

## McARCS Minutes – March 10th, 2025 @ 18:00

**Present** – John W6FQX, Dan W6AAM, Mary Jane WA3VUI, Ran KK6MUX, Mike KC6MGM, Rick KK6PZA, Nick KI6RIT, Carole KI6DJH, Tim WB9NJS, Mike K6MAH, Valerie KN6VVV, Brett KM6QIK, John KJ6IBP, Allen KN6QCY, Steve KJ6EIF

**Welcome and introductions** – Mike KC6MGM started the meeting at 18:04

**Treasurer's report** – Tim WB9NJS

The account balance is the same as last month, \$607.19. There have been no other changes.

**Secretary's report** – Nick KI6RIT

The February minutes have been written and posted on the McARCS website.

**Webmaster's report** – Nick KI6RIT

No updates to report; the only changes have been weekly updates to the countywide net log and digi net log files by Dan W6AAM and John W6FQX, respectively.

**Net Logger's report** – Dan W6AAM

No updates to report.

### **News & Event Reviews**

**March test session** – Tim WB9NJS

As of this meeting, 12 people have signed up for the test. A large portion of them are from the license class being held in Lake County this coming Saturday. Two people currently signed up are from Leggett, with the possibility of two more.

### **Radio equipment assistance**

Ran KK6MUX stopped by the Leggett school district a couple of weeks ago and got their radio working again. He was able to successfully reach the Cahto countywide repeater; Ben WB5QAL in Clearlake and Mike KC6MGM in Laytonville responded to his radio check.

Ran KK6MUX and Tim WB9NJS visited Jane KJ6VIA a couple of days ago and got her radio working again.

Thank you to Ran and Tim for the assistance!

## ***McARCS Business***

### ***Membership form***

Mike KC6MGM sent the form out to McARCS members via email.

John W6FQX asked about the lack of emergency power sources on the form. Mike responded that the form asks if you have off-road capabilities and an extra battery, thus satisfying the request.

Dan W6AAM asked if it was relevant to have the 6-meter and 1.25-meter bands listed on the form. Nick KI6RIT said that currently there are no repeaters for either band in the county but that may change in the future – the ham site on Laughlin Ridge used to have a 6-meter repeater and still has some of the required equipment there, and Nick is interested in setting up repeaters for both bands there. John W6FQX mentioned that unless the county EOC has the capability to use those bands, they would be of limited use during an emergency. Nick said that the two antennas installed at the EOC (Diamond V-2000) cover the 6-meter band, as well as the Yaesu FT-857D radio there.

Dan also suggested replacing the “letters in the box” designators for equipment with pre-populated entries that people could circle or fill in. Mike KC6MGM said that would require redesigning the form and its current layout is very similar to other forms already in use.

John W6FQX brought up the topic of digital messaging capabilities. As of now, the county emergency operations center has digital messaging capabilities (Fldigi/Flmsg and Winlink), and the county Public Health department is in the process of purchasing a new radio and associated equipment to have digital messaging capabilities as well. The other side of the topic is getting more people active and trained in digital messaging so they can utilize the equipment when activated.

Mike K6MAH gave some feedback on some of the questions and fields on the form, Mike KC6MGM will incorporate that into a revised version of the form.

Brett KM6QIK asked for clarification on the vehicle portion of the form.

Mike KC6MGM added text for listing GMRS capabilities and call sign for those that have them. GMRS interest has been growing everywhere recently; it has been rapidly expanding in the Laytonville area with radios at multiple organizations, and there is now one repeater each in the inland and south coast parts of the counties. It is also very popular in Lake County. Ran KK6MUX has most of the equipment needed to set up two GMRS repeaters and is trying to secure high locations to install them.

### ***Discussion of McARCS mission and scope***

Postponed to a future meeting due to the draft document being sent out shortly before this meeting.

### ***Countywide nets***

Jeff N6JJT in Lake County expressed interest in joining the weekly countywide net control rotation if it is OK with others. Dan W6AAM brought it up during the meeting, there was no response from anyone present.

Dos Rios has been absent from the community check-in list for some time. Mike KC6MGM has emailed Gordon KJ6IAB twice and received no response. Mike K6MAH will send Mike KC6MGM Gordon's phone number to try reaching out that way.

The south coast (Pt Arena/Gualala) has been absent from the community check-in list for a while as well. Mike KC6MGM reached out and was told that the local ham club there, the Anchor Bay Amateur Radio Club (ABARC) is nearly disbanded due to people moving, lack of local interest, etc. Unless someone from the area starts reporting on the countywide net, they will be removed from the list.

Brooktrails has been removed from the community check-in list due to lack of participation/check-ins.

## ***Other Business***

### ***WARS update*** – Rick KK6PZA

Last month's meetup in Willits went well. The next meetup will be at Todd Grove Park in Ukiah immediately following the test session.

### ***MACS update*** – Mike KC6MGM

People are getting their new ID cards. Thanks to Dan W6AAM for his efforts on getting the process restarted and streamlined! An email recently went out to MACS members to see who has gotten their new ID card.

### ***Training update*** – Mike KC6MGM

A new Documentation and Procedures class series will be held later this month.

- Documentation – March 21<sup>st</sup>/24<sup>th</sup>
- Procedures – March 17<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup>

The documentation practice net will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday every month at 1800.

The county office of emergency services (OES) has ordered a couple hundred ICS-213 triplicate forms. Mike is planning on ordering more and distributing them to the healthcare facilities and schools.

### ***Coastal region radio exercise (BEACON), May 1<sup>st</sup>*** – Mike K6MAH

If you haven't done so yet, sign up with MACS and get credentialed! If you are credentialed, you can be deployed to a facility for the exercise.

This year's exercise is similar to last year's, just with a new name and incorporating improvements and feedback gained from the last exercise. It involves all counties in the CalOES coastal region.

BEACON – Building Emergency Area Communications Operations and Networks

The exercise takes place on May 1<sup>st</sup>, from approximately 0900-1400, with an after-action meeting following shortly afterwards. The scenario simulates a response to a strong earthquake on the San Andreas fault during the early morning.

Tips for registering:

- There is a non-disclosure agreement to sign up for the exercise, to avoid exercise documents from being distributed more widely than needed.
- There is a lot of paperwork involved in the exercise that can be downloaded ahead of time – don't stress, help is available.
- When signing up, select the "Player" role.

Mike KC6MGM spoke with county OES staff and they will be meeting with the county CEO to determine if OES will be participating in the exercise.

### ***McARCS supported events***

***Mendocino 50k marathon, April 19th*** – Mike KC6MGM

As of this meeting, there are 3 people signed up for it, including Mike. More volunteers would be appreciated. If 3 more people sign up, then each person only has to operate at one rest stop.

***Healthcare facility radio exercise, May 1<sup>st</sup>*** – Tim WB9NJS

This exercise will be rolled into the BEACON exercise and operated in parallel.

Meeting adjourned at 18:54

The next meeting will be on April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 18:00