

Madison County Emergency Management Agency

Communications Division

Tom Ecker, Executive Director

Steve Riley, Director of Communications

October, 2021

Our regular meeting will be on Tuesday, October 5, 7:00PM at the EOC Training Room and everyone is encouraged to attend. We are sending this Newsletter and Meeting Announcement to our extended communicator list with the hope that some of you who have not taken an active interest in the Communications Division will take this opportunity to attend our meeting and see if what we do is a good fit for you. Along with our regular agenda of items Jeff will be discussing the ARES Field Resources Manual available for download from the ARRL. He will also be discussing the ESF-2 document for our County with expanded frequency assignments for our use in a local emergency.

Mark your calendar for Sunday, November 7 for the Run-The-Mounds Communications Exercise. This is our annual fall communications exercise and it will be held as usual with our communicators spread around the race course. This is a fun event and we request that you be at Mounds Park by 1:00PM for assignments and the Safety Briefing. The races start at 2:00 and are usually completed by 3:30. We will use SIMPLEX (146.580) again this year for our Controlled Net operation. At least 15 communicators are needed, and 20 or more are a good fit for the mission. More information will be provided as time approaches, but plan to participate if you can. They are expecting 350-420 participants this year and the course is the same as last year (you can see the map hanging on the wall in the Training Room). By the way, all amateurs are invited to attend and participate with us.

We have had a number of our members provide show-and-tell presentations at our Comm Div and also ARC meetings. We are always open to anything that you may have to show the membership at any meeting. They always give us "ideas" as to how we might improve our response capability and enjoyment of the hobby.

Activities since the last meeting related to Outreach and amateur radio exposure to the county residents included the Elwood Glass Festival and the Pendleton Public Safety Day. Reports on these events will be discussed, so if you participated be sure to offer your observations as to how those events were received.

We've been relatively peaceful this summer when it comes to severe weather activations. In years past we would have expected to have 8-10 events per year. This year we are considerably below that. Don't let your guard down, however. Continue to be prepared for anything.

The State Exercise planned to be held here in Madison County next year is still in the planning stage (after being delayed due to Covid). Additional training opportunities will be held to prepare us for the expected event. As you remember it runs several days, and our

EOC will be activated along with other POD (point of distribution) locations as the event continues. The expectation is over 100 participants from multiple counties, the State DHS and other State and Federal agencies. Plan to participate if you can.

Tom and Jeff have been attending a number of conferences on a number of topics to not only strengthen our plans and procedures but also to network with other EMA and other organizations that might be available to assist us or for us to offer assistance if they have needs. They will be reporting to us what they have learned from these events.

We hope to see you on Tuesday.

73, Steve

**Notes from Communications Division Meeting
August 3, 2021**

1. The meeting was called to order at 1900 by Jeff, K9DYR. He welcomed everyone and led us in the Pledge to the Flag.
2. Everyone signed the Attendance sheet.
3. EC Gary, W9GNR, reported that **volunteer hours for 2021 YTD is currently 2,209**. There were 739 man-hours contributed in June and 321 man-hours in July.
4. Jeff reported that the active membership has reported **426 ICS courses completed**. Please continue to take these courses and report your completion to him for including in your record.
5. Since the last meeting there have been: **Activations** – 6 for Project Lifesaver & 3 Weather events. **Training** – 1 EOC Team Training, 1 Comm. Division Training, Field Day (2 days) and the White River Run. **Outreach** – June Jamboree (5 days) & the 4-H Fair (6 days). All events have been very well attended by the members.
6. **Upcoming Activities:** Outreach – Elwood Glass Festival 8/20-8/22, Pendleton Safety Day 8/29, Various training sessions planned for EOC, MCU, P-Lifesaver and the Run-The-Mounds on 11/7.
7. **Warning Division Report:** Dale, KV9W, announced that Gerald, K9GDH and Ferrin, N9VZL, have completed training and are now members of the Warning Group. There have been issues with the Weather Station, but they seem to be fixed. The ARC site address has been changed, so any bookmark to the weather reports need to be updated (www.andersonrepeater.club). Dale also reported that it's going to get hot again.
8. Jeff encouraged everyone to get Task Books signed off as appropriate. New members can get all the items for a Level 1 certification immediately. Continue on with the FEMA courses and pass along completions to him.
9. Steve, WA9CWE, reviewed the successful White-River-Run communications exercise. We had 20 communicators.
10. Jeff, K9DYR, reviewed the 4-H Fair activity. There was a lot of interest in amateur radio and it was prominently displayed. Many hams participated each night. On Thursday 15 hams signed in.
11. **Director's Report:** Tom, KA9SYP, reported that the budget for next year has been submitted and we should be OK. Grants have been submitted for needed equipment. The Conference season is at hand and he will be attending several. (Jeff mentioned that Tom will be a presenter at 2 conferences). The major regional exercise is still planned for next year. Next month is a tabletop exercise for the southern part of the State. We are working with Henry County to do a "Field Day" type event. It hasn't been planned yet, but several counties are interested.
12. **Dale, KV9W**, presented information on a 40 meter dipole that he has implemented with his Go-Case. The objectives: Easy to uncoil; Low SWR on 40 meters; Quick set-up as NVIS; Use of on-hand materials. His presentation showed the construction and deployment plus information on SWR measurements taken at different heights above ground. Further discussion indicated that NVIS is only reliable up to about 5MHz & at 7MHz it's not quite so good, although Dale made several contacts with it.
13. **Training** – Jeff discussed ESF-2 and the frequency plan for our Emergency use. During an emergency an ICS-205 Form documents the assignment of frequencies. He discussed how multiple frequencies/nets would be needed. Also the importance of being able to program your radio for changing needs. He reminded everyone that our job is "information transfer", and we are good at it. It was mentioned to always have an earpiece if you are assigned to operate in a Shelter or where a crowd of people might be.
14. **The meeting was closed at 2015**. There were 19 present.