

Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council Summary of February 8, 2014 Meeting

Present at the February 8, 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)	NO CJ	RHSCC Hospital Committee
Mike Bellinger (Member at Large)	KOUAA	Jackson County ARES
Steve Hoeger (Membership Sec.)	KCOYSY	KCHEART
Ron Rodvelt	NORL	Northland ARES
Richard Fretwell	WOKRF	Jackson County ARES
Dick Quinlan	KA0DJR	Leavenworth County ARES
Kent Dickinson	KOWEW	Region VII Army MARS
Glen Dikes	KD0GIE	Wyandotte County RACES
Joe Krout	WOPWJ	Wyandotte County RACES
Jerry Gorrell	WOCLR	Cass County ARES
Deb Kaiser	WODLK	Northland ARES
Keith Kaiser	WA0TJT	Northland ARES
Katie Hoeger	KTOKMH	Northland ARES
John Eberenz	NORES	Jackson County ARES
Frank Thies	KD0MQO	Johnson County ARES
Terry Constant	W0TLC	Johnson County ECS
Bill Hulse	W5NI	Jackson County ARES
Rich Britain	NOENO	SATERN
Tom Griswold	KT0MG	Johnson County RACES/ARES
Dave Stickel	KD0GDX	KCHEART
Jeff Cibby	KA0OTC	KCHEART
Susan Backs	KC0KCR	Leavenworth ARES
Jim Laning	NZ0Q	Johnson County ECS/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. Play a part in credentialing and resource typing for communications volunteers.
2. Development of a secondary and tertiary list of MECC member organization contacts.
3. 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.
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.
6. Development of a regional communications plan. – In progress, a draft is posted on the Yahoo groups site.

Monitoring:

1. WebEOC partnership use arrangements and training.
2. Participation in notification systems.
3. Education of new HAMs.
4. Enhancements of relationships between MECC, ARES, and RACES groups with emergency management, extending to the regional level.

Credentialing - Resource Typing

The KCTEAM policy for amateur radio has been approved by the MEMC. The plan is for Emergency Managers to assign a couple of HAM's from each amateur radio group to manage the data base in the credentialing system. Kansas is using the same format for their ID badges and Missouri will be adopting the format as well, so this will be a multi-state system.

Each badge will have either the county logo or the logo for their group on the front of the badge along with the square QR code. The call sign will also be included, included as an "Other ID" in the database. The level of typing will be on the badge as well. The document with the definitions of the resource typing can be found under the files on the yahoo group site.

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. Matt asked for any feedback members might have about this process.

Regional Communications/Frequency Plan

Brian shared the plan he has put together based on the current frequencies the counties have been using. The plan has been divided into VHF and UHF frequencies, with each county allocated 9 simplex frequencies. They are also digital, repeater frequencies, APRS, and HF frequencies included. Any changes should be sent to Brian. This can be found on the yahoo site under the Comm Plans & Radio Templates folder. The plan is to review this at each meeting.

Education

Technician Classes 2013

February 22 and March 1, 2014 at the Johnson County EOC

May 31 and June 7, 2014 on the East side of the Metro

September 13 & 20, 2014 at NWS Training Center

January 10 & 17, 2014 at Johnson County EOC

Brian stated Hamclass.org is having a 2 for 1 sign up for the classes for groups like the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, American Red Cross, etc. Two people can sign up and take the class for the price of one.

NIMS, EMCOMM, IS-802, Professional Development Series

Matt stated the IS-802 class is going away at the end of March. 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 will review the changes and will suggest changes as required.

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

WebEOC

There has been a major overhaul of the regional system. Johnson County built what is now being used as the regional template, except for KCMO. There are boards for tracking weather, shelters, etc. that are built and can be used by amateur radio groups to document deployments and collect data. All other counties in the Metro now have the new system installed and are in various stages of implementation. Check with your jurisdiction EMs to inquire about access to the system.

REPORTS

MEMC Report

Matt went over the summary from the meeting in January. There was information presented about the CERT rodeo project, the funding for WebEOC, and changes in the Membership and Bylaws. The SET date for 2014 and that the planning process for the exercise will begin in March was mentioned.

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. He is looking for someone who has video editing experience to help finish these up. If anyone is willing to help with this project, please contact Matt.

KCHEART held a membership meeting January 18, 2014 at Centerpoint Medical Center from 1000-1200. There were about 60 attendees. The regional badging system was a large topic of discussion. The KCHEART ID badges which will be sponsored by Johnson County EM. We talked about installing Signal Links in the regional hospitals and start training on the use of them. We also changed the time of the KCHEART net to 1930 hours on the first Monday of each month.

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. Let Steve know any contacts for these groups.

NEW BUSINESS:

MECC SET 2014

It is time to start planning for the SET Exercise. The date will be October 4, 2014. There was discussion on whether to do the same exercise as we did last year to test our improvements, or do a new scenario. The planning team will get together on March 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at the Wyandotte County EOC (Glenn will verify this is a good location). Those that volunteered for the planning team are: Tom Griswold, Steve Hoeger, Ron Rodvelt, Richard Fretwell, Deb Kaiser, Glen Dikes, and Dick Quinlan. Carolyn and Matt will lead the planning team.

Other Business

There is a new Kansas RACES officer. His name is Jim Tuttle and he is from Independence, KS (Montgomery Co KS). We expect some changes to the HF net and in operational requirements.

There is a PBS documentary, "Surviving Disaster," that everyone should watch. The documentary talks about the psychology of disasters and how people respond in emergencies. Several well-known speakers, including Dennis Milleti and Dr Geist from KCMO FD are featured.

Web Sites

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

1. 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

April 12, 2014 from 1000-1200. Matt will look into having the meeting at KC Scout.

Future Meetings

June 14, 2014 – Leavenworth County EOC (Susan Backs will check with Chuck Magaha)

August 9, 2014 – Platte County EOC (Ron will check with Mike O'Neal)

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. Matt will start cleaning up the files on Yahoo Groups.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carolyn Wells, NOCJ
Secretary