

2021 Sundowner Resource Trailer Committee Report

This committee was formed in April 2016 to outfit and maintain the club's 2004 Sundowner Trailer, a donation from member Will Johnson. The committee did not meet in 2021, mostly due to COVID-19 restrictions. Committee members include Neil Panton (chair), Mike Pittaro, Craig Eddy, and Irma & Bob Mitton.

The trailer remains at the Panton residence in San Gregorio, and was deployed once during the year for Field Day June 25th – 27th. The trailer was moved to the top of the Panton property and used as a resource for an outdoor visitor and contesting station. Two antennas from the trailer were used; a 20-40-80 dipole and a Diamond CR-8900 for 2m and 6m. Many resources from the trailer were used including; a painter pole antenna mount, coax and connectors, headphones and headphone mixer, tables and chairs, and a Longhi heater for the cold overnight. An end-fed antenna and KX3 HF radio were provided by Neil Panton.

Fifteen people visited the station over the course of the weekend. Many were members of our club who assisted with setup or are part of the Buddy Program. Other visitors were walk or drive-by traffic that stopped to check out the station and learn about ham radio. One visitor stayed until nearly 3am learning the software for digital operations.

Power for the operating station came from a Honda generator, with commercial power for lights and other non-operational services. Solar power was provided by the trailer for ten or more solar contacts. Neil Panton, W6VG served as Operations Chief for the weekend with assistance from Mary Panton, AF6IE.

Improvements completed in 2021:

The trailer has valid DMV registration until June 30th, 2024

The batteries remain fully charged at all times

A small roof leak in the rear was sealed

The breakaway switch loop was replaced

The trailer remains in ready condition for deployment

Work planned for 2022:

Installation of an APRS beacon for locating the trailer and checking its status

Upgrade circuit breaker for AC Inverter

Cases and storage for two club radios

Install mounting arm for monitor

Asset tags for new equipment, and Asset check-in/check-out system

Preparation of training materials for the safe deployment and maintenance of the trailer

Documentation of the power system

Build an easily deployable and effective HF multiband dipole antenna (tests done 2019 Winter Field Day)

First aid kit, USB charger, possible roof ladder and more!

Respectfully submitted, Neil Panton – Resource Trailer Committee Chair