

# Anderson Repeater Club, Inc.

January, 2026

Our regular meeting will be Tuesday, January 6, 7PM at the EOC Training Room. Please plan to attend. We'll have a **technical session** on Tone Coding methods, and a **raffle of a Baofeng UV-17R Plus dual band analog 5 watt handheld**. Bring along a couple dollars to get \$1 tickets for the drawing.

One order of business for this meeting (our Annual meeting per the By-Laws) is to **nominate and elect Club Officers for 2026**. Nominations were opened at the November meeting and only 1 nomination was offered, so we need to complete nominations for all positions and conduct our election.

We are accepting **dues contributions** for 2026. 24 members have already submitted dues (see the web site for an up-to-date listing). Bring your **\$20** to the meeting or send it to: Anderson Repeater Club, PO Box 615, Anderson, IN 45015. Our Treasurer checks it frequently, so your check should be cashed promptly. New member dues structure is listed on the membership application for those who are joining for the first time. Prior members pay the \$20 even if you haven't been a member for a while. By the way, our dues have not changed since we first founded the Club.

Our **VE Team** conducted 12 test sessions in 2025 and were successful in providing 20 candidates with 9 new licenses and 7 license upgrades. Thanks to our VE Team: K9ALC, WA9CWE, W9DO, K9DYR, W9EEL, N9IKE, AK9JS, WA9JWL, K9LBB, KD9TXH, K9TZJ, N9VZL. If you would like to make an additional contribution to our hobby consider becoming a VE certified by the ARRL. The test material and on-line test is available at the ARRL web site. As additional information our VEC, the ARRL, requires all VE Test submissions to be submitted electronically (which we do) and the turnaround time is typically "the same day". This is a great improvement from when we mailed in all the paperwork and it took usually 2 weeks for it all to happen. By the way, we have had a VE team for 15 years having held 174 test sessions serving 472 candidates resulting in 252 new licenses and 168 upgrades.

In reviewing old meeting minutes I ran across an issue that I know exists, but most members do not. At the July 2008 meeting it was voted upon and approved: "After discussion about long time members who become inactive and have to move to long term care facilities we decided that it was appropriate and we have precedent to allow for a "Life Membership" for these members. This provides for continued mailings of the Newsletter and recognition of their longtime support of the Club." This has been extended to WB9BSU and K9IND in the past. We need to remember this as it is not currently in our By-Laws document, but is worthy of continuation. Life members continue on the membership role but do not pay dues any longer.

Another customary activity of the club is that we send a "memorial contribution" of \$25 for club members or their immediate family members upon death to their preferred charity. Fortunately, we haven't had to do that for a while, but the Treasurer automatically does that when notified.

**More trivia:** Our club call, W9OBH, was issued in March, 2009. We went to full time PL on the .82 repeater in September, 2012. It was moved from the Bank Building site to the EOC tower in December, 2016, as was the 223.860 repeater (had been in Pendleton). The 443.350 repeater with full time PL in May, 2013. It moved to the Fire Training Center tower in March, 2017 (having been at WLHN/WGNR, Linwood, Pendleton, the paint shop). The 147.09 repeater moved to the Fire Training Center tower in March, 2017.

**Weather station issue** – In November, 2025, the weather station at the EOC was reported as functioning only partially and was being held together with wire ties. The weather station that had been at Exit 219 has been removed and is damaged/non-functional with missing parts. Both of these stations have been traditionally supported by the club. From January 2005 to March, 2021 we had bought/replaced weather stations 5 times and spent \$7,038 of which \$2,640 was reimbursed (therefore \$4,398 total expense). During that time period there were limited other resources for getting accurate and timely weather information for our EMA Warning Division to depend upon. Since March, 2021 we have not spent anything. The question now is should the club spend treasury to replace the EOC weather station (approximately \$1500) or utilize our treasury on traditional communications needs? Are there readily available weather reporting resources now available? We need to discuss this at the meeting.

I'm sorry to report that Herald Hitchcock, WB9ZBH, became a **Silent Key** in November, 2025. Harold was a club member 1978-1979, but hasn't been active in recent years with us.

You should have received information on the 2026 **Storm Spotter training** scheduled for Tuesday, March 10, 6-8PM. This is the Tuesday after our regular March meeting, so it won't fall on the same evening as it has in past years. Please plan to attend and invite all your friends and family. Same location as before, Anderson University (see our web site for a map).

**The repeaters** are working well, although there isn't a great deal of activity this time of the year. .82 sounds good and is working well. The .09 IRLP repeater is doing well, in fact it's Christmas Eve and I'm listening to a station in Australia talking to a guy in Colorado. If you haven't taken the opportunity to use IRLP give it a try. There are several stations throughout the country that monitor the 9200 reflector pretty much full time. The 223.86 repeater is working well, again with minimum activity. It had a hick-up back in early December and Lynn and I shut it down for a week, but it seems to be fine now. Also, the 443.350 repeater is doing fine with activity on Sunday evenings after the .82 test and during StormNets. Feel free to try it out too.

We may think that the **CW mode** of operation is dying in the amateur hobby. There is an organization called the **Straight Key Century Club** that encourages CW operation using a straight key, bug or cootie key (keyers are not allowed) and focuses upon learning CW and slow speed (less than 20 WPM). There are currently over 30,000 members (it's free to join) and in 2025 1,196 new members were added and in 2024, 3,243 new members. That would seem to indicate that CW isn't going away, even as digital modes are on the rise. There are any number of ways to learn Morse Code, with phone and computer apps available. If you are looking for another way to enjoy the hobby you might consider it. Even with 5 watt QRP you can work the country about any time. (WA9CWE, SKCC #28559). Remember too, that most of the modern transceivers can be turned down to 5 watts or less and you have the benefit of a really good receiver.

As part of our continuing opportunity to learn about our members both old and new, **Tim Bailey, KD9PSR** is featured:

"Christmas 1973 is one that I'll never forget. It was the year that my dad gave me a Midland 13-777B handheld CB radio. It was five watts and it had six crystal-controlled channels. That was my introduction into two-way radios. The following spring, I put up a ground plane antenna on a twenty-foot pole and attached it to the HT. It worked well, but I was limited to only six channels. I quickly started saving my money to purchase a 23-channel base station. I bought a Regency Imperial SSB (tube) base station. I loved that radio. Well, a few years later a friend of mine earned his ham radio license. I was fascinated with the idea of talking to people around the world, however I was intimidated by the thought of learning Morse Code, so I directed my interest in other things. Fast-forward fifty-years, when another friend of mine became a licensed ham. His enthusiasm for amateur radio was contagious, and I found myself once again captivated with ham radio and the many possibilities it offered. I soon became immersed in studying to get my tech license. A few weeks later I took the test, and I received my call sign on June 20, 2020. The following year I advanced to my General license.

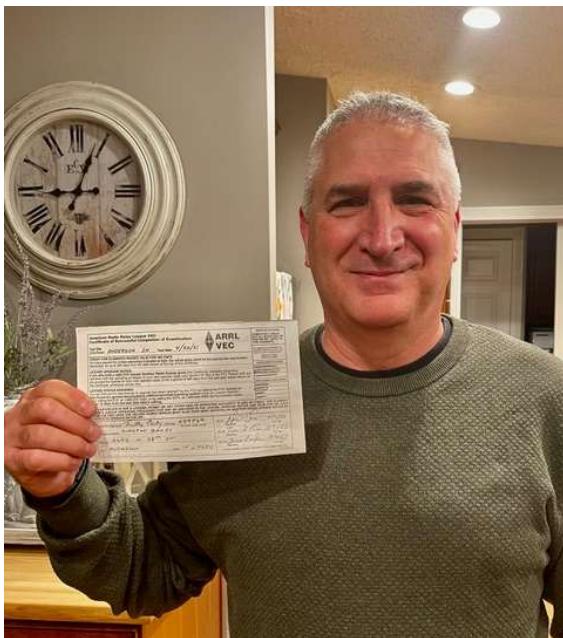
My first radio was a handheld, Yaesu FT-60, which is still one of my favorites. Then I acquired a mobile, which was a Yaesu FTM-300. I have made several purchases since then. My wife routinely asks, "How many radios do you need?" My reply is always, "I just need one more." One of my greatest fears is that when I die, my wife will sell my radios for what I told her I paid for them.

I find myself spending a lot of time on my Icom 7610. It satisfies my life-long desire to make contacts around the world. I also enjoy DMR, which took some effort to wrap my head around the concept of using a raspberry pie to make the whole DMR thing work.

Belonging to our clubs has been a tremendous resource by fostering a strong sense of community, allowing me to meet like-minded individuals, build friendships, and collaborate on projects. Regular meetings and outreach events provide opportunities for continuous interaction and the exchange of ideas. I have learned a great deal from attending breakfast at the Grill (I call it ham and eggs), along with the Thursday morning gatherings. It is in these informal settings that I have "Elmers" who have offered guidance on everything from equipment selection to operating techniques, antenna building, and troubleshooting.

The great thing about ham radio is it allows me to talk across town, across the country and across continents. There are so many facets in amateur radio. There is a niche for everyone to enjoy. I consider myself fortunate to live in a county where repeaters are readily available, and that we have two great clubs that provide opportunities to grow in this remarkable past-time."

73 Tim Bailey KD9PSR



The day he received his GENERAL upgrade

Let me preach just a bit more. In 2024 our membership was **4-Technicians, 18-Generals, 16-Amateur Extras**. One challenge of our hobby is to increase our technical knowledge and upgrade our license class to also increase our privileges. If you have the time, consider accessing one of the on-line practice test sites and start taking the tests. A half hour a day will do wonders. You will find that soon you will be passing them regularly ( $\geq 74\%$ ) and be ready to attend one of our VE testing sessions. The General question pool changes July 1, so you might want to upgrade prior to that.

I found an interesting quote on the QRZ page of W4CNT:

**“It’s not the class of license the Amateur holds...But the class of the Amateur that holds the license”**. Found that it is attributed to the Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club, W9ZL, and something we should all live by in our enjoyment of the hobby.

Hope to see you at the meeting on Tuesday.

73, Steve, WA9CWE, Secretary, ARC

## Minutes of Meeting – November 4, 2025

The regular Club meeting was called to order at 1900 by the President, Ferrin, N9VZL. Introductions were made and it was confirmed that all had signed the attendance sheet.

A reminder of the handheld radio to be auctioned gave several folks a chance to buy additional tickets. Ultimately **KC9DJU**.

**New Member Application** – An application for membership from **Jay Hollingsworth, KE9DJN**, had been received in July, and he was a temporary member from that time. Upon motion of AK9JS and second by WA9CWE that he be accepted as a full member all present voted in favor and Jay was welcomed into the club.

**Minutes** - All had received the Minutes of the September meeting in the Newsletter and upon a motion by W9EEL and W9GNR, all voted to approve them.

**Silent Keys** - There were no Silent Keys or illnesses noted.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Jeff, AK9JS, reported that the September balance was \$4,395.27 with no transactions and the October balance was the same. He also reported paying the bill for the IRLP repeater upgrade (to W9DO) for \$445.66 (\$450 had previously been approved for this project). Upon motion by K9DYL and second by KE9XF that the bill be paid all were in favor. Upon motion of N9DO and second by KC9DJU that the Treasurer's report be accepted, all were in favor.

**Correspondence** – There has been no correspondence received in the PO box or by email.

**Repeater Reports** – Steve, WA9CWE, presented information on both of the repeater sites and the equipment at each site was described including how the feedlines entered the buildings, etc. (PowerPoint presentation). Dennis explained the new IRLP computer replacement. WA9CWE also passed out an updated instruction sheet on the operation of the IRLP and it was discussed with recommendations by K9DYL.

**Weather Update** – Tom, W9EEL, reported that it's beautiful now and should be 67° tomorrow. Will be colder toward the end of the week with showers. We need the rain. By Sunday the nighttime low will be around 34°. Lynn reported that due to the government shutdown the National Weather Service (NWS) has cut back on all activity except the daily forecasts. They have cancelled the winter weather presentations and everything else. He even has received a 40 step process on how to winterize the weather station that is located at our EOC since they won't be doing it.

**EMA Report** – Director Lynn, K9RLE, reported the end of the year activities are progressing and the budget for next year has been approved with a slight increase, but not enough to cover expected activities so all "outreach" events except for the 4H Fair have been cancelled next year. He now has a Deputy Director, Dale Bloomer, N9OLC, and Administrative Assistant Don Billey, W9BLY. January 1, Tim Bailey, KD9PSR, will be appointed as Director of Communications. The MCU has had repairs and maintenance completed but when Stoops did it how it was done resulted in fatal damage to both battery packs. New batteries have been obtained for the engine starting and for the communications equipment/lighting. Existing equipment has been identified that can be reprogrammed for a GMRS repeater and WA9CWE is working on it. It will be initially installed at the EOC on a roof mount antenna. No donut meeting for the next two Thursdays as the Sheriff's Department will be using the Training Room. (Donut meeting will be moved to the church again per Gary).

**Upcoming Activities** – Gary, W9GNR, listed a number of special events and hamfests over the next months.

**Old Business** – Ferrin reminded everyone of the opportunity to nominate a Ham-Of-The-Year. Send nomination to Charlie, K9TZJ.

**New Business** – Ferrin opened nominations for Officers for 2026. The only nomination offered was by WA9CWE to have Dennis, W9DO, fill a position on the Technical Committee.

**Show-and-Tell** – None offered.

**Technical Presentation** – Steve, WA9CWE presented information on SWR including what it is and how it is measured with SWR meters and wattmeters including how they work. Information on antennas and antenna tuners were covered also.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 2023 upon motion of KC9DJU and W9GNR. There were 19 present.

Respectfully submitted, Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Secretary