

Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council Summary of April 5, 2014 Meeting

Present at the April 5, 2014 meeting were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Matt May (President)	KC4WCG	Johnson County EM & ARES
Brian Short (Vice President)	KCOBS	Johnson County ARES
Carolyn Wells (Secretary)	NOCJ	RHSCC Hospital Committee
Mike Bellinger (Member at Large)	KOUAA	Jackson County ARES
Steve Hoeger (Membership Sec.)	KCOYSY	KCHEART
Dennis Carpenter	KAOSXY	Northland ARES
Richard Fretwell	WOKRF	Jackson County ARES
Dick Quinlan	KA0DJR	Leavenworth County ARES
Keith Kaiser	WA0TJT	Northland ARES
John Eberenz	N0RES	Jackson County ARES
Tom Griswold	KTOMG	Johnson County RACES/ARES
Forrest Creason	KDORSX	Cass County ARES
Kent Dickinson	KOWEW	Army MARS
Larry Eker	WA0YQM	Wyandotte County RACES

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

OLD BUSINESS

MECC Goals 2014 – Matt verified with the group the goals for 2014.

Active:

1. Development of a secondary and tertiary list of MECC member organization contacts. – Steve passed around the list for everyone to update.
2. Development of a list of capabilities for each MECC member organization. – In progress, Steve Hoeger will work on a form to list the resources we want to capture.
3. Seminar for HAMs on emergency management topics. – Not yet started
4. 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.
5. Development of a regional communications plan. – In progress, a draft is posted on the Yahoo groups site. If there are updates, please let Brian know.

Monitoring:

1. Play a part in credentialing and resource typing for communications volunteers.
2. WebEOC partnership use arrangements and training.
3. Participation in notification systems. – City Watch is available in the region if a group has no other access to a notification system. Contact Carolyn Wells. Remember that City Watch is not really meant for attachments, it is meant to be a notification system.
4. Education of new HAMs. – Just completed a HAM 101 class. It was very well attended. Another class will be scheduled for June.
5. Development of a frequency coordination template. – Brian has developed one for JoCo ARES. Brian is happy to share the CHIRP templates for programming
6. Enhancements of relationships between MECC, ARES, RACES groups, and the served agencies with emergency management, extending to the regional level.

Credentialing - Resource Typing

This process has just been finalized for Johnson County RACES and credentials will be printed soon. The Resource Typing document has been revised. Matt passed out the document with the revisions. There is more emphasis on leadership skills in Levels 1 & 2. The requirements for Net Control have been clarified in Levels 2 & 3. Several classes were added (or replaced) in Levels 1 & 2. There was also a clarification of the old 3-class ARRL EMCOMM course.

Matt will send these updates to Kansas with the hope they will be adopted as is. The other states around us that use this same system will hopefully follow suit. The MECC members should take this document back to their groups for approval. There will be a vote to adopt this next meeting,

Brian talked about the process for assigning typing levels for radio operators. At the present time, Johnson County has a review board made up of seven members from the various radio clubs. They have developed forms and check sheets used in the process. There is the possibility we could take this structure and make it a regional process. Brian will pursue development of a regional review board with representation of the other radio clubs members who are members of MECC.

Regional Communications/Frequency Plan

This was reviewed and a few changes made. It can be found on the yahoo site under the Comm Plans & Radio Templates folder. There are CHIRP files used to load a wide variety of radios, both mobile and handhelds, posted on the Yahoo site as well. (<http://chirp.danplanet.com/projects/chirp/wiki/Home>) There are Johnson Co. versions posted which can be used as a template for other jurisdictions. Once developed by the other jurisdictions they too should be posted on the Yahoo site with the Excel export file as well. Matt reminded the group that those templates should be reconciled with the regional communications plan and the plan updated as required.

Education

Technician Classes

May 31 and June 7, 2014 at the CJC FPD Training and Education Center

September 13 & 20, 2014 at NWS Training Center

January 10 & 17, 2014 at Johnson County EOC

Richard brought up the AUXCOM course which is a course put on by the Emergency Communications office of DHS. Matt stated it is coming to the metro sometime this year, possibly 3rd quarter. He will let everyone know when it is scheduled.

NIMS, EMCOMM, IS-802, Professional Development Series

Matt stated the IS-802 class is gone. We are not sure if there is another class to replace it or not. There have also been some changes in the Professional Development Series and the Resource Typing group made the changes. These changes will be addressed in the revision of the Amateur Radio Operator Requirements (as noted above).

www.fema.gov/emi and www.arrl.org

REPORTS

MEMC Report

No report.

KCHEART

The videos have been shot but the person who was putting them together can no longer do so. Matt will get the raw files soon. He has a software program that can be used to edit the files. There may be some regional ASPR funds that can be used to finish this project. Matt will work with Dan Manley to see what can be done to complete the videos.

Brian shared information about UIView and the TNC. There is now a server available via port 80 which will make access available without requiring a specific port being opened on the hospital networks. This will require that the outbound IP address from each facility be registered in advance so we encourage those interested to contact Mr. Short for details.

Signalinks have been purchased for all of the regional hospitals. We now have the equipment (courtesy of regional ASPR funds) and will be putting these in place as soon as we have the protocols and equipment documents in place. One requirement to receive the unit will be that the hospital will have to commit a computer to receive the data. Please check with your hospital contacts to make sure they have access to a computer for the FLDigi software.

These will be installed in a standardized configuration that will NOT require any other hardware reconfiguration, specifically the TNCs, which will be left installed as they are. Documentation will be developed that will require the signature of the station Captain and the Hospital POC.

Exercises

CAPSTONE 2014

This is a National Level Exercise (NLE) between 8 states. The scenario will be an earthquake in the New Madrid Seismic Zone. The exercise will take place during the week of June 16-20, 2014. There is a planning team for the Kansas City region that will share details of the exercise and the possible involvement of amateur radio. The EOC's will be playing on day 1 and the hospitals on day 3.

Regional PIO

No report.

Membership Secretary

Steve passed around the sheets with all of the groups listed. There are some groups which are not engaged in the MECC that we would like to invite. Steve is working on a letter to send out to the served agencies.

NEW BUSINESS:

MECC SET 2014

The date will be October 4, 2014. The planning team met on March 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wyandotte County EOC. There was a decision made to utilize the same basic scenario as we did last year to test our improvements. There will be some modifications to the scenario from last year. Groups were encouraged to look at their Improvement Plan from last year and see what improvements need to be evaluated this year.

Richard Fretwell has found a site for project management for the planning team. Carolyn will send him the sign in sheet for the SET planning team so he can invite members to join the website.

Other Business

Mike Bellinger had a question about the status of Skywarn. When there was severe weather last week, including a tornado watch, no Skywarn net was established. Tom Griswold will check with Eric Cook and John Seals to see if there is an issue.

Web Sites

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

1. <http://www.kcmecc.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

Next Meeting

June 14, 2014 – Leavenworth County EOC at 301 Walnut in Leavenworth, KS
Talk in will be on the 147.00 repeater, + offset, tone 151.4

Future Meetings

August 9, 2014 – Platte County Resource Center on Ambassador Drive in Kansas City, MO
October 11, 2014 – TBD
December 13, 2014 - TBD

Action Items:

1. All Groups interested in participating in the 2014 SET should confirm a POC who will participate in the planning process.
2. Brian will make the changes to the regional template and put in on the yahoo group.
3. Steve will work on the form for regional resources.
4. Tom Griswold will check with Eric Cook/John Seals regarding Skywarn.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Wells, NOCJ
Secretary