

Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council Summary of February 13, 2016 Meeting

Present at the February 13, 2016 meeting were:

Name	Call Sign	Organization
Matt May (President)	KC4WCG	Wyandotte County EM
Brian Short (Vice President)	KC0BS	Johnson County ARES
Carolyn Wells (Secretary)	NOCJ	KCHEART
Steve Hoeger (Membership Sec.)	KCOYSY	KCHEART
Mike Bellinger (Member at Large)	KOUAA	Jackson County ARES
Deb Kaiser	WODLK	Northland ARES
Larry Eker	WA0YQM	Wyandotte County RACES
Jeff Libby	KA0OTL	Northland ARES
Rick Smith	K0KEX	Platte County ARC
Dennis Carpenter	KA0SXY	Northland ARES
Fred Parks	K0FRD	Cass County ARES
Dave Stickel	KD0GDY	Cass County ARES
Richard Fretwell	W0KRF	Jackson County ARES
Forrest Creason	KD0RSX	Cass County ARES
Jerry Gorrell	W0CLR	Cass County ARES
Susan Sims	KD0ODN	KS State RACES Officer
Brian Short	KC0BS	Johnson County ARES
John Bauerly	NW0I	Johnson County ARES
John Eberenz	N0RES	Jackson County ARES
Dennis Smeltzer	KC0QBU	Overland Park EM
John Fasbinder	KY0C	MARS

Thank you to the Overland Park Emergency Management Office for allowing us to use the Emergency Operations Center at the Fire Training Center.

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

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from December 12, 2015. They were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

MECC Goals 2016

Active:

1. Development of a list of capabilities for each MECC member organization. – Steve Hoeger will send out a letter to the member organizations. The letter he has drafted was reviewed. He will update it and send it out.
2. Seminar for HAMs on emergency management topics. – Matt and Mike O’Neal will work on this.
3. Develop a demonstration for Emergency Management on HAM capabilities.
4. Develop information for HAM’s on how amateur radio fits into response/recovery in disasters based on the regional THIRA (Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment).

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 Short at kcshorty@gmail.com
2. Development of a secondary and tertiary list of MECC membership organization contacts. – The list was sent around to those present to update.
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. Matt explained where we are in that process.
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. There is a new HAM 101 class scheduled.
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.

Education

Technician Classes 2016:

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

HAM 101 Class

- The next class is scheduled for March 19, 2016 from 0800-1300 at the Smithville Fire Station located at 345 Park Drive in Smithville. Dennis Carpenter explained about the class and discussed the handouts that will be given to participants. He passed around a contact list for MECC members to update so it can be given out to participants. The various radio clubs are invited to come talk about their organizations to the participants. They will also have radio programming available for different radios as well as a net to get everyone on the air. There will be testing available from 0830-0930.

FEMA Classes:

Online at <https://training.fema.gov/is/nims.aspx>

Digital Nets:

- FSQ Call - Jeff Libby (KA00TL) has submitted a proposal to the state of Missouri to support FSQ call. He is working on mapping out current locations where this is being utilized to get an idea of the network that currently exists. By looking at key locations, they can begin to build core infrastructure. He talked about a MARS/DOD net that was conducted on Friday (2/12/16) on 3.963 MHz which is the preferred location for FSQ Call. A message was left and Jeff was able to respond. John Fasbinder stated Air Force MARS was also participating and can support digital operations. J.D. Simmons, Communications Officer at SEMA, wants to conduct a test February 14-20, 2016 on 3.963 MHz to see who can reach them in Jefferson

City. David Bagge at MO DHSS is also interested in conducting a hospital net using FSQ Call. Go to PCARG.org to sign up to be on the FSQ Call list.

- On Going Digital Nets:
 1. FL Digi via Google Plus conferencing Thursday nights at 2000.
 2. Digital Net on the 147.33 repeater Sunday nights at 2000.

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.arrrl.org/courses-training

REPORTS

MEMC Report

Carolyn and Steve gave the report –

- There was a presentation by Joanne Woody from the American Red Cross on their Safe and Well program to reunite families after a disaster.
- There was also discussion regarding the changes to the federal mitigation plan that all jurisdictions will be required to meet.
- The next meeting is March 19, 2016 at MARC at 1300 in the Boardroom.

KCHEART

- Videos are completed –Copies of the videos were handed out to the hospitals and showed at the KCHEART meeting on January 23, 2016.
- Deployment of Signalinks: These were also given out and the rest were given out at the Hospital Committee meeting on January 27, 2016. Everything the HAMs will need is included in the box to attach them to the radios. They plug into the microphone jack on the radio. There is no need to change the current configuration of the TNC and the radio, the Signalink connects via the control head. Please see the KCHEART Digital video located on YouTube.
- Credentials were handed out and pictures taken if needed. Those KCHEART members that did not receive their credentials have been invited to pick them up at today's meeting or at the NWS Training Center where we will doing our Technician classes on February 20th and 27th.
- 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.

Exercises

- There is a National Level Exercise (NLE) on Mass Care scheduled the week of August 22-25, 2016 with multiple states. The state of Missouri will be coordinating our region's participation. Our region will be playing on August 24 and will be receiving (notionally) approximately 250,000 evacuees from the east side of MO. The NLE is still in the planning stage, therefore the role of emergency communications is unknown at this time. As the planning progresses, Carolyn and Matt will update this group.

- MECC SET 2016 – This is scheduled for October 1, 2016. Anyone interested in being on the planning meeting will meet after today’s meeting to pick a planning meeting date.

Regional PIO

- Please send group activities to Jim at n0aji@aol.com and he will be sure it is sent to the media.

Membership Secretary

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

Boy Scouts

- Deb reported for Keith that the first meeting for Radio Scouting was held on January 27 and 7 people attended. There are 17 districts in all. They will use the WW1USA model to recruit people to support any radio operations.

Treasurer’s Report

- Kent Dickinson was not in attendance. The \$8.51 is still available if needed.

Kansas RACES

- Susan Sims, Kansas state RACES Officer, reported about a meeting held last week that Matt attended as well. This working group is updating the RACES plan for Kansas. The counties have legal jurisdiction over RACES groups in Kansas. KDEM (Kansas Department of Emergency Management) has purchased all new amateur radio equipment which will support ESF 2 at the Kansas state EOC.

NEW BUSINESS

- Mike Bellinger stated he will be attending the VOAD (Volunteer Organization Assisting in Disasters) meeting and wanted to know what this group wanted ask the VOAD in regards to the NLE. Matt suggested asking about anticipated the auxiliary communication needs for the NLE.
- Larry Eker stated that Wyandotte County is sponsoring the next Weather Spotter training Tuesday night (2/16/16) at 1900 at the Tech Center, located at 6565 State Ave., KCK.
- Brian Short announced that as part of TV station 25 line-up, they will be airing “HAM Nation” episodes (reruns) beginning in March. They will also be airing “The Flying Lesson” in which people will be able to watch all of the episodes, then find a qualified flight instructor to take the practical to obtain their private pilot’s license.
- Dennis Smeltzer stated he will be teaching basic CERT classes starting in March in Overland Park at the Fire Training Center. Contact Dennis if interested at 913-895-8301 or dennis.smeltzer@opkansas.org
- Matt sent in the application to join the MO-KAN group. He also talked with Randy Schultz (KDOHKD) regarding resolving the scheduling conflict between their meeting and ours.

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

Upcoming Meetings:

- **Next Meeting is April 16, 2016** – Ararat Shrine HAM Bash. The MECC meeting date was changed from April 9th to April 16th to coincide with the HAM Bash. The group decided to meet at 1230 up in the restaurant, so plan on doing lunch.
- June 11, 2016 – Independence (Matt will check on this)
- August 13, 2016 – Camp Nash (Keith will check on this)
- October 8, 2016 – Red Cross (Richard Fretwell will check on this.) It will also be the SET AAR.
- December 10, 2016 – Wyandotte County EOC (confirmed)

Action Items:

1. Steve 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	jmatthewmay@twc.com
Vice President	Brian Short KC0BS	kcshorty@gmail.com
Secretary	Carolyn Wells NOCJ	carolyn@chwells.net
Membership Sec	Steve Hoeger KC0YSY	kc0ysy@gmail.com
Member at Large	Mike Belling KOUAA	mbbelling@aol.com
Treasurer	Kent Dickinson WOWEW	skentd@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Wells, NOCJ, Secretary