

M c A R C S

Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communication Service

Present: Tim, Jim, Nick, Dave, John, Marcella, Steve, Alan

Reports:

- 1) Nick – Human Race had 4 volunteers; there was some issue about water bottles...
- 2) Our club call came through rapidly, and John expects to hear on the chosen vanity sign soon: NC6MC (No. Calif. 6 Mendocino County). Tim checked on line and it's there!!! John will do a write up on the FCC biography page. John is the manager of the call-sign as well as for the American Red Cross.
- 3) About 25 HAMS were involved. Asked for email feedback on Survey Monkey. John requested that we put a small report out for all to see/read. John made the comment that for Round Valley there is NO repeater that gets into the County-wide system well at all. John also made note that there were times when the transmissions from PH were fuzzy... We used 147.390 and 147.120 – there will be some compromise when that close. Alan S. – there is a much faster protocol in getting messages across – to not repeat every single word or block, not using acronyms which can cause great confusion and have different meanings for different people.
- 4) Jim has not yet met with the proper party to talk about antennas. Would like to just get in here and do it off hours, but needs Shannon's permission. Steve has some spare antennas purchased with grant money. For the moment we have a dual band on top of the mast. Would be good to have 2 antennas in case we truly DO need to run 2 nets. Nick will look into the antennas that are still located at School St.

Old business:

- Memberships – what does Shannon require for McARCS staff to get official IDs? A background check for sure by Shannon, and some 'formal' training, but to be submitted.
 - County wide net participation list: KI6MJC (provide report ASAP)
 - DOJ check, mostly looking for criminal records but more in depth than a typical
- Banners
 - Ready to go – Jim will get to proof it before it gets printed and Jim will try to get the call sign on the banner first. Gave them a photo of the old banner as a template, and all we have to do is decide now where to put the call sign and go for it. McARCS spelled out in full.
- Digi-Net problems / solutions discussion

The next meetings are scheduled as follows:

<http://mcarcs.org/>

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- Tim wanted this added – are we ready for prime time? Several stations received digi messages for the hospital drill, and a few were ready to transmit their responses in same mode.
- A couple of reasons to not go full scale: preparedness, equipment, training.
- There was a lot of excitement at Net Control (Steve Francis) regarding the possibility of using this mode.
- Tim met last week with some of the participants and Steve F. – looked at lag time (sent/received).
- Some headaches with version changes, but that goes with the territory. It's a decent platform we can work with – what do we do now to take the next step – biggest inconsistency is deviations levels.
- Tim feels making an interface for the process is best. John designed one and Tim got one from QST (passed around plans for both). Take the audio tones and ... Tim then talked in a foreign language not audible to most women...
- Tim suggested/offered about setting up a session or two for those who want to make their own circuit boards. If interested, the parts come to about \$7 that will fit on a circuit board (learn to also make...) or perf board.
- Then everyone spoke in a foreign language unknown to me: cable, Jack, circuit (as in fried) board, transformer, capacitor.

New Business:

- Mendo Monster
 - 18 volunteers as of now
 - draft plan developed
 - meeting on Friday (where is coast spot, how many riders, HAM responsibility?)
 - discussion on volunteers and assignments
 - meeting Friday with Rotary – more info to all to follow

classes and/or test session – early fall...

- Test session only, rather than class. Tim interfaced with some Round Valley folk and a few expressed interest. Due to isolation, it would be a challenge to get many to commit and there's an issue on self-study.
- Can we get someone else to come up for a one day class? (Dale?) Is a one day enough? Test book with correct answers only.
- Can we put together a testing team?
- Perhaps in Willits?
- The Round Valley staff who expressed interest would at least like to have a class or test session in Willits.
- Does AARL sell an instructions test package?
- Most all in room expressed a commitment to support at least a test session, and maybe a one day class.

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- John will follow up on this.

Field Day

- Use ICS system/set-up
- Last year we had a plan and most of it fell through, so we ended up acting/operating on the fly and it worked well
- Some plans to start are best, then go from there...
- Who is bringing what: antennas, rigs, etc.
- John went over list that was previously distributed – will send out a new list later

See chart

John will send out a questionnaire for all to respond: what equipment, etc. is available to use.

Upcoming events:

Mendo Monster

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