



Madison County Amateur Radio Club

QSO

www.w9vcf.org

MAY 2024

The MAY meeting will be held May 6th.



In this Issue:

President's Message - VP Message - Minutes from March - EMA

EC Shack - YL Paula-KD9SZJ - FOR SALE - Events - Contact Info - Hamfests

From the President

Happy May MCARC, GET READY TO START YOUR ENGINES... Saturday May 4th is the Indiana QSO Party. The purpose of the Indiana QSO Party (INQP) is to encourage contact with Indiana amateur radio stations by other Indiana hams and hams worldwide. Stations outside of Indiana work Indiana stations only. Indiana stations work everybody, including other Indiana stations. We are planning on having a QSO Party at the EOC and are going to play with a couple different antenna set ups and just have some good ole' ham fun. Please let us know if you are planning on coming and participating. We are trying to come up with a schedule so everyone has the chance to work the airwaves. This is a great opportunity to try some new things and play around with different set ups. We have gotten a lot of new licensed amateurs over the past several months and we have invited them to come out and join in so we'll need Elmers to help them along.

Next month starts our summer outreach events. Pendleton June Jamboree is first up starting June 4th – June 8th. This is one of the best events we attend and a fantastic opportunity to bring your go radios and show em' what ya got and have a great time. We will need volunteers to man the booth each night and help spread the word on amateur radio.

As an update the Executive Officers of both clubs are meeting Thursday April 25th to discuss and toss around pros and cons of the clubs combining. After this meeting we will bring back what was discussed to the membership of both clubs for further talks.

Last but not least we want to thank each and every one of you that took time out and assisted with the Total Solar Eclipse. We definitely showed Madison County Public Safety what Madison County Amateurs can do. You all impressed many with your dedication and professionalism. You knocked it out of the park and you all rocked what could have been a very big issue for our county. WHAT A GREAT EXERCISE IT WAS.

Each of you are appreciated more than you will ever know.. We thank you all so very much for your participation and dedication.

Thank's Folks... Make it a great one..

-73-

Lynn

From the Vice-President -

May is here and the Dayton Hamvention is just a few days away. If you have never attended this venue, I would highly encourage you to make plans to attend. Amateur Radio Operators from around the world gather for three days in Xenia, Ohio (Green County Fairgrounds). They are all there for the world's largest gathering, showcasing hundreds of vendors. Both commercial and flea market vendors gather for this incredible event.

Hamvention is much more than a hamfest, there are dozens of forums daily where you can learn more about Parks on the air, digital contesting, grounding, CW, and much more. You can even take free license exams if you want to get your first license or upgrade to a new license class, but be sure to have your FRN number with you.

For tickets and more information about Hamvention, go to www.hamvention.org



MCARC

Meeting Minutes

Date April 1, 2024

Opening:

The monthly meeting of the Madison County Amateurs' Radio Club was called to order at 7:00 PM by Lynn K9RLE on April 1, 2024, at the EOC with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: 31 We had two visitors.

Treasurer Report – Gerald K9GDH gave a balance as of April of \$2,157.60 and the repeater balance of \$1,109.11. Motion to accept report was by Jeff , AK9JS and seconded by Dennis, W9DO.

Secretary Report –Paula KD9SZJ nothing new to report. Motion to accept the previous report was 1st motion was Gary W9GNR and second by Mike KC9DJU.

VP Report– Tim KD9PSR had nothing to report.

Trustee Report –Doug N9DR had nothing new to report.

Activity Report – May 4th QSO party at EOC from 11am-11pm. Please check the calendar for upcoming events.

Gary W9GNR reported EMA COMM DIV. Y-T-D December

MCU	0
Active Storm Net	56
Outreach	26
Comm Div	19
Nets	214
Training	418
TOTAL	733

Points Report – Jeff Stewart AK9JS reported, Mike KC9DJU is in first place, Mark, W9MWM is in second place, and Frank, WA9JWL is in third place.

Sick Report- none reported.

New Business-

-Club banner is completed

-Once weather conditions get warmer, we will have a workday.

Show and Tell- Charlie, KD9RZG showed his certificate for contacting 600 POTA. Tim KD9PSR showed a tactical computer bag, ammo can fit nicely in it with additional room in the bag.

Next Month's Meeting will be Monday, May 6,2024

Motion to Adjourn Meeting: 1st motion was Charlie, KD9RZG and 2nd motion was the rest of the club.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO BE AWARE OF:

2024 Public Outreach Festival Dates

Pendelton June Jamboree Tuesday June 4, Wednesday June 5, Thursday June 6, Friday June 7 Saturday June 8

Madison County 4-H Fair Sunday July 21, Monday July 22, Tuesday July 23, Wednesday July 24,Thursday July 25, Friday July 26, Saturday July 27

Elwood Glass Festival Friday August 16, Saturday August 17, Sunday August 18

Frankton Heritage Days (Public Safety Party) Friday September 20, Saturday September 21, Sunday September 22

Pendleton Public Safety Day Sunday August 25 from 1pm to 4pm

EMA COMM DIV.

	<u>Y-T-D</u>	<u>April</u>
MCU	0	0
Active Storm Net	89	33
Outreach	26	0
Comm Div	40	21
Nets	274	60
Training	555	108
EMA Activation	188	188
Total	984	410

THE EC SHACK

Gary-W9GNR

Two Flavors of Amateur Radio Emergency Operation

Emergency service is one of the basics of the Amateur Radio Service and there is sometimes come some confusion about ARES, the ARRL arm of emergency services and RACES, the government arm of amateur emergency services. This FAQ will outline FCC concerns of these two.

ARES vs RACES FAQ

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ARES vs RACES FAQ

· During an emergency, when is ARES activated? How about RACES?-

ARES is activated before, during and after an emergency. Generally, ARES handles all emergency messages, including those between government emergency management officials. RACES, on the other hand, almost never starts before an emergency and is active only during the emergency and during the immediate aftermath if government emergency management offices need communications support. RACES is normally shut down shortly after the emergency has cleared.

· I don't see ARES mentioned in Part 97? What's the story?-

True, there's nothing in Part 97 about ARES specifically. ARES operators are, of course, bound by all applicable Part 97 rules, but they aren't bound by the specific emergency rules as specified in §97.407, as stations operating under RACES are. ARES operators have greater flexibility. RACES stations are limited by Part 97 as to who they can communicate with, which messages they may pass, and how long drills may last.

· Can any licensed amateur volunteer for RACES? How about ARES?-

Yes on both counts. You can volunteer for RACES by enrolling with a civil defense organization locally. To volunteer for ARES, register with your local ARRL Emergency Coordinator.

· **I've heard that the FCC has in the past issued RACES licenses that can be used only for RACES activities. What's the status of RACES licenses?-**

There are fewer than 250 RACES station licenses and calls have been issued from the WC#### call sign block such as WC1AAA. They've been assigned to certain civil defense organizations, not to individual amateurs. The FCC stopped issuing new RACES licenses in 1978, and it will not renew existing ones. The FCC will not issue WC#### calls under the Vanity program.

· **If I am enrolled in a local civil defense organization and if it declares a RACES drill, what call sign do I use since the FCC isn't issuing RACES licenses? How about ARES?-**

RACES operation is conducted by amateurs using their own primary license call sign and by existing RACES licensees who hold RACES licenses. Club and military recreation stations are also eligible if authorized by a civil defense organization locally with the appropriate control operator [97.407(a)]. If you are operating under ARES, you can also use your own primary license and call sign or any other call sign authorized by a given control operator.

· **Which stations may a RACES station communicate with? How about ARES stations?-**

A station operating under RACES may only communicate with: 1) A RACES station licensed to the local civil defense organization; 2) Other RACES licensees; 3) Certain amateur stations registered with civil defense organizations; 4) Certain US government stations authorized by the responsible agency to communicate with RACES stations and; 5) Stations in a service regulated by the FCC when authorized by the FCC [97.407(d)]. A station operating in ARES may communicate with any amateur station.

· **What type of communications may be transmitted by stations operating under RACES?-**

RACES members may transmit only messages related to: 1) Impending danger to the public or affecting national defense during emergencies; 2) The immediate safety of individuals, the immediate protection of property, maintenance of law and order, alleviation of human suffering and need, and combating armed attack and sabotage; 3) The dissemination of information to the public from a local civil defense organization or other government or relief organization and; 4) Communications during RACES drills [97.407(e)].

· **How long may RACES drills and tests be held? What about ARES?-**

Panel TextRACES drills and tests can't exceed a total time of one hour per week. With proper authorization, such drills and tests may be conducted for a period not to exceed 72 hours and such drills can occur no more than twice in a calendar year [97.407(e)]. There are no specific limits on ARES drills and tests.

· **Why are there limits on RACES drills?-**

These rules aren't there to restrict amateurs unduly, but to protect the Amateur Radio Service from nonamateur abusers. The drill time limits were implemented in 1976 because, among other things, local government land mobile communications operators were using the amateur service improperly.

· **Our weekly RACES net is in operation for more than an hour per week. How can we be in compliance with §97.407(e) and still practice our emergency preparedness skills?-**

The easiest way is to make your RACES net an ARES net with the approval of your local EC so that your group isn't bound by the specific time constraints, yet volunteers still get emergency preparedness training. If participating amateurs are registered in ARES and RACES, they can switch hats as conditions dictate. ARRL and FEMA both recommend dual membership. Stations operating under ARES have much more flexibility because the main purpose of ARES is to serve the emergency communications needs of many agencies, not just the government. RACES is structured and rigid and must be activated by a local civil defense official; ARES can be activated by an ARRL official such as the local ARRL Emergency Coordinator (EC).

· **How can I register for RACES? How about ARES?-**

RACES and ARES are both vital organizations and need your participation to make them effective. To register for RACES, contact your local civil defense office or Emergency Operations Center. To register with ARES, complete [ARRL Form FSD-98](#) and send it to your local EC. If you don't know who your EC is, contact your ARRL [Section Manager](#).

YL - KD9SZJ - Paula

What an amazing group we have, the eclipse was impressive to watch, but the work of all the operators made this event go smoothly for all involved. I can only imagine the hours leading up to this event. But as we look back on it, it was a learning experience for all involved, I am sure. It was also great to have the opportunity to be able to watch this event unfold. I hope that those who visited Indiana got to see the Hoosier's hospitality as some were reported on the radio that they were listening to our roll calls and appreciated the update of traffic as it was being reported. All I can say is, GREAT JOB EVERYONE.

KD9SZJ

-FOR SALE-

HAVE AN HAM RELATED ITEM FOR SALE? ADVERTISE HERE!! E-MAIL
w9vcf.mcarc@gmail.com with your Item, asking price and preferred contact info!!

EVENTS

Every Wednesday	MCARC 2M Net 8:00 PM - 145.390 pl 151.4 Followed by an informal ragchew on 28.465
Every Thursday	Donut Meeting 09:00 AM at the EOC
Every Saturday	Breakfast at Anderson Grill 09:00 AM at 2038 S Scatterfield Rd, Anderson
May 6th	MC ARC Meeting at the EOC, 7pm
May 9th	MC UHF Net 8pm - 443.350MHz, PL tone 110.9Hz WA9CWE
May 21st	VE Testing at the EOC 7pm
May 23rd	MC UHF Net 8pm - 443.350MHz, PL tone 110.9Hz WA9CWE

SPECIAL EVENTS

May 11th	Armed Forces Day 1600z - 2300z 7.250 14.320
May 12th - 18th	Police Services Week 0000z - 0000z 14.335
May 18th	National Maritime Day 1300z - 2100z 7.100 14.100 21.100 28.100
May 19th - 25th	National EMS Week 0000z - 0000z 14.335
May 24th - 25th	Vietnam Veterans Memorial Special Event 2200z - 2200z 7.243 14.243 21.343 28.343
May 27th	Memorial Day 1800z - 2100z 7.275

Have something to contribute to the newsletter?

- Participated in any recent contest?
- Have an interesting QSO?
- Try an experimental antenna?
- Get a new piece of equipment you'd like to offer a review about?

We'd love to hear about it. You are more than welcome to write a piece about something above or something else you feel worthy of sharing. If you would like to write a piece for the newsletter, please submit your article, along with any pictures that you'd like included to the club email, w9vcf.mcarc@gmail.com.

Also, if you have anything for sale that you would like to advertise in the club newsletter, please send it to the above email.

Thank you, Gary - W9GNR

Madison County Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 3044

Anderson, Indiana 46018

Officer Contact Information

President	Lynn Edens	K9RLE	redens@madisoncounty.in.gov
Vice President	Tim Bailey	KD9PSR	kd9psr@gmail.com
Secretary	Paula Dixon	KD9SZJ	pdixon46001@yahoo.com
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Technical Committee Chair	Dennis Owen	W9DO	w9do@arrl.com
Newsletter Editor	Gary Sherman	W9GNR	w9gnr@arrl.com

Meetings are at the Madison County EOC

200 N Delaware Street

Anderson, IN 46016

Hello Indiana Ham's,

The Indiana QSO Party is coming up in early May--Saturday, May 4, from 11:00a to 11:00p EDT. Here's hoping your club and club members will be able to participate this year. Propagation promises to be the best in many years, so it should be fun.

Remember the club competition part of the INQP--a fun activity which can be done with a club station or through fixed home or portable stations of individual members or a combination of all the above.

And there will be "rare county" trophies again this year--the ten Indiana counties with the least QSOs in the past five years. One trophy for the fixed station in the ten rare ones with most QSOs and one trophy for portables (one-county and county-line stations). Designated rare counties for 2024 are Adams, Boone, Carroll, Cass, Greene, Martin, Morgan, Sullivan, Switzerland, and Vermillion. Full details will be in the updated rules on the INQP web pages soon.

There are some more new activities in the wings. We'll keep you posted as they develop.

Thanks for your support. We are expecting a fun, active INQP this year. Especially with the sunspot cycle approaching max! We urge you to put the 2024 INQP on your club calendar.

North Central Indiana Hamfest

Start Date: 05/04/2024

End Date: 05/04/2024

Location: Hart's Celebration Center

3031 E. 450 N.

Marion, IN 46952

Website: <http://www.NCIhamfest.com>

Sponsor: Cass, Grant, Miami County Amateur Radio Clubs

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.790 -0.6 (141.3)

Public Contact: Mitch Miller , W9DDX

3658 N. Moorland Dr. Marion, IN 46952

Phone: 765-661-5893

Email: mitchmiller55@gmail.com

This is the 55th anniversary of Day 1 of 10.

It was a Saturday, May 10, 1969. Thirty Huey's sat on the runway of LZ [Landing Zone] Birmingham just west of Hue Citadel. It was just after the monsoon season so the humidity felt like it was 150%. Troops relaxed on the ground as best they could against their packs waiting for the word to crank up the Huey's and board. Waiting; the long frustrating waiting.

Finally the word to crank up. I strapped into my armored seat, pulled my helmet on and began the startup procedure. Once I had the aircraft at normal rpms, the troops loaded into the aircraft. I had been in Vietnam almost a month and a half and for all intent of purpose I was a 'cherry' co-pilot. This would be my first combat assault. The aircraft commander took over the controls and waited for the ships in front of us to lift off. As the rotor blades beat the air into submission the Huey lift off the ground, moving forward until we attained transitional lift or the bird began to fly. It felt good to be off the ground with the wind blowing through the cockpit.

The flight flew to the southern end of the A Shau Valley before we turned towards our objective. The 30 aircraft would string out in single file with 15 seconds separation. Our objective was to insert elements of the 3rd Brigade, 101st Airborne onto a mountain called Dong Ap Bai. Normally there is extensive bombing and shelling of the top of the hill or mountains to reduce enemy fire. This assault would be a flat area halfway up the mountain in an LZ only big enough for one aircraft at a time. The aircraft commander kept growling and swearing about the LZ position. It would seem the 3rd Brigade Commander wanted this to be an infantry battle, not an Air Assault battle; we just drove the guys to work.

After the first 10 aircraft had dropped their six packs, the term for passengers or troop, it seemed like there was someone screaming on every radio. The Aircraft Commander gave me FM, UHF and Nav radios to monitor, while he listened only to VHF, ship to ship. When it was our turn to touch down the sounds of combat drowned out the noise of the Huey. I could hear the ping of AK rounds bouncing off the top of the helicopter, some penetrating the Huey skin. My job, along with trying to follow all the yelling on the radio, was to monitor the instruments, especially the torque gauge so we did not over torque the transmission and rotor blades.

Finally, we were out of the LZ climbing and turning east. We were out and safe, but not really. We were headed back to LZ Birmingham to pick up the next load of troops. We would make 3 insertions before we were finished ... with the assault.

We refueled hot, which meant they were pumping jet fuel into the Huey with the engine running at full throttle and blades turning. NEVER, EVER shut off your engines at the fuel location. It was a wide open, prime target for enemy fire. The crew chief fueled us as the door gunner found some cold Coke and something to eat. No clue what it was or where it came from, but at this point I was scared and hungry; it might have been dog, I don't care. We spent the rest of the day hauling in supplies and hauling out wounded.

This battle would last 10 days. We kept bringing in supplies and were starting to lift reinforcements. We would carry out the wounded and the body bags. Somewhere in those 10 days, the calendar said I had celebrated my 22nd birthday with more fireworks than I cared for. The 3rd Brigade Commander got his 'infantry' victory at a massive casualty rate. The grunts that walked the top of the hill, renamed the mountain; Hamburger Hill.

Sitting back in Hyannis Port with a cold scotch, Ted Kennedy made a speech about Hamburger Hill where he referred to it as 'a needless loss of life for an insignificant hill'. Obviously he had not been read into the After

Action Report that described a three story underground complex with a field hospital, communications center, R&R center for the NVA and resupplies.

I am about to turn 77 years old and the memories, visions, sounds and smells are still with me. They are not haunting me but reminding me how fortunate my life has been. I thank God for the full recovery of my Guardian Angel who had a complete nervous breakdown when I left country for home.