

Minutes: MCARCS General Meeting-13 November 2023  
Steve, KD6DQO - Secretary

### MCARCS Business Meeting Minutes -

Meeting starts at 6:00 PM by President Derek-KE6EBZ via Zoom. Officers attending are: Derek-KE6EBZ, Tim-WB9NJS, John-W6FQX, Dan-W6AAM, John-W6FQX, Steve-KJ6EIF, Peter-KN6UAW, Nick-KI6RIT, Steve-KD6DQO. Absent: None. Thanks to the many members and guests 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 09 October 2023 meeting was posted to MCARCS website.
- C. Webmaster Report: Nick-KI6RIT briefly discussed his ongoing work on a Facelift for the website.

### NEWS, EVENTS AND PROPOSALS:

1. Gordon-KJ6IAB and Mike-KC6MGM discussed license test results from recent training and HAM testing sessions. Three new hams received their licenses and all agreed the Zoom training was beneficial if not very time consuming for a few but worth the efforts. The count includes both new licenses and those testing up. That included Dan-W6AAM who upgraded from General to Extra Class! Congratulations Dan!!!
2. WARS: Rick-KK6PZA offered a brief overview of WARS activity. He also mentioned the work Dan-WA6AAM is doing to update the WARS website. Rick also noted the Saturday November 18 WARS meeting to conduct elections for the next calendar year. All interested in a leadership position with WARS should attend. Visit WARS website, W6MMM.club or email w6mmm.club@gmail.com
3. Recruiting New Hams-Westport Area – This turned into a discussion led by Mike-KC6MGM, Tim-WB9NJS and others about the difficulty MCARCS has as a non-incorporated entity or non-profit corp. with regard to raising funds. Being in this state of limbo, we have no tax advantages and no way to report income or expenses as does other non-profits. Those non-profits which are 501(3)(C) non-profit status are incorporated with a board of directors and officers. Within MCARCS, our officers have no financial liability other than as individuals so it is difficult to establish bank accounts, hold financial instruments and report income or expenses. Others discussed the possibilities of establishing our group as a non-profit and what is involved in doing so. Steve-KD6DQO noted some of those

requirements such as filing with Secretary of State, following corporate guidelines structure for tax, elections, bylaws and other details. These facts have limited the way MCARCS can react to the community needs like those in Westport and other small hamlets that need ham radio support. Derek suggested using an umbrella organization such as North Coast Opportunities and volunteered to checkout this as a way to acquire funds supporting community HAM needs. This discussion will continue in future meetings.

4. Shakeout: Mike, KC6MGM and Steve-KJ6EIF provided an overview of the key activities at the "Shakeout Exercise" drill. Mike worked with state CESN and county officials in Sonoma and Humboldt County using HF radio as the MACs representative. Steve worked with 18 health care offices within Mendocino County and the MC Office of Education. Steve reported general difficulty with various health care stations. Reports were given too fast, figures not reported accurately, call signs not understood and a general lack of familiarity with net control protocols and experience using radio. In addition, Jeff (no call sign heard) mentioned he was giving a training session during the drill in Leggett and that generally, there were a lot of distractions and confusion. That's what drills address so it goes...

Non-Agenda Discussion #1 Follows: This discussion picked up in response to Shakeout Drill comments. John, Mike-KC6MGM, Steve (KJ6EIF), Derek, Dan and others used the Shakeout discussion as a springboard to discuss the county's lack of preparedness during a disaster and restating the need to coordinate all parts of the county together, especially coastal communities that are more isolated with inland Mendocino. In addition to the need to improve ham radio, those locations need general disaster help with food, security, transportation and the county needs to have better information on our HAM resources that can be dispatched during a crisis. Dan is working on consolidating a checklist of people, locations and equipment that can be deployed for certain during a disaster. Many expressed a desire to have better integration between organizations like WARS, MCARCS and MACS so that resources, lists, needs etc. aren't duplicated and member information is shared between all of our disaster response HAM radio resource organizations. This discussion moved to the suggestion that the HAM community move to the exclusive use of WINLINK during disasters and a discussion of associated problems with its use. Mike is a proponent of its use and reiterated the Monday night training session ongoing from 7:30 to 8:30 pm. This discussion continued and included ideas for other modes including VARA and FT8 Call. This is an important topic and will be referenced in future meetings agenda or not.

5. Nomination of MCARCS Officers: President Derek introduces Officer Nomination and moved to go forward with voting at this meeting

instead of December. Accordingly, he announced his intention to return and run as President next year.

- a. President: Steve, KD6DQO seconded his nomination. All voted in favor of Derek for President 2024. He is elected unanimously
- b. Secretary: Steve-KD6DQO announced withdrawal as Secretary for 2024 and would not run. Peter, KN6UAW announced his candidacy for secretary. All voted unanimously for Peter. Peter is the new MCARCS secretary for 2024
- c. Derek suggested all remaining officers who wanted to remain in their position simply be voted in in mass. All remaining positions were voted on and all 2023 Officers are reinstated for 2024 (except for secretary as noted above)

6. Election Summary: For 2024, elected MCARCS Officers are as follows: President: Derek KE6EBZ; Vice President: Steve-KJ6EIF; Treasurer: Tim-WB9HJS; Secretary: Peter-KN6UAW; Webmaster: Tim-KI6RIT; Net Coordinator: Dan-W6AAM; Trustee NC6MC: John-W6FQX; Public Information: Tim-WB9NJS

7. Ultra-Marathon: Mike-KC6MGM announced the need to support the Ultra-Marathon. It is scheduled for April 20, 2024. MCARCS needs to support this important event

Meeting Adjourn: 6:56 PM PDT. Next meeting via Zoom December 11, 2023 at 6PM. Zoom information will be delivered by President Derek via email prior to the meeting.

Steve, KD6DQO, Secretary-MCARCS