and events.

- Catch the newly licensed Hams (free club membership for a year?)

- Provide speakers to local groups

Lots of good ideas and I'm sure we can find more of our own.

For now, maybe, see if you can get a friend, co-worker or family member interested and bring them to a (hopefully fun) meeting!

73,

-- George, AC8GT