

# McARCS Minutes – December 9<sup>th</sup>, 18:00

**Present** – Mike KC6MGM, Nick KI6RIT, Allen KC6QCY, Dan W6AAM, Mike K6MAH, Mary Jane WA3VUI, Tim WB9NJS, Sean K6SCM, John W6FQX, Steve KJ6EIF, Per AF6SW

**Welcome and Introductions** – Tim WB9NJS

## **Minutes from Previous Meeting**

No changes from draft minutes proposed. The minutes have been posted on the website.

**Treasurer's Report** – Tim WB9NJS

A check has been written to Mike KC6MGM for Zoom expenses reimbursement. It has not been mailed yet. Once the check clears, there will be \$607.19 left in the bank account.

**Status of McARCS Website** – Nick KI6RIT

No changes from last month.

**Countywide Net Logging** – Dan W6AAM

Nick KI6RIT has been continuing to log the countywide net in parallel with Dan as a backup. Dan will send his version of the 2025 net logging spreadsheet to Nick for various corrections and improvements – callsign/name/location updates, cell formula fixes, formatting consistency, etc.

Tim WB9NJS asked if there were any general statistics on net participation. Dan responded that there are no graphs or charts currently available, but the totals are tallied up automatically in the spreadsheet and can be viewed that way.

Dan also talked about the importance of following-up with new licensees to make sure they have the equipment they need and to help get them active on the air.

## **News & Event Reviews**

**Humboldt earthquake recap, December 5<sup>th</sup>**

Tim WB9NJS reported that he heard Sean K6SCM, Mike KC6MGM, Greg WA6RQX, and others on the countywide repeater system shortly after the earthquake occurred. The county office of emergency services (OES) called a Teams meeting with Mike, the sheriff, Public Health, fire departments, the Mendocino County Office of Education, and the harbormasters for Noyo and Point Arena harbors. All of them reported normal activity. The sheriff reported that evacuations were underway in Noyo Harbor. Tsunami sirens along the coast were triggered. Mike reported that the director of the Mendocino Transit Agency (MTA) called him during the meeting; Mike relayed MTA's actions to the rest of the meeting participants.

Mike KC6MGM noted that there were not that many people that responded on the countywide system outside of the initial gathering listed above. Dan W6AAM and Nick KI6RIT reported that there was a lot of activity heard on the linked Mathison Peak/Fort Bragg repeaters; Nick was on Highway 20 en

route to Fort Bragg when the earthquake occurred and reported that no shaking was felt while driving and phone emergency alerts were received around mile marker 13.5 when cell phone reception was regained.

Tim said that it was encouraging to hear that so many of the coastal hams were active on their local repeaters and that we should follow-up with them to see who is able to be a bridge or liaison between there and the countywide repeater system, such as someone with a good path to either the Cahto Peak or Laughlin Ridge repeaters and has two radios or one with dual VFO capability.

Sean K6SCM asked if anyone activated the Mendocino/Sonoma emergency net on 40 meters (7245 kHz), Mike K6MAH reported that he got on frequency and tried to start a net. Mike KC6MGM checked the state OES HF frequencies and reported that he heard nothing from the state emergency operations center (EOC). He also checked the Humboldt emergency HF net frequency and heard nothing there as well.

Sean discussed that Laytonville hams have been using an emergency communications approach for enlisting new hams and other interested parties, including bringing in GMRS capabilities and adding a GMRS repeater to the area. Mike KC6MGM added that another reason for a GMRS repeater in Laytonville is due to a snowstorm from a couple of years ago; no one with ham radios were able to reach local facilities equipped with radios.

## ***Other McARCS News and Discussion***

### ***License test session, December 14<sup>th</sup>*** – Tim WB9NJS

The next test session will be at the Lake County Office of Education in Lakeport. As of this meeting, one person has signed up to take a test, with the possibility of a second one later in the week. Nick KI6RIT has lined up a sufficient amount of VEs for the test.

Tim will continue the roughly 3-month cadence for test sessions at a minimum, preferably doing at least one extra test a year above that amount to comfortably stay above the minimum test amount to retain field-stocked status with the ARRL VEC. The next test session will be in Ukiah sometime around March.

### ***Officer elections***

Tim WB9NJS volunteered to stay on as treasurer. No other nominations or volunteers for the other positions were received prior to the meeting. Steve KJ6EIF is stepping down from a leadership role that he has served for several years.

Mike KC6MGM volunteered during the meeting to take the president role. Sean K6SCM did the same for the vice president role, and Nick KI6RIT did the same for the secretary role. A vote of present members was unanimous in favor.

The list of McARCS officers for 2025 is as follows:

- President – Mike Carter, KC6MGM
- Vice President – Sean Murphy, K6SCM
- Treasurer – Tim Hanna, WB9NJS
- Secretary – Nick Wharff, KI6RIT

The updated list of officers will be posted on the McARCS site, both as a news page item and on the officers list page in the Resources section.

### ***Meeting participation***

Mike KC6MGM will try to solicit more participation in McARCS meetings, so hams across the county know what's going on and what we do. Other suggestions are welcome!

### ***Other Business***

#### ***MACS application process revision*** – Dan W6AAM and Mike KC6MGM

The sheriff's office is ready and on-board with the updated MACS application process. When MACS responsibility was transferred away from the sheriff's office, they deleted their MACS Livescan fingerprint records, so all MACS members will need to go through the process again (per Dan, this takes 1-3 weeks). A photo will be taken when the background checks clear and paperwork is submitted, and the applicant will obtain the ID card at that point.

There was discussion on whether the background checks for MACS would also cover CERT. It was determined that it wouldn't, as CERT has moved away from county OES and North Coast Opportunities (NCO) sponsorship.

Steve KJ6EIF asked about the status of the Fort Bragg fingerprinting option, Dan reported that the Livescan and fingerprinting part of the process can be done at the Fort Bragg sheriff's substation but the ID card printing and pickup will have to be done in Ukiah.

Mike K6MAH asked if sheriff search and rescue (SAR) members that have previously gone through the Livescan and fingerprint process would have to go through it again. Dan said that he would check on that and report back.

#### ***WARS update*** – Dan W6AAM and Tim WB9NJS

The next on-air meeting will be this coming Thursday at 19:30 on the countywide repeater system. The next in-person meetup will be on December 28<sup>th</sup>, likely at Black Oak Coffee Roasters in Ukiah due to weather.

#### ***Ukiah Police Department ham radio equipment update*** – Dan W6AAM

Dan reached out to the police chief but hasn't heard back yet.

#### ***Leggett ham radio equipment update*** – Mike KC6MGM

Mike visited the school that formerly hosted a ham radio setup. He found a radio but no coax. The office that had the radio had since been remodeled. There appears to be a Diamond X-200 (or

similar) antenna on the top of the building. It is currently unknown if it is intended for ham purposes or not (eg. buses). He will look again to try to locate the coax.

Two or three staff at the school expressed interest in getting licensed; none of them recognized the name of the licensed ham that lives in town.

Tim WB9NJS mentioned that the CERT group there got trained earlier this year and may be interested in getting licensed. Mike will follow-up with them.

### ***Future activities***

Tim WB9NJS – spring healthcare facility exercise. May be in April, exact date TBD

Mike KC6MGM – Mendocino Ultra 50k marathon, date TBD

Meeting adjourned at 19:23

The next meeting will be on January 13<sup>th</sup> @ 18:00