



MARC Beacon

Volume 7, Issue 11

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2018

President's Message

Hi Everybody,

ANDY IS TAKING A BREAK AND WILL BE BACK.

WE MISS YOU ANDY, TAKE CARE OUR FRIEND.

Andy Frees

NS6V

Yucca Valley

760-369-7388

ai6af@apachepark.org



Borges Associates

Tax Consulting / Preparation Service
57836 Campanula St.
Yucca Valley, Ca. 92284
(760) 365-2652

*Bonded and CTEC Registered Tax Preparer
Personal and Corporate returns
All year service available*

Practice since 1989

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.
St. Christopher of the Desert Catholic Church
61261 Sunburst Dr., Joshua Tree, 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=KCAJUCCA57>

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



The RMS Queen Mary, renowned for bringing luxury accommodations to travelers on the ocean, is preparing next for a voyage into near space. Well, sort of. The Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach is getting ready for a day of satellite operations aboard the luxury liner, which is docked at Long Beach in southern California. The hams are getting on the air on Dec. 15 with the call sign W6RO, the call sign for the Nate Brightman Wireless Room on board the liner. The shack, which opened in 1979, is named for the Silent Key K6OSC who operated amateur station GB5QM on board the ship during its final cruise from England to Long Beach, California in 1967. He then worked for more than a decade to see to the establishment of a permanent amateur radio station on board the ship.

According the club's page on QR Zed.com, satellite operations will include SSB, FM and possibly packet and the operators are hoping to include some HF activity as well.

THE QUEEN MARY - PAST AND PRESENT

The most luxurious ocean liner ever to sail the Atlantic, the Queen Mary is a piece of floating history. She played hostess to the rich and famous during the 1930's, transported more than 800,000 service men during WWII as the legendary "Grey Ghost", and carried a bevy of European war brides coming home to the US and Canada before resuming her status as a luxury liner.

The Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach, led by the tireless Nate Brightman, K6OSC (now SK), established and operated amateur station GB5QM aboard the Queen Mary during her Last Great Cruise from England to Long Beach in 1967. After her arrival, Brightman worked steadily for the next 11 years to establish a permanent amateur radio station aboard the ship. Space and funds were finally granted in 1978, and W6RO - The Nate Brightman Wireless Room aboard the Queen Mary - was officially opened on April 22nd, 1979.



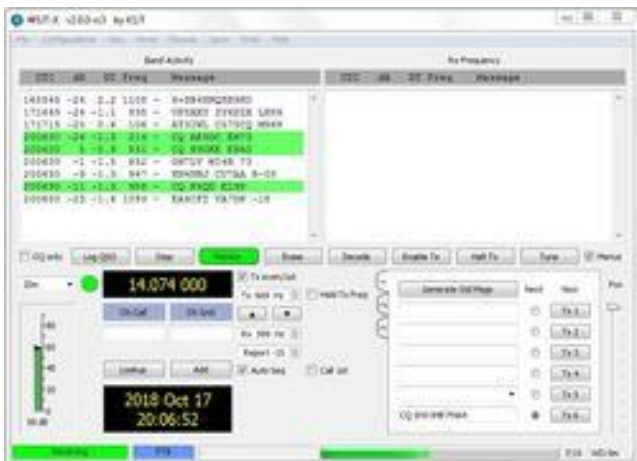
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Practice Makes Perfect with FT8 and Other WSJT-X Protocols

FT8 co-developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, recommend-ed in a recent post to the [Pack Rats reflector](#) that those planning to use FT8 or other [WSJT-X](#) protocols, such as MSK144, should practice using the software before jumping into a contest or other activity. A short [FT8 demonstration contest](#) will take place on Thursday, October 25, 0200 - 0300 UTC (Wednesday, October 24, in North American time zones).

"One thing is for sure: Downloading the software and trying it out a week before the contest is *not* a good plan, either for you or for those of us who write and polish the software," Taylor said. "You need practice and experience with the software before the contest." Taylor reminded readers that the original motivation for developing nearly all of the *WSJT-X* modes was VHF DXing and contesting; however, the software became very popular on HF. A couple of major DXpeditions have included FT8 in their mix of modes, and FT8 lately has been edging into the contesting arena, with its inclusion in the ARRL RTTY Roundup in 2019.



FlexRadio CEO Gerald Youngblood, K5SDR, recently [suggested](#) that FT8 has attained "killer app" or "tipping point" status in Amateur Radio. The protocol permits working stations on seem-ingly "dead" bands, countering the current dearth of sunspots, Youngblood pointed out, and also lets operators of modest or antenna-restricted stations work HF DX, just like larger, well-equipped stations.

"In my humble opinion, FT8 is at the very heart of what Amateur Radio has been about from its inception -- amateurs who love the art of radio enhancing the art of radio," Youngblood wrote. He continued, speculating, "What will ultimately kill



FlexRadio CEO Gerald Youngblood, K5SDR.

Amateur Radio is not FT8. To the contrary, FT8 is an example of what will keep it alive and relevant. What will kill Amateur Radio is if we cease to innovate, become old and grumpy, and no longer bring new blood into the hobby."

Taylor believes that digital modes, such as FT8, can significantly boost contact and multiplier totals in contests that permit its use, not to mention in efforts to attain DXCC and other awards. "How best to merge digi-modes into your operating plan, along with CW and SSB, will be different for each station and each operator," he said.

Taylor has invited feedback regarding what works for FT8 users and what does not. "We get tons of useful feedback from thousands of HF users of WSJT-X," he said. The best way to get help in setting up your station or configuring WSJT-X is by reaching out to the WSJT Group, he said.



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OUR LOCAL TOWN DEMONSTRATION FOR SHAKE OUT 2018 IN YUCCA VALLEY.

This latest storm was the worst of 3 storms that came into the Morongo basin in the recent couple weeks. As I have noticed since I have lived here since the early 70's any storm that comes from the east or southeast direction are always the worst. The first two gave us all awesome pictures of constant lightning shows and rolling thunder. But the last one that came here about 11 pm Friday night the 12th and lasted till about 3:30 am of the 13th, was I must say the worst I have seen in a long time. It did major damage to many highways and roads from Yucca Valley to 29 Palms, and really doing a double number on Joshua Tree.

A lot of us locals know and are used to the usual 29 palms highway washouts in certain cross roads and usually stay away from them, till Caltrans can do their job and clear them. But this storm really did a number on a big stretch of those washouts this time that even us locals were surprised of the devastation this storm did.

So even as we had planned that Saturday for the shake out displays in front of harbor freight, it went on as planned under cloudy skies but no rain and a fair show up of people did come to enjoy the displays and the shake simulator trailer from the San Bernardino county fire department.



**WHAT USED TO BE 29 PALMS HWY IN
WEST SIDE JOSHUA TREE.**



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THE HIGHWAY PRETTY MUCH BLOCKED AT THIS POINT , BUT A FEW DAYS LATER I WENT BY AND THEY HAD IT ALL PILED UP ON THE SIDES OF THE HIGHWAY.



RAIN OR SHINE OUR CERT GROUP SHOWED UP AND OPERATIONAL, FRED W06C,NICKY K06C,PATRICK KN4LKZ AND AARON KM6IAU. NICE SET UP YOU ALL DID THERE!

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





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THANKS TO TODD ROOT, KD6DIQ, OUR LOCAL IRLP NODE OWNER /OPERATOR ON 145.770 PL. 67.0

Looks like a nice project, if interested or questions he is the man
that can help you or lead you in the right direct.



Yellow Box Node Project

Node Size: 2.8" x 10" x 7" Power Requirement: 12 Volts

What's Included: Baofeng 888s Radio or Baofeng UV-82 Dual Band FOB Pi 3, SD Card with Software loaded ,Magnetic Mount Antenna ,12 Volt Car Adapter 12 Volt @3Amp Power Adapter, UV-82 comes with 12Volt @ 5Amp ~ Price with 888s \$195.00 or price with UV-82 \$235.00
Pricing for Modified Baofeng Radios – Node Systems and Supplies
New Modified 888s with DB-25 connector (M) suitable for a URI or our sound FOB \$29.00
Modified Baofeng UV-82 Dual Band with DB-25 (M) suitable for a URI or our sound FOB \$55.00
Modified Battery Eliminator for the 888s \$7.00 ~ Modified Battery Eliminator for the UV-82 \$16.00
AC (Wall Wart) Adapter works with both Battery Eliminators \$12.50
Sound FOB with matching DB-25 Pin connector (F) wired the same as the DMK/URI \$20.00
Magnetic mount Antenna for the Baofeng 888s \$7.00
Dual Band Magnetic mount Antenna for the Baofeng UV-82 \$10.00
12 Volt Cigarette car Adapter cable for Battery Eliminator \$2.00
Baofeng Program Cable and software (New Version) \$10.00
Uv-82 Node System \$235.00 ~ 888s Node System \$195.00 ~ Shipping within US \$7.75 - \$23.60
PayPal is NOT available. You can send payment after you receive the goods
Payment is Check or Money Order to: George Gianios, 1448 Hedgewood Drive, Warrington PA 18976
Email – ggianios@verizon.net



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AMSAT Reports: Digital Mobile Radio Hotspots May Be Interfering with Satellite Uplinks

This week, AMSAT News Service (ANS) cited an August 27 report from AMSAT Vice President-Operations Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA, saying that a digital mobile radio (DMR) signal has been interfering with the AO-92 (Fox-1D) satellite's 435.35 MHz uplink frequency. Glasbrenner said hotspots, repeaters, terrestrial simplex, and "anything not satellite" should never transmit in the segments 145.8 - 146.0 MHz or 435 - 438 MHz by international band plan.



Well-known satellite enthusiast Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK/VA7EWK, told ARRL that one DMR hotspot operating on the AO-92 uplink frequency in the St. Louis area has shifted to another frequency. But, he added, "I think there are still issues, since not all hotspots will report their frequencies and positions to websites such as BrandMeister or via APRS, where they appear on other sites such as <http://aprs.fi>."

"There are others surely operating near satellite uplinks," Stoddard added. "For many, the 435 - 438 MHz satellite sub-band is a big piece of quiet real estate in a busy part of the 70-centimeter band for weak-signal work, repeater links, amateur TV, and other possible uses."

Stoddard points out that FCC Part 97 addresses Amateur Radio operation in these segments, although regulations in many other countries may not be as detailed. §97.3(a)(7) defines auxiliary stations as, "an amateur station, other than in a message forwarding system, that is transmitting communications point-to-point within a system of cooperating amateur stations."

Stoddard said this would include remote bases, EchoLink and IRLP nodes, and hotspots used for digital voice modes, as well as stations using these hotspots and nodes. Auxiliary stations may not transmit in the 145.8 - 146.0 and 435 - 438 MHz satellite sub-bands (among others in the 2-meter and 70-centimeter amateur bands), per §97.201(b). Further:



Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK, does a satellite demonstration at the Palm Springs Hamfest in 2017.

- §97.3(a)(40) defines a repeater as, "an amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels." Stoddard said that because most hotspots operate on a discrete frequency, they would not qualify as repeaters, even if they operate like a repeater, per §97.205(b).
- §97.101(a) stipulates, "In all respects not specifically covered by FCC Rules, each amateur station must be operated in accordance with good engineering and good amateur practice." Stoddard remarked, "Whether the hotspot is interfering with a satellite downlink in a particular area, or it is interfering with the satellite uplink affecting a much larger area, this would not be good amateur practice."
- In addition to sub-bands where hotspots are not permitted, Stoddard said, §97.101(b) is also relevant. It states, "Each station licensee and each control operator must cooperate in selecting transmitting channels and in making the most effective use of the Amateur Service frequencies. No frequency will be assigned for the exclusive use of any station."

Stoddard noted that frequencies used by satellites are usually incapable of being changed and are coordinated in advance of launch, while hotspots typically are frequency agile, and the frequencies used by those systems can be changed to avoid potential interference to satellites and other stations.

-- Thanks to AMSAT News Service, Patrick Stoddard, WD9EWK/VA7EWK



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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|-----------|---|--------|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | | | | ARES Meeting 6:00 pm Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Yucca Valley | | SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR BEFORE YOU GO TO BED TONIGHT! |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|  | ARES Net 7:15 pm | MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS CHRIS | | | | |
| 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| | ARES Net 7:15 pm VETERANS DAY | MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS ANDY | | MARC Meeting 7:00 pm back at St. Christopher Joshua Tree | | |
| 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| | ARES Net 7:15 pm | MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS JOHN | |  Happy Thanksgiving TURKEY DAY | | |
| 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | |
| | ARES Net 7:15 pm | MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS GLENN | | | | |