STATION: PETB DATE: 2021-04-09 TIME: ~16:00UTC to ~21:00UTC TECH: GD, AM

REASON FOR VISIT:

Intended to install Cambium/Xeta radio. This did so we...

Installed Sierra Wireless cell modem

PROBLEMS FOUND:

Cambium/Xeta would not connect reliably to its parent at Mt. Vollmer.

PROBLEMS FIXED:

-Did not install Cambium/Xeta radio. Instead replaced Cradle Point with Sierra Wireless.

EQUIPMENT INSTALLED: (name, s/n, uc#)

- IOTA battery charger, pn: DLS-30; with AGM dongle Installed new DIN rail with...
- Sierra Wireless, model: RV50X, Verizon, pn: 1103052
 sn: QR0242025901B118, IMEI: 358643075248414
- DIN-4 relay: sn: DIN42101003895
- Reused existing Adam switch.
- Victron LVD, pn: BP65, set to "3A" 11.25V disconnect and 13.25V reconnect.

EQUIPMENT REMOVED: (name, s/n, uc#)

- Cradle Point cell modem (replaced with Sierra Wireless)
- "JF" run-charge battery charger (replaced with IOTA)

COMMENTS:

We tried different locations for the antenna. Finally we temporarily mounted the antenna on a ten foot poll and set it up on the walking trail (which is on a berm) directly adjacent, and north of the marina. This means that the altitude of the antenna was about ten feet higher than the top of the antenna mast at the site.

The final results were: The Cambium/Xeta radio seemed to connect with its parent at Mt. Vollmer, because it showed the parent radio in its neighbor list. But it would not reliability send data. I did about 100 individual radio pings, but only one was successful.

Data from the neighbor list showed that local RSSI was -98dB and local noise was -114dB. The minimum signal required for 229kbps (which is what we were using) should be -105dB. So it is a mystery why the radio did not seem to work.

This log file is saved, in the images directory for PETB, as a pdf with screen shots for the Cambium/Xeta radio.

After returning from the trip, and reviewing Google Earth, I discovered that I may have been pointing the antenna 10 to 15 degrees west of Mt. Vollmer. The vector from PETB to Mt. Vollmer is 136 deg true, and I used the compass app on my cell, but maybe it was out of calibration.

Since the radio did not work, we swapped the existing Cradle Point with a Sierra Wireless. We removed the SIM card from the CP and inserted it in the SW.

We also installed a new power/charging system. Finally we vacuumed both enclosures.

IMAGES: Yes

CONSIDERATION FOR FUTURE SITE WORK:

I'd like to go back to PETB with the radio and try again. I'll try to point the antenna in the right direction to Mt. Vollmer and I also want to test from a road that is South of the marina.







