



# MARC Beacon

Volume 11, Issue 12 The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

DECEMBER 2022

Hello radio operators and welcome to the happiest month of the year! (Stay positive folks.)

Last month the following members were elected as the 2023 MARC Board of Directors:

President Rob Cloutier WO4ROB  
Vice President Keith Board N6GKB  
Secretary Steve Leazer KN6RWD  
Treasurer Glenn Miller N6GIW  
Repeater Trustee Glenn Miller N6GIW  
Board Members Judy Cloutier KK6NWX  
Larry Mollica AD6G

Thank you board of directors for volunteering your services for the club.

This month, on Thursday 15 December, from 1800 to 1900, we will celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of the next, with the "Installation Dinner" to welcome the elected 2023 MARC Board of Directors. Please contact Judy KK6NWX if you plan on attending. The meal is free to all valid members.

Non-members are required to pay \$15. I highly encourage everyone to bring a wrapped "White Elephant" gift to the meeting. Contact me if you have any questions.

During January's meeting, I would like to have an auction for HAM related equipment you would like to donate to the club. Contact me for details.

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.

This is WO4ROB, Rob from Joshua Tree.

**Rob Cloutier**  
**WO4ROB**

Joshua tree  
Club President  
(760)401-6666

[rob\\_cloutier@hotmail.com](mailto:rob_cloutier@hotmail.com)



## 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

ALLSTAR NODE on the mesa 147.705 pl 146.2  
ALLSTAR NODE in Y.V. 446.120 pl 131.8



# MARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

## WEATHER UNDERGROUND

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

## KEN HENDRICKSON, W6BZY



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



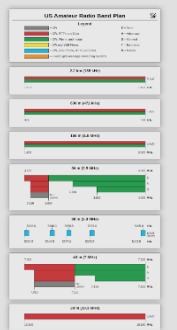
Search **W6BZY** on YouTube.

### US Amateur Radio Band Chart

<http://ham.band>

- Easy to remember link
- Easy to use on desktop or mobile
- Light-mode/Dark-mode switchable
- Familiar layout

Send feature requests to [Aaron@KM6IAU.net](mailto:Aaron@KM6IAU.net)



## HAM LOCATOR

Here is the link to the map showing the location of the ham operators.

<https://haminfo.tetranz.com/map>

Are you familiar with this site?

Are any members interested in having it?

Sent by Jake N6XIV

## 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.**



# MARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

**Not everyone is due at the same time of the year.**

## COMM ON THE TRAM

Monday 19 December talking to the Yucca Valley repeater on top of the Palm Springs tram, 8,516 feet high and 27.5 miles away



**ROB WO4ROB CLUB PRESIDENT**

Hitting the yucca valley repeater, and a few of us did try to contact him while he was up there on simplex.



## Ham Radio Contests & Special Events 2023

Participated .....

January – 2023 Date Yes No

ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes . . . 21 – 23

Winter Field Day . . . . . 28–29

February–2023

10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB. . . . . 4 – 5

Daytona 500 Speedweeks Sp. Event. . 15–19(?)

CQ WW 160-Meter–SSB. . . . . 24 – 26

March – 2023

ARRL DX Contest – SSB . . . . . 4 – 5

CQ WPX Contest – SSB . . . . . 25 – 26

June – 2023

Museum Ships Weekend. . . . . 3–4

ARRL VHF QSO Party . . . . . 10 – 12

Field Day . . . . . 24 – 25



# MARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

July – 2023

- 13 Colonies Special Event . . . . . 1 – 7
- CQ WW VHF Contest . . . . . 15 – 16

August–2023

- 10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB. . . 5 – 6
- 
- North American QSO Party, SSB. . . 19–20
- 
- Hawaii QSO Party . . . . . 25–27

September – 2023

- ARRL VHF QSO Party . . . . . 9 – 11
- Route 66 On The Air Special Event . . 9 – 17
- 

October – 2023

- California QSO Party. . . . . 7 – 8
- CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB. . . . 28–29
- 

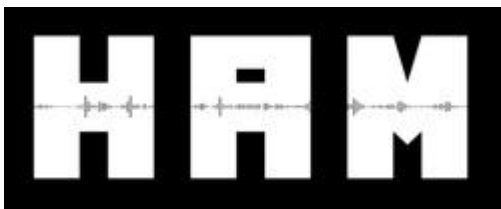
November – 2023

- ARRL Sweepstakes–Phone . . . . . 18 – 20
- 

December – 2023

- ARRL 10-Meter Contest. . . . . 11 – 12
- Definitely will participate if at all possible!  
Best results are by utilizing all 3 modes; SSB;  
CW; & Digital (FT8, etc.)

## Amateur Radio Featured on



## Montana Public Television

On Thursday, November 24, 2022, Thanksgiving evening, MontanaPBS aired a documentary about amateur radio that was appropriately titled, HAM. The 25-minute program was produced by students, in cooperation with the Greater Montana Foundation, as well as the School of Journalism and the School of Visual & Media Arts at the University of Montana (UM) in Missoula. Several local amateur radio operators were featured in the program, including Lance Collister, W7GJ; Dennis Lane, KR7Q; Mike Leary, K7MSO, and Keith Graves,

NE7R. Together, they talked about how amateur radio has evolved and their experiences as active hams.

The program is available to watch on the MontanaPBS website, at [www.montanapbs.org/programs/ham](http://www.montanapbs.org/programs/ham).



"I was happy to agree to the interview," said ARRL member Dennis Lane, KR7Q, who was

ARRL member Lance Collister, W7GJ, of Frenchtown, Montana, was among the hams featured in the student-produced documentary.

among a handful of hams featured in the video, such as Lane and his wife, Debi; Lance Collister, W7GJ; Karen Orzech; Mike Leary, K7MSO; Keith Graves, NE7R, and Lois Graves, W7LAG. "The students visited my home and ham shack in early March of 2022. They seemed to be interested in the human-interest aspect of ham radio," Lane continued. "I tried to emphasize the relationships and lifelong friendships that I have enjoyed over my 45 years in the hobby."

Lane also shared, "When I told the students about Parks on the Air®, they asked if they could come with me on my next POTA activation. I was happy to have them join me at Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge in Stevensville." During the activation, Lane made radio contacts on both VHF and shortwave, using an end-fed half-wave antenna. "One of the first contacts I made was in Alaska. They seemed very excited about that."

The UM student film crew included Grace Wolcott, Kal Bailey, Jared Bengé, Karter Bernhardt, Julien Dousset, Maiya Fleck, Marcia Heydt, Natalie Verploegen, and Ryan Weibush. Lane published these personal videos from the filming:

- <https://www.montanaartgwerks.com/My-Ham-Radio-Page-de-KR7Q/Mpbs/i-wqc9jJz/A>
- [https://youtu.be/S\\_UBc-b-Nek](https://youtu.be/S_UBc-b-Nek) (YouTube)



# MARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

## When All Else Fails: Amateur Radio Helps Rescue Lost Hiker

*Editor's note: The following event took place on Sunday afternoon, December 11, 2022, and was told to ARRL News by Raul "Skip" Camejo, AC1LC, Public Information Coordinator for the ARRL New Hampshire Section.*

A New



The amateur radio repeater on the summit of Gunstock Mountain helped connect the lost hiker in a remote area of New Hampshire. The repeater is affiliated with New England Digital Emergency Communications Network, NEDECN.

Hampshire man and his dog went out for a day hike yesterday in the Belmont area of central New Hampshire. Things went well until his cell phone battery died. With darkness near and a prediction of snow, a leisurely day hike was quickly turning into a serious health and safety issue for the hiker.

Fortunately for him, he is also an amateur radio operator and brought along his digital mobile radio (DMR) handheld radio with him. With no cell phone capability, he made a call on the DMR New Hampshire statewide channel through the Gunstock (Mountain) DMR repeater, seeking assistance. His call was answered by Bill Barber, NE1B, who was monitoring the channel. The hiker asked Barber to call his wife, because he could not text or get "pinged" with his dead cell phone. Barber contacted the hiker's wife, and she was glad to hear that someone was in contact with him. Unfortunately, he did not know exactly where

he was and believed he would have to walk through brush for an hour or more to get to a road.

His wife called the local police department, who began a search with their local fire department. Amateur radio was the only communication from about 4:30 to 6:30 PM. Barber was able to make contact with Rick Zach, K1RJZ, who lives closer to the search area, and was familiar with the area's snowmobile trails and roads. Zach coordinated communication between the responding police units and the lost radio operator on the New Hampshire Statewide talkgroup.

Police and fire units attempted to assist in the search by activating their sirens in different locations to try to obtain a location on the ham operator, but he was not able to hear them.

Another amateur radio operator, Chuck Cunningham, K1MIZ, was monitoring the events on Net Watch and noticed that the lost ham had accidentally changed channels. This information was passed along, and 2-meter DMR communication continued until the lost ham walked out to a road and was able to advise searchers of his location. The search and checkout ended successfully at 6:30 PM.

Thanks to the efforts of Bill Barber, NE1B (ARRL Life Member); Rick Zach, K1RJZ (ARRL member), and Chuck Cunningham, K1MIZ.

Barber listed some very important lessons learned from the incident:

- Radio batteries last longer on DMR radios than on analog mode.
- Even his wife had trouble with her cell phone coverage at home.
- Monitor your local state DMR channel to help others nearby.
- You may want to program 146.52 FM next to your state channel for signal strength direction finding if and when



# MARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

you're out of repeater range. Some hams still monitor 146.52 MHz simplex.

- Stay on the primary channel until you know more hams are nearby to direction find your signal.
- Hike with DMR. Network sites cover many areas of New England that do not have any cell service.
- Hike with a flashlight.

And I would like to add one more item to the list. My son is one of the leaders of Pemigewasset Valley (New Hampshire) Search & Rescue Team and unfortunately responds to too many calls for lost hikers. One very important item that he stresses is that hikers file a "flight plan." Let someone who is not going on the hike know where you are going, how long you expect to be gone, and what communication equipment or capability you have with you. This also applies if you are going out hunting, fishing, or boating.

Raul "Skip" Camejo, AC1LC  
Public Information Coordinator  
ARRL New Hampshire Section  
[ac1lc@arrrl.net](mailto:ac1lc@arrrl.net)

## Check out 3Y0J: A DXpedition to the Most Remote Uninhabited Island on Earth

You've got to read this article about the upcoming **"DXpedition to the Most Remote Uninhabited Island on Earth"**. Some really interesting information about what it takes to achieve the most expensive and remote DXpedition ever. They mention that the closest humans to them will be on the **International Space Station!!** Read it to the end. I think you will find it quite interesting. I'm looking forward to working

**3Y0J.** (Both links below should take you to the same place.)

### [3Y0J: A DXpedition to the Most Remote Uninhabited Island on Earth](#)

<https://www.onallbands.com/3y0j-a-dxpedition-to-the-most-remote-uninhabited-island-on-earth/>



## Marines To Gain Radio Op Experience Via Amateur



### Radio. Locals must read!

On Wednesday, December 7, 2022, 22 Communication Officers at the Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School (MCCES) in Twentynine Palms, California, became amateur radio operators. W6BA, the [Morongo Basin](#)



# MARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

[Amateur Radio Club](#) (MARC) administered the exams and 21 candidates passed their Technician exam, and one passed their General exam. 14-year-old Kalynn Cossette, KN6WVD, was the youngest candidate who passed her Technician exam.

Retired Marine Corps Warrant Officer 4 Robert Cloutier, WO4ROB, and MARC President says it was a great event and he is excited to see so many new amateur radio operators. So, what drove the officers to want amateur radio licenses? Cloutier pointed out that all of the candidates already have a background in radio administration but not operating experience.

"Chief Warrant Officer (CWO3) Kalem Cossette, KK4KC, one of the training officers at MCCES, introduced amateur radio to the Communication Officers," said Cloutier. "Most of the students were curious on how to get their license, so CWO3 Cossette contacted the MARC to schedule an exam session."

Cloutier said that all new license holders were offered a free club membership but many of them will be deployed to other locations around the world and will be able to join other amateur radio clubs. He said they hope to conduct exams every three months.

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## NASA "Decodes" Secret Messages Onboard the Orion Spacecraft

NASA has a long history of hiding secret messages in its spacecraft and that tradition continued with the launch of the Orion crew capsule in November on top of the Artemis I rocket.

Five hidden messages were placed in the Orion capsule ranging from Morse Code to musical notes.

On the right side of the capsule below a window and next to the pilot's seat were the

letters "C, B, A, G, F" - five musical notes for the first words in Frank Sinatra's song, "Fly Me to the Moon."

In the middle of the capsule, above the cockpit control console, was a Morse Code message that spelled out the name "Charlie"



A Morse code symbol for "Charlie" commemorates the life of former Orion Deputy Program Manager Charlie Lundquist, who died in 2020. Photo courtesy of NASA.

in remembrance of former Orion Deputy Program Manager Charlie Lundquist, who died in 2020.

Other messages included a picture image of a cardinal to the right of the pilot seat as a tribute to former Orion Program manager, Johnson Space Center director, and St. Louis Cardinals fan Mark Geyer, who died in 2021.

The other two messages were on top of the pilot's seat including Binary code representing 18. This is in honor of NASA's history of travel to the moon with the Apollo Program and to celebrate a spacecraft's return to the Moon after Apollo 17 for the Artemis Generation. The final message was in front of the pilot's seat, the country codes of each country with the European Space Agency (ESA) that participated in developing and building the spacecraft's European Service Module.

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## Amateur Radio Operators



# MARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

## Invited to participate in Asteroid Bounce Experiment

The High-frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) will be conducting a research campaign/experiment on December 27, 2022, with transmissions between 1100 - 2300 UTC (0200 - 1400 AKST).

This



HAARP antenna array at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

experiment will reflect HAARP transmissions off of Near-Earth Asteroid (NEA) 2010 XC15, and the echo will be received by the Owens Valley Radio Observatory Long Wavelength Array (OVRO-LWA) at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and by the University of New Mexico's Long Wavelength Array (UNM-LWA). The target asteroid will be roughly two lunar distances away from Earth at the time of transmission. Characterizing the interior structure and composition of NEAs is critical for advancing the understanding of solar system evolution and aiding in planetary defense.

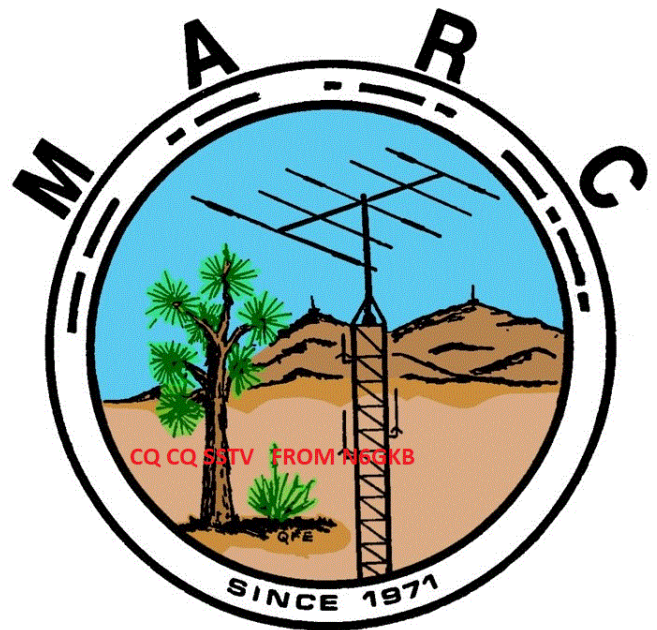
Actual transmit times are highly variable based on real-time ionospheric conditions and all information is subject to change. Currently, the Asteroid Bounce (2010 XC15) experiment will take place Dec. 27, 2022, from 1100 UTC to 2300 UTC; 9.6 MHz, LFM (linear FM), 0.5 Hz WRF (waveform repetition frequency), 30 kHz bandwidth. Reports recording echo are encouraged; demodulated recordings in .wav or .mp3 are recommended.

For real-time ionospheric conditions in Gakona, please consult ionograms from the HAARP Diagnostic Suite at

<https://haarp.gi.alaska.edu/diagnostic-suite>.

Amateur radio and radio astronomy enthusiasts are invited to listen to the transmissions/echoes and submit reception reports to the HAARP facility at [uaf-gi-haarp@alaska.edu](mailto:uaf-gi-haarp@alaska.edu) and request a QSL card by mailing a report to:

HAARP  
P.O. Box 271  
Gakona AK 99586  
USA







# MARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

## DECEMBER 2022

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