



Madison County Amateur Radio Club

QSO

www.w9vcf.org



February 2024

The February meeting will be held on February 6, 2025



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From the President

Do know you what February means? It means there's a lot of club activities just around the corner, so I invite you to take a look at our calendar to see the events we have scheduled for 2025. The annual storm spotter training is among one of many opportunities we have to sharpen our skills. This year it is on March 4th at the Anderson University's York Performing Arts Center. This program begins at 6:00 pm. I encourage everyone to make plans to attend.

We have planned several Parks on the air events. If you have never participated with POTA, you're missing out on a lot of fun. Plus, it's a great way for anyone new to ham radio to get acclimated with HF. We are also planning a Saturday HF net that will take place at a public location to exhibit ham radio to our community.

I want to express my gratitude to the 15 individuals who participated in this year's Winter Field Day. It was a fantastic day, and a lot of contacts were made during this exercise. I could tell that everyone was having a lot of fun during this event. There was plenty of stories being told and lots of laughs. The camaraderie among our club members was great. Let's all continue to make ham radio great!

73

Tim

KD9PSR

Vice-President Message

Well good news we have a member that is willing to take over the Thursday night net. But he needs to get his antenna at lower swr. He wants to try the net every Thursday night. If anyone has ideas please speak up we would appreciate ideas

Dale

N9OLC

**Madison County Amateur Radio Club
200 north Delaware Street
Anderson, Indiana**

Monthly Business Meeting Minutes for January 6, 2025

- Meeting called to order at 6:30 pm by President Tim Bailey
- Secretary report was discussed and accepted as posted in email.
- Treasurer report was presented by Gerald Hollon:

Beginning balance \$2,415.72

Deposits (Dues) \$60.00

Tip Jar contributions \$35.00

Equipment insurance \$56.70

Returned statement fee \$7.00

Year-end balance \$2,447.02

Repeater fund balance \$1,174.11

- Activities Manager Aiden Paul shared details for Winter Field Day. Progress of website upgrades, outreach efforts, and events on 2025 calendar were presented. WFD sign-up sheet to be available during club meeting.
- Vice-President Dale Bloomer spoke about discontinuing the UHF net. He also proposed having a Saturday HF net with possible remote stations. Dale planned to propose the HF net during club meeting.
- Publications Editor Gary Sherman reported that EMA is no longer contributing.
- Tech Committee Chairman Greg Hunt had nothing new to report.
- Old business: Having a club workday was originally proposed for each month, however with winter temperatures in the barn, and the delayed delivery of the new trailer, workdays will take place once a quarter. The first workday is scheduled for Saturday March 8th 10:30 am.
- Membership dues were discussed. The tip-jar that is present at monthly meetings, and extra contributions to the weekly donut meetings has added to the club's finances.
- New business: Tim Bailey expressed the value of having a business meeting apart from the club meeting, giving the club more time to focus on presentations and training, along with show and tell.
- Meeting was adjourned to conduct the monthly club meeting immediately following the business meeting.

Officers in attendance:

President: Tim Bailey

Vice President: Dale Bloomer

Treasurer: Gerald Hollon (Filling in for Paula Dixon)

Activities Manager: Aiden Paul

Technical Committee Chairman: Greg Hunt

Publications Editor: Gary Sherman

Absent:

Secretary: Don Billey (Overseeing warming stations)

Treasurer: Paula Dixon (Car trouble)

Trustee: Doug Rose (Out of state)

Tech Committee Report: February 2025

Greetings club members. The club had a successful winter field exercise . I want to thank Dennis for setting up the logging software on all three radios. Additionally, thank you to Ferrin for helping with the band filters.

I want to remind everyone that band conditions are continuing to improve related to the solar cycle. Remember, technician level has privileges on 10 m and that band has a lot of activity during the day. Moreover, 20 m 40 m 80 m 160 m are also improving.

Product review:

As everyone is aware of improvements in radio technology, I found this piece of equipment in February edition of QST magazine.

openSPOT

Compatible digital radio protocols and networks

- DMR (BrandMeister, DMRplus, DMR-MARC, Phoenix, XLX, TGIF and others)
- D-STAR® (DCS, REF/DPlus, XRF/DExtra, XLX)
- System Fusion®/C4FM (FCS, YSFReflector, XLX)
- NXDN® (NXDNReflector)
- P25 (P25Reflector)
- POCSAG (DAPNET)
- APRS® messaging and location data forwarding (APRS-IS)

Supports [cross modes](#)* (example: talk with your D-STAR® transceiver on DMR, and with your DMR transceiver on D-STAR® networks).

So what is it?

The openSPOT4 Pro is a battery powered, portable, standalone digital radio internet gateway (hotspot) designed mainly for amateur radio use. You can talk with others on digital radio networks by using an openSPOT4 Pro, Wi-Fi internet access, and your digital transceiver.

Think of it like IRLP (internet radio linking project), without the repeater. Here is a link to the product if you want more information. <https://www.sharkrf.com/products/openspot4/>

Shark makes other products to that do similar things as well.

Hope to see each of you at the meeting, 73

Greg

K9ALC

THE EC SHACK

Gary-W9GNR



There I was, creating a newsletter when everything went upside down

YL - KD9SZJ - Paula



-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
February 3rd	MC ARC Meeting at the EOC, 7pm
February 21st	VE Testing at the EOC 7pm
February 22 nd thru 23rd	AUXCOMM training
March 4 th	Storm Spotter Training

SPECIAL EVENTS

February 15 th thru 16 th	George Washington B'day 1500z-1600z 7.042 7.242 14.042 14.242
February 15 th thru 17 th	Ice Station W0JH 1600z-2300z 3.860 7.260 14.260 21.360
February 16 th thru 18 th	White House Communication Agency 0000z-0000z 3.875 7.275 14.250 28.550

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	Tim Bailey	KD9PSR	kd9psr@gmail.com
Vice President	Dale Bloomer	N9OLC	dbloo42927@aol.net
Secretary	Don Billey	W9BLY	don.billey@gmail.com
Treasurer	Paula Dixon	KD0SJZ	pdixon46001@yahoo.com
Activities	Aiden Paul	KE9APA	azac20@comcast.net
Trustee	Doug Rose	N9DR	n9dr@arrl.net
Technical Committee Chair	Greg Hunt	K9ALC	RWilco.85@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Gary Sherman	W9GNR	w9gnr@arrl.com

Meetings are at the Madison County EOC
200 N Delaware Street
Anderson, IN 46016

HAMFESTS

Hendricks County Hamfest, ARRL Indiana Section Convention

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/08/2025

Start Date: 02/08/2025

End Date: 02/08/2025

Location: Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds & Conference Center

1900 E. Main St.

Danville, IN 46122

Website: <http://www.n9hc.org>

Sponsor: Hendricks County Amateur Radio Society

Type: ARRL Convention

Talk-In: 147.015 PL 88.5

Public Contact: John Farmer , N9CQ

4715 Mimosa Dr.

Phone: 317-308-0870

Email: Hamfest@n9hc.org

Dugger Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/22/2025

Start Date: 02/22/2025

End Date: 02/22/2025

Location: Dugger Community Building

840 Hicum St.

Dugger, IN 47848

Sponsor: Dugger Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.775 136.5

Public Contact: Clay Boston , KD9CVE

6735 W. State Road 154 Sullivan, IN 47882

Phone: 812-564-8916

Email: boscoguns@yahoo.com

LaPorte Cabin Fever Hamfest

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

02/22/2025

Start Date: 02/22/2025

End Date: 02/22/2025

Location: LaPorte County Fairgrounds

2581 State Road 2 West

LaPorte , IN

Website: <http://www.lpcarc.org>

Sponsor: LaPorte County Amateur Radio Club

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.970

Public Contact: Rich Oberle , KC9DJP

1978 E 500 S LaPorte, IN 46350

Phone: 219-448-0090

Email: cabinfeverhamfest@gmail.com