

**Next Meeting**

7:00 PM  
Monday, December 7th  
at the EOC

Donut Meeting  
10:00 AM Thursday,  
December 3rd

**MCARC Nets**

Wednesdays at  
8:00 PM

2M net  
on 145.390  
pl 151.4B

Informal ragchew  
on 28.465 Mhz

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**President's Message**

Welcome to the December edition of the Madison County Amateur Radio Club newsletter! Several things have been going on with your club. The club set up a table at the Ft. Wayne Hamfest this year. Several of the club members went up and helped man the table. From what I heard, we could have used 3 tables! I don't know if anyone went to any of the forums. I know that the Indiana Traffic net had a forum, and I believe that the Indiana ARES group had one also. If anyone wants to, please bring something you purchased to the next meeting for Show and Tell. We've also another Silent Key to get installed on the Silent Key plaque. Gene Smith, KB9WI passed recently. Gene had been a member for many years. In recent years, he had retired from the Methodist Church as Pastor. He will be missed.

For those of you who attended the November meeting, nominations were taken in October and November, and the nominations were closed at the last meeting. Please, come vote at the December meeting, December 7th at 7 pm.

The December "donut" meeting will be held on December 3rd, at 10 am, both at the current EOC building.

If anyone is interested in helping to get the Club's van a little bit further along, please get in touch with John, KC9PDG. I would follow up with John to coordinate any work times.

Don't forget about the Club's Christmas Party, December 12th, at 6 pm, located at Perkins Restaurant. We will be gathering in the back room for supper. They always have good food and a good variety.

At this point, I should thank all of the officers for 2015. We've had an interesting year with the closing of the old Linwood building, moving into the current building, organizing and "winnowing" of some of the nonessential equipment, having such a nice place to meet, and maintaining a good working relationship with the Madison County Emergency Management. I have enjoyed working with the officers that you have elected for this year. Every one has done great things for your club. When something came up during the year, everyone stepped up and helped do what was needed.

That's what makes a great club, Everyone shows interest and pitches in to help.

Well, that about wraps up things from here. Come to the meetings and help your club do bigger and better things for 2016! Happy Holidays! Now, turn on your rig and make a call somewhere. Somebody just might need your grid square!

"73" Mike, KC9DJU

*"Once a ham, always a ham."  
- Gene Shepherd (Radio Personality and author of "A Christmas Story"*

# MCARC – Minutes of Regular Meeting

Monday, November 2, 2015

Location: EOC, Anderson, IN

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

Introductions were made for a visitor, John Hilliard – K4JCH who was in town for a short time from AL.

**Minutes:** Motion to accept the minutes as presented in the newsletter by Tim-KB9VE / Dave-KB9NTG - passed.

**Correspondence:** Indiana Parks on the Air (IPOTA) certificate for 2<sup>nd</sup> place in multi-op category  
Flyer received promoting the Cabin Fever Hamfest in LaPorte, IN.

**Treasurer report by Jeff, K9DYZ:**

No activity \$2,981.53

Motion to accept by Tim-KB9GBL / George-AC8GT

\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\* Will start collecting dues for 2016 in December

## Officer Reports:

**VP, John KC9PDG:** Brought points listing to meeting.

**Trustee, Mike-K9MI:** Mike not in attendance – Repeater is working.

**Newsletter Editor, George-AC8GT:** Heathkit has been reserected – again. . . . George is making new membership cards.

**Tech Committee, Doug-N9DR:** Doug noted that Mike-KC9DJU brought the rotor cable so the rotor can be installed.

**Activities, Dale-KV9W:** Dale mentioned the Fort Wayne Hamfest 11/14-15. George-AC8GT told about a club that specializes on Fox Hunts on a regular basis.

Sick report: Gene-KB9WI not doing well. He hosted the donut meeting. Dick-WA9STB not doing well. Please keep these friends in your thoughts and prayers.

## Old business:

1. Need to move antennas off the ground at Lynwood – possibly after breakfast on 11/28
2. Dave-KB8NTG reserved a table for the club at the FT Wayne Hamfest. Interested persons should contact Dave-KB9NTG or George-AC8GT about a shift at the table.
3. Christmas party has not yet been confirmed. Mike-KC9DJU will verify arrangements (12/12 at Perkins is our first choice.)

## Nominations:

Nominations continued for 2016 officers. The election will take place at the December meeting.

President	Mike-KC9DJU	Tech Chair	Doug-N9DR
V-President	Dave-KB9NTG	Tech Cmte	Bob-KC9WPM
Sec/Treas	Jeff-K9DYZ	Tech Cmte	Lew-KD9DHF
Trustee	George-AC8GT	Tech Cmte	Mike-KC9LWK
Activities	Kathy-KD9CGT	Newsletter	George-AC8GT
	Tim-KC9GBL		

**9:00** Adjourned. George-AC8GT / Tim-KC9GBL – passed

**NEXT MEETING:** December 7, 2015 at the EOC on Mounds Road, Anderson  
Respectfully submitted, Jeff-K9DYZ

## Kids are Not the Future of Ham Radio

By Bob Witte, KONR

You've heard it a million times: our kids are the future. That statement gets applied to almost everything, including amateur radio. How can you argue with an obvious fact like that?

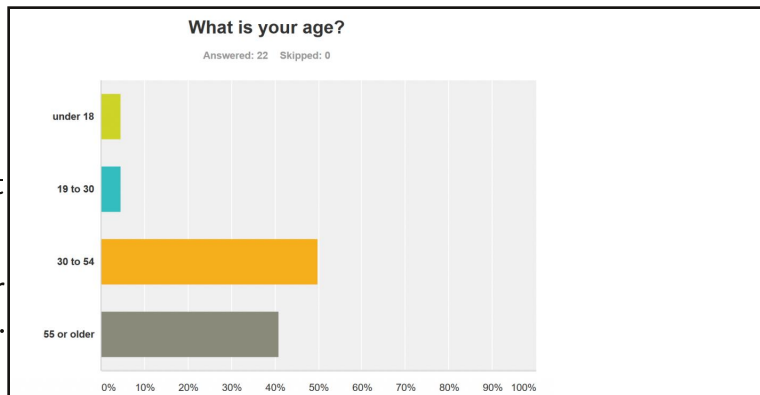
But I am starting to think it is incorrect.

We've had really good success on creating new hams of all ages in our Technician License Class (at the Tri-Lakes Monument Radio Association). We've been doing this for a while now and I think I am seeing a pattern emerge. We've been able to attract middle schoolers to the class and help them get their ham radio license. I've talked to many of them on the air. They've helped out with public service events. They seem to have fun playing with radios.

Then this thing called high school happens. The high school phase in the US is filled with tons of stuff to do: studying, homework, AP classes, science competitions, sports, dating, movies, driving and after school jobs. Way too much stuff. Ham radio starts to take a backseat to these normal high school activities. Then we don't see the kids at the radio club meetings or chatting on the local repeater because they are busy doing other things. Have we lost them forever? Not sure.

High school is often followed by college which has its own set of challenges: a totally new environment, away from home, a new set of people, new studies, etc. There might be a ham radio club on campus but maybe not. If a kid is not off to college they are (hopefully) out doing something to establish themselves in this world. Eventually they emerge on the other side, get a job, get themselves established, sometimes with a spouse and maybe a kid or two. By this time they are 25 to 30 years old, depending on the individual.

I recently posted about the demographics of our students in the Tech License Class (<http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2015/10/where-are-the-new-technicians-coming-from/>). The chart below shows the age distribution of our students from our most recent class. Hmm, clearly most of our students are 30 or older. (Sorry, we have not collected age data with finer resolution.) This particular class is light on the under 18 crowd...sometimes we have a clump of kids in the mix.



For whatever reason, it seems that most people find themselves in a situation as an adult that causes them to say "I want to get my ham radio license." When asked why they want to get their ham license, the top response is always emergency/disaster communications, followed by backcountry communications, pursuing electronics as a hobby and learning about radio communications. I suspect that starting to be established in a community and having some disposable income also play a role.

My hypothesis is that the most effective way of growing a vibrant ham radio community is to target adults ages 25 to 40.

This age range is more equipped and ready to be ham radio operators and are still young enough that they will be around for a while. Of course, we still want to work with all age groups, including kids and retirees. We've all seen very young hams get the bug for ham radio early and carry it throughout their life. And we also see plenty of older folks get interested in the hobby as they approach or enter retirement. We don't want to miss out on either of those groups.

So that's my read on the situation. I've got some data to support my theory but I can't really prove it. What do you think? What are you seeing in your ham radio community?

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Bob Witte, KONR, blogs about amateur radio at [KONR.Com](http://www.k0nr.com).

You can find this post at <http://www.k0nr.com/wordpress/2015/11/kids-not-the-future>

You can e-mail him at [bob@k0nr.com](mailto:bob@k0nr.com). He is also on Twitter: @KONR.

# December 2015 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
		7:00 PM EMA Meeting at the EOC	8:00 PM 2M Net on 145.390 pl151.4 Ragchew on 28.465	10:00 AM Donut Meeting at the EOC	160 Meter Contest	160 Meter Contest 9:00 AM Breakfast at Eva's
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
Hanukkah Begins 160 Meter Contest	7:00 PM MCARC Meeting at the EOC		8:00 PM 2M Net on 145.390 pl151.4 Ragchew on 28.465			10 Meter Contest 9:00 AM Breakfast at Eva's 6:00 PM Christmas Party At Perkins
<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
10 Meter Contest	Hanukkah Ends		7:00 PM VE Testing at the EOC  8:00 PM 2M Net on 145.390 pl151.4 Ragchew on 28.465			9:00 AM Breakfast at Eva's
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
Rookie Roundup CW		Winter Solstice	8:00 PM 2M Net on 145.390 pl151.4 Rag chew on 28.465		Christmas	9:00 AM Breakfast at Eva's
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
			8:00 PM 2M Net on 145.390 pl151.4 Rag chew on 28.465	10:00 AM Donut Meeting at the EOC	New Year's Day	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 the Third Wednesday of the Month  
at the Madison County Emergency Operations Center - 3538 Mounds Road  
walk-ins welcome  
<http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>

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# For Sale

Updated 11/24/2015

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**Pyramid Gold Series model NO. PS-21K power supply** \$55.00.

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

Bob Hayworth WD9GWM - wd9gwm@comcast.net or call 765-524-5864

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**Icom IC-2KL - 500W All Solid State Linear Amplifier** \$900.00  
**Firm**

Timothy Reynolds - WA9EEH - 765-610-6190

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<b>Little Tarheel II Antenna</b>	<b>\$325.00</b>
<b>GAP Speaker with power supply</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>GAP Speaker without power supply</b>	<b>90.00</b>
<b>Kenwood Speaker</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Kenwood Speaker</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>Radio Shack SWR Meter 3-30Mhz</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>Dentron Jr. Monitor Antenna Tuner</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>West Mountian Radio ISOPower</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>ICOM IC-2720H Dual Band Mobile</b>	<b>225.00</b>
<b>GAP Challenger DX-VII 2m-80m</b>	<b>200.00</b>
<b>ICOM IC-706MKIIG Radio with separation cable &amp; bracket</b>	<b>700.00</b>

From Gene Smith's Estate

Contact the club at w9vcf.mcarc@gmail.com for more information.

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

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# Madison County Amateur Radio Club Contact Information

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

www.w9vcf.org  
w9vcf.mcarc@gmail.com  
www.facebook.com/w9vcf  
@w9vcf  
(765) 400-0426 -- 765-4000-HAM

## 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.net
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"