



MARC Beacon

Volume 8, Issue 5

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

MAY 2019

President's Message

Greetings fellow hams,

Thanks, everyone, for coming out to the April club meeting. It was my pleasure to give a presentation on VPN and practical use cases.

Here's a look at what's happening right now in the radio club:

May 16th: Our May club meeting will be at 56248 Buena Vista Drive in Yucca Valley.

May 4th, May 18th, June 1st, June 15th: Field-Day Committee meetings. If you have never been to a ham radio field day, we would be very happy to be joined by you. If you have questions, you can email Patrick Mathis N4LKZ (event coordinator) N4LKZ@W6BA.net or me KM6IAU@W6BA.net.

June 22nd: The 2019 ARRL Field Day. I look forward to seeing you there!

Morse-code training classes are coming up. See Sam White WB6SEW for details.

George Jarvi KE7RVE, our fundraising committee chairman, is coordinating fundraising efforts to replace our aging repeater radio. (More on that in a moment.) I strongly encourage our club members to invest and contribute in ways in which they are able: time, energy, money, and/or by engaging the broader community.

Our W6BA (146.790 MHz) repeater in Yucca Valley, about 30 years old, is beginning to fail. You may have heard intermittent "crackling", especially noticeable during input from weak stations. The receive side of the radio is failing. The equipment needs replaced.

Certainly everyone would agree that the W6BA repeater has, over the past 30 years, served our area very, very well. Glenn N6GIW and Chris WB6CDF are coordinating standby, replacement equipment. More information to follow over the next several weeks.

DMR (Digital Mobile Radio) on Paxton is coming. AREDN (Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network) is coming. Opportunities to be of service are definitely coming. We look forward to your support.

REMINDER: On May 16th, the club meeting will be at 56248 Buena Vista Drive in Yucca Valley. See you there.

73's

Aaron B. Chesney

KM6IAU

Yucca Valley

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Aaron@km6iau.net



Borges Associates

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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.
Church of the Nazarene
56248 Buena Vista Dr Yucca Valley 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

FIELD DAY EVENT 2019 June 22 and 23

The field day event group will be meeting as follows, Per a recommendation from Chris WB6CDF, we will amend our first and last two meeting locations to the Yucca Mesa Community Center. The amended schedule is:

April 6th, 10:00 AM at the Yucca Mesa Community Center

April 20th, 10:00 AM at the Yucca Valley IHOP

May 4th, 10:00 AM at the Yucca Valley IHOP

May 18th, 10:00 AM at the Yucca Valley IHOP

June 1st, 10:00 AM at the Yucca Valley IHOP

June 8th, 10:00 AM at the Yucca Mesa Community Center

June 15th, 10:00 AM at the Yucca Mesa Community Center.

Any hams that wish to join and be involved WITH FIELD DAY 2019 please contact Patrick N4LKZ.

YUCCA MESA community center

**3133 Balsa Ave,
Yucca Valley Ca 92284**

Thank you.

**Patrick D. Mathis
N4LKZ**

ANNOUNCING THE NEW LOCATION FOR THE CLUBS MONTHLY MEETINGS STARTING IN MAY!

It will be held at the church of the Nazarene in Yucca Valley.

Turn north on Cholla Ave from Highway 62 it is across from the Cinema 6 movie theatre In Yucca. Go to the end of Cholla and turn left go on down to the second church on the right.

**Church of the Nazarene
56248 Buena Vista dr.
Yucca Valley Ca. 92284**

Our next club meeting will be there starting this MAY! It will be our new meeting place for the summer.



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I would like to mention that [Todd Root KD6DIQ](#) does have an [IRLP](#) node on [145.770 pl 67.0 no offset](#), While this is **NOT** related to DMR it is also a good linking system that has been around for many years, and from an HT anywhere Here in Yucca Valley you can talk to people around the world when certain links are hooked up to his node, Check it out sometime! Its busiest times seem to be mornings and evenings into the night with different Nets daily!

Low Audio for ISS SSTV Transmissions Raises Issue of Crew's Ability to Intervene

Reception problems owing to low audio levels plagued a recent round of Amateur Radio on the International Space Station-sponsored ([ARISS](#)) slow-scan TV transmissions from the International Space Station (ISS). Some clever operators on the receiving end were able to use software to bump up the deficient audio so the images would decode properly. But the matter raised questions concerning the ISS

crew's ability to troubleshoot problems and to make adjustments to the Amateur Radio gear on the fly. ARISS-International Chair and AMSAT Vice President for Human Spaceflight Programs Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, subsequently posted an explanation of how Amateur Radio fits into the operation of the ISS and the astronauts' ability to service and operate it.

"Please remember that ARISS is not the prime activity on ISS," Bauer said. "There are over 300 international experiments currently operational on ISS on this expedition." Bauer said the vast array of ongoing experiments means it's only possible to "occasionally get suggestions to the crew" to make changes relative to the Amateur Radio payload.



Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK, was able to get acceptable SSTV images by tinkering with the received audio and then decoding.

Personal note: Aaron KM6IAU and Keith N6GKB were able to download multiple SSTV Images From the ISS from multiple passes over the 3 day event with fairly good results, The problem was as they described pretty low audio output, the picture of the cosmonautics above is one of the few they were sending.



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The image above was downloaded by Aaron KM6IAU.

Faster, More Contest-Friendly FT4 Digital Protocol Beta Version to Debut on April 29

A new, speedier, more contest-friendly digital mode is just days away, initially in beta form. [WSJT-X](#) developers say serious work on the new FT4 protocol began shortly after the FT8 Roundup held last December 1 - 2. The goal was a mode that could compete with RTTY contesting in terms of contact rates, while preserving many of the benefits of FT8.

"Over the past month, a small group of volunteers have been conducting on-the-air tests of FT4," the [WSJT-X](#) development group -- Joe Taylor, K1JT; Steve Franke, K9AN; and Bill Somerville, G4WJS -- announced this week. "The early tests were very successful and helped us to make a number of important design decisions. We believe FT4 has considerable promise for its intended purpose."

The developers say FT4 soon will be ready for testing by a larger group and they're seeking interested participants who can offer their "considered feedback." They suggest reading [The FT4 Protocol for Digital Contesting](#) first. A general release of the [WSJT-X](#) suite that includes FT4 is anticipated in July.

According to the document, FT4 is an experimental digital mode designed specifically for radio contesting that -- like FT8 -- uses fixed-length transmissions, structured messages with formats optimized for minimal contacts, and strong forward-error correction. Transmit-receive sequences are 6 seconds long, making it 2.5 times faster than FT8 and about the same speed as conventional RTTY for radio contesting. FT4 can work with signals 10 dB weaker what would be required to decode RTTY while using much less bandwidth.

Transmissions last for 4.48 seconds, compared to 12.64 seconds for FT8. Modulation uses four-tone frequency-shift keying at approximately 23.4 baud, with tones separated by the baud rate. The occupied bandwidth is 90 Hz.

"We plan to post downloadable installation packages for [WSJT-X](#) version 2.1.0-rc5 on Monday, April 29," the Development Group said.



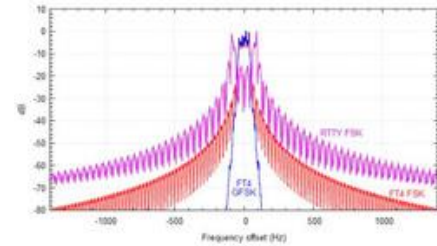


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"A few parameters and operating behaviors of FT4 are still being tested and optimized," the initial FT4 guide says. "It will be very useful to hold several more mock contest practice sessions, with a larger group of active participants."

Even if these practice sessions reveal no serious bugs or inadequacies, the *WSJT-X* development group believes FT4 is still too new to be used in the ARRL VHF Contest (June 8 - 10) and ARRL Field Day (June 22 - 23). For that reason, release candidate *WSJT-X* 2.1.0-rc5 will "time out" on June 7. A general availability release is expected in mid-July



Spectra of an FT4 signal transmitted with GFSK (blue), FT4 with FSK (red), and RTTY with continuous-phase FSK (purple).



[Amateur Radio Newsline 2164 for Friday, April 19, 2019](#)

[Click the Header to take you to the Audio Newsline feed.](#)

[April 18, 2019](#) NEWSLINE IS UP DATED EVERY THURSDAY.
THE HEADLINES FOR THIS WEEK APRIL 18, 2019:

- HAMS ASSIST IN EFFORTS TO AID STRICKEN MARATHONERS
- AMATEUR AT THE READY, EVEN WITHOUT HIS RADIO
- SILENT KEY: OWEN GARRIOTT W5LFL, WHO TOOK HAM RADIO INTO SPACE
- WHERE MARCONI MADE HIS MARK
- RADIO SCOUTS ARE COUNTING DOWN
- SEEKING THE 2019 YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR
- TEXT ALERTS IMPROVE THE HAMVENTION EXPERIENCE
- WIRELESS INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA PREPS FOR ANNUAL MEETING
- FOX HUNTERS PREPARE TO HIT CHAMPIONSHIP TRAIL
- HAM RADIO TO ASSIST IN INDIA'S ELECTIONS
- WORLD OF DX
- HEARING THE GLOBAL CALL OF RADIO WOMEN'S VOICES



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Calling all Hams Interested in CW !

Our club member Sam White WB6SEW is Looking for help with his CW Training class.

He needs A **PLACE** to meet and hold the classes and a **volunteer** or two to help him with the training of others in CW. Sam is sight impaired as some of you may or may not know, so he could use a hand. **Please** contact Sam at 760-228-2485, or on the local Yucca Valley Repeater.

Thank You all for helping Sam with this.

The Doctor Will See You Now!

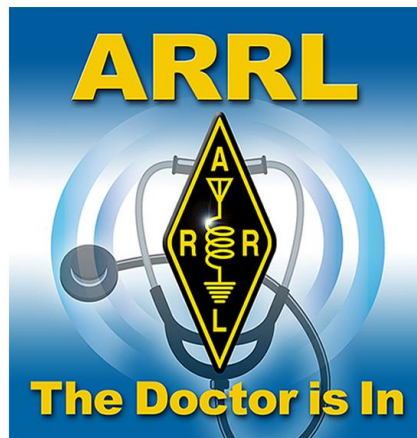
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Editor Point of Contact (POC)

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

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





AE6XE and KE6BXT Pleasants Peak nodes

Delivering quality, high-speed, data communications for Emcomm via Amateur Radio

Project Objectives

The AREDN™ Project's focus is Emergency Communications (EmComm). It seeks to provide hams a means to implement this technology in practical ways to support local and regional emergency communications needs. To that end, the project's objectives are to enable hams to:

- Stand up a working mesh node with minimal expertise and effort
- Configure the mesh network automatically so that advanced network knowledge is not needed
- Use low-cost, reliable commercial equipment
- Define standards for inter-network integration
- Support those in the process of designing and implementing EmComm networks
- Refine the software to make implementation easier, more reliable, and more manageable



K6AH mobile nodes with dish and sector antennas

For more info on the Mesh System: <https://www.arednmesh.org/aredn-advantage>
More info to come about our local hams and the MESH system, that they are setting up here in the Morongo basin.



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APRIL 2019

“MONTHLY CLUB MEETING IN NEW LOCATION IN YUCCA VALLEY SEE THE NEWSLETTER!!”

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				ARES Meeting 6:00 pm Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Yucca Valley		STAR WARS DAY! MAY THE 4TH BE WITH YOU! FIELD DAY MEETING AT IHOP! 10AM
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
CINCO DE MAYO!	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Aaron				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS John		MARC Meeting 7:00 pm Board meeting at 5:30pm !!! in Y.V. !!!		FIELD DAY MEETING AT IHOP 10AM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	EARTH DAY ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Glenn				
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Fred				