



Larry AD6G with his DIY air launcher, “a device to pneumatically launch a fishing line into the air and over a tree.” – Photo by Lis Schwitters N6NDC

A Field Day Excursion

by Larry Mollica AD6G

I’m back from this year’s Field Day excursion. With me were Clifford Novey **KK6QMS**, Derek Chiampas **KM6UUM**, and Lis Schwitters **N6NDC**. We operated a 1A station, taking turns on the radio in my comically small RV trailer.

My main goals for a field day location were one; nearby, at least somewhere in southern California and two; high altitude so as not to get roasted in late June weather (although it ended up being unseasonably cool, go figure). Having, as usual, put off looking for a campground until June, the decision was made for us as the only one I could find with enough spaces available was Fern Basin Campground in the.....[COVER STORY, page 7](#)

Next Club Meeting

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 2:00 PM
[Yucca Mesa Community Center](#)

Local Amateur Radio Info At A Glance

Local Nets

 Net Name	 Day	@	Time 
Amateur Radio Emergency Service	MON	@	7:15 pm
MBARC Weekly Net	TUE	@	7:00 pm
MBARC “Cawfee Tawk”	DAILY	@	10:00 am

MBARC Linked Repeater System RF Links

For more info, see the [2nd to last page](#) for detailed diagram of the MBARC Linked Repeater System or visit w6ba.net.

 Site	 MHz	 %	
W6BA Yucca Valley / Paxton Hill	146.790	–	136.5
W6BA Twentynine Palms / Donnell Hill	147.060	+	136.5
WB6CDF Landers / Fire Station	447.580	–	173.8
AD6G Pipes Canyon	446.120	Ø	146.2

MBARC Linked Repeater System VoIP Links

 System	# Node	 RF Link
AllStarLink	503088	KM6IAU to W6BA YV
EchoLink	KM6IAU-L	KM6IAU to W6BA YV
EchoLink	WO4ROB-L	WO4ROB to W6BA YV

Other Local Linked Systems

 Site	 MHz	 %		 System	# Node/TG
KD6DIQ YV	145.770	Ø	67.0	AllStar	28855
WB6CDF YV	447.000	–	 10	DMR/BM	TS1: TG 3106 TS2: TG 2

MBARC Board of Directors

President --- Paul Edwards	AA6SM
Vice President --- Jim Stewart	KI6WTI
Secretary --- Aaron Chesney	KM6IAU
Treasurer --- Glenn Miller	N6GIW
Board Members --- Bryan Heveron	KF6Y GK
Judy Cloutier	KK6NWG
Repeater Trustee --- Glenn Miller	N6GIW

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Your Newsletter, Your Voice.

If you have material you’d like to share in a future newsletter, [get in touch](#).


 Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**


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Aaron@KM6IAU.net

MBARC Beacon --- JUL 2026 EDITION

Editor --- Aaron Chesney	KM6IAU
Graphic Designer --- Maja Chesney	KO6DAV
Contributors --- Larry Mollica	AD6G, et al.
Aaron Chesney	KM6IAU

Next Month’s Contributors --- Your name belongs here. Please consider sharing your ham radio endeavors for the club newsletter.

MBARC Personalized Name Tags

Most regular attendees of club meetings already have theirs – do you have yours? **MBARC** personalized name tags are a great way to showcase your radio club spirit to newcomers and long-timers alike. Order your name tag today!

Size: 2.95 × 2.16 inches (7.5 × 5.5 cm)
 Thickness: 3mm – Durable and sturdy
 Backing: Magnetic – No pins, no hassle!

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Personalized
Magnetic Name Tag

\$ 8



(SAMPLE)


 For orders, please send an email to craftedbymaja@gmail.com or visit [Crafted by Maja](#) on Facebook.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July 2 Steve Harrison KOXP
 July 26 Bryan Heveron KF6Y GK
 July 30 Ellie Sherwin



 FROM YOUR MBARC FAMILY

MBARC Regular Meeting Minutes – JUNE 2026

Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**, Secretary

The regular meeting took place at the Yucca Mesa Community Center on JUNE 20, 2026. An attendance sheet was circulated during the meeting. By the meeting’s end, the attendance sheet listed 16 names.

Vice President Jim Stewart **KI6WTI** presided as Meeting Chair and called the meeting to order at 14:00.

Judy Cloutier **KK6NWG** read the Treasurer’s report on behalf of Treasurer Glenn Miller **N6GIW**, who was absent:

Description	Amount
Balance at last meeting	3499.26
1 × Indiv. membership, 1-yr	+30.00
1 × Indiv. membership, 6-mo	+15.00
Auction	+114.00
Total, deposited on 5/26/26	159.00
Current bank balance	3643.26
2 x pending Mbrshp. deposits	60.00

Secretary Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU** referred attendees to the MAY 2026 meeting minutes distributed before the meeting.

Membership Chair Aaron **KM6IAU** referred to the printed membership report distributed before the meeting. After some discussion with member attendees, members expressed a preference to re-add the phone number column back to the roster.

Vice President Jim Stewart **KI6WTI** directed a discussion on Field Day. There was a general reluctance among attendees to attend FD at Paul **AA6SM** and Kathie Edwards’ house. Manuel Borges **AE6SG** offered to host FD. After that, the last minute planning of Field Day first decisions went on for 20 minutes.

Rob Cloutier **WO4ROB** brought some radio items for show-and-tell, passing around the just the cutest little video walkie-talkies: one pink, and one baby blue. Discerning members asked questions about frequency band and performance.

Rob **WO4ROB** held the 50/50 drawing. The total was \$37, winner take \$20. Barbara Gustavson **K6BRB** won and donated the winnings back to the club.

Unguided discussion occurred for about 6 minutes.

Manuel **AE6SG** presented a few items for auction.

The Meeting Chair excused himself and the Secretary entertained a motion to adjourn. There was broad support. The meeting was adjourned at 14:52. ---



Secretary Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU** refers attendees to the distributed minutes. – Photo by Maja Chesney **KO6DAV**

MBARC Membership Report – JULY 2026

Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**, Membership Chair



Overview

This is the membership report for the **Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club** as of June 30, 2026. This report is accompanied by the current roster when distributed to members at club meetings. If you are a current member, cannot attend meetings, and require an up-to-date copy of the roster, you may send your request by [email](#).

License class and expiration data is pulled from the FCC database based on the callsign we have on record for members. An expired license is counted as 'unlicensed'.

Statistics

45 Distinct Memberships	(Family memberships often include multiple members.)
61 Members Total	100% of all members
45 members with Regular membership class	74% of all members
45 of them have current membership	100% of Regular members
2 of them have expiring soon membership	4% of Regular members
0 of them have expired membership	0% of Regular members
2 members with Active Duty membership class	3% of all members
10 members with Lifetime membership class	16% of all members
4 members with Honorary membership class	7% of all members
29 members are part of a Family membership type	48% of all members
32 members have Individual membership type	52% of all members
51 members are currently licensed	84% of all members
13 licensed members are Technician class	25% of licensed members
22 licensed members are General class	43% of licensed members
1 licensed member is Advanced class	2% of licensed members
15 licensed members are Extra class	29% of licensed members
10 members are currently unlicensed	16% of all members

Established Membership Policies

Family Membership

Family Membership is limited to the immediate family members of the primary member.

Honorary Membership

Honorary memberships are automatically Family memberships.

Members with 5 years of continuous membership upon turning 90 are eligible for Honorary Membership.

Lifetime Memberships

Lifetime memberships are automatically Family Memberships.

Expired Membership

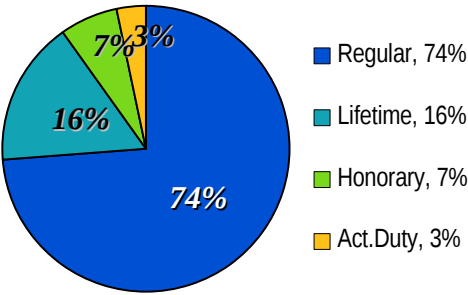
There is a two-month grace period for expired memberships. If a member renews their membership during the grace period, the membership is treated as continuous. *For the computation of the included **Statistics** and **Charts**, they are counted without exclusion.*

Contact

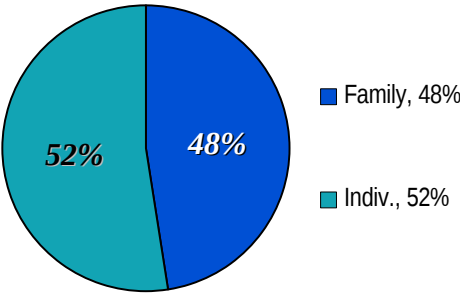
Send your membership inquires and updates to Aaron@KM6IAU.net.

Charts

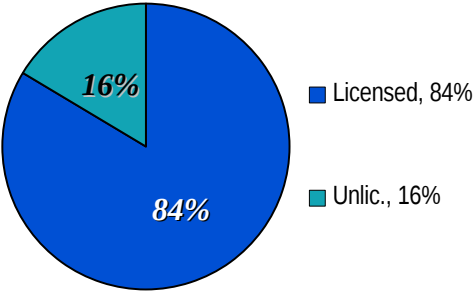
Membership By Class



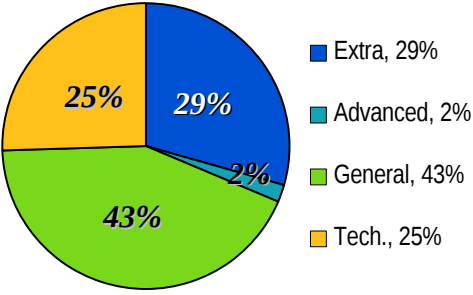
Membership By Type



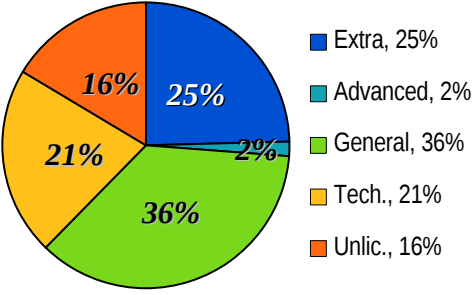
Licensed vs. Unlicensed



License Classes (Licensed Only)



License Classes (All Members)



by Aaron Chesney
KM6IAU

Introduction

Appearing in the [JANUARY 2026 EDITION](#) of the club newsletter, I submitted an article titled “One Year On A Tuesday Night” reporting on the Tuesday Night Net. The article discussed the state of the record-keeping at the time, the challenges in tabulating records from audio-only sources, and what could be learned through examining the net by the now-available metrics. This article analyses the past 6 months.

Distinctions and Clarifications

The assessment period of the previous report was from TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2024, up to (but not including) TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2025. (While I could have simply written, “... through TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 2025”, I chose to retain the end-of-month framing because it better reflects the intended calendar-based reporting, even though practical constraints—such as day-of-week alignment, processing latency, and newsletter deadlines—prevented an exact month-boundary interval.)

This article picks up from where the previous time window closed: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2025 up to (but not including) TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026. (Again, semantically framed for the same reasons.)

The methodology used in the JANUARY 2026 report is mostly preserved. Due to improved list maintenance, a condition arose where a visitor becomes a regular and then gets removed as a regular because they stopped checking-in regularly. (The list is evaluated at the end of each calendar month. If a regular has two consecutive calendar months of no check-ins, they are removed as a regular.)

For these cases, the monthly pruning acts as a stop-loss against the successful check-in ratio. This clarification would have zero effect if applied retroactively to the previous report, since there was never a case in 2025 where a regular was removed. The update modifies the language in the Methodology section, now reflecting the clarified approach.

Methodology

Check-In Types and Counts

For each member and each date, I recorded various check-in types:

- * **Successful Check-In** – Any of the following counts as a "successful check-in":
 - * For Regular Net Members, during these check-in periods:
 - * checking-in before roll call (the “mobile” check-in period),
 - * checking-in during roll call (the "roll-call" check-in period),
 - * checking-in after roll call (the "late" check-in period).
 - * For Visitors:
 - * Anyone checking in at any time during the net who is not on the Regular Net Members list on the week of said check-in, but was a Regular at any point during the assessment period.
- * **Missed Check-In** – A regular net member that did not respond when called during roll call, nor during mobile or late check-in periods.
- * **Neither Successful nor Missed** – This occurred when:
 - * A visitor was added to the regular roster, but net control was using an old roster, thereby skipping them. The new net member didn't speak up.
 - * A visitor had **not yet been added** to the regular roster on a given week, nor did they check-in.
 - * Net control just plain skipped over them (human error), even when clearly operating with a current version of the roster. The net member didn't speak up.
 - * Net control just plowed right through presumed check-ins, and nobody told them to slow down because they were doubling, and I couldn't make it out.
 - * For all of these cases, when nobody bothered to speak up, I did not count it as a "missed check-in". This seemed like the *generous-enough* way to handle these cases.

Check-In Percentages and Check-In Period Percentages

For net-wide and individual member’s *overall check-in percentage*:

$$\text{Let check-in opportunities} = \text{successful check-ins} + \text{missed check-ins}.$$

$$\text{overall check-in percentage} = \frac{\text{successful check-ins}}{\text{check-in opportunities}} \times 100$$

Likewise, the *check-in-period percentage* (such as ‘mobile’ *check-in-period percentage*):

$$\text{mobile check-in-period percentage} = \frac{\text{mobile check-ins}}{\text{successful check-ins}} \times 100$$

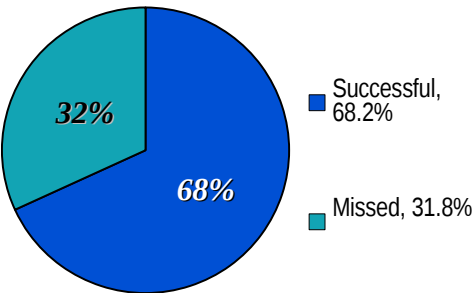
While the *check-in period percentage* provides some insight about when members usually check-in, the information quality for a single member’s percentage is eroded when one a few check-ins exist for them. For instance, a member might check-in only once during the assessment period. If that check-in occurs during the regular roll-call period, the *roll-call period percentage* would be 100%. From a distance, “100%” looks like consistency. In reality, it doesn’t say much about consistency because the percentage was calculated from only one data point. Where calculations based on weak data would occur or have occurred, I’ve made a note of it nearby in the text.

Net-wide Summary

As mentioned in the previous report, amateur radio is a hobby, not a job. This should be taken as an analysis and recognition of achievement, not as a critique. Hams recognize that other hams have lives beyond a weekly radio net.

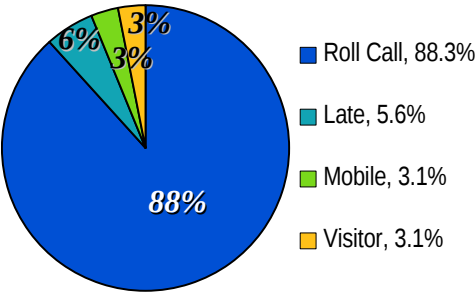
The assessment period covers the first half of 2026 except JUNE 30, 2026 (too close to the newsletter deadline). For continuity, I am including the net occurring DEC. 30, 2025, which was excluded in the last report. (Same reason: too close to the newsletter deadline.)

Overall Check-ins, Net-wide



For the net as a whole, the ratio of successful check-ins to missed check-ins (as described in the Methodology section) is 488 to 228 over the 26 weeks for this assessment period. That’s a 68.2% successful check-in rate, net-wide. **Up 8.4% from the previous report! Nice!**

Check-in Periods, Net-wide

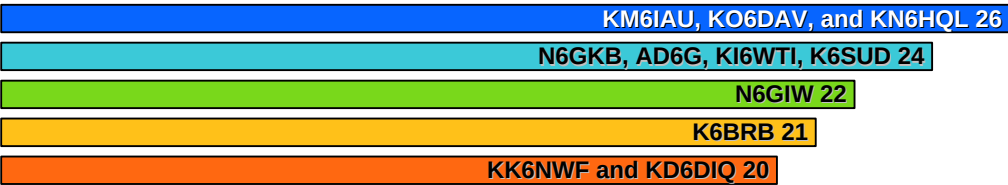


Expectedly, most check-ins occurred during regular roll-call: 88.3%. As noted in the Methodology section, the visitor count only includes people who, at any point in the assessment period, became or was a regular. Compared to the previous report, roll-call check-ins are up 1.3%. Mobile check-ins are down 4.5%. Late check-ins are up 0.9%. Visitor check-ins are up 2.4%.

Outstanding Regular Net Members

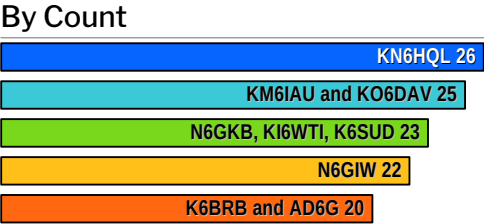
The last report constrained “Top Five” to a head count rather than a rank by results. With so many ties, grouping by rank goes further to present a better picture of the analysis.

Top Five Successful Check-in Counts



With perfect attendance, there is a 3-way tie for 1st place this assessment period. 2nd place boasts a 4-way tie. Excellent commitment!

Top Five Roll-Call Check-ins

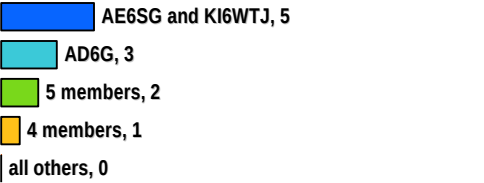


Gerald **KN6HQL** shows up every week during regular roll call. Outstanding consistency, Gerald! (A look at percentage-based ranking would be based on weak data and is therefore omitted.)

Top Five Late Check-ins

While I didn’t include this category last time, there are sufficient data points to provide insight and thus should not be omitted in a complete analysis. We understand people have commitments outside of amateur radio which may coincide with roll-call period check-ins to the Tuesday Night net. We are, of course, delighted that you still manage to make time.

By Count



With 5 late check-ins each, there is a tie for 1st place this period between Manuel **AE6SG** and Irene **KI6WTJ**.

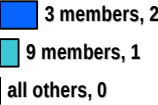
Top Visitor Check-ins

By Count

For this period, with 6 visitor check-ins, Dave Cuyno **KO6IGP** had the most visitor check-ins before opting to be added as a regular. We admire your commitment!

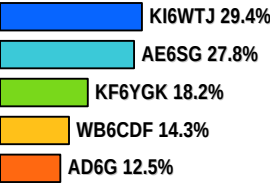
Top Five Mobile Check-ins

By Count



There were very few mobile check-ins during this period. The range between minimum and maximum is insignificant, so neither the count-based nor percentage-based charts don’t have much to illustrate here.

By Percent



12 regulars checked-in late at least once. 17 regulars never checked-in late, 3 of which never missing a check-in at all.

By Percent

Because the first net roster “clean-up” occurred after the DEC 30, 2024 net, there is an anomalous data point due to an alignment issue. Removing that anomalous data point, 50% of Roger **KF6BIG**’s four check-ins were as a visitor. We’re always happy to have Roger join us! ---

COVER STORY, continued

San Bernardino National Forest near Idyllwild. It met my main goals although there were other concerns, including dense trees that were likely to limit how much solar charging could be had for the batteries.

I got on site Thursday afternoon and set up a VHF/UHF FM station using a Kenwood G707 and a Diamond X50 antenna on a telescoping painter pole affixed to the spare tire mount on my trailer. The campground has only very sporadic texting coverage; internet and phone service not possible. The FM setup facilitated communications between me and others in the group who were to arrive Friday and Saturday, via the **W7HEN** UHF repeater on Pleasants Peak with an Echolink gateway. Lis and Clifford arrived Friday afternoon, Derek on Saturday.

The first order of business, once Lis and Clifford arrived, was to put up the HF antenna so we got to work on that. Best to get that done during daylight, and hopefully before the campground got crowded. My favored Field Day antenna in recent years has been the Hustler 6-BTV trap vertical with a layout of ground radials, used with great success during Winter Field Day. The campground layout, however, was such that it would not be possible to deploy without being at risk of other campers disturbing the radial wires or bumping into the thing in the dark. So the vertical was left at home and we relied on Clifford's 80- thru 10-meter, 130-ft long end-fed wire antenna. I had a 43-ft, 40- thru 10-meter end-fed antenna on hand for a standby.

Knowing that we'd be at a forest campground site, in the first week of June I started putting together an "air launcher" (pictured on page 1 and lower right), a device to pneumatically launch a fishing line into the air and over a tree. I'll maybe do a separate article on this in



Field Day setup underway at the campsite. – Photo by Lis Schwitters N6NDC

the near future, but for now I'll just say I roughly copied a design known commercially as the "[AirBoss](#)" launcher.

It was selected primarily because it seemed like the simplest, easiest to construct of the various antenna air launcher designs floating around. It launches a small fishing weight which drags fishing line behind it. The fishing line is then used to pull 550 paracord

over the tree, which is then used to haul up the far end of the antenna wire.

Testing by launching the weight and fishing line down a local straight dirt road (absent of tall trees, just plenty of Joshua trees to snag the line on) produced variable results as to distance/height achieved and getting it where we wanted it to land, so I had worries about even getting it over the right tree. A medium-



A closer view of the "air launcher". – Photo by Lis Schwitters N6NDC

sized (about half the height of the tallest trees at the campground) was selected with the hope that, if it were missed, a nearby tree would work out. The first shot parted the line from the weight, probably because I likely left the bail closed on the casting reel. The 2nd shot, to my astonishment, went exactly over the tree at which I was aiming. Further stretching the bounds of luck, the line ran out on the reel, giving the weight a yank which brought it down a bit past the tree top, and down exactly where we wanted it. As Pee-Wee Herman once said, “I meant to do that!” I make a very rough estimate of the line topping the tree at 70 to 80 feet AGL. The end of a 200’ reel of 550 paracord was attached to the end of the line; this was hauled back over the tree and attached to the end of the antenna wire.

The antenna was originally checked with a portable VNA, but the first test after casting looked like it was entirely open. I discovered I had neglected to select the right scale on the VNA, but not before opening the end-fed’s transformer case. There, we found two terminal screws which had worked loose. With the transformer fixed and now the VNA

setting sorted out, to our dismay the sweep of the antenna looked all wrong. This was found to be the fault of the RG8 coax. The sweep yielded expected results after the coax was swapped out. *(Always bring spares!)* The antenna resonance points were then examined and, after a few attempts to tune by adjusting the length, we reverted to the original length.

The antenna was connected to a coax switch to select either my Yaesu FT-950 or Clifford’s Icom IC-7300. Either radio could be connected to the logging laptop computer. **N1MM** Logger+ was used for logging on an “Evolve III”, a cheap surplus educational computers happy to run off of 11V~20V or so DC. The same laptop was used by Clifford with “fldigi” and the IC-7300 to copy the ARRL bulletin (100 FD points) on both RTTY and MFSK when we were unable to get a clear voice copy. *Pro tip: memory program all the bulletin frequencies in your radio ahead of time so you can quickly find a band that works.*

Power seemed like it might be an issue. Lately I’ve been using a 200-watt folding solar panel with a 100Ah LFP battery, but the abundance of trees and shade at this

site suggested solar was risky to rely on. So, I picked up a 2nd 100Ah battery and installed wiring and a changeover switch for it. We also brought along a quiet inverter generator to handle the worst case. It turned out, however, that we got pretty good solar, although the solar panels had to be moved twice during the day to chase the spots where the sunlight was landing. The generator was not used and we probably could have done fine without the 2nd battery. *(Not regretting the battery purchase though. Notably while the price of everything is going up, the LFP battery prices have dropped. 3 years & 9 months ago I bought my first 100Ah LFP “dumb” battery for \$330 and it was a pretty good deal then. The new battery is smaller, has Bluetooth that connects to a phone app that shows you everything going on inside the battery; state of charge, individual cell voltages, etc, and cost just \$200.)*

Field Day conditions were not as spectacular as Winter Field Day, but still pretty good. A total of 267 contacts were made. The breakdown:

Operator	Contacts
Larry AD6G	104
Clifford KK6QMS	72
Derek KM6UUM	77
Lis N6NDC	14

Band	Contacts
80m	8
40m	112
20m	135
15m	6
10m	5
2m	2
70cm	1

N1MM shows a total “Time On” of 14 hours 25 minutes. *(That is its guess as to how long the radio was being operated.*
ㄟ(͜ʖ)ㄟ

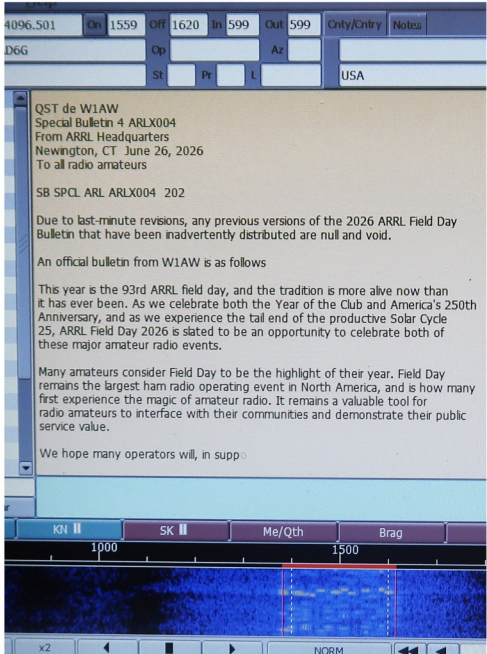
All in all it was a pretty good Field Day. I’ve certainly had worse. Big thanks to Lis, Derek and Clifford for joining the operation. :)



Left to right: Clifford **KK6QMS**, Larry **AD6G**, Derek **KM6UUM** with Phoebe **K6DOG***, and Lis **N6NDC**.
**Callsign unverified by editor but seems legit.*

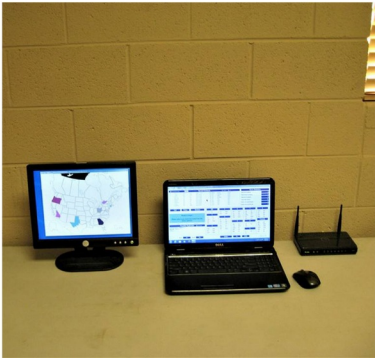
More “Field Day Excursion” Photos

Photos from Derek **KM6UUM** (top right, bottom left, and bottom center) and Lis **N6NDC** (all others); Arranged by Maja **KO6DAV**



Historic MBARC Photos – Field Day 2017

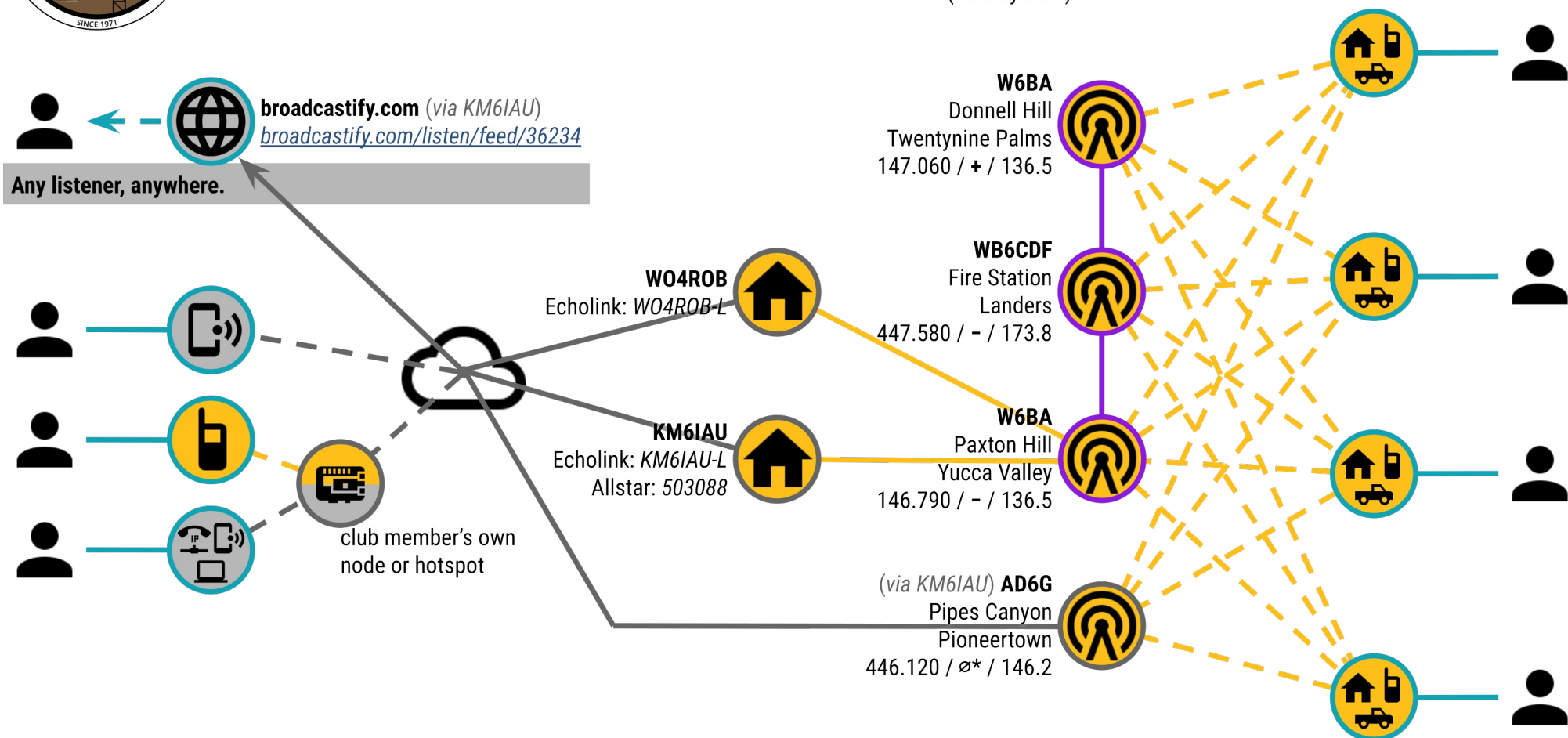
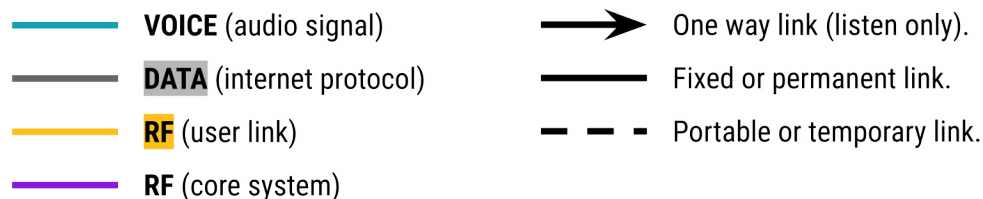
Collage by Maja Chesney KO6DAV





Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Linked Repeater System Overview

As of June 2026



Licensed amateurs with club membership, using **Allstar**** or **Echolink****.

Please use restrictive access, such as PL tone and low-gain antenna for RF links, or password for IP links. Do not link-in broad-access systems, such as other repeaters or reflectors, where such linking could transmit onto our club's system. Thank you.

Any licensed amateur using **RF**.

Please do not link-in broad-access systems, such as other repeaters or reflectors, where such linking could transmit onto our club's system. Thank you.



* This is a simplex node, not a repeater. There is no transmit frequency offset. You must wait for the carrier to drop before transmitting.

** Allstar access needs to be manually set up. Contact linkrequest@W6BA.net to submit your request.

** Echolink access may need to be manually set up. Contact linkrequest@W6BA.net to submit your request.

MBARC Calendar – JULY 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Jun 28	Jun 29	Jun 30	1	2	3	4
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Rob WO4ROB				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Chris WB6CDF				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Fred W06C				1400 – Club mtg , Yucca Mesa Community Center
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Larry AD6G				
26	27	28	29	30	31	Aug 1
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Aaron KM6IAU				

KD6DIQ AllStarLink
Node#28855 Schedule

YV: 145.77MHz, Øshift, ☐67.0Hz

EVERYDAY

0000 – 0100 WIN System #2560
 2200 – 2400 WIN System #2560

SUN

No additional program, system open.

MON

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
 1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332

TUE

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
 1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
 1700 – 1900 East Coast Refl. #45225

WED

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
 1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
 1700 – 1930 East Coast Refl. #45225

THU

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
 1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
 1700 – 1930 East Coast Refl. #45225

FRI

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
 1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
 1800 – 2400 WIN System #2560

SAT

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
 1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
 1700 – 1720 Amateur Radio Newsline
 2000 – 2200 East Coast Refl. #45225