



April 2016

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 4th at the Madison County EOC

President's Message

Welcome to the April edition of the Madison County Amateur Radio Club. Its finally starting to warm up some, but, this is Indiana, so keep an eye on the weather. I would first like to thank those that attended the Storm Watch meeting at Hoosier Park. There were a good many of the club members there. It's always good to get a "refresher course", and it's a good time to meet up with other hams that you may not have seen for a while. Then, I'd like to thank those that attended the club meeting March 7th. We had a good crowd, and accomplished a lot!

Remember the club's net on Wednesday night at 8pm. Dave is doing a very good job in running it, and there have been several members that are enjoying the "question of the day". There are a lot more questions, so check in and find out what's being asked that night. Also, the Thursday morning "donut meeting" is on every Thursday at 9 am. The turnout has been slim, but, there's always a good discussion there.

It looks like we will have a special speaker for the May meeting. Things are being finalized, so, stay tuned!

Also, be planning for the Bi-centennial QSO Party, scheduled for May 7th, at the EOC. It's a 12 hour event, noon til midnight, for those of you who haven't tried it. We've always had fun doing that, so mark your calendars!

There are several different ham fests coming up. Kathy, KD9CGT is doing a great job of getting them announced here in the newsletter. Good job!

I guess I'd better wrap this up, so, everybody, get on the air and make contacts!

"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
Saturday April 2nd	33rd Annual Columbus Indiana Hamfest
Monday April 4th	MCARC Meeting 19:00 at the EOC
Tuesday April 5th	EMA Communications Group Meeting
Saturday, April 16th	North Central Indiana Hamfest
Sunday, April 17th	SSB Rookie Roundup
Wednesday, April 20th	License Exams 18:30 at the EOC Contact Al Wendling (765) 642-7291 wyal@aol.com

MCARC – Minutes of Regular Meeting

Monday, March 7, 2016

Location: EOC, Anderson, IN

7:00 Mike-KC9DJU called the meeting to order. Tim-KC9GBL acting secretary

Show and Tell: Mike-KC9DJU demonstrated the construction of his new pneumatic antenna launcher. He provided a parts list, required tools, and advice. (editor's note - Check the article at <http://www.qsl.net/ws1sm/projects.html> - midway down the page)

Minutes: Motion to accept by Dick-WA9STB / Dave-KB9NTG - passed.

Correspondence: No new correspondence.

Treasurer report by Jeff, K9DYR:

Brought forward	\$3,626.53
To-be-banked (dues)	<u>\$ 20.00</u>
Available	\$3,646.53

Motion to accept by Tim-KC9GBL / George-AC8GT – passed.

Officer Reports:

VP, Dave-KB9NTG: Points have been posted. Wednesday night net is going well.

Trustee, George-AC8GT: Repeater is working. ARRL has not yet acknowledged the club update. George mentioned that he and Kathy are looking to relocate in the not-too-distant future and at that time will not be able to be active in the club.

Newsletter, George-AC8GT: Web site continues to be upgraded.

Tech Committee: Doug-N9DR not present. The hex beam was damaged during the high winds. Dale-KV9W will order the parts to repair. Motion to reimburse for those parts by Jeff-K9DYR / Dick-WA9STB – passed.

Activities, Kathy-KD9CGT: Storm net training will be on 3/8 at 7:00 at Hoosier Park. On 3/22 severe weather/tornado drills will be conducted. On 5/7 the Indiana Bicentennial QSO Party will take place. Hamvention will be May 20-22.

New business: Terry-N4TZ announced his intention to have a booth in the flea market at Hamvention. He pointed out that clubs could get 4-spaces and 4-vendor tickets for the same price as a single space for an individual. (\$100 for the space, \$80 for 4-passes). Motion by Jeff-K9DYR / Terry-N4TZ to reimburse Terry for \$180 to cover this cost - passed. The club members will be able to put merchandise on the table. Terry requests that members donate some time to help at the booth so it isn't such a burden on he and his wife.

Other business: Mike-K9MI suggested that the reason our digital communication effort on club equipment isn't working may be due to a miss-match with the driver on the computer.

Kathy-KD9CGT announced that she and George have arranged a program for the 5/2 meeting. It will be a veteran (possibly multiple veterans) who served in WWII as radio operators. It is possible that we will need to move to another venue. We will invite all area hams.

George-AC8GT suggested the possibility of the by-laws being updated to include a PIO person. This will be discussed.

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

NEXT MEETING: April 4, 2016 at the EOC on Mounds Road, Anderson

Respectfully submitted, Jeff-K9DYR /Tim-KC9GBL

Why You Should Get Your Extra Class License

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The Amateur Extra Class license is the highest class of license in the United States, and perhaps the world. Many hams—even hams that live outside the U.S.—aspire to pass the test and be awarded one.

There wasn't always an Amateur Extra Class license. The Extra class license, as we know it today, was created as part of the 1951 license restructuring, that also created the Novice and Technician Class licenses. (In 1951, the Novice license was the "beginner's license." To get a Technician Class license, you had to pass the written test that General Class operators had to pass.)

Although it gave an operator no additional privileges, to get an Extra Class license, one had to:

- Pass a 20 wpm code test (Generals had to pass only a 13 wpm code test).
- Pass a longer and more difficult written examination than the General Class exam.
- Have at least two years of experience as a licensed radio amateur.

Today, without the code test and the experience requirement, many hams upgrade to Extra Class as soon as they can. Some even pass the Technician Class, General Class, and the Amateur Extra Class exams in a single test session.

So, what's the attraction? Why should you upgrade to Extra?

One of the reasons that you should upgrade to Extra is that you get use of the entire 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. Portions of those bands, such as 3.6 – 3.7 MHz in the 75m band and 14.150 – 14.175 Mhz in the 20m phone band, are reserved exclusively for Extra Class licensees. Extra Class operators also have exclusive privileges in the CW portions of the 80 m, 40 m, 20 m, and 15 m bands. These are the frequencies where the DX stations hang out.

Another reason to get your Extra Class license is that only Extra Class licensees can administer General Class and Extra Class license exams. General Class operators can become Volunteer Examiners (VEs), but they are only allowed to administer Technician Class exams.

Another reason you might want to get an Extra Class license is to get a fancy vanity callsign. Only Extra Class operators can apply for 1×2 or 2×1 callsigns, such as W8RP or KT8K. A short, snappy callsign can help you work more DX or improve your contest scores.

Whatever your reason, studying for the Extra Class exam will open your eyes to many aspects of the hobby that you may not be familiar with. And, as you work your way through the material, you'll learn things that make you a better amateur radio operator and enable you to enjoy the hobby more. It's not easy, but in the end, an Extra Class license will help you have more fun with amateur radio.

Dan, KB6NU is the author of the "No Nonsense" line of amateur radio license study guides, a prolific blogger (www.kb6nu.com), and an active CW operator in the Extra Class portion of the HF bands. 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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Officer Contact Information

President	Mike Cook	KC9DJU	cook3909@sbcglobal.com
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Secretary/Treasurer	Jeff Dyer	K9DYR	k9dyr@arrl.net
Activities	Kathy Alderton	KD9CGT	activities@mcarc.club
Trustee	George Alderton	AC8GT	ac8gt@arrl.net
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"