

Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council Summary of June 8, 2013 Meeting

Present at the June 8, 2013 meeting were:

Name	Call Sign	Organization
Matt May (President)	KC4WCG	Johnson County EM & ARES
Brian Short (Vice President)	KC0BS	Johnson County ARES
Carolyn Wells (Secretary)	N0CJ	RHSCC Hospital Committee
Larry Widener (Membership Sec)	KA0YJE	American Red Cross KCMO
Mike Bellinger (Member at Large)	K0UAA	Jackson County ARES
Larry Eker	WA0YQM	Wyandotte County EM
Ron Rodvelt	N0RL	Northland ARES
Richard Fretwell	W0KRF	Jackson County ARES
Dennis Smeltzer	KC0QBU	Johnson County ECS
Bill Gery	KA2FNK	Johnson County ECS

President Matt May called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and introductions were done

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from April 13, 2013. They were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

MECC Goals 2013

Active:

1. Play a part in credentialing and resource typing for communications volunteers. – See below
2. Development of a secondary and tertiary list of MECC member organization contacts. – The contact list was passed around.
3. Development of a list of capabilities for each MECC member organization. – In progress
4. Seminar for HAMs on emergency management topics. – Not yet started
5. Develop a demonstration workshop for Emergency managers to educate them regarding the capabilities of amateur radio operators. – We will do this after one of the MECC monthly meetings.

Monitoring:

1. WebEOC partnership use arrangements and training – There are new boards being developed that will be rolled out shortly in the region.
2. Participation in notification systems. – City Watch training is available at MARC. Groups can get access to the system by contacting Carolyn Wells.
3. Education of new HAMs.
4. Development of a frequency coordination template.
5. Enhancements of relationships between MECC, ARES, and RACES groups with emergency management, extending to the regional level.

Credentialing - Resource Typing

Regional credentialing is moving forward. The policies developed for the volunteer groups have been developed and still need to be approved by the MEMC. This should be done at the July meeting (the June meeting has been cancelled). Kansas ARES and RACES are also planning on using the resource typing standards accepted by the metro area.

Kansas RACES Plan

Matt provided a handout sent by Herb Fiddick that describes the revised Kansas Emergency Preparedness Net. This will be included in the document on the yahoo web site. Herb wants to make use of the resources that are out there, and this is reflected in the plan. He will on the agenda for the next MECC meeting and will be able to discuss this plan in detail.

SET Planning

Carolyn provided a quick synopsis of the planning for the MECC SET Exercise planned for October 5, 2013 from 0800-1400. We are using a tornado scenario based on real tornadoes that occurred in the metro area in the past. The only jurisdictions who have participated in the past who have not yet committed to participate in the SET are Independence/EJC and KCMO. Matt will touch base with those Emergency Managers to see if they plan on participating.

Matt demonstrated the tornado damage estimate tool that can be used to place a certain tornado path over your jurisdiction to estimate what damage may have occurred. This tool was developed by the Johnson County GIS for planning purposes.

Herb is working on the HF portion of the exercise and will coordinate with MARS to contact the Emergency Management Agencies at both Kansas and Missouri.

Regional Frequency Plan

Steve Hoeger had wanted this on the agenda, but he is not here today. There was some discussion around this subject. It has two elements: a standardized frequency plan/template and a operational plan for the region as to how we will utilize both simplex and repeated channels in case of disaster. Brian will contact Steve to get more information.

WebEOC

Matt showed the Significant Weather Reporting board that has been developed in WebEOC. This allows operators in the field to report all kinds of events in a standardized format. The National Weather Service has vetted the definitions that are included in the board. This board will be located on the regional WebEOC server and will be available to every jurisdiction via the new WebEOC install. Contact your Emergency Manager to see if your group can have access to this board. If you have difficulty with this, contact Matt May.

Education

Technician Classes 2013

June 8 and 15, 2013 at JoCo EOC

August 17 and 24, 2013 at Providence Medical Center

November 2 and 9 at National Weather Service Training Center

General Class

None at this time

NIMS, EMCMM, IS-802, Professional Development Series

www.fema.gov

www.arrl.org

Mike Bellinger stated Dennis Gideon is interested in doing one of the hybrid ARRL EmComm classes EC-001 and EC-016. The group was supportive of this, so Mike will talk to Dennis and have him schedule the classes. Brian offered Hamclass.org to provide information about this class.

Carolyn and Matt provided information on KCHEART on the KC VA Net June 7, 2013. There were a lot of good questions and if seemed well received.

REPORTS

MEMC Report

The committee will not be meeting this month because of the EOC Exercise (see below).

KCHEART

The videos have been shot and are awaiting editing. There should be enough material to make 4 or 5 videos. There are still a few that need to be done on advanced operations. The person doing the videoing and editing has had some issues that have prevented him from devoting time to this project, but he hopes to have at least one done by the KCHEART meeting on July 13th.

KCHEART began a monthly net which is conducted on the first Monday of the month at 2000. It is held on the 443.500 repeater and is a directed net at this time. The net has been going well with more than half of the metro facilities checking in regularly.

The next meeting of KCHEART is scheduled for July 13, 2013 at 1000 at the Don Chisholm Learning Center located at 22nd and Holmes in KCMO. Brian will try to clean up the roster prior to that meeting to make sure we have the correct captains at the correct stations. We still need help at the hospital stations and this will be the major topic at the meeting.

Exercises

MECC SET 2013 was discussed above.

The regional EOC Exercise will be held June 13, 2013 from 0800-1200 and involve all of the EOC's in the metro area. WebEOC will be used in this exercise as will amateur radio by the three Kansas counties as alternate communications. The focus of this exercise is coordination and communication between EOC's and most of the Emergency Management agencies in the metro area will be participating.

Regional PIO

Jim Bair has been incapacitated and we need someone to take the lead until Jim is able to do so again. Please contact Matt if you or someone in your club is able to help. With Field Day coming up soon, there will be information that we want to get out to the public.

NEW BUSINESS

Field Day is coming up Jun 22-23, 2013. The following groups will be conducting field day operations:

Platte County – Will set up at the NRAD ambulance center and run a 5F station

Wyandotte County – Will be running out of their EOC and run a 2F station

HOA Club – Will be running out of the KCMO EOC and run a 2F station

Johnson County RAC – Will be set up at Shawnee Mission Park Observation Tower and will be running a 4A station

Blue Springs ARC – Will be set up at St. Mary's Hospital parking lot

KC Blind ARC – Will be set up in Hodge Park

Mike Bellinger stated the American Red Cross is waiting for their MERS radio. Matt referred Larry Widener to Keith Faddis at MARC.

Mike also talked about the Red Cross Damage Assessment Exercise he attended. He stated the most important lesson learned was the need to take the radio to the person who needs to hear the information so they hear it first-hand. This is easily accomplished cross-band repeating and made their exercise go much faster.

Matt stated he is in conversation with Laura Smith at the FCC regarding the person in the metro who continues to cause intentional interference to see what step need to be taken to eliminate this problem. She will be sending him information.

Dennis Smeltzer stated the Johnson County ECS is currently testing simplex frequencies in Johnson County to gather information for a frequency plan. This plan will be tested during the SET Exercise in October.

Upcoming Dates:

- July 13, 2013 –KCHEART Meeting from 1000-1200 at the Don Chisholm Learning Center
- August 10, 2013 – MECC Meeting at the Wyandotte County EOC
- October 12, 2013 – MECC Meeting at Central Jackson County FPD
- December 14, 2013 – MECC Meeting at the National Weather Service Training Center

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/emergency

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Wells, NOCJ
Secretary