

Minutes: McARCS General Meeting-14 October 2024
Steve, KD6DQO – Acting Secretary

McARCS Business Meeting Minutes -

Meeting starts at 6:03 PM by Vice President Steve, KJ6EIF via Zoom.
Officers attending are: Tim-WB9NJS, John-W6FQX, Dan-W6AAM, Steve-KJ6EIF, Nick-KI6RIT, Acting Sec. Steve-KD6DQO. Absent: None. Thanks to the many members and guests who attended this meeting.

STANDING REPORTS

- A. Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Tim, WB9NJS gave the treasurer's report. McARCS has a balance of \$1126.12. Noted, Nick-KI6RIT has submitted his list of expenses to be reimbursed for his personal payments for McARCS web hosting and domain name registration for the past several years. Treasurer Tim received his list and will issue payment to cover Nick's expenses.
- B. Minutes: Minutes from the 15 September 2024 meeting are posted to McARCS website.
- C. Webmaster Report: Nick-KI6RIT: Nick completed migration to the new hosting site, QTH.com. He reports the new site is a bit slower than previous but no errors or problems. McARCS is invoiced for 3 years of hosting to achieve a good discount. Hosting provides up to 1 Gb of data. New charges are \$4.95 month for hosting and annual charge of \$21.95 to DocuWiki for domain name registration. Several members thanked Nick as his work took many hours to negotiate with the new host and transferring files from the old to new host website. McARCS.org is fully operational

BUSINESS: New and Old

1. SHAKEOUT EXERCISE: Tim-WB9NJS provided an overview of the Shakeout exercise planned for the Health Services sector. Shakeout takes place Thursday, Oct. 18 and Tim is sending out an info packet to Health Workers in preparation for the exercise. All 16 health facilities will participate using Ham radio voice only. The Public health exercise will use a receive only mode to net control for status of their facilities at each volunteer site
Mike-KC6MGM will establish 3 functional facilities for the exercise and use FLDIGI mode to communicate from his facility/station in Laytonville to and from each facility. Rick-KK6PZA and John-W6FQX volunteered to represent the other 2 shelters.

2. NET LOGGING: Dan-W6AAM announced he has the needed support for Net logging request he asked for. Tim-WB9NJS volunteered to support Dan and this necessary if not too exciting task. Thanks Tim and Dan for handling this important function. Steve (call sign not recorded) suggested having a Log Sheet Class for members to learn how to manage this function so we have trained members ready to step in to accommodate logging when the primary is not available. He suggested using Countywide repeaters to communicate this information. He has lots of documentation to support a class like this.
3. NEW ID PROCESS FOR MACS – Dan-W6AAM presented the new procedures for applying for and acquiring MACS membership and receiving official MACS IDs. He worked with Mendocino sheriff and county officials (Jeff and others) to develop a plan to update existing MACS ids and get approval for applications in the pipeline for new members. The membership process includes meeting guidelines and prerequisites as well as steps necessary to process County IDs. Essentially, applicants must submit an application (OES@mendocinocounty.gov) take two online classes, (ICS 100 & ICS 700), subject to background checks, be fingerprinted and have a Life Scan check. Membership is good for 5 years. Mike-KC6MGM will support new members validation as well. Kudos to Dan for his extensive work on removing the backlog of accreditation for existing members and working closely with county officials to realign and simplify the process for adding new MACS members. This took a lot of work and personal time meeting with various officials to get acceptance for all the steps and concurrence for the process. Yea Dan! Training and exercise information regarding MACS and community emergency response and support for Mendocino County can be found: <https://www.mendocinocounty.gov/government/executive-office/office-of-emergency-services/training-and-exercises>
4. EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS TRAINING – Mike-KC6MGM provided an overview of scheduled emergency coms training events. These events are delivered via Zoom and cover emergency communications Procedures and separately, Documentation. They are sponsored by Mendocino OES and MACS and will be separate one-hour sessions held each evening at 6PM. Licenses are not required, everyone is welcome. Schedule dates are November 1 and November 8. For details, go to: <https://www.McARCS.org/doku.php?id=news> or contact Mike at mgmcarter@outlook.com
5. WARS REPORT – Rick-KK6PZA president of WARS provided a quick overview of WARS activity including events held at Whitesboro Grange in Albion and LDS church in Willits. For more info, go to WARS website at: <https://w6mmm.club/>

6. McARCS ELECTION – Steve-KJ6EIF announced forthcoming McARCS elections of Officers for 2025. Nominations for the various positions will take place at the regular November meeting (November 11 via Zoom) and election of those nominations at the general meeting in December. Look at McARCS.org for details and meeting schedules
7. UKIAH POLICE SUPPORT – Steve-KD6DQO I introduced the issue of emergency communications ham radio support for the Ukiah Police Dept. I noted that McARCS has no official standing or support of the 2nd largest police department (30 officers) in Mendocino County and asked others for history of our involvement with Ukiah PD. This created a large contingency of interest and feedback. Many offered comments including but not only John, Nick, Mike, Sean. Steve-KD6DQO was incredulous that McARCS had and has so little involvement with UPD and become exasperated. Being fairly new to the county, I had no idea of the history between McARCS and UPD so I dominated the conversation much to the consternation of the rest of the group. Regardless, I continued to express shock that we had no better offering to UPD and to my eyes, it seemed there was not much interest in improving that relationship. I stated as much which created more angst within the group towards me.

Meeting Ends

No further business is discussed or raised.

Meeting Adjourn: 6:58 PM PDT.

Steve, KD6DQO, Vanishing Secretary-McARCS Thank You and the best!