MARC Beacon

Volume 5, Issue 12

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

December 2016

President's Message

Hello fellow club members. I feel honored to be your club president for 2017. Congratulations to the following elected club officers and board members.

President	Rob Cloutier	KK6JHI
Vice President	Andy Frees	AI6AF
Secretary	Judy Cloutier	KK6NWG
Treasurer	Manuel Borges	AE6SG
Repeater Trustee	Glenn Miller	N6GIW
Historian	Paul Edwards	AA6SM
	Chris Nichols	WB6CDF

6PM Thursday 15 December is the club Installation Dinner held at the Yucca Mesa Improvement Association Community Center, 3133 Balsa Avenue, Yucca Valley. There will be a free barbeque dinner provided for all current dues members of the Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club and their guest. Attendees who are not club members will need to fill out a club application and pay the $15 dues if they choose to eat. Please note that the location is not at the St. Christopher's Church, but will instead be held at the Field Day location. Please contact Secretary Judy Cloutier at judycloutier@hotmail.com for more details.

During the Installation Dinner, we will have a gift exchange. Those who bring a gift will receive a number that will indicate the order in which the participant can select either a wrapped gift or one that has already been unwrapped. Gifts can only change hands up to 3 times. Please join the fun and bring a wrapped gift that may be of value to one of your fellow club members.

Keep warm and enjoy the cold desert days. Just think, 3 months ago we were thinking it was too hot.

Rob
KK6JHI
Joshua Tree
760-401-6666

Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

ISS Packet Digipeater

On the Ham Nation podcast for 11/16/2016, Gordon West reported that the VHF radio aboard the International Space Station (ISS) was down for repair and VHF contacts are not possible at this time. A new Kenwood radio is at the Johnson Space Center and is being prepared for shipment to the ISS. In the meantime, packet and APRS traffic is possible on UHF. The frequency is 437.550 simplex with no pl tones.

After the failure of the Ericsson VHF HT used with the ARISS packet system in the European Columbus module in October 2016, the UHF twin of the failed radio was put into service. The Ericsson UHF HT is using the ARISS 70cm frequency of 437.550 MHz. With the move to 70cm, this means users of the packet digipeater will have to make adjustments for Doppler on both the uplink and downlink. Even with the change in frequency, the digipeater operates exactly as it did on 145.825 MHz.

For HTs or FM mobile transceivers, and possibly other radios capable of operating on 70cm FM, programming a group of 5 memory channels which compensate for Doppler will allow for 70cm packet operation. Use the following group of memory channels for the ISS packet digipeater on 437.550 MHz:

Channel	Receive	Transmit	Offset
1	437.560	437.540	-0.02
2	437.555	437.545	-0.01
3	437.550	437.550	none
4	437.545	437.555	+0.01
5	437.540	437.560	+0.02

Memory channels in some radios will accept separate receive and transmit frequencies, while others will accept the receive frequency and the offset size/direction.

Be ready to flip-flop between the first two memories after a minute or so into the pass, and near the end flip-flop between 4 and 5. There could be moments near AOS and LOS – and maybe other points in the middle – where the signal is just in between the two RX frequencies, and your TNC or software won't decode it.

More useful advice for working the ISS packet digipeater is available from K9JKM's document "Add ISS Packet Operation to Your Satellite Operation", available from the AMSAT Station and Operating Hints page at: http://www.amsat.org/?page_id=2144

Andy AI6AF

Nets

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

Upcoming Events

January: Quartzfest; King of the Hammers
February: Yuma Hamfest
March: Palm Springs Hamfest
May: Grubstake Days
June: ARRL Field Day
October: Jamboree on the Air; California Great Shakeout; Pioneer Days; Nominate new Club Officers and Board Members
November: Club members vote for club officers and board members
December: Installation Dinner for club members

(Contact the editor to add an event.)

Editor Point of Contact (POC)
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Submission deadline is 2 days before the 1st of each month

December 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 ARES Net 7:15pm	29 MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS John	30	**1** **ARES Meeting 6:00 pm** Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Yucca Valley	2	3
4	5 ARES Net 7:15 pm	6 MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Glenn	7	8 NBEMS Net 7:00 pm Rx 440.500 Tx 144.910 pl 110.9	9	10
11	12 ARES Net 7:15 pm	13 MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Andy	14	**15** **MARC Meeting 7:00 pm** St. Christopher's Catholic Church Joshua Tree	16	17
18	19 ARES Net 7:15 pm	20 MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Chris	21	22 NBEMS Net 7:00 pm Rx 440.500 Tx 144.910 pl 110.9	23	24
25	26 ARES Net 7:15 pm	27 MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Manuel	28	29	30	31