

Mountain Amateur Radio Club
Minutes of the Meeting
15 April 2026

Our MARC meeting began at 1902, with Dean Buckhouse presiding. Intros around the room. No SK's or awards noted.

March meeting minutes were discussed and accepted.

Treasurer's report was given by Deb. General \$3609.54 VE \$278.43

The next VE session will be May 2 at the Sheriff's office, Divide.

The next General Meeting will be May 20 at the Sheriff's office.

Repeaters are all well. Dstar is in the shop.

PPARES WinLink session, Saturday 9-11

Programs. Suggested any on DMR

Snacks in May - Steve

Field Day, June 26. Deans place.

VE – plan for July session at WP library. Backup at SO.

Meeting Adjourned at 1945.

13 members, Jon on zoom

Submitted by Bill Wallick

Quick recap

This MARC club meeting covered several key topics including financial updates, repeater system maintenance, and technical presentations. The meeting began with Jon reporting on repairs to the Springs Link repeater system, where loose coax connections were found and fixed, resulting in improved performance. The club's financial status was reviewed, showing a balance of \$278.43 in the VE checking account and \$3609.54 in community checking after recent deposits and withdrawals. A significant discussion centered on maintaining the club's presence at the local library, with members voting to hold meetings there every other month to preserve their space and official EOC designation. The formal conversation ended with a detailed technical presentation by Jeff on proper grounding practices for amateur radio equipment, covering R56 standards, lightning protection, and RF grounding methods using various equipment and techniques.

Next steps

- Bill: Reserve library meeting space for VE sessions in July and September, and check availability for other relevant dates (avoiding November due to elections), then inform MARC leadership of the status.
- Jon: Send information about the upcoming Windlink training (date, time, and how to contact John Bloodgood for Zoom link) to the club reflector.
- Derek (when able): Go to the repeater site with his analyzer and, with assistance, perform signal strength testing and attempt to optimize/peak the repeater.
- MARC President/Designated Member: Send a test email to Bill to confirm email functionality and ensure attachments are received.
- MARC President/Designated Member: Correct the description of the \$20 deposit in the financial records to reflect it was for Camp Fest, not Winter Field Day.
- MARC President/Designated Member: Follow up with Wes and Carol regarding their computer issues and ensure they are able to continue computer work for the club.
- MARC President/Designated Member: Unload the donated batteries and solar panels from the trailer and determine how/where to store or utilize them.
- MARC President/Designated Member: Send out meeting minutes to members.
- MARC President/Designated Member: Consider programming future meetings on DMR or inviting a speaker knowledgeable about DMR for an upcoming session.
- MARC President/Designated Member: Begin process to reserve library space for every other month for both VE and general meetings, starting with July VE session, and coordinate with Bill as needed.
- Ed: File the Tuesday night net manager information when received.
- MARC President/Designated Member: Order shop supplies for Field Day 2026 (by June 26-28).

Summary

Technical and Financial Meeting Updates

The meeting began with introductions and technical checks, followed by a discussion of personal and professional accomplishments, including Jon's recent certification in advanced radio system programming. MARC meeting minutes were approved, and

upcoming meetings were scheduled for May 2nd and May 20th. The treasurer reported on financial updates, including deposits, withdrawals, and charges, and clarified a billing error regarding Camp Fest. The group also discussed repeater system performance, noting some issues with Springs Link that were potentially resolved.

Repeater System Technical Issues Discussion

The group discussed technical issues with a repeater system, where Jon reported that a loose coax connection was identified and fixed two weeks ago, with subsequent testing showing good results. They discussed propagation challenges and path issues between different locations, including problems with FM frequency magic and signal strength variations. Marc reported acquiring batteries and solar panels from Triple Creek/Gold Line, including eight AGM batteries and ten 10-watt solar panels, though the specific use for these donations remains undetermined.

Upcoming Events and Volunteer Updates

The meeting covered several updates and discussions. Jon announced an upcoming event on Saturday from 9 to 11 via Zoom, but noted that the link information was not available and suggested reaching out to John Bloodgood for details. Ed discussed ongoing efforts to find volunteers for Tuesday night manager duties and requested assistance with DMR expertise. The group also talked about the upcoming Field May event scheduled for June 26-28 and mentioned Steve's involvement with the PE team. Finally, Ed brought up a conversation with the local library regarding their reduced presence there due to missed meetings and PE sessions.

Library Meeting Schedule Planning

MARC discussed the need to maintain a presence in the library, as they still have an office there and were previously offered space due to connections with Dean Haskins. The group agreed to start holding meetings there every other month, excluding election times and November, with VE sessions in May and general meetings in July and September. Bill was tasked with reserving the library space for these meetings.

MARC's R56 Grounding Standards Presentation

MARC presented on grounding standards for communications equipment, focusing on the Motorola R56 standard which requires more stringent grounding practices than national standards. He explained the importance of proper grounding to protect equipment from lightning strikes and electrical surges, demonstrating different grounding methods including ground rods, RF chokes, and quality lightning protectors. The presentation included practical examples of grounding setups and measurements, with MARC showing that his current ground resistance measured 0.082 ohms, which meets the R56 standard requirement of 5 ohms or less.