

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Communications Division

Tom Ecker, Executive Director

Steve Riley, Director of Communications

August, 2021

Our Communications Division meeting will be on Tuesday, August 3, at 7:00 PM at the EOC Training Room. Please plan to attend. Our training will be a discussion related to our frequency usage during an emergency that may involve a primary net and multiple sub-nets. This will help us all be refreshed as to our plan and the repeaters and other resources available to us in the event of an emergency. Additionally, Dale, KV9W, has a presentation on the 40 meter dipole that he has for his Go-Case that he showed at the last Repeater Club meeting.

The White River Run Communications Exercise on Saturday, June 12, was another excellent training opportunity for our members. We met at 8:00 for assignments and the Safety Briefing, and we were completed at 11:00. Observing the 200 plus runners/walkers were our 20 communicators: WA9CWE, KC9DJU, N9DR, K9DYR, N9EOT, KC9GBL, K9GDH, W9GNR, KD9NAU, KD9NAW, KD9NHQ, KD9PSR, N9PVI, KC9RAX, KD9RZG, KB1SHO, W9TDV, KA1TJP, N9VZL, KV9W. The first runner completed the 10k course in 38 minutes, and the last person finished in 1 hour 35 minutes. We utilized the 146.82 repeater and had no communications issues. A couple of our communicators discovered issues with their spkr/mics, but that's what an exercise is all about....Discovering and recovering from unplanned events. We used tactical call signs effectively. Thanks to all who participated. Get ready for the Run-The-Mounds probably on Sunday, November 7.

Our hams have been very visible during the 4-H Fair Outreach project. Each day/evening of the Fair we manned the EMA/Sheriff Dept. booth area and demonstrated our "hobby" and how it supports the EMA mission. Thanks to the hams who took the time and their equipment to show off our hobby plus the Project Lifesaver. Jeff reported that there were many amateurs who participated, many were there almost every night and it was greatly appreciated. A total of 177 man-hours were contributed over the course of the Fair. Amateurs who participated were: W9CGA, KC9DJU, K9DYR, K9GDH, W9GNR, N9IKE, WA9JCF, AK9JS, K9LBB, KD9NAU, N9OLC, KD9RZG, KA9SYP, KD9SZJ, K9TZJ, KV9W, N9VZL. Five FST members participated also and some of them got the ham radio bug too.

Our Warning Division has increased in strength with the addition of Ferrin, N9VZL, and Gerald, K9GDH. Dale and Tom provided several weeks of training to bring them up to speed on the education and resources needed to support the Warning Mission. Congratulations to them and we appreciate their dedication to our organization.

Upcoming activities include: Elwood Glass Festival August 20-22: Pendleton Safety Day, August 29 and the Run-he-Mounds November 7. Various training opportunities will be scheduled for the EOC, MCU Project Lifesaver, etc. Work on any ICS courses and your Task Book and report to Jeff.

You may have noticed that the Anderson Repeater Club web site address has changed. It is now: <http://andersonrepeater.club> . Update any bookmarks you have used.

See you on Tuesday.
73,
Steve

**Notes from Communications Division Meeting
June 1, 2021**

1. The meeting was called to order at 1900 by Jeff, K9DYR. Everyone was welcomed and the Pledge to the Flag was conducted.
2. Everyone introduced themselves and it was confirmed that all had signed the attendance sheet.
3. EC Gary, W9GNR, reported that in April there were 218 man-hours volunteered, May had 282 man-hours donated (included the IN QSO Party) resulting in **1,133 man-hours for the first 5 months** of the year. The Project Lifesaver Training was 22 man-hours.
4. Jeff reported that there have been **422 Independent Study Courses** reported as completed by the active members.
5. **Activities** since the last meeting include: Project Lifesaver training, EOC Team training to resume and MCU training to resume.
6. The **MCU** was activated for the search at Summer Lake from 5AM until noon. It was at the Staging Area.
7. Project Lifesaver had a June 1 request at 5:30AM in Elwood. 6 out of the 8 members were available to respond within 10 minutes. Fortunately, the lost person was found before the team was activated.
8. **Outreach activities upcoming** include: Pendleton June Jamboree (6/8-6/12) operating each evening Tue-Sat from 6-9 and 1-9 on Saturday Handouts are being prepared for EMA and Amateur Radio. Jeff has a sign-up sheet. The 4H Fair is July 18-24. There will be a big display and plan to set up operating stations. The Elwood Glass Festival is 8/20-8/22 and the plan is to have Outreach and operating there too. The Pendleton Safety Day is 8/29 with operation. The White River Run Communications Exercise is June 12.
9. **Warning Division Report** – Dale, KV9W, reported that Ferrin and Gerald are receiving weather training and will become part of the Division. There is no expectation of severe weather this week but may have some rain.
10. **Director's Update** – Tom reported that the plan is to have an operating amateur station at each Outreach event. You can bring you own station if you wish. The lost child search at Summer Lake had 175 personnel on the ground, 5 drones, 1 helicopter, and 2 dive teams from a multitude of agencies. There was a good after-action meeting. In our County every organization works together which doesn't happen in other counties it is reported. We always use the Incident Command structure. The State Exercise is now scheduled for next year that we'll host. There is a small exercise in the southern part of the State planned for this year.
11. **Training** – Jeff asked everyone to bring their Task Book when it is needed to be signed off. This is a good punch list of things that you ought to know anyway. Keep after the FEMA Independent Study Courses which help you pick up the "Lingo" we use. Make certain you pass along completed course info to Jeff so that it can be added to the Division records.
12. Every County has a Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP). Ours is one of the best and it has been approved by the County Commissioners. It is composed of several Emergency support Functions (ESF). ESF-2 is the Communications & Warning Plan which is

composed of 55 pages. It plans all communications for the County (not including the 800 MHZ Safety system). We provide the auxiliary communications. The purpose includes the Procedures and capabilities that we will use and includes: Mitigation Tasks, Preparedness Tasks, Response Tasks and Recovery Tasks, Communications Personnel duties, Operating Priorities, Amateur Frequency matrix. It works because we have technical abilities and a disciplined organization. We use both formal and informal nets and follow the protocols established over time that works for us. We have a plan that works for all of us.

13. **Go-Boxes** were displayed and explained: **Charlie, K9TZJ** has a kit with capabilities for 2 and 440, AC and DC power. **Tom, KA9SYP**, has 2 types; One for HF operation and VHF/UHF with an IC706. His battery supply is in a separate container. **Mark, KD9NAU**, has an ammo box construction with a solar power charger. **Mike, KC9DJU**, has a work-in-progress vertical rack construction with batteries, AC supply and IC7100 radio for all band coverage. It's heavy but has an antenna support. **Jeff, K9DYR**, 3 units; an HF go-box that takes AC power, and HT go-bag with manuals, accessories and a J-Pole antenna and a Go-Box with 18AH battery a dual band mobile with light and manual.
14. **The White River Run** Communications Exercise was discussed in detail including the route map and observation points, record keeping and communications procedures.
15. The meeting was closed at 2030 with **23 present**.