



President's Message

We have, hopefully, made it through the recent holiday weekend no worse for the wear. This time of year it seems that the various ham radio equipment distributors work to fill my mail box with lots of catalogs making sure that I am well aware of all of their new offerings - just in time for the upcoming spending spree.

There has been lots of work done by many of our members during the past year. From the King of the Hammers support in February, the months of work and planning leading up to field day, the support for the Grubstakes Day Parade, as well as the progress that has been made by our members who participate in ARES and who are working to pass digital data - should that need arise. I would like to also recognize the members who particularly volunteer to maintain functions of our club. Please remember that the club radio repeaters require regular maintenance, volunteers look after the health and welfare of our fellow hams, the minutes of the many meetings are recorded, lots of volunteers take lots of photos, volunteers manage social media and others religiously compile a newsletter each month, and our net controls are on time and on point. Surely there are countless others who have unconscionably escaped my mind. Your efforts are truly appreciated by myself and the rest of the club members.

During the December meeting, we will be having the general election. The four offices up for election this year are: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. During the November meeting, we received lots of nominations of very capable members to fill these positions. Come out to the meeting on 19 December and cast your vote. I would like to remind members that only those who are current in their dues are eligible to vote. Manuel (AE6SG) is always ready to accept member renewals, even on the day of the election.

During this year, many of us have also enjoyed watching others in their personal projects including IRLP, the Arduino projects, the Broadband Ham net, as well as the purchase of new radio systems and subsequent install. With these projects, there are always lots of trial and error, time and money that is spent before we get to witness the "ta-da" moment during the demonstration. With this hobby, there are always new developments. There are lots of ways to spend your time. Whether it is the (relatively) new mode of JT-65 over HF, participating in Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) nets, playing with the newest digital voice modes, or breathing life back into vintage equipment. There is bound to be something that is interesting for you to explore. With all of these options, remember to include a friend or neighbor or the young kid next door.

In January, our newly elected officers will be put into place at our regular club meeting. This meeting will be held at the Yucca Mesa Improvement Association Community Center. There will be a catered dinner provided for all of the Morongo Amateur Radio Club members. Please note that the location is not at the St. Christopher's Church, but will instead be held at the Field Day Location at 7:00 PM on 21 January 2016.

Jeffrey Hardy - KJ6BOI

The Night Before Christmas Ham Radio-style

'Twas the night before Christmas,
When all through the town,
The snowstorm was raging, the phone lines were down;
The wind it did howl, the tree limbs did crack,
I hope that St. Nick isn't forced to turn back.
The wife making cookies, the kids making noise,
While away in the shack, by my rig I was poised.
The finals were glowing, the mike gain was set,
I was chasing DX to see what I could get.
The bands were all empty, the frequencies clear,
Except one lone station that sounded quite near.
He was calling CQ and my interest did pique,
When he ended transmission with the words,
"Old St. Nick".
I answered back quickly, I used great dispatch,
If this were St. Nicholas, good God, what a catch!
We exchanged information, it was really quite graphic,
Then he came back and said,
"I've emergency traffic!"
His reindeer were tired, his elves in a grump,
If he didn't land soon, then his sleigh he would dump.
I thought very carefully, I thought very hard,
Then I gave him directions to my snow covered yard.

As he flew past my window, his hair like a mane,
 He reined in his chargers and called them by name:
 "Whoa, Anode! Whoa, Cathode! Whoa, Zener! Whoa,
 Diode!
 Stop, Heater! Stop, Grid leak! Stop, Bias! Stop, Triode!
 You're flying too low! You're flying too fast!
 Look out, you dumb reindeer, his antenna mast!"
 So into the backyard the reindeer did drop,
 St. Nick, the elves, and the sleigh went kerplow!
 Then at the back door, I heard this loud knocking,
 "Open up in there, or I won't fill your stocking!"
 As I turned off the light and was leaving the shack,
 Into the house Saint Nicholas came from the back--
 His two-meter rig held to his hip with a strap,
 "Hams do it in the shack" on the front of his cap.
 The sack that he carried made his aged brow furrow,
 And he handed me a card that read,
 "QSL Via Bureau".
 His clothes were all sooty, from his shoes to his vest;
 I felt like a novice taking his test.
 His fingers were calloused and from what I could tell,
 This came from a straight key that I'll bet he used well.
 I offered him coffee, I offered him smokes,
 I tried easing the tension by telling ham jokes.
 Then he nodded his head and raised up his thumb,
 He smiled like an Elmer, did I ever feel dumb.
 He grabbed up his sack and went straight for the tree,
 And placed in it a large present for me.
 When he finished his work, he stood up, took a bow,
 Then out the back door to his team he did plow.
 But I heard him exclaim as he flew o'er the land,
 "Beware the FCC, friend, we were both out of band!"



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.

Emergency Communicator Course

Wed 6 Jan 1800-2030, St. Christopher Church
 Wed 13 Jan 1800-2030, St. Christopher Church
 Wed 20 Jan 1800-2030, St. Christopher Church
 Sat 23 Jan 0900-1200, Basin wide

St. Christopher of the Desert Church is located at
 61261 Sunburst Drive, Joshua Tree, Ca. 92252

This course is intended for any Amateur Radio Operator that wishes to improve their emergency communications skills and have a better understanding of Emergency Operations on both local and county levels. Each Amateur Radio entity in the basin has some level of training related to Emergency Communications. This course will help fill in the gaps and provide exercises similar to real world emergencies. The course is not specific to any one entity or person. The curriculum was developed by Chris Nichols with an emphasis on radio procedure during emergencies which combines all aspects of emergency communications from both Amateur Radio and Public Safety. The course will be presented at a level that most semi-experienced operators will understand. The course was created to provide good dialog between the instructor and participants. Participants will be encouraged to engage in discussion and participate in exercises during the course. The course will include a student workbook, an in depth power point presentation and numerous hands-on exercises. This course is not an instructional class on how to use your radio and its functions.

1. All participants will be required to have a 2-Meter (VHF) portable radio that has at least 3 hours of battery life and know how to effectively and proficiently program a simplex frequency and a repeater frequency. Please be proficient with this process prior to the start of the course. You will need to have your radio in your possession in the classroom on all 3 days of the course.

2. All participants will be required to have completed the FEMA online IS-100 course within 6 months prior to the start of the course. If you have never taken the course or have not taken it in the past 6 months, please take the course online at no cost at this web address prior to the start of the course. <http://emilms.fema.gov/IS100b/index.htm>

3. All participants should come prepared with a notepad and a writing utensil (pen or pencil) and have a backup in case one fails.

RSVP's are required and should be made no later than Wednesday, December 23rd by 1700 hours. RSVP allows us to have an adequate number of student workbooks and prepare exercises based on number of participants.

Send an email to Chris Nichols to RSVP or if you have questions: chris@WB6CDF.com

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, 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 1900

Dipole antenna

Greetings fellow hams and interested parties. Here is a link to a very thorough article about dipole antennas. Enjoy.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dipole_antenna

Glenn N6GIW

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

Upcoming Events

Quartzfest: Jan 17 - 23, quartzfest.org

Winter Field Day: Jan 30-31, www.winterfieldday.com

Yuma Hamfest: Feb 19-20, www.yumahamfest.org

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>



Editor Point of Contact (POC)

Rob Cloutier, KK6JHI, 760-401-6666, rob_cloutier@hotmail.com
Submission deadline is 2 days before the 1st of each month

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
	ARES Net 7:15pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm		ARES Meeting 7:00 pm Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Yucca Valley		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	ARES Net 7:15 pm 	MARC Net 7:00 pm		NBEMS Net 7:00 pm 145.645 MHz		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm		MARC Meeting 7:00 pm St. Christopher's Catholic Church Joshua Tree		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm 		NBEMS Net 7:00 pm 145.645 MHz		
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm		ARES Meeting 7:00 pm Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Yucca Valley		