

Mountain Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Meeting
17 July 2026

Our MARC meeting began at 1903, with Dean Buckhouse presiding. Intros around the room. SK – Sid White K4ARM. No awards noted.

Previous meeting minutes were discussed.

Treasurer's report. General \$ 2763.79 VE \$ 542.43

Next General meeting at the SO. Will start the Officers nomination process.

Next VE session, September 5th at the WP Library

Repeaters are good. AllStar is good. Dstar is ready to reinstall.

Need to find the original document on Tranquil Acres building access.

Field Day had 18 participants.

August snacks James Strickland

Meeting Adjourned at 1950.

13 members, 1 guest

Submitted by Bill Wallick

Quick recap

This was a MARC (amateur radio club) meeting where members discussed various operational updates and activities. The meeting began with introductions and recognized the passing of Sid White, A4ARM, a former club member. The group reviewed and approved previous meeting minutes from June, discussed upcoming VE (Volunteer Examiner) sessions including one scheduled for September 5th at the Woodland Park Library, and announced the next MARC meeting on August 19th where officer nominations would be held. Financial reports were presented showing account balances and recent transactions, including deposits and field day expenses. Victor provided an update on DSTAR equipment that was ready to be reactivated, and MARC discussed plans to restore and secure the Tranquil Acres radio site, which had been in operation since the 1970s. The group reviewed Field Day 2026 activities where 18 people participated, including a successful satellite contact made by an 11-year-old participant. The conversation ended with discussions about future club activities and the need for new leadership, as the current president announced he would not seek re-election after serving two years in the role.

Next steps

James

- Provide snacks for the August meeting.

MARC

- Arrange access to the mountain site for the DSTAR reinstall, including determining necessary permissions or "hoops" to jump through.
- Contact Brian (AE0CO) to inquire about historical agreements regarding the Tranquil Acres site.
- Continue efforts to establish a new agreement with the Tranquil Acres water system for the radio site.
- Submit Field Day 2026 contesting results before the 20th of the month.

Victor

- Coordinate with MARC to set a date and time to go up the mountain to reinstall the DSTAR equipment.
- Bring the 6-foot cabinet to the mountain site for the DSTAR reinstall.

Collaboration

- Club Members: Nominate candidates for club officer positions for the upcoming election at the August 19th meeting.
- Club Members: Suggest topics or programs for upcoming meetings.

Summary

Meeting Introduction and Updates

The meeting began with technical issues regarding video orientation that were resolved. The meeting proceeded with introductions of all attendees, including roles and call signs.

The group discussed recognizing Sid White (A4ARM), who had recently passed away, though details about any memorial plans at Mega Fest remained unclear. The June meeting minutes were mentioned to have been sent out and reviewed.

BE Session and MARC Meeting

MARC announced that the next BE session will be held on September 5, 2026, at the Woodland Park Library, while John's sessions will continue on the second Saturday of every month. MARC also mentioned that there will be a session at the Megafest on July 25th at Lewis Palmer High School. The next MARC meeting was scheduled for August 19th, where nominations for officer elections will be opened, with MARC stating he does not intend to run for president again after serving two years in the role.

Financial and Programming Updates Meeting

MARC discussed programming RLC commands with Ed, noting that while later models offer more functionality, consistent practice is needed to maintain progress. He reported on financial updates, including deposits and debits for May-June, and mentioned bringing the VE account up to \$500 with a deposit of \$285. Marc also mentioned acquiring new batteries for Florida and noted some charges related to field day merchandise and groceries.

Financial and System Updates Meeting

MARC discussed financial issues with account balances and fees, noting they ended up at \$542.43 due to unexpected charges. The team reviewed the results of a VD session on July 4th where three candidates were tested, with one being unsuccessful. Victor provided an update on DSTAR, confirming it's ready to go but needs to be set up again, and MARC agreed to coordinate with Victor to access the location and restore the system.

Tranquil Acres Equipment and Agreements

MARC and Victor discussed plans to meet and work on setting up equipment, including moving a heavy cabinet. They also talked about issues with the Tranquil Acres water system agreement, which needed updating due to its 1980 date. MARC sought information about the original agreements and site usage, potentially involving contacts like Pat Stewart and Brian AE0CO for historical context.

Teller County Badge Mount Agreement

MARC discussed the need to re-establish a formal agreement with Teller County regarding the badge mount site, which has been in use since the mid-1970s without proper documentation of tenant status. He emphasized the importance of keeping the Tranquil Acres site operational as it provides accessible, high-elevation coverage and houses critical county communications equipment including VHF channels and FireNet. The meeting also covered Field Day 2026, where 18 people participated, and included discussions about digital modes like DMR, with MARC recommending Fusion as an easier option. The conversation ended with MARC announcing his intention to nominate Steve for president at the next meeting and confirming that N0CAL is a valid call sign.