



MARC Beacon

Volume 12, Issue 8

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

AUGUST 2023

Hello radio operators! August is going to be another very hot month. May your electric bill be less than you expect.

The official acronym for the Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club is MBARC. Please contact me if you know someone with the tools and talent to add a 'B' to our club logo so we can use the image to make new items with the updated logo.

Starting 1 January 2024, the annual club membership dues will be \$30 for one person, \$40 for a family membership, and \$20 for active duty members.

Saturday afternoon, 27 January 2024, I plan on scheduling an Amateur Radio Exam Session at the Yucca Mesa Community Center during Winter Field Day. Mark your calendars if you know someone who wants to get their license or wants to upgrade the one they have.

Please schedule time to check in on the 7 PM Tuesday net, and if you can, please join us on the "Cawfee Tawk" net everyday from 1000 to 1100 AM.

Take care of yourself and enjoy each day. If you're not having fun, then you're doing something wrong.

Rob Cloutier
WO4ROB

Joshua tree
Club President
(760)401-6666

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Nets

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES)
Mon @ 1915
Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club (MARC)
Tue @ 1900
MARC Daily informal Kawfee Talk
1000-1100 DAILY

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

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

OTHER AREA REPEATERS

IRLP Node KD6DIQ 145.770 pl 67.0

San Jacinto TRAM one 145.480 (-) pl 107.2

Snow Peak 445.160 (-) pl 67.0

ALLSTAR NODE on the mesa 147.705 pl 146.2

ALLSTAR NODE in Y.V. 446.120 pl 131.8

WWW.W6BA.NET



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KEN HENDRICKSON, W6BZY



Some helpful you tube videos from Ken W6BZY about Linux and raspberry Pi.



Search **W6BZY** on YouTube.



LOCAL REPEATER ON PAXTON HILL

OUR CLUB MEETING!!!!

IN THE MONTH OF APRIL, OUR LOCAL CLUB MEETING WILL BE :

6:00 P.M. AUGUST 17 TH

**At Church of the Nazarene in
Yucca Valley at
56248 Buena Vista Dr.**

NEW CLUB FACEBOOK GROUP FOR THE MARC CLUB

I have created a Facebook "Group" for the Club. We currently have a FB "Page" which only allows Admins and Moderators to post directly on the Posts section.

Here is the link to the new "Group" - so if you are on Facebook, please click on this link and LIKE our new Group.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/577155023327981>

The new Group will be must more user friendly. Feedback is most welcome. Thanks, Judy, N6JLL

THANK YOU JUDY N6JLL

Membership Dues

We are doing our club dues round up at the beginning of the year.

If you're not sure if your dues are up to date, please check with Glenn N6GIW and he can let you know if they are due or when they are due.

Not everyone is due at the same time of the year





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HAM Radio Study Guides and Exams are now paperless and online! Use <https://hamstudy.org/> to study for your exam. You must read every question in the exam pool before taking practice exams.

Go to <https://hamstudy.org/sessions> to find an online exam session.

If you want to take your Amateur Radio exam in person, then you can do so at the Yucca Mesa Community Center, 3133 Balsa Ave, Yucca Valley, CA 92284, on Saturday 27 JANUARY 2023, during THE WINTER Field Day. Walk-in's are not aloud so please register at the following link:

<https://hamstudy.org/sessions/645aba88b1cd9ac876d127bf/1>

Rob Cloutier
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(760)401-6666



Western States DMR Web Site

The Western States DMR Network Paxton Hill Repeater Time Slot and Talk Group details.

Nearest City Location: Yucca Valley, CA

Supported by our local DMR repeater on Paxton hill

Callsign: WB6CDF

User Transmit Frequency: 442.0000 MHz
User Receive Frequency: 447.0000 MHz
CC: 10

Time Slot 1		Time Slot 2	
<u>Talk</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Talk</u>	<u>ID</u>
<u>Group</u>	1	<u>Group</u>	2
WW	91	Local	3777216
(PTT 15)	13	Comm	465263
WW	3	2	3185
(BM)	93	(PTT15)	3104



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(PTT 15) 3176	Inland
WW Eng 31761	(PTT 15)
(PTT 15) 3106	15)
NA Eng 31061	Cactus*
(PTT 15) 3107	Arizona
NA (BM) 31606	(PTT 15)
(PTT 15) 31066	15)
SW 3177	
SW 1 113	
(PTT 15) 123	
Calif 310	
Calif 1 3777215	
(PTT 15) 3100	
Cal TAC 31075	
Call Zone 3196	
6 (PTT 8850	
15)	
SoCal	
(PTT 15)	
Mountain	
(PTT 15)	
Eng UA1	
(PTT 15)	
Eng UA2	
(PTT 15)	
TAC310	
(PTT 15)	
Comm 1	
(PTT 15)	
Bridge	
3100	
(PTT 15)	
BayNet	
(PTT 15)	
ATN	
**CORA	
(PTT 15)	

* The Cactus TG is only available on DMR repeaters that are owned or managed by Cactus Intertie System members. Use of the Cactus TG is available to any person that can access a DMR repeater that has the Cactus TG, i.e., you do not need to be a member of the Cactus Intertie System to use the Cactus TG.

Hurricane Watch Net Seeks Bilingual Net Control Operators

The [Hurricane Watch Net](#) (HWN) is looking for new members who are willing to train to become Net Control Operators. HWN is especially interested in recruiting bilingual operators who are fluent in Spanish and English or French/Creole and English. Net Control responsibilities can entail hours of duty to ensure all received ground-truth weather reports are forwarded directly to the National Hurricane Center in Miami.



The net generally activates whenever a system has achieved hurricane status and is within 300 statute miles of a populated landmass. This can vary, however, due to the forward speed and intensity of a storm, or at the request of the forecasters at the National Hurricane Center. Once activated, the HWN continuously operates until a storm is no longer a threat to life and property.

The mission of the net is to disseminate the latest advisories issued by the National Hurricane Center, and to obtain real-time, ground-level weather conditions and initial damage assessments from amateur radio operators in the affected areas. The net then relays that information to the National Hurricane Center by way of WX4NHC, and when required, the Canadian Hurricane Centre.

Arizona Talk Group (3104) added to Time Slot 2 with a 15 minute timer on 4/4/2023

BrandMeister Talk Groups World Wide (91) and North America (93) added to Time Slot 1 on 1/6/2023

** Talk Group CORA (8850) added to Time Slot 1 with a 15 minute timer on 6/3/2022. The following repeaters are linked together when using this Talk Group: Alpine, Chuckwalla, El Cajon, Laguna, Otay, Poway, Rainbow Ridge, Woodson and Yucca Valley.

Talk Group Amateur Television Network (ATN) (3196) added to Time Slot 1 on 4/17/2022



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It also functions as a backup communication link for the National Hurricane Center, National Weather Service Forecast Offices, the Canadian Hurricane Centre, Emergency Operations Centers, emergency management agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other vital interests that can involve military relief operations. Such operations can be involved in the protection of life and property before, during, and after a hurricane event.

HWN Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV, says training will be provided and each candidate will go through a probationary period with a mentor. Graves, an ARRL member, says an applicant's station must be reliable. "While having a tower, beam, and/or amplifier is not a requirement, your station must allow you to hear and be heard. Therefore, directional antennas and amplifiers are preferred," he said.

The net coverage area includes the hurricane-prone areas of eastern Canada, the US East Coast, the Gulf of Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean. The net specifically seeks applicants in the middle-to-western sections of the US, Canada, Central America, and the Caribbean. "As always, the HWN is hoping for a quiet season, yet [we are] prepared for the worst," said Graves.

Those interested in learning more can visit the HWN Net Control Information web page at https://hwn.org/about-us/ncs_info.html

ARRL Laboratory Study of HF Petition Ongoing, Filed Comments to Follow

ARRL is treating a petition before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to allow data communications on multiple bands within the HF 2 - 25 MHz range



with up to 20 KW as a subject of concern for its members and the greater Amateur Radio Service. ARRL Laboratory staff are studying the matter from a technical standpoint, including analysis of transmitted signals potentially interfering with Amateur Radio communications on Amateur Radio spectrum. The results from this expert review are being finalized and will inform ARRL's filed comments on the matter.

ARRL has heard from many members and other licensed radio amateurs who share interest and concern about this petition. Read more about our efforts [here](#).

Summits on the Air 2023: North America

Summits on the Air (SOTA) in North America has three events scheduled between August 4 - 7, 2023. The [Colorado 14er](#) annual event will run from August 4 - 7, the [SoCal SOTAFest](#) in Southern California will run from August 4 - 6, and the [Pacific Northwest Not-Quite-Fourteener](#) event will run from August 5 - 6, and includes climbers in Washington and Oregon.

SOTA is an award scheme for radio amateurs that encourages portable operation in mountainous areas. It provides opportunities for summit climbers (known as activators) to scale some of the highest peaks in North America and contact amateur radio stations locally and around the world.



Many different frequencies and modes will be used during the August events, but the recommended 2-meter FM frequencies have been changed to 146.58, 146.55, and 146.49



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MHz to align with the use of the North America Adventure Frequency for SOTA (146.58 MHz). Operation is also permitted on select HF frequencies. The National Simplex Frequency (146.52 MHz) may also be used. Each event website provides a list of operating frequencies. All amateur radio operators and shortwave listeners are invited to participate.

Read more about [SOTA](#) at their website.

A HABGab and StratoScience Balloon Launch Is Scheduled for July 22, 2023

HABGab 2023 is a special STEM event for the ham radio community in the New England area and it is in partnership with the New England Weather Balloon Society and the [Sci-Tech Amateur Radio Society](#). It features the launch of a high-altitude balloon equipped with three payloads, including amateur radio transmitters, a video transmitter, and science and engineering projects by students from the StratoScience Lab at [New England Sci-Tech](#) and the [Benjamin Franklin Classical Charter Public School](#). The StratoScience Lab is a class taught by Max Kendall, W0MXX, and Seth Kendall, KC1PZY. The balloon can carry a payload of 2,000 grams (just over 70 ounces).

A cross-band UHF/VHF repeater will allow for a 2 - 3-hour one-time event for hams around New England. All amateur radio operators are invited to contact the repeater during the balloon's flight.

The balloon will also be transmitting live video on 1.2 GHz, and live streaming to [YouTube](#) from the ground station at New England Sci-Tech.

Using the call sign W1U, the balloon's real-time position will be available at <https://amateur.sondehub.org>, and the cross-band repeater frequencies are as follows:

Uplink: 146.55 MHz
Downlink: 446.05 MHz

The call signs for all of the payloads are as follows:

W1U - Main payload (transmitted by repurposed RS-41 radiosonde).

W1U-15 - Main payload (transmitted by custom-built APRS transmitter).

W0MXX-15 - An autorotation device. A small, unpowered helicopter that will separate from the main payload at 81,000 feet and descend to the ground via autorotation. The tracker is a LightAPRS module.

KC1SFR-11 - A glider that will separate from the main payload at 80,000 feet and glide back to the ground. It will also deploy a parachute at roughly 3,000 feet.

Also on board will be a U4B pico tracker that is being evaluated by Eric Johnson, KC1OAV, in preparation for a circumnavigation flight to happen at a later date. This can be tracked separately at <http://grp-labs.com/tracking.html>, under the name NESciTech1.

In the event of bad weather July 23, 2023, is the alternate date for the launch.

HABGab 2023 has been made possible by a grant from [ARRL](#).

Part 2: Current Hospital Nets

[The first part of this series appeared in last month's issue -- Ed.]

Although some hospital nets strictly use analog voice to keep things simple, data modes avoid many of the oral communication errors that occur in noisy environments under stressful conditions. Data communication is now ubiquitous in amateur radio. [Winlink Global Radio Email](#) supports both HF and VHF/UHF operation, and is widely used. Some hospital nets have started to use [Fldigi](#) modem software in combination with [Flmsg](#) messaging software. In a pinch, no special interface is needed: data can be exchanged merely by positioning a laptop PC so that its microphone is near the



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radio's speaker, and the radio's microphone is near the laptop's speaker.

Not enough can be said about the amateur radio leaders who have invested much time and effort in convincing hospitals to install amateur radio stations and antennas, recruiting and training volunteer operators (an ongoing need), coordinating tests of the hospitals' amateur radio equipment to ensure it works, and conducting practice drills.

Many hospital nets were forced to hibernate during the pandemic, as hospitals limited access to their buildings. Most are finally getting back to normal.

All in all, the amateur radio community has built a solid foundation for supporting healthcare providers, and is well positioned to take hospital nets to the next level.

Hospital Net Challenges

Installing amateur radio stations in most of America's more than 6,000 hospitals is an ambitious goal. Some hospitals, especially those with licensed amateur radio operators on their staffs, welcome the use of amateur radio in emergencies. Others require convincing. According to Bret Smith, W4HBS, Assistant Section Emergency Coordinator, Georgia ARES, the latest CMS 2 rules require that hospitals have reliable backup communication for emergencies, and amateur radio has demonstrated it's the best option.

Still, some hospital personnel believe that their commercial backup communication solutions -- primarily satellite phones and land mobile radios -- are adequate. However, as Smith points out, "Satellite phones often don't work indoors, and it's neither practical nor safe to go outdoors during a storm." Land mobile radios used to communicate with ambulances may also be able to reach other hospitals, but ambulance traffic is often urgent, so their use would depend on the availability of spare radios and channels.

While commercial backup systems have their strengths, amateur radio is exceptionally versatile. Nor is it necessarily an either/or question: Amateur radio can provide extra capacity when other communication resources are stretched to their limits. "Amateur radio offers hospitals unique backup communications capabilities. When the disaster is at its worst, communications must be at its best," said Jack Tsujimura, KH6DQ, Statewide HealthComm Coordinator for Hawaii.

What steps can be taken to convince hospitals to include amateur radio in their emergency communication plans? First, make the hospital aware that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sees amateur radio as a valuable emergency communication tool. In my region, the St. Louis Area Regional Response System (STARRS) works closely with FEMA and included amateur radio in its 110-page 2009 Regional Healthcare Coordination Plan. Second, direct the hospital to grants that pay for amateur radio equipment (such as those available from the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, ASPR). Third, set up a meeting between local Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) leaders and the hospital's emergency communication manager, facilities manager, and preferably an executive who can approve the project. Use the meeting to describe amateur radio's capabilities, present examples of how amateur radio provided vital communication during previous disasters, and reassure hospital management that amateur radio volunteers will be there solely to send and receive messages at their direction.

Ensuring that there are enough volunteer operators can be a challenge. Licensed operators are needed to test the amateur radio equipment in hospitals on a regular basis, participate in practice drills, and operate the stations during disasters.

How many volunteer operators are necessary? One volunteer can cover three locations tested quarterly. More volunteers will be needed during emergencies. The volunteer's first



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concern, however, should be the well-being of his or her family. A volunteer who is worried about loved ones cannot be effective.

Ideally, there should be enough operators to enable working in shifts, but hospital nets report that in practice two operators can handle the busy first day or so, with one operator working while the other rests.

Training is essential for volunteer operators. Most hospital nets recommend the [ARRL's Introduction to Emergency Communication](#) course and FEMA's online [Incident Command System \(ICS\) courses](#) (specifically, ICS-100, ICS-200, and ICS-700). Volunteer operators should also be familiar with the hospital's amateur radio equipment and any hospital-specific procedures.

Most importantly, volunteer operators must understand what their role isn't. They are not first responders, health care providers, or decision makers. Their job is to send and receive messages exactly as given, and do it in a businesslike manner.

Amateur Radio Hospital Net Opportunities

One of the best things that the amateur radio community can do to enhance its reputation as an emergency communication service is to create and expand hospital nets around the country. Hospital nets help build relationships with healthcare providers and government agencies. And they demonstrate to the public that amateur radio is ready and able to assist during any disaster, no matter how severe.

Hospital nets can help attract young people, who are encouraged to serve their local communities. Earning an amateur radio license and participating in a hospital net are powerful résumé enhancements. Amateur radio must evolve to meet hospitals' future emergency communication needs and appeal to today's youth, who grew up with the internet. Hospitals need reliable coverage over a wide area, ample capacity, and support for both voice and data. Today's young people are accustomed to high-

speed access; many are proficient at producing and uploading videos. How can amateur radio better serve these two constituencies? By building broadband mesh networks covering major cities and large rural areas. Networks consisting of nodes (many equipped with backup power) operated by clubs, sponsors, and individual hams, that are self-healing, and that are readily expandable, would help catapult amateur radio into the future.

Conclusion

Amateur radio has earned praise for providing emergency communication in response to disasters. But it should not be taken for granted. A strategy is needed to meet tomorrow's emergency communication needs. That strategy should guide regulatory policy and technology development to make amateur radio hospitals' go-to emergency communication solution and give young people an exciting new outlet for their technical skills and eagerness to serve their local communities. -- *Ira Brodsky, KC9TC, St. Louis*,



**SOMETIMES FIELD DAY
CAN BE ANYDAY**



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AUGUST 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS KEITH				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS LARRY				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS GLENN		CLUB MEETING AT 6PM		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS ROB				
27	28	29	30	31		
	ARES Net 7:15 pm	MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS FRED				