



Mountain Top Amateur Radio Meeting - Minutes

November 3, 2020, 7:00 pm

Online Zoom session

I. Welcome

Tracy, WM6T, opened the Zoom session shortly before 7:00 p.m., we had 30 members attending. Jodi and Tracy built the attendee list as folks checked in.

The meeting began officially by President Vic, KK6WKI, at 7:06 pm.

II. Introductions

President's Comments

Vic, KK6WKI welcomed the MTARA group to our monthly meeting. A warm welcome to all, please take advantage of our continued Thursday's tutorial sessions, they have been great! We are still in COVID-19 lockdown but we are managing to stay connected.

Don't forget, on Wednesdays, you can play HF with the family hamsters. Starting at 7:30 pm, on 7.223MHz, these folks go and check on band propagation.

Tonight's agenda will speak to the new bylaws and new jackets we now have available. Tracy will speak to both items.

Vic attended the Gear in the Park this last weekend and will give a synopsis and W6DVE will give an overview of a Voluntary Examiner in the Elmer session tonight.

Vice President Report

Gary, AA6GJ, read a little history article from the Cleveland, Ohio, Plain Dealer, dated Nov 2, 1920. Amateur radio was used in the spreading of election results back in then. "Warren R. Cox's broadcasting activities gained special prominence during local elections held in the fall of 1921. The November 3rd broadcast featured short speeches by six of the city's seven candidates for mayor.[8] In addition, the Cleveland Plain Dealer made arrangements to relay vote totals on election night by telephone to 8ACS for broadcasting by the station.[9]" An interesting read!

III. Secretary Report

Dave, K6WDE highlighted the November Newsletter. If you didn't receive it, drop Tracy a line, but you can always download the latest version from the MTARA website. Highlights are a tribute to Jim Higginbotham, Gary's first Ponder the Pool monthly column and Greg, AJ6FN, gave us his construction tips on the home brewing design and building of an Octopus Antenna Hub utilizing hamsticks. You may have seen the MFP and Chameleon designs, this one is much cheaper and fun.

IV. Treasurer's Report

Patty, KK6LWH provided the bank balances. We had an opening balance as of September 30 for the amount of \$9,316.92. We had deposits on October 16 of \$20.00 (dues) with no new expenses. Our balance as of October 31 is now \$9,336.92

V. Weekly Nets - summary!

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, WB6LVC, Debbie is the net controller

- Wednesday Nights: 1930 (7:30 PM) HF 'family hamster' net starting on 7.223MHz. This net follows the Skywarn and Mountain CERT nets at 6:30 and 7:00 pm, respectively on the MTARA-2 repeater.
- Friday Night YL Happy Hour: 1700 (5:00 pm) MTARA5, K6DDZ at net operator

Don't be shy, Denise continues to look for new volunteer net control operators. Let her know!

VI. Club Items - if you are looking for a new jacket as the cold weather descends ...

- **Club jacket** details are in the November newsletter. Available now, order! MTARA logo patches will also be available soon.
- **Name tags** – Harlan Technologies, Name Tags by Gene, (715) 340-1299, www.hampubs.com, Shawn Harlan – KA9BXA, harlantech@gmail.com
- **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.

The club bylaw changes have been sent to all licensed ham radio members. Rather than vote online tonight, Tracy asks that if you'd like to vote NO, please drop him an email. NO email from you will signify an implicit approval of the bylaw changes. Please get back to him as soon as possible.

The online Zoom Technician class wrapped up with the exam session. There were 12 new hams, spread out from the valley floor to Big Bear. Congratulations to our new hams and hopefully, some will become members of MTARA.

QuartzPause details have been sent out, a scaled down, socially distanced affair in January. A few MTARA members will be attending, but be aware that the **Yuma Hamfest** has been cancelled. The **Quartzsite RV** and Gem and Mineral Shows will still go on as planned.

Check out this month's CQ magazine article. It has a few photos and an article about the MTARA club. It's nice to have an advocate in Gordon West on our side, good PR! See page 76, if you can't wait.

Vic talked about last Sunday's "Gear-in-the-Park" event in Wrightwood at the Vivian Knoll Park. The main topic was portable ops. Several design solutions for necessary equipment were presented in a show-and-tell format. KK6CTT gave a presentation on go-bags. The portable 2 meter repeater box was impressive. K6GGS, Darell provided pizza all around. Raffles and good entertainment rounded out the festivities with even a Roy Orbison impression. Dave (KK6LWQ) and Nancy (KK6LWP) Stern attended as well.

For fun, check out the Octopus Antenna build article in this month's newsletter. It's important to pay attention to info sent out by the club. Dave (K6WDE) and Greg (AJ6FN) have each built a hub and the complete component kit for the 3rd hub will be raffled off at the first in-person MTARA monthly meeting, hopefully coming up soon! All you will need to get your Octopus antenna on the air, will be your coax and your hamsticks of choice.

Don't forget **Winter Field Day**, January 30-31, 2021.

Question and Answer Session

None

Elmering Session - Dave, W6DVE

Dave gave an overview of the Volunteer Examiner (VE) and Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program instituted to help interested people to take the FCC required Amateur Radio Technician, General and Extra Class examinations.

There are 14 VECs in the U.S. and these teams answer directly to the FCC. The two largest VEC programs are run by W5YI and the ARRL. To be a VE under the WY5I program, you just fill out the application, submit a copy of your license and send it into WY5I. The W5YI organization requires a VE team in place, it does not certify individual instructors. The ARRL grants reciprocity to members of the WY5I program.

The WY5I approach is much less restrictive than the ARRL approach. Each VEC team generates their own test material and is solely responsible for their results. Therefore, necessary accommodations during a testing session can easily be addressed. Large text for the sight impaired or reading the questions to those with English as a second language are just two examples of flexibility during an exam session.

Dede, K6DDZ in Big Bear is assembling a VEC team so far for the MTARA-East group. She has 12 members so far. Gary, AA6GJ and Debbie, WB6LVC, continue their VEC program in Rancho Cucamonga. Dave and Tina, W6TNA are on both teams, spreading their wealth of knowledge. Thank you to the two of them.

For our next monthly meeting, Gail, KM6GBN, will give us an overview of the San Bernardino National Forest Fire Lookout hosts volunteer program.

VIII. Wrap-up and Close

Next meeting – November 3, 2020 at 7:00 pm

The meeting was closed by Vic at 8:01 pm

Minutes submitted, respectfully by Dave, K6WDE



Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association

Treasurer's Report

November 3, 2020

Opening balance September 30, 2020	\$9,316.92
Deposits:	
October 16, 2020 – Dues	\$20.00
	=====
TOTAL Deposit	\$20.00
Expenses:	
No Expenses	\$0.00
	=====
TOTAL Expenses	\$0.00
Balance as of October 31, 2020	\$9,336.92

Respectfully submitted
Patricia Szychowski, Treasurer

From: Tracy tracy@lenocker.com
Subject: RE: November 2020 MTARA Monthly Meeting minutes - DRAFT
Date: November 4, 2020 at 6:14 PM
To: Esquer Dave dave.esquer@gmail.com



Here is the attendance list:

Alvie Grant
Bill Fields
Bruce Herrick
Christian Hummel
Dale Johnstone
Dave Bremer
Dave Esquer
Debbie Johnson
Dede Hermon
Denise Loxton
Dennis Lumley
Gail Brarmann
Gary Johnson
Jaye Tarango
Jill Barkley
Jo Stringfield
Jodi Lenocker
John Emig
John Philp
John Snedden
Lorna Polley
Mike LeClaire
Patty Szychowski
Ron Pearne
Steve Robinson
Tina Bremer
Tom Hermon
Tom Kelley
Tracy Lenocker
Victor Marquez

-----Original Message-----

From: Esquer Dave [<mailto:dave.esquer@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, November 4, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Johnson Gary <johnsongary982@gmail.com>; Szychowski Patty <kk6lwh@gmail.com>; Marquez Victor <showbotie@aol.com>; Snedden John <snedmon@aol.com>; Lenocker Tracy <tracy@lenocker.com>
Subject: November 2020 MTARA Monthly Meeting minutes - DRAFT

Here you go folks, shoot at it. I just need the roster list to attach. I have the Treasurer's report, thanks Patty.
Thanks,
Dave