

# Madison County Emergency Management Agency

## Communications Division

Tom Ecker, Executive Director

Steve Riley, Director of Communications

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December, 2021

Our regular meeting will be on Tuesday, December 7, 7:00PM at the EOC. Please plan to attend.

Our Run-The-Mounds Communications Exercise was another great event. The weather was perfect, and the turnout of our communicators was good too. We were able to man the necessary observation points around the course and several members commented on receiving “thank you’s” for keeping an eye on the runners/walkers. There were 433 participants pre-registered and it appeared that everyone had a great time. Our communications on 146.580 simplex was excellent and everyone could hear the other locations. We operated the Net Control from MCU-1, and it performed well also. Thanks to Gary and Jeff for getting it to the park. Our communicators were: WA9CWE, KC9DJU, N9DR, K9DYR, N9EOT, KC9GBL, W9GDH, W9GNR, KD9ISO, AK9JS, KD9NAW, KD9NHQ, KF9NL, N9OLC, KC9RAX, K9SJH, KA9SYP, N9VZL As a side note Tom, KA9SYP, showed us a new antenna for his handheld at the Repeater Club meeting. He used it and compared it to the regular handheld antenna. He found it to be much better! Also Marvin, KF9NL from Gaston joined us. He had a portable antenna (MFJ-1754) mounted on a piece of PVC pipe, 4 ½ feet long, stuck in his backpack. Here’s a picture of his installation.



At our meeting we plan to have an “after action report” discussion. Please come prepared to offer your observations on how we did and any improvements that we might implement next time.

You may have read that our Director Tom, KA9SYP, has been appointed the Administrator for the Madison County Commissioners effective the first of the year. This is a very important position for the operation of our County. Therefore, we will be getting a new EMA Director (only the 6<sup>th</sup> in our history) at some point in the future. We are excited for Tom as he takes on this new position, and he will be in a position to influence the selection of the next Director. This new person is going to have some really big shoes to fill as Tom has been our Director since November, 2012 and has made our organization one of the very best in the State. His efforts to get us the EOC facility that we enjoy will be long remembered as will many other direct and indirect things that has made our group what it is.

See you at the meeting on Tuesday.

73,  
Steve

## Communications Division Meeting – October 5, 2021

- The meeting was called to order at 1900 By Jeff and he led all in the Pledge to the Flag.
- ARES EC Gary, W9GNR, reported 120 man-hours donated in August and 148 man-hours in September. This results in 2,786 man-hours donated year-to-date.
- Jeff reminded everyone to continue working on Independent Study Courses (ICS) and when completed forward a copy of the link to him so that he can add the certificate to your training folder. He reminded everyone that if you do not pass the test you can retake it several times until you pass.
- Jeff also asked everyone to continue to work on your Task Book. Even if you don't pursue it aggressively the book does list skillsets that we should all have to enjoy our hobby and participate in our communications activities.
- Jeff stressed the value of WINLINK as a communications medium that we need to address. None of our members are utilizing it yet, but several are interested and working on it.
- Upcoming Activities: EOC Team training, MCU Team training, Project Lifesaver Training
- Steve discussed the Run-the-Mounds Communications Exercise upcoming on November 7. We discussed the course and our communications mission and the training aspect. All are encouraged to participate.
- Warning Division Update: Tom, W9EEL. Reported that there is a low approaching that will result in showers for the next few days, but it will be over by Saturday. Temperatures will be above average.
- Director's Update: Tom, KA9SYP, reported that the State conference is coming up in 2 weeks and he has 2 presentations to make. He also attended a conference last week in Indy with a speaker being a mother of children from the Connecticut school shooting. She gave a very enlightening perspective from a victim standpoint. She had 2 children at the school.
- Training: Jeff discussed the ARRL/ARES Field Resource Manual available on the ARRL web site. It is a large file and has a lot of useful information and he recommends it to everyone. It can be found using the search feature of the web site. Some of the specific items of interest:
  - Basic Deployment Equipment Checklist – What we'd use in the Run-The-Mounds event.
  - Power Requirements – Several methods discussed.
  - Gain Antennas – We might want to have one available. A J-Pole is popular made with twin lead. What we might use at the RTM. Doug, N9DR, reported that SMA connectors used on many handhelds are not very robust as compared to BNC for example. SMA's rated for 100 connections.
  - Personal Stuff – Plan to take along what you need for yourself (water, food, etc.) so that you are not a burden on the system.
  - Contact & Information Forms – Have documentation on what is planned and what is a "Plan B".
  - Log Sheet – Keep track of messages and information that might need to be followed up on.
  - Message Forms – Keep a stock of FEMA Forms, our County EMA forms, Radiograms (although we don't use them usually).
  - We have added to our ESF-2 (Communications Plan) specific recommendations for links to various locations that we might be utilizing (LSA, POD's, Shelters, Staging Areas, other). There was discussion on the exact frequencies to be specified and we'll be updating our plan to agree with accepted bandplans.
  - Consider cross-band-repeat function on some radios.
- The meeting was closed at 1945. There were 16 present.