MTARA NEWS

| MAY 2021 | *Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association* |

President Vic's Message

Greetings from your President, Vic, KK6WKI.

ARRL FIELD DAY June 26-27, 2021!

What is Field Day? Since 1933, ham radio operators across North America have established temporary ham radio stations in public locations during Field Day to showcase the science and skill of Amateur Radio.

Field Day combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach and technical skills all in a single event. It is open to the public and all are encouraged to attend. More than 35,000 radio amateurs will gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

This year Field Day is on Saturday, June 26th. Our MTARA club will operate from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Masonic Lodge in Twin Peaks, 12062 Highway 189.

To be on the safe side this year, our event will be for members and their families ONLY. We are not inviting the public, so please join us.

We will be inside and outside of the Masonic Lodge.

Outside, we will have 2 HF stations making contacts around the world. We will also have a VHF/UHF station set up, a GOTA station, (Get-On-The-Air), NO license required.

MTARA members will set up under emergency conditions (off the grid). Part emergency drill, part contest, but mostly A LOT OF FUN.

Inside, we will be demonstrating FT-8 and WinLink, a world-wide radio messaging system, sending and receiving e-mails and other vital information via radio waves rather than through the internet.

Additionally, inside, we will be demonstrating APRS and SARTrack, a real-time, radio based Search and Rescue tool. See, in real-time, ham radio operators moving about during Field Day!

We will also have a soldering station and a snap circuit station set up for members to get hands on training.

We will have a CW station set up where you will learn to send your call sign in morse code.

Door prizes and a ham radio equipment raffle will be on-going!

Stay radio-active and as always, ***if you see something, say something!***

73, Vic

Monthly Club Meetings

Our monthly meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month. **May 4 is our next Zoom meeting.**

The virtual meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. and last until about 8:00 p.m. Our meetings are open to everyone, licensed amateur radio or just interested parties. Our purpose is to provide educational opportunities, mentoring, radio communication training and radio communications for community events.

For our virtual meetings, interested parties, NOT members of the club, will need to email **tracy@lenocker.com** with their name and callsign. The credentials for the meeting will then be emailed to that person.

See and hear you soon!

Treasurer's Report - KK6LWH

Our opening April 6 balance was $10,6111.92 with $280.00 in deposits and no expenses for the month. The total funds on deposit in our account is now $10,891.92 as of April 28.

73, Patty

Online Zoom tech meetings

Our Zoom meetings are on THURSDAYs at 2:00 p.m. Check out the MTARA Website home page for a listing of what each of the presentations will be about. If you need help setting up Zoom on your laptop or smart phone please contact Tracy, WM6T, who will help you get set up and running.

Construction Tips with Greg! - AJ6FN

Although this is not really a "construction" tip, I found it very useful nonetheless. I recently purchased a new multimeter and wanted to buy a screen protector for it much like a cell phone screen protector. I searched the Internet, including the meter manufacturer's website but discovered that a screen protector specifically designed for this meter is not available.

I found a blog where another person also wanted a screen protector for his meter. Someone on the blog suggested the use of plastic cell phone screen protectors. Plastic screen protectors can be cut with scissors to the desired size.

I applied plastic screen protectors to my meter, two hand held Garmin GPS units, my FT-70D HT radio, and finally to my Xiegu G90 field radio.

Here's what I did: First I measured the screen and cut a paper template so I could check the fit. Next, I marked the word "Front" on the front side of the screen protector material (the front and back are different). I then I taped the paper template to the screen protector material and cut out the shape. I rounded the corners with scissors. It is likely that the "Front" and "Back" tabs on the protective film of the screen protectors will be cut off when you cut out your screen protector. These tabs can be replaced with transparent tape in the corners of the screen protector. These tape tabs are used to peel off the screen protector's protective transparent film on both sides of the screen protector.

It is extremely important that the screen on your device be clean and lint free before applying a screen protector. Any piece of lint or dust on the screen will cause an air bubble around the speck. I found it useful to use compressed air in a can to blow away a speck of dust that ended up on the screen after cleaning. The screen protector was applied according to the screen protector instructions. Finally, the top film was peeled and the screen protector was wiped firmly with a soft cloth. This process is slightly more difficult/tedious than installing a screen protector on a phone but it is worth doing to keep the screens on your equipment looking great.

I don't know how durable these plastic screen protectors are so I saved my paper templates and labeled them to make future replacement of these screen protectors easy.- 73, Greg

From the Editor - K6WDE

Try #2! It's time for a changing of the guards! I am looking for a replacement newsletter editor. As with all things in life, change is good and a talented editor is lurking in the MTARA membership. I have committed to the board to finish the first year's newsletters. I started with the June 2020 edition and will wrap up with the June 2021 edition. I am a Mac person, using Pages, but any word processing tool will do the trick, even one based on Microsoft products! I hope someone will step up and take the reins starting July 1, 2021. Thank you for the journey, its been fun!

Member Spotlight, Lorna Polley - KJ6FQP

After spending half a day volunteering radio support, beside our fascinating **Lorna Polley, KJ6GFS** at the Mountains Community Hospital vaccine event, I wanted to know more about her. Lorna is oriented toward everything safety. That made a lot of sense, once she shared some of the harrowing stories about her family, and herself as a young adult.

Lorna grew up in Downey, and majored in English Literature, with minors in French and Geology, at University of Redlands. Her love of travel began in summer 1966, studying in France. Throughout her life, she has been numerous times to Mexico, Canada, Europe, Australia and New Zealand. An upcoming travel idea, still in the thinking stages, is a family trip to Botswana, preferring to avoid more touristy places.

When first out of college, at about age 22, Lorna worked in law enforcement as a Deputy Sheriff Matron at the San Bernardino County Jail. Years later, she became the first female Reserve police officer in the Newport Beach PD. She is qualified in, among other things, firearms, tear gas, and pursuit driving… so watch out!

Lorna first moved to Lake Arrowhead in 1969, when she was hired by Boise Cascade Corp., who at the time owned Lake Arrowhead Development Company. One of her duties was to man LADCO's base radio (KBD951). She then also became a member of the Minus 182 Club, having been escorted to the bottom of the lake in the elevator in the tower (the lake's depth there at the time was 182 feet).

She had the opportunity to accompany her husband Jack on corporate business trips where she met many interesting people. On one trip, a White House contact arranged for Lorna to have a VIP tour of the White House. This meant that she got to stand in line with about 100 other (anonymous) VIPs, waiting for the tour to begin.

In 1985, Lorna moved back to Lake Arrowhead, from Irvine, with her husband and two kids. They purchased Lake Arrowhead Patrol, a private security company, in 1989. Besides security, they also provided personalized services such as winterizing and pet walking for, at one point, over 1000 houses from their Five Points office. They had a base radio (KNEV721) at both their office and home, communicating as necessary with their patrolmen in the field, who carried HTs. Sadly, Jack passed away after battling a brain tumor in 1996. Lorna's career had been supporting her husband in their mutual endeavors. She continued to run Lake Arrowhead Patrol until selling the business in 2006.

After 17 years of running that high-stress business, Lorna made the conscious decision NOT to be the leader of anything, preferring to remain, in her words, "totally irresponsible". However, she stayed active helping community organizations such as the Women's Club, Arrowhead Arts, CERT, the Mountain Thrift Shoppe, and others. She also served for several years as a San Bernardino County paramedic commissioner for the local fire district. During the pandemic, she has enjoyed being lazy at home watching the news and Ken Burns' historical documentaries.

Influenced and formed greatly by her family, especially her dad, who was both a flier and a sailor, Lorna has more stories to share than we have room for! In 1937, while in the Army Air Corps, her father's plane crashed. He was severely burned and disfigured, including his face. He spent four years as a patient in Walter Reed Army Hospital, where he met the very special woman who would become Lorna's mother. Lorna grew up with a deep understanding why people should never judge others by their looks. Drawing courage and strength from the example of her parents, she considers them her greatest gift, including her dear father's sense of humor.

They were a sailing family; most vacations were spent on the water. Lorna gained many skills and learned a lot! So, it was not unusual when, in 1972, the son of her boss asked her to fill a sudden crew vacancy on a pre-planned sailing adventure. At the age of 25, she became the eldest on a crew of five to embark on what was to have been a three-week cruise in a 1895 vintage 55-foot sailboat. The crossing from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, to Hilo, on the Big Island of Hawaii aboard the Skandia ended up taking 37 days.

Leaving Puerto Vallarta in early August, the crew sailed due West, reaching what they thought were the trade winds a couple of days earlier than expected. The reason for the "early trades" was an aberrant wind pattern caused by approaching hurricanes. Hurricane Estelle hit the Skandia on her seventh day out, followed by Hurricane Fernanda eight days later. The storms resulted in considerable damage to the boat, not to mention loss of the radio antenna. After much sewing of ripped sails and repair to the mast, boom and gaff, the crew continued onward.


Lorna at the helm of the Skandia

According to "distance to horizon" charts, the crew 'should have' been able to see the tops of the Big Island's 14,000-foot landmark mountains, Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, about five days before landing in Hilo. But they could not see them and feared they had veered off course and were headed for Japan, without communications! It was incredibly terrifying. What they did not know was that Mauna Loa was spewing out volcanic gasses, which obstructed the horizon, although the horizon had appeared perfectly clear. But just three hours before reaching Hilo, those beautiful landmarks suddenly came into visibility.

Wow, remind anybody of a certain 'three-hour tour'? Yet, this energetic, adventurous woman is still interested in sailing. She actually likes the familiar smell of mildew. Her bucket list includes being a crew member on the return trip of a Trans-Pac racing boat from Honolulu to LA. Lorna says she is no racer, but she does have the skills to be one of the post-race sailors, bringing a craft back to its home, at a leisurely pace. She has become a believer in preparation and communications. When heading out again, she "would pack about 40 pair of boxer shorts and tee shirts, each packaged separately in a hermetically sealed plastic bag. Rip open, wear, and toss!" Oh! And a spare radio and antennae!

As a youngster, her dad used to take Lorna up in his gliders, allowing her to take the controls in her hands. He discouraged her from getting a pilot's license though, with well-founded concerns about her sense of direction. I don't know why I was surprised to learn that Lorna likes to jump out of perfectly good airplanes. Her first two jumps were static line jumps from 3000 feet. Her third and (so far) last jump was a tandem from 14,000 feet over Australia. Be sure to ask Lorna more about those details, and about her Uncle's notorious airplane-landing in a German forest!

Lorna became a Mountain CERT member in 2007, primarily for the purpose of emergency preparedness. Her affiliations there led her to ham radio in 2010, and MTARA in 2015, which she joined not for a hobby, but an additional preparedness tool. Lorna has enjoyed the bonus of wonderful people and Zoom education sessions by so many knowledgeable folks, and the generosity of their personal time and skills. Not to mention the activities that MTARA has brought to her life, participating in various events. Lorna is currently attending Gary's (AA6GJ) GENERAL classes on Wednesdays. She was reminded about using flashcards for exam preparation, when she read the article about Rhonda (KM6YBZ) and is planning to do that.

These days, Lorna lives in Lake Arrowhead with her son, daughter-in-law and two teenaged grandsons. She hopes her daughter and son-in-law, in San Pedro, will eventually get ham radio licenses too, so that they can communicate when the Big One hits.

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MTARA would like to know YOU better, whether YL or OM! Feel free to contact the Newsletter with the name of a nominee for the following months' newsletter. We will take it from there! Interviews should ideally be scheduled to happen before the 10th of any month.

73, Assunta Maria Vickers

Saturday, a day with friends, CW and batteries - WM6T

On April 10th, MTARA held a special event at the Masonic Lodge in Twin Peaks. Vic has been explaining about the free 7Ah SLA batteries and a way to distribute them. Greg, Dave and Tracy held the three-part series on CW and attendees wanted to learn more and see the different types of keys used for learning. So, after a bit of planning we decided to put both events together and host them at the lodge.

The weather was perfect. Twenty-six members attended the two-hour event from 10:00 to noon.

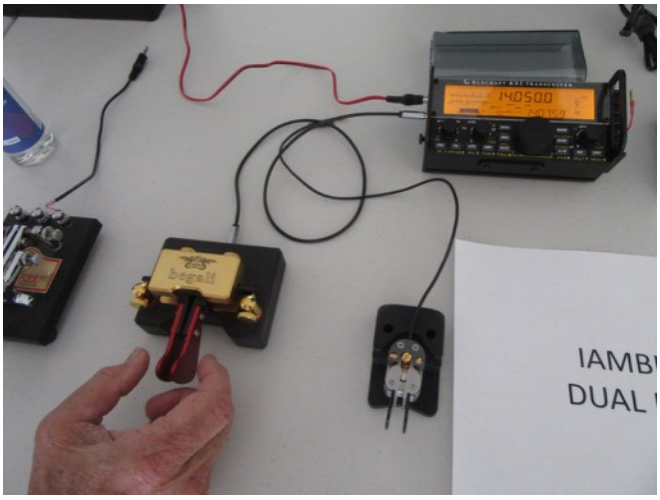
Dave, K6WDE set up his radio outside for members to view and to send some Morse code.

Vic brought several examples of battery boxes and 3-dozen free batteries. Other examples of battery boxes were brought by Dede; K6DDZ, Bruce; KJ6IJM, Gary; AA6GJ and others. Bruce also had his radio Go Box. Gary brought one of his solar panels to show as well.

Inside Tracy, WM6T, and Gary, AA6GJ brought a large collection of Morse code keys along with code oscillators and keyers.

There was lots of reuniting of existing members and a chance to meet some of our newer members who we have only scene on Zoom were there in person. Everyone was wearing a mask and distancing. Some of the photos will show members without masks but they were only removed for the photo.

Our next event will most likely be Field Day so stay tuned for the times and events.



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Local Weekly Nets

	Repeater	Time	Activity	Purpose
Monday	MTARA-2	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Check-in	MTARA news
Monday	144.330 Mhz	8:00 p.m	'Gordo' net	Simplex readiness
Tuesday	MTARA-5	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Check-in	Tech discussions
Wednesday	HF	7:30 p.m. first monthly Wednesday	7.223 Mhz	Band(s) status
Friday	MTARA-5	5:00 p.m.	XYL Happy Hour!	It's Friday!
Daily	CBARC	7:00 a.m.	Technet	Elmer sessions

Membership Info

Membership in the Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association© is open to any person interested in learning more about Amateur Radio. Members do not have to be a licensed Amateur Radio Operator to be a member but licensure is recommended. Members must be active in club activities which includes trainings, events, club meetings and Field Day. Membership is on an annual basis and is from January1 to December 31 of each year. There are no prorated memberships. The annual membership is $20 for a single member or $30 for an entire family.

Current members do not need to fill out the renewal application form for 2021. You can just mail your check

to MTARA, PO Box 2441, Lake Arrowhead, CA 92352-2441. We already know who you are. Those who joined in November or December of this year are already paid for 2021. The membership form can be downloaded by **clicking here**.

The NEW YL Corner! - WB6LVC

Allow Us to Present Miss Kathleen Parkin, Expert Radio Operator at Fifteen Years of Age. She has made her own apparatus.

Welcome back, everyone. I hope you enjoyed reading about where the term YL came from along with the poem that started the use of "33". In the following months, I will share some history about the early YLs and their journey through the Amateur Radio hobby. First off, let us take a quick glance back in time to the inventions that allowed us all to communicate to others across the world. Most memorable would be the printing press followed by radio for entertainment, emergency and communication needs. All of these evolved from oral storytelling. But the repetition of stories was usually only done in a small, geographical area, not globally. And many times, it excluded women. In the early 20th century, women wanted to be included, especially to help in wartime, and so, many women turned to "Ham" radio to reach out to others.

Our first female operator was Gladys Kathleen Parkin. Gladys was born in 1901 in Bolinas, CA. Her family later moved to San Rafael. She tested and received her amateur license at the age of 9! Her interest began at the age of 5 when she watched her brother, John, making contacts with CW. The family wireless station was one of the first in California. Gladys continued to study radio electronics. At just fifteen years of age, Gladys received her 1st. Class Commercial Radio Operator license. This allowed her to operate on any grade wireless and on vessels as well. She was featured on the cover of The Electrical Experimenter. At the time, she was "the youngest successful female applicant for a radio license ever examined by the Government at that time," according to a 1916 article in the San Francisco Chronicle. Parkin's call sign was 6SO. Gladys loved experimenting and building her own equipment. In her own words:

> "With reference to my ideas about the wireless profession as a vocation or worthwhile hobby for women, I think wireless telegraphy is a most fascinating study, and one which could very easily be taken up by girls, as it is a great deal more interesting than the telephone or telegraph work, in which so many girls are now employed."

Gladys shared with others that there was more to wireless than a knowledge of code. Parkin stated that code was just the beginning of learning. After that, a person could go on to experiment and create their own equipment just as she did when she made her own ¼ kilowatt spark gap transmitter set. She continued in electronics, and worked with her brothers, John and Richard at their family business, Parkins Manufacturing Company, manufacturing and operating wireless equipment. By age 25, she was well-known by virtually everyone in the amateur radio community.

MTARA WWFF KFF-4490 and POTA K-4436 - K6WDE

Please put **Thursday, May 13** on your calendar! The TWICE postponed activation of the San Bernardino NF will take place downslope of the Heap's Peak Transfer Station. We hope to have Assunta, Jo and Matt, Maria, John, Nancy, Gail and Gene as ham radio operators and will be giving out the activations of the SBNF on HF and VHF/UHF bands. Listen for the team between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. We need chasers and we hope to hear you!

Upcoming Calendar of Events

Activities that MTARA will be participating in or supporting during the upcoming months:

- MTARA monthly meeting - May 4 at 7:00 p.m.
- MTARA monthly meeting - June 1 at 7:00 p.m.
- June 26 - MTARA Field Day at the Masonic Lodge in Twin Peaks
- July 4 - Communications support for the Lake Arrowhead fireworks event
- August 7 - Tour de Big Bear communications support
- August 20-21 - Kodiak 100 communications support
- September 25 - Big Bear Gran Fondo communications support
- December 4 - Blue Jay Christmas Parade communications support
- TBD - “I am Lost" Field Training
- TBD - Digital Modes Workshop

Upcoming VHF/UHF and HF Ham Radio contests or special events

A few fun events that club members can participate in and/or sharpen their communication skills with!

- **Slow Speed Con(Test)** for CW operators, **EVERY SUNDAY** (5:00 - 6:00 p.m., PDT) and **EVERY FRIDAY** (1:00 - 2:00 p.m., PDT), a great learning tool for us new operators!
- **Weekly Phone Fray** by NW2K. A great way to get your feet wet for 30 minutes. It is weekly on Tuesday nights from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. PST on SSB. The rapid-fire exchange is OP name and location (‘Dave CA’, e.g.). Folks start on 15 meters and then migrate to 20, 40, 80 and even 160 meters, its fun to watch the bands change as seasonal propagation does!
- **Route 66 On the Air!** September 11-19, 2021. See the **Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club** (CBARC) for more details.
- The 56th running of the **California QSO Party**, October 2-3, 2021
- Ongoing, updated **Contest Calendar** sponsored by WA7BNM, there is something for everyone, check it out!

MTARA shirts and jackets

We have our optional MTARA logo shirts and jackets available so that you too can look smart and cool! If interested, please contact Mary at Classic Images in Crestline. Her telephone number is 909-338-2281 from Tuesday through Friday at 23723 Rocky Dell Drive, Crestline, CA 92325.

Welcome to "Ponder the Pool" by AA6GJ

Ponder the Pool is my column for the MTARA Newsletter. Every month I pick a point to ponder (a question) from one of the three FCC question pools and try to explain it more and review the concepts because,

"If you don't use it, you lose it!"

This time, we will ponder a question from the Technician Class pool: Question No. T5A03 (Pg. 141 in Gordo's Technician Book)

T5A03 – What is the name for the flow of electrons in an electric circuit?

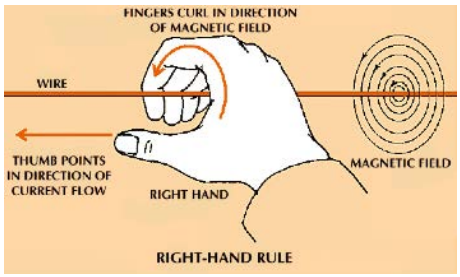
We learned about Alessandro Volta, and how he coined the term Electromotive Force (EMF) measured in Volts. He invented the "Voltaic Pile" (Battery). Remember all of that?

This time, I'll give you a little background on the French physicist and mathematician André-Marie Ampère.

Ampère was born in Lyon, France on January 20, 1775.

He grew up on the family property called Poleymieux-au-Mont-d'Or in Lyon. His father, Jean-Jacques Ampère, was a successful merchant. He was an admirer of Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a prominent educator of the time, who believed that young boys should avoid formal schooling and instead pursue an "education direct from nature." So, Ampère's father allowed his son to educate himself within the walls of his well-stocked library. He studied many of the masterpieces of the French Enlightenment era as well as Latin. At age 12, he was teaching himself advanced mathematics. Later in life, Ampère said that by the time he was 18, he knew as much about mathematics and science as he ever knew, but as a polymath he embraced history, travels, poetry, philosophy, and the natural sciences as well.

Moving ahead now. In September of 1820, Ampère's friend Francois Arago, presented a discovery of the Danish physicist Hans Christian Ørsted to the French Academy of Sciences. Ørsted discovered that a magnetic needle is deflected by an adjacent electric current. This interested Ampère greatly. Ampère began to develop both a mathematical and physical theory to understand the relationship between electricity and magnetism. He furthered Ørsted's work and showed that two parallel wires carrying electric currents attract or repel each other, depending on whether the currents flow in the same or opposite directions, respectively.



This is Ampère's Right Hand Grip Rule. Showing the direction of the magnetic field with respect to the fingers on the right hand and the thumb showing the direction of the current (I) flow in a wire.

This laid the foundation for electrodynamics. He used mathematics to generalize physical laws utilizing these experiments. From these experiments he derived his most important principle called Ampère's Law. Aha! Another Law!! Ampère's Law states that the mutual action of two lengths of current-carrying wire is proportional to their lengths and to the "intensité de courant" (intensities of their currents). Here's another "Aha" moment "Intensity (I)", so that's where the (I) for the amount of current comes from. Wow! From that time on,

current intensity was (I) in equations. Ampère worked this out first, so the letter (I) was used to stand for current. As late as 1896, English scientists pushed back, and wanted to change it to (C) for current, but by then the (C) was being used to represent capacitance, so the letter (I) for current, which had already been published in many older publications as “current intensity”, stuck.

Ampère applied the same principle to magnetism, illustrating how his law worked in harmony with French physicist Charles Augustin de Coulomb’s Law of magnetic action. Ampère provided a physical understanding of the electromagnetic relationship that theorized the existence of an “electrodynamic molecule” (now called an electron) that serves as the element for both electricity and magnetism.

In 1827, Ampère was elected a Foreign Member of the Royal Society and in 1828, a foreign member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Science.

Ampère died at the age of 61, June 10, 1836 in Marseille, France.

In 1881 at the International Exposition of Electricity, it was established that the **Ampere** be designated as the standard unit of measurement for electric current, 45 years after he died. It took a long time, but we Ham Radio operators have a lot of respect for you and the Ampere. Thank you, Monsieur Ampère.

The official answer to this question is: Current.

There you have it, Ponder the Pool for another month. I hope it was helpful. Stay tuned, and we’ll do another one next month. 73 – Gary

If you have any questions or comments, drop me an email at AA6GJ@arrl.net