



# Madison County Amateur Radio Club



August 2016

**The next meeting will be at 7 PM on Monday, August 1st at the Madison County EOC**

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**President's Message**

Hi and welcome to the August edition of the Madison County Amateur Radio Club newsletter. I hope this finds everyone in good health. I hope everyone that went to the Indy Hamfest had a good time, and found what they were looking for. I would like to thank those who came to work Field Day, and hope everybody had a good time, and didn't go away hungry!

Work on the new EOC is progressing nicely. The workers have finished installing the raised floor, hanging doors, most all the wiring, and, last time I was there, were putting the finishing touches on the duct work, and had the ceiling well in hand!

As of July 16th, The tower at Pendleton, and at the Dispatch center were up, and getting some antennas mounted. I believe the tower at the Fire Training center should be started on soon. We will have alot to do, so, if and when things are needed to get done, We will get word to everyone.

If anyone knows what happened to the club's antenna analyzer, please let one of the officers know. We will be needing it when we are ready to install the antennas at the new building, and several people have asked where it is, and who has it.

Please check in to the Club's Wednesday night net at 8 pm. We have had several visitors check in lately. We need to make them feel welcome to the repeater, and invite them to the club meetings. Don't forget about breakfast every Saturday morning at Eva's, on Broadway, in Anderson at 9 am. Good food, and generous with their coffee.

I guess I'd better wrap this up, so it can be sent out soon. Don't forget to get on a different band than you normally use and call CQ. You might find that rare DX station that you've needed!

"73" to all.  
Mike KC9DGU

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**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
<b>Monday August 1st</b>	<b>MCARC Meeting 19:00 at the Madison County EOC</b>
Tuesday August 2nd	EMA Communications Meeting at the EOC
Saturday August 13th	MARA 5th Annual Swap Meet - Miamisburg, OH
Wednesday August 17th	License Exams 18:30 at the EOC Contact Al Wendling (765) 642-7291 wyal@aol.com
Saturday August 20th	ARRL 10Ghz and Up Contest
Sunday August 21st	ARRL 10Ghz and Up Contest TARA Hamfest - Lafayette, IN
Saturday August 27th	Owen County Hamfest - Spencer, IN

## MCARC – Minutes of Regular Meeting

Monday, July 4, 2016

Location: EOC, Anderson, IN

**NOTE:** Secretary, Jeff-K9DYR not present. Meeting recorded by Tim-KB9GBL

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

**Welcome:** Terry-N9TZ showed his 5-Band DXCC award. Kudos to Terry. This represents a lot of dedication.

**Minutes:** Motion to accept minutes of the June 6, 2016 meeting by Dennis-N9OWN / Allen-KC9JWO - passed.

\*\*\* NOTE: Secretary, Dyer not present so no Secretary report.

Treasurer, Jeff-K9DYR: Not present.

Officer Reports:

**VP, Dave-KB9NTG (not present):** Not present.

**Trustee, George-AC8GT:** Repeater is working.

**Tech Committee, Doug-N9DR:** Doug reports that the Yaesu 850 is having issues and needs to be sent in for repair. The 80m/40m dipole is not right. The 80m is way off.

**Activities, Kathy-KD9CGT:** Not present. Field Day was a marginal success. Indy Hamfest is coming up.

**Announcement:** George-AC8GT/Kathy-KC9CGT are moving out of the area late this summer. Sad to report that Mike-K9MI lost his wife recently. Allen-KC9JWO reports that more VE's are needed, particularly Extras. The Pendleton tower is up and the big tower at the new dispatch center will go up soon. Dennis-N9OWN has renewed all of our URL's. He recommends dropping the .com and .net and keeping only the .org.

**New business:** The "Beast" (the radio van) was brought to the meeting by mike-KC9DJU for the members to see the progress he and others have made on the renovations.

**8:30** Adjourned. George-AC8GT / Dennis-N9OWN made motion to adjourn – passed

**NEXT MEETING:** August 1, 2016 at the EOC on Mounds Road, Anderson

Respectfully submitted, Tim-KC9GBL for Jeff-K9DYR in abstention

## 5...4...3...2...1: Readability Reports

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I'm big on Twitter. It connects me to a lot of interesting amateur radio operators, and I find a lot of food for thought there. Yesterday, I saw the following Tweet:

Charlie – MOPZT @MOPZT

Blog updated: RST and Speed Matters <http://www.m0pzt.com/blog/rst-and-speed-matters/> #hamradio

Being a CW geek, of course I was interested. Charlie's point is that if you get a bad report, you probably should send more slowly. I certainly have no argument with that. What I do take a little bit of an issue with is that Charlie says, "A Readability 4 report should really make it known that information needs to be brief, but repeated – Certainly no ANT/RIG/WX waffle!"

According to most sources, Readability 4 means, "Readable with practically no difficulty." When I receive an R4 report, I might slow down a little, but it doesn't mean to me that I have to cut the contact short or repeat information over and over. I replied on Twitter that if the operator at the receiving station is having so much trouble copying, then the report should probably be 319 or even 219.

Of course, RST reports are open to interpretation. With that in mind, I thought I'd explain a little more fully how I decide what Readability report to give:

R5: Perfectly readable. To me, this means that copying a signal is no work at all, and that it sounds like it's coming out of a code practice oscillator. I can put my feet up on the desk or putter around the shack while I'm ragchewing with the other operator.

R4: Readable with practically no difficulty. "Practically no difficulty" is the key phrase here. There may be some QRN or QSB on this signal, and I have to pay some attention while copying. An R4 is still solid copy, though, and ragchewing is definitely possible.

R3: Readable with considerable difficulty. A signal that rates an R3 needs my full attention. I have to work at copying the signal, and even then, might miss characters here and there. Even though I don't copy every single character, I'm able to fill in the gaps. An R3 signal might not be good enough for a ragchew, and repeating information is probably a good idea.

R2: Barely readable, occasional words distinguishable. A signal that rates an R2 is usually so weak that it's below the noise level or drops below the noise level occasionally. At this level, the contact will definitely be brief and any important information, such as the callsign needs to be repeated.

R1: Unreadable. Generally, I would never give out this report, as I would never attempt making contact if a signal was truly unreadable.

Although my explanations above reflect the fact that I'm primarily a CW operator, I think they also apply to phone or even digital contacts. For example, an R5 for a phone contact would mean that the signal sounds like it could be coming from just down the street or coming through the local repeater.

What do you think? How do you decide what Readability report to give?

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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. You can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com). If you want an honest Readability report, look for him most evenings on 40m CW.*

## 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](mailto:w9vcf.mcarc@gmail.com) for more information.**

## Madison County Amateur Radio Club Contact Information

**Madison County Amateur Radio Club**  
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### Officer Contact Information

President	Mike Cook	KC9DJU	cook3909@sbcglobal.com
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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"