



# MTARA NEWS



| SEPTEMBER 2020 | [Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association](#) |

**President: Vic Marquez, KK6WKI**

**Secretary: Dave Esquer, K6WDE**

**Ed/Membership: Tracy Lenocker, WM6T**

The Rim of the World ARES group is an ARRL affiliated organization and part of the Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association.

**Vice President: Gary Johnson, AA6GJ**

**Treasurer: Patty Szychowski, KK6LWH**

**Past President: John Snedden, KT7P**

## President Vic's Message

**G**reetings from your President, Vic, KK6WKI.

This is our fourth issue and our Zoom virtual club "tech" sessions are now held on Thursdays only. The schedule is published on the [MTARA website](#).

I am gearing up for the [October 4 - 10 Fire Prevention Week Special Event](#). I will be operating as N6F along with a team of other firefighters. Check us out, we will be looking for YOU!

As was brought home over this last Saturday's residential fire in Crestline, remember, stay radio-active and as always, **if you see something, say something!**

73, Vic

## Monthly Club Meetings

**O**ur monthly meetings are on the first Tuesday of each month. **Don't forget tonight's September 1 Zoom meeting.** You should have received the login credentials.

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 providing radio communications for community events.

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

See and hear you tonight!

## Treasurer's Report - KK6LWH

**O**ur income from membership dues is \$4,060.00 and no expenses for the month. The total funds on deposit in our account is now \$9,237.09!

73, Patty

## Editor's Update - K6WDE

**D**on't be bashful, I know there are some great article writers in the club. Thanks to Kristine Brock, KG6RFY, for this

month's article on some of us getting lost in the field, check it out!

Please, if you build something, discover something, buy something (and want to give us a review), learn something or just wanna' share a cool contact, write it down and send it in!

## MTARA Radio Expo - WM6T

**S**eptember 5th will be our first MTARA club Radio Expo at the Masonic Lodge in Twin Peaks. Viewing, purchasing or picking up free items will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 1:00 p.m.

We normally have items for sale and many free items at our regular club meetings but we have not been able to have such meetings for several months. So we are holding our first club Radio Expo next weekend, Saturday, September 5th in the parking lot of the Masonic Lodge. Please wear your club shirt.

There will be radio and computer related items.

If you plan to bring items for sale or to give away, then you need to be at the lodge between 7:30 a.m. and 8:30 a.m. Tables will be provided.

# MTARA NEWS

| SEPTEMBER 2020 | [Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association](#) |

Mark items for sale with the price you would like to get. Of course, everything may be negotiable. If you plan on bringing any items, please let Tracy or Vic know in advance, so we can make sure there are enough tables.

If you have any older HT's you are not using, test equipment, code practice keys, oscillators, antennas, cables, digital hardware, audio equipment or computer related items, then please bring them.

We have been collecting a number of items for the free table as well.

So come and see what treasures you just cannot live without.

## *Route 66 Special Event - MTARA Support is needed!*

**T**he Route 66 On The Air Special Event is coming up on September 12-20! It starts on Friday the 11th at 5:00 p.m. (00:00 UTC). We're looking for MTARA members to work either at the Patton State Hospital station or at your own QTH in support of the Citrus Belt Amateur Radio Club (CBARC). [Click here](#) for more details on their CBARC website.

The CBARC has put together a radio operator schedule for those that want to participate. Please email Tracy for the invite and further instructions. In the file you will be told how to sign up to be an operator, along with other instructions to use the created Excel spreadsheet.

If you operate a HF radio from your home, follow the scheduling instructions in the link above and get on board!

For those folks that would like to use the club's station, Moe, KK7KC, the CBARC VP, is coming up with a schedule when the club will be open. Due to COVID-19 state requirements for state hospitals, you must get to the CBARC club station 30 minutes early to go through health screening. Also be aware that if you wish to come down during the week, it may be very difficult to find a parking space and you may have to walk a bit. YOU MUST follow all rules while at Patton as shown on the CBARC website. To sign up for time at the club you must contact Moe at [kk7kc@w6jbt.org](mailto:kk7kc@w6jbt.org) so he can put you on the schedule. **DO NOT show up at the club without first contacting Moe.** He will be in charge while members use the club station and will help those members that are not contest radio operators and need a little help using the radios.

A [personal log sheet](#) is here too, as you begin your quest for a complete clean sweep of W6A (Los Angeles, CA) to W6U (Wilmington, IL).

## *Understanding Waves, a visual tutorial - AJ6FN*

**A** wonderful 1959 Bell Labs film on wave demonstrations from the [AT&T archives](#) is waiting to be discovered by you. It

is by far the best tutorial about wave behavior, standing waves, impedance matching, etc. that I have seen. It uses mechanical wave generators so you can actually "see" the wave behavior.

Greg

## *Upcoming WA6MTN WWFF-KFF and POTA Activations for MTARA members!*

**C**ome and play radio in our National Forest! A tiny team of radio operators are available to help you gain exposure as an activator in the WWFF-KFF ([World Wide Flora and Fauna](#)) and POTA ([Parks on the Air](#)) programs in the coming weeks.

We will be closely following the CDC, state and federal guidelines to maintaining social distancing while exploring the world of activating and chasing parks and other special locations around the U.S. and abroad. The first session on September 3 is full, **but September 8 has one opening**, September 22 is full and **October 6 has one opening**. Contact Dave or Tracy to get on the list!



# MTARA NEWS

| SEPTEMBER 2020 | [Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association](#) |

## *Upcoming Calendar of Events*

---

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

- ▶ Mountain Top Days - The Parade has been canceled. In its place there may be another event but probably not requiring any ECS or ARES radio operators.
- ▶ ~~Four de Big Bear—Rescheduled to September 19th.~~
- ▶ Kodiak 100  
John, W6GC, will be sending out information to MTARA members and former radio operators. The event will be on September 11-12 starting at 6:00 pm. The event will be limited to just one 100 mile race and limited to 100 runners.
- ▶ Kids on Public Lands  
KOPL has been canceled due to Corona virus safe social distancing concerns.
- ▶ Big Bear Gran Fondo – Still on schedule for September 26th.  
The Gran Fondo mountain bike ride will be held once again in Big Bear. MTARA members will be located along the mountain area trails, aid stations and in SAG vehicles providing communications to support the event.

## *Upcoming VHF/UHF and HF Ham Radio calendar of events*

---

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

- ▶ [Colorado QSO Party](#), September 5-6
- ▶ [Tennessee QSO Party](#), September 6-7
- ▶ [Texas QSO Party](#), September 12-13
- ▶ [Alabama QSO Party](#), September 12
- ▶ [ARRL September VHF Contest](#), September 12-14
- ▶ [Route 66 Special Event](#), September 12-20
- ▶ [Iowa QSO Party](#), September 19-20
- ▶ [New Jersey QSO Party](#), September 19-20
- ▶ [New Hampshire QSO Party](#), September 19-20
- ▶ [Washington State Salmon Run](#), September 19-20
- ▶ [California QSO Party](#), October 3-4
- ▶ [Pacificon](#), October 16-18, cancelled

# MTARA NEWS

| SEPTEMBER 2020 | [Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association](#) |

## Local Weekly Nets

	Repeater	Time	Activity	Purpose
Monday	MTARA-2	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Check-in	MTARA news
Monday	144.330 Mhz	8:15 p.m.	'Gordo' net	Simplex readiness
Tuesday	MTARA-5	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Check-in	Tech discussions
Wednesday	HF	7:30 p.m.	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

**M**embership in the Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association (c) 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 January 1 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. The membership form can be downloaded by clicking here.

## Echolink Update

**F**or those who are away from their radios during our MTARA nets you can always check in using Echolink from your computer, smart phone or tablet. Setup is easy and fast but you must wait for confirmation of your call sign before you are enabled.

This verification makes sure only license amateur radio operators are using the system.

Echolink is always up on MTARA2 except for maintenance once a week for about 10 minutes. We can switch the MTARA Echolink to any 2-meter frequency if necessary in an emergency. The node is WM6T-L.

## Online Zoom tech meetings

**O**ur Zoom meetings are now held only on THURSDAY 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.

## A "Bust" Activation! - K6WDE

**S**neaking away from my new granddaughter on Thursday, August 27th, I went to [Sugarloaf Ridge State Park](#) in the northern Sonoma county foothills for an impromptu activation of WWFF KFF-1200 and POTA K-1200. Bringing my portable, 10 watt QRP radio setup, I was operational by 10:30 a.m. and was calling CQ on both SSB and CW on 40 and 20 meters. By 2:00 p.m., I had scored a total of 2 contacts, one in Denver, CO and one in Carlsbad, CA!

Somewhat dejected, while packing up, I talked to a friendly park ranger who knew about ham radio. I mentioned my dismal effort and he proceeded to describe the 'bowl' that I was in surrounded by the mountains around me. He stated that the [Robert Ferguson Observatory](#) 1/4 mile away from me was chosen for that EXACT location, because the peaks surrounding the telescope cut down on the local light pollution!

Duh, lesson learned, check out your proposed activation surroundings before heading out!

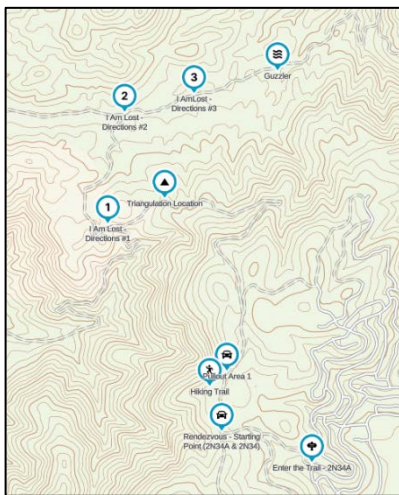
Dave

# MTARA NEWS

| SEPTEMBER 2020 | [Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association](#) |

## *I am LOST! - KG6RFY*

**W**ednesday, August 12th, several of us met at Tracy & Jodi's home, 8:00 a.m., to venture off on our "I Am Lost" event. Approximately 14 individuals (all members), participated in this coordinated exercise. On arrival, our first stop was a Tailgate Session for a quick overall briefing.



We discussed the importance of always "pressurizing" our vehicles – in other words, keep your windows rolled up and turn up the air conditioner. It was particularly hot & dry that day.

Paul was our fearless leader: Navigator AI6AP – he gave us constant reminders &

tips on how to safely caravan together. Keep the person behind you in sight. We were told to always follow the car in front of you – always see the car behind you. It sounds easy, but at times was a challenge. The terrain was tough, with lots of turns and rough dirt roads, in the middle of nowhere. Paul asked if we were ALL together, and then we waited for the affirmation to proceed – and we were told to go SLOW. He watched out for traffic.



Basic house rules: bathroom procedure was boys to the left, girls to the right – use bushes.

We chose teams & divided ourselves into Team 1 (on foot), and Team 2 (in cars). It

was important to have a compass, and set the compass readings to an accurate, prescribed setting. Along the way we often stopped to reset GPS

coordinates – and, we of course, used our ham radios to check in with the group. We took turns being the "trail leader".



It was a good exercise in following directions, working together as a new group, utilizing our compass / GPS, and having extra GPS software on a smart phone,

rather than the regular GPS.

It was a hot, dusty trail – we quickly learned our weaknesses and were reminded of what we lacked in personal expertise. We learned that it was easier to prepare ahead of time – preset radios to the recommended, agreed upon frequency – and preset the compass before venturing off, confirming coordinates as we drove toward our end destination.

This was a fabulous exercise in COMMUNICATION – helping each other to find our way !!



The "Lost Team" members were Paul, AI6AP and Karen; Dave, K6WDE; Bruce, KJ6IJM; Gary, AA6GJ; Debbie, WB6LVC; Dale, N6TVF; John, WA6PJ; Kristine, KG6RFY; Vic, KK6WKI and Christie; Tracy, WM6T and Jodi, WA6JL. The "Home Team" Members were Patty, KK6LWH; Denise, N6DEE; and Carol, WA6UVQ.

Kristine Brock / KG6RFY

# MTARA NEWS

| SEPTEMBER 2020 | [Mountain Top Amateur Radio Association](#) |

## WWFF-KFF and POTA MTARA “WA6MTN” Spotting Information

When MTARA operators are activating on World Wide Flora and Fauna (WWFF-KFF) or Parks-on-the-Air (POTA), spotting is strongly encouraged. Activator self-spotting IS ALLOWED because you gotta' make those contacts!

Remember, for a successful activation of WWFF, 44 contacts are required and for POTA, 10 contacts are required to be logged.

You can make a FREE account on both programs:

- WWFF-KFF, <http://wwff.co/> and under LOGIN on the left margin, click [Register](#).
- POTA, <https://parksontheair.com/>, click the [Dashboard/Login](#) tab.

### For WWFF specific

1. Facebook posting is very popular. If you have an account, join the FB group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/wwff.co/>. Activators and chasers update their posts in real time, when cell or internet service are available.
2. WWFF has an agenda page where you can schedule in advance, your upcoming activation, <http://wwff.co/agenda/>. This notifies chasers of upcoming opportunities.
3. WWFF has its own DX Cluster tool at <http://wwff.co/dx-cluster/>. Here, you can POST (self post too) a spot or SEARCH for a spot.
4. WWFF has a quick, simple mobile website, smartWWFF at <https://www.cqgma.org/wwff/smartwwff/wwffspots.php?i=0> suited ideally for mobile devices. It lets you POST and SEARCH as well.

### For POTA specific

5. Facebook is also very popular, if you have an

account, join the FB group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/parksontheair/>

6. POTA has a Scheduled Activation page where you can schedule in advance, your upcoming activation, <https://stats.parksontheair.com/spotting/userscheduling.php>. This notifies chasers of upcoming opportunities.
7. POTA has its own Spotting Tool webpage at <https://pota.us/#/>. Here you can search by Active Spots (the default) or Activations, <https://pota.us/#/activations>

Finally, the standard spotting networks are also alive with WWFF and POTA spots. When spotting (self or chaser), make sure that the location designator is included in your spot, KFF-1200 (WWFF) or K-4463 (POTA), for example. You can use:

8. DX Summit <http://www.dxsummit.fi/#/>
9. DX Heat <https://dxheat.com/dxc/>
10. DX Watch <https://www.dxwatch.com/>
11. Reverse Beacon Network (CW mainly) <http://www.reversebeacon.net/>. This is NOT a self-spotting network but a “scraper” of ongoing CW activities.

We hope to hear you chasing the WA6MTN station in our upcoming activations!

