



# Madison County Amateur Radio Club



March 2017

**The Next meeting will be at 7 PM on Monday , March 6, 2017 at the EOC at 200 N. Delaware Street, Anderson**

### President's Message

Hi, and welcome to the March edition of the Madison County Amateur Radio Club newsletter. It's been a busy month, with more to come! Recently, several club members built up the 2 towers for the new EOC. Then, on February 11th, we had a work day at Linwood, to gather most all of the antennas that were erected at the old building, or, in storage, and take them to the new barn. then, a few days later, several members gathered to get the coax ready for the new towers. Good job, guys!  
There may be a few more work parties coming up, so, keep listening to the net, or come to breakfast on Saturdays.

We had several members at the February meeting, coming up with ideas and suggestions. Keep them coming! Probably, sometime before the next meeting, the towers will be mounted and finished up. The tower at the Pendleton Police Dept. will be taken down, and the tri band vertical antenna will be brought to Anderson, and used on the front tower. When, the weather warms up, probably in April, We will be calling another work day and work on finishing up the walls in the van. Then, we can begin planning on station positions and storage. Stay tuned!

On Wednesday nights, the nets have been going very well. Wednesday nights at 8pm, is the club check in. Come, listen, and check in, catch the for sale list, and the announcements. Every Thursday, at 9 am, is the donut gathering. Come and attend, and if you can't be at the Monday, March 6 th meeting, make sure you voice your ideas, and comments, and they will be brought up at that time. Then, every Saturday morning, at 9 am, plan to come to breakfast at Eva's. I've been told, good coffee, good conversations, and food. A good time is planned!

Remember, if anyone knows of a member, or family member of a club member is in the hospital, please let a club officer know, so we can try and maybe visit, or keep checking in on them.

I guess I'd better send this to Mike, KD9CDO, so he can set it to his computer. Take care and call CQ! "73"

Mike, KC9DJU

### 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
March 4th. & 5th.	International DX - SSB
March 6th.	MCARC Meeting 19:00 at the New Madison County EOC
March 7th.	7 PM Anderson Repeater Club Meeting at the New Madison County EOC
March 11th.	Terre Haute Hamfest
March 14th.	7 PM Storm Net Training Hoosier Park
March 15th.	7 pm License Exams (Anderson Repeater Club)
March 25th.	Sam Costa Run, Hamilton County
April 15th.	Michigan QSO Party 12PM - Midnight
April 16th.	Rookie Roundup

## MCARC – Minutes of Regular Meeting

Monday, February 6, 2017

Location: EOC, 200 N. Delaware Street, Anderson, IN

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

**Minutes:** Motion to accept minutes of the December 5, 2016 meeting by Dave-KB9NTG / George-AC8GT - passed.

**Secretary Report:** No correspondence

**Treasurer, Jeff-K9DYR:**

	TOTAL	Reserved	Unrestricted
Beginning balance	\$2,935.81	\$1,500.00	\$1,735.81
Income (Dues)	\$ 300.00		
Expenses	< 442.15>		
Polyphasors		< 111.14>	
Rotor protector		< 55.70>	
DXDD, Rot Cbl, coax		< 375.31>	
	=====	=====	=====
Ending balance	\$2,793.66	\$, 1,057.85	\$1,735.81

Motion to accept, Dennis-N9OWN / Tim-KB9VE – passed

Alan-KC9JWO and George-AC8GT talked about Bridgecom repeaters.

### Officer Reports:

**Trustee**, Alan-KC9JWO: Repeater working. Mike-KC9JWO added the news that our main repeater is at the repair shop and finished. (\$90). A quotation is being prepared for configuring the other Motorola MSR-2000 repeater to be a backup.

**Newsletter**, Mike-KD9CDO: Submit articles and photos for the newsletter facebook.

**Tech Committee**, Doug-N9DR: No report.

**Activities**, Dale-KV9W: Dale circulated a document with a list of activities the Club may be interested in doing this year. Please review the list and make suggestions. A location for the tailgate was discussed. No decision was made.

Sick report: Dick-WA9STB has been having health problems and Dale-KV9W is also feeling poorly.

**Business:** George-AC8GT and Dennis-N9OWN discussed the different URLs the club reserves and pays for. It was proposed by Dave-KB9NTG / Dale-KV9W moved to drop all but the W9VCF.ORG – passed

Mike-KC9DJU called a work party for Saturday after breakfast at Eva's to move the antennas from Linwood to the EOC. We need to get all antennas sorted out with the scrap to be sold or recycled. The antennas to be placed on the tower need to be assembled and tested.

Meeting adjourned Tim-KC9GBL / Alan-KC9JWO - passed

**NEXT MEETING:** March 6, 2017 at the EOC at 200 N. Delaware Street, Anderson

Respectfully Jeff-K9DYR

## Why are there so many Techs?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Recently, one of my readers asked, "Why do most people have a Technician license and not a General or Extra? Is it simply not interesting enough to get more privileges?"

This is a very interesting question, one that I've written about before. I think there are several issues at play here. In no particular order:

- It's pretty easy to get a Tech license, so a lot of people get them just for the challenge, but really never intend to use the license.
- Some people get a Tech license, but then find out that amateur radio isn't what they thought it was going to be.
- Some people get a Tech license, then can't find an Elmer to help them. They lose interest and give up on ham radio.
- Some people get a Tech license, buy an HT, and think that's all there is to amateur radio. They quickly lose interest in amateur radio, because talking on the repeaters just isn't all that interesting.
- Some people get licenses to participate in local emergency communications or CERT organizations. There's no need for them to get anything more than a Tech license.
- Since it's so easy to get a Tech license, even those that aren't technically inclined get them. Getting a General Class license requires a fair amount of study, and because they don't see the benefits of putting in that kind of work, they just don't bother.

I posted this question to my blog and got several interesting replies. Perhaps the most cogent was by Kenneth, W6KWF. He wrote: "The only thing General/Extra gets you is HF, which is becoming an increasingly small fraction of the possibilities of the amateur hobby. Amateurs could easily spend their whole lives moving from FM repeaters to microwave to VHF packet to EME to CERT/event support, etc, etc, without having any interest to explore what few facets of the hobby need HF privileges." I think this is a great point. When incentive licensing was put into place in the late 1960s, HF was where the action was.

Nowadays, more of the "cool stuff" is happening on VHF, UHF and microwaves. Getting additional HF privileges is not really a big deal anymore for many hams. Yet another new license class?

Right on the heels of this discussion, the ARRL posted a news item, "ARRL Seeks Opinions Concerning Possible New Entry Level License" (<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-seeks-opinions-concerning-possible-new-entry-level-license>). According to this report, the ARRL Board of Directors set up an An Entry Level License Committee in September 2016.

The committee is gathering member input via an online member survey (<http://www.arrl.org/license-1>) and will make recommendations to the Board for possible rules changes to submit to the FCC. They note, "The result could mean changes to the Technician license, but it could also be an additional, but simpler, license with privileges that would give a newcomer a taste of most facets of ham radio from HF to VHF and UHF. The survey will be online until April 7, 2017.

According to the survey page, the committee is trying to address several issues, including:

- The declining population of new hams under the age of 30.
- A decline in the number of new licensees who actually get on the air.
- Amateur Radio's lack of appeal for those under the age of 30, compared to other technical hobbies.
- The increasing challenge of engaging and retaining Technician licensees.
- A reluctance in much of the amateur community to embrace newer technologies of interest to the younger segment of the population.

Personally, I don't think that coming up with a new entry-level license class with privileges that are even more limited than the Technician Class is a bad idea, but whether or not it's successful will depend completely on the implementation. Unless the new class of license is accompanied by some kind of program that will help these new licensees really become engaged with amateur radio, then we're just creating another class of inactive licensees. I don't know exactly what this program would consist of, but without it, this effort is doomed to failure.

And, who's going to develop and run this program? The only organization that has the horsepower to make this work is the ARRL. They are going to have to step up big time. Most clubs don't have the people or resources to do it properly. If you have any thoughts on this, I urge you to contact your ARRL division director (<http://www.arrl.org/divisions>).

When he's not pondering questions about the amateur radio licensing structure, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, writes the "No Nonsense" amateur radio study guides, and teaches ham classes. You can contact him by e-mailing [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

## For Sale List

GAP Speaker with power supply \$50.00

GAP Speaker without power supply \$45.00

**Contact the club at [w9vcf.mcarc@gmail.com](mailto:w9vcf.mcarc@gmail.com) for more information.**

Eagle One with AH4 Icom Tuner \$100.00

VX-8 DR Handheld with all attachments-will trade for a FT-817 Yaesu  
N9XXV Terry Ph 765-615-7788

**Madison County Amateur Radio Club  
Contact Information**

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Meetings are at the Madison County EOC  
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