



June 2016

**The next meeting will be at 7 PM on Monday, June 6th
at the Purdue Extension (I-69 Exit 221)**

President's Message

Hello, and greetings to the June edition of the Madison County Amateur Radio Club newsletter. I hope this finds everyone in good shape, and ready for the Dayton Hamvention! When you receive this, Dayton will have passed. I hope everyone that went found their "treasures". There are many different forums on many different topics.

This year, the club will be set up there, out in the Flea market. I would like to thank Terry, N4TZ, for taking the lead on going there. If you picked up anything that you want to show the club, please bring it to the next club meeting, which will be held at the Purdue extension at exit 221, off of I 69. It's where Dennis, N9OWN teaches computer and electronics. Meeting starts at 7 pm.

I hope you were able to attend the May meeting. If you couldn't, you missed a real nice and interesting event. We had author Ronald May come and speak to the club and visitors. He also brought 2 service members, Samuel Chase and Jim Powers from Indianapolis, and Kathy brought Walter Dreyfus from Greenwood. These gentlemen represented the Army, Navy, and Air Force. They served as radio men during World War II. Mr May also brought along some books which he sold to those that wanted one. Many thanks go to Kathy and George for for setting up the event, and for George going back home for spare power cords and water.

We also had a nice gathering at the EOC on May 7, for the Indiana Centennial QSO Party. Thanks to Dale, KV9W for setting up Alan, KC9JWO's 40-80 meter dipole. We had several members out for awhile and work and observe. Conditions weren't very good in the beginning, but, slowly got better, The group worked over 100 qso's! Good job, everyone!

The net on Wednesday night at 8 pm is going real good also! Dave, KB9NTG, is really doing a bang up job! For those of you who haven't checked in for a while, he has been asking a "question of the day". If you have any ideas for questions, please let Dave know what you would like to have asked. He has had many good questions. Please help him out with more ideas.

Don't forget Breakfast at Eva's at 9 am every Saturday morning. We've had a good turnout lately. I've heard the coffee is good, and the food is too! Hope to see you there.

I've rambled on too much, so I'll sign off for now. Take care, and hope to see you at the June

"73" to all.
Mike KC9DGU

Events

Every Wednesday	MCARC 2M Net 20:00 - 145.390 pl 151.4 Followed by an informal ragchew on 28.465
Every Thursday	Donut Meeting 09:00 at the EOC
Every Saturday	Breakfast at Eva's 09:00 at 832 Broadway St, Anderson
Monday June 6th	MCARC Meeting 19:00 at the Purdue Extension
Tuesday June 7th	EMA Communications Meeting at the EOC
Saturday June 8th	Kid's Day, Milford OH Hamfest
Wednesday, June 15th	License Exams 18:30 at the EOC Contact Al Wendling (765) 642-7291 wyal@aol.com
Saturday June 25, Sunday June 26	Field Day

MCARC – Minutes of Regular Meeting
Monday, May 2nd
Location: Pendleton First United Methodist Church

Due to our special presentation, there was no business meeting in May and no minutes were taken.

Design Advances Make Portable Operation Easier, More Fun

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I've just returned from the Dayton Hamvention. Dayton was a blast as usual, and if there's one thing I took away from this year's event it's that portable operation is not only becoming more popular, but more sophisticated as well. In fact, it's a virtuous circle. More sophisticated portable equipment is making portable operation more popular, which is spurring manufacturers to make more sophisticated equipment, which is making portable operation even more popular, and around we go.

This is perhaps most easily seen in the evolution of the Elecraft products. One of their first rigs was the K1, a small rig that was frequently toted out into the field, even though it wasn't really designed for that purpose. It had a small form factor, but had a conventional front panel layout.

The next evolution was the KX1. This CW-only radio was designed specifically for field work. It originally only covered 40m and 80m, and had a very limited front panel, but its built-in battery pack and KXPD1 paddle made it a great choice for portable operators when it was introduced in 2004.

A big leap forward was made when they introduced the KX3 in 2012. This radio combined a bunch of features never before found in a portable rig. The KX3 features an SDR architecture and covers all modes, including (SSB, CW, Data, FM, AM); used the same full-sized LCD display as the K3; has advanced DSP features; and can be connected to a computer via USB for firmware upgrades and for use with other ham radio software. The KX3 is so full-featured that many operators use it as their main rig with a suitable linear amplifier.

At Dayton 2016, Elecraft took this concept even further and introduced the KX2. It's about half the size of the KX3, but yet has almost all of the features of the KX3. There was a tremendous amount of buzz over this radio at Dayton among portable operation aficionados. The base price of the KX2 is \$750, and with options, will cost you about \$1,000.

Of course, Elecraft isn't the only company competing in this market. LNR Precision sells a radio called the LD-5, and at Dayton, they introduced the LD-11, which like the KX3 and KX2 features an SDR architecture and covers 160m - 6m. This radio goes for about \$800, and has also proven to be popular among portable operators.

Dayton also had a number of exhibitors that supplied products other than radios to aid portable operation. There were several portable antenna manufacturers, including Buddipole (buddipole.com) and PackTenna (packtenna.com), and BiEnno Power (biennopower.com) was also there, showing off their new lithium-iron batteries,

While radios like the KX2 and LD-11, at relatively low prices, allow operators to easily get out into the field, portable operation would not be as popular as it is without organized activities. Programs like the Summits on the Air (SOTA, www.sota.org.uk, na.sota.org) and the National Parks on the Air (NPOTA, npota.arrl.org) make portable operation even more fun. These programs do this by providing a structure in which operators can find one another and gain awards for operating. SOTA did not have a booth at Dayton, but NPOTA was a big part of the ARRL section there.

If you aren't already a portable operator, you should give it a try! You don't have to invest a bunch of money in a rig to just try it. KX1s have been had for less than \$400, and simpler QRP rigs cost a lot less. Getting outside and operating in the fresh air is a lot of fun and could give you a whole new perspective on amateur radio.

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. Listen for him operating his KX1 from the park or beach this summer.

For Sale List

Little Tarheel II Antenna	\$325.00
GAP Speaker with power supply	100.00
GAP Speaker without power supply	90.00
Radio Shack SWR Meter 3-30Mhz	50.00
West Mountain Radio ISOPower	50.00

From Gene Smith's Estate

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

Radio Shack Frequency Counter 22-305 1 Mhz - 1.3 Ghz	\$50.00
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Contact Richard Goff at 765-623-2204

Madison County Amateur Radio Club Contact Information

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Meetings are 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"