



# MARC BEACON

Volume 4, Issue 03 The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

March 2015

## President's Message

First I would like to extend a sincere thank you to our members for the support and participation in the recent events. The recent rains have been a welcome sight to the Morongo Basin. Hopefully, all of this rain will result in a productive bloom this year.

There has also been lots of excitement in getting ready for Field Day. There are still lots of unfilled positions as well as positions that can benefit from the participation of multiple volunteers. Let's remember to invite our friends and neighbors to come and visit us at Field Day. Who knows what can bloom then.

In addition to Field Day, Grubstake Days is also quickly approaching. The Grubstake Days Parade is always a great opportunity to show the community some of the services that amateur radio can provide. Grubstake Days is also a great time to plant the Ham Radio seed in members of the community. This exposure can also gain the interest of a future ham radio operator.

73s, Jeffrey Hardy, KJ6BOI

## Grubstakes Parade

It is time to start preparing for this year's Grubstakes Parade which takes place on Saturday, May 23rd. Every year the Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club, ARES, and the basin Emergency Communications Services members provide communication and related assistance for the parade. This event provides great training for our members and creates good relations with the Yucca Valley communities.

Volunteers are needed to participate. Radio operators will be needed from 0700 to 1200-1300. You will need at least one working handheld transceiver (2m), although 2 HT's would be better. Volunteers are expected to wear club/organizational T-shirts, hats, closed toed shoes, and safety vests. If you don't have a vest, one will be provided along as supplies last.



Manuel-AE6SG, John-AG6QM, and Dennis-KG6PAH are heading up our participation effort. Please contact any of them ASAP if you wish to volunteer. We will need to have a table-top walk through meeting with participants so everyone knows what will be needed, all questions can be answered, and any issues resolved in advance of the parade.

John - AG6QM

## Repeater Basics

The Radio Club repeaters shouldn't be a mystery to those who use them, so I thought it would be a good time to start a series of articles for the bulletin about basic repeater operation, without getting too technical. I'll start with the Yucca Valley repeater.

This repeater consists of a Yaesu/Vertex VXR5 -5000 repeater (transceiver), a SCOM 7330 controller, 2 meter duplexers, and a Hustler G7-144 vertical omni-directional antenna with a claimed 7db gain. The repeater receives signals on 146.190 megahertz (MHz), and transmits on 146.790 MHz.

When you transmit using the repeater, you are transmitting on 146.190 MHz, which is the repeater's receive frequency. The repeater receives your signal and simultaneously "repeats" it out on 146.790 MHz at 25 watts transmit power. In order for your signal to be heard by the repeater, you must transmit the Private Line (PL) tone, Motorola's name for Continuous Tone Coded Squelch System (CTCSS), of 136.5 hertz (Hz). This is a sub-audible tone, meaning you shouldn't be hearing it. This tone opens the repeater's receiver and allows your signal to be repeated. The repeater also transmits the same tone, so that you can set your radio receive tone squelch to recognize only signals with a 136.5 Hz tone. This eliminates unwanted interference from other repeaters on the same frequency.

In our next article, I'll discuss the purpose of the controller in the repeater circuit, and how the repeater is able to transmit and receive at the same time on one antenna.

73 de Glenn N6GIW

## Wave of Popularity

Amateur Radio is featured in the March 2015 issue of "The American Legion Magazine". The article, by best-selling author Don Keith, N4KC, explains how ham radio remains exciting, important, and relevant, even after more than a century in existence and changes in technology. Visit the following website to read the whole article: <http://www.legion.org/magazine/226238/wave-popularity>

Tom McLean - KJ6DZT

## Palm Springs Hamfest

9AM-4:30PM, 14 Mar 2015 at the Palm Springs Pavilion, 401 S. Pavilion Way, Palms Spring, CA. Visit the following website for more info: [palmsspringshamfest.com](http://palmsspringshamfest.com)

## National Traffic System

The National Traffic System (NTS) is a way that messages (a.k.a. Radiograms) can be sent to recipients throughout the United States and Canada via radio networks. Neither the originator nor the recipient are required to be a licensed ham radio operator, however; the messages must be passed by licensed ham radio operator.

Messages can be simple and benign that say "Happy Birthday" or "Congratulations on your recent license upgrade". Messages can also be real world messages from victims in a disaster area. During Hurricane Katrina victims were able to send messages to family members outside of the disaster area such as "I am ok" or "I am getting on a bus and moving to Galveston, TX".

There is a specific format that is used to ensure tracking of messages and message quality. There are nets that originate, pass, and deliver these messages several times per week. North America is divided into three areas. Most of the traffic between the major areas is passed via HF packet. There are also Regional and Local Nets. One Regional net is the Golden Bear Net and is operated daily on 3975 KHz at 1900 Pacific Time (<http://goldenbearnets.org/>). One such Local National Traffic System Net that passes local messages is on the Keller Peak Repeater (146.385 + PL. 146.2) and is conducted on Monday, Wednesday and Friday nights at 9:00 p.m.

Volunteers who pass messages do so for the pleasure of being involved and would be thrilled to pass a message for you. Recipients are also happy to receive messages via ham radio. The voice nets are very welcoming to new users. New users are suggested to listen to a few nets in order to learn the ropes.

If this is interesting, try sending a message yourself. To send a message, generate a message and inform the net control that you are sending your first message. The Net Control Stations will help you along the way. Visit the following website for more info: <http://www.arrl.org/nts>.

Jeffrey - KJ6BOI

### Club Meeting

Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 PM.  
St. Christopher of the Desert Catholic Church  
61261 Sunburst Dr., Joshua Tree, CA

Directions: Traveling on highway 62, turn south on Sunnyhill Road in Joshua Tree. Go ½ mile and turn east (left) on Sunburst Drive. The Church is located at the end of the block

## Volunteer Examiner

I attended the testing session on Sat 3 Jan 2015 as an observer. Whilst there I asked about becoming a Volunteer Examiner (VE), and was given a form to fill in. The form was duly processed and I was accredited as examiner number 1715 with the Greater Los Angeles Amateur Radio Group. I hope that I will be able to exercise my new found skill at the next testing session. A big thank you to the hams that helped me get accredited. My website it is at [www.ki6gh.com](http://www.ki6gh.com), and I can be contacted at [morsed2@gmail.com](mailto:morsed2@gmail.com).

Steve Morse - KI6HGH/G8OTV

### Nets

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)  
Monday @ 1915

Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club (MARC)  
Tuesday @ 1900

### Social Media

**Club web page:** <http://www.w6ba.net>

**Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/MorongoBasinAmateurRadioClub>

**W6BA Live Feed:**

<http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/10199/web>

### Linked Repeaters

#### **Yucca Valley, W6BA**

146.790 MHz (- shift = 146.190 MHz)  
136.5 Hz PL/CTCSS

#### **Twentynine Palms, W6IF**

147.060 MHz (+ shift = 147.660 MHz)  
136.5 Hz PL/CTCSS

#### **Landers, WB6CDF**


447.580 Mhz (- shift = 442.580 MHz)  
173.8 Hz PL/CTCSS



### Editor Point of Contact (POC)

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Submission deadline is 2 days before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month

# March 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
	ARES Net 7:15pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm		<b>ARES Meeting 7:00 pm</b>  Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Yucca Valley		
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Daylight Saving Time 	ARES Net 7:15pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm				<b>Palm Springs Hamfest</b> 0900 – 1630 Palm Springs Pavilion 401 S Pavilion Way
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Field Day Meeting 6:00 pm</b>  Yucca Mesa Improvement Association Community Center	ARES Net 7:15pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm  		<b>MARC Meeting 7:00 pm</b>  St. Christopher's Catholic Church Joshua Tree		
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
	ARES Net 7:15pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm				
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
	ARES Net 7:15pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm	April Fool's Day			