

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Communications Division

Tom Ecker, Executive Director

Steve Riley, Director of Communications

June, 2021

Our June meeting is Tuesday, June 1, at 7:00PM at the EOC Training Room. Please plan to attend. We plan to: Go over the ESF-2 Document (our County Communications Plan), have sign-off for Task Books and have a show-and-tell on UHF/VHF Go-Boxes. Bring your portable Go-Box for show-and-tell. We also plan to review and discuss our upcoming White River Run Communications Exercise.

We hope that you will be available to participate in the White River Run Communications Exercise on the 12th. This is our spring/summer regular exercise that is an excellent training opportunity in addition to being fun. We have used this Anderson Road Runners event for many years to test our communications capabilities. It goes quickly, and with the course on the Riverwalk it's very convenient for us. We'll be meeting at the EOC Parking Lot at 8AM on Saturday morning for our assignment and safety briefing, followed by moving to the assigned observation points prior to the 9AM start. We should be finished by 11AM. Although we will be very close to the repeater tower you can still use this as an opportunity to test your portable station or Go-Box and temporary antenna. We will be using the .82 repeater with backup being .82 simplex, so make certain you have programmed your radio accordingly (for .82 simplex use carrier access receive!). Preliminary information was sent out mid-May, and another update will go out prior to the run. Also, handouts will be available Saturday morning. All licensed amateurs are invited to participate with us. Newcomers will be paired up with an experienced member if they wish. As always, if you have indicated that you will participate then find out at the last minute you can't, not a problem. Also, if you find yourself available on that morning just show up. We will find an assignment for you.

We have been fortunate that there has not been any severe weather so far this year. The downside is that we have difficulty in maintaining our "skillset" for StormNet observations and net operations. Please review from time-to-time your information on how we operate.

Jeff, Gary and Mark have been rotating the Sunday evening net control responsibilities in addition to checking into adjacent counties nets. This strengthens our net operations skills and builds relationships with our neighbors who we might need to call upon or need to help out. If you have an interest in trying your hand at net operations contact Jeff (K9DYR) and offer to get into the rotation. This is a skill that you can only "learn-by-doing".

Jeff reports the following Outreach activities planned:

June Jamboree	June 8 – 12
4H Fair	July 18 – 24
Elwood Glass Festival	August 20 – 22
Pendleton Safety Day	August 29

We will be sharing the booth space with the Sheriff's Department. We have the new 10X10 awnings and will be bringing the Outreach Trailer with tables & chairs. All of the EMA literature and give-away items have been acquired. We will be having Project Lifesaver showcased and would like to have Amateur Radio showcased as well – go-bag, radio on the air, etc. We'll need to acquire more ARRL literature to pass out, along with information related to the Clubs.

Hope to see you on Tuesday.

73, Steve

Notes from Communications Division Meeting
April 6, 2021

1. The meeting was called to order at 1900 by Jeff, K9DYR followed by our Pledge to the Flag.
2. Jeff offered introductions and with several new attendees he commented that this organization is composed of many members of both of the Radio Clubs. Everyone had signed in on the Attendance Sheet.
3. Gary, W9GNR reported for his ARES report that for March he logged 288 volunteer hours and for the first quarter 63 man-hours. He reminded everyone of the Sunday night net on the .82 repeater and that when asked for Status an A-1 indicates that you are ready to jump in the car and be ready to go to an observation point.
4. Jeff reminded everyone to check in to the nets even if you can't go out to observe. He also reported that last year the Communications Division reported 1900+ man-hours of volunteer activity. There have been 455 man-hours since the January meeting.
5. Jeff reviewed planned Outreach activities for this year: Pendleton June Jamboree, the 4-H Fair and the Elwood Glass Festival. These give us an opportunity to talk about the organization and also to demonstrate Amateur Radio.
6. The ARES Task Book that is available for everyone who wants one is an opportunity to document your communications related skills.
7. Jeff asked everyone to complete the ISC's 100, 200, 700 and 800. Our 36 active members have reported 407 courses being completed. Take advantage of the many courses available and report completion to him.
8. Activities so far this year are the Spotter Training and the Tornado Drill nets morning and evening with good turnout.
9. Steve, WA9CWE, passed out the current listing of local amateurs who have participated in our StormNet Training. This emphasized those who have received training in the last 3 years and those who have trained in the past.
10. Upcoming training includes Project Lifesaver, MCU and EOC training for anyone who can make them.
11. Communications exercises upcoming is the White River Run on June 12. Doug, N9DR, expects the course to be the same as next year.
12. Dale, KV9W, reported for the Warning Division other than the exercises there have been no events here so far. Things more be more active upcoming. Temps will be above average and there may be more moisture than normal. There is nothing on the radio at present.
13. Director Tom, KA9SYP, reported that this Thursday there will be an exercise at the EOC for Districts 3 & 6 hosted by us. 23 Counties and the State are expected to participate. We are gearing up again now that the mask mandate is being relaxed. We'll follow the State guidelines. He expects to put the Training Room back to the prior configuration to provide for more attendance & will support a 3-foot separation. This will allow us to ramp up EOC training again.
14. Jeff reminded everyone again that the Task Book provides a good list of desirable skills for our communicators. Hams should be able to do the skills listed.
15. For Training Jeff showed a portion of a YouTube video related to personal communications preparedness. It emphasized how to usually operate during an emergency & how to take care of yourself and your family. It was on: www.oh8stn.org. (Off Grid & Field Radio Survival).
16. Steve, WA9CWE, provided a presentation on Battery Power for Communications Equipment focusing upon LIFEP04 batteries (Lithium Iron Phosphate chemistry). This included comparative data on the various battery chemistries we are accustomed to and the advantages of the LIFEP04 battery (light weight compared to Lead Acid for example). Additionally, this chemistry is much safer than other Lithium battery chemistries and would be more appropriate for a home station backup use.
17. The meeting was closed at 2030 with **22 present**.