

McArcs Meeting

Meeting Date

Monday January 8, 2024

Minutes Taken By

Steve Pointer, KD6DQO (thanks Steve!)

Meeting Time

18:00 - 18:48

Attendees

McArcs Officers

Derek Hoyle, KE6EBZ
Steve Turner, KJ6EIF
Tim Hanna, WB9NJS
Nick Wharff, KI6RIT
Dan Edwards, W6AAM
John Lemmer, W6FQX

Other Attendees

Steve Pointer, KD6DQO
Other attendees not recorded.

Welcome & Introductions

Derek, KE6EBZ

12/11/23 meeting minutes posted on the McArcs website.

Reports

Treasurer

Tim, WB9NJS - McARCs has a balance of \$826.12.

Webmaster

Nick, KI6RIT - no new business.

News & Events

1. VOAD update - Steve, KJ6EIF: introduced his activity with VOAD or the national Voluntary Organization Active in Disasters. VOAD and the local support offshoots, COAD or the community group offers a broad range of local disaster relief. The MOAD Preparedness Committee is headed by Mary Ann-WA3VUI. In coordination with her, Steve distributed an email to the local group to determine the ham radio capability of local VOAD volunteers. He polled 63 members, many department heads, asking their contact info, mission, organization, responsibility and radio preparedness. Steve hasn't received all the information back yet so we will report his summary at a future meeting.
2. Frequency database update - Steve, KD6DQO: has completed work on the CHIRP easy programming list for McARCs radio users. This database will include CSV files to easily program primary and emergency frequencies for Mendocino County ham radio users. The file is simple and uses CHIRP (<https://chirp.danplanet.com/>) radio program software and the CSV file to quickly and easily enter these frequencies into our radios. Additional CSV files are being developed and all can easily be modified if needed, to work with many brands and models of radios. Look for additional files and services in time.

Other Business

1. WARS website update, Rick, KK6PZA: No new information is available regarding their website update.
2. WARS in-person meeting, Rick, KK6PZA: Future activities include a potluck/ham demonstration function open to the public to be held on February 3, at the LDS church in Willits. Time of the event is 10 AM to approximately 3 PM. The event will offer a big pot-luck meal with various ham presentations and demonstrations. Several McARCs members will be presenters and topics vary. A major theme is the use of simplex ham frequencies during emergencies, building simple VHF antennas, programming radios, digital modes including fldigi and Winlink and more. Those interested in attending can visit the WARS website or contact WARS at: w6mmm.club@gmail.com This is a big important event for the ham radio community.

3. McArcs fundraising status, Steve, KD6DQO: asked for volunteers to assist in organizing a fundraiser and identifying community needs. President Derek-KE6EBZ suggested we meet as a group to discuss and the date of January 22, 2024 was agreed upon to discuss this important activity. The meeting will proceed with ZOOM at 6 PM. The purpose is to provide McARCs with adequate funds to support ham radio at points of great need and to individuals representing isolated groups or underserved communities. The fundraiser is a Disaster Preparedness/Relief effort. All are welcome to attend the meeting.
4. Special election for interim president, Derek, KE6EBZ: Due to unforeseen circumstances, President Derek-WE6EBZ must vacate his post as McARCs President. He is moving in the May 2024 time frame and asks for volunteers for nomination to McARCs President. All interested parties should contact Derek at: helios@saber.net For those not involved in McARCs, Derek is an excellent leader. He is inclusive, straight-forward, knowledgeable, trusting, innovative and very personable. We will miss Derek's leadership and warm personality greatly. We expect to hold the election in March or April this year. Thanks for your service and best to you Derek!

McArcs Supported Events

1. Mendo 50K Ultramarathon, Tim, WB9NJS: mentioned the forthcoming Mendo 50K Ultra Marathon in April. Race organizers will send a \$200 check to cover expenses associated with Ham Radio support at the event. Tim suggested instead of splitting the check, McARCs should assume all the funds as they will provide the support. He summarized that it is not a WARS supported event. All agreed the funds will go directly and solely to McARCs. President Derek-WE6EBZ upheld the decision.

Other Topics

1. WinLink RMS gateway, John, W6FQX: stated the Ham community needs a Winlink RMS gateway. Web support for that is no longer available and we need a new user or IPS to host a RMS Winlink gateway. The closest gateway now is in San Rafael. Any volunteers?
2. McARCs Roster, Dan, W6AAM: revised the roster checklist for McARCs. He pared the list to exclude those who have not participated over time and make it more readable and accurate. This activity was a lot of work and was much needed. Thanks Dan for a great job!

Next Meeting

February 12, 2024 at 18:00 on Zoom.