

McARCS Operating Procedures Revisions April 2023

I have observed several discrepancies in the various sections of the Operating Procedures article posted on the McARCS web site. This documents was written even before the McARCS constitution and was last edited in September of 2012. A lot of things have changed since then and I suggest that this document should be revised.

Text to be removed is indicated by a ~~strikethrough font~~ and new text is indicated by an *italics font* and/or **RED color**

3.1 Local Nets

Add the following text:

A schedule of local net frequencies and schedules shall be maintained on the McARCS web site (www.mcarcs.org on the Nets Page). This shall be the responsibility of the McARCS web master.

3.2 Area Nets

Local community nets should communicate between themselves on an area net using an area coverage repeater as required.

At the present time, the following VHF repeaters are identified:

pdf version

Fort Bragg Local Area 147.030 (+ 103.5) in Fort Bragg

North and Central Coast Area 146.820 (- 103.5) on Mathison Peak

Html version

- Fort Bragg Local Area - 147.030 (+ 103.5) - Fort Bragg
- North and Central Coast Area - 146.820 (- 103.5) - Mathison Peak

Change to

Fort Bragg Local Area 147.030 (+ 103.5) at the Fort Bragg Senior Center linked to

North and Central Coast Area 146.820 (- 103.5) on Mathison Peak

North Inland Area 147.210 (+ 103.5) on Anthony Peak.

North Coast Simplex (No repeater) 146.550 MHz Tone squelch 103.5

Central Inland and Coastal Area 145.130 (- 103.5) on Laughlin Ridge

Central Area 147.120 (+ 103.5) on Laughlin Ridge

When disconnected from the Internet and the WIN/All Star systems

South Coast, Pt. Arena Area 146.610 (- 88.5)

linked to

South Coast, Gualala Area 147.825 (- 103.5)

3.3 County-Wide Net

A regular county-wide net should be carried out on the linked repeater system consisting of the following repeaters:

Pdf version

North County 145.430 (- 103.5) Cahto Peak west of Laytonville

Central County 147.390 (+ 103.5) on Laughlin Ridge between Willits and Ukiah

South County 145.470 (- 103.5) on Sanel Mt., west of Hopland

South Coast 147.270 (+ 114.8) on Fish Rock Road near Pt. Arena

Html version as posted

- North County - 145.430 (- 103.5) - Cahto Peak west of Laytonville
- Central County - 147.390 (+ 103.5) - Laughlin Ridge between Willits and Ukiah
- South County - 145.470 (- 103.5) - Sanel Mt., west of Hopland
- South Coast - 147.270 (+ 114.8) - Fish Rock Road near Pt. Arena
- Lake County - 147.675 (-, no tone) - Hunter Ridge

Proposed revision in both formats

North County 145.430 (- 103.5) on Cahto Peak west of Laytonville

Central County 147.390 (+ 103.5) on Laughlin Ridge between Willits and Ukiah

South County 145.470 (- 103.5) on Sanel Mt., west of Hopland

South Coast 147.270 (+ 114.8) on Fish Rock Road near Pt. Arena

Lake County 147.675 (- 179.9) on Hunter Point near Upper Lake

3.5 Adjacent County Repeater Access

Radio communications with adjacent counties can be conducted using the following facilities.

pdf version

Lake County 146.775 (- 103.5)

147.675 (- 88.5)

Sonoma and Humboldt Counties

The county wide net is accessible from selected sections of both Sonoma and Humboldt counties including from the Sonoma-Mendocino chapter of the American Red Cross in Santa Rosa using the appropriate frequency.

html version

Lake County

- 146.775 (- 103.5) - Mt Konocti
Sonoma and Humboldt Counties

The county wide net is accessible from selected sections of both Sonoma and Humboldt counties including from the Sonoma-Mendocino chapter of the American Red Cross in Santa Rosa using the appropriate frequency.

Proposed revised version in both formats

Lake County 146.775 (- 103.5) on Mount Konocti

Lake, Sonoma and Humboldt Counties

The county-wide linked repeater system is accessible from selected sections of Lake, Sonoma, and Humboldt counties using the appropriate frequency.

New sections below

5.6 Mendocino Auxiliary Communications Service (MACS)

MACS is organized by the Mendocino County Office Of Emergency Services (MCOES) as the appropriate organization for emergency radio communications for essential county services via amateur radio in the county. McARCS members may apply to become members of MACS by taking mandatory training in Incident Command System (ICS) procedures (which may be on-line) and pass a state background check. MACS identification cards may be issued by the county OES.

When MACS is activated, participating operators will be considered as enrolled Disaster Service Workers (DSW) for the purposes of coverage with Workers Compensation Insurance and for immunity from liability resulting from their actions while performing their services in accordance with the state DSW Statues.

When MACS is activated by the Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services in support of the county Emergency Operations Center, the subsequent net control operator may use the call sign KA6EOC. The net control operator may assign tactical call signs to participating stations as appropriate.

5.7 American Red Cross (ARC)

McARCS members that have had training or experience in ARC shelter operations and have passed an ARC national background check may be assigned as communications operators to a Red Cross shelter when

activated. McARCS shall maintain a record of operators of who have had such training and background check.

ARC operators will be considered as enrolled Disaster Service Workers (DSW) for the purposes of coverage with Workers Compensation Insurance and for immunity from liability resulting from their actions while performing their services in accordance with the state DSW Statues.

While operating in support of an ARC shelter, the subsequent net control operator may use the call sign W6ARC. Shelters may have tactical call signs assigned depending on location and may also use call sign W6ARC with a dash number assigned by the net control operator.

It should be noted that Red Cross communications services have been largely migrated to a smart-phone application on cell phones controlled by shelter managers. That assumes that cell phone service is available at the shelter location which we know is not always true. When that fails there is always ham radio.

6.0 ACTIVATION

Add the following

Unless specified differently in section 5 above, an activated McARCS net as specified below shall use the call sign NC6MC (Net control, Mendocino County)

In the following section, delete text indicated by a ~~strikethrough font~~ and new text indicated by an *italics font*.

7.0 MESSAGE FORMATS

Served agencies such as those identified in section 2 of this document may send or receive messages over the McARCS at either the local community or central net locations as appropriate. Message traffic should be provided to the served agencies in a form appropriate to the agency and the priority required. Runners or other message delivery methods may be used as appropriate.

All messages should be logged by the operators with date, time, message sender, message recipient, stations involved, and a brief notation of type of message. *Unless specified otherwise elsewhere, the McARCS net control station should use the call sign NC6MC. (Net Control, Mendocino County)*

Messages carried by the McARCS on behalf of the served agencies fall into one of several categories:

1) Emergency or Tactical Messages requiring immediate action should be delivered in written form to and from the radio operators and the served agency but may be in expedited format requiring only the date and time plus the intended recipient and sender as appropriate plus, of course, the requested action or response. *These messages may be transmitted by voice.*

2) Written Messages using an agency or general message form. An example of this type of form would be the ICS 213 form. This type of message form should be used ~~only between one station at each end (no relay)~~ and only when both stations have copies of the general message form.

The desired method of transmission shall be via digital means using fldigi and flmsg software. When this is not possible, any messages of this type requiring an intermediate relay involving a station other than the originating or receiving station should be transmitted by voice using the standard universal radiogram format as in part 4 below.

3) Formatted Messages having specific entry blanks for specific information and then ~~only when all stations handling the message have copies of the specific form.~~ An example of this form would be the ~~Emergency Medical Services Agency (EMSA)~~ *Mendocino County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) Situation Report Quicksheet* reporting form ~~into the Response Incident Management System (RIMS).~~ *The desired method of transmission shall be via digital means using fldigi and flmsg software. When this is not possible, using voice transmission* ~~When using this type of form, only the~~

~~system~~ entry blank number and the applicable data *letter* information should be transmitted ~~omitting the description of the entry blank.~~

4) Radiogram Messages All other messages including the reporting of non-emergency status, ordering of supplies, requesting personnel, processing health and welfare inquiries and reports, and all non-emergency messages should be transmitted over the radio links using the standard universal radiogram format with all the standard message tracking features including complete addressing, message numbering, word count, station logging, and other error detecting and correcting features. *The desired method of transmission shall be via digital means using fldigi and flmsg software. When this is not possible, voice transmission may be used with the sending operator speaking slowly enough as to allow for written recording and pausing for possible repeat words or spelling.*

~~If the served agency requires a non-radiogram format, that format should be transferred to universal radiogram format before transmittal and transcribed back to the agency's format prior to delivery.~~