

Anderson Repeater Club, Inc.

May, 2026

Our regular meeting will be Tuesday, May 5, 7PM at the EOC Training Room. Please plan to attend. We'll have a technical session and a raffle of a MH-C777Plus Battery Charger & Analyzer that charges & analyzes handheld and other batteries of all types (Ni-Cd, NiMH & Li-Ion). Bring along a couple dollars to get \$1 tickets for the drawing (all donations go to the club treasury). The Technical Session will be by Dennis, W9DO, will be giving a presentation on Using the TinySA ULTRA to check a transceiver's signal.

While monitoring the 147.09 IRLP repeater (3/21/26) I was listening to Dave, K9DC, mention that he was using a Retevis MA1 Mobile, that he described as a clone of the discontinued Kenwood TM-V71A mobile from years past. Many of us had and really liked that Kenwood dual band, 50W mobile features, and we still have 2 of them in the Mobile EOC. The only downside of the Kenwood was that the display did over time get black streaks and there was no replacements available. The RF package was solid. Anyway, the Retevis appears from the manual to be a reasonable replacement, and lists for \$270 at the moment. If you are looking for a dual band analog rig with a re-movable head it might be worth considering. Retevis is Chinese but seems to be one of the better suppliers.



Our monthly VE Testing sessions have been successful in providing a useful service to our hobby. The March session resulted in 1 new Technician (from Anderson) and 3 upgrades to General. The April test session resulted in one upgrade to Extra. Processing by the ARRL VEC has been very quick with licenses and upgrades within a couple of days.



In keeping with my efforts to pass along amateur radio history, here is some interesting information on the **QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION**:

QCWA is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) Private Foundation. The purposes of the Association is to promote friendship and cooperation among Amateur Radio (Wireless) operators who were licensed 25 years or more, and to operate exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes. Our members consist of like minded Amateurs who have an enormous wealth of experience in the art of radio communications. Since 1978 QCWA has sponsored a large scholarship program that has provided \$765,000 for 596 scholarships.

History

It was 7 PM on the evening of Friday, December 5, 1947 in an upstairs room of Pappas Restaurant on 14th St. in New York City. Gathered were 34 young men who, unknowingly, were making amateur wireless history. The 34 were Amateur Radio Operators, who had been licensed at least 25 years before, and were assembled because of an idea, originated by a 10 meter round table the month before, by John DiBlasi, W2FX; Uda Ross, W2UD/OA4J; Ed Crane W2FF; John Gioe, W2FD; Dr. Ernest Cyriax, W2DI; Irving Groves, W2DX/K4HT. By December 31, 1947, twenty more names had been added. This made for 54 who became charter members.

There were several factors of common bondage that made for a very nostalgic evening. Licensed 25 years or more (1922 or before), which in turn, meant all had operated during the days of spark. Many started out using a Ford Model T spark coil and working up to a KW with a rotary gap, and all operating on or above 200 meters. Dad's missing spark coil was the cause for running on 3 cylinders only!

World War II had ended two years prior, which also resulted in new equipment and stories of war experiences. Discussion took place about the name for the new group. The final result, as presented by Frank Lester W2AMJ (W4AMJ), proposed the name "Quarter Century" for 25 years licensed and "Wireless Association" to recognize an organization of members who pioneered amateur radio from the early days of wireless spark. The logo was developed from a cartoon in a 1923 QST accompanying an article "ROTTEN QRM," written by "The Old Man" himself, Hiram Percy Maxim. Otto Eppers, W2EA, a commercial artist, made some minor modifications to the drawing. He added some sparks and the letters "QCWA," and the QCWA logo was thus born.

Officers elected were: President John DiBlasi, W2FX; Vice President George Droste, W2IN; Secretary Leon Hanson, W2FIT and Treasurer Dave Talley, W2PF. Meetings were held twice a year with over 100 attending. Speakers of pioneer fame included Paul Godley, Hugo Gernsback, Arthur Batcheller, Alfred N. Goldsmith, J.O. Smith and many others famous in the early days of wireless communications. All meetings between 1947 and 1971 were held in New York City. The first meetings outside of New York were held in Washington, DC (1972); Scottsdale, Arizona (1973); Orlando, Florida (1974) and Reston, Virginia (1975).

As the years rolled by and more and more Amateurs became eligible, the membership increased and spread out over the United States. By 1951 there were well over 300 members. Because it was impossible for many members to travel the distance to New York for meetings, it was decided to allow chapters to be chartered geographically so meetings could take place locally. The first chartered chapter was Cleveland, OH, Chapter 1, on January 6, 1951. This followed with others that now total 230 chapters today.

The development of the pioneer days of amateur wireless brought romance. QCWA's great beginnings will always live on as a monument to the history of amateur radio communications.

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION, INC

If you wish to learn more about QCWA you can visit <https://www.qcwa.org/qcwa>. If you have any questions that you are not able to find answers for on our website, please reach out to president@qcwa.org

Minutes of Meeting – March, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1900 by the Vice-President, Gary, W9GNR, as our President was on vacation.

We immediately had a presentation by Casey Crosbie, KD9MMH, a Meteorologist from the Indianapolis Office of the National Weather Service related to the Storm Prediction Center products on weather prediction. These included Severe Weather Outlooks, Mesoscale Discussions and SPC Mesoanalysis. These were all in preparation for next weeks Storm Spotter Training. He also indicated that they use the USGS water level gages for flooding announcements. He discussed how they determine their various announcements and warnings, etc. All the products he described are used by our Warning Division as they prepare our County for severe weather.

At 2002 our Vice-President checked to confirm all had signed the attendance sheet.

New Member Applications: None received.

Dues: Most members have paid for this year and the Treasurer is still receiving any who would need to pay.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: As distributed in the Newsletter, and upon motion by KC9DJU and second by N9SVM, all present voted to accept them as printed.

Silent Keys or Illnesses: None reported

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Jeff, AK9JS, reported that the initial January balance was \$4,412.61 with deposits of \$320 for an ending balance of \$4,732.61. February had \$40 deposits for an ending balance of \$4,882.61. Upon motion of K9RLE and second by WA9CWE, all present voted in favor of accepting the report.

Correspondence: None received by the Secretary.

146.820 W9OBH Repeater Report: K9RLE reported that somehow it got into the "Controlled Net" announcement last night. We reset it and will continue to monitor to see if it happens again. Other than that it was working fine.

147.090 W9OBH Repeater Report: WA9CWE noted that it had be left disconnected from the 9200 reflector for a couple of days and he notice no activity, so he reconnected it. Users are reminded that it is fine to disconnect and connect to other nodes but remember to reconnect it to 9200 when finished.

223.860 W9OBH Repeater Report: WA9CWE reported that it is working fine, but no activity.

443.350 WA9CWE MCEMA Repeater Report: WA9CWE noted that it is working fine and is used every Sunday evening for a check-in net after the .82 tone alert test. Coverage is good.

145.390 V9VCF MCARC Repeater: Trustee Doug, N9DR, reported all was good with that system.

Warning Division Weather Report: Tom, W9EEL, reported to expect rain all week. Nothing else severe expected.

EMA Report: Director Lynn, reminded everyone of the Spotter training next week and to invite others to attend. He continues to appreciate the support of amateurs.

VE Testing Report: Steve, WA9CWE, reported one candidate failed in January and the February session resulted in 2 new Technicians and one General upgrade.

Other: Steve, WA9CWE, reported on the evaluation of the number of hams in our county as reported in the Newsletter, and that an additional 65 Newsletters and announcements of the upcoming Spotter training went out to those who might not have heard of it.

Old Business: None noted.

New Business: None noted.

Raffel Drawing: The handheld was won by KD9BCD, and a Hamvention Ticket (donated by NA9LA) was won by KE9XF. It is noted that all proceeds from the raffles go into the treasury.

Other: Doug, N9DR, reported that he had a QSO with a ham in Texas who told him that the Texas DHS wanted 8% of their employees to have at least a General amateur radio license. Lynn commented that the Indiana DHS now recognizes the importance of amateur communications and is getting their ECC up and going again.

Upon a motion by N9DO and second by AK9JS the meeting was **adjourned** at 2016.

There were 26 present.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Secretary, ARC

Keep an eye on the Club web site for the current list of paid members and other information such as Newsletters from the past, club officers and other useful items. Thanks to Tom, W9EEL, for keeping the web site current.

See you at the meeting on Tuesday,
73, Steve, WA9CWE