

Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council Summary of April 14, 2012 Meeting

Present at the April 14, 2012 meeting were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Matt May (President)	KC4WCG	Johnson County EM & ARES
Brian Short (Vice President)	KC0BS	Johnson County ARES
Carolyn Wells (Secretary)	N0CJ	RHSCC Hospital Committee
Kent Dickinson (Treasurer)	K0WEW	Army AMRS
Larry Widener (Membership Sec)	KA0YJE	American Red Cross KCMO
Mike Bellinger (Member at Large)	K0UAA	Jackson County ARES
Dick Quinlan	KA0DJR	Leavenworth Co. ARES
James Bair	N0AJI	Jackson County ARES
Ed Robarge	KA0DJR	Leavenworth County ARES/KCHEART
Dennis Smeltzer	KC0QBU	Johnson County ARES
Larry Eker	WA0YQM	Wyandotte County EM
Dave Stickel	KD0GDX	Belton Regional Medical Center
Tom Griswold	KT0MG	Johnson County ARES
Alan Altis	KC0SET	Northland Emergency Response
Chris Imgarten	KC0WEI	Jackson County ARES
John Eberenz	A0RES	Blue Springs ARC
Tana Welch	KD0QWL	Blue Springs ARC
Dave Copeland	N0RL	Northland ARES
Rick Smith	K0KEX	Northland ARES
Ed Menard	KD7QOR	Leavenworth ARES
John Bennett	KC0VRN	Leavenworth ARES

President Matt May called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introductions were done. Matt gave a brief explanation of the purpose of the MECC.

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from February 11, 2012. They were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

City Watch

The City Watch notification system was demonstrated by Matt and Dennis Smeltzer. This system can be used to send phone calls, emails and text messages to large numbers of individuals very quickly. They explained how it is used in Johnson County by both ARES and RACES. Carolyn explained the role of the hospitals in the system. This system is available to groups in the KC metro area at no charge (as long as there is funding). If any of the groups would like to use City Watch, contact Carolyn and she will get the group in touch with the person at MARC who is coordinating this project. Training is available at MARC at least quarterly at no charge.

Resource Typing

Dennis Smeltzer reviewed the implementation of Resource Typing for Johnson County Emergency Communications Service group, Johnson County's RACES group. He stated it has been very successful and the amateur radio operators have responded positively. They created a Credentialing Committee to review the applications and decide which category the operator should be assigned. Dennis has a handout with the updated typing criteria which is attached to these minutes.

Mike Bellinger stated Jackson County ARES has appointed a committee to look at resource typing. Larry Eker stated Wyandotte County ARES is also working on this process and the Emergency Manager is requesting a letter from the MECC stating we have formally adopted this typing. Matt will draft a letter to go out to all the Emergency Managers and will bring this up at the next MEMC meeting.

Ad Hoc Workgroup on Digi Frequencies

James Bair reported there is a need for coordination of simplex frequencies for digi modes. He is working with Brian and several other operators to identify which digi modes should be used in an emergency. It is a complex problem and they will work it and report out to this group at the next meeting.

NEW BUISNESS

MECC SET

It is time to form the planning committee for the 2012 MECC Set Exercise on October 6, 2012. We will be using a common scenario this year for the region. Matt has asked the Emergency Managers to designate a person from each jurisdiction to be the official representative for the jurisdiction. These meetings are open to all interested parties who are members of the MECC but direction for concepts and objectives will be taken from the appointees. This person does not need to be a HAM. Once the planning committee is set, Matt will send out a Doodle to determine a date and time to meet, probably next month. A second meeting will be held just before the next MECC meeting in June so that the planning process can be ready by the October 6th Exercise date. The Unified Government EOC is available per Larry Eker as a meeting place for these planning meetings.

There was also a brief discussion about the improvements identified from last year's exercise. Some of those have been included in the goals for the group. We will make sure to include the evaluation for these improvements in this year's exercise.

EDUCATION

Technician Classes 2012

June 9th and 16th at Centerpoint Medical Center in Independence

General Class

In progress now at the Olathe Fire Admin building

NIMS, EMCOMM, IS-704

www.fema.gov

www.arrl.org

VE Testing in Leavenworth: POC for the testing is Paul Backs pbacks@kc.rr.com

MEMC Report

The MEMC met on April 12, 2012. Safety City will now become Prepare Metro KC and it will be presented in a different way. It will be taken to smaller venues such as Grandview Founder Days, KC Zoo, and T-Bones Heroes Days. Mike O'Neal from Platte County is the point person for this.

There is a faith-based meeting on recovery May 3, 2012 at the Crown Point Church in Lee's Summit from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 pm. The Blue Springs group will have a table there but will be happy to promote flyers for other activities. Contact John Eberenz AORES at 816-352-5700.

Matt stated there have been changes in the way tornado/severe weather warnings are issued by the NWS. This is because of the after action reports from Joplin. They have now made 3 new levels which

now convey a greater sense of urgency and heighten the awareness levels of the public. One of the new terms is PDS (Particularly Dangerous Situation). (Here's a link to an explanation of how the new warnings are different http://www.crh.noaa.gov/images/eax/web/IBW_Overview.wmv)

KCHEART

The first few videos have been shot and are now in post-production. They should be available within the next 30 days or so.

The credentials are still in progress. Matt has provided the pictures and data for those who were at the last meeting to the MARC staff who will be producing those cards. As soon as the region is ready for us to make the ID badges, they will go to Matt who will then distribute them to the group. We are not sure what the timeline is for this. If you have not filled out the data form (found in the files section of the Yahoo Group KCHEART) please do so.

The last meeting was February 25, 2012 from 0900-1200 at the National Weather Service Training Center. It was very well attended and more pictures were taken for ID badges. The project was reviewed as was the standard configuration for the hospital radio setups. The date for another meeting has not been set. Mike Bellinger stated ARES Region A is holding a monthly healthcare net on the third Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. on the 146.880 VHF repeater in Warrensburg MO. The Blue Springs club will attempt to have their 444.950 repeater (with a + offset and tone of 107.2) linked to the .88 machine for this net allowing at least the stations on the east side of the metro access to the net. They also hold an HF net at the same time on 3963 Hz. There was discussion regarding linking some of the repeaters to have a wider net that would include all KCHEART stations. Work is proceeding on this initiative.

Exercises

The full scale exercise for the All Star game is scheduled for April 25, 2012 at Kaufmann Stadium. The regional hospitals will also be participating and there has been talk of including HAMs in the notification process, even though loss of communications is not part of the exercise. Each hospital will decide to what extent amateur operators will be involved in the exercise. An informal net will be called for the hospital stations on this day with details forthcoming via the KCHEART Groups email list. Please join if you would like to participate.

Amber Waves is a National Level Exercise that is scheduled for September 24-27, 2012. More details will be shared at upcoming meetings. Carolyn will be sitting on the exercise committee and will try to include amateur radio in the exercise. The hospitals will only be participating one day, not sure which day that will be. In preparation for that exercise, Jim Bair suggested taking the FEMA course IS-301 which is "Response to Radiological Incidents."

Web Sites

This is the current list of web sites that may be of interest:

1. www.mecckc.org
2. www.hamclass.org
3. <https://ks.train.org>
4. http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MECC_KC/
5. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/kcheart/>
6. LarrysList@list.k0jpr.net
7. <http://list.k0jpr.net/mailman/listinfo/larryslist>

8. www.kcHamRadio.com
9. www.marc.org

Matt stated he would check on the Larry's list addresses to make sure they are correct.

OTHER BUSINESS

Kent Dickinson stated there is a new Chief for Army MARS, Stephen Klinefelter.

Brian stated there is a new lead for SATERN, Rich Britton.

Matt gave an explanation of the goal we set for developing a PIO for the group. This person should be someone with training and experience who would be willing to support all MECC groups. The ARRL recently did a webinar on Communications PIO. When this link becomes available, we will send it out to the group. If you are interested please contact Matt May

Brian stated that he and Dennis Smeltzer have a presentation on preparedness for volunteer groups if anyone is interested.

Next Meeting Agenda Items:

The ESF 2 Regional Coordination Guide: the MECC and amateur radio's role.

Upcoming Dates:

June 9, 2012 – Next MECC Meeting at Centerpoint Medical Center in the Auditorium

August 11, 2012 – No meeting place scheduled yet

October 6, 2012 – MECC SET

October 13, 2012 – MECC Meeting at Central Jackson County Fire Protection District Training Center, 4715 W. 40 Hwy, Blue Springs, MO

December 8, 2012 – No meeting place scheduled yet

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Wells, NOCJ
Secretary