

McARCS
Minutes 06/04/08

Attendees: via teleconference Erif Thunen KI6GGD, Janie Tate KI6CHA, Frances Kohler K6KOH, Karen Emerson KI6IST

In person: Bill Woodworth, Jim Cline W6JRC, John Ragland KE6CQK, Linda Morrison KI6FRW, Rosie, Suzy Miller KI6IST, John Lemmer W6FQX, Tim Hanna WB9NJS, Annie Robinson W6ANI, Chuck Heath K6ZIZ, Cynthia Snider KI6ISY, Cody Snider KC6UNN, Steve Turner, Marcella Chandler KI6MJC

- Lake/Mendo MCI Exercise – Review strengths and weaknesses 11:30 – 12:00
 - ~ apologies for losing Coast participation; will have opportunities in the future
 - ~ strengths / pluses; challenges; solutions (will be submitted with after action reports along with evaluations)

Strengths/Successes

- Significant amount of participants
- Completed in timely manner
- UVMC provided a runner
- Both UVMC and HMH included HAMS in hotwash and they listened to recommendations
- This was a HUGE learning opportunity
- MCHC/LL Willits was considered a part of HMH
- HMH openly welcomed HAMS and treated them as primary communications. This was the first direct interact with HMH staff with HAMS in a full function exercise
- Good Moulage ☺

Challenges/observations:

- What was the contaminant / no info
- Communication with both repeaters
- HT wouldn't hit repeaters
- Radio display too small
- Less verbal more writing (was confusing?)
- Hearing difficulties because of acoustics
- UVMC – location is less than ideal
- No ext antenna for HT to monitor
- ½ way across hospital from ICC
- Need for N M (?)
- Lake/Mendo communication difficulties
- Roll call 1st
- Difficulties monitoring both frequencies
- Keep all ops on the same timetable
- Frustration to not get info / communication to Lake after they demobilized

Solutions:

- Headsets
- Magnifier glass for radio disp (8x11 mag sheet)
- Hospital could have used other communications for this exercise (intercom, phone)
- Have shadow in ICC
- 2 operators and 2 radios @ each station
- HMH tactical call signs caused LLHC some confusion with LL Fire
- Choice of tactical call signs
- Care in how communication is transferred – incl LL Fire in exercise

Field Day Planning

12:00 – 12:45

- last full weekend in June – Low Gap Park
 - how many stations?; Tim, George, Jim, Cody, Chuck + a “get on the air” station and a VHF station
 - avoid 2 stations on same band @ same time
 - George Burton – 5th wheel w/crank up antenna
 - Pavilion fully covered
 - Overnight RVs – all ok, no problem
 - Invites out to BOS & Ukiah Municipal
 - George has another portable tower
 - John 32’ vertical
 - Could use better antenna support
 - Power source – 100% emergency operation
 - Logging – computer logging – AC available for this purpose
 - Bonus points to qualify for:
 - PR – Chuck volunteered
 - 100 emerg power
 - Media – local coverage (PA on radios, UDJ, KZYX)
 - Public location
 - PR table up front in parking lot area (Jim will contact Big 5)
 - Contacts via satellite (George has equip)
 - Site visit by elected official (Suzy will contact Chesbro & Thompson; John will ask John Pinches)
 - Contact Chuck for help with PR – 621-4400
 - Education – can be diverse but related to HAM (Janie to contact Len)
 - HAMs from 6/6 class will be encouraged to attend
 - Maybe a raffle or game to get community participation / attendance
 - Jim will donate a CD (repeater call book), ARRL handbook, or something; Suzy will put together more give-aways; Jim will get some from NCO
 - Set up to begin @ 8:00; ops @ 11:00 for 24 hours
 - Tim – McARCS members should be identified as such; t-shirt?, name badges?
 - Need proof of insurance
 - Sanitation – porta potties
 - Meals – pot luck Sat night; HPP helped last year w/food; pot luck breakfast? Chuck will bring a solar oven
 - We need enough people to stick around at the end to break down equipment and such
- Announcements/Other - Forms 12:45 – 1:00
- *None at this time*
 - *Forms – most tips from EmComm; ICS perspectives; limitation on ICS 213 form; John sent proposal for modification; John – how to handle formal written traffic*
 - - *May Meeting Minutes ~ Steve Turner, Marcella Chandler*
 - *June Meeting Minutes ~ Marcella Chandler*

Next meeting: 7/2/08 – Public Health conf room #1 from 1130 to 1300 (must end promptly!!)