

McARCS
Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communication Service

Wednesday, **September 4, 2008** ~ 1730
~ **AGENDA** ~

Present: Frank McGarvey W6UME, Tim Hanna WB9NJS, Alan Spivak WA6JBK, John Lemmer W6FQX, Jim Cline W6JRC, Cynthia Snider KI6ISY, Cody Snider UC6UNN, Nick Wharff KI6RIT, Marcella Chandler KI6MJC, Theresa Wilcox KI6RIU

- Proposed clinic and hospital drills planning team
Annie? -
John – Red Cross sent John info on hosp planning drills for Sonoma County – monthly drill and tying in to Red Cross 146.73 repeater 2nd Wed of month @ noon
Suggestion if we did a similar thing w/our hospitals and clinics
Perhaps what we're looking for is to take what we did earlier in the year to the next step
Even if we had a once a month event to make it routine and become more comfortable with the equipment and staff (each other)
Some value to operating out of the clinics and hospitals is to make sure the batteries are always ready (though they like to be discharged from time to time), and to make sure that the units are still set correctly (tone, etc.)
Need to get buy in from facilities and McARCS members
Discussion on Sonoma County repeaters and lack of experienced HAMs
Action Item – revisit @ next meeting w/Annie, the n tie into item #2
Nets coordinated with fire districts
- Emergency McARCS activation by the Red Cross – radio communication needs for central locations.
Very related to the 1st item
The people down there know there's a need for radio communications
ERV
Procedure for staffing the radio when the ERV goes out – they currently carry HTs but that does not do much good in many spots
John will try to get the Red Cross to check into our nets
- McARCS plan revisions
John put forth a few months ago, and suggested better/formal structure
Issues: people who participate with the meetings and check into the nets on a regular basis
Pros / cons
How / who to facilitate meetings
Consistency
Possible a way to get more participation
How do we go forward – what is the gain to do this, what are the pitfalls
WARS – started by a group who was only interested in becoming formal from the get go – charter, board of directors, dues, funds, etc.
Are we going to function as an organized group, or shall we call ourselves a committee – then make documentation to make it so

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Biggest con is to have bodies to fill positions

Or organize as an ACS – Auxiliary Communications Service – Bill Woodworth would have to buy in and we'd have to have a charter – sponsorship would make us a; would be covered as a disaster service worker

Con – if we do org, may need liability ins (about \$300 a year for \$1 million coverage)

Con – not an issue of true liability that we are likely not a target for

Good Samaritan law does not apply in all cases: community events, parades, etc.

Pro – if we organized we would be covered for participation if we were injured

Visit website: www.acs.oes.ca.gov

Options: 1) ACS/OES, 2) formal organization, 3) a group who gets together – encourage all to participate and be prepared to discuss pros/cons and in Oct we will make a decision (book – Emergency Communication Handbook)

Access to funds if we get a bank account, money can come from others like NCO, etc. -

- Meeting locations, ideas to increase participation, guest speaker ideas. Leadership Occasionally rotate locations, to possible remote rotations possible once a quarter – go to a remote location, twice a year a large meeting focused also on fun or various activity poll – ask ? what if we had a qtrly meeting elsewhere, and a qtrly meeting for hands on (build stuff) for now, OES is our main meeting location video conferencing
- Content of the nets, local and countywide. Dealing with lower priority agenda items after the countywide net? Some N/C people were trying to vary the net: John, tried to gather info, Jim posed a trivia question, Jim proposed to add discussion on the end of Nets John was truly looking for who was point on coverage and whom to contact in the Fire Districts The idea was that each community net would have a tree – 1st contact, 2nd etc. – a phone tree Net control class John will try to put together a list of items that have not been addressed

Future Items:

- The proposed VIP program
- Scheduling “labs” to help newbies with antenna equipment acquisition
- Review relationship with the EOC, incl strategizing how to train EOC personnel about when/where/how to utilize hams.

Upcoming Events:

- **September 13-14**, Multiple Sclerosis Waves-to-Wine bike event, from SF to Sonoma Coast.

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- **Saturday, Oct. 4 (we will meet in person before event)** at Fire Expo is also the weekend for ARRL National Simulated Emergency Test, (SET). With an HF station registered/entered.
- **Sat., October 18**, "Pumpkinfest Parade", radio ops and traffic control.
- **Saturday, November 1st**, at Lake Mendocino, a 5 K, dog/handler walk, and 10 K walk, to raise \$ for Low Gap Dog Park.
- **Sunday, Sept. 14 Boonville Parade – Suzy Miller has been contacted, but the details are vague (Tim, John, Alan)**