

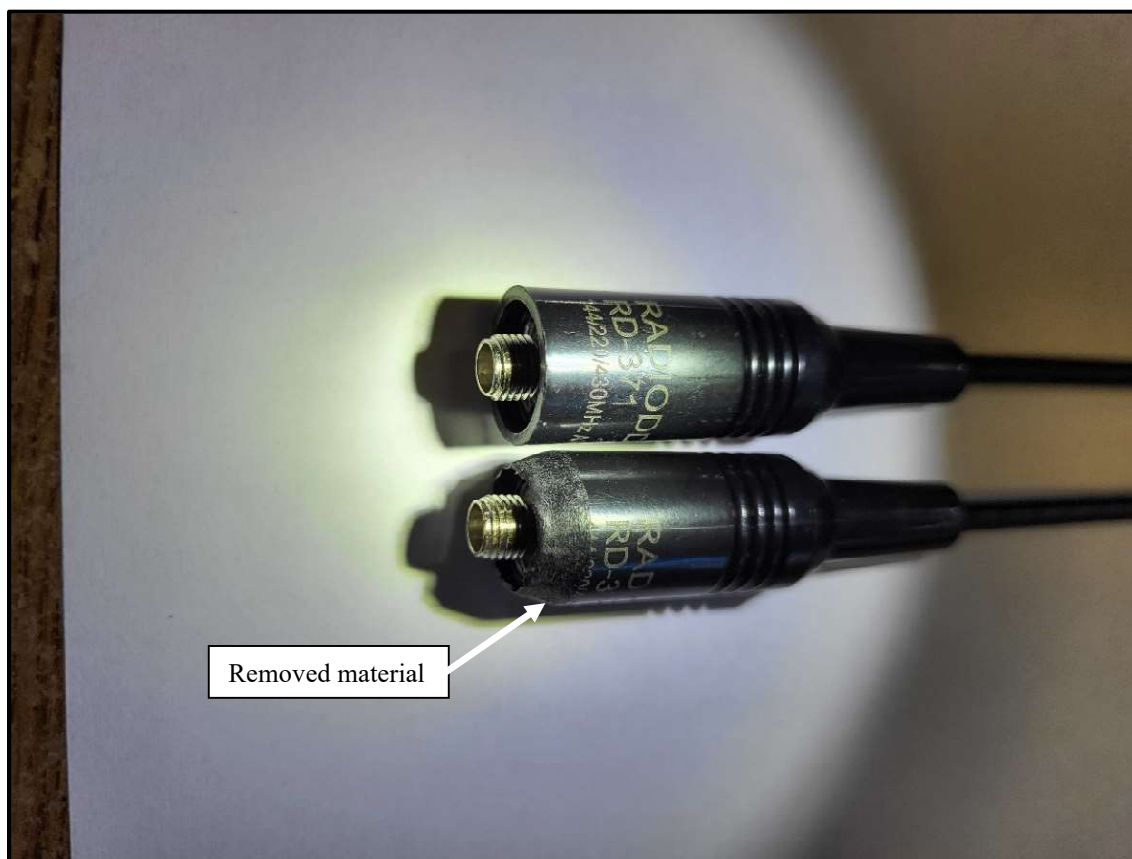
Anderson Repeater Club, Inc.

September, 2026

Our regular meeting will be Tuesday, September 1, 7PM at the EOC Training Room. Please plan to attend. We'll have a technical session by Jorge, N9JJK, related to POTA/SOTA activation.

Our regular VE test sessions continue to be productive with the July session resulting in 2 upgrades, one to General and one to Extra. In August we had 2 new Technicians (from Elwood), and one upgrade to General.

Most of us have one or more Baofeng dual band handhelds with their standard “rubber duck” antenna. From time to time Radioddity has a sale on their “extended” handheld antennas for improved performance (RD-371 Tri-band, SMA connector, 15” long, \$9.99 list). I bought some a while back when they were on sale for a couple dollars off. Finally dug them out and installed and noticed they didn’t work. Upon investigation I found that the outer diameter (OD) of the antenna base was .592”, which was larger than the .555” inside diameter (ID) of the antenna connector of the UV5-RX3 (rubber duck provided is .545”). The result is that when the antenna seats out on the radio plastic the contact pin on the SMA connector doesn’t touch the antenna connector. I started filing down the OD of the antenna plastic until it went down into the radio further and made electrical contact and the electrical threads seated out fully. Takes a bit of material removal but is worth it. I used a file. Other aftermarket antennas may not have that issue, but it is worth checking out before you plan to benefit from the longer antenna.



At the July meeting we discussed what the plan was to improve the 146.82 repeater performance. In early July we moved the RF package from .09 to .82. We also replaced the lightning arrester on the .82 feedline and it was reported that there was an immediate improvement in the system. There are still a few more improvements to be made. The flood emergency has slowed down our available time to accomplish the next steps.

A learning experience from the EMA Exercise on July 29: When the simulation was the repeater going down and the need to go to 146.820 simplex, I searched my base station memories for it only to find that it wasn't pre-programmed. I had to quickly reprogram it in. I have it in my handhelds, but never thought to confirm it in the base station radio.

This message is from Don, W9BLY, regarding our amateur radio response during the State Exercise: Good Tuesday morning all.

I just wanted to say a big THANK YOU to all who participated in the IDHS exercise last week. District 6 scored very high marks, and that is due in large part to the responsiveness and capabilities exhibited by our COMMS division. We truly "WOWED" them by how quickly we were able to respond and adapt to a changing situation without missing a beat.

Once again, a personal thank you to all who made this possible!

-Don Billey-
W9BLY

The 4-H Fair activation went well. There are sufficient antennas on the outreach trailer for good repeater operation, and the guys did a good job demonstrating the basics of amateur radio. New handouts were updated and copied for use.

Amateur radio was also displayed at the August 4 Outreach activity at Edgewood with not only the equipment display, but also a simulated StormNet. Thanks to all who responded.



You know you are a radio nut when....

1. You remember the exact date and time that lightning hit "the tower". The whole radio room was burned to a crisp, but you tell friends, "at least my wife wasn't home when it happened."

2. You'll spend hundreds of dollars on a new rig, and then wander the hamfest pausing each time you pass the booth selling those \$7 embroidered callsign hats thinking "I wonder if they'll take \$6?"

3. You're a CBer who buys a new \$300 five-watt, perfectly operating rig, opens the cabinet to "tweak" it to 20 watts, knowing full well it'll end up being sent back to the company for repair. The radio comes back, and a few weeks later you repeat the process - by watching your CBer friend from across town do surgery on your radio.

4. When shopping for a new vehicle the first think you look for is space to mount the radios - you end up sitting in the front seat staring blankly at the dashboard area, feeling underneath seats, and poking around the backseat for ways to route the coax. If caught looking under the hood for holes in the firewall for your power cables, you tell your wife, "Nothing honey, just checking things under here."

5. Your family has a special annual garage sale just to get rid of the boxes of wire, coax, and power adapters-but you pay your friends to "buy" the stuff and get them to quietly return it to you the following weekend.

6. You absolutely need a radio with thousands of channels - even though you live in a town with three cops and a volunteer fire department and the airport is 350 miles away.

7. In your determination to get that new vertical antenna up, or longwire strung in the backyard, you tell family and neighbors that "it's only temporary - I'm testing it for this guy."

8. The \$10 bargain you got at the fleamarket that smoked up the whole house when you turned it on is one of your prized possessions.

9. You'd rather sell your family's TV and VCR than give up the box of vacuum tubes you got at a "bargain" even though 90% of them are dead.

10. It still doesn't matter to you if the antique radio you brought home was an apartment for mice.

11. You're not speaking to your elderly neighbor because last week just as you tuned Radio Kiribati, he turned on his power drill.

12. Your wife has called you three times for dinner - then she calls you on the repeater.

13. You're the only one in your family that understands the real meaning of CW. And you get stressed out if someone's CW transmission rate varies from one to 75wpm with no warning.

14. When going on vacation, the first thing you think about packing is your handhelds, chargers, scanner and frequency book.

15. You take your scanner to work disguised as a cell phone.

16. You acknowledge conversations with your family and friends by saying 10-4 - and they think it's normal.

17. The total number of radio related books in your home are five times the total number of all other books and magazines.
18. You store extra "emergency" AA batteries in the refrigerator.
19. You're immediately recognized and spoken to by name at your favorite radio dealers.
20. You think a good time is "breaking in" a new part-time Radio Shack employee with your radio wisdom.
21. Your spouse goes to the supermarket while you "look around" in Radio Shack.
22. You visually check your outdoor antennas and coax once a week, regardless of the weather.
23. People ask you to turn down the volume on the radios when they call you.
24. The total number of antennas on your house is greater than six other houses on your block-counting the ham down the street.
25. You've considered contacting NOAA offering your voice as a substitute for that awful sounding mechanical computer-generated voice.
26. People keep asking your family about the "light that's always on" in the back room where your radio shack is located.
27. More than 95% of the photos in your family album show you with a radio strapped to your belt or a microphone in your hand.
28. You have more certificates and licenses on the wall than your local veterinarian or dentist.
29. Your cat or dog instinctively knows not to bother you when you're in your radio shack.
30. All the local cops know your vehicle on sight - "it's the blue Crown Vic with six antennas".

Minutes of Meeting – July 7, 2026

The meeting was called to order at 1902 by the President, Ferrin, N9VZL. With no visitors present we still offered introductions for all and confirmed that all had signed the attendance sheet.

A new member application was presented for **Jordan White, K9WHT**, and upon motion to admit to full membership by W9BLY and K9TZJ, all present voted in favor. WA9CWE reminded everyone that when an application is received that person is notified that he is considered a temporary member until the next meeting when the membership votes in approval. The person is usually added to the active membership list as soon as the application is received.

Ferrin confirmed that all had received the Newsletter and attached **Minutes of the May meeting** and that there were no corrections. Upon motion that they be accepted as published by K9TZJ and K9GDH all voted in favor.

A **Silent Key**, KE9BRA, William DeBrot was noted. He had been a ham in the past and a member of the MCARC, had let his license expire and retested recently, resulting in the late call. He had not been a member of this club.

Treasurer Jeff, AK9JS, reported an original balance of \$4900.61 with deposits of \$70 and debit of \$200 resulting in a new balance of \$4,770.61. There was discussion as the printed copy of Jeff's report had a typo which was explained and corrected. Upon a motion to accept by K9DJU and KE9XF all voted in favor.

Correspondence received was hamfest announcements for the Auburn and the Hendricks County events. The Secretary has forwarded them to the membership when received.

146.820 & 147.090 Repeater Report – Steve, WA9CWE, presented information that the Board Of Directors reviewed at a meeting on June 6, related to the 147.090 and the 146.820 repeaters. Included was the issues of both systems, the alternatives offered, and the plan of action to improve the .82 system initially. The actions taken so far have been to move the .09 RF package to the EOC site, reprogram it to .82 and make it operational (for a week now). This should indicate if the old .82 RF package is an issue. It was also discovered that the lightning arrester on the feedline was degrading performance. A new arrester was purchased and installed which improved performance (an arrester is required at the site). There was a great deal of discussion related to ideas and suggestions as to how to proceed. Noted:

- K9RLE-Some improvement in Frankton, Elwood, Summitville after new lightning arrester.
- K9DYR-Consider moving the .09 system to the EOC (leaving .82 there also) to benefit from the available Comcast internet service. It was pointed out that there was no opportunity to put up additional antennas on the county tower.
- WA9CWE-Do we want to consider a different service provider for a hot spot? The club would have to finance it at perhaps \$35/month (T-Mobile cost & he has no issues with that hot spot having to be reset).
- N9VZL-Do we really want to give up the .09 coordination? If we do there is little chance of future VHF coordination.
- W9DO-Suggested doing a test by switching RF packages and have stations at various points in the County to report on any differences (great idea & had been considered).
- K9SJH-Is there a desire by the membership to include a digital mode, perhaps for the .09 system?
- K9RLE-Most users using analog "Baofeng" handhelds. A show of hands indicated limited use of any digital modes by those present.
- WA9CWE-There is a programming issue with the re-programmed RF package and it doesn't include a Hang Time and sometimes no reset beep. This may be why some think they aren't keying up the repeater when actually they are.
- K9DYR & others-We need to utilize all of the repeaters more, answer calls made and show more interest in monitoring. This is not an issue unique to our systems but many repeaters in other areas.
- K9SJH-Provided motion (#1) to test over the next 60 days, keep notes of performance and issues and report at the next meeting. From that a plan to further proceed will be made. Motion (#2) to have the

Tech Committee study and present options on the future of .09 and present it at the next meeting. After discussion #2 was withdrawn and upon second of WA9CWE all were in favor of #1.

443.350 Repeater Report – Steve, WA9CWE reported that it is working fine and is used every Sunday for the communications test. Everyone seems satisfied with performance.

223.860 Repeater Report – Lynn, K9RLE reported that there is no activity although at least a couple of us monitor it. There is an issue with the construction of the antenna when it was put up on the tower with the 4 dipoles all facing the same direction (SE) instead of the 4 quadrants that would have given a more omnidirectional pattern.

145.390 MCARC Repeater Report – Doug, N9DR reported that it is working fine, but has limited users also.

Weather Report – Tom, W9EEL reported that it should be nice until Thursday PM when we might get some rain continuing into next week.

EMA Report – Director Lynn, K9RLE, noted that the 4-H Fair is July 27-Aug 1 and he would like everyone to come out and set up as a perfect time to try out Go-Boxes. He has new antennas for Winlink and the GMRS repeater that will be extended to about 70 feet. The Grant County EMA leadership was visiting our EOC just prior to our meeting and they are modeling their organization like our county. He has lots of projects and grant submissions in the works. The IDHS State Exercise is July 29, 9-3 and he expects at least 40 people from around the State to attend (Henry, Delaware, Hancock, Grant Counties). Amateur radio will be emphasized and we need support.

VE Report – Steve, WA9CWE reported that in May there were 2 new licenses and in June a new Tech/General and an upgrade to Extra. We are here every third Tuesday of the month, 7PM. New Technician question pool starts July 1.

Other – Richard, WB9AZY, reminded everyone of the Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air October 17, and it's a great opportunity to show off amateur radio to young folks. He needs amateurs to participate.

Steve, K9SJH, commented on the Monday night MCARC meeting that he heard fantastic stories and he hopes to invigorate activity in Madison County. We need to "Make Amateur Radio Great Again" and "have a good time". He encouraged everyone to get back on the air and renew their interest in amateur radio.

Dave, KE9XF, reminded everyone to monitor during the 4-H Fair so that the guys there have someone to talk to.

Steve, WA9CWE, showed pictures taken by K9RLE of the MCARC Field Day activity.

Steve, WA9CWE, noted that the Club traditionally offers a "Life Membership" to active members who moved into Assisted Living. Charlie, K9TZJ, has done that and it is moved that Charlie be granted a Life Membership in the ARC. Seconded by W9BLY and all voted in favor. Charlie was congratulated.

Technical Session – Steve, WA9CWE presented a discussion on Battery Power Supplies for our stations including information on types of batteries, chemistries, safety, pictures of various types and other information on properties to consider when choosing a battery supply. Also included was some historical information on the ARRL.

The raffle drawing was held.

The meeting was closed at 2045. There were 24 present.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Riley, WA9CWE, Secretary, ARC