

# McARCS

Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communication Service

Thursday, May 02, 2013, ~ 1800

Minutes

## Introductions and Announcements

Present: John W6FQX, Jim W6JRC, Dirk KJ6TNY, Marcella KI6MJC, Nick KI6RIT, Tim WB9NJS

## Events

### • Human Race

- This Saturday, meeting up at Alex Thomas Plaza at 7:00-7:30
- Signups so far: Bob W6RJA, Aaron KK6BJJ, couple of SAR volunteers, Alan WA6JBK, Eddie AF6AZ, Dirk KJ6TNY, Diane KI6ISF
- Jim will contact Jim Lacy (KI6ISQ) to see if he will participate
- Nadine DeLapo is coordinating the event.
- Firefighters and EMTs will be involved (7 so far), one cop
- North Coast Striders will be handling timing duties
- Nick will test the crossband repeater at the county admin center

### • Health Preparedness Exercise

- June 6<sup>th</sup>
- No confirmation yet on all participating facilities. Hospitals are main priority, clinics next, other facilities/skilled nursing third
- 11 AM-1 PM, volunteers should plan on being on-site from 10:30-1:30
- Scenario hasn't been finalized yet. Probably modified from last year
- Steve Francis has modified reporting forms, radiograms will be used as well
- Digital modes a possibility
- 4 new radios/power supplies/antennas and tripods for ACS trailers, this event will be a good test for them before they are installed
- Great practice event for newly-licensed hams! Will mention at the Lakeport elmer session on May 9<sup>th</sup>
- More information coming out next week via e-mail

### • Mendo Monster

- April meeting contained no ham-related items. Rotary Club has other items well-covered
- Probably one SAG for the short (Merry) route, base at Lions Park. Quick response to

**The next meetings are scheduled as follows**

**June 6th, 2013**

**July TBD, 2013**

<http://mcarcs.org/>



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any part of the course

- Lions Park not HT/rubber duck friendly. Elevated antenna and/or power needed for effective communications
- **YES Camp**
  - June 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Jim, Nick, Tim, Dirk have volunteered. Joy KI6IDU and Don KF6UDJ will probably be there as well
- **Field Day**
  - Museum has agreed to let us use the venue. MCOE is available as well
  - John will be out of state, Nick will be unavailable on Saturday afternoon but can be available for morning setup
  - Tim, Dirk, and Steve will coordinate on setup
  - Marcella is not doing food this year ☺
  - Wrap up the bulk of the planning at next month's meeting. Will also mention at the WARS meeting later this month
- **Bite Hard**
  - Last June event! 29th
  - Easy event last year, more hams than last year would be great
  - Organizers have pledged a \$400 donation for McARCS participation
  - One rest stop, one ham needed. EMTs with SAGs, one SAG/support per rider wave
- **Mendo Rally**
  - Walker Ridge/Bartlett Springs stages on Saturday, Cow Mountain on Sunday
  - Final stage maps TBD
  - Hotel HQ in Clearlake, HQ visit not needed for Cow Mountain volunteer supplies

## Items

- **OES Radio**
  - \$20 rebate from Yaesu for one of the radios, can't find it
  - Needs footswitch to use with a headset
  - Group training with Steve on usage of the radio(s)
  - Antenna grounding system/box has been set up on the exterior of the building (next to the SAR room door). Ground rod location isn't ideal for the HF antenna though
  - Additional dual-band antenna may be nice. Jim suggested an Edward Wong j-pole, custom tuned to desired frequencies
  - ~\$100 tops for an antenna
  - Robust antenna desired for "set it and forget it" factor
  - Tim noticed a lot of "birdies" while tuning around in VFO mode on 20/40 meters

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- **SAR Computer**
- **McARCS July Meeting**
  - Meeting would fall on the 4<sup>th</sup>, may delay it until the following week or skip the month
  - Weekend meeting on the coast?
- **McARCS Website**
  - Suggested idea: creating a form on the website where people could go to sign up for various events. Maybe a drop-down list for events, have it plug into Google Docs and/or automatically shoot off emails to contact people for each event.
  - For emails, a consistent subject header would help with sorting/filtering on the recipient's end.

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