

MBARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter



JULY 2024 EDITION

w6ba.net

[MorongoBasinAmateurRadioClub](https://www.facebook.com/MorongoBasinAmateurRadioClub)



A file photo from before the roof replacement, showing the "eyesore" shed still begging removal. – Photo by N6GKB

Paxton Repeater Site

By Glenn Miller N6GIW – article submitted May 23, 2024 and first printed in [last month's newsletter](#).

Greetings fellow hams. I would like to continue the beautification project at our Paxton Hill repeater building. There is an old shed attached to the side of the building that is a real eyesore. The shed is not used, and needs to be removed before we paint the building. The fascia board needs to be primed and painted, and the four sides of the building need paint. The club can buy the materials. We will just need volunteers to remove the shed and do the painting, and a trailer to haul away the old shed. Also, think of what color would be appropriate for the paint. The new shingles on the roof are white.

Contact me if you have suggestions or can volunteer time or materials.

[760-401-7518](tel:760-401-7518)

deacon733@msn.com

Information At A Glance

Upcoming Club Meetings

Monthly club meetings on the 3rd Thursday at 1800.

Date & Time Location

Jul. 18 @ 1800 [Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene](#)

Aug. 15 @ 1800 [Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene](#)

Sep. 19 @ 1800 [Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene](#)

Local Nets

Net Name	Day & Time
Amateur Radio Emergency Service	MON @ 1915
MBARC Weekly Net	TUE @ 1900
MBARC "Cawfee Tawk"	DAILY @ 1000

MBARC Linked Repeater System

For more info, see the [2nd to last page](#) for detailed diagram of the MBARC Linked Repeater System or visit w6ba.net.

Site	\sim MHz	\mp	
W6BA Yucca Valley / Paxton Hill	146.790	-	136.5
W6BA Twentynine Palms / Donnell Hill	147.060	+	136.5
WB6CDF Landers / Fire Station	447.580	-	173.8
AD6G Pipes Canyon	446.120	\emptyset	146.2

Local VoIP-to-RF Nodes

System	# Node	\sim RF Link
AllStarLink	503088	KM6IAU to W6BA YV
EchoLink	KM6IAU-L	KM6IAU to W6BA YV
EchoLink	WO4ROB-L	WO4ROB to W6BA YV
AllStarLink	503085	KM6IAU to 146.520 $\emptyset \emptyset$ YV

Local RF-to-VoIP Nodes

Site	\sim MHz	\mp		System	# Node/TG
KD6DIQ YV	145.770	\emptyset	67.0	AllStar	28855
WB6CDF YV	447.000	-	10	DMR/BM	TS1: TG 3106 TS2: TG 2

President --- Rob Cloutier **WO4ROB**
Vice President --- Keith Board **N6GKB**
Secretary --- Paul Edwards **AA6SM**
Treasurer --- Glenn Miller **N6GIW**
Board Member --- Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**
Board Member --- Larry Mollica **AD6G**
Repeater Trustee --- Glenn Miller **N6GIW**

Editor --- Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**
Contributors --- Glenn Miller **N6GIW**
Rob Cloutier **WO4ROB**
Clifford Novey **KK6QMS**
Larry Mollica **AD6G**
Additional Photos --- Keith Board **N6GKB**
Chris Nichols **WB6CDF**
Additional Design --- Maja Chesney **KO6DAV**

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President’s Message

Hello radio operators! July is another hot month in the desert. Hoping all of you will be safely celebrating our independence from Britain on the 4th of July. Just a reminder that the summer Olympics in Paris France starts on Friday 26 July.

I would like to order a new banner with our new club logo for our club displays during events like the Orchid Festival and the [Great California ShakeOut](#). If anyone has any ideas for a design or where to purchase one, then please let me know.

July and I will be back in town from our very long vacation at the end of the month.

Please schedule time to check in on the 7 PM Tuesday net, and if you can, please join us on the “Cawfee Tawk” net everyday from 1000 to 1100 AM.

Take care of yourself and enjoy each day. If you’re not having fun, then you’re doing something wrong.

This is **WO4ROB**
Rob from Joshua Tree

 [760-401-6666](tel:760-401-6666)

 WO4ROB@gmail.com



Club Field Day Canceled, Some Members Nail It

By Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**, Newsletter Editor – article submitted June 26, 2024

An unfortunate and serious foot injury to club Vice President and Field Day Coordinator Keith Board **N6GKB**, as most know by now, has pierced this year's club pre- Field Day preparations. Without Keith to spearhead the pike – and no one else willing or able to take point – a penitential prospect of pandemonium was palpable. It was therefore decided to cancel the club Field Day event.

It was, however, encouraged that club members make the best of the situation, and participate individually.

Indeed, some club members were fully determined and well prepared to participate in [ARRL Field Day 2024](#) individually or as a small collective.



Refreshment on hold, Derek **KM6UUM** diligently works digital Field Day stations. – Photo by Clifford **KK6QMS**

Asked to provide a few words about their Field Day participation, I received the following generous contributions.

Clifford **KK6QMS** writes:

*“I made contact with Larry **AD6G** and Chris **WB6CDF** on 40 meters on Friday to say hello and help test their equipment. We exchanged reports on audio and mic gain, etc. Adjustments were made. S9+ signals both ways.*

*On Field Day, Derek **KM6UUM** and I met up at my place in Joshua Tree at about 3pm. Derek operated for a couple of hours on my new Icom IC-7300, which we enjoyed paired with my 80m~10m EFHW (end-fed half-wave) horizontal at barely 20 ft. Very modest, but effective. Derek worked over 30 stations on 15, 20, and 40 meters. I worked over 30 later that night ‘til 2 or 3am mostly on 80 meters and some on 40 meters. We enjoyed the A/C, views, a few cold ones, and spoke to Larry and Chris on 40 meters again. Solid, easy contacts on 40 meters. They operated as **N6M** and we got them as #1 in our log. It was nice to work most stations after calling only once. Derek and I both have QRP experience which often requires multiple calls to make contact. Contacts were US and Canada.”*

Band	Contacts
80m	30
40m	24
20m	4
15m	5
Total	63

Larry **AD6G** writes:

*“Chris **WB6CDF**, Tod **K6SUD** and I, Larry **AD6G**, set up for this year's Field Day at the same place Chris did FD last year; dry camping at spot in the forest north of Bishop and east of Crowley lake. Elevation: 7,620 feet. Chris and I arrived Thursday afternoon. Tod came in on Friday and brought out a sleeping bag for me as I'd managed to leave mine at home. Derp.*

Chris and I set up end-fed antennas Friday. Tod had some sort of vertical antenna I neglected to get a look at. I had assembled mine from the ARRL kit only days before I left (not a practice I'd recommend) and was relieved to find it worked as advertised after some adjustment of the length.

We had some difficulty getting the logging software linked up. This turned out to be a router problem and we were able to start operating around 11:45am. At this time I don't have the complete log data at hand, but these numbers should be pretty close:

Band	Contacts
80m	3
40m	176
20m	121
15m	71
10m	17
2m (FM)	1
Other	9
Total	398

Two contacts were FT8. One was FM. The rest were SSB (single sideband).

In previous years Chris and I had been using **N3FJP** logging software. This year we tried [N1MM Logger Plus](#), which I had pitched almost entirely because of its [Bandmap](#) feature. I will perhaps do a write up on **N1MM** at another time. For now I'll say that to contrast it with **N3FJP**, in addition to the Bandmap, **N1MM**'s network setup is automatic and nearly foolproof (unless, as we were to find out, you have an intensely locked-down router). It lacks a few frills like the **N3FJP** color map of sections worked, but this can be achieved with some additional software if you want a fancy display. Regardless, **N1MM** had me at Bandmap. During the contest, I seldom even looked at the rig's display. I watched the bandmap while tuning around the band. I'm sold on it.

All in all, a great Field Day in my book. Beautiful spot. Zero RFI (overlooking the solar charge controller Chris brought along, but Tod had a spare that was less problematic).

Lessons learned:

- * Test your entire data network ahead of FD, including the router.
- * Test all possible RFI generating gear, charge controllers in particular.
- * Don't forget your sleeping bag."

Clifford and Larry also provided more pictures, many of which are included on the following page. ---



"Chris **WB6CDF**'s portable WiFi/Verizon Internet [router]. Used to link our logging software." – Larry **AD6G**



"I put together the ARRL end-fed kit about two days before leaving for Field Day. Lucky for me, it worked." – Larry **AD6G**



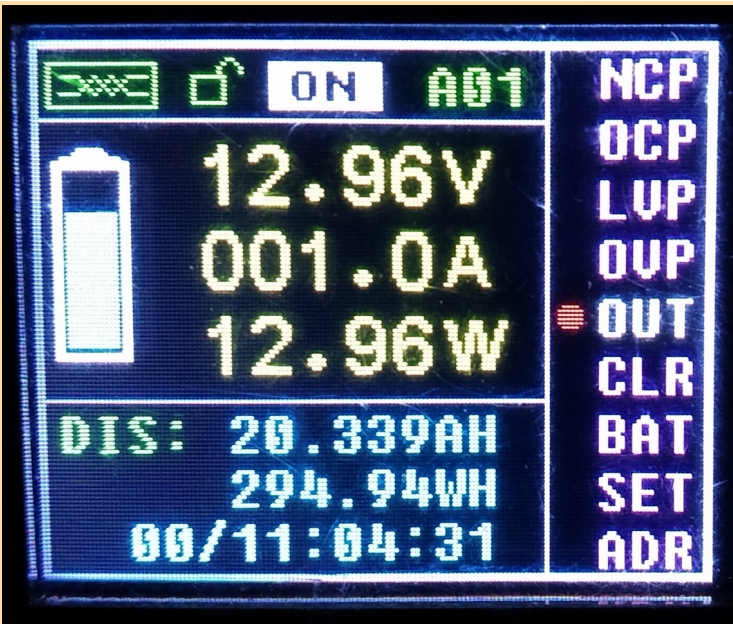
Truck and shelter, left to right: Tod **K6SUD**, Larry **AD6G**, Chris **WB6CDF**. Panoramic view. – Photo by Larry **AD6G**



Chris **WB6CDF** brings the guns, tames the flames, and mans the meat. – Photo by Larry **AD6G**



“Friday, Chris served what I dubbed ‘a Buick on a plate’. I can’t believe I ate the whole thing.” – Larry **AD6G**



“This shows the state of discharge of my LFP 100AH battery when I shut down around midnight Saturday. Since the solar charging quit around 5 or 6pm, the battery supplied 20 AH. It could have gone on all night, but I ran out of juice before the battery did.” – Larry **AD6G**



Front view of Larry’s rig. – Photo by Larry **AD6G**



Larry breaks for an eyeball QSO. – Photo by Chris **WB6CDF**



Tod **K6SUD** (left) and Chris **WB6CDF** take a break before the long view. – Photo by Larry **AD6G**



Club History – NOVEMBER 1990

By Glenn Miller **N6GIW** – article submitted June 22, 2024

Our club has been around since the early 70's. Here are some highlights of a meeting from November 21st of 1990:

The meeting was called to order at 1940 hours by president Brian Burke **N6VBM**. After the flag salute, we had self-introductions.

Bill **KB6EII** gave the treasurer's report:

- * \$1333.49 in the general fund, and
- * \$407.49 in the repeater fund.

Secretary Jim **KC6FKF** read the minutes of the previous meeting. Dick **KA6JGP** reported on nominations for officers for 1991:

- * President Jerry Ducey **WD6DYG**,
- * VP Jim McDowell **KC6FKF**,
- * Secretary Glenn Miller **N6GIW**,
- * Treasurer Bill Chamber **KB6EII**,
- * Board of Directors:
 - * Stan Spaeth **WB6QFE**, and

* Ace Briggs **W6CTS**.

Jerry **WD6DYG** reported on a raffle prize for the next meeting. Jerry had accidentally misquoted that he was going to purchase a 220MHz radio, but that he should have said it was a Kenwood TM-231 two-meter radio. Comments from the members indicated that some people may not want a 2 meter or 220 radio, but maybe they would want a 440MHz radio. After a "healthy" discussion, it was decided that the club would purchase a \$400 gift certificate from Amateur Electronic Supply and let the winner purchase the equipment of their choice.

A discussion was held on where to hold the installation dinner. Options were "Henry's A Restaurant" at the Yucca Inn, or Sizzler. Sizzler does not allow large groups on weekends. The members decided to hold the dinner at Henry's.

The guest speaker was Ben Boswell from the Dept. of Public Safety in San Bernardino. Ben is a ham (**KC6KSV**) and is in charge of restoring the county RACES program. He spoke about that, and also about the new 800MHz radio system that the Sheriff is now using.

The meeting adjourned at 2119 hours.

MBARC Meeting Minutes – JUNE 2024

No club meeting for June 2024.



MBARC Member-Provided Resources

The Digital Ham – Ken W6BZY

[Ken Hendrickson W6BZY](#) has put together some helpful YouTube videos about Linux, Raspberry Pi, and amateur radio: <https://youtube.com/@Kensownvids>

Paxton Hill Webcam – Chris WB6CDF

[Chris Nichols WB6CDF](#) has a publicly-accessible webcam atop Paxton Hill. <http://WB6CDF.com/paxton-cams.htm>
More resources are available at his site, WB6CDF.com.

OpenWebRX – Aaron KM6IAU

[Aaron Chesney KM6IAU](#) has set up a pool of publicly-accessible OpenWebRX servers. OpenWebRX is a “web-SDR,” a web server which provides access to one or more SDR receivers. You can reach them here: <https://sdr.KM6IAU.net/>




Hobby Notes – Rob WO4ROB

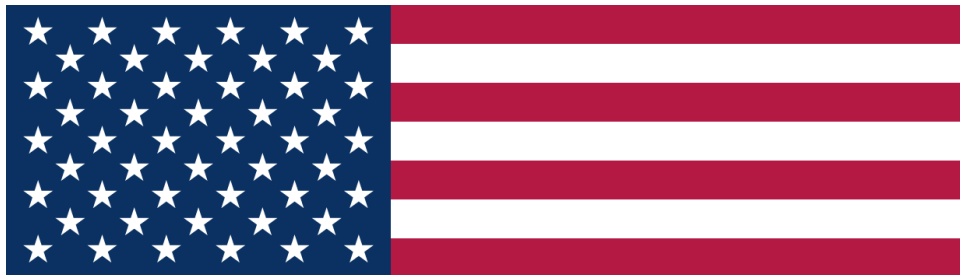
[Rob Cloutier WO4ROB](#) has collected and organized his hobby notes on his personal website, WO4ROB.com.



Your Newsletter, Your Voice.

If you have material you’d like to share in a future newsletter, contact me. — 73 de **KM6IAU**

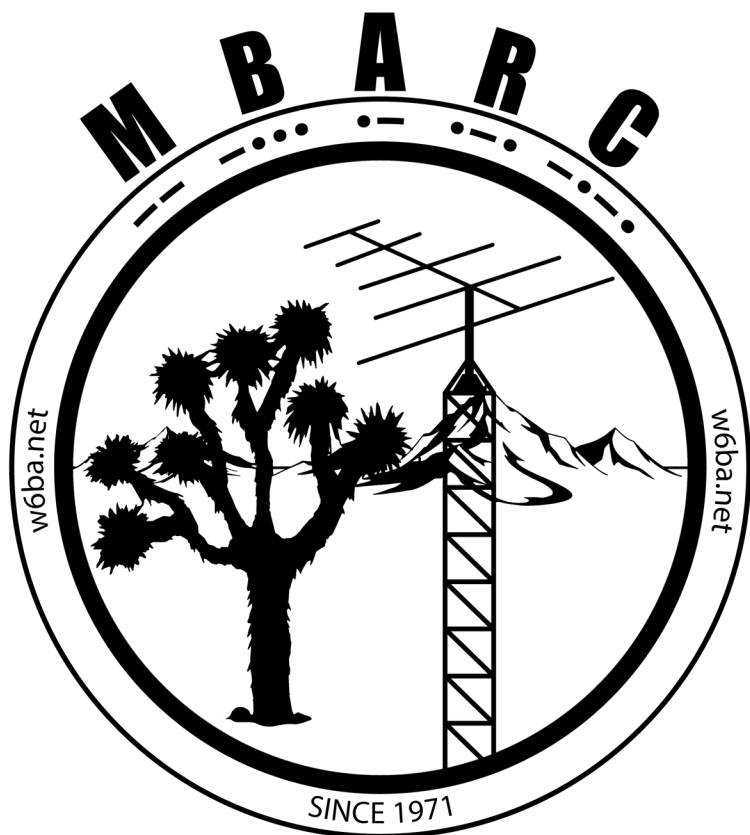
-  Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**
-  [442-205-1873](tel:442-205-1873), extension 5
-  Aaron@KM6IAU.net



“I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Happy birthday, America.





HAM RADIO
THE ORIGINAL
SOCIAL NETWORK

I'M A LICENSED

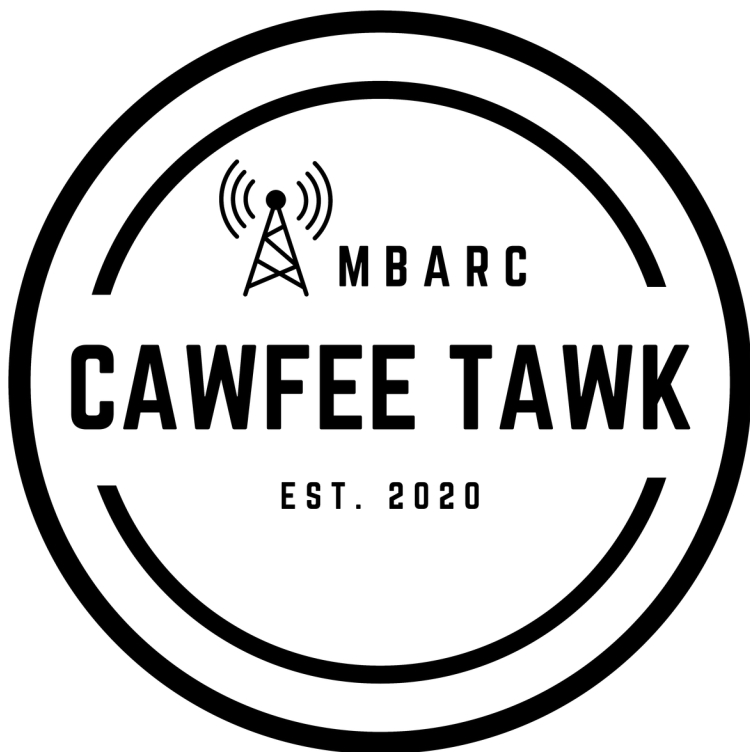


HAM RADIO



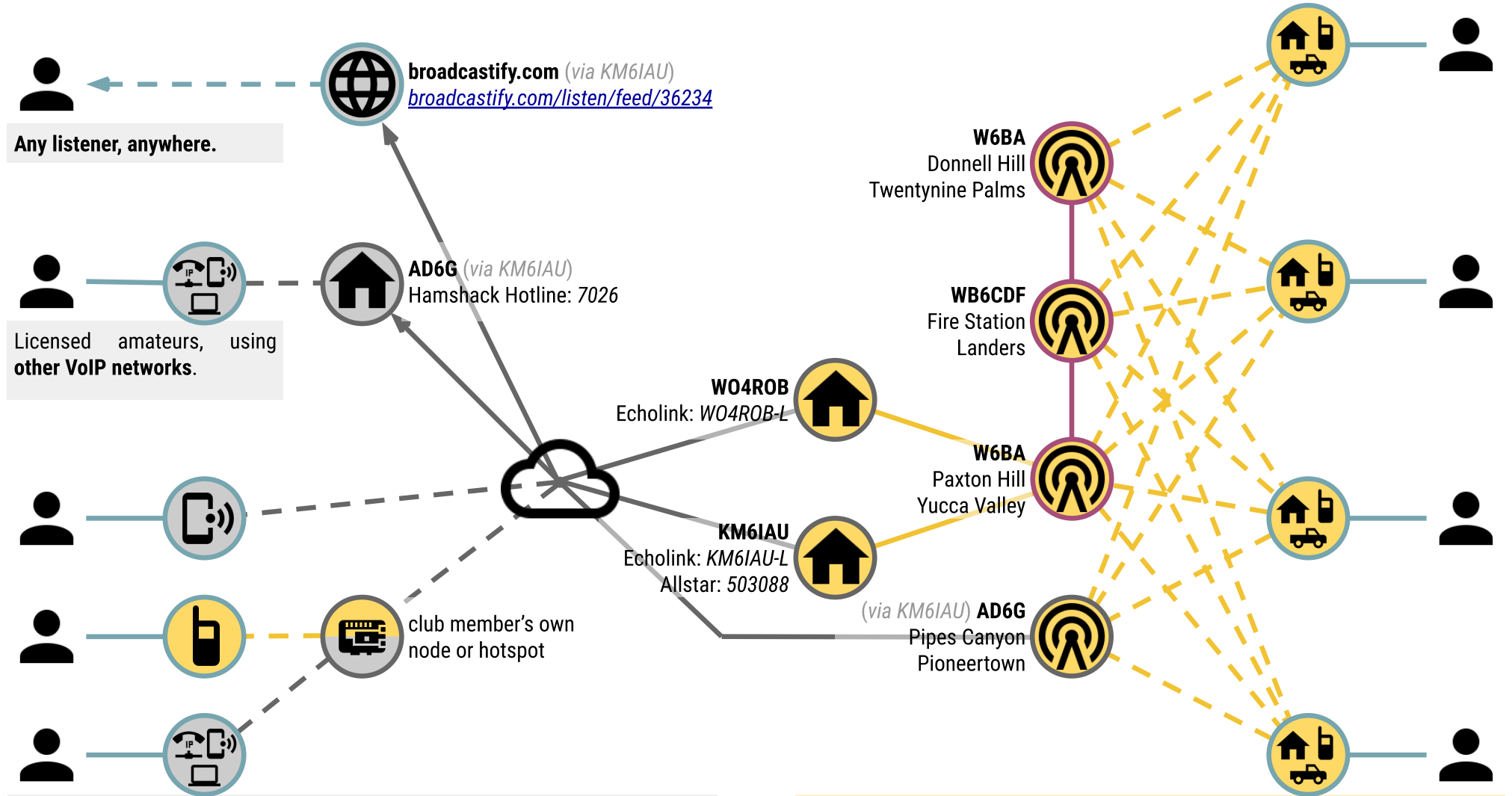
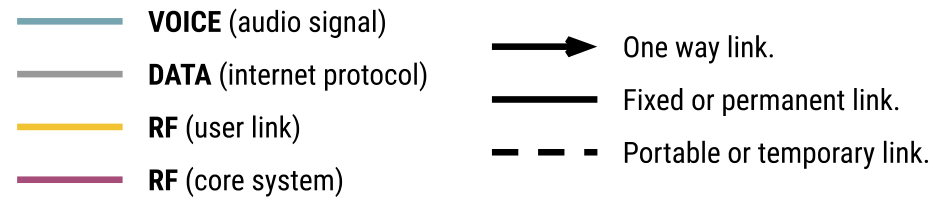
OPERATOR

PROUD TO BE THE 0.2%



Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Linked Repeater System Overview

As of June 2024



Any listener, anywhere.

Licensed amateurs, using other VoIP networks.

Licensed amateurs **with** club membership, using **Allstar*** or **Echolink****.

Please use restrictive access means, such as PL tone and low-gain antenna for RF links, or password access for IP links. Do not link-in broad-access systems, such as other repeaters or reflectors, where such linking could transmit onto our club's system. Thank you.

Licensed amateurs **with or without** club membership, using **RF**.

Please do not link-in broad-access systems, such as other repeaters or reflectors, where such linking could transmit onto our club's system. Thank you.

* Allstar access needs to be manually set up. Contact linkrequest@W6BA.net to submit your request.
 ** Echolink access may need to be manually set up. Contact linkrequest@W6BA.net to submit your request.

MBARC Calendar – JULY 2024

KD6DIQ AllStarLink Node#28855 Schedule

YV: 145.77MHz, Øshift, ☐67.0Hz

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
June 30	1	2	3	4	5	6
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Glenn N6GIW				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Aaron KM6IAU				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Fred WO6C		1800 – Club mtg		
21	22	23	24	25	28	27
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Larry AD6G				
28	29	30	31			
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Rob WO4ROB				

EVERYDAY

0000 – 0100 WIN System #2560
2200 – 2400 WIN System #2560

SUN

No additional program, system open.

MON

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332

TUE

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1700 – 1900 East Coast Refl. #45225

WED

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1700 – 1900 East Coast Refl. #45225

THU

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1700 – 1900 East Coast Refl. #45225

FRI

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1830 – 2400 WIN System #2560

SAT

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1700 – 1720 Newslines
2000 – 2200 East Coast Refl. #45225