Anderson
Repeater Club, Inc.

November, 2026

Our regular meeting will be **Tuesday, November 3, 7PM** at the EOC Training Room. Please plan to attend (vote first!). We'll have a **Technical Session** by Jorge, N9JJK, related to POTA/SOTA activation.

Note that **our meeting location**, the EOC/Central Dispatch building is now considered a "secure county facility" and although our club continues to be welcome we can no longer leave the front door unlocked during our meetings & VE testing. Therefore, we will have a "greeter" at the door to let folks in. After the meeting starts if no one is at the door you can call 765-635-2260 which will ring a phone in the training room to send someone to let you in. As an added note, there is a green box by the door for entry notification but it alarms in the Dispatch Center and we should not use it.

At the November meeting we will be opening **nominations for club officers for 2027** (our 58th year). As mentioned at the last meeting our President Ferrin, N9VZL, is stepping down after 7 years. Others are willing to step aside for someone who has enthusiasm for a leadership position. If you have an interest make it known. We leave nominations open until the **January meeting when we will hold the actual election by those present.**

We are **accepting dues for 2027**. Please bring the **$20** to the meeting in November or January or send it to: **Anderson Repeater Club PO Box 615, Anderson, IN 46015**. Our Treasurer checks the box regularly, so we should cash your check promptly. Any prior member can just send a check (with your call on it somewhere). New members need to also submit an application form, available on the web site. For 2026 we have 40 members and we appreciate each one!

I'm sorry to report that Brian Englehart, KD9ZHH, became a **Silent Key** on September 2. Brian was not a member of this club but was active in StormNet and the Communications Division. We will miss hearing him.

Our regular **VE test sessions** continue to be productive with the September session resulting in 1 new Technician license and one upgrade to General, and the October session 1 new Technician license. By the way, the FCC implemented the rules for Volunteer Examiners in 1984. There are several Volunteer Examiner

Coordinators (VEC's), ours is the ARRL. When the Novice class was available beginning in the early 1950's volunteer testing was implemented for that license requiring a general class or above to administer the code and the written theory/rules test provided by the FCC.

The **146.820 repeater** now has a transmitter amplifier bringing the output from the duplexer from about 19 watts to 50 Watts (4.2 dB increase). On Saturday, October 10, WA9CWE, K9RLE, KA9SYP and KE9DJN got everything installed and tested. Initial reports indicated that the repeater had much better signal level at locations that had been fringe before. There may still be an issue with the antenna which is being evaluated and a quotation for a new antenna is being obtained. Other preventative maintenance is to be completed as we get time/access to the room. The duplexer retuning to be done will hopefully improve the receiver sensitivity. Also we replacied the old RG58 coax runs (less than great isolation) in the repeater cabinet with RG400-CTL double shielded coax which we hope will improve any desensing caused by the repeater transmitter downgrading the receiver (Tue 10/27, WA9CWE).

The **147.090 repeater RF package** has been reprogrammed and will be returned to the south tower site when we can arrange access. As you remember we pulled that package to do testing on 146.820 site. New double shielded cables were completed for it too.

Brian, N9EOT and Charlie, K9TZJ each have the need to connect to outside HF antennas by **feeding coax under a window**. They have had good results with a "flat" feedline designed for this purpose. Brian also uses his downspout and gutter with an UNUN for an HF antenna (he has other antennas too). We have all heard about this as an antenna, but this is the first time I have a confirmation that it works effectively by someone actually using it.



Comet Window Feed-Thru Jumpers CTC-50M

Cable, Window Feed-Thru Jumper, Aluminum PET Plastic Flat Cable, 100 W PEP, SO-239s, 15.75 in., Each

$64.95

73, Steve, WA9CWE
Secretary, ARC

From the ARRL Letter of October 22:
"Hams Help "Run" The Chicago Marathon"

The 2026 Chicago Marathon on October 11 drew 55,000 runners from around the world and 165 ham radio operators from 6 states to help provide medical communications and logistical support. This was the 18th year of amateur radio participation, according to Rob Orr, K9RST, president of Ham Radio Chicago, which coordinated amateur radio activity at the marathon. The group also helps recruit new volunteers and provides training in public service communications.

Orr said the hams relied on 5 repeaters with citywide coverage as well as 5 portable UHF tactical repeaters to make sure every amateur radio team had at least three ways to contact the command tent in Grant Park. In addition to traditional FM voice communications, Orr said the hams also use DMR (digital mobile radio) and, this year, introduced a Zoom channel on which medical personnel could have private consults if needed. The hams coordinated the calls on the radio and then got the parties together at a Zoom station in the command tent.

From the ARRL NTS Letter of October 6, 2026: Navy Re-institutes CW Training

> After discontinuing mandatory Morse training around 2002, the US Navy determined that a generation of communications specialists lacked backup skills for environments in which primary systems fail. CW is not a requirement for all sailors, but the specialists responsible for maintaining communication links under adverse conditions now need to learn Morse as a backup. Official reasoning centered on three factors: satellite vulnerability to anti-satellite weapons and jamming, GPS denial in contested theaters, and the need for low-probability-of-intercept communication methods that require minimal infrastructure. Morse code over HF radio addresses all three simultaneously. Modern warfare targets communication infrastructure aggressively. Electronic warfare units jam voice radio, disrupt satellite uplinks, spoof GPS signals, and disable cellular networks.

How does this affect the amateur radio operator? We know that communication is a necessity of life. Yet there are those who would, and have, shut down communications networks. Morse code in the hands of the radio amateur operator has the following advantages:

- **Narrow bandwidth:** CW occupies roughly 150 Hz versus 2.4 kHz for voice SSB — harder to target and easier to copy through noise
- **Low-power effectiveness:** A five-watt Morse signal can span oceans; voice at the same power often fails
- **Human in the loop:** No dependency on digital protocols, encryption key management, or network routing
- **Equipment simplicity:** A basic transceiver, wire antenna, and battery suffice — no satellite terminal required
- **Jam resistance:** Skilled operators copy through interference that destroys voice intelligibility

If the Navy has come to this conclusion about the use of CW, how about the amateur radio community? Food for thought! For the full interesting story on the Navy's use of CW go to https://morsecoder.us/blog/morse-code-navy-2026/.

Minutes of Meeting – September 1, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1900 by the President, Ferrin, N9VZL. It was noted that there were no visitors at that time so no introductions were required. Ferrin confirmed that everyone present had signed the attendance sheet.

New Member Applications – The Secretary reported that no new member applications had been received. **Current membership is 40** for 2026.

Minutes of last Meeting – Ferrin asked if everyone had received the Newsletter and the Minutes of the last meeting and if there were any additions or corrections. None were noted and upon a motion by W9BLY and W9GNR that they be accepted as printed all voted in favor.

Silent Keys – No Silent Keys or other illnesses were reported.

Treasurer's Report – Jeff, AK9JS, reported that the current balance is $4,436.92 after a check for $333.69 was issued. All voted to accept the report as given.

Weather Report – Tom, W9EEL, reported that it will continue to be hot this week and perhaps cooler but above average next week.

Correspondence – Secretary Steve announced that a group of other clubs is trying to start a meeting of clubs a couple of times per year to exchange ideas on improving clubs and would like our club to participate. Steve, K9SJH, volunteered to represent our club. Also the Indiana Repeater Council has issued coordination renewals for the 146.820 and 443.350 repeaters, good for 2 years.

146.820 Repeater Report – Steve, WA9CWE, reported that at the last meeting we had replaced the lightning arrester and that improved the performance a bit, but there was still work to be done. He has obtained a 125 Watt amplifier to put on the transmitter and a wattmeter to leave in-line full time. It is possible that there is an antenna issue, but we are analyzing issues one at a time. We believe the feed line is OK. He described how the feed line is constructed. We will continue to work on it, but the flooding disaster has delayed being able to get to it.

147.090 Repeater Report – Steve also reported that we plan to get the RF package for .09 reprogrammed and back to the site, but not certain when we'll have the resources to do it.

443.350 Repeater Report – It is working fine and is used weekly for the net, plus others are heard on it.

223.860 Repeater Report – Lynn, K9RLE, reported that it is working but there doesn't appear to be any use.

145.390 MCARC Repeater Report – Doug, N9DR, reported that it is working fine.

GMRS Repeater Report – Steve reported that it had been moved to the Health Dept building (our tower) and is working a bit better. There is minimal usage at present, but there are many hams and other folks who are licensed and occasionally key it up. Everyone is encouraged to use it. He has a distribution list to send updates to users.

EMA Report – Director Lynn, K9RLE, and Deputy Director Don, W9BLY, discussed at length the flooding disaster and the aftermath that they are dealing with, which has been very stressful. It was certainly a 100 year flood and is expected to take 2 years to get back to normal. He has submitted an initial estimate of $49 million damage for county and town infrastructure to FEMA, subject to increases. The ECC was not affected by the water rise but it has been manned 24/7 for a couple of weeks. A plan was in place to use the MCU to relocate the 911 Center and EOC if required. Our 800 MHz County system performed flawlessly, although Delaware County had their primary tower and equipment under 7 foot of water. Every bridge in the County is being inspected by a contracted firm. It's possible that one may need to be replaced. Lynn got a grant from Duke Energy and has gotten some new handhelds for the FST and a number of weather alert radios to hand out to police, fire and our members if anyone wants one. See him after the meeting.

The final river height was **24.93** feet and had the **rain of over 10 inches** been snow, we'd have been covered as 1 inch of water is 10 inches of snow!

VE Team Report – Steve reported that the July session resulted in 2 upgrades to General and 1 to Extra, and the August session had 2 new Technicians and 1 General upgrade. Our club has a fantastic VE Team of 12 members and we had 9 present for the last session. Jeff, K9DYR, submits

the information to the ARRL on Wednesday morning, which usually results in it going into the FCC database that same day. Thanks to all the VE's.

Charlie, K9TZJ, thanked everyone for the Life Membership voted at the last meeting but wanted everyone to know that he is really in a retirement community, not a nursing home facility.

Old Business – None

New Business – Don, W9BLY, reported that they had generated new handouts for the 4-H Fair outreach related to amateur radio and the clubs and the cost was $93. The MCARC covered part of the cost, and WA9CWE covered the rest. Don moved that the club reimburse Steve for the $50 he contributed. Seconded by KE9XF. All voted in favor. Ferrin reminded everyone that at the next meeting nominations for officers for next year would be opened and that positions were available as he was not going to be available due to other obligations.

Show-And-Tell – Dave, KE9XF, showed some handhelds that he is playing with. They are Mesastatic 915 MHz and work in a manner similar to packet.

Technical Session – Steve, WA9CWE, presented information on Antenna Switches, how they can be used and how they are constructed. Samples were passed around. Some history of amateur radio was included.

Additional – A motion was made to pay Steve, WA9CWE, for the Amplifier and Wattmeter to be placed on the 146.820 repeater, $300. All voted in favor and the Treasurer will issue the check.

It was also noted that a good commercial grade antenna to replace the one that is of questionable status will cost about $2000 plus shipping. Steve has preliminary costs. The install may be up to $4000, but Lynn is checking with the tower climber to see what the actual cost may be. Will be reported when we really decide what the problem is. Richard, WB9AZY, has the equipment and skill to analyze the antenna issue.

Upon a motion to close the meeting all voted in favor at 2021. There were **24 present**.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Riley, WA0CWE, Secretary

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