

## **Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service**

Meeting Minutes September 12, 2016

This meeting was held at the Sheriff's Training Center on Low Gap Road in Ukiah. The normal meeting date of the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month had been postponed due to the Labor Day Holiday occurring on the first Monday of September.

The meeting was called to order by KJ6EIF. Attending the meeting (in suffix order) were W6FQX, WA6JBK, W6JRC, KC6MGM, KI6MJC, WB9NJS, KG6PBS, KI6RIT, and KK6UEV.

After noting that the EOC Radio room was still stripped of equipment but with a table top operating space installed, the meeting commenced. There still were no radios, computers, or other equipment in the room.

The subject of the Harvest Ride support on September 25<sup>th</sup> was discussed. The following attendees indicated that they would help: W6FQX, WA6JBK, W6JRC, KC6MGM, KI6MJC, and KK6UEV. W6JRC said that he had recruited AF6AZ to participate as well. KI6MJC is coordinating this effort.

The request from the City of Ukiah for communications support for the Pumpkin Fest on October 15 was discussed. The ham radio formerly at the Ukiah Fire Station had been relocated to the Police Station and the city would like it tested, probably as a net control station. KK6UEV stated that he would be attending as a participant in his role as teacher at the Redwood Academy and could provide mobile (HT) coverage from that vantage point. WA6JBK volunteered to coordinate the communications effort and KI6MJC also volunteered to assist.

KJ6EIF mentioned the Great California Shakeout event coming on October 20 and he will be trying to get all school districts in the county to participate with volunteer ham radio operators. Local nets will also be activated as possible with a county-wide check in after the local nets close.

The combined McARCS and WARS ham Holiday Dinner has been reserved for December 9, 2016 at the Broiler Steakhouse in Redwood Valley. The cost per person this year has been raised to \$35. The members present voted to allocate \$95 towards the cost of table decorations and door prizes. WB9NJS will coordinate this with his YL KE6YKY.

KJ6EIF made a report about the operations at the Pt. Cabrillo lighthouse on International Lighthouse and Lightship weekend, on August 20. He and WB9NJS and others set up a station and operated from mid-morning until late afternoon using a temporary inverted-Vee antenna. One of the limiting restrictions was that no antenna could be higher than 20 feet off the ground. That was a disappointment as an excellent ground plane left over from the former LORAN station would make a great base for a tall vertical. Maybe next year!

A discussion was held regarding contributing towards the repair of the Cahto Peak repeater in the WA6RQX county-wide linked repeater system. Something over \$245 had been contributed previously by WARS members and others and these was some indication that others also wished to make a personal contribution. The members present voted to contribute \$100 from the McARCS account to this effort.

It was mentioned that KI6PBH had recently passed away. KI6MJC collected donations for a flower tribute for the funeral service in Ukiah. His XYL wanted to know how to get rid of his equipment. It was suggested that an inventory of make and model numbers be collected. This scribe failed to note who had volunteered for this effort.

McARCS had received an inquiry from the Ukiah Kiwanis club for a presentation about ham radio and its role. This inquiry was taken from the Facebook page originally created for the Field Day effort. It was suggested that this page be taken down as being obsolete. KJ6EIF volunteered to get with the Kiwanis Club and set a date for a presentation that he would make. KI6RIT said that he had a PowerPoint presentation that had been prepared for a presentation before the county supervisors and would make that available.

There was a discussion about the desire of the county OES to have all ham radio operators join a county government Auxiliary Communications Service with the requirement of having a background check made for all volunteers. There were mixed feelings about this and some opinions expressed that a lot of hams would not be interested in this involvement with county government. This question was left unresolved.

There was an announcement that WARS planned an antenna and 222 MHz band seminar for October 8, 2016 to be held at the sheriff's training center, the place where this meeting was being held. There was also a plan for a test session at the same place and on the same day.

As there had been no radio equipment put back into the radio room, the normal check-in to the California Emergency Services Net on 75m was not held and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Lemmer, W6FQX  
McARCS Secretary.