

McARCS Minutes – June 13th, 18:00

Present – Steve KJ6EIF, Mike KC6MGM, Tim WB9NJS, Mike K6MAH, Nick KI6RIT, Allen KN6QCY, Mary Ann KM6STC, John W6FQX, Ken AI7NG, Jonathan KK6RPX, Rick KK6PZA, Sean K6SCM, Barbra KM6ZRV, Garrett (county OES)

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

General content updates – news section, minutes and agendas from last year.

May test session – Ken AI7NG

Two tested, none passed. Next test session will be in Lakeport on June 25th. One sign-up so far for extra-class. Tim and Nick will be there to take notes on conducting test sessions. Thank you to Ken for facilitating the test sessions over several years!

Fire Safe Council Wildfire Safety Expo – Mike KC6MGM

MACS was present at the expo. Unfortunately, no one came up to the booth to inquire about ham radio – there was a fence between the beer fest area and the safety expo area. Mike was able to introduce himself to the sheriff search and rescue team though. The organizers mentioned mixing the safety expo booths among the beer fest stations next year.

ARRL VHF/UHF Contest – Tim WB9NJS

Overall, it was a very good event and a fitting tribute to Richard WD6HDY. Not a ton of contacts, but a lot of fun and good practice with setting up equipment at a remote location. Contacts were made on the 6 meter, 2 meter, and 70 centimeter bands around the state, as well as locations further away such as New Mexico, Texas, and Alabama. A total of 8 people participated or visited.

Mini Mendo Monster – Nick KI6RIT

The fun ride took place despite the initially-wet conditions. Roughly 20 riders participated. Net control was staffed by Caleb KK6UEV and two of his students/new hams. Nick participated as bicycle mobile and had APRS running during the ride, which was monitored by net control. Jim W6JRC and Diane KI6ISF handled SAG duties. It was a very smooth event – no injuries or SAG calls.

Field Day – Steve KJ6EIF

- This year's site is at the Baechtel Grove Middle School in Willits.
- Site is easy to access, has shade and restrooms.
- If we have at least two HF stations set up, we can also have a get-on-the-air (GOTA) station.

- We can have GOTA-like functions on one of the normal transmitters instead if desired.
- VHF station is optional.
- Rick is working on a communications blast to local agencies and politicians.
- Steve will reach out to Willits Police Department on the week of Field Day to let them know that we will be there overnight and that we have authorization from the school district to do so.
- Nick will be at the Lakeport test session until after the start of Field Day, so he will send out info on configuring the logging software and network equipment as well as handing off the network equipment to Rick before the event.
- Food
 - WARS will be providing pizza.
 - Steve will be bringing salad.
 - Anyone else that wants to bring something, contact Tim and Rick for coordination.
- Who's bringing/doing what
 - Radios: Mike, Nick, Rick, Steve (GOTA)
 - Antennas: Alan WA6JBK, Nick, Rick
 - Digital modes: Rick, Nick, Mike, Marshall KM6OTF
 - PowerPole setup/donation station: Mike
 - Coax setup/donation station: Mike, Nick
 - Signage: Tim, possibly Jim W6JRC (Rick will check with him)
 - Literature: Tim, Ken, Mike
 - Health and safety supplies: Steve, Tim
 - Everyone is welcome to bring their own sanitary items (hand sanitizer, wipes, etc).

Future activities

- Healthcare exercise
 - Likely to be no dedicated event this year; possible tie-in with the Shakeout event later this year.
 - Starting in August (tentatively), monthly exercises will be held by the various healthcare facilities. These exercises will be organized by county Public Health and/or OES.
 - Mike offered to hold emergency communications training specifically for healthcare staff.
- Lighthouse Day
 - Steve is not coordinating it.
 - Lisa Weg has offered to coordinate access to the lighthouse grounds for anyone that wants to participate in the event.

Meeting adjourned at 19:07

The next meeting will be on July 11th @ 18:00