

Metropolitan Emergency Communications Council Summary of April 15, 2017 Meeting

Present at the April 15, 2017 meeting were:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Call Sign</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Matt May (President)	KC4WCG	Wyandotte County RACES
Carolyn Wells (Secretary)	N0CJ	KCHEART
Brian Short (Vice President)	KC0BS	Johnson County ARES
Mike Bellinger (Member at Large)	K0UAA	Jackson County ARES
Kent Dickinson (Treasurer)	K0WEW	Army MARS
Jeff Libby	KA0OTL	Northland ARES
Richard Fretwell	W0KRF	Jackson County ARES
Dennis Carpenter	KA0SXY	Northland ARES
John Bauerly	NW0I	Johnson County ECS
Larry Eker	WA0YQM	Wyandotte County RACES
Ed Robarge	W0LYQ	Leavenworth County ARES
Dick Quinlan	KA0DJR	Leavenworth County ARES
Bill Hulse	W5NI	Blue Springs ARC
John Eberenz	N0RES	Blue Springs ARC
Rick Smith	K0KEX	Northland ARES
Denise Elosh	KE0ECQ	Cass County ARES
Susan Sims	KD0ODN	Kansas RACES
Larry Widener	KA0YOE	American Red Cross
Deb Kaiser	W0DLK	Northland ARES
Keith Kaiser	W0TJT	Northland ARES
Herb Fiddick	NZ0F	Johnson County ARES
Rick Wade	KD0CN	Benton County ARES
Steve Hoeger	KC0YSY	KCHEART
Forrest Creason	KD0RSX	Cass County ARES
Jerry Gorrell	W0CLR	Cass County ARES

Thanks to the Ararat Shrine for the use of their restaurant.

Matt May called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. and introductions were done.

The group reviewed the meeting minutes from February 11, 2017. They were unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Review of the MECC Goals 2017

Active:

1. Development of a list of capabilities for each MECC member organization. – Jeff Libby presented his recommendations for the capabilities list. Matt will ask Cary Gerst at Johnson County to see if she will build us a Survey Monkey to send out to the group with the capabilities questions. The idea is to keep it simple and focus on broad capabilities.
2. Seminar for HAMs on emergency management topics. – Herb Fiddick will work on this information. Herb presented a program along these lines just a week ago.
3. Develop a demonstration for Emergency Management on HAM capabilities. – This will be done at the December MEMC meeting in the Broadway room (for the hands on demos)

- a. Formal Presentation – Herb Fiddick agreed to do this
 - b. Still need someone to coordinate the hands-on demonstrations for VHF/UHF voice (maybe highlighting linking), APRS, PSK (local and DX), ATV (drones), etc. The group was asked to think about who would be good to do these demonstrations. Matt will reach out to someone to head this up.
4. Develop SOP/guideline for best practices when sending information digitally, voice, etc. into a regional communications plan. Brian will head up this effort.

Monitoring:

1. Development of a regional communications plan. – This will be renamed to the regional frequency matrix. It is now in a google spreadsheet so it can be updated by the members.
2. Development of a secondary and tertiary list of MECC membership organization contacts. – Steve Hoeger will maintain this list.
3. Play a part in credentialing and resource typing system for communications volunteers. – Regionally, the MEMC now has this responsibility and Matt and Will Akin will co-chair this subcommittee.
4. WebEOC partnership use arrangements and training. – The new update has been installed for MO; the WebEOC Committee has submitted a scope of work to Intermedix. There are several boards applicable to HAMs. These are the Position Log, the Significant Weather Board, and the Amateur Radio Board. HAMs need to work with their local EM to gain access. Matt stated we are still working to finalize the connections with MO and updating the local boards.
5. Education of new HAMs. – Ongoing.
6. Enhancements of relationships between MECC, ARES, and RACES groups with emergency management, extending to the regional level. – Ongoing
7. Continue to develop a relationship with the Boy Scouts of America-Heart of America Council. – The group would like to keep this monitoring this goal.

Education

Technician Classes 2017:

- April 1 & 8, 2017 – Wyandotte County EOC – We have 13 new techs and 2 new generals
- May 1, 8, 15, 22, 30 – Northland ARES Class at the Kearney MO Public Library
- July 22 & 29, 2017 – NWS Training Center
- October 21 & 28, 2017 – Ararat Shrine

HAM 101 Class

- No further classes scheduled at this time. Herb has been asked to do one for the Shawnee CERT team, but there is no date yet.

FEMA Classes:

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

Digital Nets:

- On Going Digital Nets:
 1. Digital Net on the 147.33 repeater Sunday nights at 2000.
 2. Digital Net on the 146.97 repeater Wednesday nights at 2030.

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

Matt gave the report from the April 13th, 2017 meeting:

- There was a panel presentation on the March 6 response to the tornadoes in Oak Grove, Odessa, and Smithville. Most of the discussion centered around recovery and the development of a MARC (Multi Agency Resource Center).
- There was a discussion on the siren activations in Dallas last week. This incident shows how vulnerable agencies are to this kind of issue. Agencies are be working on how to make their systems more robust and how to turn off the sirens should an inadvertent or malicious activation occur.
- The next meeting is May 11th, 2017 at MARC at 1300 in the Boardroom.

KCHEART

- Monthly Net – The last net that was done April 3rd. The signal quality to Warrensburg when the repeaters are linked is still poor, even with a new antenna. The next step is to replace/repair the linking radio.
- There are new net controllers that have signed up for 2017, so this will give more operators the opportunity to act as a net controller. We are also trialing a net at 1200 hrs on the same day as the regular net to see if there is more participation.
- All operators should have KCHEART credentials at this time.

Exercises

- MECC SET 2017 – The first meeting is scheduled for April 18 at 1830 at the Wyandotte County EOC. The SET exercise scheduled for October 7, 2017.
- Jeff Libby stated FSQ MO will be conducting a communications exercise with SEMA on April 22, 2017 at 0900 to test HF capabilities with Jefferson City. They will be sending 213 forms as digital traffic. They will be on 80 meters (Frequency 3598 MHz) and 40 meters (Frequency 7073 MHz).

Regional PIO

- No report.
- Please send group activities to Jim at n0aji@aol.com and he will be sure it is sent to the media. He sent a template to Matt who posted it on the Yahoo site.

Membership Secretary

- Steve will send out a letter to the existing list asking that the agency members verify their information.

Boy Scouts

- The Venture Crew has been set up and 7 of the 8 members are now HAMs.

Treasurer's Report

- We still have \$8.51.

Mo-Kan Regional Council

- They are officially designated a 501c(3) non-profit organization .
- They also talked about developing a call down list for the region.
- Their website is <http://mokancouncil.org>

NEW BUSINESS

- Matt presented the suggested updates to the credential qualifications in the Amateur Radio Operator Credentialing Requirements and Resource Typing document. The changes are in the Radio Operator II and I requirements due to discontinued classes. IS-1 is no longer available, so the suggestion was made to move IS-230.d to Level 2 to replace it. We will then add IS-802, which is now available again, to Level 1. IS-130 (in conjunction with IS-120 which is already a requirement) will replace IS-139 in Level 2. IS-315 and IS-951 were also considered but these moves seemed to be in better alignment with the intent of the qualifications. A copy of the revised qualifications document will be put on the MECC yahoo group site.
- Matt also talked about the development of a regional qualifications review committee that will be comprised of 9 people from all over the metro. The people are: Bill Gery, Herb Fiddick, Jeff Libby, Rick Smith, Richard Fretwell, Forrest Creason, Ed Menard, Joe Krout, and Merritt Markussen. Everyone has confirmed their participation, so an introductory meeting will be set up to go over the process for review. The ultimate goal is to make this an on-line process. Matt asked for ideas on where to house this and how to develop the site.
- Mike Bellinger stated there is a "Workshop in Emergency Management: Amateur Radio Resources" which is scheduled in Cole County MO on 8/10/17 at the Cole Co FPD Station 4. Matt will investigate this to see what the content is and if it might be something we could use.
- Herb stated there is a video on You Tube for the EmComm 101 Class he taught. The link is <http://youtu.be/opbnZYa1r9o> . He also did a Public Service Events 101 video with Brian Short and that link is <http://youtu.be/Wetp0sKAwy8> .
- Jeff Libby brought up the August solar eclipse as an event that might need HAM support. Talk with your Emergency Manager and see if they might need help, especially in those locations that are directly in the path and expecting large crowds.
- Steve Hoeger brought up DMR repeaters. Chuck Kraley has put together a talk group for Emergency Management that probably needs to get built into the Comm Plan.

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: June 10, 2017 at the Platte County Resource Center at 1000

Upcoming Meetings:

- August 12, 2017 – Eastern Jackson County EOC (Carolyn confirmed with Mike Curry)
- October 8, 2016 – Red Cross (Richard Fretwell confirmed). It will also be the SET AAR.
- December 10, 2016 – Johnson County EOC (Matt confirmed with Terry Kegin)

Action Items:

1. Contact Cary Gerst regarding building a Survey Monkey for the capabilities questions. – Matt will contact her. Jeff needs to send the capabilities electronically to Matt.
2. Form a workgroup to discuss digital operations. Jeff Libby will head up this group.
3. Herb Fiddick will work on the presentation for the MEMC group.
4. Herb will work on an Emergency Management presentation for HAMs.
5. Matt and Brian will talk with someone to coordinate the hands-on demonstration for the MEMC meeting.
6. Matt will work with Richard Fretwell to set up a meeting for the Regional Qualifications Review Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carolyn Wells, NOCJ, Secretary