

McARCS Minutes – December 8th, 2025 @ 18:00

Present – Mary Jane WA3VUI, Nick KI6RIT, Dan W6AAM, Mike KC6MGM, Allen KN6QCY, Rick KK6PZA, Tim WB9NJS, Ran KK6MUX, Valerie KN6VVV, Steve KJ6EIF

Welcome and introductions – Mike KC6MGM started the meeting at 18:04

Treasurer's report – Tim WB9NJS

A check was issued last month to Mike KC6MGM for \$159.90 for reimbursement for the Zoom account. The bank account balance is now at \$647.29. Tim noted that the bank has a minimum balance requirement of \$600 in order to avoid monthly charges. Additional revenue sources will need to be found.

Secretary's report – Nick KI6RIT

The June minutes were finished yesterday and posted on the McARCS website (Resources, Meeting Minutes). The July minutes are partially completed. Nick will continue working through the minutes backlog as time allows.

Webmaster's report – Nick KI6RIT

General content updates – news page, minutes and agendas, etc.

Net Logger's report – Dan W6AAM

Nothing to report.

News & Event Reviews

December test session – Tim WB9NJS

This coming Saturday, December 13th, is the next test session. It will be at the Lake County Office of Education in Lakeport. So far, one person is signed up for the extra-class exam.

There is currently no test sessions scheduled for next year. The next one will likely be sometime in March, in Ukiah. More details to come later.

McARCS Business

Officer Nominations – Mike KC6MGM

Mike won't be able to continue with the president role due to medical reasons. Ran KK6MUX nominated himself for the president role. No other nominations were made. A vote among present members was held, with Ran winning unanimously.

Ran asked if there was a list of responsibilities for the president role. They are listed on pages 2 and 3 of the McARCS constitution.

No nominations were made for vice president, so the role will remain vacant for now.

Tim WB9NJS was asked if he was willing to continue serving as treasurer, to which he agreed.

Nick KI6RIT was asked if he was willing to continue serving as secretary, to which he agreed.

Mike will continue to maintain the Zoom account – meeting scheduling for the whole year, starting up the room 15 minutes before the meeting, etc.

UHF repeater inventory – Tim WB9NJS

Going off of earlier discussions about revamping the Repeaters page on the McARCS website, Tim started a project of compiling a list of UHF repeaters around the county so that they can be better utilized and incorporated in our emergency communications plans.

He has a partial list so far but would like assistance if anyone else knows more information. Nick KI6RIT volunteered to help, as it would pair nicely with the Repeaters page project. Greg WA6RQX likely has information as well; Nick will run the list by him.

Other Business

WARS update – Rick KK6PZA

Next on-air meetup is this coming Thursday. So far, there has been one nomination for the president role for next year.

MACS update – Mike KC6MGM

Nothing to report.

Training update – Mike KC6MGM

Nothing to report.

Emergency Operations Center – Tim WB9NJS

Tim and Steve KJ6EIF activated the station at the EOC for the Shakeout exercise. In past exercises, county communications staff got the station set up prior to the exercise start, but they were not available that day due to other commitments. Tim and Steve were able to get the equipment (power supply, radios, headphone amplifier, laptops) set up after some effort.

Tim suggested putting together a cheat sheet for setting up the station, and also advised anyone that is stationed there in the future to assess it beforehand if possible if they haven't been there before.

Steve mentioned the need for an equipment inventory as a headset recently went missing. He also suggested having an occasional orientation scheduled (e.g. quarterly). He raised a point that the equipment takes up most of the desk space and asked about raising the equipment up so there's room to place a clipboard while scribing. Mike KC6MGM suggested having a shelf installed and the equipment placed on that. Mike K6MAH had also suggested during the event about moving the desk to a different part of the room, but Steve couldn't remember the exact details.

Mike KC6MGM is working on having a whiteboard and document holders added to the room.

Secretary's post-meeting note: Nick KI6RIT will be scheduling quarterly equipment tests and laptop updates. The orientation events could be held that day pending approval from Office of Emergency Services staff.

School radios – Ran KK6MUX

Ran went to school district offices in Laytonville, Leggett, and Covelo. He noted that some of the facilities had the same radio model, but they didn't have assigned staff that were familiar with the radios, nor was there a cheat sheet or quick start guide available for them. Ran has a background in technical writing and volunteered to write a guide that could be placed at all locations with that particular radio model.

Steve KJ6EIF said that initially, all school district offices had the same radio (older Motorola). Over time, some of the radios on the coast were replaced with a different model. He has a two-page guide written for the older radio. He also has basic information for the radio in Covelo and gave Mary Jane WA3VUI a copy of the full manual in case the radio gets put into an inoperable state.

Emergency preparedness survey – Ran KK6MUX

Ran recently got a form from an emergency preparedness group to distribute among the community. The form gathers information on who are local residents, any elderly or disabled residents, pets, children, etc. He asked if the Laytonville town council should work on distributing the form and if any similar work has been done elsewhere in the county.

Mike KC6MGM said that the county Department of Social Services is supposed to collect that information and is supposed to issue a window-mounted placard to indicate if someone in the home has a disability or medical condition. Having said that, whether that program is still active is unknown.

Steve KJ6EIF suggested reaching out to senior centers to make sure they have inventory of their residents, emergency communications, transportation, etc.

Future activities

Mendocino Ultra 50k marathon – Mike KC6MGM

Mike was contacted by the marathon organizer. It will be held on April 18th next year.

International Lighthouse and Lightship Weekend – Mike KC6MGM

Mike asked about removing this event from the calendar as McARCS has not participated in it for many years. Nick KI6RIT volunteered to organize it and reach out to Point Cabrillo State Park next spring. If they are unable or unwilling to allow us to hold the event, Nick will try with the Point Arena Lighthouse.

Meeting adjourned at 18:36

The next meeting will be on January 12th @ 18:00