

MBARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter



AUGUST 2024 EDITION

w6ba.net

[MorongoBasinAmateurRadioClub](https://www.facebook.com/MorongoBasinAmateurRadioClub)



Club VP Keith N6GKB receives a 'get well soon' card from the club. – Photo by Maja KO6DAV

Club's Wishes for N6GKB's Recovery

By Aaron Chesney KM6IAU, Newsletter Editor

As most club members know by now, Keith N6GKB, club Vice President, was hospitalized throughout most of June and July for a serious foot injury. This—and other factors—understandably disrupted routine club events for the summer.

As a gesture of good will and appreciation for his drive, the MBARC Board of Directors elected to give Keith a handmade get-well-soon card along with a gift certificate to his favorite restaurant for meeting his ham radio family, on behalf of the **Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club**.

Maja KO6DAV generously handmade the card on behalf of the club. The board of directors unanimously approved the purchase of the gift certificate which accompanied the card.

... [COVER STORY, page 3](#)

Information At A Glance

Upcoming Club Meetings

Monthly club meetings on the 3rd Thursday at 1800.

Date & Time Location

Aug. 15 @ 1800 [Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene](#)

Sep. 19 @ 1800 [Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene](#)

Oct. 17 @ 1800 [Yucca Valley Church of the Nazarene](#)

Local Nets

Net Name	Day & Time
Amateur Radio Emergency Service	MON @ 1915
MBARC Weekly Net	TUE @ 1900
MBARC "Cawfee Tawk"	DAILY @ 1000

MBARC Linked Repeater System

For more info, see the [2nd to last page](#) for detailed diagram of the MBARC Linked Repeater System or visit w6ba.net.

Site	MHz	%	
W6BA Yucca Valley / Paxton Hill	146.790	–	136.5
W6BA Twentynine Palms / Donnell Hill	147.060	+	136.5
WB6CDF Landers / Fire Station	447.580	–	173.8
AD6G Pipes Canyon	446.120	Ø	146.2

Local VoIP-to-RF Nodes

System	# Node	RF Link
AllStarLink	503088	KM6IAU to W6BA YV
EchoLink	KM6IAU-L	KM6IAU to W6BA YV
EchoLink	WO4ROB-L	WO4ROB to W6BA YV

Local RF-to-VoIP Nodes

Site	MHz	%		System	# Node/TG
KD6DIQ YV	145.770	Ø	67.0	AllStar	28855
WB6CDF YV	447.000	–	10	DMR/BM	TS1: TG 3106 TS2: TG 2

<i>President</i> --- Rob Cloutier	WO4ROB
<i>Vice President</i> --- Keith Board	N6GKB
<i>Secretary</i> --- Paul Edwards	AA6SM
<i>Treasurer</i> --- Glenn Miller	N6GIW
<i>Board Member</i> --- Aaron Chesney	KM6IAU
<i>Board Member</i> --- Larry Mollica	AD6G
<i>Repeater Trustee</i> --- Glenn Miller	N6GIW

<i>Editor</i> --- Aaron Chesney	KM6IAU
<i>Contributors</i> --- Clifford Novey	KK6QMS
Larry Mollica	AD6G
Additional Content --- Maja Chesney	KO6DAV
MBARC Net Schedule --- Glenn Miller	N6GIW

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President’s Message

No submission.

COVER STORY, continued

On July 4, 2024, Aaron **KM6IAU** and Maja **KO6DAV** visited Keith for an old-fashioned eyeball QSO and to present the aforementioned items on behalf of the club.

Keith was very happy to receive the items. In an email to the club, Keith writes:

“I wish to thank everyone and the club board for the get well card and gift card for where else but Arby’s!!”

He also expressed his appreciation for all who came by to visit:

“I wish to thank everyone that has been by to visit me and help me through this !!! It has made my stay here a lot more manageable.”



Left: Hand-made card and envelope by Maja **KO6DAV**. Right: Gift card to Arby's on behalf of the club. Items presented to Keith on July 4. – Photo by Maja **KO6DAV**

Propagation Test and Introduction to VarAC

By Clifford Novey **KK6QMS** – article submitted July 23, 2024




Greetings. This is a call for interested parties to [call](#), [text](#), or [email](#) me if interested in either of the following events to be scheduled depending on interest:

- * Local area HF propagation test. The propagation test will be coordinated via the club repeater and the goal being to determine what stations can hear each other on what HF bands – 80m to 10m – possibly VHF and UHF too. Participants will move from band to band at the direction of net control (myself, **KK6QMS**) and drop their call. Replies will be in band and also via the repeater. Stations will be encouraged to write down who they can hear on what bands. Net control will also keep track of the results.
- * An introduction to VarAC on HF. This is a digital mode/software that runs on PC and covers a lot of bases. Set calling frequencies and side channels for comms,

keyboard-to-keyboard chat, robust, weak signal, error-corrected transmission protocol (VARA HF software modem), messaging, automated features like beaconing / ping / messaging that can be handled unattended, EMCOMM features and strengths. It is just really well done and fun to use.

For more information on VarAC, check out these resources:

- * <https://www.varac-hamradio.com/>
- * https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=VarAC

 Clifford Novey **KK6QMS**
 [310-463-7339](tel:310-463-7339)
 clifford@cliffordnovey.com

Yucca Valley Optical QSO Trivia

By Larry Mollica **AD6G** – article resubmitted July 4, 2024. Originally submitted April 10, 2020.

In 1963, a bunch of hams set a record of 119 miles for free-space laser communications, which was not broken for several decades. Among the principals were Bob Legg **W6QYY** who (I presume later on) lived in Yucca Valley.

The 119 mile laser experiment (coordinated via ham radio) went from 7,300 ft elevation in the San Gabriel mountains, to a similar elevation in the Panamint Range.

The story of the original laser experiment is here:

http://www.modulatedlight.org/eos/Operation_Red_Line.html

45 years later, some hams who were interested in the 1963 experiment visited with Bob Legg, who was living in Yucca Valley at the time. With Bob's help they set up and tested a laser link across Yucca Valley.

The story of that 2008 optical QSO is here:

http://www.modulatedlight.org/eos/Yucca_valley_optical1.html

Editor's note: On the above website, an embedded YouTube video is not visible without FlashPlayer. Here is a direct link to the video: <https://youtu.be/aghNMD8GN2E>



“Wide-angle time-exposure across Yucca Valley. In the center can be seen the light from Bob's house. In the foreground from the right can be seen illumination of the foliage by the light as well as the beam being cast across the valley.” – Photo and caption source: [modulatedlight.org](http://www.modulatedlight.org), reproduced under Fair Use.

I don't know Bob Legg or what he's up to these days, but qrz.com shows him to be currently licensed in Las Vegas, Nevada.

*Additional note from Larry **AD6G** since the original writing: “Bob Legg's license has expired in the time since, he might have gone SK by now.”*



Errata

In the [July 2024 edition](#) of the newsletter, in the story “**Club Field Day Canceled, Some Members Nail It**”, a photo caption reads, “*Refreshment on hold, Derek **KM6UUM** diligently works digital Field Day stations.*” I made an incorrect assumption about the mode based on the photo. Clifford **KK6QMS** reached out to clarify: “*I neglected to mention all our contacts were SSB voice—we didn't make a single digital. I really prefer SSB on contests.*” My apologies to Clifford, Derek, and newsletter readers for the incorrect information.

MBARC Meeting Minutes – JULY 2024

No club meeting for July 2024.



MBARC Member-Provided Resources

The Digital Ham – Ken **W6BZY**

[Ken Hendrickson W6BZY](#) has put together some helpful YouTube videos about Linux, Raspberry Pi, and amateur radio: <https://youtube.com/@Kensownvids>

OpenWebRX – Aaron **KM6IAU**

[Aaron Chesney KM6IAU](#) has set up a pool of publicly-accessible OpenWebRX servers. OpenWebRX is a “web-SDR,” a web server which provides access to one or more SDR receivers. You can reach them here: <https://sdr.KM6IAU.net/>

Paxton Hill Webcam – Chris **WB6CDF**

[Chris Nichols WB6CDF](#) has a publicly-accessible webcam atop Paxton Hill. <http://WB6CDF.com/paxton-cams.htm> More resources are available at his site, WB6CDF.com.




Hobby Notes – Rob **W04ROB**

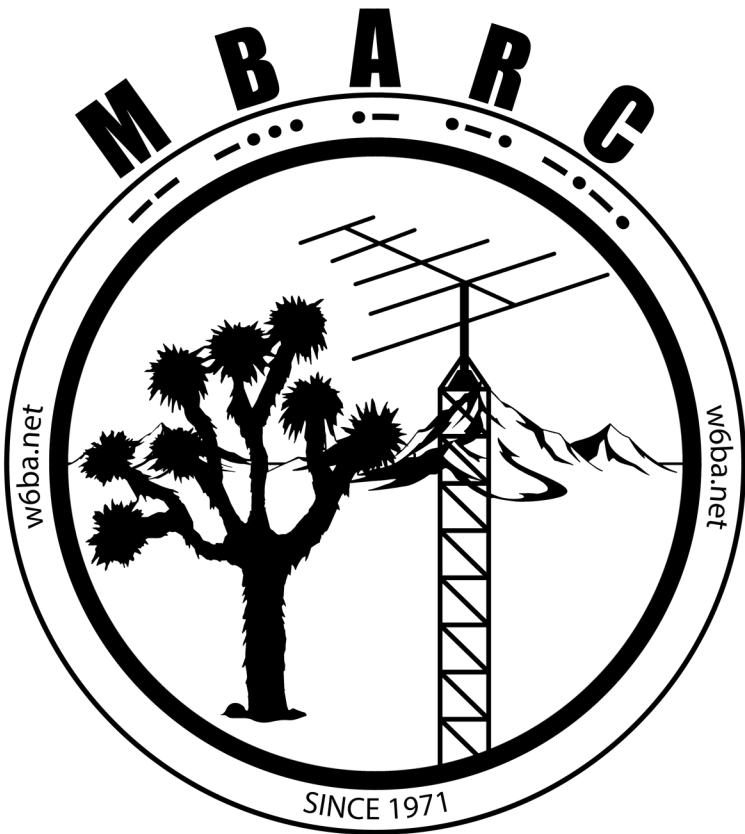
[Rob Cloutier W04ROB](#) has collected and organized his hobby notes on his personal website, W04ROB.com.



Your Newsletter, Your Voice.

If you have material you’d like to share in a future newsletter, contact me. — 73 de **KM6IAU**

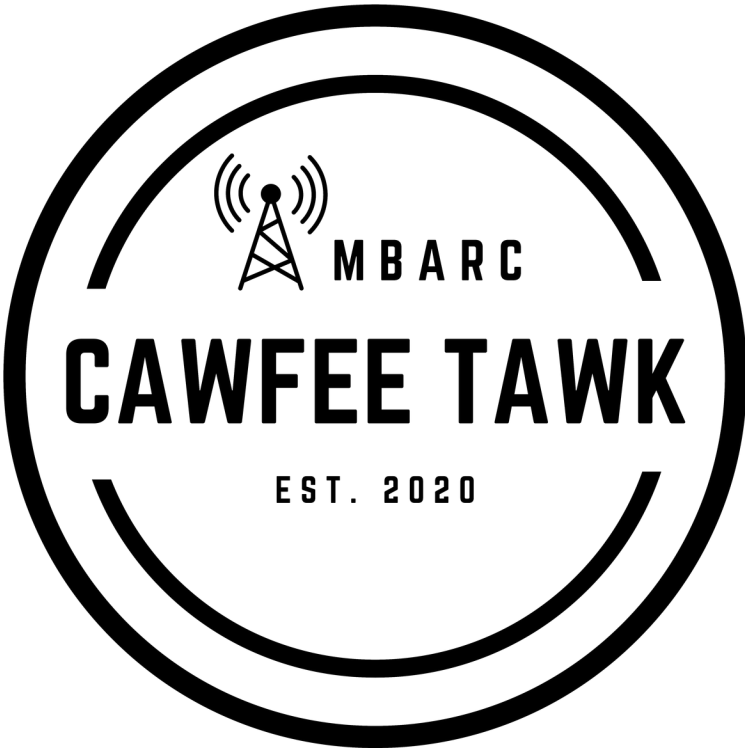
-  Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**
-  [442-205-1873](tel:442-205-1873), extension 5
-  Aaron@KM6IAU.net



HAM RADIO

THE ORIGINAL
SOCIAL NETWORK

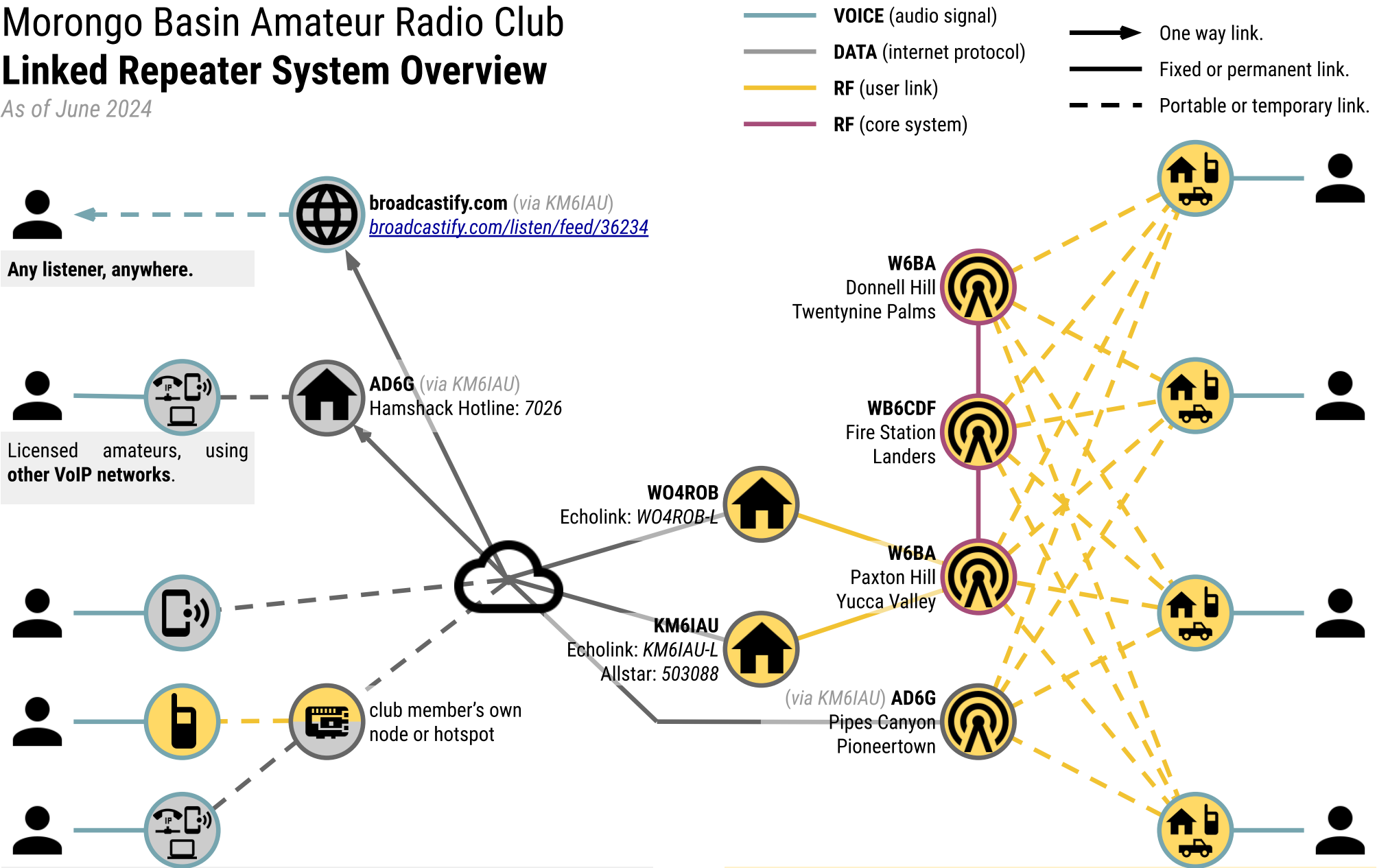
MBARC



Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club

Linked Repeater System Overview

As of June 2024



Licensed amateurs **with** club membership, using **Allstar*** or **Echolink****.

Please use restrictive access means, such as PL tone and low-gain antenna for RF links, or password access for IP links. Do not link-in broad-access systems, such as other repeaters or reflectors, where such linking could transmit onto our club's system. Thank you.

* Allstar access needs to be manually set up. Contact linkrequest@W6BA.net to submit your request.
** Echolink access may need to be manually set up. Contact linkrequest@W6BA.net to submit your request.

Licensed amateurs **with or without** club membership, using **RF**.

Please do not link-in broad-access systems, such as other repeaters or reflectors, where such linking could transmit onto our club's system. Thank you.

MBARC Calendar – AUGUST 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
July 28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Rob WO4ROB				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Glenn N6GIW				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Aaron KM6IAU		1800 – Club mtg		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Keith N6GKB				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	1915 – ARES net	1900 – Club net ctrl: Larry AD6G				

KD6DIQ AllStarLink
Node#28855 Schedule

YV: 145.77MHz, Øshift, ☐67.0Hz

EVERYDAY

0000 – 0100 WIN System #2560
2200 – 2400 WIN System #2560

SUN

No additional program, system open.

MON

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332

TUE

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1700 – 1900 East Coast Refl. #45225

WED

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1700 – 1900 East Coast Refl. #45225

THU

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1700 – 1900 East Coast Refl. #45225

FRI

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1830 – 2400 WIN System #2560

SAT

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1700 – 1720 Newslines
2000 – 2200 East Coast Refl. #45225