



Madison County Amateur Radio Club

QSO

www.w9vcf.org



AUGUST 2025

The July meeting will be held August 4, 2025



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From the President

UNITY IS A MUST

Unity is crucial for the success and longevity of any group, including ham radio clubs. A strong sense of unity can create a welcoming and engaging environment, encouraging participation and the growth of the hobby.

Here are a couple of suggestions on how you can promote unity within our club. First, actively welcome newcomers, regardless of their experience level or background. Make an effort to introduce yourself and include guests and new members in our conversations. Secondly, recognize and value the various interests within amateur radio. Not all hams are interested in the same modes, bands, or activities. Show your support of the club by participating in a variety of activities like HF contesting, nets, POTA, and outreach.

This approach can help prevent cliques and ensure that all members feel their contributions are valued. We want to avoid being territorial or thinking that because we have been here longer than others, we should be given certain positions or titles. It is imperative that we remain an inclusive group. One of the quickest ways to destroy any organization is to allow negativity and complaining to be acceptable conversations.

I've heard it said, "If we are complaining to anyone who is not able to fix our grievances, then we are wasting our time and we are causing division." Each of us should do our part to cultivate a more unified and supportive environment, fostering a love for the hobby and ensuring its continued growth and vitality.

We have a terrific club. Let's stay positive. Let's do our part to make amateur radio great again!

Tim

KD9PSR



Madison County Amateur Radio Club



Vice-President Message

Well August is upon us and the net is running well. The time change is 9:00pm. if you're ok with it or if you're not happy with 8:00 pm let us know.

We have an antenna class this month for building an antenna for the September fox hunt. More information at the club meeting. We had eleven signed up for the extra class this winter. We will be using ARRL extra book. The class will be broke down to the first class will be 1 1/2 hours then two weeks latter if you have any questions during this time emails will be provided to ask your questions, the second class will be 1 1/2 hours will be answered from emails or in class. The third class will be 1 1/2 hours same format. We will be using W4EEY on you tube so there is space available if you want to join us.

73 Dale



Madison County Amateur Radio Club

200 North Delaware Street, Anderson IN 46016 Madison County EMA

Minutes from the July 7, 2025 monthly club meeting

Registered Members - 25 (Dues Current)

Gary Sherman - W9GNR
Dewey Rushin - N9DEW
Andrew Paul - KE9CBI
Mike Cook - KC9DJU
Jeff Stewart - AK9JS
Aiden Paul - KE9APA
Greg Hunt - K9ALC
Rick Wiseley - W9CGA
Charlie Dixon - KD9RZG

Jay Hollingsworth - KE9DJN
Jeff Dyer - K9DYR
Paula Dixon - KD9SZJ
Dennis Owen - N9DO
David Sargeant - KE9XF
Dale Bloomer - N9OLC
Walter Hestand - KD9VVK
Harry Burkart - WA9RCY
Scott Mercer - KE9BCZ

Ferrin Nice - N9VZL
Anthony Poitras - KD9PZR
Don Billey - W9BLY
Lynn Edens - K9RLE
Frank Dick - WA9JWL
Tim Bailey - KD9PSR
Ike Jones - N9IKE

Guests - Jean Sherman (FST 697), Kenny Olvey (WA9QEK), Don Kirk (WD8DSB), Jonathan Campbell (W2ZV)

Call to Order - 19:00 - Tim (KD9PSR)

Pledge of Allegiance

Secretary Report - Refer to Minutes of last meeting (in the newsletter) - no questions, motion to approve by Gary (W9GNR) Second by Mike Cook (KC9DJU) - Approved

Applications for membership from William Davisson and Jay Hollingsworth

Treasurer Report - Paula (KD9SZJ)

General Fund

Previous Balance	\$ 2832.62
Deposit	\$ 54.00
Current Balance	\$ 2886.62

Repeater Fund

Previous Balance	\$ 1324.61
Deposit	\$ 46.00
Current balance	\$ 1370.61

Motion to approve Dale (N9OLC) Second by Charlie (KD9RZG)

Vice President Report - Dale (N9OLC)

Don Kirk (Guest - WD8DSB) - Needs HAM operator to operate a SAG wagon... Aug 31st - 8a-4p. Tandem Bicycle Event over Labor Day Weekend... need SAG wagon for support vehicle, SAG wagon... hold a tandem and two riders. Must have 2M HAM...

John Cambell -(Guest - W2ZV) LDS - ECI District... Church has a bishop storehouse in Indy - food clothing shelter, emergency operations things... Have been built up with HAM radios supporting when weather is bad or when things go wrong. Good capacity of volunteers, not many HAMS on NE side of Indy. Now are going to support/sponsor HAM activity in this area... will be here in Aug 30 and Spet 6... "we want to offer services to clubs and to EMA as volunteers..." would like to present to their members as they are trained. Looking to get members excited about HAM radio. Saturday net weekly... practice. REFERRED TO EMA FOR VOLUNTEERING

Eyeball QSO Cards - available to handout at events and POTAs.

Talked to Greg Hunt (K9ALC) about holding an Extra Class for those seeking Extra License... Proposed format... every two weeks... Q&A not straight textbook teaching... Recommend W4EEY as video master. On your own to study, Q&A at the end.

EXTRA CLASS Sign-up

Gary Sherman - W9GNR	Andrew Paul - KE9CBI
Mike Cook - KC9DJU	Scott Mercer - KE9BCZ
Paula Dixon - KD9SZJ	Walter Hestand - KD9VVK
Anthony Poitras - KD9PZR	Dewey Rushin - N9DEW
Jay Hollingsworth - KE9DJN	Dale Bloomer - N9OLC
Don Billey - W9BLY	

Publications Report - Gary (W9GNR) - Newsletter was sent out

Activities Report - Aiden (KE9APA) - Field day was success... 65-70 contacts....

HF Outing at Shadyside near Aqua Gardens on the 12th... near Tennis Courts.
Tech class planned for Aug 23 & 30... read & Q&A

New Members - Jay Hollingsworth (KE9DJN), William Davisson (KE9AYZ)

Motion to Approve: Dale (N9OLC), Second by Gary (W9GNR) Motion Approved

Trustee - Doug Rose - No Report - Out of town

Tech Committee - Greg Hunt

Antenna Build on Aug 23rd after tech class

Foxhunt Sept 6 - Shadyside - 11am - after breakfast...

Issues with Tri-Bander beam

Has been some issues with coax getting wrapped around the rotator..

Old Business

Constitution and Bylaws Change

Not ready to present to the club. Dennis is bringing additional changes while it is being edited.

Suggestion for a change in the proposed constitution to clarify that it is the Board of Directors not the general club membership that will levy the dues on the membership.

Question about pro-rated membership dues...

Laptops for Logging/New Software

New Business

HF Outing July 12 Shadyside

Hamfest in Auburn

Hamfest at Jay County - July 26

4H Fair - Equipment to be taken - Signup sheet passed

Sign-Up for 4H Fair:

Monday - Jay Hollingsworth

Tuesday - Scott Mercer

Wednesday - _____

Thursday - Scott Mercer, Gary Sherman

Friday - Charlie Dixon, Paula Dixon, Gary Sherman

Project Lifesaver will be at the same table

Box of MCARC Patches... see Tim afterward to get a patch

Updates to bylaws and constitution tabled until it is properly worded and solidified

Most importantly - failure to pay dues.

Elwood Glass Festival coming up

Antenna building class

Pendleton Safety Day

Need to clean up the corner of the barn... box of antennas, offer them or scrap- dipoles

PRESENTATION - Greg Hunt (K9ALC) - Taking notes and will get with some folks and address the triband and get with Jeff to make a parts list for the antenna build.

Dennis Owen (N9DO) - trying to figure out how to set up a second antenna... with the health department parking their vehicles out there, there is really not enough room to set up an end-fed. Recommends that we set up a vertical near the end of the building.

Lynn (K9RLE) - keep in mind that if it's not county property, maintenance will not assist us any longer. Have to be cognizant of the Health Department. Anything attached to the building must be approved by the commissioners.

Jeff Dyer (K9DYR) - Could use the corner fence posts as anchors... could be semi-portable.

Tim (KD9PSR) - box of wire antennas in the barn... going to sell them at the next meeting. Will have them available next month.

4H fair - taking 991 and ATOS Antenna... present so people know they can become involved... the ease of becoming an operator. Achievable and fun... be presenting in a positive way.

Greg Hunt (K9ALC) - Antenna presentation.

Motion to adjourn by Greg (K9ALC) Second by Paula (KD9SZJ)

Adjourned at 19:48

Tech Committee Report: August 2025

Advances in Automated Propagation Tools for Ham Radio.

Automated Propagation Tools (APTs), are transforming how ham radio operators predict and adapt to dynamic radio wave propagation conditions. Utilizing some or all of these resources can give better information on when, where and what frequency to tune into for more contacts. Some examples of improvements:

Enhancing Communication Reliability and Planning

APTs leverage real-time data, advanced algorithms, and machine learning to forecast ionospheric behavior, solar activity, and weather influences on radio signals. This empowers operators to choose the best frequencies, schedule transmissions during optimal windows, and significantly improve communication success rates—vital during emergency operations, contests, or long-distance DX contacts.

Popular examples of Propagation Prediction Tools

1. **VOACAP Online and VOACAP Software:**** Developed by the Voice of America, VOACAP provides detailed propagation predictions based on current solar and geomagnetic data. Operators can access it at <https://www.voacap.com> to plan their band usage.
2. **Ham Radio Deluxe Propagation Panel:** An integrated feature within the popular Ham Radio Deluxe suite, this panel offers real-time propagation forecasts using indices like Kp_a. More info is available at <https://hamradiodeluxe.com>.
3. **DX-Atlas and DXHeat:** These visualization tools help operators see current propagation conditions and upcoming band openings. They can be found at <https://dxatlas.com> and <https://dxheat.com>

[DXHeat | DXCluster & DX Research Tool](https://dxheat.com)

Real-time Web DX-Cluster DXHeat offers versatile filtering of incoming DX Spots. With it's built in push algorithms, display is instant, while being optimized for low bandwidth at the same time. Rich graphical tools and HTML5 Audio & WebSDR Technology make it indispensable for serious DXers.

dxheat.com

4. **WSPRnet and QSO Map:** By analyzing real-time weak-signal reports, these platforms help users understand current propagation trends worldwide. WSPRnet can be accessed at (<https://wsprnet.org>), and QSO Map tools are available through various ham radio software providers.
5. **PropNet and Solar Data Apps:** Mobile apps providing instant alerts on propagation conditions and solar activity are increasingly popular. These can be found through app stores or via links like (<https://propnet.org>).

The latest APT solutions incorporate machine learning algorithms that analyze vast datasets to deliver highly accurate short-term predictions. Integration with SDR hardware allows real-time transceiver adjustments based on propagation forecasts. Additionally, mobile-friendly platforms like ****PropNet**** and ****Solar Data**** deliver instant alerts, helping operators stay ahead of changing conditions on the go.

In conclusion, Automated Propagation Tools are increasingly essential for the amateur radio community, providing the insights needed for more reliable and efficient communications worldwide.

The Tech Committee encourages members to explore these tools, share their experiences, and help shape future developments.

Many clubs and individual operators report improved contact rates and better planning for contests and emergencies.

Until next month, 73

Greg K9ALC

-FOR SALE-

Steve Riley, WA9CWE - wa9cwe@reagan.com , 765-425-4627 (August, 2025)

Bird Model 4331 Wattmeter Serial No. 1624 \$200

50 Ohms, RF Sampling Port, N Connectors, 1 Element of your choice (see below)

Bird Wattmeter Elements (Slugs) \$50 Each

50 W 25-60 MHz (50A)

25 W 50-125 MHz (25B)

25 W 200-500 MHz (25D)

25 W 400-1000 MHz (25E)

5 W 100-250 MHz (5C)

2.5 W 150-250 MHz

Icom IC-80AD Dual Band Digital (D-STAR) Handheld Serial No. 0501487 \$200

2 Good Batteries, Charger Wall Wart, Desk Charger, Manual

Surecom SW-102 SWR/Power/Freq Meter \$50

VHF/UHF, 125-525 Mhz, 120W, UHF Connectors, USB Charging, Manual

Astron SS-25M Switching Power Supply \$200

25 Amp, Voltage & Current Meters, New

Radiodity DB40-G GMRS Mobile \$100

40/20/5W, PL, Scan. Simplex/Repeater, Manual

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 9:00 PM - 145.390 pl 151.4 Followed by an informal ragchew on 28.465
Every Thursday	Donut Meeting 09:00 AM at the EOC, pending reserved meetings
Every Saturday	Breakfast at Anderson Grill 09:00 AM at 2038 S Scatterfield Rd, Anderson
August 4 th	MC ARC Meeting at the EOC, 7pm
August 19 th	VE Testing at the EOC 7pm
August 15 th – August 17 th	Elwood Glass Festival
August 23 rd	Antenna Build – MAY BE RELOCATED OR RESCHEDULED
August 23 rd	Tech License Class – MAY BE RELOCATEDS OR RESCHEDULED
August 24 th	Pendleton Safety Day
August 30 th	Tech License Class
SPECIAL EVENTS	
August 1 st – August 17 th	Indiana State Fair 7.240 14.240 21.300
August 1 st – August 4 th	Pro Football Hall of Fame 7.260 14.260 21.320 28.400
August 9 th	US Coast Guard Birthday 1600z-2300z 14.320 14.070

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	KD9SZJ	pdixon46001@gmail.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

08/02/2025 - [Elkhart East Hamfest](#)

Location: Elkhart, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Northern Indiana K9DEW Repeater Network

Website: <http://elkharteasthamfest.com>

08/09/2025 - [Hendricks County Tailgate Fest](#)

Location: Avon, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Ham Emergency Radio Operations

8/23/2025 - [ARANCI Hamfest](#)

Location: Winfield, IN

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: ARANCI