



# MBARC Beacon

Volume 13, Issue 1

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

JANUARY 2024

Hello radio operators! 2023 is behind us and we are now in 2024. May you all have an enjoyable new year.

Don't forget the monthly meeting 1800 Thursday 18 January. We will have the installation dinner for all club members, a white elephant gift exchange, and members will vote for the new club logo.

On Saturday 27 January 2024, we will be conducting a winter field day, at the Yucca Mesa Community Center. From 3 to 7 PM we will have an in person, paperless, amateur radio license, exam session. Please register at the following link if you would like to take an exam.

<https://ham.study/sessions/6525ef9ef84c1cc896d86cee/1>

Please schedule time to check in on the 7 PM Tuesday net, and if you can, please join us on the "Cawfee Tawk" net everyday from 1000 to 1100 AM.

Take care of yourself and enjoy each day. If you're not having fun, then you're doing something wrong.

**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

**YUCCA VALLEY AIRPORT 123.000**

## OTHER AREA REPEATERS

IRLP Node KD6DIQ 145.770 pl 67.0

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

**WWW.W6BA.NET**



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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**

**Starting 1 January 2024, the annual club membership dues will be \$30 for one person, \$40 for a family membership, and \$20 for active duty members.**

**THESE DUES INCREASE IS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN AND KEEP OUR SYSTEM REPAIRS UPDATED AS NEEDED.**

**ARE NEXT MEETING IS 6PM  
JANUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

**There will be an installation dinner and a white elephant after we eat.**

**So please bring a **WRAPPED** gift with no other markings on it. There will be a sign in sheet for everyone that did bring a gift for the white elephant gift exchange.**

**We are also asking from everyone that is coming to please bring a side dish or a main dish!! Please email me as soon as you can and know what you plan on bringing **AS SOON AS YOU CAN! PLEASE!!****

**Keith n6gkb@live.com**

## ARRL's Year of the Volunteers Success

2023 has been a remarkable year for amateur radio. There were many noteworthy opportunities for hams

to use their license privileges for the greater good. An annular solar eclipse saw [radio amateurs engaging in projects of scientific research](#) about our ionosphere, devastating firestorms gutted entire cities and saw [Amateur Radio Emergency Service member-volunteers rise to activate](#), [hurricanes threatened life and property](#),

bicycle races [spread across the desert](#) necessitating robust communications provided by hams, and high school students [led and executed contacts with the International Space Station](#). Many amateur radio operators stood to serve in ways that made headlines, and all of them were volunteers.

Still, tens of thousands of others did work that never made the pages of [QST](#), didn't become the lead story on the local news, and didn't become fodder for online forums. Perhaps it was the ARRL VE who administered tests, welcoming the next generation of hams into the hobby, or the National Traffic System net manager who handled traffic from hams checking in. It could've even been the mentor who took the time to show a learner how to solder. These are the unsung heroes of the Amateur Radio Service -- these are the volunteers.

ARRL has nearly 60,000 volunteers within its membership, without whom it could not function. They are the lifeblood of this hobby.





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ARRL designated 2023 as the [Year of the Volunteers](#) to recognize their efforts, encourage new prospective volunteers to follow their lead, and call existing volunteers to reach one rung higher on the ladder of service. The [Volunteers On the Air \(VOTA\)](#) operating event has been popular among hams, with some operators making nearly 30,000 QSOs throughout the yearlong



Sam Lovett, KI5RSV, was awarded the 2023 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award. [ARRL, photo.]

activation.

A young man from north Texas emerged as a leader.

Sam Lovett, KI5RSV, is just a teenager but has been awarded the 2023 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award for his success with developing interest in amateur radio among his peers. He leads a youth net and has been instrumental in building a strong ham culture in his Trail Life USA troop. A video interview with Sam will be featured in the February 2023 digital edition of *QST*.

Lyn Alfman, N8IMW, of Norwich, Ohio, was honored for her volunteer work in the public information space.

She received the 2023 ARRL Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award. The proclamation issued by the ARRL Board of Directors says that Lyn "exemplifies the skills and depth of understanding [needed] to convey to media outlets the fascinating world of

amateur radio."

ARRL's George Hart



Lyn Alfman, N8IMW, on the right, is presented with the 2023 ARRL Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award by ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Dale Williams, WA8EFK.

Distinguished Service Award honors the work member-volunteers put in to use their license privileges to serve others. Jo Ann Keith, KA5AZK, of Diana, Texas, is the 2023 recipient.

Jo Ann is the net manager of the 7290 Traffic Net, a public service traffic net that has been in operation since 1953. She has a long history of

volunteer work, dating back to her youth when she served as a candy striper. Like tens of thousands of others, Jo Ann uses amateur radio in the spirit of service.

These are just a few stories that can be told from the Year of the Volunteers. There are so many other stories out there, and we encourage you to tell your own.

While the Volunteers on the Air event closes on December 31, 2023 at 2359 UTC, the spirit of this year will continue as long as there are hams standing to serve others through amateur radio.





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## Will be at the Yucca Mesa community center at winter field day Saturday January 27<sup>th</sup>

. From 3 to 7 PM we will have an in person, paperless, amateur radio license, exam session. Please register at the following link if you would like to take an exam. <https://ham.study/sessions/6525ef9ef84c1cc896d86cee/1>

## VOTA: Badges on the Air

Join all of ARRL's volunteers on December 31, 2023, from 0000 - 2359 UTC, for the last day of the yearlong Volunteers On the Air (VOTA) operating event for your final chance to get some VOTA points. Last week's [Red Badges on the Air for VOTA](#) was



a hit, and ARRL wants to do one final push to cap off the year of operating that acknowledged and honored the service of volunteers to the amateur radio community.

There are no more W1AW/ portable operations scheduled for the year, but operators at ARRL Headquarters have the [Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station](#) active on weekdays, so there is still a chance to earn 100 points per band-mode for contacting ham radio's most famous call sign. Plus, listen for W1AW during VOTA: Badges on the Air, as it will be active in the event. Remember to download your certificate after the event is over. The link to generate it can be found [here](#).

## ARRL Straight Key Night 2024

The moment VOTA: Badges on the Air ends, another popular event gets started:

ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN) is held on January 1, 2024, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.

Many hams look forward to SKN as one of the



ARRL Straight Key Night (SKN) is January 1, 2024, from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC.

highlights of their operating year.

Operators participate using Morse code (CW). All you need is your favorite straight key or bug. Many participants dust off vintage radios and keys and put them back into service each year just for this event.

SKN is not a contest, so there's no need for quick exchanges. However, all hand keys, regardless of age, are welcome. The number of contacts you make is not important. The reward is meeting new friends as you get together on the air.

Send a list of stations contacted, SKN stories and photos, and your votes for Best Fist and Most Interesting QSO to [straightkey@arrl.org](mailto:straightkey@arrl.org) by January 31, 2024.

More information is available at [www.arrl.org/straight-key-night](http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night)

## YouTube Telethon to Raise Money for ARRL Teachers Institute on Wireless Technology



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There's a fun way to raise money for the future of amateur radio. On Friday, December 22, 2023, starting at 8:00 PM Eastern Time, ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, will be live [on a YouTube telethon](#). The event, hosted by several popular ham radio YouTubers from the Ham Radio Tube channel, aims to raise money for the ARRL Teachers Institute (TI) on Wireless Technology. The TI is entirely donor-funded and has seen many successes recently. This year, 65 educators attended and 95% of them are now licensed hams; 20 of them got their license during the TI and 12 more upgraded their license class. Graduates of the program leave with equipment and instructional material to take into the classroom to incorporate amateur radio into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Click on the image below to watch a [promotional video of the event](#). To support the TI directly, visit [www.arrl.org/GiveToSTEM](http://www.arrl.org/GiveToSTEM).



## Status of CQ Magazine

ARRL has heard from many members concerned about their print subscriptions to CQ magazine. CQ magazine is not an ARRL publication, however ARRL members enjoy the ability to pursue earning the CQ Worked All Zones (WAZ) and Worked All Prefixes (WPX) awards through Logbook of The World (LoTW).

CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU, acknowledged the delays in delivering CQ magazine. He indicated that the November and

December issues are delayed but plans are to get them out to the readership as soon as circumstances permit.

## ARES® Briefs, Links

In *The ARES Letter* for November 15, 2023, the Winter Field Day dates are incorrectly listed as January 23-24, 2024. They are actually **January 27-28, 2024**. - Thanks, Jesse Brumm, AJ7F

FEMA released its [2023 National Preparedness Report](#), highlighting the state of the nation's preparedness at all levels of government while examining the risks the nation faces and the capabilities available to address them. With the cost and frequency of disasters increasing markedly over previous decades, emergency managers must continue to adapt, forge new partnerships, and anticipate challenges to help individuals and communities.

Climate change continues to increase the frequency and severity of weather, which compounds the challenges that emergency managers face in addressing an increasingly complex risk environment. The report highlights how to adapt and forge new partnerships to face those challenges and achieve a more prepared nation.

This year's report provides a data-driven picture of national preparedness and emergency management trends with focused discussions on four core capabilities:

- Fire Management and Suppression.
- Logistics and Supply Chain Management.
- Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services.
- Long-Term Vulnerability Reduction.

This year's report provides concrete recommendations that partners and stakeholders across the whole community can take to increase the nation's resilience.



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## Letters: Wilderness Heart Attack Emergency Handled by Winlink

A while ago my ham radio friend and I went camping along the Jemez River, New Mexico, in one of the many Jemez Campgrounds. It was a perfect place for ham radio operators to be, as there is absolutely no cell phone access there at all. There was no FM repeater reachable from that area either, which was fine by us. We busied ourselves with FT8 and FT4 as well as phone operation. We sent several Winlink messages earlier in the day utilizing stations in Wickenburg, Arizona and Framingham, Utah. We sent SMS text messages to our grandchildren, as they don't like email.

As the evening wore on, my friend started having symptoms of a heart attack. He was familiar with the symptoms, as he had several stents and previous heart problems. We needed an ambulance, but there was no cell service, and it was miles to another phone. It was late at night and, being unfamiliar with the area, we were at a loss as to the best way to proceed.

I knew that Winlink has the ability to send SMS text messages, and my son was on call that week so he would answer a text message. I composed a message giving my location, including the GPS coordinates and the urgency of the situation. I sent the message via Winlink VARA HF to a station in Wickenburg. I waited for what seemed to be an eternity (in reality, only 10 minutes) and checked for a response. He had replied with a message that he had contacted the state police -- they would take care of the situation. In approximately 20 minutes, an ambulance arrived and my friend was on his way to the hospital. He is alive and well today.

Being a Technician licensee is a wonderful start to the world of emergency communication, but when real emergencies occur, having General-

or Extra-class privileges and an HF radio is even better. -- *John Mocho, KC5QOC, Albuquerque, New Mexico (with thanks to Jay Miller, W5WHN)*

## Neighborhood Radio Watch: Ideas

The purpose of a [Neighborhood Radio Watch](#) (NRW) program is to promote safety and cohesiveness of the neighborhoods of our community by using radios to communicate. When normal communications are lost, radio comms can save lives, or at least, reduce fears. When times are tough, the ability to communicate with others can be calming. In normal times, scheduled radio nets for the purpose of radio training and practice can help neighbors get to know one another. That tends to make life better for those involved. For neighborhood communications, CB, [General Mobile Radio Service](#) (GMRS) and [Family Radio Service](#) (FRS) radios are options.

We've tested out CB. I have a 4 W mobile CB radio used as a base (a President Walker III) and an Antron 99 antenna up about 18 feet. The other rig was a Midland 75-822 with an *MXTA26* antenna. In spite of the excellent antennas, CB contact dropped off after about 2 miles. I did hear a friend once at about 2.5 miles, but he was so far down in the mud that he could have been a genuine mud duck. I had to open the squelch all the way, and still his voice could not have been more faint.

GMRS proved to be better. My base station is a *Midland MXT400* (40 watts) with an N9TAX Labs Slim Jim up in a tree about 20 feet off the ground, fed by LMR-400 coax. The other rig is a Midland MXT115 (15 watts) with a tiny 7" mag mount on the hood of my Jeep. We communicated on channel 16, using maximum power. Coverage was about 3 miles, maximum. A better antenna on the MXT115 would more than likely mean better coverage. Plus, FM gives a good signal until it starts to die. First it



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starts to crackle, but still remains copyable, then nothing.

We'll be testing 5-watt *Radioddity GM-30* handhelds as soon as they come in. For most neighborhoods, 1 mile of coverage would do it. We're hoping these handhelds can do the trick for us, even with just the rubber duck. At \$35, that's a pretty good price point.

The FRS radios we've tried are good for about half a mile. Since GMRS and FRS can talk on the same frequencies, FRS can be a decent option for those who don't want to spend the \$35 to get a GMRS license.

## Radio Room Dedicated to Veteran Emergency Coordinator

*Oregon City, Oregon* - The newly established Emergency Communication radio room was named in honor of long-serving Emergency Coordinator for Clackamas County, David Kidd, KA7OZO.

In a ceremony held on November 21, the emergency communications radio room in Clackamas County's Disaster Management offices on the Red Soils Campus was named in honor of Kidd, a longtime amateur radio volunteer who stepped down as the county Emergency Coordinator for radio amateurs in May, after 20 years of service in the position.

Kidd became the Emergency Coordinator for the [Clackamas Amateur Radio Emergency Service](#) (CARES) in 2002. Under Kidd's leadership, CARES formally signed a memorandum of understanding with Clackamas County Disaster Management (then Emergency Management) in 2005, putting in place a strong working relationship between dedicated amateur radio volunteers and county disaster management.

Steve Jensen, Kidd's successor as Emergency Coordinator, said, "David built CARES from just

a few people to one that has strong cooperation with Clackamas County, city subunits, and a large, active, trained and committed membership."

Jamie Poole, Interim Deputy Disaster Manager for Clackamas County, announced at Kidd's retirement that the newly established radio room for the county would be named in honor of Kidd and his service to the county.

CARES is a group of licensed amateur radio volunteers in Clackamas County who provide critical communication links during disasters and major events. CARES works closely with Disaster Management in the county. -- [Jeremy Tanzer, KI7BDP](#), Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Oregon City; Assistant Emergency Coordinator, Training, Clackamas Amateur Radio Emergency Service (CARES)

## Old logo 1971 -2023



**New logo 2024** The date on the bottom will be fixed before it is used



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*Since 1971* is upside down I will post the fixed version when I get it from the designer.

## JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	ARES Net 7:15 pm NEW YEARS	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS LARRY				
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS GLENN				
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS FRED		CLUB MEETING AT 6PM & DINNER		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS AARON				WINTER FIELD DAY
28	29	30	31			





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	<b>ARES Net</b> 7:15 pm	<b>MARC Net</b> 7:00 pm NCS KEITH		
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