

McARCS

Thursday, October 2, 2008 ~ 1730

Minutes

Tim Hanna, Marcella Chandler (notetaker), Nick Wharf, Cody & Cynthia Snider, John Lemmer (facilitated), George Burton, Jim Cline, Terry Wilcox, Alan Spavik

Introductions and Announcements

Agenda

Fire Expo is also the weekend for ARRL National Simulated Emergency Test, (SET).

- Jim discussed the event for Saturday, where we'll be located and such... Set up, antennas.
- One captain mapped out, but as is it's a wait and see when we get there. Long poles, 200', 120', 130' both ways for where George parks. George Burton was present to also discuss, as he has the trailer we'll be using. Wires need to be out of danger.
- Possibly use ladder truck (7:00 a.m.), parade to start @ 10:00 so all the equipment needs to be up and running with us done with it prior to that.
- Calif. QSO contest will be going on same day – will give us lots of opportunity to make contacts.
- Need a di-pole antenna for 20M.
- LOTS of give-aways for the event – raffle for the bigger items from various sources (NCO, individuals, left over from what was gathered for Field Day)
- Goal is to make local people more aware of HAM radio and local events and opportunities
- Raffle tickets will have all contact info, no need to be present to win; plans to just raffle items off at end...

Tim: A short technical presentation on SSTV (amateur slow scan television) and WARS/McARCS holiday dinner

Tim demoed – slow scan TV – really cool amateur mode – a way to send still images using audio frequencies at a slow rate; anywhere you can use phone, you can use slow scan TV. Program he is using is free, and has a copy on CD; MMSSTB; allows you to pull pictures from digital camera, computer, wherever. GREAT demo on how to transit pictures via radios only – NO Internet needed. Gave out CD copies of programs.

John: Volunteer hours and mileage report to North Coast Opportunities

Tammi Bartolomei asked that we keep track of any activity and time spent in volunteer activities. If we get that info to Terry Wilcox, she will get it to Tammi. Purpose is to justify grants and NCO participation. Starts 1/1/08 through now.

Old business, unresolved items as time permits.

Cynthia distributed list of unresolved issues / items. John facilitated brief discussion of what's left on the list and an opinion of how we tackle addressing these open items. Not a clear idea of who is participating or not. John keeps a list of participants on County-wide list for reference.

- Activation / phone tree
- Net Coordinator
- Memorandum of Understanding
- Equipment loan program
- MCI exercise
- Governance changes

- Draft McARCS plan
- Officers and agency contacts

Upcoming Events

- **Saturday, Oct. 4** at Fire Expo is also the weekend for ARRL National Simulated Emergency Test, (SET). With an HF station registered/entered.
- **Wednesday**, October 8, Noon to 1 PM, Sonoma County Medical Net. 146.730 from Sonoma Mt. For more information: <http://www.redwoodregionaltraining.org/20081008hamradio.htm>
If we could check in and listen, we should – especially since we're Public Health
- **Saturday, October 18**, "Pumpkinfest Parade", radio ops and traffic control
Jim is the contact for this. Has maps and liability waiver forms. Officer has asked that (concern is drop off McGarvey Park), no communications en route – just start and finish. Attempt to make sure that only horses and such come in through Ford St., other's dropped of elsewhere.
Jim has had 8 responses thus far.
- **Thursday**, October 23, 9 AM to 3 PM , 10 County Silver Sentinel Emergency Exercise. 146.730 and other repeaters in Sonoma County.
Ditto – if we can participate in this, or at least listen, we should if possible. Will be an all day event however, so...
- **Saturday, November 1st**, at Lake Mendocino, a 5 K, dog/handler walk, and 10 K walk, to raise \$ for Low Gap Dog Park.

Would like some operators at beginning and end. Dogs will not be on the 10K part. Jim will be the incident commander. Jim supposed to get info emailed to him, then we can have a sub-committee meeting. City Hall does have a flyer out

Unplanned visit: Sheriff Tom Allman –

Thanked us very much for what we do; CERT, HAM, S&R. Mentioned during the fires, we could have maybe used the HAMs a little more. By winter we should have our antenna up by then. Not a lot of money, but we have the bodies to do things. May have a person who can donate a 50' tower, with a rotator as long as it's in a public place – will help generate interest. New microwave antenna @ dispatch, has only received 1 complaint (obstructs view). New microwave system is new state of the art, will throw the switch 12/15/08. 25 year life expectancy (\$4.3 million). Should be aware that during the fires, used a poly-com system – cameras and 42" plasma; if we have a disaster, as long as we have Internet we will have contact. If we have any ideas, Tom is willing to listen and try to make accommodations. Some areas of our county have no type of good Internet access – working on broadband access globally.

John – asked about funding for equip for fire houses. Tom is all for the idea, but the chiefs in the houses don't want to go for it... Brooktrails, Ukiah, Hopland, Littlelake... HAMs are trying to make this more palatable for station houses. The way our group has been evolving over last 1.5 years, if we did have a true county disaster, the way it would work is the fire stations will be overworked and overburdened. If we tied out local nets / communities to a fire station, that would be the ideal. We just need to work this more; Sheriff Allman feels once we get the Sheriff's Office antenna up and running, others might be more amiable to the thought. Tim – perhaps the way to go about this is one on one; the less we are strangers to Fire House the more they will realize the idea is a sound one. Once we are not seen as a group of troublesome volunteers, we'll be more widely accepted. Jim – a County-Wide chief's meeting coming up, and has been working to be a part of that process/meeting. With exposure in Fire Expo, good PR to fire houses.

George talked about a D-Star system – which can run circles around what we have now...

Marcella to send Terry Wilcox a full list of email addresses for CERTs and HAMS.

