



Mountain Top Amateur Radio Meeting - Minutes

July 14, 2020, 7:00 pm

Online Zoom session

I. Welcome

Today's meeting was an experiment. Tracy, WM6T, opened the Zoom session shortly before 7:00 pm, we had 39 members attending. Lorna and Tracy built the attendee list as folks checked in. Tracy discussed the COVID-19 lockdown we all face and the fact that the Presbyterian church remains locked down and will be for the foreseeable future.

The meeting began officially by President Vic, KK6WKI, at 7:07 pm. He also discussed the situation we find ourselves in. He mentioned the ongoing Tuesday and Thursday Zoom sessions and the ongoing nets. Even though we are socially distant, we remain a very busy club online.

II. Introductions

Vic began with introducing our new members, we have added 4 members in the past months. Two were present via the Zoom session.

KG4SXQ, Alvie, from San Bernardino. He has a Technician license, has been in ham radio since 2003. He was introduced to the club through the CBARC morning tech net. A few members have been working with him to get him further on the air and he presently has 2 meter and 440MHz radio capability. He is anxious to continue exploring the new digital modes.

Greg and Donna, AJ6FN and KK6TCR from Highland. Greg is a long-time ham, licensed in high school as a Novice, then General licensed a year later. He took his exams when CW was a requirement. He finds himself a happily retired high school Biology teacher and 30 years later, licensed as an Amateur Extra. He likes to build antennas, QRP and recently has resumed his radio control airplane hobby.

Gary, AA6GJ, gave a quick Vice President's report. He and his wife, Debbie, WB6LVC live in Rancho Cucamonga. He is a member of the West End Amateur Radio Group. He encourages folks looking for license upgrades to check out his QRZ and [personal home page](#). He has Zoom classes covering both the Tech and General license exams and plenty of PDF tutorial materials available. As a new CVE, Gary can perform individual testing as well.

III. Secretary Report

Dave, K6WDE agreed to step in as secretary a few months ago. He discussed the monthly newsletter encouraging the membership to submit articles for future issues. Stay tuned to the August newsletter, operator reports of Field Day!

In addition, a WWFF/POTA/SOTA (parks and summits on-the-air) San Bernardino National Forest WA6MTN activation is planned for late summer or early fall. This will be an opportunity for club members to practice HF and VHF/UHF contacts locally and throughout the U.S. The WWFF/POTA/SOTA programs are fun activations of various parks, monuments, national forests, peaks and everything in between!

IV. Treasurer's Report

Patty, KK6LWH provided the bank balances. At present, we have \$9,237.09 in our bank account. We have added \$90 due to four new memberships. We believe that President Vic is due 2 sets of Ninja steak knives for most new members recruited.

V. Weekly Nets

Denise, N6DEE, our net control manager shared the ongoing nets available to club members

- Monday Nights: 1900 (7:00 PM) MTARA2
- Tuesday Nights: 1900 (7:00 PM) MTARA5
- Wednesday Nights: 1930 (7:30 PM) HF 'family hamster' net starting on 7.223MHz
- Friday Night YL Happy Hour: 1700 (5:00 pm) MTARA5

She continues to look for new volunteer net control operators.

VI. Club Items

- **Name tags** – Harlan Technologies, Name Tags by Gene, (715) 340-1299, www.hampubs.com, Shawn Harlan – KA9BXA, harlantech@gmail.com
- **Mouse Pads**
- **Shirts** – Port Authority K420P – Dark Green, L420 – Dark Green, K100LS – Dark Green: Embroidery, Classic Images, 23723 Rocky Dell Dr. Crestline (909) 338-2281

VII. Club Events, General Discussion, and Information

Tracy opened up with a forum and questions/answers.

Tom, KJ6ZNY still has not had his membership check cashed, we will check into it. Bill's, KE6SDF check has also not been cashed.

Dede K6DDZ, mentioned an upcoming POTA weekend activation coming up.

Tracy mentioned the upcoming "I am lost" event. We will have club members lost in their vehicles in the forest and other members being home-base, guiding them back to safety. We are shooting for mid to late August and more details to follow.

The Zoom presentations will be ongoing but maybe once per week in August.

Our repeaters usage:

- The MTARA2 repeater on Heap's Peak belongs to a club (not us) and the trustee let us use it for emergency use. ARES, SkyWarn and CERT are also users. The repeater is also linked to the trustee's 440 and 10 meter repeater.
- MTARA5 on Keller Peak shares resources with the main KP repeater. The private repeater is for our use only.
- MTARA6 is our new emergency repeater, it can be used up to 72 hours per month. It is on 2 meters with coverage for the local mountains.
- Radio programming masks are available from Tracy, drop him an email.

We may soon have a "Swap Shop" – maybe an upcoming event on a Saturday at the Masonic Lodge in Twin Peaks, more information to follow.

Upcoming Events

- **Virtual QSO Today Hamfest**, August 7-8-9, about 70 speakers presentations for FREE!
- **DX Engineering Virtual Hamfest Saturday July 25**, \$1000 raffle tickets for the morning and afternoon sessions
- If you are looking to obtain or upgrade a ham license, send email to Tracy

Open forum:

Gran Fondo? Will it go on as planned? John Emig, W6GC, the event organizer mentioned that the September 11-12 event will begin at 5:00 pm. One hundred runners will have 30 hours to complete the 100 mile course. The event has been scaled back due to COVID-19 concerns.

Vic has been chasing DX and has a little text message group that he sends out messages when openings are spotted. Let him know if you want in on his list. KM6UWI, N6NTJ, AA6GJ, K6WDE and AJ6FN are on his list so far.

Rick KM6CGX checking out John in AZ

Debbie and Gary finally snagged the last 13 Colonies station right before the contest was over. Thanks to those who let him know during last Tuesday's 220 net.

An update from John, KT7P in Arizona. He has been amazed at the antennas, wires, towers, linked repeaters, nets, and 6 meters openings into AZ. It was good to see everyone!

Vic, Dale had a nice visit recently at Vic's shack, maintaining social distancing protocols.

Denise, as we all do, misses Paula's pastries.

Chet and Paula's Yellowstone Adventures, part 3. Their axle broke on the trailer, which was a replacement axle that had been recalled but never repaired. Axles are hard to find for older Airstreams. They are still outside Yellowstone Park. Plan 1 and 2 failed, they are now on plan 3. A new axle may arrive by this Friday and they maybe home in 1 to 2 weeks.

VIII. Wrap-up and Close

Next meeting – August 4th, 2020 @ 1900 Hours

The meeting was closed by Vic at 8:03 pm

Minutes submitted, respectfully by Dave, K6WDE

