



MBARC Beacon

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

DECEMBER 2023

Hello radio operators! Hopefully everyone had a great Thanksgiving holiday. It is the last month of 2023. Enjoy the holiday season and get ready for 2024.

A big congratulations to the following 2024 board of directors. Thank you for volunteering your services.

President: Rob Cloutier WO4ROB

Vice President: Keith Board N6GKB

Treasurer: Glenn Miller N6GIW

Secretary: Paul Edwards AA6SM

Board Member I: Loren McCorkle KM6QQP

Board Member II: Aaron Chesney KM6IAU

The deadline for submitting a new club logo is Thursday 18 January when licensed club members will vote for the new club logo during the monthly meeting.

On Saturday 27 January 2024, at the Yucca Mesa Community Center, we will be conducting winter field day, and in the afternoon we will have an in person, paperless, amateur radio license, exam session. 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

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

YUCCA VALLEY AIRPORT 123.000

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



MBARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

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

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. THESE DUES INCREASE IS NEEDED TO MAINTAIN AND KEEP OUR SYSTEM REPAIRS UPDATED AS NEEDED.



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 aloud OR please register at the following link:

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

Rob Cloutier

WO4ROB@gmail.com

(760)401-6666

There is now a simplex Allstar node operating in Pipes Canyon available for use that links into the W6BA linked repeater system.

It is on 446.120MHz (no offset), CTCSS 146.2

The area is shadowed from the Yucca Valley repeater on Paxton hill, making for poor HT coverage. The node fills in the area nicely, but it is **not a repeater** so of course it's no help with say, HT-to-HT within the canyon. It

will however get you into the linked repeater system. The node so far seems to cover the west end of Pipes Canyon quite well and should do the same for the Rimrock area. **Keep in mind this is a SIMPLEX node; you must wait for it's carrier to drop entirely before transmitting. The node cannot hear you when it is transmitting.**

If you have questions or comments, please contact Larry AD6G or Bryan KF6YGK.



MBARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

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

ARRL RF Safety Committee Develops New Guidelines to Communicate RF Safety

Radio amateurs now have a new tool from ARRL to help answer questions about their stations. Neighbors of amateur radio operators are sometimes concerned about transmissions and radio frequency exposure from amateur stations.

The [ARRL RF Safety Committee](#), with their international counterparts at the Radio Society of Great Britain (RSGB), the Irish Radio Transmitters Society (IRTS), and the Swedish Society of Radio Amateurs (SSA), has developed a new set of guidelines to help amateurs interact with and talk to their neighbors about RF exposure.



Chairman of the ARRL RF Safety Committee Greg Lapin, N9GL, said the new informational PDF found on the ARRL RF Exposure page, [Helping Amateurs Interact with Neighbors Asking About Radio Transmissions](#), was developed after a year of discussions about RF safety.

"Neighbors may be alarmed by some of the misinformation about RF safety that is available from a variety of sources. By following the exposure regulations from the Federal Communications Commission, we can be confident that our families and neighbors are safe," Lapin said.

Lapin added that RF exposure regulations are based on decades of trustworthy research. He also encouraged all amateur radio operators to perform exposure assessments for their stations to make sure they meet those regulations.

ARRL Advocacy Win: FCC Approves Request for Pearl Harbor Day Crossband Operations

ARRL sought a waiver on behalf of the activators, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has granted it. The [waiver](#) allows amateur radio operators to participate in a special event commemorating the 82nd annual National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

[The Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association \(BIARA\)](#), with authority from the US Navy and Southwest Marine Corps Spectrum Office, will honor the sailors and ships previously homeported in San Pedro, California, who were attacked on December 7, 1941. There will be special crossband activations of NEPM, Battleship Iowa's original call sign, on December 6, 7, 8, and 9, 2023.



MBARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Using the call sign NEPM, the club will transmit on assigned military



The Battleship Iowa at home port in San Pedro, California. [Photo courtesy of Battleship USS IOWA Museum]

frequencies and listen for calls from the amateur radio community on their adjacent bands. NEPM will transmit on 14.375, 18.1625, and/or 21.856 MHz on J3E/USB and/or A1A/CW. (Note: 18.1625 MHz is within US amateur allocations for 17 meters) The club operator will tell participating hams where BIARA will be listening, which will be 10 KHz below the top of each adjacent band when working J3E/USB, or 10 KHz above the bottom of each adjacent band when working A1A/CW. Amateur participants are reminded not to transmit on the NEPM military frequencies. Operations on all 4 days are expected to be from 0700 to 1600 PST (1500 to 2400 UTC).

The FCC stated the grant of the waiver meets the second prong of the waiver standard in section 1.925(b)(3)(ii) in that the event presents a unique opportunity for the amateur and military communities to practice communication skills under the guidance of military officials, which may be useful in the future and serves the public interest.

In addition to the skills gained by amateur operators participating in the test, National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day has historical significance. It emphasizes the importance of reliable communications and the need to be vigilant in national defense.

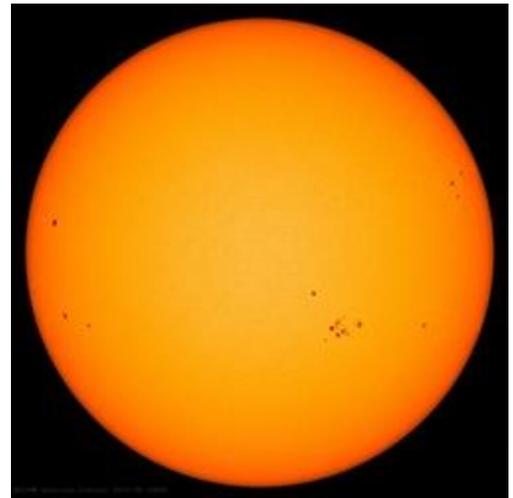
If amateur radio operators who wish to participate are licensed in a country outside the US, BIARA advises to check the terms and conditions that govern their respective licenses.

QSL procedures can be found at <https://biara.org>. For specific questions before the operation, email w6hb@biara.org.

The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP048:

The Australian Space Weather



Solar disk image taken on November 30, 2023. [Photo courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI]

Forecasting Centre issued the following Geomagnetic Disturbance Warning #23/74 at 2321 UT on November 29, 2023:

"Several coronal mass ejections (CMEs) are expected to impact Earth on November 30 and December 1, 2023. Two CMEs were observed on November 27 that were expected to arrive on November 30, followed shortly by a very mild, glancing blow from a third. One or possibly two halo CMEs were observed on November 29, which are Earth-directed. It is likely that all or some of these CMEs will combine on their trajectory toward Earth, making it difficult to pinpoint an exact arrival time. However, G3-G4 geomagnetic conditions are possible over this period."

Over the past reporting week, 10 new sunspot groups appeared. There were three on November 23, one each day on November 24 -



MBARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

26, another on November 28, and three more on November 29.

Solar numbers increased, with the average daily sunspot number rising dramatically from 83.3 to 165.9, doubling from the previous week.

The average daily solar flux rose from 146 to 181.5.

Geomagnetic numbers rose slightly, with the planetary A index changing from 10.1 to 11.6, and the middle latitude number changing from 7.3 to 7.6.

Predicted solar flux is 175 on November 30; 170 on December 1; 165 on December 2 - 3; 160 on December 4; 150 on December 5 - 6; 140 on December 7 - 8; 145 on December 9 - 10; 140 on December 11 - 16; 150 on December 17, and 160 on December 18 - 28.

Predicted planetary A index is 30, 56, and 22 on November 30 through December 2; 10, 10, 12, 10, and 10 on December 3 - 7; 5 on December 8 - 11; 10 and 8 on December 12 - 13; 5 on December 14 - 17; 15, 25, 8, and 5 on December 18 - 21, and 20, 10, 10, 8, and 5 on December 22 - 26.

Watch a new video from Dr. Tamitha Skov, WX6SWW, about solar storms at <https://youtu.be/qiHtkXfZnQo>.

Sunspot numbers for November 23 - 29, 2023, were 176, 184, 179, 169, 159, 130, and 164, with a mean of 83.3. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 194.2, 178, 176.4, 180.2, 187.3, 183.5, and 170.6, with a mean of 146. Estimated planetary A indices were 7, 7, 38, 10, 7, 7, and 5, with a mean of 10.1. Middle latitude A index was 4, 5, 18, 9, 2, 6, and 9, with a mean of 7.3.

Send your tips, questions, or comments to k7ra@arrl.net.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) "What the Numbers Mean...", and [check out](#) the

Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](#) website.

[Share](#) your reports and observations.

A weekly, full report is posted on [ARRL News](#).

Giving Thanks in the Year of the Volunteers

This Thanksgiving, in the Year of the Volunteers, ARRL is grateful for the many member-volunteers who share their talents to grow and advance amateur radio. There are nearly 60,000 volunteers nationwide who make ARRL strong. From ARRL-accredited Volunteer Examiners, Field Organization volunteers, to members of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES®), to Section Managers, and Division Directors and Vice Directors. In essence, volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization.

A handful of local volunteers who are geographically privileged enough to come to ARRL Headquarters in Newington, Connecticut, on a regular basis serve a truly special role: volunteer operators of [The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, W1AW](#).



Some of the W1AW Volunteers with ARRL Headquarters Staff.

Skip Colton, W1FTE, is one of them. He wrote the following passage to encourage radio amateurs to visit what is arguably the most famous station in the world:

2023 is the ARRL Year of the Volunteers. It is about all the hams who give their time, knowledge, and experiences to our hobby.



MBARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

Volunteer tour guides are now operating W1AW on weekdays. The door opens at 10:00 AM and closes at 3:45 PM. We also give tours of the station, which includes Hiram Percy Maxim's original spark-gap transmitter, key, and desk, along with many other historical items. W1AW's large room has all the radios and three studios. You are encouraged to operate in any of the studios, each with two rigs and your choice of frequency. We volunteers mentor you as you operate. If you cannot come to Newington, there is a link on the ARRL website through which you can take a virtual tour of W1AW

The First Worked All States Certificate Awarded for the 33-Centimeter Band

On November 4, 2023, Al Ward's, W5LUA, 38-year quest to contact all 50 states on the 33-centimeter band ended when he received the first-ever Worked All States (WAS) certificate for (902 - 928 MHz). Ward started collecting states on the band shortly after it was opened in 1985.

"I am extremely grateful to Peter Van Horne, KA6U, for his EME [Earth-moon-Earth] efforts. I was able to work Wisconsin for my last state [on] the 33-centimeter band on October 21. At the end of September, I was sitting at 32 states confirmed with cards and/or the Logbook of The World (LoTW), when Van Horne went on a 25-state expedition providing my last 18 states," said Ward. In recent expeditions, Brian McCarthy, NX9O, and Jason Baack, N1AV, also provided several states that were needed.

Ward's station consists of a 5-meter dish with 400 W of power obtained from two 300 W Motorola amplifiers in parallel. His feed is a dual polarity patch feed.



Al Ward, W5LUA, holds his WAS certificate in front of his 5-meter dish. [Photo courtesy of W5LUA]

ARRL Radiosport and Regulatory Information Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, was one of the first people to congratulate Ward on his accomplishment.

Jahnke stated, "Hearty congratulations! It's my privilege to confirm the ARRL Awards Department has received your WAS application, plus Card Checker document, and we have issued the 33-centimeter (902 - 928 MHz) Worked All States Award number 1 to you in culmination of your 38-year quest to contact all 50 states on the 33-centimeter band."

Other stations on the hunt for the 33-centimeter WAS certificate that are nearing completion include AC0RA, K0DAS, and N1AV.

In 1985, the Federal Communications Commission allocated the frequency band between 902 and 928 MHz to Part 18 industrial, scientific, and medical (ISM) equipment. In that proceeding, the band was also allocated to the Amateur Radio Service on a secondary basis, meaning amateurs could use the band if they accepted interference from and did not cause interference to primary users



MBARC Beacon

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

DECEMBER 2023

DECEMBER 2023

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