



Madison County Amateur Radio Club

QSO

[www.w9vcf.org](http://www.w9vcf.org)



**March 2025**

The March meeting will be held March 3, 2025



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## **From the President**

Spring is just around the corner and our club will soon be participating in some events and opportunities for us to get on the air and to connect with our community. Saturday March 29<sup>th</sup> we will have our first POTA activation for this year. We'll be meeting at Mounds Park around 11:00 am to set up and get ready to make contacts. It should be a lot of fun.

Please remember our workday at the EOC is Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. We hope to get things organized and ready for our spring and summer events.

I want to share with you a common practice that can be annoying to those who monitor our repeaters. The practice of briefly keying a microphone (hitting the PTT button) to see if a repeater responds is commonly known as kerchunking. Don't do it! Don't be a kerchunker, even though it's often a quick and convenient way of verifying that you can hit a repeater. For one, it is technically illegal. All transmissions must be identified (with rare exceptions). Just because you hear it happening and the probability of getting caught is very low doesn't make it right. However, the main reason not to key a mic without identifying yourself is that it is both bothersome and disruptive. It's just bad radio etiquette. If you want to test your connection to a repeater, take the extra second to speak your call sign into the mic. Or say "testing", followed by your call sign. Or ID and ask for a signal report, which will give you even more info than just to hear a courtesy tone. Let's all work together to make our on-air experience both positive and responsible.

Let's make amateur radio great again!

73

Tim

KD9PSR

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## **Vice-President Message**

Well February has come and gone; it was exciting what the hams did 15 hams are with project lifesaver. For those not familiar this is when a client goes missing. We are then asked to use ham radio to find them. The nets are going well and we could use more operators with Summer coming up we have lots of activities planned.

**Dale**

**N9OLC**

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**Madison County Amateur Radio Club**  
200 North Delaware Street, Anderson IN Madison County EMA EOC  
Monthly Meeting – February 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
- Treasurer report
  - Beginning Balance - \$2447.02
  - Deposit - \$367.00
  - Trailer Plates - \$31.85
  - Returned Statement Fee - \$7.00
  - Current Balance - \$2775.15
  - REPEATER FUND
  - Beginning Balance - \$ 1,174.11
  - Deposit (Donut Fund) \$40.00
  - Ending Balance - 1214.11
    - Motion to accept -
- Attendance - 26 - Including 2 guests

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
Jeff Friend	KD9TXH		Robyn Dyer	GUEST
Frank Dick	WA9JWL		Tom Ecker	KA9SYP

- Visitors: (Jean Sherman, Robyn Dyer)

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

Calendar Review - Important dates.  
Project Lifesaver - This Saturday and Next...  
Storm Spotter training - March 4 - hoping to have a display of HAM radios...  
March 8 - Workday at EOC - 10:30am Cleanout of cabinets - decommission MCU2...  
March 29 - POTA  
April 18 - Proposed Open House  
May 3 - Indiana QSO and POTA

Winter Field Day - went well... 15 operators, 75 contacts... thanks to Dennis for helping resolve a problem with the computers at the start of the day. Able to utilize a logging program. Pizzas donated throughout the day... some good food as well as the contacts.

New MEMBER - KE9CBI - Andrew Paul     Dennis Owen made motion - Mike Cook seconded.

POTA Presentation - Dale Bloomer... Want to do a Saturday HF net...  
Have suspended the Thursday night net... another net controller has volunteered to take it over... adjusting antenna problems... Net will start up again and will be a weekly net. Will start on the first of the month when he gets his antenna fixed.  
Wednesday night nets are going well... if you want to be a net controller, get in touch with Dale Bloomer.

Dale loves POTA... greatest thing since sliced bread... how many parks are eligible to be counted? 65,500 parks around the world... Iran has 70, Iraq has 7, USA, Australia, UK 27 areas within an hour drive of Anderson that qualify as POTA parks FT8, CC, SSB pota.app Parks on the air, summits on the air, lighthouses on the air

Discussion about headsets - motion to get three headsets...  
Motion to replace some computers in the ECC...

If no one has objections... Dennis will nuke the machines and reload Windows 10...

Aiden - Explain progress with web page... hosting on temporary solution... Hosting is \$120/year...  
Motion to approve cost by Jeff Stewart     Second by Paula Dixon

Plan to look at the computers and headsets... before purchases are made - will bring to the body.

Ike - Received 2 calls from non-hams... wanted to know who Tom Cole is... Tom is trying to start a club with elementary/jr high kids... hasn't put out a call for assistance... assuming he is doing a technician class... he has apparently had a very good response...

Tonight - show and tell... Tim - Uniden SDS-100... not a ham radio... a scanner that does 800 MHz and trunking system (P25 phases I and II) it has a nice computer program - Sentinel - upgrades and programming as needed... as public safety is updated, scanner is updated very easily... also does DMR Tier III, Motorola, LTR, has cradle, does aircraft and railroad...

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

Proposed Open House - April 18 - Ham Radio Recognition Day - (Good Friday)

Motion to Adjourn... Charlie Dixon - Second by Gary Sherman

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Billey  
W9BLY

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## Tech Committee Report: MARCH 2025

### The Future of the Airwaves

As amateur radio evolves, the community is buzzing with excitement. Artificial intelligence is beginning to creep into the mix, with experimental projects using AI to predict propagation conditions or automate signal identification. Meanwhile, 5G-inspired antenna designs promise to shrink equipment sizes even further without sacrificing performance.

For a hobby rooted in experimentation, these advancements feel like a natural progression. “Ham radio has always been about pushing boundaries, the tech might be new, but the spirit’s the same—connecting people, solving problems, and exploring what’s possible.”

With tools that fit in a pocket and signals that span the globe, amateur radio is proving it’s not just surviving in the digital age—it’s thriving. Whether you’re a tinkerer, a communicator, or a space enthusiast, the airwaves are calling, louder and clearer than ever.

Be on the lookout for small transmission devices at the next meeting.

73

Greg K9ALC

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## **YL - KD9SZJ - Paula**

Women account for only 15% of ham operators dominated by men. This is not only a hobby for most but can be an emergency way of communication. It is a way for you to serve your community.

It is not hard to get your license, yes, you have to study and take a test. There are many Youtube videos that can help you study. One is W4EEY. Excellent video for studying. He will take you through the book chapter by chapter and then go over the questions that will be on the test. The technical test comprises 35 questions.

So don't be intimidated by the test, just put some time into the studying part and know the correct answers. Focus on the correct answers and not the incorrect answers. This will be a great help for you to recognize the right answer. Only you can do it, no one else can do it for you. If you don't pass the first time, there is always another time to try again. Give it a try and you won't be disappointed.

73,

KD9SZJ



## **-FOR SALE-**

**HAVE AN HAM RELATED ITEM FOR SALE? ADVERTISE HERE!! E-MAIL**  
**[w9vcf.mcarc@gmail.com](mailto: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
March 3rd	MC ARC Meeting at the EOC, 7pm
March 8th	Work Day at EOC 10am
March 18th	VE Testing at the EOC 7pm
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	POTA activation Mounds Park 10am
SPECIAL EVENTS	
March 14 <sup>th</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup>	Pi Day 1800z-0100z 14.074 18.124 21.074 24.980
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Cherry Blossom Event 1400z-2000z 7.225 14.240

## 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](mailto: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

Spring Hamfest

HAMFEST/CONVENTION

03/22/2025

Start Date: 03/22/2025

End Date: 03/22/2025

Location: Clay County 4-H Fairgrounds

6550 North State Road 59

Brazil, IN 47834

Website: [https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest\\_2025.pdf](https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest_2025.pdf)

Sponsor: Wabash Valley ARA, Inc.

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Talk-In: 146.685 pl 151.4

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