

Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service

Meeting Minutes, June 1, 2015

This was an on-the-air meeting conducted on the county-wide linked repeater system. This was conducted as a net with President Nick Wharff, KI6RIT, acting as net control operator from the Emergency Operations Center station. Operations started shortly after 6 PM.

Stations checking in initially included (in order of check in) KI6MJC, W6FQX, KC6MGM, WB9NJS, KE6EBZ, KJ6IBP, and KE6VGB. Stations checking in later included, KJ6EIF, KK6DHL, W6JRC, KJ6ZVS, KK6RPW, and KG6TXU.

WB9NJS provided a summary of the health care facility exercise conducted on May 21. There were some 17 facilities involved in some way or another and approximately 36 amateur radio operators participating.

KI6RIT talked about the Mendocino Monster bike ride coming up on June 7. So far only 10 operators have volunteered for duty. A few more would be helpful, Nick suggested going to the McARCS website and signing up there. KK6DHL, representing the sponsoring organization, asked if there were any questions about the event. There were no questions forthcoming. KI6RIT will be publishing an operator assignment sheet soon.

Next up was a discussion about the upcoming Field Day event on Saturday June 27 and Sunday June 28. There was a question about whether the museum will require a certificate of insurance. KI6RIT will inquire about that with the museum and also with NCO to produce the certificate of insurance if required.

Next there was a question about publicity of the Field Day event in the local (Willits and Ukiah) newspapers. The McARCS Public Information Officer, W6JRC, would be providing the information. It was suggested that both Willits Police Chief Gerry Gonzalez and Sheriff Tom Allman be invited. Based on past experience, it is unlikely that the Police Chief would be present but that the Sheriff sometimes shows up Sunday with food.

That triggered a discussion about food at Field Day. KI6RIT asked if we would prefer pot luck, ordered in pizza or something like that, or individual food. KI6MJC said that in the presumed absence of WB9NJS and his YL KE6YKY, who usually coordinates the food for Field Day, she would coordinate the food operations for Field Day.

There was a very limited discussion about equipment and operators for Field Day. KJ6EIF volunteered to bring the Teen CERT trailer to the site for an operating position. W6FQX asked about RV access through the back gate for a mostly digital operation (mostly PSK31) which was unresolved. It is unknown at this time who would be participating and with what equipment.

Next the discussion turned to the subject of a summer picnic meeting on the coast. KE6EBZ suggested the park in Fort Bragg where we had met on a previous occasion (the name of the park escapes me) or his home very near by. Somebody suggested a camping meeting possibly at MacKerricher State Beach. W6FQX suggested that there might be a group camping area there but that it is likely that all the individual camping spots are fully reserved for the entire summer at this time. WB9NJS checked it out on-line and reported that the grouping camping area there is \$250 per night, tents only. That plan was dropped.

KE6EBZ also said that he knows of a site which we could use for camping but we would have to rent a porta-pottie. There didn't seem to be any interest in that plan. There were no other suggestions.

KG6TXU reported that he had sent the email address of the two new hams in Mendocino County licensed in April to KI6RIT.

KC6MGM suggested that McARCS sponsor a Radiogram message net to practice sending and receiving radiogram formatted messages. One suggestion was to hold this net every other month on Monday evenings when this net was not being held. The opinion was that this was not often enough to gain any proficiency.

Another suggestion was to hold that net on Thursday evening after the digi net. W6FQX offered an opinion that those that do not participate in the digi net and didn't want to listen to it would probably have their radios turned off. KJ6ZVS observed that the digi net often does not end until 8:45 or so. That plan was dropped.

Next, Tuesday evening was suggested for the Radiogram Net. W6FQX stated that the reason that the digi net was changed to Thursday was to clear Tuesday evening for those that operate on the Tuesday evening emergency nets on 75m – some of the same people. That plan was dropped.

KI6MJC suggested that the county-wide net control operator should be the one that announces McARCS supported events and activities rather than waiting for someone else to make the announcement. The only problem with that is making the net control operator aware of those activities. Perhaps the net script posted on the McARCS web site should be modified weekly or monthly to do this.

The net closed shortly after 7 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Lemmer, W6FQX
Secretary, McARCS