

Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service
McARCS

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Agenda and Minutes

Present: John Lemmer, Suzy Miller, Tim Hanna, Al Marsden, Don Morosi, Bill Woodworth, Christine Dektor, Jim Cline, Frank McGarvey, Annie Robinson

Introductions:

- Al Marsden WN6AOH of Redwood Valley
- Don Morosi KF6UDJ of Long Valley

Hospital/Clinic Equipment Update

Equipment is installed, operational and is working well. All stations are programmed identically including one handheld at each station. Stations are programmed for ham, simplex, and public service frequencies. The radios are putting out up to 75W and can access 10-14 repeaters reaching all of Mendocino County and parts of Sonoma and Lake Counties. The next step is to create an operating guide, so that amateurs will be able to operate the equipment regardless of their familiarity with the specific radios installed.

These stations need to be used by the ham community, currently, only Howard Hospital is being used on a regular basis. Because of high staff turnover in hospitals, local hams will be called upon during an emergency. Therefore, it is necessary to acquaint local amateurs with each hospital/clinic and the equipment. Annie will contact facilities to see if they are willing to have a "meet and greet," where hams in the community meet hospital staff/admin and are shown the location, etc of the equipment.

Frank will work on organizing the Ukiah Valley hams to discuss emergency communications and establishing a working relationship with UVMC.

Tim/WARS will try to do the same in Willits.

One of the first goals will be to utilize the hospital/clinic stations during the county-wide nets

Three Prioritized Projects from the 1/9/08 mtg

Activation/Phone Tree Protocols

A basic outline of activation protocols is discussed in the McARCS plans (Section 6.1). It was also noted that people would naturally turn to the repeaters after an earthquake. How can this natural process be used to the benefit of McARCS in an emergency?

Discussion of recent phone outages in Willits. McARCS/WARS were not called out to assist the FD, PD or hospitals to assist during the phone outage. Perhaps a list of contacts should be available to the hospitals, OES, Sheriff, etc. Who will be on this list? How is it updated? How will they be contacted?

Several possibilities:

- Self-activation after an event
- County-wide system initiated by the Sheriff's Office, remaining activation left to the McARCS members. Contacts for each area (?) need to be at least 3 deep
- Bill Woodworth, MC OES, mentioned both the State Warning Center System and the Reverse 911 calls. The Reverse 991 calls are not available currently, but are in the works, perhaps a group of amateurs could be designated as resource to call at the push of a button?
- State Warning Center may be given contact info for 3-4 people to be contacted in the event of an emergency. The center will try to contact each person repeatedly until a message is received. This could be implemented now.

Step two is mobilization. McARCS should consider how other counties mobilize and integrate the amateurs and OES (i.e. San Luis Obispo). May simply designate a frequency to monitor.

How to cover the whole county? Limited repeater system in Mendocino, not as much coverage as Sonoma, e.g. additional repeaters would improve coverage, but building and maintaining a repeater is a long-term commitment.

Not enough time to discuss the other two priorities, perhaps one priority should be discussed at each meeting on a regular basis. A timed agenda was also suggested as a way to cover everything. Perhaps subcommittees should be established for the drills and exercises. Locality based subcommittees that will set goals and timelines for exercises and report on progress at regular McARCS meetings. Subcommittees should be set up in all areas where hams are active, not just in locations where hospitals/clinics are participating in the HPP (formerly HRSA) grant.

Announcements

Cody and Cynthia Snider have offered to host the McARCS website. Domain registration? McARCS.org is available, group voted to buy this domain name. Tim offered to pay the registration fee for the first 3 yrs. Visit <http://cyn.mine.nu/mcarcs/> and <http://cyn.mine.nu/wiki> to see two possible designs created by Cynthia.

Mendocino College is offering a NIMS class in Ukiah, March 20, at the Sheriff's Training Center. The class covers ICS 100, 200, 700, and SEMS. Call Annie for more info.

Janie sent Annie an email regarding power saving during a disaster for people to browse and then shelf for later. (this attachment will be sent out for group review soon)

Adjourn 1:05PM