



# MARC Beacon

Volume 11, Issue 1

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

JANUARY 2022

. Hello everybody! Happy 2022! We are totally enjoying Destin Florida, spending lots of time with our one-year-old granddaughter.

I have upgraded my GPS Home Locator Arduino project that will allow you to save 10 locations and view information in the metric or imperial system. If you purchased one from me then please bring it to the next meeting so I can update it to version 3.0.

I am starting to run out of the 32 KB of Arduino memory while building my electronic projects, so I'll be upgrading to the ESP32 microcontroller which has 4 MB of programmable memory. Contact me if you have created anything with the ESP32.

Please schedule time to check in on the 7 PM Tuesday net, and if you can, please join us on the "Cawfee Tawk" net every morning at 10 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.

**Rob Cloutier**  
**WO4ROB**

Joshua tree  
Club President  
(760)401-6666

[rob\\_cloutier@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_cloutier@hotmail.com)



## Nets

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)  
Mon @ 1915  
Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club (MARC)  
Tue @ 1900  
**MARC Daily informal Kawfee Talk**  
**1000-1100 DAILY**

## 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. At the church of the Nazarene in Yucca Valley at 56248 Buena Vista Dr

## 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

## OTHER AREA REPEATERS

IRLP Node KD6DIQ 145.770 pl 67.0

ONYX Peak N6LXX 446.880 (-) pl 110.9

San Jacinto TRAM one 145.480 (-) pl 107.2

Snow Peak 445.160 (-) pl 67.0

ALLSTAR NODE on the mesa 147.705 pl 146.2

ALLSTAR NODE in Y.V. 446.120 pl 131.8

29 PALMS rpt linked to KELLER peak

448.580 pl 146.2



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## WU WEATHER UNDERGROUND

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=KCAUYCCA57>

Glenn N6GIW

## KEN HENDRICKSON, W6BZY



Some helpful you tube videos from Ken W6BZY about Linux and raspberry Pi.



Search **W6BZY** on YouTube.

### US Amateur Radio Band Chart

<http://ham.band>

- Easy to remember link
- Easy to use on desktop or mobile
- Light-mode/Dark-mode switchable
- Familiar layout

Send feature requests to [Aaron@KM6IAU.net](mailto:Aaron@KM6IAU.net)



## OUR CLUB MEETING!!!!

IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY, OUR LOCAL CLUB MEETING WILL BE :

**6:00 P.M. JANUARY 20TH**

**At Church of the Nazarene in  
Yucca Valley at  
56248 Buena Vista Dr.**

## NEW CLUB FACEBOOK GROUP FOR THE MARC CLUB

I have created a Facebook "Group" for the Club. We currently have a FB "Page" which only allows Admins and Moderators to post directly on the Posts section.

Here is the link to the new "Group" - so if you are on Facebook, please click on this link and LIKE our new Group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/577155023327981>

The new Group will be must more user friendly. Feedback is most welcome. Thanks, Judy, N6JLL

**THANK YOU JUDY N6JLL**





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## ARRL to Oppose Forest Service Administrative Fees for Amateur Facilities

The US Forest Service is proposing to implement a statutorily required annual fee for new and existing communications use authorizations to cover the costs of administering its authorization program. ARRL plans to vigorously oppose the imposition of the proposed fees on Amateur Radio.

The Forest Service proposal results from requirements set forth in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (aka "the Farm Bill").

Specifically, section 8705(c)(3)(b) of the Farm Bill directs the Forest Service to issue regulations that require fees for issuing communications use authorizations based on the cost to the Agency for maintenance or other activities to be performed by the Agency "as a result of the location or modification of a communications facility."

The Forest Service is responsible for managing Federal lands and authorizes the use and occupancy of National Forest System (NFS) lands for communications facilities that provide communications services for adjacent rural and urban communities. The Agency said in its proposal that it administers more than 3,700 special use authorizations on NFS lands for infrastructure that supports more than 10,000 wireless communications uses at 1,367 communications sites.

According to the Forest Service Notice published in the December 22, 2021 issue of the Federal Register, revenues from the proposed fee, "would provide the funds necessary to support a more modernized, efficient, and enhanced communications use program," and will "cover the costs of administering the Agency's communications use program." Costs, as laid out in section 8705(f)(4) of the Farm Bill, may include expenditures for such things as "on-site reviews of communications sites, developing communications site management plans, hiring and training personnel for the communications use program, conducting internal and external outreach for and national oversight of the communications use program, and obtaining or improving access to communications sites on NFS lands."

ARRL encourages Amateur Radio licensees to file

comments opposing the imposition of the proposed administrative fee on Amateur Radio users.

Comments must be received in writing by no later than February 22, 2022.

## Hurricane Watch Net Recorded 300 On-Air Hours in 2021

Hurricane Watch Net (HWN) Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, says 2021 was the third most-active hurricane season on record in terms of named storms, and was the sixth consecutive above-normal season.

"We've completed another hurricane season. The Atlantic basin was extremely busy again for 2021," Graves told HWN members. "For the year, we had 21 named storms, seven of which became hurricanes, and four of those became major hurricanes -- Category 3 or stronger." Graves noted that 2021 marked the first year on record that two consecutive hurricane seasons exhausted the list of 21 storm names.



Tropical systems that made landfall caused estimated total damage of \$70 billion, as of the end of November, making 2021 the fourth most costly hurricane season on record, behind 2012, 2005, and 2017.

Graves recounted that several tropical systems made an impact on land this year. "In August, Tropical Storm Fred caused devastating flooding across parts of the Greater Antilles and the southeastern United States," he said. "Hurricane Grace made two landfalls in Mexico -- first as a Category 1 hurricane just south of Tulum on the southeast Yucatán [Peninsula], and second as a Category 3 major hurricane in the Mexican state of Veracruz."

"Hurricane Ida was a deadly and destructive hurricane that made landfall in Louisiana as a Category 4 hurricane -- the most intense and destructive hurricane





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**HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV.**

to affect the state since Hurricane Katrina," Graves continued. He noted that Ida also caused catastrophic flooding across the US northeast.

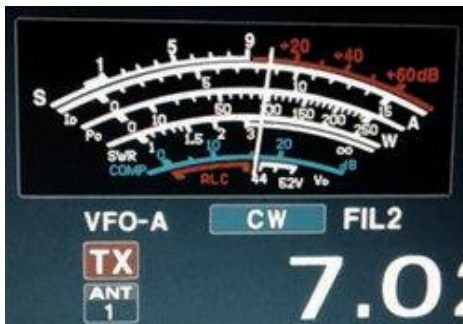
"Hurricane Larry peaked as a powerful Category 3 hurricane over the open Atlantic [Ocean] before making landfall in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador as a Category 1 hurricane. Later, Hurricane Nicholas moved erratically both on and

offshore [on] the coasts of Texas and Louisiana," he said.

In 2021, the HWN activated for five hurricanes -- Elsa, Grace, Henri, Ida, and Larry. Graves said the HWN racked up nearly 300 hours on the air, with 140 of those spent on Hurricane Ida alone.

## New Low-Power Limit for ARRL HF Contests Goes into Effect on January 1, 2022

ARRL has set a new standard for what counts as low power for ARRL-sponsored HF contests. The new limit is 100 W, which is down from the 150 W limit that has been permitted in some events, including the ARRL November Sweepstakes.



With the exception of ARRL Field Day, this change goes into effect on January 1, 2022, for all ARRL-sponsored HF contests, as well as the [IARU HF World Championship](#).

This change has been implemented to standardize low-power categories within the contesting community. However, on a more practical level, the typical modern HF transceiver has a maximum power output of 100 W.

## Our Local repeater, Stuff you may need to know.

By Larry Mollica AD6G

### Remember; pause before you talk!

When using the Morongo Basin linked repeater system (W6BA Yucca Valley, WB6CDF Landers, W6BA Twentynine Palms), please keep in mind that because of inherent delays in the hardware, it takes maybe a second or a little more for the transmitters to come up from one end of the system to the other. That doesn't seem like much, but if you're in the habit of speaking immediately as you key down on that PTT, your first two or three words will probably not make it to the far end.

Now that the link system audio has been improved, happily people are starting to use it more often, and already this clipping of the first few words of transmissions is being heard on various QSOs, probably mine included. If someone tells you that you are "quick keying", this is shorthand for "you spoke to soon and I missed the first few words". Just take a pause after you "squeeze the pickle", enough to think "one one-thousand" or what-have-you for delay of about one to two seconds, and all will be fine. Feel free to remind me when I do it!

The technical story in brief; when you key up at one end of the system (Yucca Valley or 29 Palms), each site brings up the next site in succession. A large part of the delay involved has to do with the fact that CTCSS (tone squelch) decoders take a certain amount of time to detect tone. When you transmit at one end of the system, the tone decoders in, at minimum, three different receivers have to detect tone in succession before the far end repeater transmitter comes on the air. Make that FOUR receivers that have to detect tone, if the receiving station at the far end is using tone squelch instead of carrier squelch on his or her radio. And there's even MORE delay if the receiving party is using an HT and the battery saver timer is active. All these delays are additive, so even though each delay may be a mere 100 to 200 milliseconds in length, combined they make for a noticeable delay.

Larry Mollica

AD6G (née WA6FSJ)





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## Our December Club Meeting and Christmas party.

HELLO ALL, we had a great time at our meeting/Christmas party. A lot of great folks and food. And the white elephant gifts were off the charts as usual. Thank you to everyone for coming and the festive outfits every one wore. ALSO thank you to JUDY for the party ideas and food it was great.







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## Membership Dues

**We are doing our club dues round up at the beginning of the year.**

**If you're not sure if your dues are up to date, please check with Glenn N6GIW and he can let you know if they are due or when they are due.**

**Not everyone is due at the same time of the year**

## New Chinese Amateur Radio Satellite In Orbit

China successfully launched Xiwang 3 (XW-3), a CubeSat built by the Chinese Amateur Satellite Group (CAMSAT) on 26th December 03:11 UTC (11:11 Beijing Time). The 6U Cubesat was placed successfully into LEO along with the rocket's primary payload Ziyuan-1 02E via Chang Zheng 4C rocket.

Xiwang – meaning Hope – is equipped with a small visible-light camera whose images will be downlinked along with telemetry through a GMSK-modulated downlink which will be openly accessible to amateur radio enthusiasts. It also carries a telemetry beacon, an x-band transponder and a thermoelectric generator – the latter being carried as part of a high school experiment.

The 100 mW linear transponder will have an uplink frequency of 145.870 MHz and a downlink frequency of 435.18 MHz (transponder passband is 30 kHz, inverted). The satellite also has a CW beacon on 435.575 MHz

Xiwang 3 (XW-3) [user manual](#) has more details.



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## WSJT-X Development Team Releases Version 2.5.3

The WSJT-X Development Team - Joe Taylor, K1JT; Steve Franke, K9AN; and Nico Palermo, IV3NWV - have announced the release of version 2.5.3. This new release includes a feature of special interest to users participating in the ARRL January VHF Contest (January 15-17, 2022).

The new feature for the ARRL VHF contests is an enhanced macro facility for Tx messages, aimed at making it easier to ask another station to QSY to a new band. The feature is described briefly in the User Guide at:

[physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjt-x/doc/wsjt-x-main-2.5.3.html#TXMACROS](https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT/wsjt-x/doc/wsjt-x-main-2.5.3.html#TXMACROS)

A download link has been posted on the WSJT-X web page at:

[physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt-x.html](https://physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/k1jt/wsjt-x.html).

## Locate the HAMs around you. It's easy.

<https://haminfo.tetranz.com/>

Use the link above and have fun

## Some Interesting Trivia

- Amateur Radio Stations NA1SS and RS0ISS are both located on the International Space Station.
- Joe Walsh, Jim Croce, Ronnie Milsap and Walter Cronkite are all hams.
- King Hussein of Jordan, JY1, always used his first name on ham radio. All others addressed him as "your highness".
- Yuri Gagarin (UA1LO), a Russian cosmonaut, was the first human in space and had the call letters of UA1LO.
- Actor Marlon Brando, held the call-letters KE6PZH & FO5GJ



**The Yuma Hamfest is happening. It will also be the Southwestern Division Convention. Camping, tailgating, and booth registrations are NOW open.**

The 17th Annual Yuma Hamfest is the site of the ARRL's premier event for the Southwest in 2022, The Southwestern Division Convention. The Yuma Hamfest has two aspects. It is a hamfest for Amateur Radio enthusiasts, complete with commercial exhibits, seminars, license testing and tailgating. For members of the general public, it is a trade show for emergency and disaster preparedness, with informational presentations and displays of emergency supplies and equipment.

There are hourly drawings for door prizes both Friday and Saturday. The numbers will be posted just inside the main Theater Building. You must be onsite to win the door prizes and claim them by 5:00 p.m. Saturday. On Saturday evening, in what has established itself as an annual tradition, the Buzzard Barbecue will be held in the Theater Building. Additional door prizes are given away following the barbecue dinner. And then at the end of the evening, we hold what has become the high-light of the Yuma Hamfest, the Grand Prize drawings.

For several years the Yuma Hamfest focused primarily on amateur radio, especially the emergency communications aspects of that hobby. Starting with the 2009 event, the event was expanded to include all facets of emergency and disaster preparedness. Would you know what to do if your home was without power, telephone service or water for ten days? By attending the Yuma Hamfest, you can find out the answer.

Last, but not least, there is a full seminar program scheduled for both Friday and Saturday. We have a selection of seminars at three different times on Friday and six different times on Saturday, presented in separate buildings on the fairgrounds. Seminar presentations on radio and emergency preparedness topics are planned. A list of seminars and their times can be found on the [seminar](#) link.



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## JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS JESSY		ARES Meeting TODAY 6:00 pm		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS LARRY				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS GLENN		CLUB MEETING AT 6PM		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS FRED				
30	31					
	ARES Net 7:15 pm			KAFEE TAWK 10AM DAILY CLUB REPEATER		