

Mendocino County Amateur Radio Communications Service

Meeting Minutes May 2, 2016

This meeting was held at the Sheriff's Training Center on Low Gap Road in the Donovan Room. The meeting was convened shortly after 6 PM.

Attending this meeting (in suffix order) were KJ6EIF, W6FQX, WA6JBK, W6JRC, KC6MGM, WB9NJS, KI6RIT, and KK6UEV. Also attending was new ham KM6CEH Dillon.

Following the agenda prepared in advance, the first report was from WB9NJS regarding the test session held on April 16. There were 18 registrants for the Technician level test. Of those, 15 passed. Of those that passed two also attempted the General level test. Neither of those passed. Also taking the Extra class test was KK6UEV who did pass. Congratulations to all who passed, better luck next time to those that didn't.

Next up was the report on the Mendocino Ultra Marathon held on April 23, WB9NJS reporting. It appears that approximately 118 runners participated and the bib numbers of those that did not show were reported via radio to the aid stations so that those could be marked off the registration. Participating as communicators in this event were KI6MJC, KK6UEV, WB9NJS, WA6JBK, KI6RIT, and KC6MGM. A report of a runner unable to proceed was relayed to the event organizers but they seemed indifferent to respond to the incident. An ambulance on duty for the event was dispatched by KC6MGM but the runner was unable to be located. There were no SAG vehicles present and much of the route was on trails unavailable to vehicles. There were several reports of severe mosquito infestations so an appropriate mosquito repellent is recommended for next time.

The Human Race event is coming up on May 7, W6JRC coordinating. Jim had a few fliers to hand out and KK6UEV accepted them for posting. This event needs a few more operators so further recruitment will be made at the net session on May 4. KK6UEV mentioned that one of the new hams from his school wants to participate. W6FQX offered to bring him on at the Todd Grove Park water station to get him some on-the-air experience.

The county-wide health facility communications exercise is coming up on May 17, a change from the previously announced May 19. WB9NJS reported that a few facilities still had not announced their intention to participate and that there were still openings for operators who had not previously made their intentions known. Recruitment of both will continue. It does appear that there will not be any digital transmission of message traffic. Although there is a small group of hams on the South Coast that are practicing fldigi and flmsg, interest in this mode in the northern and inland parts of the county has fallen off.

The Heroes of Health and Safety Fair in Booneville on May 21 will be attended by KJ6EIF (representing both MCOE and McARCS), W6JRC (representing both Search and Rescue and McARCS) and KC6MGM (representing both CERT and

McARCS). There may be a VHF station and possibly an HF station set up for this event.

The Mendocino Monster bike ride event is coming up on May 22. According to KI6MJC (who is coordinating this event) there is still a shortage of operators. As Marcella is out of the area now, W6FQX offered to make an announcement on the County-wide net this coming Wednesday.

The discussion now turned to the subject of Field Day scheduled for June 25 and 26. There is a question about needing an in-person meeting next month instead of an on-the-air meeting. This was unresolved. There were a few questions answered. 1) We are interested in participating using call sign NC6MC. 2) We intend to operate in class 3A with a GOTA (Get-on-the-air) station for new hams not included in the 3 transmitter class using a different call sign. 3) There is also the possibility of a VHF station not included in the 3 transmitter class. 4) The county museum has the best site that we have located previously and should be reserved. 5) We need to assign responsibilities for the various jobs or tasks.

We made the initial Field Day job assignments:

- 1) Liaison Officer – Invite both the Sheriff and the Police Chief. Invite multiple elected officials. KC6MGM volunteered for this. 100 Bonus points if invited guests actually visit.
- 2) Public Information Officer – Notify both Willits and Ukiah newspapers plus whatever other newspapers may be interested. Notify broadcast radio stations. Notify the ARRL of our location. Prepare a Facebook or other social media announcement (new 100 Field Day bonus point). W6JRC, our PIO, was assigned these tasks.
- 3) Safety Officer – 100 Field Day bonus points if the checklist is followed and documented. WA6JBK volunteered for this.
- 4) Planning – Obtain logging software latest version and set up network for logging. Submit report to ARRL after the event. KI6RIT volunteered for this.

We did not cover the Logistic function to determine equipment and antenna availability. We did not cover the Operations function to determine what bands and modes we will be operating on. We did not cover the Administration function to determine a budget nor make any plans for food service. We also did not get a volunteer to request the museum site for the venue.

The meeting was adjourned prior to checking into the California Emergency Services Net on 75m shortly after 8 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
John Lemmer, W6FQX
McARCS Secretary