



MARC Beacon

Volume 8, Issue 12

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

DECEMBER 2019

President's Message

Hello fellow HAMs! The weather is getting cold and wet. Make sure your exposed water pipes are wrapped, your swamp cooler water-line is drained, and your antenna connections are weather proofed. Thank you for allowing me to be your club president for 2020. It's going to be a great year! Remember that we will **not** meet in December. Our next meeting will be **Thursday 16 January** at 1800 for the installation dinner and white elephant gift exchange, held at the Yucca Mesa Community Center (YMCC).

For the next 12 months, I would like to advertise our club to as many people as we can in our high desert, in order to let them know that radio frequencies are still being used to communicate without the aid of cellphone towers and satellites. One way of doing this is by participating in community events to show folks what we do. Please let people know about our club, and remember, the 4' x 8' MARC banner is always available.

Stay warm out there, and please join us on the net, I love hearing your voice.

WO4ROB, Rob from Joshua Tree

Rob Cloutier
WO4ROB

Joshua tree
Club President
(760)401-6666
rob_cloutier@hotmail.com



Linked Repeaters

Yucca Valley, W6BA

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

Twentynine Palms, W6BA

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

Nets

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)
Mon @ 1915
Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club (MARC)
Tue @ 1900

Social Media,

Club web page: <http://www.w6ba.net>
Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/MorongoBasinAmateurRadioClub>

Club Meeting

Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM.
St. Christopher of the Desert Catholic Church
61261 Sunburst Dr., Joshua Tree, CA



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TOM MEDLIN W5KUB WEEKLY WEBCAST 100% HAM RELATED. TUESDAY NIGHTS AT 8PM
<http://tmedlin.com/> OR <http://w5kub.com>



HAMNATION IS A WEEKLY HAM RADIO RELATED TV SHOW WITH FAMOUS HOSTS SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW LIKE, GORDON WEST, BOB HEIL AND OTHERS. WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT 6PM
<https://twit.tv/shows/ham-nation>



The weather station on Paxton Hill at the W6BA repeater site is working great. It will show accurate wind speed and direction measurements for the top of the mountain .

<https://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KCAYUCCA57>

Glenn N6GIW

I also have A weather station by the high school in Yucca Valley N6GKB. Showing the temps and wind speeds in the center of Town.

https://www.wunderground.com/dashboard/pws/KCAYUCCA35?cm_ven=localwx_pwsdash

Keith N6GKB

DECEMBER AND JANUARY MEETINGS

There will be **NO** meeting in December. Our next meeting will be in January, on the 16th at **6pm**.

This will be our **Christmas/Installation Dinner**, All paid members of the club and their immediate family are invited.

We will be having the food catered and supplied by MARC. More information will be in the January newsletter.

In the meantime, those after Christmas clearance items, or something that you wish to clear out of the ham shack, would be a perfect item for the **white elephant** present exchange (\$20 or less) that we will be having at the January meeting. It's always a fun event, and **please be sure the item you bring is wrapped!**

We hope to see you all there. It will be held at the **Yucca Mesa Community Center** 3133 Balsa Ave., Yucca Valley. Same place as our last Field day.

Results of our election held at last meeting.

- Club President is Rob Cloutier WO4ROB**
- Vice President is Keith Board N6GKB**
- Treasury is Glenn Miller N6GIW**
- Secretary is Paul Edwards AA6SM**
- Board member Judy Cloutier KK6NWG**
- Board member Manuel Borges AE6SG**

Congratulations to our new elects for the coming year!

Happy 45th Birthday, AMSAT-OSCAR 7!

11/20/2019

The world's longest-lived satellite, AO-7, turned 45 years old this month. It was **launched** on November 15, 1974, from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California. After nearly 7 years of service, AO-7 was thought to have reached the end of its life in June 1981 due to battery failure, and a **premature obituary** appeared in the *AMSAT Satellite Report*.

In an interesting footnote, although AO-7 was thought to be nonfunctional after 1981, **it's been reported** that the Polish Solidarity movement used AO-7 to pass messages in 1982, while Poland was under martial law.

Twenty years later, on June 21, 2002, G3IOR reported hearing "an old-style CW beacon" from an unknown OSCAR near 145.970 MHz. It didn't take long to identify the satellite as AO-7, which remains operational and well-used while it's in sunlight.



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QuartzFest is a week-long ham radio, camping, learning and living event. And it's Coming up FAST!

QuartzFest2020, celebrating its 25th anniversary, is an ARRL Specialty Convention being held January 19 to 25, 2020 near Quartzsite, Arizona in the United States. No other hamfest in the world brings together in one gathering so much innovation in mobile antenna systems, mobile ham shacks, recreational vehicles, portable and mobile EMCOMM systems, off-the-grid living, alternative energy and radio education.

A Very Unique Ham Radio Gathering

QuartzFest is special in part because it comes to life each year, rising from nothing in a remote area of the Sonoran desert in the southwestern USA. Hundreds of Hams and their families and friends choose to unplug from their daily lives, travel to and setup this desert community, and immerse themselves in this week-long one-of-a-kind ham radio, camping, learning and living event.

The educational classes at QuartzFest offer something for everyone including those new to ham radio or even the most seasoned veteran.

They give participants the chance to put hands-on the latest technology, learn ham radio for the first time, study advanced radio theory and to even take a glimpse into the future of radio science. The learning also continues well-beyond the technical lectures all the way from morning coffee... through social events, music, arts and crafts classes during the day... and into the evening while sitting around the campfire or while star-gazing.

We hope you will decide to join us in 2020 which promises to be one of the most exciting editions of this very unique and special ham radio gathering.

Seven Three de
Your Quartzfest Committee

<https://quartzfest.org/>

THE HAM SHACK



We have all seen them from the most basic to the more off the wall elite shacks.

Well now I want to see yours I am going to start asking to come to your HAM SHACK and take a couple pictures of it and you so people can see the shack and the person behind the microphone.

So start cleaning up all those late night snack plate empty drink contained and what nots as we all know gets accumulated over time. And get it ready for me to stop by in the future.

I wish to feature at least one or two local HAM SHACKS each month so get them ready and I will start making calls soon. And if yours is show worthy already let me know! Remember **NO** ham shack is *too little* or *not worthy*, if you took the time to put it together big or small, we would like to see your efforts.





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CLUB REPEATERS

Our 146.790 repeater in Yucca Valley recently was off the air during a power failure. The back-up batteries had failed to charge and when the AC power went out, there was insufficient voltage in the batteries to run the repeater. The repeater crew is investigating. In the meantime, a temporary battery has been installed to provide power during AC failures.

As always, if you suspect that the repeater is not operating properly, or you hear a repeater site door alarm without hearing someone notify that they are present, please contact **Glenn N6GIW** or **Chris WB6CDF** by phone. Their numbers are in the club roster.

Another item on the committee's agenda is to improve the audio level from the 29 Palms repeater to Yucca Valley.

Have a happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year.

73, Glenn N6GIW



Skywarn Recognition Day

December 7, 2019 from 0000z to 2400z

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the **National Weather Service** and the **American Radio Relay League**. It celebrates the contributions that **SKYWARN™** volunteers make to the **NWS** mission, the protection of life and property. Amateur radio operators comprise a large percentage of the **SKYWARN™** volunteers across the country. The Amateur radio operators also provide vital communication between the **NWS** and emergency management if normal communications become inoperative. During the **SKYWARN™ Special Event** operators will visit **NWS** offices and contact other radio operators across the world.



SKYWARN® Recognition Day Operating Instructions

Object For all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SKYWARN® Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by amateur radio operators during threatening weather.

Date NWS stations will operate December 2, 2019, from 0000 – 2400 UTC. Exchange: Call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one- or two-word description of the weather occurring at your site (“sunny”, “partly cloudy”, “windy”, etc.).

Modes: NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append “NWS” to their call sign (e.g., N0A/NWS).

- Station Control Operator: It is suggested that during SRD operations a non-NWS volunteer should serve as a control operator for your station.
- Event and QSL Information: The National Weather Service will provide event information via the internet. Event certificates will once again be electronic and printable from the main website after the conclusion of SRD.



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Coming to a mountain top near you in 2020! A great network that hams can connect on. No Internet required only an antenna and your computer. More information to come in the next couple months About this great system that all hams should be part of. We have had quite a few hams locally showing interest in this system and I can't wait to get started on the next couple of nodes for the area.

Keith N6GKB

<https://www.arednmesh.org/>

Todd Root's IRLP NODE

I have talked to some of you that don't know about Todd's Node on 145.770, with a PL 67.0 and no offset. It is located on the east end of Yucca Valley.

It is usually quite active with a wide variety of ham related Nets throughout the week from early morning until late into the night.

The NODE schedule is as follows:

- Monday-Saturday: The Alaska morning net at 10am
- The RED EYE net is on 7 days a week at 10pm
- Tuesday: is the Tech net at from 5pm-7pm
- Thursday: is the outdoors net at 7:30pm
- And every Saturday is the NEWSLINE at 5pm



THANK YOU, ROB AND JUDY, FOR THE USE OF THIS NEW BANNER FOR ANY FUTURE CLUB PUBLIC EVENTS. IT LOOKS GREAT.

Discover all that you can do with your amateur radio license in "On the Air" magazine!

On the Air magazine is the newest ARRL member benefit to help new licensees and beginner-to-intermediate radio communicators navigate the world of amateur radio. Delivered six times a year, the magazine will present articles, how-to's, and tips for selecting equipment, building projects, getting involved in emergency communication as well as spotlighting the experiences of people using radio to serve their communities, and those using it for enjoyment.

Whether you just passed your Technician exam or have been licensed for years but never got around to making contacts or starting a project, **On the Air** can help you take your interest in radio to the next level with clear, useful information.

View the latest digital edition of On the Air. (beginning mid-January 2020)

To view the current digital magazines or archived editions, members must log in with their registered username and password. Your username and password will be the same credentials used to log in to the ARRL website. If you are having difficulty logging in to the digital formats, please visit the [Member Support](#) page for login assistance.

Print Editions

ARRL offers two magazines options for members: [QST](#), the official membership journal of ARRL and, beginning in 2020, [On the Air](#), aimed at helping new and emerging radio communicators get active and on the air! Eligible US-based ARRL members can elect to receive one of these in print when they join, or upon their annual renewal.

Digital Editions & Archives

If you are a current ARRL member, US or International, you can access the digital editions of both QST and On the Air via your browser or the ARRL mobile apps.

ARRL Magazine Apps

Members can download these free ARRL Magazine apps to access the digital editions of *On the Air* and *QST*.



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Editor Point of Contact (POC)

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Submission deadline is 4 days before the 1st of each month



DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS GLENN		ARES Meeting 6:00 pm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS FRED				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS GEORGE		No meeting this month, read newsletter for next meeting!		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS KEITH				
29	30	31				
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS CHRIS				