Pacific Division Meeting
Livermore, California
December 4, 2010

Present:


The meeting was called to order at 0915 by Director, Bob Vallio, W6RGG.

- Director Vallio introduced himself and Vice Director, Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, and everyone present was invited to introduce themselves.

- Director Vallio introduced webmaster, Ron Raines, N6QIY, who updated everyone on the new capabilities of the Pacific Division website. Everyone was invited to view and use the site.

- John Ronan, K3ZJJ, the current President of MDARC, was recognized to make a brief comment on Pacificon 2011, which is to be held at the Santa Clara Marriot, a new venue. The Convention is to be a run-up to the 2012 Pacificon which will host the ARRL National Convention on the 100th anniversary of the licensing of amateur radio operators.

- Director Vallio thanked all of the four Section Managers who were present for their efforts on the League’s behalf over the course of the past year. He praised the SM’s for their impetus in coming up with a resolution which reads as follows:

  “We request the Board of Directors adopt a policy to ensure that ARES become the national gold standard for voluntary emergency communications to include the following objectives:

  1. Recognition by the appropriate national emergency management agency as a formal part of NIMS.”
2. Recognized source of trained communications volunteers who have met minimum national training requirements.
3. Adopt a standard national identification card or document.
4. Define a continuing education requirement to ensure currency at the national and local levels.

Signed, Jim Latham, AF6AQ, Joe Giraudo, N7GEH, Ron Murdock, W6KJ, Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, and Dan Pruitt, AE6SX.”

- Director Vallio then read Bob Schnieder’s, AH6J, e-mail on the number of Hams in the Pacific Section and the presence of twenty one CERT Teams on the Big Island.

A general discussion ensued concerning Emcomm with Ron Murdock emphasizing the “gold standard” approach that needs to be taken. Examples of improvements included the new emergency Managers Course and the new updated Emergency Communication Manual. Bill Hillendahl raised the concerns of their being too many untrained Hams that Minimum Training Standards had been suggested to the board six years ago. He noted that GEO’s and NGO’s want trained communicators familiar with their own structure. He indicated that the SF Section has established a minimum training standard which includes ARECC 1 plus ICS 200, 300 and 700. He also indicated that a prototype ID card had been developed. Jack Cooper, KG4LV, noted the need for RACES recognition and local identification cards that would be recognized by local authorities.

Jim Latham, AF6AQ, was on the ECAC reported that the committee had started work on developing a nationally recognized ID card. Bill Hillendahl suggested that a national Emcomm library and curriculum should also be developed. Peter Chupity, KI6FAO, asked about a timeline because there is a lot of interest in San Mateo where he is the RACES Radio Officer. Jorene Downs, KJ6JCD, thought that specifics should be worked out. Bill Hillendahl suggested also requiring ICS 802.

- Jim Latham was invited to further report on ECAC actions. He noted that the ECAC had suggested to the PSC that it be assigned three tasks: 1. Develop training requirements for ARES members, 2. Establish the ARES as the “Gold Standard” for Emcomm volunteers and 3. Develop resource typing for the ease of use of volunteers in the Incident Command System. He noted that the current active assignment for the ECAC was to develop the role of the Major Disaster Emergency Coordinator (MDEC) which would be a new position for assisting in inter-section emergencies. He further described the make-up of the committee and how it functioned. Mike Corey, W5MPC, is the staff liaison to the committee and his role as the league’s Emergency Preparedness Manager, although he is not
often involved in the meetings. The meetings occur by teleconference using the league’s conference bridge. Jim said that he reaches out to SM’s and SEC’s for input before the ECAC meetings.

John Ronan suggested that department of Homeland Security (DHS) certification be sought through an MOU with the ARRL. Jorene Downs volunteered that she was involved in the development of standards at ASTM which is an organization for the establishment of standards re a wide variety of industry professional and service needs. She mentioned that she is a member of the search and rescue committee and the Homeland Security Committee. There is a task group studying the deployment of units with multiple skill sets called “deployable affiliated volunteers” which will be established with typing requirements. Of course, entry trainees in ICS 200 and 700 gets a background check, takes ICS 317 which is an introduction to CERT and obtains a California DSW designation. Director Vallio noted that Jim Latham should inform ECAC of the ASTM’s efforts in this regard on the Homeland Security Committee.

- The commercialization of the Amateur Radio Service was the next topic which Bill Hillendahl saw as secondary to the need for more licensees and emergency responders. A couple of the VE’s present noted the greater government involvement in having employees, such as TSA employees, get amateur radio licenses. A lively discussion ensued concerning the merits of employers and the government requiring licensing, but allowing an apparent lack of practical training in the use of radios. Ron Murdock noted that Gary Matteson, WA6TQJ, has a good hands-on training program (gcmatteson@ucdavis.edu). Director Vallio observed that new licensees should be asked for their input and be encouraged to volunteer because the League needs growth and staying power.

- PAVE PAWS was the next issue raised by Director Vallio. He reminded everyone that renegades are threatening the continued availability of the 440 MHz band. John Ronan was in favor of more enforcement. A game plan was discussed with the extreme results being either the imposition of a quiet zone or continuing with an attempt at focused enforcement. So far, coordination of efforts to mitigate the problem with the Air Force have been ongoing and cooperative.

- Various organizational issues were addressed next, from the question of realigning the Section boundaries to criticism of the search functions on the new website. Art Samuelson, W6VV, appreciated the ARRL’s candor in QST with respect to the website functionality. Dan Pruitt suggested more use of promotional materials such as “Hello Radio”. Ron Murdoch suggested that the League sponsor more HF Radio events like the 140 event. Jorene Downs raised the issue of section 501(c)(3) status for clubs with help from the ARRL. She also mentioned another Emcomm issue concerning how the national association for search and rescue on the ASTM invites FEMA representatives to its meetings. She suggested that ARES groups might wish to do something similar to establish a rapport or liaison with FEMA.
At 1348, the meeting was adjourned.