

McARCS Minutes – May 9th, 18:00

Present – Lea KJ6OUY, Steve KJ6EIF, Allen KN6QCY, Rick KK6PZA, Nick KI6RIT, David KM6STY, Jim W6JRC, John W6FQX, Ken AI7NG, Dan KN6QCZ, Pat KM6CEJ, Tim WB9NJS, Mary Jane WA3VUI, Mike KC6MGM

Welcome and introductions – Steve KJ6EIF

Minutes from previous meeting

Two corrections were made before being finalized. The final version has been posted on the McARCS website (Resources, Meeting Minutes).

Treasurer's report – Tim WB9NJS

No changes from last month. - \$826.12

Status of McARCS website – Nick KI6RIT

No changes from last month other than general content updates.

Mendo 50K ultra marathon – Mike KC6MGM

The event went very well. Four people volunteered; two rotated at net control, Mike operated at two stations, another volunteer also operated at two stations, and the last volunteer operated at one. No issues with equipment setup/operation or with communications. The event started on time. Out of 130 participants, only one didn't finish. The participants hailed from seven different countries and 17 states.

One request that Mike will make with any volunteers in future events is to bring a mobile radio. An HT isn't sufficient in parts of the course.

Other McARCS news and discussion

- HF discussion
 - David KM6STY talked at the beginning of the meeting about his experiences with HF.
 - He mentioned needing to learn more about the characteristics of each band – when and where each band is generally active, interpreting solar weather data, strengths and weaknesses of different types of antennas, etc.
 - This would be a good topic to explore further as an addendum for a future general license class or separate seminar.
- Call for Elmers
 - Mike sent out an email asking for volunteers to act as local elmers. Nine people responded by the time of the meeting, plus another one during the meeting.
- Emergency Communications class – May 10th/11th/17th/18th
 - Mike will be presenting.
 - Two people signed up from Mendocino County, 11 from other counties in the state.
- Armed Forces Day cross-band exercise – May 14th
 - A few local hams (K6SCM, KC6MGM, KI6RIT) may try to participate if able to.
- Ukiah license test – May 14th

- Ken reported four people have signed up to test.
- Laytonville Community Resources Fair – May 16th
 - Mike was invited to attend by the Laytonville fire department to represent ham radio interests.
 - The fire department has asked Mike to recommend a ham radio, antenna, and other equipment to install so they can monitor ham activity during emergencies or other events.
 - Once that installation happens, the school, clinic, and fire department will all have ham radio equipment in their facilities.
 - Mike will contact all Laytonville hams to try to get them to participate in emergency communications.
- County Fire Safe Council Wildfire Safety Expo – May 21st, 2-6 PM
 - Mike is planning on setting up a booth.
 - Tim and Steve may join as well.
 - Mike contacted Brentt at county OES and he said that OES will be setting up a pavilion at the event. He has invited MACS, MCSO SAR, and CERT to participate at the pavilion.
- Healthcare communications exercise
 - Currently no plans made for the next exercise.
- ARRL VHF/UHF contest – June 11th/12th
 - Tim and Jonathan KK6RPX are planning on participating at Walker Ridge (north of highway 20 on the Lake/Colusa county line). They're planning on arriving on Friday evening to get an early start on setting up.
 - The event runs from Saturday morning until Sunday evening.
 - Anyone is welcome to attend, whether it's just for the day or staying overnight.
 - Highly recommended as an event to learn more about and break misconceptions on VHF and UHF propagation.
- Lakeport license test – June 25th
 - Test is being held at the Lake County Office of Education (at intersection of Lakeport Blvd and Main St).
- ARRL Field Day – June 25th/26th
 - Field Day is a great event to both expose ham radio to the general public and build skills and interest for newer/less-active hams.
 - This year's event will likely be held in Willits. Ideally, it will be held at the county museum, but discussions are still in progress. An alternate location is Babcock Park in front of the old Howard Memorial Hospital.
 - Steve has contacted many dormant hams in the county that have gotten licensed over the last few years to try to get them to come out and participate.
 - Steve wants to set up a get-on-the-air (GOTA) station and provide elmering to help get dormant hams interested again.
 - David KM6STY has offered to bring his motorhome as a visual attractor/operating location/power source.
 - *Post-meeting update:* After further discussion about venue options, it has been decided that Field Day will be held at the Baechtel Grove Middle School (west of the old Howard

Memorial Hospital). The county museum was unable to make the venue available in time.

Future activities

- Lighthouse Day – August
 - No discussion on this topic at this meeting.
- Shakeout – October
 - Mike, Tim, and Steve met a couple of weeks ago to start planning a combo earthquake/tsunami countywide event with participation from healthcare facilities and schools.
 - One obstacle that came up was the possible lack of number of volunteers for such a large-scale event.
 - Mike said during tonight's meeting that the tsunami drill will be held separately due to the amount of available volunteers.
 - Pat asked about the amount of school districts and healthcare facilities that could participate. The response was 11 school districts+MCOE and 21 healthcare facilities have various combinations of licensed staff and/or equipment.
 - Steve mentioned the importance of having local volunteers participate as during an actual emergency, it is likely that distant travel would be severely impaired or impossible.
- New/dormant ham training seminar
 - Tim and Rick discussed holding a seminar to get new hams up to speed on the basics and different aspects of the hobby.
 - One idea that was discussed was setting up multiple stations with different themes – basic soldering, using meters and diagnostic equipment, building and tuning an antenna, digital communication modes, etc.
 - Good opportunity to incorporate the HF training discussion from the beginning of the meeting.
 - No date set yet but possibly sometime this fall.

Meeting adjourned at 19:00

The next meeting will be on June 13th @ 18:00