



# MARC Beacon

Volume 9, Issue 2

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2020

## President's Message

MARC members, thank you so much for making this a successful club. The Installation Dinner was outstanding. A special thank you to Judy KK6NWG and Chris WB6CDF for purchasing and cooking the delicious food.

A friendly reminder that we are having a test session 1000 Saturday 8 February 2020 at the Saint Christopher of the desert church. Please encourage friends and family members to take the test. Another reminder is that all monthly meetings will be held at the Church of the Nazarene in Yucca Valley starting at 6PM.

I highly encourage all club meeting participants to share their projects with the rest of the club. If you would like a specific subject to be presented at the club meeting, then please contact me or Keith N6GKB.

I would personally love to hear all members participate on the weekly club net, even if the only thing you say on the microphone is your call sign.

Take care and enjoy each day of your life. Hope to hear everyone on the net and to see everyone at the meeting.

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



**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

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

Keith N6GKB

## ARRL to Argue for Continued Access to 3 GHz Spectrum as FCC Sets Comment Deadlines

At its annual meeting on January 17 - 18, the ARRL Board of Directors instructed Washington Counsel Dave Siddall, K3ZJ, to prepare a strong response to protect amateur access to spectrum in the 3 GHz range. In its *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* in WT Docket 19-348, the FCC proposed to relocate all non-federal operations, including amateur uses, to spectrum outside the 3.3 - 3.55 GHz band.



The ARRL Board met January 17 - 18 in Windsor, Connecticut. [Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, photo]

The Commission anticipates auctioning this spectrum to expand commercial use of 5G cellular and wireless broadband services, if agreement can be reached on relocation of -- or sharing with -- the federal incumbents that operate in the same band. [Publication](#) of the *NPRM* in the *Federal Register* on January 22 established deadlines of February 21 for comments and March 23 for reply comments.

The FCC has requested comment on the uses radio amateurs make of the spectrum and appropriate relocation options. Complicating matters is the fact that radio amateurs must consider the possibility that the immediately adjacent 3.1 - 3.3 GHz band is included in the spectrum that Congress has identified for similar study. FCC Commissioner Michael O'Rielly, in a December statement, referenced



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the fact that the lower band may also be considered for non-federal reallocation, potentially limiting relocation possibilities.

Amateurs make substantial use of the 3.3 - 3.5 GHz band that would be hard to replicate elsewhere, and they had filed more than 150 comments before the designated comment period even began. Among users looking at options are those who use this spectrum for Earth-Moon-Earth (moonbounce) communication, mesh networks, experiments with communication over long distances, radiosport, and amateur television. A portion of the band is also designated for use by amateur satellites in ITU Regions 2 and 3 (the Americas and Asia/Pacific).

A report is due by March 23 from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) evaluating the feasibility of having federal users share all or part of the 3.1 - 3.55 GHz band with commercial wireless services. This report is required by the Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless (MOBILE NOW) Act. The results of the NTIA report will impact how much spectrum ultimately may be re-allocated for auction to wireless providers.

ARRL urges amateurs who comment to inform the FCC about the uses they make of the 3 GHz spectrum. Short comments and longer statements may be filed electronically. Visit the FCC "[How to Comment on FCC Proceedings](#)" page for more information. Commenters should reference WT Docket 19-348.

## Results of our election held in December

- 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 KK6NWX
- Board member Manuel Borges AE6SG

**Congratulations to our new elects**

## New Amateur Extra-Class Question Pool Released

The new Amateur Extra-class license examination question pool, effective from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2024, has been released and is available at the National Conference of Volunteer Coordinators ([NCVEC](#)) website.



The [2020 - 2024 Extra-class pool](#) incorporates significant changes compared to the current 2016 - 2020 question pool, which expires on June 30. The number of questions in the pool was reduced from 712 to 622. The result was 239 modified questions, 49 new questions, and 139 questions removed due to changes in what was felt to be an abundance of outdated questions, while areas of new technology and subjects were added.

In addition, an effort was made to balance the difficulty level, removing or replacing some questions deemed too easy or too difficult compared to the rest of the pool.

The 2020 pool has 10 diagrams, which have been renumbered because the new question pool has two fewer than the 2016 question pool.

## Frequency list

I am in the middle of putting together a frequency list for southern California area repeaters, that are **Confirmed** in operation and in demographical order. If anyone has a favorite repeater or others you would like to see in the list to be sure I don't miss it send me an email I thank you for all contributions. I will eventually make it a handout and/or PDF file I can email to any ones request for a copy once completed.

73's Keith N6GKB

## 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.



## 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.

**73, Glenn N6GIW**

## Great food and Great fun

Our January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting was a great time by all. We had great food, Tri Tip, Chicken Prepared and cooked by Rob, Judy and Chris. And so many other dishes and desserts brought in by many club members. So much food no body left hungry.



## "GO BOX"

Seeking all club members that have a "GO BOX" READY for deployment or still under construction (which are great to see as well). I want to put together a few local hams that have one that is either a "GO BOX" for a power supply source or a box with your radios and equipment all together or Both! Please email me what you have I would deeply appreciate it. This will be for a future club meeting that I will be putting everyone's go box on display and each can give a short talk about your box. I think it's a great way for us to share ideas on how to build one for those that have not yet built one or a way I can change or improve my own.

Keith N6GKB



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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/>

**PLEASE NOTE OUR CLUBS NEW  
PERMANENT MEETING HOME.**

The change was made and decided because of mainly weather factors. We needed a place that was comfortable for all members. Our winters are cold and the summers seem to bring problems to our meetings as well. Well now we have a very nice place that is well stocked with comfortable chairs, air conditioned and heating. So, mother nature can due her thing now and we will be able to carry on year around.

**The church of the Nazarene in Yucca Valley,**

**Located at 56248 Buena Vista Dr.**

Take Cholla North from Hwy 62 (across from the Cinema 6 Movie Theatre) go to the end it then goes to the left, then down a short ways and there will be 2 churches on the right it is the second one.

**This starts with February's meeting.**



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## Editor Point of Contact (POC)

Keith Board, N6GKB, 760-401-5124, [N6GKB@live.com](mailto:N6GKB@live.com)

Submission deadline is 4 days before the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month



## DECEMBER 2019

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 GLENN		ARES Meeting 6:00 pm		Testing session at 10:00 am at Saint Christopher of the desert church in Joshua Tree.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS ROB				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	 ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS JOHN		Club Meeting 6 PM New Time New Permanent Place Info in newsletter		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS FRED				