



# MARC Beacon

Volume 9, Issue 4

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

APRIL 2020

## President's Message

**Hello fellow radio operators!** Hoping all of you are doing well, and if not then a I hope you make a quick recovery. A lot has changed in the past 30 days. Who would have guessed we would be in this situation? Since most of us are isolating ourselves at home, then I highly encourage you to sharpen or advance your HAM skills and start preparing yourselves for Field Day 2020, on 27-28 June. **You can now order your very own 2020 Field Day shirt at [arrrl.org](http://arrrl.org).** They are pretty cool this year. We got ours in the mail the other day. I am also studying for the Extra Class exam and converting my 5'x8' trailer into a mobile HAM shack to be used during Field Day.

After receiving a phone call from Roger Sherwin KF6BIG, we decided to start an unofficial/informal morning net, called "**Cawfee Tawk**". This will take place every morning from 10am to 11am on the Morongo Basin linked repeater system. This will allow operators to meet together on the air to say good morning or whatever else is on their mind. So, get on the air in the morning with your hot beverage and say hello.

There's also talk about a "**Renegade Net**" during the late hours of the night. So if you can't sleep and you want to do a little rag chewing then get on the air. Someone is probably listening.

Take care everyone and enjoy each day. I look forward to hearing you on the morning "**Cawfee Tawk**" net, the Tuesday weekly net, and seeing you at the monthly meeting.

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)



### 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 **CANCELLED**

**Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 6 PM. At the church of the Nazarene in Yucca Valley at 56248 Buena Vista dr**



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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 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

**QST de W1AW ARRL Bulletin 9 ARLB009  
From ARRL Headquarters Newington CT  
March 24, 2020 To all radio amateurs**

In response to an executive order from Connecticut Governor Ned Lamont that all non-essential businesses and not-for-profit entities reduce in-person workforces because of COVID-19 pandemic concerns, W1AW has slightly altered its transmission schedule.

W1AW has suspended its morning code practice and qualifying run transmissions, beginning March 24, 2020. However, W1AW's evening transmissions, including qualifying runs, will be sent as usual -- there are no changes to the evening transmit schedule.

W1AW remains closed to the public.

Please see <http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-headquarters-is-closing> for further details.

## QRZ SUSPENDS RENEWAL FEES.

In light of these extraordinary times, QRZ is suspending subscription renewal fees for 90 days by extending the existing subscriptions of those who have been laid off due to closures brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic. Effective immediately, if your subscription has lapsed since March 1, 2020, QRZ will extend your subscription by 90 days if you have been laid off, furloughed, or unable to work due to the pandemic.

These extensions will be approved on an individual basis and may be applied for by sending an email to [support@qrz.com](mailto:support@qrz.com). No requests made in the QRZ forum or as replies to this posting will be acted upon. You must send an email to [support@qrz.com](mailto:support@qrz.com).

In times like these, the ham radio community has a lot to offer society and QRZ wants to do everything we can to assist those who are in need.



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## Dayton Hamvention Cancelled

The Hamvention Executive Committee has been monitoring the COVID19 pandemic. We have worked very closely with our local and state health Departments. It is with a very heavy heart the Hamvention Executive Committee has decided to cancel Hamvention for this year.

This decision is extremely difficult for us but with around two months until the Great Gathering we felt this action necessary.

More specific details regarding the closure will soon be posted here.

Thank you for your understanding in this time of International Crisis.

Jack Gerbs

General Chairman HV2020

[JackWB8SCT@gmail.com](mailto:JackWB8SCT@gmail.com)

## Refund Information

Due to unfortunate cancellation of Hamvention 2020, we know that tickets, inside booth spaces and flea market spaces have been purchased. These purchases have been made by online credit cards, mail order checks and purchased from our outside vendors. All refunds will be through the same method of purchase. All credit card sales will be refunded to the original card used to make the charge. All check and cash sales will be refunded by check. We anticipate all refunds completed as soon as possible but not later than August 1.

## We are offering the following options.

1. Obtain a refund.
2. Obtain a 2021 ticket instead. (to be mailed around January 1, 2021) [Hamvention 2021 May 21-23](#)
3. Donate to Hamvention (no refund)

For all general admission (not inside or flea market) online and mail orders, email [tickets@hamvention.org](mailto:tickets@hamvention.org) with your preference. Emails already received will be processed as indicated. Inside booth holders please email [exhibits@hamvention.org](mailto:exhibits@hamvention.org) with your refund preference. If you opt for the hold until 2021 they will contact you to verify. Flea Market staff will be contacting each flea market space holder personally concerning refund of space(s). For those who purchased tickets at Hamcacion in Orlando, please send your ticket (keep a copy for your records) and last four of

credit card for credit card refund (if purchased by card) otherwise it will be by check mailed to you. Hamcacion Hamvention forum ticket winners, please email [tickets@hamvention.org](mailto:tickets@hamvention.org) with your ticket number and address information. We will send you replacement 2021 tickets early next year. If you purchased a ticket at one of our outside vendors then please return to the place of business and they will handle your refund.

**Mail correspondence to:** Hamvention Tickets – 2020 refunds PO Box 1446 Dayton, OH 45401-1446

## Frequency list

I am in the middle of putting together a frequency list for southern California area repeaters, that are **Confirmed** in operation. 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 one's 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.

**PLEASE EVERYONE SEND ME A SELFY OF YOU WITH YOUR HAMSHACK, ROOM, CORNER, DESK OR MOBILE SETUP. OR GET SOMEONE TO TAKE ONE FOR YOU, AND SEND TO ME ON MY EMAIL THANK YOU**

[N6GKB@LIVE.COM](mailto:N6GKB@LIVE.COM)



## “GO BOX”

**Seeking all club members that have a “GO BOX” READY for use 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 our April 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

**Field Day is always held on the 4th full weekend in June -- 27-28, 2020**



### The OBJECTIVE of Field Day:

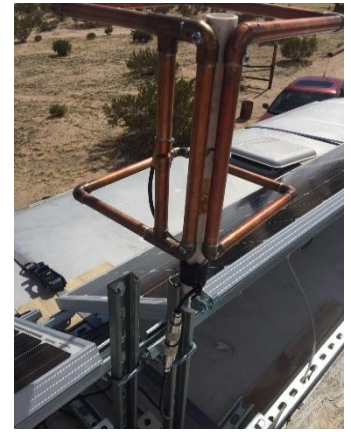
To contact as many stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions.

Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries.

Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Initiation of a contact may be either locally or by remote

### THE SLOT CUBE ANTENNA

This project was found in the ARRL QST January 2019 issue. Our local ham Lucio Menegron, KD6RSF took the project and made it his own. I was impressed with design and wanted to share his work on building this unique antenna.



I have the email link if you’re interested that I can send you that has some modifications that Lucio found that improved the antenna to tune on 2m even better.

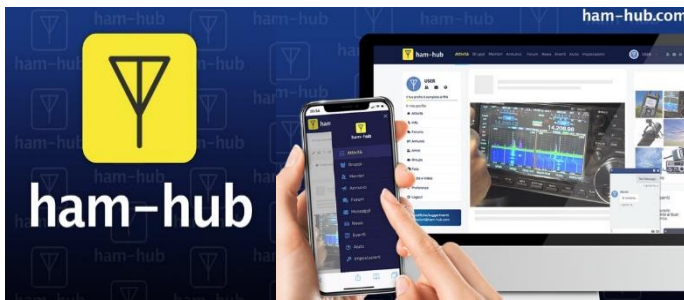


**I really need to build me one of these!**



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I would like to introduce you to **ham-hub**:

the new social network dedicated to radio amateurs, radio communication lovers and professionals in the sector.

The platform was born as a place of meeting and interaction, it allows you to give space to ideas and emotions, share thoughts, projects, multimedia files, enrich your bulletin board at will with posts and various types of content.

The social area will allow you to follow other users, send friend requests, exchange reactions and messages, release comments and create groups where you can invite your friends to join.

An area dedicated to "discussion forums" will also be available shortly, where you can share topics and exchange experiences, tips and various types of material such as wiring diagrams, solutions, projects, etc.

The platform represents a great meeting opportunity for users, visibility for workshops and sector shops that will be able to give further space to their proposals for all fans, always interested in improving their wonderful "corner" of fun.

All this is absolutely free and in an experimental form.

Thanks to your precious contribution, we will constantly improve the platform, making it more and more performing and adhering to the needs of us enthusiasts.

You are therefore invited to access the page: <https://www.ham-hub.com/>, select the Worldwide web site to create your account and popularize with us this extraordinary community.

Looking forward to welcoming you, we offer you a warm 73.

## Radio Amateurs Team Up to Help University Design Low-Cost Ventilator

Amateur radio volunteers from around the world have volunteered to assist University of Florida Professor Sam Lamprotang and his engineering team in their quest to rapidly develop an open-source, low-cost patient ventilator that can be built anywhere from such commonly available components as PVC pipe and lawn-sprinkler valves.



The amateur radio volunteers are developing Arduino-based control software that will set the respiratory rate and other key parameters in treating critically ill coronavirus victims.

Multiple volunteers responding to a call for help from Gordon Gibby,

MD, KX4Z, include noted software developer Jack Purdum, W8TEE, and uBITX transceiver maker Ashhar Farhan, VU2ESE. University of Florida physicians are working to address the critical legal aspects as the design moves closer to fruition. The ventilator's valves would precisely time compressed oxygen flow into patient breathing circuits under Arduino control, allowing exhausted patients with "stiff" lungs impacted by viral pneumonia to survive until their body can clear the infection.

The software design team is also adding simple features such as an LCD display, encoders to choose parameters, and watchdog safety features.

**NO CLUB MEETINGS THIS MONTH!**



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## ARISS Celebrates Successful Launch Carrying Interoperable Radio System to ISS

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) is celebrating the successful launch and docking of the SpaceX-20 commercial resupply mission to the International Space Station (ISS). One payload on the flight is the ARISS Interoperable Radio System (IORS), which ARISS calls "the foundational element of the ARISS next-



generation radio system" on the space station.

Amateur radio has been an integral component of ISS missions since 2000.

The *Dragon* cargo capsule docked successfully with the space station on March 9.

ARISS-US Delegate for ARRL Rosalie White, K1STO, said hundreds of ARRL members contributed to make the IORS project happen, and ARISS is celebrating the 4-year-long project.

"ARISS is truly grateful to ARRL and AMSAT for their co-sponsorship and support of ARISS since day one," White said. "ARISS greatly appreciates the hundreds of ham radio operators who have stood by ARISS, sending financial support and encouragement. A robust ham station is on its way to replace the broken radio on the ISS, and tens of thousands of hams will enjoy strong ARISS packet and ARISS SSTV signals as a result. In addition, thousands of students will discover and use ham radio to talk with a ham-astronaut. We hope to see the

trend continue where more ARISS teachers and local clubs set up school ham clubs." The new system includes a higher-power radio, an enhanced voice repeater, updated digital packet radio (APRS), and slow-scan television (SSTV) capabilities for both the US and Russian space station segments.

White called the March 7 launch, "beautiful, flawless." ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, told ARISS that he had his fingers crossed for a successful launch.



According to NASA Mission Control, it will take the three ISS crew members up to a month to unload and stow the 4,300 pounds of cargo on board the *Dragon* capsule, and the IORS is not a priority. The actual ham equipment will be installed in the ISS *Columbus* module. Another IORS unit is in line to be launched and installed in the Russian segment of the ISS later this year.

The IORS consists of a custom-modified JVCKenwood TM-D710GA transceiver, a multi-voltage power supply, and interconnecting cables. The ARISS hardware team will assemble four flight units -- and 10 IORS units in all -- to support onboard flight operations, training, operations planning, and hardware testing. Future upgrades and enhancements to the next-generation system are in various stages of design and development. These include a repaired Ham Video system -- currently planned for launch in mid-to-late 2020, an L-band (uplink) repeater, a microwave "Ham Communicator," and Lunar Gateway prototype experiment.



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## Winlink Videos Help New and Experienced Operators

To help Winlink's novices overcome software fright when operating Winlink Express for the first time, San Diego, California ARES created a series of 24 short videos to help newcomers find the right button to click in the Express software menus. The topics of the short videos range in difficulty from simple, such as sending a Winlink email to a Gmail account, to challenging, such as using software tools to locate a neighbor operating in the vicinity.

The 24 videos range in length from one to five minutes and cover the tasks that a deployed operator might be expected to accomplish in the field.

The video content gives operators experience sending messages with and without attachments such as ICS forms. The videos provide tips for creating neatly-formatted, automatically generated ICS Form 309 Communication Logs for submission to served agency officials.

The San Diego ARES Winlink video playlist is open to the public and can be viewed [here](#).

## Coast-to-Coast Red Cross Drill Planned for May 30

Red Cross-affiliated radio amateurs from many states and Puerto Rico are planning a nationwide Red Cross emergency communications drill for May 30. The drill will consist of two parts: Part A will be a local optional drill held on VHF for participants to practice passing voice traffic with relay stations set up in local EOCs or via mobile stations parked strategically between Red Cross HQ and suburban shelters.

Part B will be national in scope, with hams passing Red Cross forms using the ARC Message Utility technique on Winlink RF. Messages will be marked DRILL and will be sent to the Red Cross Safe and Well HQ in New York City as a clearinghouse. For further information, or to express interest in participation, contact [Wayne Robertson, K4WK](#).



**We are going to be having an informal DAILY net, starting Monday the 30<sup>th</sup>**

For right now it's the "CAWFEE TAWK" net at 10:00 am till 11:00. It's just a way for any and all hams to check in, say good morning and see what everyone is up to. With all the things going on in this world we would just like to stay connected and be sure our local community of hams are ok. A little meet and greet with your coffee and donuts in the morning is a great start.



**These Vehicle magnets are still available From Rob, WO4ROB. They 12" long. I believe they are \$10 each. Contact him with your order.**



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## APRIL 2020

| Sunday  | Monday   | Tuesday                           | Wednesday | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|-----------|--|--------|----------|
|   |  |                                   | 1         | 2  | 3      | 4        |
| KAFEE TAWK<br>10AM DAILY<br>CLUB<br>REPEATER  | STAY SAFE<br>STAY<br>HEALTHY<br>STAY IN<br>TOUCH | NO CLUB<br>MEETINGS<br>THIS MONTH |           | ARES<br>Meeting<br>6:00 pm<br>CANCEL               |        |          |
| 5   | 6  | 7                                 | 8         | 9  | 10     | 11       |
|   | ARES Net<br>7:15 pm                              | MARC Net<br>7:00 pm<br>NCS KEITH  |           |  |        |          |
| 12  | 13   | 14                                | 15        | 16   | 17     | 18       |
|  | ARES Net<br>7:15 pm                              | MARC Net<br>7:00 pm<br>NCS GLENN  |           | Board<br>meeting 5:30<br>Club meeting<br>CANCELLED |        |          |
| 19  | 20   | 21                                | 22        | 23   | 24     | 25       |
|   | ARES Net<br>7:15 pm                              | MARC Net<br>7:00 pm<br>NCS ROB    |           |  |        |          |
| 26  | 27   | 28                                | 29        | 30   |        |          |
|   | ARES Net<br>7:15 pm                              | MARC Net<br>7:00 pm<br>NCS JOHN   |           |  |        |          |