



MARC Beacon

Volume 8, Issue 11

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2019

President's Message

Greetings fellow hams, I hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful weather. Fall is upon us. I wanted to discuss a topic that is going viral in the ham radio community. Recently an email was sent out to the California ham radio community regarding ham radio is not supported anymore by the state. First off, the email was very poorly written, and it was never intended to go to the public. I dug deep into this issue with some close friends that are state of California radio technicians. This is what they have to say. The email was poorly written, it was intended for 1 recipient, the one recipient is completely aware of what the issue is, the recipient never should have sent it out and the recipient should have included supporting documentation along with the email.

The email was intended to address the issue of amateur radio repeaters and equipment housed inside of state-owned communication vaults. In many situations, these repeaters were placed in vaults without any permission and in some cases caused harmful interference to state radio systems. With that said, the state of California still supports amateur radio and will continue to entertain requests for repeater placement, however requires that the system be evaluated by the state and installed by a certified technician. This can be expensive for most hams and clubs, but this is the new normal. I hope this clarifies the issue.

Now for some club business: please start thinking about who you would nominate for the club board positions. If you are interested in a position, please let us know!

Chris Nichols
WB6CDF DM14te

Yucca Valley
Club President
(760)285-3560

CHRIS@WB6CDF.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

**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



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=KCAUYCCA57>
Glenn N6GIW

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/weather/us/ca/yucca%20valley/34.11451239999995%2C-116.4194904>

Keith N6GKB

Club meeting is back in Joshua tree.

St. Christopher of the Desert Catholic Church
61261 Sunburst Dr., Joshua Tree, CA



Throughout the year I know we all get busy, but please keep in mind to keep your clubs annual dues up to date. I know it's hard sometimes to keep track of this. So, if you have any question of when your due date is you can contact Glenn N6GIW. Or myself Keith N6GKB and we will let you know what month. And thank you all for your participation in the Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club!

Glenn Miller deacon733@msn.com

Keith Board n6gkb@live.com

ARRL to Launch New *On the Air Magazine*

ARRL is launching a new magazine, *On the Air*, in January 2020. To be published on a bimonthly basis, *On the Air* will offer new and beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs a fresh approach to exploring radio communication. Each issue will include advice and insights on topics from the variety of Amateur Radio interests and activities: radio technology, operating, equipment, project building, and emergency communication. The goal of this new magazine is to be a vital resource in helping new and newer radio amateurs get active and involved in radio communications.



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"On the Air responds to the brand-new and not-so-brand-new radio amateur seeking ideas and answers,"

said QST Managing Editor Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY. Schoenfeld is part of the ARRL staff team that developed the new magazine. The planning included an extensive national-level study of new Amateur Radio licensees, identifying their motivations for getting licensed and their experiences of getting started. A focus group responded positively to a trial sample edition of the magazine.

"Too many new licensees never take the next step," says Schoenfeld. "We're excited to introduce a new Amateur Radio magazine for this audience, aimed at getting them active, getting them involved, and getting them on the air."

The first issue of *On the Air* will be published in January 2020 (January/February issue) and will be introduced as a new ARRL membership benefit. Effective November 1, when eligible US radio amateurs join ARRL or renew their memberships, they will be prompted to select the print magazine of their choice -- *On the Air* or *QST*. Current members receiving the print edition of *QST*, upon renewal, may choose to continue receiving the print edition of *QST* (monthly) or the print edition of *On the Air* (bimonthly).

All ARRL members, including international members, will be able to access digital editions of both *QST* and *On the Air*. Members who already access *QST* on the web or from the mobile app will be able to access *QST* and *On the Air* starting in January.

Report Causes Concern and Confusion in California's Amateur Radio Ranks

By all credible and reliable accounts, the State of California has *not* turned its back on Amateur Radio as an emergency communication resource, nor have established repeater owners been asked to remove their equipment from state-owned sites unless they pay sizable fees. The California controversy, inflamed by a viral YouTube video, stemmed from a



California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) communication telling a repeater owner or group that Amateur Radio equipment would have to be removed from a state-owned site or "vault" if the owner(s) determined the cost was too great to proceed with a formal application to keep it there.

"I do understand and appreciate all of the service you have provided in the past," CAL FIRE's Lorina Pisi, told the unknown repeater owner(s) or group(s) last month. "However, with constantly changing technological advances, there is no longer the same benefit to State as previously provided. Therefore, the Department no longer financially supports HAM operators [sic] radios or tenancy. If you desire to enter into a formal agreement to operate and maintain said equipment, you must complete and submit attached collocation application along with fee as outlined on page one of application. There is cost associated with getting an agreement in place."



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It's not clear to whom Pisi's memo was addressed, because any name or names were redacted from the version of the memo that is being circulated. ARRL reached out to Pisi but has not heard back.

ARRL officials who have also looked into the situation agree that it's been blown out of proportion by parties with their own agendas.

"The State of California has not made any determination we can find 'that Ham Radio [is] no longer a benefit,'" Pacific Division Director Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, is quoted on the [Sacramento Valley Section website](#).



"What happened is that CAL FIRE has transferred responsibility for its communications sites to its property management department. That department has the task of evaluating each site, its condition, use, and tenants. If a repeater not known to be associated with the emergency management function of a local jurisdiction is found in a CAL FIRE vault, the default action is to move it out or subject it to commercial rental rates."

ARRL Southwestern Division Director Dick Norton, N6AA, has been responding to inquiries with the same message.



Two separate groups took advantage of the Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network ([AREDN](#)) to

monitor wildfires in California. The Mariposa Area Amateur Radio Organization ([MAARO](#)) used the Amateur Radio mesh to [stream](#) -- via microwave -- video from the Briceburg Fire near Yosemite National Park. The Pleasant Valley Amateur Radio Club (PVARC)

employed the AREDN mesh to [stream](#) video from the Saddle Ridge Fire near Los Angeles from a repeater site overlooking San Fernando Valley. The Briceburg and Saddle Ridge fires are now under control, but archived streams are still available. This is the same network that was used to stream video from the Thomas and Woolsey fires in 2017 and 2018, respectively. -- Thanks to Ben Kuo, AI6YR



QuartzFest is a week-long ham radio, camping, learning and living event. Coming up FAST!

*QuartzFest 2020, celebrating its 25th anniversary, is an ARRL Specialty Convention being held **January 19 to 25, 2020** near Quartzsite, Arizona in the United States. No other hamfest in the world brings together in one gathering so much innovation in mobile antenna systems, mobile ham shacks, recreational vehicles, portable and mobile EMCMM systems, off-the-grid living, alternative energy and radio education.*

A Very Unique Ham Radio Gathering

QuartzFest is special in part because it comes to life each year, rising from nothing in a remote area of the Sonoran desert in the southwestern USA. Hundreds of Hams and their families and friends choose to



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unplug from their daily lives, travel to and setup this desert community, and immerse themselves in this week-long one-of-a-kind ham radio, camping, learning and living event.

The educational classes at QuartzFest offer something for everyone including those new to ham radio or even the most seasoned veteran.

They give participants the chance to put hands-on the latest technology, learn ham radio for the first time, study advanced radio theory and to even take a glimpse into the future of radio science. The learning also continues well-beyond the technical lectures all the way from morning coffee... through social events, music, arts and crafts classes during the day... and into the evening while sitting around the campfire or while star-gazing.

We hope you will decide to join us in 2020 which promises to be one of the most exciting editions of this very unique and special ham radio gathering.

Seven Three de
Your Quartzfest Committee

<https://quartzfest.org/>

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.

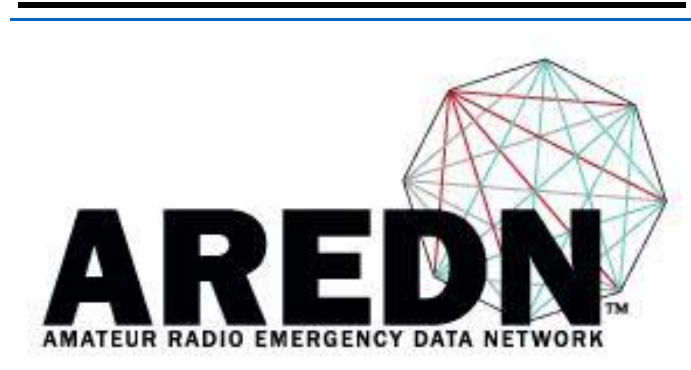


Saturday October 12th our community had its shake out event with our local groups first responders showing their support for the event. And our club got to show off that new banner! Always a great event for the community. And the weather was great.



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Coming to a mountain top near you in 2020! A great network that hams can connect on. No Internet required only an antenna and your computer. More information to come in the next couple months About this great system that all hams should be part of.

<https://www.arednmesh.org/>



Todd Root's IRLP NODE

I have talked to some of you that don't know about Todd's Node on 145.770, with a PL 67.0 and no offset. It is located on the east end of Yucca Valley.

It is usually quite active with a wide variety of ham related Nets throughout the week from early morning until late into the night.

The NODE schedule is as follows:

Monday-Saturday: The Alaska morning net at 10am,
The RED EYE net is on 7 days a week at 10pm,
Tuesday: is the Tech net at from 5pm-7pm,
Thursday: is the outdoors net at 7:30pm,
And every Saturday is the NEWSLINE at 5pm!



THANK YOU, ROB AND JUDY, FOR THE USE OF THIS NEW BANNER FOR ANY FUTURE CLUB PUBLIC EVENTS; IT LOOKS GREAT.

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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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------------------------------|---|-----------|--|---------------------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | | Set clocks back one hour before you go to bed!! |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | ARES Net 7:15 pm | MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS George | | ARES Meeting 6:00 pm | | |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | ARES Net 7:15 pm | MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Keith | | | | |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| | ARES Net 7:15 pm | MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Chris | | MARC Meeting 7:00 pm In Joshua tree | | |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | ARES Net 7:15 pm | MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS John | | | BLACK FRIDAY | |