



# MARC Beacon

Volume 5, Issue 5

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

May 2016

## President's Message

Hello everyone! This is a busy month with Mother's Day, Armed Forces Day, Grubstake Days, and Memorial Day. Not to mention, getting prepared for Field Day in June.

Speaking of Field Day, the object is to make as many radio contacts as possible use something other than commercial power. So my question is, what do you use when the power goes out? Some people use gasoline generators, but my curiosity is, what type of batteries and solar cells do people use to power lights and radios in our area.

A typical solar power system consists of a solar panel, a charge controller, and batteries. If you want to power AC appliances, then you will also need a power inverter that will convert 12 VDC to 110 VAC.

Goal Zero puts out some great products that you can order from Amazon.com or you can purchase them from Costco, when they are on display, but they are a bit pricy. Many people have constructed their own solar charging systems, so I am curious to know who has created their own. Please share your ideas with the club, maybe you can give us a quick class at the next meeting explaining your system.

Take care everyone and please do not forget your Mom on Mother's Day.

Rob  
KK6JHI  
Joshua Tree  
760-401-6666



## Borges Associates

Tax Consulting / Preparation Service  
57836 Campanula St.  
Yucca Valley, Ca. 92284  
(760) 365-2652

*Bonded and CTEC Registered Tax Preparer  
Personal and Corporate returns  
All year service available*

Practice since 1989



## Field Day 2016

Field Day is Saturday June 25th and Sunday June 26th at the Yucca Mesa Community Center (YMCC), 3133 Balsa Ave, Yucca Valley. The following positions are filled. Please contact the chairman if you want to be a part of the committee.

Field Day Chairman	Chris Nichols	WB6CDF
Deputy Chairman	Rob Cloutier	KK6JHI
Safety Officer	Nick Powell	KK6NWV
Public Official Liaison	Seri Hardy	KJ6JVI
Public Display	Andy Frees	AI6AF
Public Education	Steve Morse	KI6HGH
Direction Finding	Rob Cloutier	KK6JHI
ARRL Logs	Chris Nichols	WB6CDF
Advertising	Seri Hardy	KJ6JVI
Radio Planning	Chris Nichols	WB6CDF
Antenna System Design	Jeffrey Hardy	KJ6BOI
Logging Network	Andy Frees	AI6AF
Power System	Chris Nichols	WB6CDF
Food Coordinator	Judy Cloutier	KK6NWG
General Setup	Andy Frees, Glenn Miller, Steve Morse, Manual Borges, Rob Cloutier	

The first committee meeting was held 1800 Wed 27 April at the YMCC, attended by Chris, Lesley, Rob, Judy, Manual, Andy, Larry, Richard, and Steve. The next meeting will be held 1800 Wed 25 May at the YMCC.

### 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>

## Test Session

The next amateur radio license test session is scheduled during Field Day, 1:00 PM Saturday 25 June 2016 at the Yucca Mesa Community Center, 3133 Balsa Ave, Yucca Valley. We will test for all license classes. If you are upgrading, bring a COPY of your license and be sure your FRN is on it. The fee is \$5 per test. If you are not known to the examiners, then they will need to see a photo ID.



Glenn N6GIW

### Club Meeting

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

## New Repeater

Greetings fellow hams. The 447.000 WB6CDF repeater is back in service, but it is now a Yaesu DR-1X digital repeater with automatic mode select. It recognizes Yaesu C4FM digital signals, as well as analog FM. The repeater's only announcement is its ID, and it's in CW, so don't expect any voice announcements like it had before. The repeater is open to all hams. So if you have a Yaesu digital radio such as the FT-1 or FT-2 DR, or the FTM-400DR, or FT-991, you now have a digital local repeater to enjoy.

Thanks to Chris for climbing the tower to put up the new Diamond F718 antenna, and donating the duplexers.

The receive frequency is 447.000 MHz and the transmit frequency is 442.000 MHz. If you wish to use the repeater in FM mode, be sure to use wide or normal FM, and not narrow. The squelch is set for a tone of DCS 565. Digital voice mode does not require a tone. Also, the squelch tail is set for .750 second length. Let me know if you think it should be longer.

We would like to test the coverage of the repeater, so if you are travelling north through Johnson Valley or east in Wonder Valley, or other distant areas, please try out the repeater. Someone is usually monitoring.

Please report any anomalies you may notice concerning this repeater. Questions are welcome.

Glenn N6GIW

## Grubstake Days Parade

The 66<sup>th</sup> Grubstake Days Parade is scheduled for 10 am Saturday 28 May in Yucca Valley. At least 12 licensed radio operators with portable hand held radios are required for the parade. Please contact John Campbell - AG6QM, or Manuel Borges - AE6SG if you would like to volunteer or if you would like more information.

## Barstow CERT Net

The Barstow Amateur Radio Club has started a CERT net. This way everybody can stay in touch, as to what is happening at other CERT functions. This also gives a frequency where local CERT organizations can get together in case of emergency and possibly aid other CERT organizations. Barstow has two repeaters that are linked together. The one that is usable in Landers, Yucca Mesa, and Yucca Valley is: 147.885; - offset; 151.4 tone.

The Barstow CERT starts their net at 1900 every Tuesday, except the second Tuesday of the month, because they have their club meeting, thus no net. They start off with the Ham News, then they do their net member roster, at the end they do the Barstow CERT net. Normally the CERT net starts after our Tuesday MARC net, so there is no conflict.

I have checked in identifying myself as from the Morongo Basin CERT. There are other stations from the Victorville CERT. I have been trying to keep the net informed of the Morongo Basin CERT's happenings, when I have had the opportunity to go to the meetings.

Matti WA6YKU

### Nets

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Mon @ 1915  
Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club (MARC), Tue @ 1900  
Narrow Band Emergency Message System (NBEMS)  
145.645 MHz, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday @ 1900

## Upcoming Events

Extra Class: Starts Mar 28, <http://desertrats.am/classes/>  
Cochise Hamfest, 7 May  
Oro Valley ARC Hamfest, 12 Nov  
[www.arca-az.org](http://www.arca-az.org)

### Editor Point of Contact (POC)

Rob Cloutier, KK6JHI, 760-401-6666, KK6JHI@ARRL.net  
Submission deadline is 2 days before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month

# May 2016

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 NCS Rob		<b>ARES Meeting 6:00 pm</b>  Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Yucca Valley Cinco de Mayo 		
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Steve		NBEMS Net 7:00 pm 145.645 MHz		
<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS John		<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 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Glenn		NBEMS Net 7:00 pm 145.645 MHz		<b>Grubstake Days Parade</b>  
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	1	2	3	4
	ARES Net 7:15 pm  	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Andy				