



March 2016

The next meeting will be on Monday, March 7th at the Madison County EOC

President's Message

Welcome to the March edition of the Madison County Amateur Radio Club newsletter. With the weather being what it is, it's still antenna stringing season. It's Indiana, so, you never know which season will be coming the next day. We had a good turnout for the spring RACES test on Saturday, March 13. The EMA group made contact with W9SEM, using vhf voice mode. Things didn't turn out quite like it should have for us trying to work digital modes. The computers were loaded up fine, but, the radios wouldn't talk to the computers. I guess that means we need to have a work day to get things back in order. We haven't tried to use them like this since before we left Linwood. I don't think there's much to do, just tweaking things a little.

We had a nice sized crowd at the February meeting. I'd like to thank all of those who attended. It's good to see that much participation and support for the club. Don't forget, there is the "donut meeting", every Thursday morning at 9 am. The next evening meeting is scheduled for March 7th at 7 pm. Please come, and bring a friend!

We have received word of the passing of another former member, Dwight Crim, W9PFF. He was active in the early years of the club, and was also a member of the Civil Defense group.

For those of you who check in to the Indiana Traffic Net, there has been a time frequency change. It will change to 3.910 effectively on February 19, so, it will be on the same time, just a different frequency.

We've had a good turnout on Wednesday nights. Thanks, Dave, KB9NTG. Doing a great job!

Well, it's time to get busy again, so get on the air and call on a band that you don't normally work. There just may be someone there waiting to talk!

"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 Saturday	Breakfast at Eva's 09:00 at 832 Broadway St, Anderson
Tuesday, March 1st	Anderson Repeater Club Meeting 19:00 at the EOC
Saturday, March 12th	Terre Haute Hamfest 08:00 - 13:00
Wednesday, March 16th	License Exams 18:30 at the EOC Contact Al Wendling (765) 642-7291 wyal@aol.com
Saturday, March 5th Sunday, March 6th	International DX Phone
Monday, March 7th	MCARC Meeting 19:00 at the EOC
Tuesday, March 8th	Stormnet Training 19:00 at Hoosier Park Casino

MCARC – Minutes of Regular Meeting

Monday, February 1, 2016

Location: EOC, Anderson, IN

7:00 Mike-KC9DJU called the meeting to order

- Visitor, Greg Dunn – KC9YEC. Welcome.

Minutes: Motion to accept the minutes with a correction on a call sign listed in the minutes. Motion by Tim-KB9VE / George-AC8GT - passed.

Correspondence: No new correspondence.

Treasurer report by Jeff, K9DYR:

Brought forward	\$3,261.53
To-be-banked (dues)	<u>\$ 645.00</u>
Available	\$3,626.53

Motion to accept by Dave-KB9NTG / Dick-WA9STB

Officer Reports:

VP, Dave-KB9NTG: Points have been posted. Wednesday night net has between 13-16 checkins.

Trustee, George-AC8GT: Repeater is working. Paperwork has been submitted to ARRL with updates.

Newsletter, George-AC8GT: Web site has calendar added. Note Storm Net training is 3/8 @ 7:00.

Tech Committee, Doug-N9DR: State RACES digital test is 2/12.

Activities, Kathy-KD9CGT: Kathy will update the calendar on the web site with activities.

Other business: Silent Keys reported: Bob Otto and Al McCord

Old business:

- Linwood barn has had the antennas put up for safe keeping. Thanks to all that helped.
- Tom-KA9SYP provided an EMA update: Linwood building is gone, scanner by Uniden can be used to monitor (Zip Scanners). Tomorrow meeting will have a speaker for the 800Mhz radio system. First Thursday in March there will be a tour of the current dispatch center @ 7:00.

New business:

- Indy hamfest is in July. Do we want to go? Think about this.

8:30 Adjourned. Dennis-N9OWN / Tim-KC9GBL – passed

NEXT MEETING: March 7, 2016 at the EOC on Mounds Road, Anderson

Respectfully submitted, Jeff-K9DYR

Social Media and Ham Radio

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In the last ten years, there's been an explosion in social media. I've found some to be really great. Others, I haven't found to be to my liking. Here are my opinions on a few of the most popular social media websites:

* Twitter (twitter.com). I like Twitter. I have more than 3,000 followers on Twitter, and it's not only helped me sell more books, I've found out about a lot of great projects, and I've met and corresponded with a lot of great hams there. It's a lot of fun. If you have a Twitter account, follow me there. I'm @kb6nu.

* Facebook (facebook.com). I have a Facebook account and I even have a page for my study guides. I don't like using Facebook, though, and avoid it when I can.

* Reddit (reddit.com/r/amateurradio). Reddit hosts a very active amateur radio forum. What I like about Reddit is that these guys, unlike say the forums on eHam.Net or QRZ.Com are really interested in doing stuff, not just complaining or arguing. A lot of the hams on Reddit, and it's associated IRC channel (talk about retro!), #redditnet, have used my study guides, and apparently, I'm quite popular there.

* Blab (blab.im). Blab is an interesting concept. It's kind of like an interactive podcast. You can record the blab sessions and then post them to YouTube or your own website. When I suggested having a regular Blab session to talk about ham radio topics to my blog readers, they weren't very enthusiastic about it. Even so, I think that I'm just going to do it. Sometimes you just gotta go with your gut, and my gut says this could be fun and eventually popular. Blab is integrated with Twitter, so if you follow me on Twitter, you'll find out when I'm blabbing.

The biggest problem with participating on these social networks, of course, is that it takes a lot of time, time that could be used for building stuff or getting on the air. Even so, I would say that, overall, using them has certainly increased my enjoyment of amateur radio and has connected me to people that I probably would not have connected with otherwise.

What do you think? What social media accounts do you have? Which do you prefer? What have they done for you?

When he's not blabbing or tweeting, KB6NU likes to work CW, build stuff, and teach ham radio classes. He's also a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com) and the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides (www.kb6nu.com/study-guides).

If you have any comments, questions, compliments, or complaints, email him at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

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
GAP Challenger DX-VII 2m-80m	200.00

From Gene Smith's Estate

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

Madison County Amateur Radio Club Contact Information

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-  [@w9vcf](https://twitter.com/w9vcf)
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Officer Contact Information

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Technical Committee Chair	Doug Rose	N9DR	n9dr@arrl.net
Newsletter Editor	George Alderton	AC8GT	editor@mcarc.club

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"