

McArcs Meeting

Meeting Date:

March 11, 2024

Minutes Taken By:

Peter Kools, KN6UAW

Meeting Start Time:

18:00

Attendees:

McArcs Officers:

Derek Hoyle, KE6EBZ
Steve Turner, KJ6EIF
Peter Kools, KN6UAW
Tim Hanna, WB9NJS
Dan Edwards, W6AAM
John Lemmer, W6FQX

Other Attendees:

Steve Pointer, KD6DQO
Mike Carter, KC6MGM
Rick Azarnoff, KK6PZA
Allen Ott, KN6QCY
Mary Ann Gonzalez, KM6STC
Mary Jane Cummings, WA3VUI
Sean Murphy, K6SCM
Jim Cline, W6JRC
Diane Cline, KI6ISF
Michael Carroll, KM6OTE

Welcome & Introductions:

Derek, KE6EBZ

Reports:

Treasurer:

Tim, WB9NJS: account balance remains \$876.12.

Webmaster:

Nick, KI6RIT: no report.

News & Events:

1. Technician course Tim, WB9NJS: not likely unless there is more interest.
2. APRS update, Tim, WB9NJS: internet connectivity to the site was restored a few weeks ago. The repeater is now up and running. 147.120 repeater had a bad power amplifier which was replaced by Alan Judd N6VUD. Alan also revamped the APRS setup and the Winlink configuration. There is still a power problem as the repeater is only connected to PG&E. Tim will hook it to the 12v solar power bus as backup. John, W6FZX revised the APRS McArcs article recently. (APRS is at 144.390 MHz digital packet signal.) The Winlink Express gateway station (144.910 MHz packet station) is now operating but John can't get messages to send through the gateway. The radios on 442.175 and 147.120 are both powered from the 12v bus. (Don't know the power source for the APRS computer or radio or the Winlink computer.)
3. Spring school communications test, Steve, KJ6EIF: Nothing happening with this at this time.
4. Health care facilities emergency communication test, Tim, WB9NJS: There will be an exercise Thursday May 16th. Scope to be determined. Run in conjunction with joint exercise with Sonoma County health care facilities. Working out whether the Ham Radio component will be limited to Mendocino County or demonstrate communications with Sonoma County. Might be EOC -> EOC or OES->OES. May try to incorporate Winlink email as well to demonstrate the capability since it was incorporated into National shakeout exercise last fall. 15-17 HC facilities will get activated (those with ham radio equipment).
5. Special election for interim McArcs president, Derek, KE6EBZ: Taking nominations next month. Derek encourages everyone to bring forward candidates for nomination.

Other Business:

1. Banking changes, Derek, KE6EBZ: This has not happened yet, but Derek thinks it will move forward later this week. Per Tim, don't add anyone new. Just drop the signatories no longer relevant. This is for the Mendocino Savings Bank.
2. Mendocino Ultramarathon, Mike, KC6MGM: Has three volunteers currently, would like three more so current volunteers don't need to double up on aid stations. Mike will check whether the CalTrans work will impact the race in any way.
3. WARS update, Rick, KK6PZA: Behind on the website updates. Had a lovely last Saturday meet up at Lake Mendocino the last Saturday of Feb. 15 attendees. Heard Aruba, made 10m POTA contact, 7 people into the Noon time net on 40m. Thursday March 14th WARS on air meeting at 7:30 on the county-wide net.
4. Tim, WB8NJS: Saint Patrick's day luncheon at Willits Senior Center Friday March 15th. Can accommodate 15-20 people. \$8 per person. 1501 Baechtel Rd, Willits, CA 95490. Show up between 11:30-11:45.
5. Mike, KC6MGM: Mendocino ops emergency service now has a designated radio space in the OES. Nice sized room that will fit 4 people. Greg is moving equipment from the search and rescue office to the new room. Figuring out antennas. Facilities management has to cut a hole in the wall for a coax portal. Greg is coordinating with facilities. Have all the radios (3 UHF/VHF, 2 HF).
6. Mike, KC6MGM: Humboldt county emergency services becoming very active in the ham radio community. They are in the process of attempting to set up a region 1 county system (Alameda, Contra Costa, Del Norte, Humboldt, Marin, Mendocino, San Benito, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Sonoma and South San Francisco) to work together on ham radio. Designating a single HF frequency of 3.955 MHz is the plan. Meetings every two weeks to discuss and bring more people into the conversation. A mass exercise is targeted for September 2024. OES leadership pushing for other county involvement. CODAN radios are on a separate frequency and in Mendocino County, located at the sheriff's comm center not at the EOC. Del Norte received CODAN radios and installed them in their EOC. Humboldt did the same.
7. Steve, KD6DQO: Mendocino Savings Bank now offers free checking with no minimum balance.
8. Steve, KJ6EIF: Goodwill Ukiah store had a box of antennas for sale. Diamond GP1 (dual band), Arrow J-pole and hamstick fragments and other odds and ends. \$5 each.

Meeting Adjournment:

18:51

Next Meeting:

Monday April 8th, 2024 at 18:00 on Zoom