

McARCS Minutes – January 10th, 2022, 18:00

Present: Lea KJ6OUY, Nick KI6RIT, Allen KN6QCY, Michael KM6OTE, John W6FQX, John KJ6IBP, Gordon KJ6IAB, Pat KM6CEJ, Steve KJ6EIF, Dane KN6BCX, Rick KK6PZA, Mike KC6MGM, Tim WB9NJS, Garrett James (county OES), Ken KG6TXU, Jim W6JRC

Welcome and introductions – Steve KJ6EIF

Minutes from previous meeting

No changes from draft minutes proposed.

Treasurer's report – Tim WB9NJS

No changes from last month - \$826.12

Status of McARCS website – Nick KI6RIT

- The news page has been reorganized and older postings moved to an archive page
- Training info (eg. links to class video recordings, practice tests, etc) posted in a sub-page in the Resources section.
- Test session info has been posted.

Review process and Election Results of Officer for 2022 – Nick KI6RIT

- Wendy KN6QDB created a SurveyMonkey link for the election, Nick sent it out via email a week ago.
- The election closed today at 5 PM.
- Results:
 - President: Steve KJ6EIF
 - Vice President: Michael KM6OTE
 - Treasurer: Tim WB9NJS
 - Secretary: Nick KI6RIT

Planning for the next license test

- As the last class was recent and the recorded content is still valid (technician question pool changes in July), it was decided to not hold new classes and direct interested people to the video recordings instead.
- Info (dates, locations, contact info) for the test sessions have been posted on the McARCS website, in the News section.
- Contact info for the hams that presented in the last class will be posted so that people can ask any questions they have during study.

Other McARCS news and discussion

- North Coast Simplex net revision energy
 - Recently there's been a lot of interest among net participants in making the net more active and resilient in emergency situations.
 - Experimentations with different formats, methods, and bands.

- McARCS Net Coordinator
 - Nick KI6RIT has been practicing filling in John W6FQX's net log spreadsheet
 - John recently posted an updated version of the countywide net control script.
- US Forest Service proposed fees
 - The US Forest Service is proposing to implement a statutorily required annual fee for new and existing communications use authorizations to cover the costs of administering its authorization program.
 - The Forest Service proposal results from requirements set forth in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018.
 - Anthony Peak repeater (eastern Round Valley) is on USFS land.
 - Currently the repeater owner is paying \$100/year to have equipment at the site.
 - With the new fees, that cost will go up to \$1400/year, which is prohibitively expensive. This is even with the repeater equipment running entirely on solar and battery power.
 - Link for public comments (closes Feb 22nd):
https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/FS_FRDOC_0001-3605
 - Comment identifier: *RIN 0596-AD44*
 - Steve KJ6EIF has reached out to ARRL and will try contacting staff for Congressman Huffman
 - Everyone is encouraged to post comments and reach out to government officials.
- Fort Bragg repeater relocation
 - Richard WD6HDY was the owner of two linked repeaters – one in Fort Bragg, one on Matheson Peak. Now that Richard has passed away, the Fort Bragg repeater needs to be relocated.
 - Michael KM6OTE and Jonathan KK6RPX are in talks with the senior center in Fort Bragg to see if it can be moved there.

Future activities

- Test sessions
 - Ukiah – March 5th
 - Fort Bragg – March 12th
- Tsunami drill – March – Mike KC6MGM
 - Firm date now – March 23rd, 11 AM-noon
- Coastal Tsunami Bridge Survey – March – Lea KJ6OUY
 - Lea will be coordinating this, same day as the tsunami drill above
- Mendo Ultra Marathon – April 23rd – Mike KC6MGM
 - Mike is in contact with the event organizers.
- MCOE School Emergency Drill – Spring
 - Equipment repair/replacement, recruit more local hams.
- Human Race – May – Jim W6JRC
 - Jim spoke with someone at NCO, they said they don't have any information at this time.
- Annual Health System Drill – May – Tim WB9NJS
 - Nothing new to report.
- Mendo Monster bike ride – June
 - "Virtual" event again this year.

- Field Day – last full weekend in June
 - Planning to commence closer to the event.
- Lighthouse Day – August
- Shakeout – October 20th – Mike KC6MGM
 - John W6FQX receives emails and surveys regarding this event.

Meeting adjourned at 18:43

The next meeting will be on February 21st @ 18:00