

# Anderson Repeater Club, Inc.

November, 2023

Our regular meeting will be on Tuesday, November 7, 7:00PM at the EOC Training Room. This is an important meeting as we will be opening nominations for officers for next year. Also we'll have a Technical Session.

Our VE Team has been busy supporting our hobby. In September we had 2 new Technicians (one actually passed all 3 elements making him eligible for the Extra), and the October session resulted in 5 new Technicians. Also Greg Hunt, K9ALC, has been added to our VE Team. We are fortunate to have 13 active members of our team to support our monthly test sessions. Our team stands ready to offer you an opportunity to upgrade when you are ready. Most everyone is using one of the on-line practice test sites which results in excellent preparation for the actual test.

At this meeting we will be opening nominations for Officers for 2024, our 55<sup>th</sup> year as a Club. The current officers will be willing to continue to serve, but we are always open to others who would like to serve the club. Many of us have been in our position for many years and would be happy to have someone else take over. The current officers are listed on the Club web site. Nominations will be accepted at this meeting and will remain open until the January meeting when we will close the nominations and hold the election. That is an important meeting to attend also.

We are also accepting nominations for Ham-Of-The-Year. You will find on the web site in the Membership section: "In recognition of outstanding achievement of the Anderson area amateur who distinguishes himself in public service, friendship, technological and other ideals of Amateur Radio". In our 53 years we have had 19 amateurs receive this honor. If you would like to offer a (confidential) nomination contact Jeff, K9DYR, who is coordinating the nominations. If a sufficient number are received for an individual that award will be made at the January meeting and the recipient will have his name added to the plaque displayed at the EOC.

The 443.350 repeater site has been visited and a technician has checked out the RF package and determined it was working as expected (meets specifications) and is properly programmed. This package actually belongs to EMA but is supported by our club in addition to it being an important part of the County Communications Plan. Thanks to Jeff and Lynn for arranging this checkout.

Ferrin has mentioned that for anyone interested in instruction for any of the Amateur License Classes [www.w4eey.com](http://www.w4eey.com) is an excellent resource. Gary Wise, W4EEY has a YouTube channel with excellent classes for Technician, General and Amateur Extra candidates.

Please take advantage of our Club Web Site for information and history related to our club and important activities for our County and EMA. Tom, W9EEL, continues to keep it fresh with information and copies of our Newsletters, membership lists, etc. At the meeting Tom will be reviewing with us the overall site and what is readily available.

Dealing with the FCC is often an intimidating experience. For new-comers getting an FRN number that is required before testing seems pretty straight forward, but if we are going to renew our license or change an address it is not quite so easy. For those of us who have not interfaced for a number of years, the FCC has implemented a new CORES database, and we must associate our existing information with the new system (just why they couldn't have done this themselves escapes me!). Also if we move getting our address updated is something we are expected to do. A friend contacted the FCC and got a helpful person to walk him thru it and sent him their information sheet. This is posted on our web site for your reference.

Mark your calendar for the Fort Wayne Hamfest on November 18 & 19 at the War Memorial Coliseum. It is the last "big" hamfest in Indiana and is well worth the drive up there. Admission is \$8 on Saturday and \$4 on Sunday. Parking is \$8. Enter thru the Conference Center entrance. <http://www.acarts.com/hfmain.htm>

We are accepting dues for 2024. As always, \$20. We accept them at the meeting or feel free to send them to the PO box: Anderson Repeater Club, PO Box 615, Anderson, IN 46015 . We have 46 members paid for this year and have been honored to have several new members in 2023. If you have ham friends who might be interested in our Club be sure to invite them to the meeting. Guests are always welcome....It's not necessary to be a member to join us in fellowship and learning.

Including in this email is a PDF of an article from the North American QRP CW Club authored by N6HI. It is really related to HF activity rather than technician level VHF activity, but if you take a couple minutes to read it you'll discover the possibilities of our hobby. John describes his experience operating using a maximum of 5 watts (QRP) and mostly ½ watt (QRPP) making over 10,000 contacts. The antenna is a 20 foot piece of wire running out the window of his condo to a tree! Most of his contacts are CW, but he has made many on SSB at this low power level. This is not so unusual as you often hear POTA (Parks-on-the-air) stations running 5 to 10 watts with a long wire antenna. Part of the motivation is to conserve "battery power".

See you at the meeting on Tuesday.

73,  
Steve, WA9CWE

## Meeting Minutes - September 5, 2023

The meeting was called to order by President Ferrin, N9VZL, at 1900. There were no new visitors present at the meeting.

Ferrin presented **New Member Applications** for: Paul Berens, W9PB, and Jon Shamen, W1JTS, both of whom were temporary members until this vote. Upon motions by AK9JS & KC9DJU for Paul and W9EEL and KD9RZG for Jon, the members present voted in favor of accepting each as full members.

Ferrin asked if everyone had received the July and the September Newsletters and had received the **Minutes of the May Meeting in the July** Newsletter (We did not hold a July meeting so no Minutes). Upon a motion by NA9LA and W9GNR that the Minutes of the meetings be accepted as printed all members present voted in favor.

The only **Silent Key or illness** reported was as previously noted Al Wendling, KB9AL was a Silent Key. He had been a member of our VE Team.

Treasurer Gerald, K9GDH, reported that the May 1 **treasury** balance was \$4,164.44. Deposits of \$116 from dues and expenses of \$194 for the PO Box and \$142.05 for the Web Site hosting resulted in a new balance of \$3,944.39. A motion to accept was made by KV9W and second by WA9CWE. All present voted in favor.

There was no **correspondence** reported by the Secretary or the Treasurer.

**Repeater Report – 146.82:** Trustee Tom was not present and no one reported any issues.

**Repeater Report – 147.09:** Trustee Jeff reported that it isn't working well and appears to have low sensitivity but has normal transmit strength (since mid-July?). Lynn reported that the tower (Fire Training Ground) has been hit by lightning a number of times and has caused problems with the County system. It's possible that the lightning arrestor on that antenna has been damaged. Jeff, Lynn and Ferrin are going to look into the problem. If the lightning arrestor isn't the problem test equipment is going to be needed. Ferrin stressed that we need to get it back up and operational.

**Repeater Report – 443.35:** Trustee Steve reported that it's working. Lynn and Greg noted that it's working very well for their twice monthly nets and Lynn finds that its usable throughout the County from his mobile.

**Repeater Report – 223.86:** Trustee Lynn reported that there has not been anything done to fix it yet. Alan suggested that it might be a software programming issue. He and Ferrin are going to look into it again.

**Repeater Report – 145.39:** The County Club repeater is working very well right now as reported by Lynn. There was a discussion about buying a new package, but since it's working well that has been put on hold. Their treasury has a fund for a new repeater that is building but not adequate yet. It's possible that a new package may have both analog and digital capability.

**Weather Report – Dale, KV9W,** noted that the predictions for the near term and toward the end of the year indicate a normal temperature and moisture pattern. Tom, W9EEL, remarked that the weather systems this year have been "screwy" and very hard to predict.

**EMA Report – Director Jeff, K9DYR,** noted that the Outreach activities have been completed for this year and thanks to all of the hams who came out to support them and represent amateur radio. Special thanks to Warning Division member Gerald, K0GDH, for monitoring the weather for each event and keeping everyone current on the weather upcoming. Lynn, K9RLE, noted that as he cleaned up the Outreach trailer most of the handouts were gone indicating that a lot got handed out. He also said that there are 6 people signed up for the Technician Class that is starting this Saturday and they all came from the Outreach activity. Jeff reported that meetings continue on the upcoming eclipse and emergency services throughout the State are in the planning stage. He is working on a plan to utilize our amateur radio operators for our county. The base has been poured for the antenna tower over at the Health Dept. barn but possession by the County hasn't occurred yet so we are in a

holding pattern on completion of the install. The resources for the bucket truck, etc. have been lined up to complete the project. Jeff mentioned the EMA KRG800 license is up for renewal and has issues that he's been trying to get resolved in working with the FCC Database. The County has a new Coroner and he's a nice guy and should be good to work with. Jeff is also looking for new ideas for the Outreach activities for next year.

**VE Testing** – Steve reported that at the July session we had 1 new Technician and in August 2 new Technicians. We are available the third Tuesday of every month if anyone wants to upgrade.

**Upcoming Events** – Gary, W9GNR, reported that the County Club plans a POTA event this Saturday at Mounds Park. There are also a number of special events on the bands this month. Dennis, W9DO, talked about the POTA activation this weekend and what may be planned depending upon the number that show up. MCU-2 will be used and probably 2 stations.

**Show-And-Tell** – No one had anything to present.

**Door Prize** – A small receiver crystallized on 146.82 and 443.35 was won by Gerald, W9GDH.

**Old Business** – None

**New Business** – None. Ferrin did remind everyone that Nominations for Officers for next year would be opened at the next meeting and if anyone is interested in a position to make it known. Jeff reminded everyone of the Ham-Of-the-Year award that is given to a particularly outstanding ham in our community. The plaque is on the wall. If you want to make a nomination email Jeff.

**Other** – Lynn, K9RLE, reported that the County Club has the Yaesu FT-991A in service and has a carrying case to use when it goes out for an activity. MCU-2 has been cleaned up and is ready for use. There is discussion about ordering a portable antenna of some type for events.

**Technical Session** – Steve, WA9CWE, offered a presentation on the individual components used to power your HF or VHF station and discussed radio power requirements, connectors, power wiring, fuses and power supplies (linear vs switching). There was some discussion and experiences offered by other members.

The meeting was **adjourned** at 2025 upon a motion by W9DO and KC9DJU. There were **23 signed in** on the attendance sheet.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Secretary, ARC