

MCHAM/MCARC

VISION

Collaborate with all Mendocino County amateur radio emergency communication groups to provide countywide communications in the event of system failure. These groups may include people from hospitals, clinics, emergency medical services (EMS), schools, law enforcement, fire departments, Office of Emergency Services (OES), private citizens and any other parties interested in emergency communications.

Wednesday, September 5, 2007 ~ 1130 – 1300

Facilitators: Frank McGarvey & Annie Robinson

Minutes: Annie Robinson

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday October 3, 2007 ~ 1200 – 1300 (see note at end of minutes for time change)

Minutes: _____

Attended:

Annie Robinson
Frank McGarvey
Jim Cline

Janie Tate
Cody Snider
Cynthia Snider

Tim Hanna
Jim Noser
TC Kida

Christine Dektor
Suzy Miller

- I **Rotation of taking minutes** was discussed. The information at the McHAM meetings is valuable. Information should be recorded and shared with members not present as well as become a document for record. These do not have to be formal minutes but can be notes of action items or relevant suggestions. Annie offered to take the minutes at this meeting (9/5/07) but reiterated that she cannot take minutes at all meetings and suggested a rotation of the duty. The group agreed. At the beginning of the next meeting, a volunteer will be asked to take notes.
- II **NETS** :
 - Frank, Jim and Marcella practiced a simplex net for the first time on Tuesday September 4. A simplex net will be conducted in Ukiah each Tuesday at noon. This net is being exercised to be included in the larger countywide emergency communications net.
 - It was identified that people have limited ability to participate because they either have no equipment or low grade HTs. It was suggested that either mobiles be used or mag mount antennas with HTs.
 - There was a suggestion put on the table about asking an agency (or agencies) to sponsor the purchase of equipment and to make it available for the use of countywide emergency communications. This equipment could possibly be “checked out” with a stipulation for lending to participate in area NETs. The question of who would be responsible for managing and supplying equipment was acknowledged. The focus could be on 25w mobiles for home or vehicle. This would make equipment available for effective emergency

communication. A suggestion was to anchor the “lending library” with county fire agencies, but there would have to be fire chief approval. It was also acknowledged that having a task force develop a draft plan to present to the Sheriff and Fire Chiefs would be a good first step.

- **ACTION: Tim Hanna, Linda Morrison and Jim Cline will work to develop a draft plan for managing and supplying equipment. They will bring the draft plan to the next meeting for discussion.**

III **McHAM Camp Basic Training** presented by Len Gwin has had good attendance. These informal basic training classes are targeted to new and/or inexperienced HAMS or those people who want to become a HAM. These classes are held at the Public Health building 1120 S Dora St Ukiah every other Tuesday from 12:10 to 12:50. The next class is scheduled for Tuesday September 18.

IV **Mendocino Amateur Radio Communications Plan:** John Lemmer has been working on developing a communications plan for Mendocino County. A draft of this plan was discussed at this meeting. Suggestions follow:

- Each scheduled emergency communication check-in establishes a set time to check in – this will save batteries
- Suzy Miller and Christine Dektor, both attended this meeting, requested that John forwards them a copy of the plan for review.
- Another suggestion by George Burton was to establish MOUs with repeater owners
- Final suggestion is to add an MOU section with possible agencies that might be served.
 - Annie will ask the three hospital HRSA representatives what, if any, additional MOUs are required by the hospitals for HAMS to work with facilities in an emergency.
- Another suggestion was to attach a MOU boiler plate from the (ARRL EmComm I course.)
- After above discussion the group approved the plan with the added suggestions.
- A motion was put on the table to approve the plan with added suggestions. The motion was seconded. The plan was approved with incorporated suggestions.
- Next steps: Give a copy of the approved plan to Sheriff Allman and OES Coordinator, Bill Woodworth for their review and approval.
- Note: until the official County of Mendocino Identification cards are in place, all operators are strongly encouraged to carry proper photo identification and a copy of their amateur radio license.

V **Hospital and Clinic Equipment Purchase:** Invoices for the inland facilities will be processed by mid September. Next steps are to coordinate with each facility to install, program and train, after which a first communications drill will be planned. It is hoped that all equipment will be in place and at least one drill practiced by the time of the Statewide Hospital Exercise planned for October 25.

VI **What’s in a Name?** Name suggestions for the emergency communication group were discussed. A motion was put on the table to approve McARCS. That motion was seconded. The group approved the name of the emergency communication group as McARCS.

A question was brought up as to whether McARCS replaces McHAM. Some at the table see these as two separate groups, some see it as one. This discussion will be tabled for the agenda of the next meeting scheduled for Wednesday October 3.

- VII **Dispatch Center Tour** Thanks to Jim Cline, a tour of the Sheriffs Office Dispatch Center is available to our group. **The tour is scheduled for Wednesday October 3. Interested people are asked to meet at 11:30 a.m. (before the next McHAM meeting) at the Sheriffs Dispatch Center on Low Gap Road.** The October meeting is scheduled from 12 to 1 p.m with the tour scheduled 11:30 to 12. Jim also mentioned if there is interest, we can schedule other times for the tour including evening hours. Contact Jim with any questions.
- VIII **McARC decals** Jim Cline has had contact with John's Sign Shop and they are willing to create a McARC decal for our group. Anyone with an idea for a design is encouraged to contact Jim.
- IX **Upcoming Events:**
- Sunday 9/16/07 - Boonville County Fair Parade. If interested in participating, contact Suzy Miller at millersu@co.mendocino.ca.us
 - Saturday and Sunday 9/29 and 9/30/07 - Sonoma County Waves to Win. If interested in participating, contact Jim Cline
 - Oct 13, 14, 15 Ukiah Pumpkin Fest –. Jim Cline is meeting with the City of Ukiah to request inclusion of CERT and HAM groups in this event. More information will follow.
 - 10/19 –10/21/07 Pacificon West Coast HAM Radio Convention. Go to <http://www.pacificon.org/> for more information

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3 from 1200–1300
Mendocino County Sheriffs Training Center, 951 Low Gap Rd. Ukiah**

**A tour of the Sheriff's Office Dispatch Center is planned just prior to the
October meeting on Wednesday October 3 from 1130 to 1200
If interested in attending please contact Jim Cline**