



Madison County Amateur Radio Club



April 2025



In this Issue:

President's Message - Vice-President Message - Officers meeting from March - Minutes from March
Technical Committee - YL Paula-KD9SZJ - FOR SALE - Events - Contact Info - Hamfests

From the President

Some have complained that the repeaters have seen a decline in activity, with some people reporting that they're "dead" or at least very quiet. I would encourage you to key up the repeater and throw out your call sign at different times of the day. Mornings and late afternoons while many are commuting to and from work are good times to get on the air. When you announce your call sign and say that you're monitoring, there is a good chance that someone is going to respond. The best way for us to increase the activity of the repeaters is for us to get on the air. We are fortunate to have four repeaters in our county and we should be taking advantage of them. Let's make amateur radio great again!

73

Tim

KD9PSR

Vice-President Message

Three months down, it has been a fast three months for Ham radio in Madison County, the club meetings have been well attended. Now we have to look forward to the outreaches the first one being Run the white river and after that is Pendleton June jamboree. And as it's been the Hams in this county have stepped up.

Dale

N9OLC



Madison County Amateur Radio Club

200 North Delaware Street, Anderson IN Madison County EMA EOC
Monthly Officers' Meeting –March 3 2025

AGENDA

- Call to order 6:30 pm
- Secretary report W9BLY - Nothing new - no correspondence
- Treasurer report attached KD9SZJ ...
- Activity report KE9APA - NO Open House... dismissed... ICEM NCI Hamfest...
 - Peru Hamfest Graham April 26
 - Workday - March 8
 - POTA - March 24
- Trustee report - Repeaters working well... there is a Columbus Hamfest April 5th...
 - Clay County (Brazil) Hamfest March 22nd
 - Indy Radio Club = March 15 - 1 day review followed by Tech testing
 - Red Cross Training Center... Georgetown Road, Indy
- Tech committee report - Tasked Jeff Stewart on headsets... pricing/styles ready to make a presentation.
 - 2 emails from state coordinator for ARRL - looking for operators for Indy 500 Mini-Marathon
 - Contact Matthew W9SOX W9SOX@QSL.Net
 - Hancock County - Inaugural half-marathon - June 7
 - White River Run - June 14 (Second Saturday)
- Old Business -
 - Headsets
 - Flash the windows machines in radio room
- New business
 - Looking at setting up at various city events in Anderson (Jeeps on Meridian) Check with city - see what kind of permit/authorization we could get.
 - POTA Activation March 29th... \$30 fee for special Event...
 - 2 weeks ago - project lifesaver training - All passed - 10 added to team
 - Possibly set up a fox hunt... talked to Greg K9ALC about doing a fox hunt... one of the issues is tracking antennas ... Suggestion to have an antenna session to make them so everyone can have their own antenna and radio
 - Meeting adjourned to Club Meeting - Don Billey W9BLY



Madison County Amateur Radio Club

200 North Delaware Street, Anderson IN Madison County EMA EOC

Monthly Meeting – March 3, 2024

Meeting Minutes

- Call to Order 7:00 pm - President Tim Bailey
- Pledge of Allegiance to the flag
- Questions regarding minutes of officer meeting/treasurer's report - No questions - approved as sent
- Treasurer report
 - Beginning Balance - \$ 2775.17
 - Deposit - \$ 300.00
 - Kenny's Jacket \$ 48.15
 - Return Statement Fee \$ 7.00
 - Current Balance - \$ 3020.02
 -
 - REPEATER FUND
 - Beginning Balance - \$ 1214.11
 - Deposit (Donut Fund) \$ 18.50
 - Ending Balance - \$ 1232.61
 - Motion to accept -Charie (KD9RZG) second Gary (W9GNR)
- Attendance 28 - Including 1 guest

Gary Sherman	W9GNR		Mike Cook	KC9DJU
Jean Sherman	EMA		Dennis Owen	W9DO
Charlie Dixon	KD9RZG		Ike Jones	N9IKE
Paula Dixon	KD9SZJ		Tony Poitras	KD9PZR
Don Billey	W9BLY		Ferrin Nice	N9VZL
Tim Bailey	KD9PSR		Jeff Dyer	K9DYR
Aiden Paul	KE9APA		Andrew Paul	KE9CBI
Dale Bloomer	N9OLC		Harry Burkart	WA9RCY
Jeff Stewart	AK9JS		Lynn Edens	K9RLE
Greg Hunt	K9ALC		Walt Hestand	KD9VVK
Kenny Olvey	WA9QEK		Rick Wisely	W9CGA
Mark Mace	W9MWM		Doug Rose	N9DR

Gary Brower	KE9AMG		Dave Sargeant	KE9XF
Frank Dick	WA9JWL		Tom Ecker	KA9SYP

- Visitors: (Jean Sherman)

VP Report - Nets are running well...

Annual Club Dues - Pay your dues now... Paula is here - want to be sure we get current...

Tip jar - added \$300 to deposits last year. All of that factors into what we want to do as a club

Workday on Saturday - Dale Bloomer N9OLC - Objectives - MCU2 has been decommissioned... Everything needs to be inventoried... sold or salvaged... rack in back of building... general cleanup. On MCU2 - unless clubs have interest... custom made by Dale Bales... oak from his family trees...

Calendar Review - Important dates.

Project Lifesaver - Added 10 to the team

Storm Spotter training - IN PERSON TRAINING CANCELED - Online Training Available - Must pre-register

March 8 - Workday at EOC - 10:30am Cleanout of cabinets - decommission MCU2...

March 29 - POTA

May 3 - Indiana QSO and POTA

White River Run is the 14th of June

Indy Mini-Marathon - May 3 - Looking for communicators

Invited to be communicators for an event on the 7th of June... at mini-marathon - Hancock County

Tape Measure Antenna... Jeff Stewart AK9JS presentation... \$10 tape measure antenna... Basic instruction and YouTube video of making the antenna. Directional, good for fox hunting. Made from a lot of salvage material as well.

Used that and an HT for a foxhunt. Very successful

Mike Cook KC9DJU - Wolf River Coil Antenna... Demonstration of different lengths of legs/elements... portable and easy to assemble.

Jean Sherman - came across some resistors that her father had brought home from GM years ago... heavy duty

Doug Rose N9DR- extra programs from Orlando Hamfest.

Greg Hunt N9ALC - Pricing on headsets... to be used in the ECC and in the field for field day...

Jeff Stewart AK9JS... presented a list of recommended headsets - a variety of prices... tech committee to study and make a recommendation for purchase. Also possibly will check at Dayton HamVention

Greg Hunt K9-ALC- Demonstrated a micro-device... AI into Ham Radio... SDR systems... sample of SDR in an Altoid tin... there is a SDR in the box... range of about 3 miles... runs on 915Mhz... run off a board loaded with software, driven by a lithium battery. Software is free (download) telemetry system that operates on packet radio... similar to meshtastic net...

If you want to help with outreach - see Aiden Paul KE9APA, Dale Bloomer N9OLC, or Don Billey W9BLY

April 5 - Columbus Hamfest.

Saturday, April 5, 8am – noon

Admission: \$5.00

Location:

North High School Cafeteria

1400 25th Street

Columbus, IN 47201

Aiden KE9APA - overview of website... necessary information is there... several pages are currently still under construction. Once website is complete focus will turn to social media

Motion to Adjourn... Jeff Stewart (AK9JS)- Second by Dave Sargeant (KE9XF)

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Billey

W9BLY

Tech Committee Report: April 2025

Understanding Directional vs. Omnidirectional Ham Radio Antennas

As the world of amateur radio continues to expand, the choice of antennas plays a critical role in establishing clear and reliable communications. Among the various options available, we often hear the terms "directional" and "omnidirectional" antennas. Understanding the differences between these two types can help operators make informed decisions about their setups.

What Are Directional Antennas?

Directional antennas are designed to focus the radio signal in a specific direction. This focus allows for effective communication over longer distances in a chosen azimuth, making them ideal for point-to-point communication. Common types of directional antennas include Yagi, Log-Periodic, and Quad antennas.

Advantages of Directional Antennas:

- 1. Increased Range:** By concentrating the radio waves in one direction, operators can establish connections over greater distances.
- 2. Reduced Noise and Interference:** With a narrower reception pattern, directional antennas often reject signals coming from unwanted directions, providing clearer audio and less static.
- 3. Signal Gain:** Directional antennas can provide a significant gain allowing operators to transmit and receive signals much more effectively than with their omnidirectional counterparts.

Disadvantages of Directional Antennas:

- 1. Limited Coverage Area:** Since they are focused in a single direction, users must frequently adjust their antenna position to communicate with stations outside that narrow beam.
- 2. Complex Installation:** Many directional antennas require more complex mounting and alignment systems for optimal performance.

What Are Omnidirectional Antennas?

In contrast, omnidirectional antennas are designed to radiate signals uniformly in all horizontal directions. This characteristic makes them particularly useful for local communications, broadcasting across wide areas without needing to aim the antenna. Common examples include vertical dipole antennas and ground-plane antennas.

Advantages of Omnidirectional Antennas:

- 1. Ease of Use:** Operators can communicate in any direction without needing to adjust the antenna, making them great for casual chats and emergency communications.
- 2. Simplified Setup:** Many omnidirectional antennas are simpler to install and require less maintenance over time.
- 3. Wider Coverage:** Ideal for close-range communication, these antennas can pick up signals from multiple directions simultaneously.

Disadvantages of Omnidirectional Antennas:

- 1. Reduced Gain:** Typically, omnidirectional antennas have lower signal gain compared to their directional counterparts, which can limit their effective range.
- 2. Increased Noise:** Because they receive signals from all directions, omnidirectional antennas can pick up a lot of ambient noise and interference, which may affect audio quality.

Which One Should You Choose?

The choice between a directional and an omnidirectional antenna ultimately depends on your specific needs and operating style. If you plan to operate as a DX (distance) station, particularly aiming for contacts over vast distances, a directional antenna will likely serve you best. On the other hand, if you are more focused on local communications, emergency preparedness or using a low power radio to key a repeater, the convenience and coverage of an

omnidirectional antenna may be the way to go. Keep in mind; a $\frac{5}{8}$, $\frac{1}{2}$ wave antenna will perform better than a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave.

Conclusion

In the dynamic field of ham radio, understanding the strengths and weaknesses of different antenna types is vital for maximizing communication capabilities. Whether you prefer the focused clarity of directional antennas or the comprehensive coverage of omnidirectional ones, both play crucial roles in the amateur radio landscape. By assessing your own needs, you can choose the right antenna that will enhance your ham radio experience.

Until next month, 73

Greg K9ALC

YL - KD9SZJ - Paula

Ham Etiquette

To ensure a positive and enjoyable experience for all ham radio operators, it's crucial to follow a few simple guidelines, including being polite, listening before speaking, using clear language, and respecting others on the airwaves.

General Principles:

Be Polite and Considerate: Always use respectful language and avoid rude or abusive language.

- **Listen Before Speaking:** Before transmitting, listen to make sure the frequency is clear and there isn't an ongoing conversation.
- **Speak Clearly and Slowly:** Ensure your transmissions are easy to understand, especially when giving your call sign.
- **Keep Messages Brief and to the Point:** Avoid lengthy or rambling transmissions.
- **Use Plain English:** Avoid jargon or obscure abbreviations unless necessary.
- **Identify Yourself:** Always clearly state your call sign at the beginning and end of your transmissions.
- **Acknowledge Receipt of Messages:** Respond to transmissions and acknowledge that you have received the message.
- **Respect Others:** Don't interrupt ongoing conversations unless it's an emergency.
- **Promote Friendship and Goodwill:** Ham radio is a social hobby, so make an effort to connect with other operators.
- **Set a Good Example:** As a ham radio operator, you are a representative of the hobby, so act accordingly.
- **Be Tolerant of Others:** Understand that not everyone has the same level of experience or expertise.
- **Operate Responsibly:** Adhere to FCC regulations and guidelines.
- **Make sure you have finished talking before you un-key the mike**

Specific Scenarios:

Calling CQ: When calling CQ (meaning "seeking contact"), ensure the frequency is clear and state your call sign and location.

Working a Repeater: When using a repeater, listen for a while before transmitting, and avoid using the term "CQ".

Making a First Contact: Start with the basics: your name, location, the signal report, and a brief summary of your station.

Emergency Situations: Emergencies always take precedence, and normal conversations should give way to whoever is transmitting emergency details.

Using Q-codes: Q-codes are Morse code shorthands that have their place when voice communications are marginal.

-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
April 1st	EMA COMMS Meeting at the EOC, 7pm
April 7 th	MCARC Meeting at the EOC, 7pm
April 15th	VE Testing at the EOC 7pm
SPECIAL EVENTS	
April 1 st - 6 th	Sun 'n Fun 1300z-2200zz 7.40 14.40 18.93 28.40
April 11 th - 13 th	National Library 1600z - 1600z 7.074 7.250 14.074 14.250
April 12 th	Midway Museum 1600z - 2300z 7.250 14.320 14.070PSK31
April 12 th - 13 th	Activate Texas St Parks 0800z - 2000z 28.350
April 19 th - 20 th	World Amateur Radio Day 1300z - 2359z 14.074 28.425
April 26 th	Marconi Day 1300z - 2030z 7.245 14.246 21.250 28.340

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	Gerald Hollon	K9GDH	gdhollon@comcast.net
Activities	Greg Hunt	K9ALC	RWilco.85@gmail.com
Trustee	Doug Rose	N9DR	n9dr@arrl.net
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

HAMFESTS

04/05/2025 - Columbus Amateur Radio Club Hamfest

Location: Columbus, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Columbus Amateur Radio Club

Website: <http://carcnet.net>

04/26/2025 - North Central Indiana Hamfest

Location: Peru, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Cass County, Miami County, Kokomo County, Grant County Clubs

Website: <http://ncihamfest.com>