

Minutes: MCARCS General Meeting-10 July 2023  
Steve, KD6DQO - Secretary

#### MCARCS Business Meeting Minutes -

Meeting starts at 6:02 PM via Zoom by President Derek Hoyle, KE6EBZ. Other officers attending are: Steve, KJ6EIF; Tim, WB9NJS; John, W6FQX; Dan, W6AAM; Steve, KD6DQO. Absent was Nick, KI6RIT. Thanks to the many members who attended the meeting.

- A. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tim, WB9NJS gave the treasurer's report. MCARCS has a balance of \$826.12
- B. Minutes: Minutes from the June 12 meeting are posted to MCARCS website

#### NEWS, EVENTS AND PROPOSALS:

1. Walker Ridge AARL exercise overview: Dan, Tim, Rick, Jim, Cindy and others recounted their experiences at the June Walker Ridge contest. Participants commented on the exercise and especially noted good coms for the event and lots of contacts as well as fun social activities. This exercise is sponsored by AARL and used bands at 6 meter and above. Participants use these frequencies to communicate worldwide.
2. FIELD DAY: This year, Field Day was sponsored by WARS and MCARCS. Dan, W6AAM and Dan, WB9NJS summarized inland activities at this event held at Oak Grove School in Willits. About 15-19 people attended the weekend event and participants had very good radio and social contacts during the event. The group used the WARS call sign, W6MMM and made many contacts including New Zealand and Scotia. Although cool Saturday night, weather was good for the event and much fun. Derek, KE6EBZ summarized Field Day the event along the coast that included 6-15 people that participated during the weekend. That was held at Russian Gulch Park and coms included vhf/uhf and HF transmissions. Peter, KN6UAW commented on activity in Sea Ranch
3. WARS Update: WARS president, Rick, KK6PZA gave a very brief overview of WARS activity. WARS scheduled their next meeting in Laytonville at Harwood Park on JULY 29.
4. LICENSE TESTING: Tim, WB9NJS referenced the session in Lakeport on June 17 and led a discussion on need for GENERAL class license testing in the future. Several members added to the discussion about need for General and Extra class testing and the team volunteered to provide overview classes on various subsets of the test preparation class (TBD) Tim, Steve, KJ6EIF, Mike, KC6MGM and Peter, KN6UAW all volunteered to conduct segments of the new General training sessions. Tim also mentioned the new testing question pool that goes in effect this month. Tim said it will take some time to prepare the classes using the

new test pool saying," there is some investment of time to develop the General test overview. Typically, these study sessions include 5- 2-hour sections

5. INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE/LIGHTSHIP: President Derek led a discussion on potential participation with the International Lighthouse/Lightship weekend operating event held August 19-20 at PointCabrilloLighthouse. Derek asked the team to decide if we have the resources to participate and operate HAM radio. Major issues are access and use of the facilities. Point Cabrillo is now again active having gone through extensive repairs. VP Steve, KJ6EIF contributed to the discussion and will investigate access feasibility. It will take a lot of coordination and extensive permission from various agencies. Steve, Derek, Lisa all will explore options and report back to group
6. MACS: Mike MACS Team Leader, KC6MGM, provided the group with a insightful overview of MACS, changes, locations, grants, operation and difficulties. Lots of changes, flux and some frustration members experience. He mentioned acquisition of a grant to purchase new Sprinter communications van for emergency operations. It will include new ham radios and other radios used by state and county agencies. Also, MACS, under the county sheriff will move to new location. The agency is in flux with supervising leadership as is many other county agencies. Currently, MACS reports to the CEO directly. This like other county leadership groups doesn't make sense. Most emergency operations within California counties resides with either the sheriff or Fire. Mike also stated the need for better radio support for the communities of Laytonville, Percy and Leggett. These communities especially need qualified Ham Radio operators. The Community Foundation will assist any initiative to support emergency radio communications along with Red Cross. These communities might be best supported by ham radio at the clinics and fire stations. Leggett school district had a ham radio. We discussed the need to provide support to these communities (MCARCS) and his discussion dove-tailed with a funding initiative Steve, KD6DQO raised later about raising funds to support under-represented communities within the county using our treasury and a fund raiser. Mike, KC6MGM, stressed the importance of providing better support to the north portion of the county and for the urgent need. Many members spoke about this with enthusiasm and a commitment to support these small communities. The team agreed to revisit this issue in future meetings
7. PROPOSAL 1: Establish a MCARCS FUND RAISER to provide ham radio support to under-represented communities and demographics. Steve, KD6DQO, me, proposed this motion. The proposal establishes a MCARCS fund raiser to provide funds to purchase radio equipment for underrepresented communities like those identified in item #6 and for underrepresented groups of people within Mendocino such as native peoples and Spanish speaking peoples of the county. These groups

are not equipped with radios to communicate during an emergency or crisis. The proposal is to raise funds and I, KD6DQO, volunteered to donate \$100 to this cause to start it off. The proposal is to acquire radio gear, new or used, to get into the hands of various communities and people to support emergency operations. The group entered into a discussion by many officers and members commenting on the need, logistics, history of MCARCS, purpose and diversity of Mendocino County and its people. As suggested by Tim, WB9NJS, we will need to work to establish how we will get and apply funds to the various projects. John, W6FQX noted that MCARCS was not incorporated, was not a 501 (3)(C) organization which made donations a bit difficult. The proposal logistics to be discussed in future meetings. President Derek conducted a vote to approve. Results: Proposal Passed.

8. PROPOSAL 2: MCARCS FREQUENCY DATABASE for CHIRP. Steve, KD6DQO proposed the following: Establish a MCARCS website database for Mendocino and surrounding counties of frequencies used in HAM RADIO (repeaters and simplex), Fire and Safety, Public Radio (MURS, GMRS, FRS) on MCARCS using a CHIRP "csv" file format. This motion passed by the officers. Essentially, this proposal acts upon the popular and nearly ubiquitous CHIRP programming for ham radios using CHIRP and a ".CSV" file(s) that users can download into their radio and modifies it according to their need. No guessing, no searching, just choose the frequency wanted. Several members, Dan, W6AAM and Steve, KJ6EIF volunteered to send samples to Steve, KD6DQO to consolidate and post on the MCARCS website. President Derek conducted a vote to approve. Results: Proposal Passed.
9. DATABASE for RADIO/RADIO PARTS on WARS website: Dan, W6AAM and Derek, KE6EBZ raised the issue of having an online ham radio parts listing on the WARS web site to support the need of radio enthusiast. The group discussed the types of hardware and components that need to be listed. It was agreed that very small component level items would take too much time and effort to list individually and the best approach would be to list the provider and types of components he/she offered. This would not take the place of various "SWAP MEETS" held on a net where complete systems are offered for trade but more individual component level items like resistors, capacitors, connectors, brackets and other small items to support the amateur hobby. Both Dan and Derek will work on the WARS website to model how the site might look and agreed this item will be discussed in future meetings.

Meeting Adjourn: President Derek announced the next MCARCS meeting on August 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM PDT. He closed the meeting at 8:08 PM PDT

Steve, KD6DQO, Secretary-MCARCS