

McARCS Minutes – January 13th, 2025 @ 18:00

Present – Mike KC6MGM, Nick KI6RIT, Michael KM6OTE, Dan W6AAM, Michael W1TEY, John W6FQX, Brett KM6QIK, Allen KN6QCY, Steve KJ6EIF, Sean K6SCM, Steve KD6DQO, Mike K6MAH, Per AF6SW, Ran KK6MUX, Tim WB9NJS, Rick KK6PZA, Andrew Jordan, Cedric Crook (UPD chief)

Welcome and introductions – Mike KC6MGM started the meeting at 18:00.

Treasurer's report – Tim WB9NJS

The Zoom expense reimbursement check was sent to Mike KC6MGM. The account balance is now \$607.19. There are no expenditures anticipated for the foreseeable future.

Secretary's report – Nick KI6RIT

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

Webmaster's report – Nick KI6RIT

The officers page has been updated to reflect the new officers for 2025. Older news posts were moved to the news archive.

Net Logger's report – Dan W6AAM

So far, the new year is off to a slow start in regards to participation levels. Dan sent a recap of last year to the previous president, Steve KJ6EIF, per the McARCS constitution requirement.

News & Event Reviews

December test session report – Tim WB9NJS

A test session was held at the Lake County Office of Education in Lakeport on Saturday, December 14th. Three people tested, all three passed. One person upgraded from technician to general-class, and two people obtained their technician-class license and were issued the callsigns KO6HEI and KO6HEV.

On the volunteer examiner side, Ron KK6BH participated as a VE for the first time. Don N6ULC, Jeff N6JJT, and Eric KI6BXC also assisted. Ken AI7NG showed up as well, which was a pleasant surprise!

The next test session will be held in Ukiah, likely sometime in March, possibly earlier.

McARCS Business

Update on Ukiah Police Department amateur radio station – Chief Crook

Chief Cedric Crook joined us for this meeting (*secretary's note: this item was the first item discussed at this meeting, to respect the chief's time*). Mike KC6MGM discussed the history of the station leading up to current events, the request from former UPD staff to have a regularly-updated list of vetted, available operators, and why keeping that list updated would be difficult. Operators have to be

vetted due to the current location of the equipment being adjacent to the dispatch room and in the secure area of the building.

The chief mentioned that UPD has a new dispatch supervisor that came from Sacramento and has lots of experience. The chief offered to connect Mike and Dan W6AAM with the new dispatch supervisor and the city's emergency services coordinator.

Update of McARCS Constitution – Mike KC6MGM

Mike proposed a number of changes to the McARCS Constitution to update it and align it with how the organization currently operates (*secretary's note: the proposed changes document has been posted alongside the agenda for this meeting on the McARCS website*). Discussion on each part of the proposed changes was extensive and has been summarized below; a small number of items were missed due to the fast-paced nature of the discussion.

Membership section – proposed changing to any ham wanting to participate and further the goals of the organization

- Mike K6MAH and Sean K6SCM thought it would be good to have an application of some sort.
- Tim WB9NJS mentioned that the WARS application is just for information gathering and that it would be useful to have the same for McARCS. He doesn't think that approval by the board of directors is necessary.
- Sean K6SCM asked if a fillable form could be created and posted on the McARCS website.
- Per AF6SW talked about an Oakland ham club that he's a part of and how they have different levels of membership based on level or capability of participation.
- Mike KC6MGM held a vote of members present on whether to have a formal application for McARCS. It was fairly split, leaning towards yes. More details will have to be sorted out (record keeping, etc.) before sending out to the membership.

Dues section – proposed removing it

- John W6FQX felt that leaving the dues section as-is would give the organization flexibility in the future.
- Mike KC6MGM held a vote of members present on whether to remove the dues section or not. The vote was in favor of keeping the dues clause in the constitution.

Treasurer section – proposed removing the requirement to prepare an annual budget

- No budget has ever been prepared and approved.
- Dan W6AAM proposed changing the "shall" to "may" to give us the flexibility in the future.
- Tim WB9NJS talked about how a formal budget hasn't been done in the past and having one would be difficult as the organization doesn't have any regular income or expenses.
- Andrew proposed adding a clause to invoke a budget if the bank account balance is above a certain amount.
- John W6FQX requested that a budget goal be made (*e.g. funding a Winlink VARA VHF node*) and mentioned other expenses that haven't been formally accounted for before, such as food for Field Day.
 - Tim WB9NJS clarified that WARS has paid for Field Day food for many years.

- Mike K6MAH said that structure around the club funds would be good to avoid potential for disputes and help with future planning.
 - John W6FQX mentioned that fund disputes can be dealt with via section 3. He also shared a personal anecdote about another ham club that ran into funding disputes.
- **Members present voted to have an annual budget report prepared and to delay the first report until next month.**
- Tim WB9NJS asked how and what format would the budget be in (verbal or written), who does it get sent to, etc. Mike KC6MGM suggested having an expanded version of the treasurer's report that's currently included in the meeting minutes and continuing with that.
- Mike KC6MGM proposed changing section 6 to say that the budget report will be prepared once per year in January.

Other officers section – membership officer

- Ran KK6MUX volunteered to help with any membership or application form work.

Constitution discussion outcome

- There will be one minor change to the constitution; most of it will remain as-is.
- McARCS officers will work on the application form and present it at the February meeting for vote by the membership.
- Tim WB9NJS will prepare the annual budget report and present it at the February meeting.
- Webmaster action item: update the membership blurb at the top of the Resources page

Other Business

WARS update – Rick KK6PZA

Now that the holidays are over, Rick is working at getting back into the swing of things with WARS events and activities. There was a meetup at Black Oak Coffee Roasters in Ukiah on December 28th. Another meetup is planned for January 25th, either at Black Oak or at the Joe Riley Overlook at Lake Mendocino, depending on weather.

The events schedule for the rest of the year is being worked on, more to come soon.

Dan W6AAM expressed interest in doing a parks on the air (POTA) activation on Cow Mountain.

MACS update – Mike KC6MGM

Mike spoke with the county office of emergency services (OES), they will be emailing a Livescan form to previous members for fingerprinting but a background check will **not** need to be done. Once the Livescan is done, new ID cards will be issued to those members.

New members will need to go through the full process.

ID cards will be good for 5 years.

Training update – Mike KC6MGM

Emergency communications practice (radiogram, ICS)

Mike will resume emcomm practice on the 4th Thursday of each month. Zoom link to be posted on the McARCS website, News page.

Emergency communication procedures and documentation practice

Mike will resume procedures and documentation practice in March. Same format as before.

Future activities

Healthcare communications exercise – Tim WB9NJS

Tim is trying to keep to a 6-month cadence for communications exercises with healthcare facilities, to keep in compliance with grant requirements. The next one following that cadence would be in April. Tim will meet with stakeholders to schedule the next exercise.

Tim is trying to work around the Mendocino Ultra 50k marathon to avoid volunteer availability issues and burnout. Mike KC6MGM said that only 5 people are needed to cover the marathon; he and other members present don't think it will be a problem with having both events in the same month.

Meeting adjourned at 19:07

The next meeting will be on February 10th @ 18:00