MARC Beacon

Volume 5, Issue 6

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

June 2016

President's Message

Hello fellow radio operators! This is a very busy and exciting month. This is the month for Flag Day, Father's Day, the First Day of Summer, and most importantly FIELD DAY! Saturday the 25th and Sunday the 26th of June! I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to make this year a fun and successful Field Day event. If you have not already, please take a look at all the information posted on the Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Facebook page. Don't forget, a test session will be held during field day, so please encourage your friends, family members, and co-workers to take the test to join our elite group, or to upgrade their current license.

I would also like to thank everyone who volunteered during the Grubstake Day's parade. The ARES and MARC radio operators did an outstanding job communicating the line-up and progress of the parade.

Take care everyone and please do not forget your Dad on Father's Day.

Rob
KK6JHI
Joshua Tree
760-401-6666

Nets

Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Mon @ 1915
Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club (MARC), Tue @ 1900
Narrow Band Emergency Message System (NBEMS)
145.645 MHz, 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 1900

Field Day 2016

Field Day is Saturday June 25th and Sunday June 26th at the Yucca Mesa Community Center (YMCC), 3133 Balsa Ave, Yucca Valley. The following positions are filled. Please contact the chairman if you want to be a part of the committee.

Field Day Chairman	Chris Nichols	WB6CDF
Deputy Chairman	Rob Cloutier	KK6JHI
Safety Officer	Nick Powell	KK6NWV
Public Official Liaison	Seri Hardy	KJ6JVI
Public Display	Andy Frees	AI6AF
Public Education	Steve Morse	KI6HGH
Direction Finding	Rob Cloutier	KK6JHI
ARRL Logs	Chris Nichols	WB6CDF
Advertising	Sheri Hardy	KJ6JVI
Radio Planning	Chris Nichols	WB6CDF
Antenna System Design	Jeffrey Hardy	KJ6BOI
Logging Network	Andy Frees	AI6AF
Power System	Chris Nichols	WB6CDF
Food Coordinator	Judy Cloutier	KK6NWG
General Setup	Andy Frees, Glenn Miller, Steve Morse, Manual Borges, Rob Cloutier	

The first committee meeting was held 1800 Wed 27 April at the YMCC, attended by Chris, Lesley, Rob, Judy, Manual, Andy, Larry, Richard, and Steve. The second meeting was held 1800 Wed 25 May at the YMCC,

attended by Chris, Lesley, Rob, Judy, Manual, Andy, Frank, Steve, Glenn M, Nick, and Sheri. The next meeting is scheduled for 1800 Wed 8 June at the YMCC. The last meeting before the event is scheduled for 1800 Wed 22 June at the YMCC this meeting is focused on the logging network.

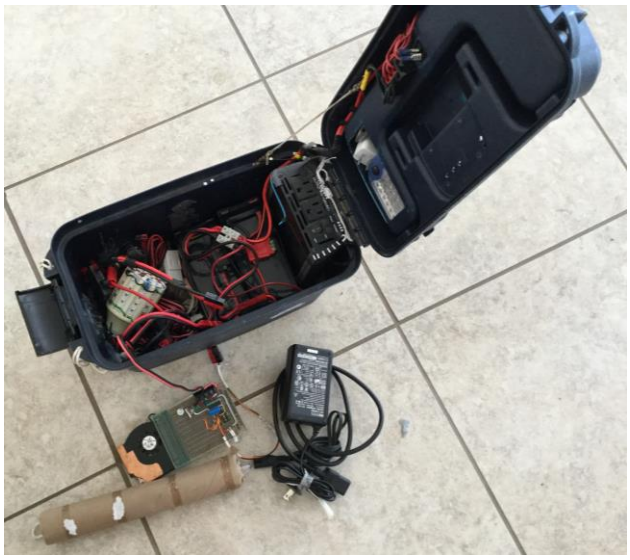
Club Meeting

Every 3rd Thursday of the month at 7 PM.
St. Christopher of the Desert Catholic Church
61261 Sunburst Dr., Joshua Tree, CA

The 'Comms Power Box'

A voltmeter and 27 LED flashlight from Harbor Fright Tools. 3 sets of Power Poles and 1 switched.

In the very bottom, just visible are the 2 10 Ah gell cells, each individually fused. On the right hand side the 12v to 110v 400 watt converter. The Power Poles on the lid, allow a vehicle to be connected, so I can use its battery in the vehicle, or if the engine is running, charge these batteries. On the floor is the 12v SLA battery charger (home built using a UC3906N, schematic available on request). In the cardboard tube are 2 110v LED lights, a homemade 12v LED light is in the bottom.



And finally, the LED battery lighting box. Just look at those 'D' cells, 10 AMP HOUR, yep 10 Amps for an hour! My dual Harbor Fright Wattmeter setup see instructables for details at http://www.instructables.com/id/Watthour-Meter/ Strings of LED designed to work in 16 volts. A repurposed wall wart charger, for charging those little suckers. These will supply LED light for a long time. 60 ma into 10,000 mAh = 166 hours of light. Nearly 7 days of continuous light, night and day.

A close up of some of the 10000mAh cells. A slight problem with this set up is the running voltage of the pack is 16 volts average. A little high for most radios, but I have included a couple of resistors on top to limit the current, so as to be able to somewhat part charge a 12 volt battery, and to charge some of the cells from a 12v car battery. The switch changes the output voltage from 16v to 4.8v. Schematic on request.

Steve 'HGH

Test Session

The next amateur radio license test session is scheduled during Field Day, 1:00 PM Saturday 25 June 2016 at the Yucca Mesa Community Center, 3133 Balsa Ave, Yucca Valley. We will test for all license classes. If you are upgrading, bring a COPY of your license and be sure your FRN is on it. The fee is $5 per test. If you are not known to the examiners, then they will need to see a photo ID.

Glenn N6GIW

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

The 3-3-3 Radio Plan

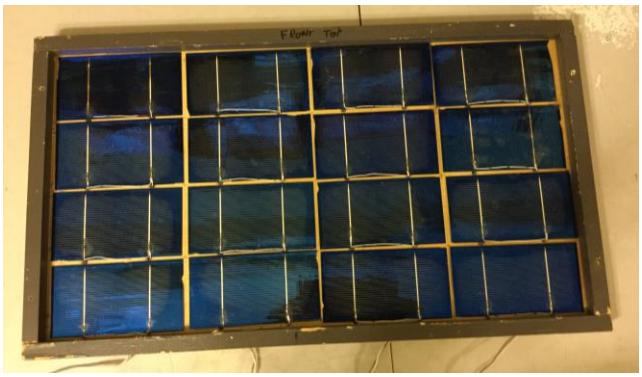
If you are ever in a situation where you need to conserve battery power, you may want to exercise the following 3-3-3 radio plan. Turn on your radio every 3 hours at Noon, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, Midnight, 3am, 6am, and 9am local time, for at least 3 minutes, on channel 3. Channel 3 is CB-3 (26.985 MHz), FRS-3 (462.6125 MHz), or MURS-3 (151.940 MHz). Most hams use 146.520 MHz FM Simplex (No PL) as their 3-3-3 channel.

Rob KK6JHI

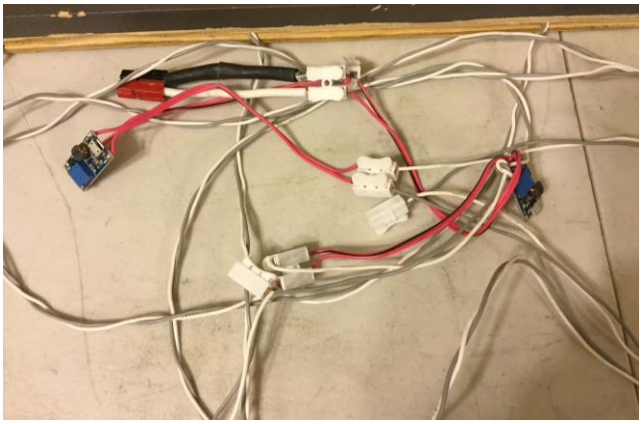
Homemade Solar Panel Array

It does supply enough power to run the FT-817 radio (with no working batteries in it) on receive and very low power transmit. Andy, AI6AF, was contacted via W6BA a few weeks ago. Mind you, it does need full sunlight to do this, and to be set up at the correct angle. Even the slightest bit of shade turned the radio off. I calculated it supplies about 1/2 an Amp at 8 volts. The FT-817 is not a 13.2 volt radio; it will run on a voltage as low as 7.5 volts.

The solar cells in their full glory! Glued, screwed and hammered in place. The wiring was a bear, each of the vertical strips are silver plated lines, which I had to solder a piece of Cat5 wire to each one. O on the back there are 6 silver squares which also had to have wires soldered to them.



On the back is the electronics. The key is those little blue 3 volt to 6 volt (adjustable) converters. They take the power from each of the 4 banks of solar cells and convert up to a usable voltage. This type of wiring has a special name, spaghetti wiring; I am an expert at it.



Steve 'HGH

Upcoming Events

Oro Valley ARC Hamfest, 12 Nov, www.arca-az.org

Editor Point of Contact (POC)
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Submission deadline is 2 days before the 1st of each month

June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 ARES Net 7:15pm	31 MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Andy	1	2 **ARES Meeting 6:00 pm** Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Yucca Valley	3	4
5	6 ARES Net 7:15 pm	7 MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Chris	8	9 NBEMS Net 7:00 pm 145.645 MHz	10	11
12	13 ARES Net 7:15 pm	14 MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Manuel 	15	16 **MARC Meeting 7:00 pm** St. Christopher's Catholic Church Joshua Tree	17	18
19 	20 ARES Net 7:15 pm 	21 MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Rob	22	23 NBEMS Net 7:00 pm 145.645 MHz	24 Rob's Birthday! 	25 
26 	27 ARES Net 7:15 pm	28 MARC Net 7:00 pm NCS Steve	29	30	1	2