

Anderson Repeater Club, Inc.

May, 2023

Our regular Club meeting is Tuesday, May 2, 7:00PM at the EOC Training Room. Please plan to attend. In addition to our regular meeting agenda we will have a Technical Session on an “Octopi Rig with a pi and 4” display” built by **Greg, W9ALC**.



Our equipment auction in March was another success. Thanks to the 16 members who offered 59 bids on the 13 lots of equipment that was donated to the Clubs. Our total received was \$535.00. One-Half goes into our Treasury, and the other half goes into the Treasury of the Madison County Amateur Radio Club. The \$267.50 is equivalent to 13 yearly memberships. Our thanks to the families of members who donate their equipment to the clubs after they become Silent Keys.

We have received membership applications from **Kevin Wycoff, KD9TXI**, **Walter Hestand, KD9VVK** and **Ray Stankewitz, AG6TH**. All are temporary members until our membership vote at this meeting. We welcome them and appreciate their interest in and support of our Club.

I'm sorry to report that **Wanda Smith, KB9WJ**, became a Silent Key on February 23, 2023. Wanda was the XYL of long time member Gene, KB9WI. Wanda supported the Club activities with Gene and whenever he went out on a StormNet observation Wanda was right there too. Her daughter was telling me that after Gene died Wanda would always set the handheld radio by her bed when the weather might be bad so that she could keep up-to-date on our observations. This is a good example of why it's important for us to keep our reports coming.....Others are listening. We will miss Wanda.

Our March VE Test session had 3 candidates resulting in 2 upgrades. **Darwin, N9LYJ** and **Tony, KD9PZR** upgraded to General. Congratulations to our members on their next step in the hobby. At the April session we had 7 candidates resulting in 5 new Technicians and 1 upgrade to General. Congratulations to **Don, W9BLY** who upgraded to General. We also welcome **Jeff, AK9JS**, who received his VE Certification and has joined our VE Team.

Although our club focuses primarily upon VHF and UHF repeater activities most of our members are General or above licensees and are also active on HF. There are several events/contests that many of us enjoy participating in. Perhaps you will too:

June 3-4 Museum Ships Weekend – Contact many museum ships stations (over 100 ships participate worldwide).

June 3-18 Lewis & Clark Trail on the Air – Contact club stations in the 16 States that the trail passed thru.

June 24-25 Field Day – This event started in 1933 and is one of the most popular in the hobby. The County Club always participates and welcomes everyone to come out and operate from the site.

July 1-7 13 Colonies Event – Contact specific stations in each of the original 13 Colonies. All of these events (excluding Field Day) offer very nice certificates to confirm your participation and number of stations contacted. It is a bit of a challenge, but an enjoyable time and good opportunity to hone your communications skills (listening and speaking).

Attached to this Newsletter is information on how to use the ARRL email forwarding service. This is a convenient way to utilize your call as an email address that can then be forwarded to your preferred email address. I've noticed that several members are also using their call @gmail or @Yahoo. That's an easy way to tie your call to an email also. You might consider these alternatives to your conventional email for your hobby use.

The video below was listed in the ARRL Indiana Section New for April 3. If you did not take time to view it I believe you would find it interesting. HF and 2 meters are demonstrated along with several other aspects of the hobby.

The students from the University of Montana School of Visual and Media Arts and Montana PBS collaborated to produce an interesting video about ham radio. The video is a window into the lives and interests of a handful of Montana hams. The video might help you answer those questions we all get asking "what is ham radio?" You can watch the video on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/wt5wZhC5crI>

Our Club is an ARRL Affiliated Club. Our Club information is updated yearly on the ARRL web site so that prospective amateurs or others can find information related to our activities. We have been affiliated since 1979, and one requirement is that at least one half of the membership are ARRL members. That is one reason that we ask if you are an ARRL member. If you are not and decide to join please let the Secretary (WA9CWE) know so that our records are accurate. Currently about 75% of our membership are ARRL members.

See you on Tuesday,
73,
Steve, WA9CWE

Meeting Minutes – March 7, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 1903 by the President, Ferrin, N9VZL. Noting that there were visitors present Ferrin asked for all to introduce themselves (27 at that time). Ferrin asked that all sign the attendance sheet before they leave.

New Member Application: Ferrin offered a new member application for Anthony (Tony) Poitras, KD9PZR. Upon a motion by W9GNR and second by AK9JS that he be accepted as a full member all present voted in favor. Tony was welcomed to the Club.

Approval of Minutes: Ferrin asked if everyone received their Newsletter and if there are any corrections to the Minutes of the January meeting that was included. Upon a motion by K9TZJ and second by W9GNR that they be approved as printed all present voted in favor.

Silent Keys/Illnesses: There were no Silent Keys reported, and Charlie, WB9KUL, is recovering from recent knee surgery.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Gerald, K9GDH, reported a initial checking balance of \$3,642.14, dues deposits of \$340 and an insurance debit of \$323.20 for a March balance of \$3,658.74. A motion to accept the report was made by WA9CWE and seconded by K9RLE. All present voted in favor.

Club Correspondence: The Secretary and Treasurer reported no correspondence received.

146.82 Repeater Report: Trustee Tom, KA9SYP, reported that it is working fine.

147.09 Repeater Report: Trustee Jeff, K9DYR, reported that it is still not working well and he hasn't been able to get the desired help available to get it repaired. Still in progress.

443.350 Repeater Report: Trustee Steve, WA9CWE, reports it is working well and is being used for the monthly net. Everyone is encouraged to use it and remember that it still has a 1 minute time-out, having not been reprogrammed yet.

223.860 Repeater Report: Trustee Lynn, K9RLE, reported that it has not been repaired yet. He has received more programming information from Alan but hasn't been able to change the call or diagnose other issues yet. We need to get Alan's old call off it and put the Club call on it (W9OBH).

Weather Report: Warning Division Member Dale, KV9W, invited everyone to the Storm Spotter training next Tuesday, March 13, 6PM at the Anderson University York Performance Center. Bring anyone interested in severe weather. The National Weather Service is predicting that this spring might have more severe activity than normal.

EMA Report: Director Jeff, K9DYR, reported that the National Weather Service weather station in Anderson that has been located at the City Garage is being moved to our EOC. This is an "old technology" station that is the standard for NWS nationwide and requires that the data be manually recorded twice per day. Meeting have started in preparation for a Solar Eclipse in our area on Monday, April 8, 2024. This will result in a 4 minute blackout in the afternoon. Public Safety agencies are already planning for possible traffic issues, etc. The State Parks report already fully sold out of camping spaces on that date. There is discussion of some school systems planning e-learning that day since it will occur as kids are getting out of school. We may plan locally for the use of our members to monitor traffic or other conditions.

VE Testing: Liaison Steve, WA9CWE, reported that at the January session we had no candidates, and at the February session we had one new licensee (passed Tech/General), and Paula, KD9SZJ, upgraded to General. Steve reminded everyone that the General Class question pool changes July 1, so if you have been studying the current group of questions you might want to test before they change.

It was reported that the County Club has been conducting classes each Saturday morning, has around 5 students plus instructors and support members and are currently on Chapter 3 of their book. Anyone interested is welcome to join in. It is going well and everyone is having fun. They are not teaching to the test but using test questions and then discussing how it applies to the hobby. Even the old-timers are refreshing their understanding of many topics.

Show-And-Tell: No one offered any. Ferrin did mention that the Robotics Team is looking for volunteers to help with the State competition on April 6-8 at Anderson University. See him if interested/available.

Old Business: None offered. Ferrin reminded everyone to pay their 2023 dues if they have not. The Secretary passed out membership certificates for those already paid.

New Business: Steve, WA9CWE, discussed the upcoming "equipment opportunity" of the equipment donated to the Club. This is our 8th auction and has resulted in a very significant boost to the treasury. Usual yearly expenses takes at least 30 member dues to cover them, so it's difficult to increase the treasury to prepare for a repeater replacement or other significant expense. Our Club has

seen over \$4000 over the years (first one in 2014) from these sales. He discussed how it would run like in years past and will start next Sunday and run thru the following Saturday.

Jeff and Lynn mentioned that the EOC barn is cluttered with "stuff" that needs to be cleaned out and need a representative of each club to review what might be worth saving so that the rest can be disposed of or auctioned off. Steve volunteered to represent the ARC.

Upcoming Events: Vice-President Gary, W9GNR, reported on upcoming events: Every Thursday at 9AM is the communicators meeting at the EOC; Every Saturday is the breakfast at 9AM at the Anderson Grill; StormNet Training on March 14; The UHF Net is on Thursday, March 16, 8PM; VE Testing is on March 21; The Columbus Hamfest is on April 1; The Dayton Hamvention is April 19-21; The Henry Co. Hamfest is April 29; the White River Run Communications Exercise is June 10; Field Day is June 24-25.

Lynn, K9RLE, mentioned that there is interest in investigating linking the .82 and the 443.35 repeaters for better coverage of the county communications. Not certain what it would take but would like to initiate some discussion on how we might do it. Everyone seemed interested.

Technical Presentation: Steve, WA9CWE, offered a presentation on Antenna Switches. Included in the discussion/presentation was examples of past and present switches, desirable characteristics and the importance of each and examples of currently available products. This included a discussion on the importance of proper grounding to minimize lightning damage. Doug, N9DR, offered first hand information on this topic from his experience.

Upon a motion by K9TZJ and AK9JS the meeting was closed at 2012. There were 28 signed into the attendance sheet.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Secretary, ARC

From ARRL ARES Letter, March 15, 2023

Tips for New ARES Operators

Most hams new to public service operating begin their efforts on the air through a local 2-meter FM repeater. Area hams tend to congregate there for sundry activities: traffic and ARES nets, swap nets, weather spotter nets, club meetings, training nets, and informal chats, discussions, and weather report exchanges. You will quickly learn their protocols, courtesies, and nuances of repeater and net operating, which, along with simplex (i.e., direct communication without repeaters) operation, form the bedrock of public service operating. Listen at first, and don't transmit until you feel that you have a basic idea of the above. It could take listening to several nets over the course of many evenings before you feel comfortable transmitting and checking in.

To do it, you'll need a radio, of course! Start with a simple-to-operate 2-meter/70-cm FM handheld with a short, flexible rubber-coated antenna, or better yet, a simple "whip" antenna that will yield more gain. The marketplace has a plethora of choices available from many manufacturers, and most are advertised in *QST*. Browse the ads, and check out *QST*'s Product Review, which regularly features reviews of handhelds. Search for past reviews on ARRL's website -- www.arrl.org/product-review -- and ask local hams for their recommendations; try other hams' handheld radios.

You will be taking your radio into the field for public events, emergencies and disasters, so portability is a critical, needed feature. You will have to operate "off the grid," that is, away from commercial mains, so you will need alternative power sources such as batteries, portable generators, and solar panels. The same goes for antennas: you will want to find a balance between getting antenna gain sufficient to initiate and maintain communications from potentially remote locations, and the ability to easily transport and erect them in the field.

Keep power output as low as possible: Just a watt or two should be enough power to talk across your neighborhood or community on simplex and through your local repeater. Higher power output translates to faster battery discharge and depletion. Most handhelds come with a basic rechargeable battery pack and "wall wart" battery charger, but have as options larger capacity battery packs, and higher-power desk "drop-in" chargers that will charge your batteries faster (although faster charging rates tend to reduce the life of the battery). Buy a second battery pack to use when you're charging your first battery. Buy the optional alkaline battery holder as a backup in the event your standard rechargeable battery pack(s) fail(s). The use of batteries for handhelds and other types of radios was addressed in the Public Service column in the March 2015 issue of *QST*. The use of portable generators is discussed in the Public Service column in the October 2015 issue of *QST*.

For enhancing your reception and transmitted signal, forego higher power in favor of a better antenna instead. Consider purchasing a telescoping 5/8 wave whip antenna that replaces the rubber-coated shorty antenna that your radio came bundled with, which will give you higher gain, and hence, wider coverage for your signals and better "copy" on weak or distant stations. (Don't toss out the flexible rubber antenna, however: it's useful for close-in communications). -
Originally written by K1CE for The ARRL Operating Manual.

ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service

As a member, you will receive an @arrl.net email address. All emails to this address can be forwarded to any other email account that you specify.

- How do I use the @arrl.net forwarding service?

To opt in for <username>@arrl.net:

- Login to your ARRL account
- Click on your name at the top of the screen
- Click on Contact Information in the Communication tab
- Click on Add New Email Address
- Select ARRL.NET Forwarding in the Email Location drop down
- Enter email address you would like the mail forwarded to
- Click Save

Note: If you select your username to be something other than your call sign, please keep in mind your e-mail alias will still be <username>@arrl.net and *not* <callsign>@arrl.net.

The @arrl.net alias is a forwarding service only, POP3 is not supported.

- How do I filter spam sent through my arrl.net address?

What is SPAM? Spam is also known as "Unsolicited Commercial E-mail." It is junk mail sent to you without your permission that offers to sell you something, asks for donations or tries to involve you in get-rich-quick schemes. Usually, spam is bulk-mailed to hundreds or thousands of email users.

ARRL does not publish or provide email addresses to any third party.

Spammers use "spambots," software programs that search Web pages, newsgroups and mailing lists automatically extracting e-mail addresses.

There are many arrl.net users whose arrl.net addresses have been in the system since its beginning who have never had any spam sent to their arrl.net address. Check for your address on the Internet search engines, such as Google. If they can find your address, the spammers can, too. Some spammers generate addresses at random.

The ARRL has added both spam filtering and virus scanning to the ARRL.net E-mail Forwarding Service. However, while these will help reduce the volume of unwanted messages through your ARRL.net address, no single solution is 100% effective in eliminating spam while allowing all legitimate messages to come through.

Overly aggressive filtering could result in legitimate messages being misidentified as spam and not delivered; however here are a few websites to help you fight spam:

- spam.abuse.net/userhelp/
- spamcop.net/
- www.mailwasher.net/