

McARCS Minutes – February 10th, 2025 @ 18:00

Present – Steve KJ6EIF, Mike K6MAH, Dan W6AAM, Carole KI6DJH, Tim WB9NJS, Steve KD6DQO, Per AF6SW, Rick KK6PZA, Nick KI6RIT, John KJ6IBP, John W6FQX, Eric KM6SHY, Ran KK6MUX, Valerie KN6VVV, Sharon K6BQY

Welcome and introductions – Steve KJ6EIF started the meeting at 18:14.

Mike KC6MGM was out ill and was unable to start the meeting on the usual Zoom account, so Mike K6MAH started an alternate meeting using his account. Between quick email distribution and coordination on the countywide repeater system, most people were able to join.

Treasurer's report – Tim WB9NJS

The account balance is the same as last month, \$607.19. Tim is working with Savings Bank on resolving issues with receiving electronic bank statements.

Tim provided a budget report as directed at the January meeting. For recurring expenses, web hosting is about \$80 a year and the Zoom account is about \$160 a year, totaling about \$240 a year. The only donations McARCS typically receives is from the Mendocino 50k marathon, which is usually \$250 each year. That leaves McARCS with a ~\$10 yearly budget surplus. Thus, any future projects or needs will require an increase in revenue.

Secretary's report – Nick KI6RIT

January minutes were written and posted on the McARCS website. There has been no progress on the action items from last month.

Webmaster's report – Nick KI6RIT

Minor content updates, mainly routine updates to the digi net log by John W6FQX and the countywide net log by Dan W6AAM.

Net Logger's report – Dan W6AAM

No updates to report.

News & Event Reviews

March test session – Tim WB9NJS

The next test session has been scheduled. It will be on **Saturday, March 22nd at 10 AM** at the Redwood Collegiate Academy in Ukiah (front of the fairgrounds). Pre-registration is required. Tests for all license classes are available.

Information on the test session has been posted on both the ARRL and McARCS websites. Links to video recordings of classes, practice tests, and other resources are on the McARCS website, under *Resources, Training Resources*.

McARCS Business

Vice President election

Sean K6SCM stepped down from the role of vice president. Ran KK6MUX offered to take on the role. There were no objections by anyone present. Thank you Ran for stepping up!

Update on Ukiah Police Department amateur radio station – Mike KC6MGM

Mike KC6MGM was going to provide an update but it will be postponed due to him being out ill.

Approval of McARCS membership form – Mike KC6MGM

Mike created a draft version of a membership form and sent it to the McARCS officers for review and approval. That is still ongoing, so further discussion has been postponed.

Discussion of McARCS mission and scope

Postponed to a future meeting.

Other Business

WARS update – Rick KK6PZA

The monthly meetup was held at the Joe Riley Overlook at Lake Mendocino last month. That day also coincided with Winter Field Day. Nick KI6RIT set up an antenna and radio for 10 meters and 24 contacts were made in total, mostly in the central and northeast parts of the country. The meetup was well-attended.

The next monthly meetup will be in Willits, either at Recreation Grove Park or Brickhouse Coffee, depending on weather.

Rick mentioned that the website is undergoing updates.

Dave Johnston, the IT director at Mendocino College, reached out to Rick about establishing an amateur radio station for emergency purposes at the campus. Dave and a few other college employees are hams. Mike K6MAH personally knows Dave and offered to get in contact with Dave to get that going.

MACS update – Dan W6AAM

New ID cards for previous MACS members have started to be issued. For those that were previously MACS members, call the Ukiah sheriff's office to make an appointment for updating your fingerprints on file. Bring the completed MACS membership form, old/expired MACS ID card, and a valid government-issued ID.

Per AF6SW asked about where to take ICS training courses as different organizations have different versions or "flavors" of the ICS courses. Mike K6MAH suggested going to the FEMA website and signing up for their courses.

Training update – Mike KC6MGM

Postponed to a future meeting.

McARCS supported events

Mendocino Coast 50k Ultra Marathon, April 19th – Mike KC6MGM

A full update has been postponed due to Mike not being present. It is unknown if enough volunteers have signed up; Tim WB9NJS said that Mike had mentioned having two people signed up as of a few weeks ago.

Coastal region radio exercise, May 1st – Mike K6MAH

The exercise will be similar to the previous one that was held last August. A pre-exercise briefing will be held at 09:00, with the exercise running from 10:00-13:00 or so. Up to 15 volunteers may be needed to staff healthcare facility radios around the county. Last year's exercise didn't have as many facility activations as desired due to logistics difficulties and lack of volunteers with MACS credentials and background checks – friendly reminder to all to apply for MACS membership to get credentialed to enter sensitive facilities and to be covered by county disaster service worker liability insurance!

The planning committee for the exercise has an operational area test scheduled for February 22nd. Mike K6MAH will check with Mike KC6MGM to see if our participation in that test is necessary as our weekly nets should, in theory, fulfill the requirements and goals for that test.

The county emergency operations center may be staffed on March 29th for a coordination test with other coastal region EOCs, more details to come for that.

An email with more information on the exercise will be sent out.

Healthcare facility radio exercise, May 1st – Tim WB9NJS

This exercise is being held in conjunction with the coastal region exercise. Tim WB9NJS is working with Mike K6MAH and Mike KC6MGM on coordination between the exercises and staffing needs. Tim is hoping to expand the number of participating facilities and add digital messaging capabilities, starting with Public Health. The exercise will follow a similar format to the previous exercise last August.

Some healthcare facilities will have employees operating that facility's radio, while others will need volunteers.

An email with more information on the exercise will be sent out.

Meeting adjourned at 18:56

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