



MARC Beacon

Volume 8, Issue 2

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

February 2019

President's Message

Greetings fellow hams,

February is here and it wasted almost no time arriving! On January 17, we had our first club meeting of 2019. It was great to see the familiar faces of our regular club members.

Thank you, club members, for your responses to my email gauging interest in CW (or more accurately, "Morse code") classes. I'm happy to see that there is significant interest. I am aware that some folks have wanted to get something like this going for quite some time.

Last year some club members volunteered their time and skill to help Technicians prepare for the General exam. The response to that effort was overwhelmingly positive, which then resulted in many members upgrading to General. I'd love to see a similarly positive response to practicing and sharing Morse code.

We'll keep moving forward on ideas in which our club members are interested. I also look forward to your attendance at our February club meeting.

Until our next QSO,

Sincerely,

Aaron B. Chesney

KM6IAU

Yucca Valley

210-632-3444

Aaron@km6iau.net



Borges Associates

Tax Consulting / Preparation Service
57836 Campanula St.
Yucca Valley, Ca. 92284
(760) 365-2652

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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>

W6BA Live Feed:

<http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/10199/web>

Club Meeting

Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 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 has been repaired. It will now show accurate wind speed and direction measurements.

<https://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KCAUYCCA57>

Glenn N6GIW

I also have A weather station by the high school in Yucca Valley N6GKB.

<https://www.wunderground.com/weather/us/ca/yucca%20valley/34.114512399999995%2C-116.4194904>

Keith N6GKB

HERE IS THE EXECUTIVE BOARD LINEUP FOR THE NEW YEAR:

President: Aaron Chesney KM6IAU

VP: Patrick Mathis KN4LKZ.

Secretary: Paul Edwards AA6SM
(*and club W6BA website editor*)

Treasurer: Manuel Borges AE6SG
(*re-elected*) (Thank You)

Board of Directors:

- Andy Frees NS6V – (Past President)
- Sam White - WB6SEW
- Keith Board - N6GKB
(*and editor of the MARC newsletter*)
- KM6QQP - Loren McCorkle
- KA6CMJ - Jesse Lyon
- N6GIW - Glenn Miller
(*Repeater chairman and club license [W6BA] trustee*)(Thank You)

Thank you all and looking forward to another great year.



February 15-16, 2019 The 15th Anniversary of the Yuma Hamfest

AND SITE OF THE **ARRL Southwestern Division Convention**

The 15th Annual Yuma Hamfest is the site of the ARRL's premier event for the Southwest in 2019, **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.



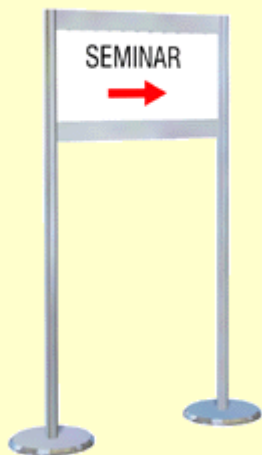
There are hourly drawings for door prizes both Friday and Saturday. The numbers will be posted just inside the main Theater Building. You must be present to win the door prizes and claim them by 5:00 p.m. Saturday. On Saturday evening, in what has established itself as an annual tradition, the Buzzard 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 highlight of the Yuma Hamfest, the **Grand Prize drawings**.



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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 for this site.

Seminar Schedule

This is the seminar schedule for the **2019 Yuma Hamfest & ARRL SW Division Convention**. There may be updates or changes as we get closer to the hamfest.



We are fortunate to have Bob Allison here from ARRL headquarters in Newington, Connecticut. Bob is a test engineer for the ARRL and is the guy behind those ham radio product review tests. He is available during hamfest hours for questions and is also giving a special presentation on how to interpret all those specifications which appear in product reviews. You don't want to miss this seminar!



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Fine Arts Building

Time	Seminar/Speakers	Seminar Description
Friday Feb. 15 1:00pm- 2:00pm	Op-amps for Fun and Profit! Kristen McIntyre (K6WX)	What is an op-amp? Have you ever wondered? They turn out to be incredibly useful devices that started out as computers! Op-amps are pretty handy around the ham shack too and this presentation will take a look at these amazing little devices and see what you could build with them.
Friday Feb. 15 2:20pm- 3:20pm	Low Cost Radio Chipsets Dave Aronovitz (K1LPI)	The growth of devices operating in the unlicensed ISM bands is driving the cost of radio chipsets down dramatically. Several ISM bands overlap Amateur bands making these low cost radios suitable for Amateur use. New digital modes and other apps will create new opportunities for Amateur Radio operators.
Friday Feb. 15 3:40pm- 4:40pm	Software Defined Radio Comparisons Dave Aronovitz (K1LPI)	An overview of Software Defined Radios and the history of development. Includes basic theory and comparison to traditional analog designs with a comparison of differing digital SDR design architectures.
Saturday Feb. 16 9:00am- 10:00am	FlexRadio Software Defined Radios Steve Hicks (N5AC)	The benefits for contesters, rag chewers and DXers of Software Defined Radios. This session will explore the differences between software defined radios and more traditional HF radios with an emphasis on both the technology differences and the unique operating benefits afforded by those differences.
Saturday Feb. 16 10:20am- 11:20am		
Saturday Feb. 16 11:40am- 12:40pm	Understanding ARRL Lab Tests Bob Allison (WB1GCM)	ARRL Lab Test Engineer Bob Allison will explain the ARRL's product review process with an interpretation of the tests performed on HF transceivers. What do all the numbers mean in the Product Review data tables in QST? Bob's simplified and entertaining presentation will help you interpret the data so you can use product review articles to determine which transceiver is best for you.
Saturday Feb. 16 1:00pm- 2:00pm	A Wire In The Air - What Matters Most Kristen McIntyre (K6WX)	The magic of radio happens when we couple RF into the fabric of spacetime. We do that with an antenna. These devices are simultaneously simple and complex. Let's look at what's important in antenna choice and design. Find out what happens and what matters when we put a wire in the air.



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Saturday Feb. 16 2:20pm- 3:20pm	Stealth Antennas Carl Foster (KB7AZ)	Get on the air in an HOA restricted area using a variety of techniques to hide your HF and VHF antennas. Come away inspired to build effective antennas that are difficult to see.
Saturday Feb. 16 3:40pm- 5:00pm	ARRL Updates and Forum Rick Paquette (W7RAP)	The Arizona Section Manager and other ARRL officers will provide updates and lead the ARRL Forum. The forum is an opportunity for hams to find out about new developments within the ARRL, and to get their questions answered by their ARRL leadership. It is open to all hams and discussion and feedback are welcome.

Newcomer Building

Time	Seminar/Speakers	Seminar Description
Friday Feb. 15 1:00pm- 2:00pm	How To Pass The Ham Exams Rick Paquette (W7RAP)	A presentation for first-timers planning on taking an amateur radio exam. It answers questions newcomers have about exams and provides a study method that optimizes your success. It helps non-technical or younger people identify common mistakes made in test sessions and ways to avoid them.
Friday Feb. 15 2:20pm- 3:20pm	Stay on the Cutting Edge Michael Rickey (AF6FB)	How does your club stay on the leading edge of technology? We will discuss some of the tools used by The PAPA System to explore and share new technologies, as well as how and when they are integrated into our club's offerings. Including some of our most recent additions and the struggles in launching them.
Friday Feb. 15 3:40pm- 4:40pm	Secrets of End Fed Antennas Bob Brehm (AK6R)	Learn how to select, choose and setup an end fed antenna system that works on multiple bands, is stealthy and radiates well at low heights. Find out the secrets of antenna matching, reducing RFI and minimizing noise present on many end fed antennas. Examples will be shown for 160-6 meter operations.
Saturday Feb. 16 9:00am- 10:00am	ARES Emergency Communications Round Table Roozy Moabery (W1EH)	The ARES District Emergency Coordinator in the Los Angeles Section will host an open forum. He shares his expertise in emergency communications, including agency relationships, training of Amateur radio operators, standard operating procedures, public relations and community support.
Saturday Feb. 16 10:20am- 11:20am	Radio Go-Kits Roozy Moabery (W1EH)	Why you should have a radio Go-Kit, the costs involved, different types of cases, the components needed and proper assembly of it. Several examples of radio go-boxes will be on display, including ones built and used in recent National Disasters. Presented by the L.A. District Emergency Coordinator.



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Saturday Feb. 16 11:40am- 12:40pm	AREDN Project: New Developments Andre Hansen (K6AH)	An update on the AREDN team's open source software development and a report on useful tools and techniques to ensure a successful mesh network implementation. New Emcom applications have been written that make the mesh even more usable.
Saturday Feb. 16 1:00pm- 2:00pm	Quick and Easy RFI Solutions Bob Brehm (AK6R)	Learn how to make ham radio more enjoyable by eliminating problems caused by RFI. A discussion of the fundamentals of RFI and identifying symptoms, pinpointing causes & applying simple cures. How to choose and use ferrites to solve RFI problems.
Saturday Feb. 16 2:20pm- 3:20pm	Lightning Tom Fagan (K7DF)	Tom will provide an updated discussion on lightning behavior and how it affects amateur radio systems.
Saturday Feb. 16 3:40pm- 4:40pm	Grounding Tom Fagan (K7DF)	Tom will go into details about how to properly ground your radio system to both reduce noise and to protect it against lightning.

[Yuma County Fairgrounds 2520 East 32nd Street, Yuma, Arizona](http://www.yumahamfest.org)

www.yumahamfest.org Check the Website for Additional Information

Gates Open for Camping Thursday, 2 pm – Vendor Setup Friday, 7 am - Noon Event Hours Friday, Noon - 5 pm Saturday, 8 am - 5 pm – Hamfest Dinner & Grand Prize Drawing Saturday Night 6:00 - 8:00 pm Vendors & Exhibitors Tailgating (Swap Meet) Consignment Sales Full Seminar Schedule License Testing DXCC Card Checking Hourly Door Prizes \$25,000+ in Grand Prizes On-site RV Camping Emergency Preparedness Hamfest Dinner Admission Prizes ARRL Speakers Hospitality Area Transmitter Hunt Near Space Balloon Launch \$5.00 Admission Antenna Clinic & T-hunt Email Contact: info@yumahamfest.org

<http://www.yumahamfest.org>



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Another great Quartzfest the weather was great and they broke a record of over 1000 registered Hams!! Can't wait for next year,



Drone view



Many hams were there it was great



A friend was there with his model A



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A presentation on Mesh networks by the main firepit!



My Truck N6GKB and portable HAM SHACK



An over view of my neighbors for the week



Of course, GORDON WEST was there.



N9JA RAY FROM ICOM nice antenna!



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The Main tent and bulletin Board



Southern California Groups ,

CHECK OUT ALL THE QUARTZFEST INFO AT www.quartzfest.org

FCC Digging Out from Beneath Shutdown Backlog

In the wake of the more-than-month-long partial government shutdown, the FCC has set about tackling a backlog of applications already in the queue. At first, it sought to hold back the flood as it dug out, asking that Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) give the agency a little breathing room before submitting any additional new files. On Monday, services using the FCC electronic batch filing (EBF) system -- including commercial and amateur -- received an automated message from the FCC updating users on the situation.

"Due to the recent government shutdown, applications submitted through the Electronic Batch Filing (EBF) system between the dates of January 3 through January 29 will begin processing *over the next several weeks* [emphasis added]," the FCC said. "Please, be patient as we are expeditiously working through the backlog of filings." Expeditious it was, taking not weeks but days.

"The FCC worked through its backlog very quickly, and started processing our files about noon today," Assistant ARRL VEC Manager Amanda Grimaldi, N1NHL, said on Wednesday. "We're slowly submitting the files we have in queue -- we don't want to bombard them! Assuming there are no hiccups, everyone should see their applications processed by the close of business on Thursday."

The ARRL VEC had piled up some 2,700 pending Amateur Radio applications, many of them from 425 ARRL VEC examination sessions that took place during the shutdown or immediately prior to it. These do not include files that the other 13 VECs may have ready to upload.

As it attempts to dig out from beneath a blizzard of applications from all services, the FCC this week reset some filing deadlines and established new receipt dates. The FCC said filings due between January 3 and January 7 (inclusive) will be due on January 30. Filings that would otherwise be required to be filed between January 8 and February 7 will be due on February 8.



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The FCC said all ULS applications and notifications originally due on January 3 through February 8 (inclusive) are now due on February 8, 2019.

"In addition, all Universal Licensing System ([ULS](#)) filings that were held during the lapse in funding through January 25, as well as any other ULS filings that were held from January 26 through January 29, will be considered received on January 29," the FCC said. The large volume of filings submitted during the partial government shutdown will be entered into ULS in batches and assigned a January 29 receipt date, the FCC said. That includes Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications filed via ULS or by mail between January 3 and January 29, which will be treated as filed on January 29.

Ordinarily, vanity call sign applications are processed on a daily basis, with a random selection procedure used to determine the processing order for applications filed on the same day.

The FCC said changes in receipt dates were made "in order to accommodate the orderly resumption of business."

A message from Aaron Chesney the club president:

Greetings fellow hams,

There has been talk the past couple years about maybe doing some CW classes. It came up again and we thought we'd try to see how we can make it happen.

We don't have any dates or times pinned down--at this point--we want to find out the level of interest, and license classes of those interested to see how we might best accommodate.

If you have an interest in learning CW through some club organized classes, reply to my email and let me know. Also let me know your license class. (e.g. Novice, Tech, General, Advanced, Extra)

Aaron@km6iau.net

Editor Point of Contact (POC)

Keith Board, N6GKB, 760-401-5124, N6GKB@live.com

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





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FEBRUARY 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
						Groundhog day
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Superbowl 	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS GLENN		ARES Meeting 6:00 pm Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Yucca Valley		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS FRED		Valentine's day	YUMAFEST	YUMAFEST
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	ARES Net 7:15 pm Presidents day	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS CHRIS		MARC Meeting 7:00 pm Board meeting at 5:30pm In J.T.		
24	25	26	27	28		
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS AARON				