



## Mountain Top Amateur Radio Meeting - Minutes

September 7, 2021, 7:10 pm

Masonic Lodge, Twin Peaks

### I. Welcome

The meeting began officially by President Vic, KK6WKI. Vic introduced our newest member, Fletcher, KJ6GFK from Big Bear.

DeeDee worked with Pedego, the e-bike folks who donated free wristwatches for all ham radio operators who supported the Kodiak 100 last month. Make sure you pick your's up at the signup desk.

### II. Introductions and Reports

#### President's Comments

Vic mentioned the upcoming activities. Wigwam Route 66 signups are needed, contact Dave, K6WDE

#### Vice President Report

Gary, AA6GJ, tomorrow, September 8, he will be doing a real-time demo of Winlink and SAR Track from 5:30 -8:30 pm, email him for the Zoom link if interested.

#### Secretary Report

Hopefully everyone received the September newsletter. Lots of fun upcoming events to participate in.

#### Treasury Report

Patty, KK6LWH provided the bank balances. Our opening balance was \$8,293.73 with \$229.00 in deposits and no expenses for the month. The total funds on deposit in our account is now \$8,522.73, as of September 7.

### III. Weekly Nets - summary

Denise, N6DEE, our net control manager shared the ongoing nets available to club members. We now have Echolink capability on the YL Happy Hour net too!

- Monday Nights: 1900 (7:00 p.m.) MTARA2
- Tuesday Nights: 1900 (7:00 p.m. MTARA5, WB6LVC, Debbie is the net controller
- 1st Wednesday (of the Month) Night: 1930 (7:30 p.m.) HF 'family hamster' net starting on 7.223MHz. This net follows the Skywarn and Mountain CERT nets at 6:30 and 7:00 p.m., respectively on the MTARA-2 repeater. Ed, KM6UWI will taking the reins once per month now, look for his invite!
- Friday Night YL Happy Hour: 1700 (5:00 p.m.) MTARA5, K6DDZ at net operator

### IV. Club Items - if you are looking for a logo-wear ...

- **Name tags** – Harlan Technologies, Name Tags by Gene, (715) 340-1299, [www.hampubs.com](http://www.hampubs.com), Shawn Harlan – KA9BXA, [harlantech@gmail.com](mailto:harlantech@gmail.com)
- **Club jacket and shirts** – Classic Images, 23723 Rocky Dell Dr. Crestline, (909) 338-2281. They know all about the MTARA layouts, great folks to work with!

### V. Club Events, General Discussion, and Information.

In support of the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (CBARC), we look forward to the upcoming Route 66 W6C Special Event from September 11-19. Two days, Monday, September 13 and Thursday, September 16, will be portable operations at the Wigwam Motel on Foothill Blvd. in Rialto. We will be

looking for MTARA members to help support that CBARC activity. [Click here](#) for more details and contact Dave, K6WDE, if you are interested in operating from the Wigwam.

The October 3-9 **Fire Prevention Week** will be coming soon as well. Vic will be looking for support for that fun week's activity! Put that on your early October calendar and let him know if you are interested in operating as N6F. You DO NOT need to be a fireman to support this activity.

Tracy mentioned the upcoming activities:

- September 11-19 - Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club Route 66 Special Event activator support
- September 25 - Big Bear Gran Fondo communications support

Tracy volunteered his ham radio station if you'd like some training on activating or chasing the Route 66 Special Event. You MUST be vaccinated to visit his station.

### **Main Presentation**

The Tuesday 220 net participant winner was WB6RCK, he picked up a LED headlight lamp!

The presentation from Tracy focused on power boxes. The discussion included how to power, size and hookup your base or mobile stations. Items discussed were radio requirements, amp consumptions and wire size. Equipment discussed included the Powerwerx Rig Runner, PG-40s, battery boosters, multi-meters, solar panels and the Epic PowerGate.

For mobile installs, make sure that the your power cable is fused near the battery and the Powerwerx ISOPwr was discussed.

Battery types were discussed as well. There are lead acid, flooded, SLA, AGM, Li (Lithium) and LiFePo (Lithium Iron Phosphate) chemistries. Understanding their discharge curves is extremely important. Flat LiFePO curves are good!

Battery box devices were also discussed and during the Elmer sessions, we had a 'show and tell'. One example of a battery box for \$410 was a Powerwerx 400Whr box. This box includes a 30 Ah LiFePo, and a 60 watt MPPT solar power controller. Remember, battery voltage, current drain, charging current and voltage all factor into what you want to power. Know the current and voltage draw requirements of your VHF/UHF, HF, laptop, USB, inverter and other devices. These are key in your battery calculations and curves.

Discussed also were various type of solar panels. There are mono-crystalline (\$\$) ,polycrystalline, \$\$\$ and thin-film types of technologies. Most efficient are poly, then mono, then thin-film.

### **Elmer Session - battery boxes**

The Elmer session had members discuss their battery boxes, their equipment in the box and the box uses.

DeeDee discussed her Powerwerx box with a 20Ah LiFePo. Debbie, WB6LVC, shared her and Gary's 2 go-boxes with 12Ah and 30Ah LiFePo batteries. Vic, KK6WKI shared his Powerwerx battery box kit, with a LiFePo 30Ah. Gary, W6ERO shared his 20Ah box# and Gary, W6KVC shared the evolution of his 3 boxes from 2-12 amp gel cells to today's modern technology. Finally, Tracy, WM6T, shared one of his many boxes, re-wired to gain a few extra comforts. Tracy has 20 Ah and 30Ah boxes

In wiring up these boxes, Vic stumbled on "superworm" cable, it is super flexible and comes in 10 and 12 gage wire, highly recommended!

To power these boxes, we discussed solar controllers, both the MPPT and PWM types. While MPPT are much more expensive, they are also much more efficient.

### **Donations**

John Emig presented the club with a check of \$500.00 for supporting the August Kodiak 100 event. The Tour de Big Bear folks also presented the club with a check for \$1500! These dollars will flow back into the mountain community in equipment upgrades throughout.

In closing up the meeting, the evening's raffle prize for the Operating book N6NTJ and the knife W6ERO. Next month, there will be a drawing for the Baofeng tri-band HT radio.

### **VI. Wrap-up and Close**

Next meeting – October 5, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was closed by Vic at 9:17 p.m.

Minutes submitted, respectfully by Dave, K6WDE