Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council Summary of December 12, 2015 Meeting

Present at the December 12, 2015 meeting were:

Name	Call Sign	Organization
Matt May (President)	KC4WCG	Wyandotte County EM
Brian Short (Vice President)	KC0BS	Johnson County ARES
Carolyn Wells (Secretary)	N0CJ	KCHEART
Steve Hoeger (Membership Sec.)	KC0YSY	KCHEART
Mike Bellinger (Member at Large)	K0UAA	Jackson County ARES
Deb Kaiser	W0DLK	Northland ARES
Keith Kaiser	WA0TJT	Northland ARES
Larry Widener	KA0YJE	Jackson County ARES
Larry Eker	WA0YQM	Wyandotte County RACES
Rich Britain	N0ENO	SATERN/JoCo ARES
Jeff Libby	KA0OTL	Northland ARES
Rick Smith	K0KEX	Platte County ARC
Jim Bair	N0AJI	Jackson County ARES
Dennis Carpenter	KA0SXY	Northland ARES

Thank you to the Kansas City Missouri Office of Emergency Management for hosting the meeting. Jennifer Fails gave a tour of the Emergency Operations Center for the MECC members prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Matt May called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. and introductions were done.

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from October 10, 2015. They were unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION

Jeff Libby (KA0OTL) and Rick Smith (K0KEX) gave a demonstration of the new digital mode FSQ Call. This is a keyboard to keyboard application that can be run simultaneously with other digital software programs on the same frequencies, such as FLDigi. Jeff is working on mapping out current locations where this is being utilized to get an idea of the network that exists. By looking at key locations, they can begin to build core infrastructure. Matt asked the members to take this back to their radio groups. If anyone is interested in a demonstration or training, contact Jeff at KA0OTL@yahoo.com and we will figure out a venue for it.

ELECTIONS

Larry Eker presented the slate of candidates for the officers of the MECC. All of the current officers agreed to continue to serve in their present roles. There were no nominations from the floor and all officers were voted in unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

MECC Goals 2015 – There was discussion on what goals were completed and what goal needed to continue for 2016.

Active:

1. Development of a list of capabilities for each MECC member organization. – This is still needing to be completed and will stay on for 2016.

2. Seminar for HAMs on emergency management topics. – This will stay for 2016. Matt will put together a class and Mike O'Neal is interested in helping with this.

Monitoring:

1. Development of a regional communications plan. – The current version of the plan is located on the MECC yahoo group site. Please send any updates or corrections to Brian so he can make the changes on the plan.
2. Development of a secondary and tertiary list of MECC membership organization contacts. – No new discussions.
3. Play a part in credentialing and resource typing system for communications volunteers. – Regionally, the MEMC now has this responsibility and Matt will co-chair this subcommittee.
4. WebEOC partnership use arrangements and training. – Working on the new update implementation and fusion with MO.
5. Participation in notification systems – City Watch training is available through MARC. Contact Carolyn and she will facilitate with MARC.
6. Education of new HAMs. – Ongoing. Need more HAM 101 classes as well as the development of classes that talk about the recreational side of amateur radio.
7. Development of a frequency coordination template. – This has been recently updated and is available on the MECC yahoo group site.
8. Enhancements of relationships between MECC, ARES, and RACES groups with emergency management, extending to the regional level. – Ongoing
9. Continue to develop a relationship with the Boy Scouts of America-Heart Of America Council. – Radio scouting is becoming more popular in Boy Scouts. Several of the groups have official committees.

Goals for 2016

1. Develop a demonstration for Emergency Management on HAM capabilities.
2. Develop information for HAM's on how amateur radio fits into response/recovery in disasters based on the regional THIRA.

MECC SET 2015

The After Action Report/Improvement Plan (AAR-IP) for each jurisdiction should be completed and turned into the respective Emergency Managers. It was agreed that using Survey Monkey for the participant feedback forms was very helpful in eliciting feedback. We will start planning for the MECC SET 2016 in February. One of the lessons learned was to make sure there is an actual sign-in sheet for each jurisdiction to verify the participants as required by the state of MO.

Education

Technician Classes 2016

a. February 20 & 27, 2016 – NWS Training Center
b. May 14 & 21, 2016 – Wyandotte County EOC

General/Extra Classes

Listed on Larry's List at http://larryslist.info

HAM 101 Class

Herb Fiddick (NZ0F) conducted a class on November 17, 2015. It was well attended and well received.

FEMA Classes: Online at https://training.fema.gov/is/nims.aspx

Jim Bair (n0aji@arrl.net) is doing weekly classes on FL Digi via Google Plus video conferencing. Up to 9 people can be on the video conference/session. It is being done on Thursday nights at 2000. Currently they are doing ICS forms that might be used by operators during a disaster. There was some discussion about expanding across Kansas to test the digital capabilities. Brian will check with Justin to see if we can get permission to use the K-Link system to test.

Rick Smith conducts a digital net on the 147.33 repeater at 8pm every Sunday.

NIMS, EMCOMM, Professional Development Series (PDS) –

The PDS is the backbone of the higher levels of the amateur radio operator resource typing classifications. The two links below will give you access to all the classes you need.
http://training.fema.gov/IS/
www.arrl.org/courses-training

REPORTS

MEMC Report

Matt updated –

- Matt May is the newly elected Vice-Chair for MEMC
- There was a presentation by KCMO EM Gene Shepard on the Royals World Series and subsequent Parade. There would have been a role for HAMs in the parade to help with communications as all cell phones and land lines were completely overwhelmed. The regional radio system that has been put into place for Public Safety over the last 10 years did work well.
- The next meeting is January 14, 2016 at MARC at 1300 in the Boardroom.

KCHEART

- Videos are in process –They are in the final editing stage. As soon as they are done, the next meeting for KCHEART will be scheduled.
- Deployment of SignaLinks: These will be handed out at the next meeting
- Credentials will also be handed out at the next meeting.
- Antennas – Because of the design flaw in the current Diamond antennas that support VHF/UHF communications for the hospitals, Carolyn will be writing a letter to each hospital encouraging them to replace the antennas. Matt would like to put together an installation team to help with the installation of these antennas.

Regional PIO

- Please send any other group activities to Jim at n0aji@aol.com and he will be sure it is sent to the media.
- Jim has offered to write an article to outline the uniqueness of the MECC and see if there are other similar groups across the country. Jim had previously sent out an inquiry to the SEC's and only received one reply. Jim will put together a draft and send it out to the group to be discussed at the next meeting.

Membership Secretary

- The list has been sent around for everyone to update.

Boy Scouts

- No further information.

Treasurer's Report

- Kent Dickinson not in attendance. No report.

NEW BUSINESS

None

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/emergenc

Upcoming Meetings:

February 13, 2016 – Overland Park EOC (Matt will confirm).
April 16, 2016 – Ararat Shrine HAM Bash (Date changed from April 9. Matt will check to see if we can do lunch again).
June 11, 2016 – Independence (Matt will check on this)
August 13, 2016 – Camp Nash (Keith will check on this)
October 8, 2016 – Red Cross (Larry Widener will check on this)
December 10, 2016 – WyCo EOC

Action Items:

1. Check on locations for meetings next year.
2. Join Mo-Kan group. Matt will fill this out.
3. Matt will send out a letter to the points of contact listed in the membership directory to confirm their level of participation in the MECC.

Current Officers:

President	Matt May KC4WCG	matthewmay@kc.surewest.net
Vice President	Brian Short KC0BS	kcshorty@gmail.com
Secretary	Carolyn Wells N0CJ	carolyn@chwells.net
Membership Sec	Steve Hoeger KC0YSY	kc0ysy@gmail.com
Member at Large	Mike Bellinger K0UAA	mbbelling@aol.com
Treasurer	Kent Dickinson W0WEW	skentd@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Wells, NOCJ, Secretary