

# M c A R C S

## Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service

Wednesday, October 3, 2007 ~ 1130 – 1300

**Please note**, the tour of the Sheriff's dispatch center for today was postponed until 11/07/07 @ 11:30. Call Jim Cline for more info

### ~ AGENDA & Minutes~

#### I Introductions if needed, minute taker volunteer requested – Marcella

- TC (new person), Doran, Christine, Ann, Janie, Marcella, Tim, John, Len, Linda, Annie, Dave

#### II Local and countywide net reports – Linda

- Linda gave a recap of how she felt the net went last week. Expressed that everyone and anyone who wanted to personally check in should be able to do so, not solely through their local area net-check. The intent is to gain participation, not squelch it.
- Open discussion on matter of how to conduct NETs to encourage involvement and participation. All recognized this is an evolving process subject to change. For now, local NETs specific to a geographic region will be conducted and reported back to the weekly County-wide net-check. Individuals will be allowed the opportunity to also check-in during the 7:30 net on 147.390
- Please refer to the McARCS website <http://home.comcast.net/~mcarcs/> for times and frequencies for local net-checks.
- Unrealistic to assume a single repeater will be used in a real, live emergency anyway, thus encouraging participation results in better working relationships and builds upon the structure
- Janie reports Amber from Cleone on tonight as net-control.
- Gualala net-check had lots of mishaps, but also recognized there is a learning curve and both listening and participating in a non-threatening, supportive manner is the best practice
- Annie will check in from Lake County tonight (it worked!!) and can be a bridge between the two counties.

#### III WARS update – Tim

- Sparse attendance @ last meeting
- ? accomplishments w/local simplex net; suggests maintain Brooktrails net & start a [greater] Willits net
- Use station in place @ Fire Dept; good idea to make sure both people & equip are in working order and are comfortable w/process; hopes to get permission for use
- <http://k6mhe.com/wars/> - go there, check it out!!!
- Reported on the Boonville parade –
  - 3 HAM participants (Tim, Suzy, Marcella), w/2 mobiles and 1 HT;
  - low key event; went smoothly though could have used a few more HAMs;
  - well received by event;
  - great hands on experience
  - to consider for next year: more coordination w/event staff; parking; more HAMs; more notice
- Marcella reported on Waves to Wine bike event
  - Great hands on, real-time, real-event experience – priceless
  - Borrowed Franks mag-mount on vehicle much needed and appreciated
  - Watched and assisted an actual event with a net-control station on site using battery power
  - Forced into programming in multiple repeaters with various PLs
  - Ended up doing other duties – much needed

- Cautions by several to be mindful of duties requested that are non-communication in nature – being diverted could mean inadequate radio coverage; know boundaries, limitations and articulate primary role

#### Announcements:

- Christine – requests CERT or HAM participation for upcoming Harvest Fest parade; 10/13/07; event is from 10:00 to noon; volunteers meet @ 9:00; contact Christine for more info (Marcella – I can lend my HT but cannot attend)
- Jim – class and testing 10/27 & 10/28 @ the Santa Rosa Bloodbank
- Irma (WARS) – reminder of holiday dinner Thurs 12/13 @ the Broiler; no-host cocktails @ 5:00, dinner @ 6:00; call Arlene 459-2011 by 12/7 for reservations
- Jim – tour of Sheriff Com station postponed until 11/7 @ 11:30, in Brooktrails 11/12 @ 7:00

#### IV Hospital and clinic equipment update – Tim

- Equip received!!!! Tim coordinating – HRSA funded
- Close to goal of getting equip installed - Tim will continue with this project, but not likely to be all up and running before the 10/25 drill
- Work out details on storage and usage
- Encourage facilities to allow use or loan of equipment
- Ultimately include facilities in net-checks
- Covelo & Laytonville not well equipped or coordinated
- Ann Dent (UVMC) – lost a HAM but hopes room will still be okay, UVMC’s old equip will go to their emergency preparedness trailer – it was suggested to use it instead.

#### V Hospital statewide exercise October 25, 2007 – Annie

- 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- for more info go to California Hospital Association, Cal Dept of PH or EMSA websites for event handbook
- PH and EMS (Sam Barnett) will participate between 8:00 and noon
- Each hospital facility has their own objectives
- PH will open their DOC – request HAM in room participating
- Hope to use Med-Net, blast fax, California Health Alert Network (CAHAN), and HAM radio to create redundant communications drill
- John reported the exercise last year was very structured and very detailed
- We can build upon the plan on our own
- Hope to get Mendo Coast hosp involved
- Tim Hanna would like to be involved – perhaps at Howard Hospital
- Len offered that in reality those that are involved now as staff at the facilities or as County Disaster Service Workers will be doing other duties assigned and may not be able to provide radio comm., so community HAMS will be critical
- Janie – good idea to revisit net-checks the day after the statewide exercise.
- Annie – would like another meeting before the event with those interested in participating at any of the three hospitals.

#### VI Equipment loan program, draft proposal – Tim, Linda

- Tim distributed draft plan (thank you, Tim – well written), review and comment and he’ll amend same
- Other suggestions: possible Memo of Understanding or contract between lender and lende;e;
- Also consider a wish list and/or budget so we have an idea of what we want and need
- Surplus or old (MESA) equip– Jim C has authorization to sell – might generate revenue for what we need. There was further discussion about asking Jim what is on the list and the possibility of using this equipment for the loan program.

- In Brooktrails, equip belongs to FD – gives to CERTs to manage
- Len has lots of equip and is willing to help
- Option to do our own fundraiser

VII Countywide McARC Emergency Communications Plan - John  
 - Proposed McARC Board of Directors

- John is hosting this website on his own at the moment and this needs to be changed in the future (thank you John!!) to possibly a County website
- Need to identify who should provide input and make changes
- Web-master – should make it interesting (Piercy guy?)
- County wide comm. ID cards on hold in County Counsel
- Where to go from here?
- Ken Reynoldson from the south coast has offered lots of suggestions
- Work in progress, though plan was approved as of last month up to that point
- Board of Directors? Is there a need at this point? – most present said no, as this current group is the BOD; current energy should be to encourage participation, new HAMs, fund raising, etc.;
- more rural areas need participation;
- work on current projects and do PR
- outreach – local bets, equip, sharing and usage
- Plan and team in place,
- Ann and Annie attended the California Hospital Association conference in Sacto – heard the need for HAMs was expressed on large scale level

**The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 7 from 1130–1300  
 Mendocino County Sheriffs Training Center, 951 Low Gap Rd. Ukiah – This meeting will  
 begin with a tour of the Sheriffs Communication Center at 1130 then resume at the Sheriffs  
 Training Center at 1200 to 1300**