

# MBARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter



MAY 2025 EDITION

[w6ba.net](http://w6ba.net)

[Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club](https://www.facebook.com/MorongoBasinAmateurRadioClub)



Judy Laffoon N6JLL visits the MBARC tent. Keith N6GKB is posted at the table to greet visitors. – Photo by KO6DAV

## MBARC at Emergency Preparedness Event

By Maja Chesney KO6DAV, submitted on April 26, 2025

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club (MBARC) participated in the "Help Yourself, Help Your Neighbor Emergency Preparedness Event," held on Saturday, April 12, 2025, from 9am to 1pm at the Walmart parking lot in Yucca Valley, California.

Club President Paul Edwards AA6SM, along with fellow MBARC members, shared valuable information about radio communications with attendees at the club's booth. Visitors asked questions about radio and some expressed interest in joining the club.

The free, family-friendly community fair was organized by the Morongo Basin Community Organizations Active in Disaster (MB COAD) and the High Desert Emergency Action Alliance (HDEAA). Various organizations and community members participated in the event, offering interactive emergency preparedness workshops, demonstrations, and an opportunity to meet local first responders.

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## Information At A Glance

### Upcoming Club Meetings

Monthly club meetings are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday, every month, at 1400.

#### 📅 Date & Time 📍 Location

May 17 @ 1400 [Yucca Mesa Community Center](#)

Jun 21 @ 1400 [Yucca Mesa Community Center](#)

Jul 19 @ 1400 [Yucca Mesa Community Center](#)

### 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 [2<sup>nd</sup> to last page](#) for detailed diagram of the MBARC Linked Repeater System or visit [w6ba.net](http://w6ba.net).

📍 Site	📶 MHz	±	📶
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	Ø	146.2

### Local VoIP-to-RF Nodes

📶 System	# Node	📶 RF Link
AllStarLink	503088	KM6IAU to W6BA YV
EchoLink	KM6IAU-L	KM6IAU to W6BA YV
EchoLink	WO4ROB-L	WO4ROB to W6BA YV

### Local RF-to-VoIP Nodes

📍 Site	📶 MHz	±	📶	📶 System	# Node/TG
KD6DIQ YV	145.770	Ø	67.0	AllStar	<a href="#">28855</a>
WB6CDF YV	447.000	–	📶 10	DMR/BM	TS1: TG 3106 TS2: TG 2

## MBARC Board of Directors

<i>President</i> --- Paul Edwards	<b>AA6SM</b>
<i>Vice President</i> --- Larry Mollica	<b>AD6G</b>
<i>Secretary</i> --- Jake Jakubowski	<b>N6XIV</b>
<i>Treasurer</i> --- Glenn Miller	<b>N6GIW</b>
<i>Board Members</i> --- Aaron Chesney	<b>KM6IAU</b>
Bryan Heveron	<b>KF6YGK</b>
Rob Cloutier	<b>WO4ROB</b>
<i>Repeater Trustee</i> --- Glenn Miller	<b>N6GIW</b>

## MBARC Beacon --- MAY 2025 EDITION




<i>Editor</i> --- Aaron Chesney	<b>KM6IAU</b>
<i>Photos</i> --- Maja Chesney	<b>KO6DAV</b>
Kathie Edwards	
<i>Article Contributors</i> --- Maja Chesney	<b>KO6DAV</b>
Aaron Chesney	<b>KM6IAU</b>
Steve Harrison	<b>KØXP</b>
<i>Regular Sections</i> --- Maja Chesney	<b>KO6DAV</b>

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## Your Newsletter, Your Voice.

If you have material you'd like to share in a future newsletter, [get in touch](#).

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

## President's Message




A special thanks to all who supported the fifth anniversary of the morning "Cawfee Tawk" net. There were thirty check-ins on March 30, shattering the old record of twenty-four set the previous year.

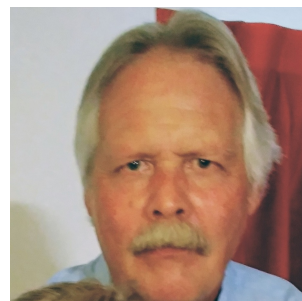
Summer Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC (1100 Pacific) Saturday and running through 2059 UTC (1059 Pacific) Sunday. Field Day 2025 is June 25-26. **MBARC** will be set up at the Yucca Mesa Community Center. Field Day is amateur radio's open house and is a great way to promote ourselves to the community! Please participate if you can.

The updated club website [W6BA.net](http://W6BA.net) is online. Any suggestions or bug reports are appreciated. Send those to [webmaster@W6BA.net](mailto:webmaster@W6BA.net).

Suggestions as to where we want to go and what we want to do as a club are always welcome. I can be contacted at the club's email address [w6ba.condition765@slmail.me](mailto:w6ba.condition765@slmail.me) and I will always respond to any serious query. After all, this is your club!

73s,

 Paul Edwards **AA6SM**  
 [262-412-7323](tel:262-412-7323)  
 [w6ba.condition765@slmail.me](mailto:w6ba.condition765@slmail.me)





*By Aaron Chesney KM6IAU, submitted April 25, 2025*

As with amateur radio in general, the past year as newsletter editor has given me the opportunity to improve my communication skill. It has also been uniquely beneficial to further developing my visual communication skill.

Such notwithstanding, I have sought to be transparent when publishing the submissions which are generously provided by club members. Where editorialization occurs, I strive to always cast good light on our club and club members. I appreciate your trust.

I'm not writing this article to sing praises about myself, however. *Indeed*, many of you thank me every month for a great newsletter – and I do absolutely appreciate your kind words.

Instead, I'm writing this article to appeal for more participation. Sometimes, I find that I need to write small articles to cover stories which don't require enormous detail. *(As I wrote that, I bounced it off of Maja **KO6DAV**, and she graciously volunteered to write a short story about the club's participation at the recent Emergency Preparedness Event in April. What a relief for me!)*




I believe the real reason we have a radio club isn't to show off technical ability – *and sure, I've been guilty of it* – but instead to foster a community around a shared interest. To that end, I want to encourage folks who are on the fence

Regular Section by Maja Chesney **KO6DAV**

On behalf of the club, I want to extend our warmest birthday wishes to all our cherished members celebrating a birthday this month.

May your special day bring joy, love, and peace. Stay happy and blessed.

If you'd like your birthday to be included for recognition here and on the club's [Facebook page](#), [get in touch](#). ---

 Maja Chesney **KO6DAV**  
 442-205-1983, extension 6  
 [maj.chesney@gmail.com](mailto:maj.chesney@gmail.com)

Cover page of the MAY 2024 newsletter.

about writing an article for the newsletter to set aside the fear of, “*They don’t want to hear from me,*” or, “*I don’t know radio as well as others,*” and rise to the call of the spirit of our club; “*I enjoy being a part of this club,*” or, “*I learned something new at the last meeting and it blew my mind!*” ---

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Aaron **KM6IAU** gives a presentation during the April 2025 club meeting. – Photo by Maja **KO6DAV**

## Meeting Minutes – APRIL 2025

Submitted by Jake Jakubowski **N6XIV**, Club Secretary

*Editor's note: This is an edited version. For the official record, contact the club secretary.*

Kathie Edwards set up a coffee and sweet rolls bar for members to enjoy ahead of the meeting.

President Paul Edwards **AA6SM** opened the meeting at 1400 and announced the club officers.

Then, club members and guests round table announced their name, callsign, and town of residence.

Club Treasurer Glenn Miller **N6GIW** reported a balance of \$3,179.42.

Larry Mollica **AD6G**, on behalf of the Repeater Committee, spoke about a possible repeater replacement.

President Paul Edwards **AA6SM** indicated that there was a trailer available for club use. He called for a quick vote on whether to have a meeting before field day. Paul also contacted 8 media outlets for field day coverage. Ham residents of Cadiz and Amboy requested to be included in the membership.

There was a quick discussion about implementing SSL on the club's site. Cost and practicality is under review.

The members approved to reimburse Kathie Edwards for the Club meetings coffee bar expenses.

Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU** gave a presentation on air- and iron-core transformers. It included a slideshow and a live demonstration.

Keith Board **N6GKB** won \$18 from the 50/50 raffle.

There were 21 attendees to the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1500.

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Aaron **KM6IAU** demonstrates a rudimentary iron-core transformer to illustrate power transfer through a magnetic flux. – Photo by Kathie Edwards



# Plan C Orion Antler Spread

By Steve Harrison **KØXP**, submitted on April 22, 2025

## Introduction

I was going to title the following report “**APRIL 2025 HF CW Activity Report**”<sup>\*</sup> but then I remembered that I also operate 6- and 2-meter CW; thus, there would be reports from time to time for those bands, as well. (Plus 222 and 432 MHz, if I ever get the V/UHF tower and yagis up...)


All of the QSOs mentioned below took place on CW; I no longer operate any voice modes due to my hearing loss and lack of understanding of voices heard on the radio (as well as telephone).

## A Bit of Background

I first became familiar with the Twentynine Palms area when I visited and operated at Bill Adams’<sup>†</sup> home outside Twentynine Palms back in 1973 during the CQ WW DX CW contest. I was one of three other operators that Bill hosted that weekend. I operated from Bill’s home again in 1974 or 1975; at that time, he was still **W6ANN**. I always loved driving out here from my parent’s home on the Palos Verdes Peninsula, but it would be 50+ years before I was able to return.

## The Present

In March 2022, I bought ten acres of “vacant land” in Wonder Valley. At the time, there was a dilapidated double-wide house (most of the siding had been stripped off) just about in the center of the property, which had apparently been used as a marijuana grow farm in the recent past before being raided and shut down. My intention was to build an antenna farm as well as I could with which to enjoy my “Golden Years”. The



PLAN C ORION ANTLER SPREAD

**KØXP**


CALIFORNIA, USA  
San Bernardino County  
Grid Square DM24ad  
CQ ZONE 03  
ITU ZONE 06

CONFIRMING QSO WITH	DATE			UTC	MHZ	RST	MODE 2-WAY
	DAY	MONTH	YEAR				

STEVE HARRISON  
ex-WB6PKA, K00U

MAILING ADDRESS: 5647 ADOBE ROAD #23  
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277

STATION QTH: 77176 TWO MILE ROAD  
TWENTYNINE PALMS, CA 92277



73, Steve KØXP  
craftedbymaja@gmail.com

☒ TNX QSL ☒ PSE QSL

L210Z PRINT  
www.L210Z.com

Steve Harrison **KØXP**’s QSL card. – Photo by Maja **KO6DAV**

property is only 330-feet wide, but 1,320-feet deep north-to-south, and only ⅝-mile from the easternmost-border of Twentynine Palms. The nearest neighbor is a quarter mile away on the next “block”, with several others a bit further out. The only neighbors I have on my “block” (which is a mile deep north-to-south and half a mile wide east-to-west) are nearly a mile to my north. After dark, you can, at times, watch the Marines from the base shoot off their artillery and rockets some 5 to 10 miles to the north.

After getting a dumpster of trash picked up from the property and taken to the dump, I had a nice, long concrete driveway laid down next to the house, on which I then placed a 40-foot cargo container, plus other appurtenances. There is no running water nor other public utilities on the property at present;

the nearest Edison power pole is a quarter mile to my SE. I get power from a set of solar panels laid out in the driveway, charging a set of LiFePO4 batteries then feeding a large sinewave 120VAC inverter, and use bottled water.

## Building My Ham Station Here

In April 2023, a longtime former member of **MBARC**, Dave Bradley, **KE6BHL**, advertised his old Wilson 77-foot free-standing telescoping pipe tower on the **MBARC** Facebook page in trade for a new antenna rotator and winch for his smaller tower. I don’t know whether anybody else ever expressed an interest in the tower, but it was exactly what I’d been looking for. I quickly made arrangements to pick it up; however, it was some months before that happened. Meanwhile, I acquired a 24 (plus) -foot boat trailer on which to haul the tower

<sup>\*</sup> The activity report follows this series introduction of the **Plan C Orion Antler Spread**.

<sup>†</sup> This newsletter has recently included other submissions regarding silent-key Bill Adams **W6BA**. Find them in the [DECEMBER 2024](#) and [APRIL 2025](#) editions, available on our club website: [w6ba.net](http://w6ba.net).





UTC Date	Time	Freq KHz	Callsign	RST Sent Rcvd	Country	Comments
2025-04-01	03:39	7 017	TY5FR	559 559	Benin	2nd band
2025-04-01	07:01	14 015	TM40REF	599 599	France	QSO?
2025-04-01	20:47	28 004	7Q5BM	599 599	Malawi	
2025-04-02	14:14	18 087	PJ7AA	599 599	Sint Maarten Isl.	2nd band
2025-04-03	12:15	7 007	8A100IARU	599 599	Indonesia	
2025-04-03	12:28	14 028	8A100IARU	599 599	Indonesia	2nd band
2025-04-05	12:15	10 119	JA1YVT/JD1	599 599	Ogasawara Isl.	
2025-04-06	00:20	24 892	8A100IARU	599 599	Indonesia	3rd band
2025-04-06	21:55	24 905	FJ/KK6IK	599 599	St. Barthelemy Isl.	
2025-04-07	00:27	28 029	8A100IARU	599 599	Indonesia	4th band
2025-04-07	00:36	21 007	8A100IARU	599 599	Indonesia	5th band
2025-04-07	04:46	18 075	JA1YVT/JD1	599 599	Ogasawara Isl.	
2025-04-07	21:04	18 075	FJ/K6EI	329 599	St. Barthelemy Isl.	
2025-04-10	01:19	10 106	VP2VI	599 599	British Virgin Islands (BVI)	
2025-04-10	01:29	7 017	VP2VI	599 599	BVI	2nd band
2025-04-10	18:23	28 021	VP2VI	599 599	BVI	3rd band Took 2 hours!
2025-04-10	18:32	24 897	VP2VI	599 599	BVI	4th band Took 2-1/2 hours!
2025-04-11	02:07	14 028	VP2VI	599 599	BVI	5th band
2025-04-11	02:13	10 115	FJ/K6EI	599 599	St. Barthelemy Isl.	2nd band
2025-04-11	02:58	21 040	TX7XG	599 599	French Polynesia	
2025-04-12	02:07	3 501	VP2VI	599 599	BVI	6th band
2025-04-13	02:40	1 827	VP2VI	599 599	BVI	7th band
2025-04-13	19:19	14 023	RI42SP	599 599	Russian Arctic Ice Station	
2025-04-14	18:43	21 021	VP2VI	599 599	BVI	8th band
2025-04-14	23:46	18 081	4A100IARU	599 599	Mexico	
2025-04-14	23:48	21 033	4A100IARU	599 599	Mexico	2nd band
2025-04-15	01:50	24 895	TX7XG	599 599	French Polynesia	2nd band
2025-04-15	03:11	7 028	4A100IARU	599 599	Mexico	3rd band
2025-04-15	05:54	7 020	A01IARU	599 599	Spain	
2025-04-15	05:57	7 017	A04IARU	599 599	Spain	
2025-04-15	09:05	14 035	FK8HC	599 599	New Caledonia	
2025-04-15	10:18	7 008	8K3EXPO	599 599	Japan	
2025-04-15	15:11	18 074	VP2VI	599 599	BVI	9th and last band
2025-04-15	15:20	21 020	A01IARU	599 599	Spain	2nd band
2025-04-15	17:55	21 023	A05IARU	599 599	Spain	
2025-04-16	00:08	14 020	4A100IARU	599 599	Mexico	4th band
2025-04-16	03:25	7 014	A07IARU	599 599	Spain	
2025-04-17	11:46	3 558	8A100IARU	339 599	Indonesia	QSO?? (No QSO found in his log)
2025-04-17	13:29	10 112	8A100IARU	599 599	Indonesia	6th band
2025-04-17	14:32	18 086	8A100IARU	599 599	Indonesia	7th band
2025-04-17	22:24	18 080	VP9KF	599 599	Bermuda	
2025-04-17	22:27	21 027	8A100IARU	599 599	Indonesia	dupe Q
2025-04-18	11:36	7 007	8A100IARU	599 599	Indonesia	dupe Q
2025-04-18	18:56	28 029	A01IARU	599 599	Spain	3rd band
2025-04-19	03:09	14 025	HD8G	599 599	Galapagos Isl.	
2025-04-21	16:06	24 893	HD8G	599 599	Galapagos Isl.	2nd band
2025-04-21	16:30	21 023	HD8G	599 599	Galapagos Isl.	3rd band
2025-04-21	18:41	28 023	HD8G	599 599	Galapagos Isl.	4th band
2025-04-21	20:20	28 000	VP9KF	599 599	Bermuda	2nd band
2025-04-22	02:30	14 023	HD8G	599 599	Galapagos Isl.	dupe Q
2025-04-22	02:35	7 001	HD8G	599 599	Galapagos Isl.	5th band
2025-04-22	08:25	14 012	YJ8CW	559 339	Vanuatu	Nice QSO w/Colin
2025-04-23	09:26	10 108	FM5BH	599 599	Martinique Isl.	4th band
2025-04-24	04:11	18 073	HD8G	599 599	Galapagos Isl.	6th band
2025-04-24	23:27	24 891	AX2IG	559 559	Australia	Mike; ANZAC Day special event station

2025-04-25	01:45	10 103	<b>HD8G</b>	599	599	Galapagos Isl.	7th band
2025-04-25	10:28	7 023	<b>FM5BH</b>	599	599	Martinique Isl.	5th band
2025-04-25	16:44	18 081	<b>E25CRF</b>	599	599	Thailand	
2025-04-26	00:20	28 016	<b>TX9A</b>	599	599	Austral Islands	
2025-04-26	00:47	14 034	<b>7Q6M</b>	599	599	Malawi	7th band; Friend of mine, Don K6ZO
2025-04-26	03:52	7 022	<b>TX9A</b>	599	599	Austral Islands	2nd band
2025-04-26	03:55	21 010	<b>TX9A</b>	599	599	Austral Islands	3rd band
2025-04-26	21:22	24 901	<b>VK9XG</b>	599	599	Norfolk Isl.	6th band
2025-04-26	21:48	24 905	<b>5H1KB</b>	599	599	Tanzania	

No 6-meter contacts are listed because even though there were severe thunderstorms and weather events (which often cause Sporadic-Es) over most of the United States this past month, I did not catch any Sporadic-E openings at all. This is not very unusual for the hi-desert of Southern California, but it was somewhat disappointing. I also did not catch any Trans–Equatorial–Propagation (TEP) openings.

Over the weekend of April 19-20, I participated in the CWJF Group-sponsored CQMM DX contest, making a total of 480 QSOs in 59 countries and 84 South American prefixes on 80-through 10-meters CW for a total claimed score of 340.054 points. This score, according to those that have been submitted to [3830scores.com](https://3830scores.com), so far places me 11th in the USA among the Single Op High Power entrants. However, only about 1,352 logs have been accepted by the contest sponsor as of this writing, and this contest usually receives over 2,000 logs each year. So there may well be more scores that will be higher than mine that will be submitted before the deadline on June 30. Nevertheless, my score was fairly good, especially for only using two low wire antlers with tuners. I hope that by the time

this contest rolls around again next year, I will have **KE6BHL**'s tower supporting my big yagi antennas and some much-higher wire antlers than I have right now. We'll see.

The next big contest in which I might participate is the CQ World Wide WPX CW, on May 24-25, 2025 (the SSB contest, which I don't do) has already taken place in March. In this one, the objective is to work as many callsign prefixes as possible, over a period of 48 hours, starting Friday at 5 pm (00:00:00Z) through 4:59:59pm (23:59:59Z) Sunday, on any amateur HF band (except the WARC bands of 30M, 17M and 12M, of course). Right now, I'm not real enthusiastic about operating 48 hours over a weekend for that one; but perhaps I'll get in it just to work new countries; we'll see what happens.

That concludes this April Activity report from the Plan C Orion Antler Spread; see you next month! If anybody would like help or advice on how to get involved with CW operation on our HF bands, just drop me a note at [k0xp@k0xp.com](mailto:k0xp@k0xp.com) and I'll get right back to you.

73, Steve **KØXP** (/6)

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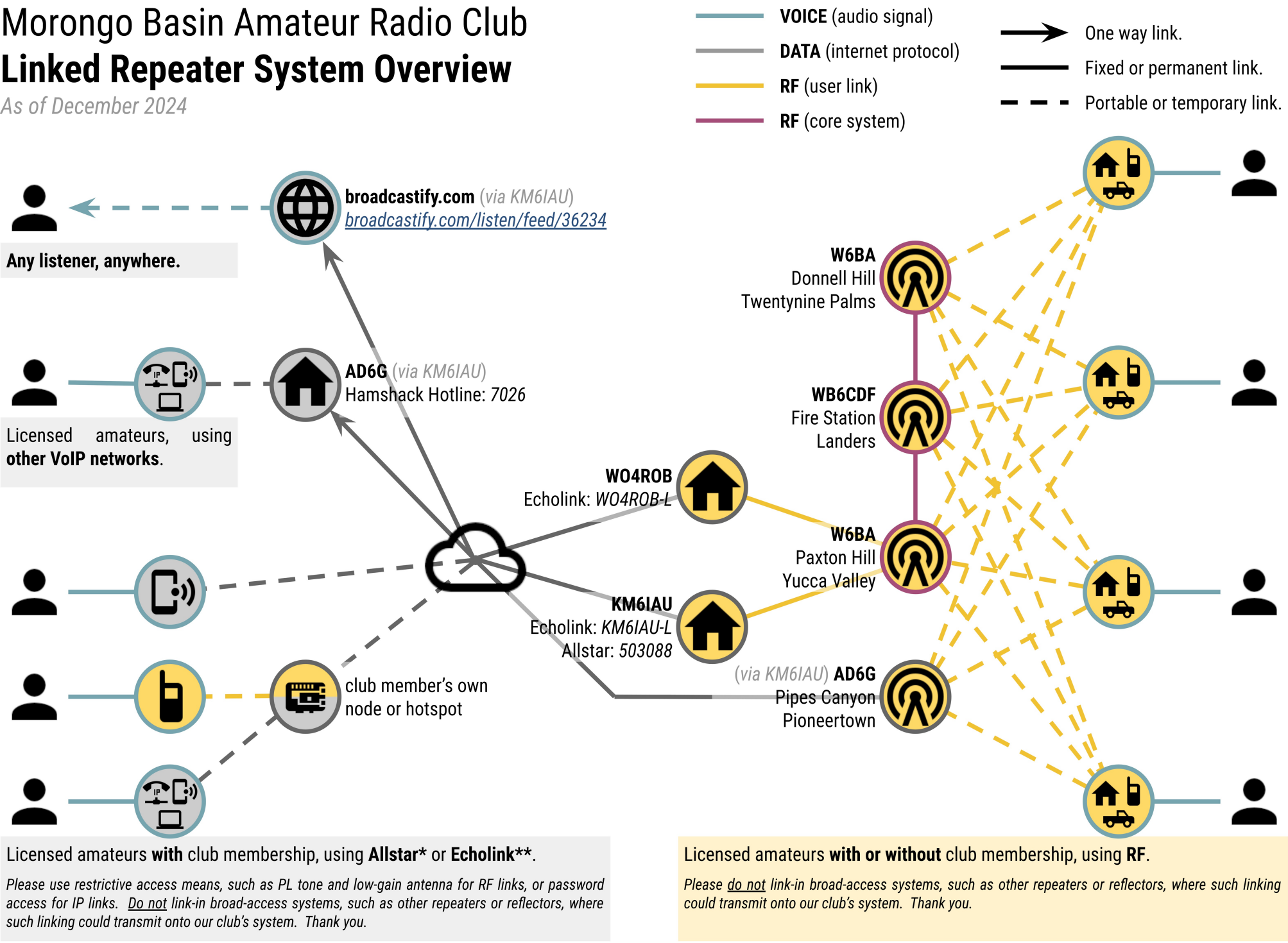
📘 [Crafted by Maja](#)



# Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club

## Linked Repeater System Overview

As of December 2024



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](mailto:linkrequest@W6BA.net) to submit your request.  
\*\* Echolink access may need to be manually set up. Contact [linkrequest@W6BA.net](mailto:linkrequest@W6BA.net) to submit your request.

Calendar – MAY 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Apr 27	Apr 28	Apr 29	Apr 30	1	2	3
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Larry AD6G				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Keith N6GKB				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Judy KK6NWG				1400 – Club mtg, <a href="#">Yucca Mesa</a> <a href="#">Community Center</a>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Paul AA6SM				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Fred WO6C		birthday: Loren KM6QQP		

KD6DIQ AllStarLink  
Node#28855 Schedule

YV: 145.77MHz, Øshift, ☐67.0Hz

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 Newsline  
2000 – 2200 East Coast Refl. #45225