

## Photovoltaics for ham radio

At our October meeting AE6YC will speak on solar power for the ham shack. The presentation will be interactive and include several worksheets to help you implement a solar system. The "how to" will cover interpreting solar panel specifications for 12 volt systems, selecting a controller, determining your shack amp-hour requirements, lead acid battery characteristics - selection and charging, and summer to winter solar radiation numbers for our latitude.

Not ready for a full up solar system but would like to have a standby battery for power outages, field day, ARES/RACES functions or other E-comm applications. Use the worksheets and plug in your radio(s) current requirements to determine the needed amp-hour capacity for your application or shack.

Are terms like CCA, RC, MCA, AH, cutoff and float voltages; and battery types like SLA, VRLA, deep cycle, and marine confusing and keeping you from getting started? Not a problem, we will cut through all the terms and hype battery manufacturers throw at us. Our presentation will focus on lead acid technology as they are the best bang for the buck. However, if your interest is in portable operations where ni-cad, nickel metal hydride, alkaline, and lithium-ion are more appropriate we will do our best to field your questions.

We will also cover how time in service and depth of discharge affect battery life and capacity. How to verify an in service or a used batteries capacity, and when its time to replace your batteries (hint - think current, not voltage).

When we say interactive - please join us at the October meeting and share your experience and knowledge, battery charging war stories okay as well.

In this day and age of frequent Edison power outages be E-comm ready and part of the solution, not one of the problems. Start designing your power system today, okay the day after the meeting! And, yes solar PV is truly green.

Hugh, AE6YC