

Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communication Services - McARCS  
Minutes for Wednesday, March 5, 2008 1130~1300

Emergency Operations Center, Mendocino County Sheriffs Training Center  
951 Low Gap Rd, Ukiah

Present: Frank McGarvey, Annie Robinson, Jim Cline, Diane Cline, Linda Morrison, Marcella Chandler, John Lemmer, Tom Hanna, Al Marsden, Christine Dektor, Steve Turner, Bill Woodworth

~ AGENDA ~

*Prioritized Projects from the 1/9/08 meeting - Group, Discussion/Action*

- Hospitals/Clinics Exercise 11:30 – 12:10
- Activation/Phone Tree Protocols 12:10 – 12:30
- Outreach/Recruitment 12:30 – 12:50
- Announcements – Field Days 12:50 – 1:00

**Hosp/Clinics exercise**

- Annie distributed some maps of the facilities
- Gualala & Redwood Coast both have equip though not yet installed; same for Coast District Hosp – unit still in box
- Howard Memorial & UVMC both installed; HMH being used for weekly nets; UVMC not being used as Ann Dent is not in a position of doing so at this time
- Annie talked with Coast contact on how a meet & greet might work
- Frank talked about use of PH unit (simplex) for weekly or occasional nets (will do so this evening)
- Need to set quantifiable objectives on what exercises would accomplish
- Need a group of people dedicated to develop relationships at each site & become comfortable with equip & staff
- Fist objective is to get everyone up & running; at this time we only have inland functional
- Get 3 coast facilities up & running
- Tim – proposed to go forward with the Inland exercise & familiarization while the Coast gets installed
- John suggested setting an actual date for an exercise to work toward as incentive or a gentle nudge for the Coast facilities
- Suzy – discussion about Anderson Valley & the total lack of equipment; suggested Suzy do what she can to be ready in case, including getting her own mobile so she could go on site if needed & provide communication; it's not likely the government/civil service providers themselves will be equipment prepared in the near future (years)
- Discussion broke into a few issues – a local area & county-wide issue:
- Most agreed that going forward with a local event 1<sup>st</sup> – set a date & plan
- Need HAMS to commit to a location to support in emergent events – per Tim, equip @ each site is identical & programmed the same – so knowledge of operation is easily transferable
  - Howard Memorial Hosp (HMH) – Willits; they have 3 licensed HAMS on staff who have never touched the equip; Linda M., Tim H., John L. will work with HMH
  - Little Lake – Willits; Tim H., John L.
  - UVMC – Ukiah: at this time, Ann Dent is not available for HAM activities; Jim & Diane Cline will pursue
  - Hillside – Ukiah; Marcella C., Christine D. will make contact
  - County Public Health EMS – Ukiah: probable net control; Frank MG, Suzy M., Annie R.
- Noted during discussions – hospitals & clinics will not likely participate in an exercise outside normal weekday business hours; also, access to clinics will be limited & dependent on clinic staffing
- Jim suggested local simplex nets leading to wider nets form the clinics

- Annie will talk with Sam Barnett (PH EMS); possible date/times for test operation from EMS is next Wed 3/12 – 1<sup>st</sup> option is 1000 to 1100, alternate is 1400-1500
- Structured exercise could lead to more participants
- Need 2 months to plan exercise – perhaps May for Inland & Aug for County wide; Tim suggested 5/14 for Inland
- Annual State hosp drill? No date yet
- *Next steps / action items: date for Inland exercise is Weds 5/14; plan exercise; get Coast equip installed; Inland locations 'meet/greet'; operate equip @ sites*

### **Activation/Phone Tree Protocols**

- Bill wants McARCS to work out how a phone tree would look, as it's us who will activate & use it.
- He wants about 4 people on a list to start the process, then it's ours
- The Dialogic system will continue to attempt contact until it does; system can be updated at will adding or deleting names
- The most experienced HAMS are likely the best for Bill to contact. Those who will be asked are: Jim Cline (Ukiah), John Lemmer (Willits), Janie Tate (Coast), Len Gwinn (Willits)
- Discussed that in a real emergencies the phone may not work – need s system of monitoring a certain frequency (s) in lieu of land lines & cells
- The point people above will put together a draft phone-tree list (can use QRZ.com for base data)
- *Next steps / action items: finalize names to give to Bill; develop phone tree & protocol*

### **Outreach / Recruitment**

- Noted in the above discussions that participation is key in success in exercises & real events
- Suggested that we send out an all Mendocino County email once an exercise date is set as well as post-card “selling” McARCS & general participation. Some thought are if others know of organization, intent, & commitment of active participants, we might get others interested or re-energized. Per Annie, funds from her County program could pay for postage
- Possible solution for Coast might be to hold meetings there every now & again
- “Meet & Great” efforts will also advertise & support McARCS & mission
- *Next steps / action items: develop relationship w/Ken Reynolds; set up meeting on Coast; update QRZ list*

### **Announcements**

- Christine passed out info on public service opportunity – the Human Race on Sat 5/10 from about 0800 to 1200; success last year
- Jim – we could have a booth & demo radio operation & advertise McARCS & CERT
- This year's Field Day is June 28. This will be on next months agenda for further discussion.
- Marcella mentioned the real live training benefits to volunteering for events in Sonoma County (Tour of Calif. bike race, etc.)

### **Other**

- Net-coordination issue never seems to make it to discussion; perhaps place at the top of the list next time
- Noted that not all operations conduct the net the same; very valuable learning opportunity to do so anyway – get folks over mic-fear & comfortable with process, then refine as we go along as not to alienate participants

The next meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of each month from 1130 to 1300

April 2, 2008

May 7, 2008

June 4, 2008

June 28 & 29, 2008 – FIELD DAY!