MBARC Beacon

The Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club Newsletter

2nd PLACE
ARRL 2026 "Year-of-the-Club"
Newsletter Contest
Small Club Category

OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

MBARC.net

Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club



*Newsletter Editor Aaron **KM6IAU** with the plaque awarded by the **ARRL** for **Outstanding Club Newsletter**, Second Place, Small Clubs category. – Photo by Maja **KO6DAV***

ARRL Awards MBARC Beacon

*Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**, Editor*

In the SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION of the club newsletter, I wrote about the award received from the **ARRL** in the Outstanding Club Newsletters Contest. The award arrived in the mail a few days before the September club meeting. I was able to show-off the beautiful plaque to meeting attendees.

A **huge** "thank you" to all who have contributed to this award winning newsletter. Together, we can be proud of our club. –·–

Next Club Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2:00 PM

Yucca Mesa Community Center

Local Amateur Radio Info At A Glance

Local Nets

Net Name	Day	@	Time
Amateur Radio Emergency Service	MON	@	7:15 pm
MBARC Weekly Net	TUE	@	7:00 pm
MBARC "Cawfee Tawk"	MON~SAT	@	10:00 am

MBARC Linked Repeater System RF Links

*For more info, see the 2nd to last page for detailed diagram of the **MBARC** Linked Repeater System or visit MBARC.net.*

Site	MHz	+/-	T
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

MBARC Linked Repeater System VoIP Links

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

Other Local Linked Systems

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

MBARC Board of Directors

President –·–	Jim Stewart	**KI6WTI**
Vice President –·–	Larry Mollica	**AD6G**
Secretary –·–	Aaron Chesney	**KM6IAU**
Treasurer –·–	Glenn Miller	**N6GIW**
Board Members –·–	Bryan Heveron	**KF6YGK**
	Judy Cloutier	**KK6NWG**
Repeater Trustee –·–	Glenn Miller	**N6GIW**

MBARC Beacon –·– Oct 2026 Edition

Editor –·–	Aaron Chesney	**KM6IAU**
Graphic Designer –·–	Maja Chesney	**KO6DAV**
Contributors –·–	Aaron Chesney	**KM6IAU**
	Maja Chesney	**KO6DAV**
	Steve Harrison	**KØXP**
Next Month's Contributors –·–	*Your name belongs here. Please consider sharing your ham radio endeavors for the club newsletter.*	

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Your Newsletter, Your Voice.

If you have material you'd like to share in a future newsletter, get in touch.

Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**

442-205-1873

Aaron@**KM6IAU**.net



Halloween Party After October Meeting

*Maja Chesney **KO6DAV***

The **Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club** is having its annual Halloween Party at the Yucca Mesa Community Center on Saturday, October 17, following the regular club meeting.

The Halloween Party is hosted by Judy Cloutier **KK6NWG** and Maja Chesney **KO6DAV**.

There will be games, prizes and costume judging. Everyone is encouraged to wear a costume or just come as you are and have fun with us.

Members are also welcome to bring their favorite dish, drinks, or desserts to share. We look forward to seeing you there! **Don't ghost us!** –·–

MBARC Regular Meeting Minutes – SEPTEMBER 2026

*Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**, Secretary*

The regular meeting took place at the Yucca Mesa Community Center on SEPTEMBER 19, 2026. An attendance sheet was circulated during the meeting. By the meeting's end, the attendance sheet listed 17 names.

President Jim Stewart **KI6WTI** called the meeting to order at approximately 14:00.

The President called for round table introductions. Clockwise around the table, attendees introduced themselves with some combination of name, callsign, and location.

Secretary Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU** read the AUGUST 2026 meeting minutes which were also distributed before the meeting.

Treasurer Glenn Miller **N6GIW** reports a current balance of $3358.26, which matches the bank balance. Numerous entries are pending entry.

The President called for committee reports.

Membership Committee Chair Aaron **KM6IAU** referred to the printed membership report distributed before the meeting. A family member of a member with individual membership was being incorrectly included as a member. That was fixed. Members are directed to email Aaron with membership questions.

Social Media Committee Chair Rob Cloutier **WO4ROB** reported "nothing to report."

Larry Mollica **AD6G** mentioned that the new website URL is getting indexed by Google, DuckDuckGo, Bing, etc. Aaron **KM6IAU** confirms feedback to this effect from Google.

Repeater Committee Member Larry **AD6G** reported that the duplexer issues drags on, but there are plans to deal with it soon.

Meeting progress paused briefly to give DMR a collective ribbing.

The President called for old business. There was no outstanding old business.



*Aaron **KM6IAU** demos software debounce. – Photo by Maja **KO6DAV***

The President called for new business.

Presentation Coordinator Larry **AD6G** polled attendees regarding meeting presentation topics. Members shared their interest or disinterest in potential presentation topics.

Aaron **KM6IAU** mentions that the November club meeting will be 1 week early. An email reminder will be sent out a few days prior to the meeting.

Judy Cloutier **KK6NWG** reminds members about the Halloween Party immediately following the October regular club meeting.

Newsletter Editor Aaron **KM6IAU** announces that the **ARRL** has awarded the club newsletter *2nd Place* for *Outstanding Club Newsletter* in the *Small Clubs* category. The plaque was passed around.

Aaron **KM6IAU** gave a presentation on *Switch Contact Bounce*. (video) After the presentation, members had an opportunity to ask questions. Members were invited to try the demo after the meeting.

Rob **WO4ROB** held the 50/50 drawing. Rob **WO4ROB** won, donating the winnings back to the club.

There was a motion and second to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 15:00. –-–



*Presentation video uploaded to YouTube. "I thought I'd have a little fun making a 'clickbait' thumbnail. Hope you like it." – Aaron **KM6IAU***

MBARC Membership Report

*Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**, Membership Chair*

Overview

This is the membership report for the **Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club** as of September 27, 2026. This report is accompanied by the current roster when distributed to members at club meetings. If you are a current member, cannot attend meetings, and require an up-to-date copy of the roster, you may send your request by email.

License class and expiration data is pulled from the FCC database based on the callsign we have on record for members. An expired license is counted as 'unlicensed'.

Statistics

46	**Distinct Memberships** (Family memberships often include multiple members.)	
61	**Members Total**	*100% of **all** members*
44	members with **Regular** membership class	*72% of **all** members*
43	of them have **current** membership	*98% of **Regular** members*
2	of them have **expiring soon** membership	*5% of **Regular** members*
1	of them has **expired** membership	*2% of **Regular** members*
2	members with **Active Duty** membership class	*3% of **all** members*
10	members with **Lifetime** membership class	*16% of **all** members*
5	members with **Honorary** membership class	*8% of **all** members*
30	members are part of a **Family** membership type	*49% of **all** members*
31	members have **Individual** membership type	*51% of **all** members*
52	members are currently **licensed**	*85% of **all** members*
14	licensed members are **Technician** class	*27% of **licensed** members*
22	licensed members are **General** class	*42% of **licensed** members*
1	licensed member is **Advanced** class	*2% of **licensed** members*
15	licensed members are **Extra** class	*29% of **licensed** members*
9	members are currently **unlicensed**	*15% of **all** members*

Established Membership Policies

Family Membership

Family Membership is limited to the immediate family members of the primary member.

Honorary Membership

Honorary memberships are automatically Family memberships.

Members with 5 years of continuous membership upon turning 90 are eligible for Honorary Membership.

Lifetime Memberships

Lifetime memberships are automatically Family Memberships.

Expired Membership

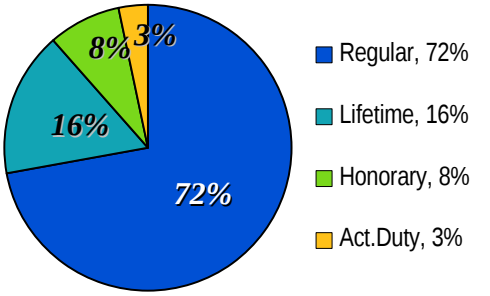
There is a two-month grace period for expired memberships. If a member renews their membership during the grace period, the membership is treated as continuous. *For the computation of the included **Statistics** and **Charts**, they are counted without exclusion.*

Contact

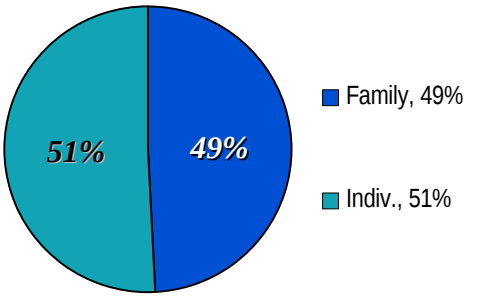
Send your membership inquires and updates to Aaron@KM6IAU.net. –·–

Charts

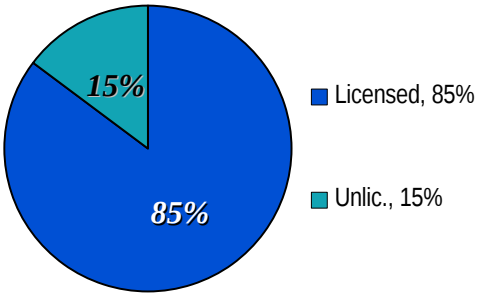
Membership By Class



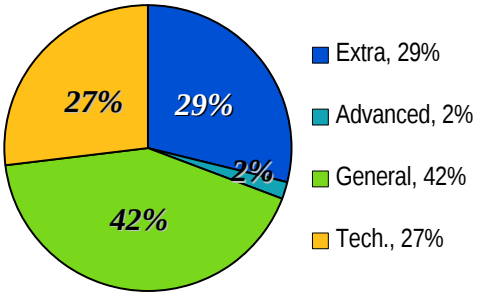
Membership By Type



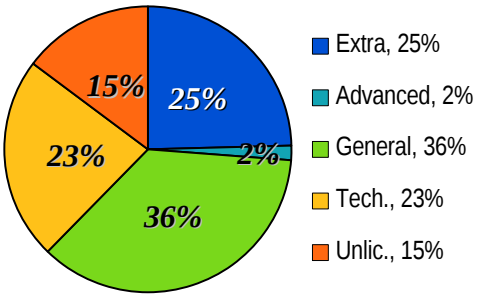
Licensed vs. Unlicensed



License Classes (Licensed Only)



License Classes (All Members)



Plan C Orion Antler Spread, KØXP



*Regular Section by Steve Harrison **KØXP***

Introduction

The 6-meter sporadic-E openings have been very scarce during September 2026. However, 160-meter propagation, particularly toward Europe and Africa, is now coming back up in the Northern hemisphere. There have been quite a few East Coast Europe openings already, with even **VE7**s working into Northern Europe some nights. The Pacific hurricanes, however, have been causing so much thunderstorm noise that I haven't been able to work any Europeans, yet.

Activity Report

The QSO Log to the right describes what can be worked on HF CW, 160 meters through 6 meters, within one month or less, with very modest, low wire antennas from Wonder Valley. My activity is 100% CW. Right now, I mainly chase sporadic-E openings on 6 meters as well as DX on the HF bands, especially new countries.

At the time of this writing, the CQ WW RTTY Contest has just concluded on the HF bands. I don't presently work RTTY although I would like to try it one of these days. This weekend also has only several DXpeditions taking place, although a dozen or more are scheduled to occur during the month of October. The chart to the right shows the callsign of proposed DXpeditions, and the dates of activation during October. One of the rarest of these will be **6O2M** in Somalia, which will be taking place over a period of almost three full weeks, giving everybody plenty of time to work them. Another is **XRØZ** on the Juan Fernandez Islands off the coast of Chile. Nepal, Bangladesh, Sao Tome and much, much more will also be activated for varying lengths of time over the month, hopefully with copious amounts of CW activity!

QSO Log

Date and Time UTC	Freq KHz	Callsign	RST Sent	RST Rcvd	Country	Comments
2026/08/27 22:10	21 002.98	TL8GD	599	599	Central African Republic	
2026/08/27 23:39	18 074.51	RI1FJL	599	599	Franz Josef Land (FJL), Hayes Isl.	
2026/09/04 10:23	1 823.49	NL7M	599	599	Alaska, USA	Very strong
2026/09/10 21:31	14 007.03	TN8GD	599	599	Republic of the Congo	
2026/09/18 02:04	21 029.05	KH8WW	599	599	American Samoa	1st band
2026/09/18 03:19	28 030.18	KH8WW	599	599	American Samoa	2nd band
2026/09/19 06:08	10 124.97	RI1FJZ	599	599	FJL, Alexandry Isl.	1st band
2026/09/21 14:38	14 035.48	RI1FJZ	599	599	FJL, Alexandry Isl.	2nd band; QSO??
2026/09/21 14:47	18 074.19	RI1FJZ	599	599	FJL, ALexandry Isl.	3rd band
2026/09/21 20:58	24 892.02	KH8WW	599	599	American Samoa	3rd band
2026/09/21 21:46	18 074.19	KH8WW	599	599	American Samoa	4th band
2026/09/22 05:31	14 034.97	RI1FJZ	599	599	FJL, Alexnadry Isl.	4th band
2026/09/24 07:53	1 828.97	FM5BH	559	339	Martinique	

Also coming up during the first weekend of October (3 and 4) is the California QSO Party; however, as that one is multimode only, I don't pay any attention to it. I will try for the 50 MHz Sprint from 1800Z-2200Z, October 3, however, although I need to get my rotator replaced before then. I also need to get my beverage antennas for 160 meters strung out into the field; a cheap, simple OHV would help immensely in this regard! Each beverage will be about 520 feet long. At the moment, I'm planning to lay out two of them, but want to put out several more for more directions ASAP.

That concludes this month's report from the Plan C Orion Antler Spread; see you next month! If anybody would like help or advice on how to get involved with CW operation on the HF bands, just drop me a note at **k0xp@k0xp**.com and I'll get right back to you.

73, Steve **KØXP** (/6) –·–

October DXpedition Activation Dates

CALLSIGN	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
3DA0GY															x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5W0AF	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x																					
6O2M					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						
6W/I2YSB																												x	x	x	x
9N7XT																							x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
9T0MD	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x																					
C21DA	x	x	x	x	x																										
C5R				x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
H49A									x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x										
JW5X							x	x	x	x	x	x																			
KH8A																														x	x
OX3LX	x	x	x																												
S21SRG																x	x	x	x	x											
S9R																	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
V61GSE	x	x	x	x	x	x																									
V63SC																						x	x	x	x	x					
XR0Z															x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x						
YJ1JXZ											x	x	x	x	x	x															

Orchid Festival 2026

*Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU**, Board Member*

Unfortunately, the radio club will not have a booth this year at the annual Gubler's Orchid Festival. All of the non-profit spots are full.

Gubler Orchids normally sends out invitations and takes applications in early July. It is presumed that the invitation got missed as the previously on-file point-of-contact was up against health- and family-related priorities.

Our contact information with Gubler's Orchid Festival is now updated. The **MBARC** Board of Directors continues work to tighten up our service to the club. Thanks for bearing with us. –·–

ARRL Audio News Playback: The Fix Is In

*Aaron Chesney **KM6IAU***

We had been having a problem with the **ARRL** Audio News playback after the Tuesday Night Net. Sometimes, after a break, it would key up and just hang, silent – requiring manual intervention or an eventual time-out.

We discovered that it was caused by faulty logic-handling both in software *and* in hardware.

On the radio side, if there was COS when PTT was asserted, the COS stuck in the asserted state. Then, on the software side, the stuck COS would prevent playback from beginning. From there, the software just waited until a time-out (or human) would eventually release the PTT, clearing the COS.

After some deliberation about where, how, and to what magnitude condemnation was to be levied, we instead opted for the 10¢ fix: a couple of transistors in-line to prevent COS from reaching the interface when PTT was asserted. *(No, we didn't shoot it. Sorry if "transistors" wasn't the 10¢ fix you were hoping to read about.)* Some would call this a workaround, but we're calling it a fix. We have weekends to enjoy. –·–

Member Birthdays – October 2026

*Regular Section by Maja Chesney **KO6DAV***

On behalf of the club, I want to extend our warmest birthday wishes to all our cherished members celebrating a birthday this month. May your special day bring joy, love, and peace. Stay happy and blessed.

If you'd like your birthday to be included for recognition here and on the club's Facebook page, get in touch. –·–

Maja Chesney **KO6DAV**
442-205-1983
maj.chesney@gmail.com





MBARC Personalized Name Tags

*by Maja Chesney **KO6DAV***

Most regular attendees of club meetings already have theirs – do you have yours? **MBARC** personalized name tags are a great way to showcase your radio club spirit to newcomers and long-timers alike. Order your name tag today!

Size: 2.95 × 2.16 inches (7.5 × 5.5 cm)
Thickness: 3mm – Durable and sturdy
Backing: Magnetic – No pins, no hassle!

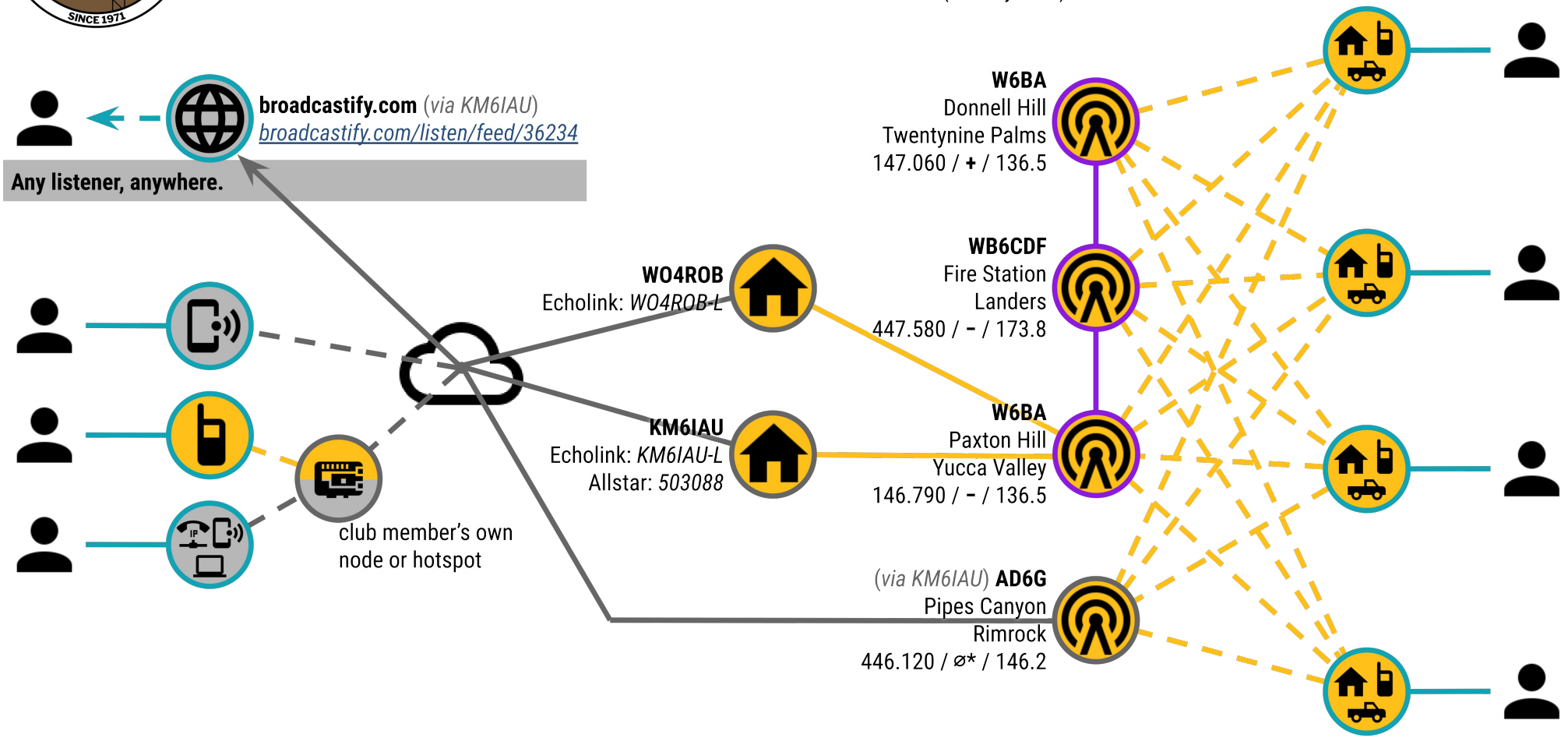
craftedbymaja@gmail.com
Crafted by Maja

Morongo Basin Amateur Radio Club
Linked Repeater System Overview

As of October 2026

VOICE (audio signal)
DATA (internet protocol)
RF (user link)
RF (core system)

One way link (listen only).
Fixed or permanent link.
Portable or temporary link.



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

Please use restrictive access, such as PL tone and low-gain antenna for RF links, or password 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.

Any licensed amateur 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.

* This is a simplex node, not a repeater. There is no transmit frequency offset. You must wait for the carrier to drop before transmitting.

** Allstar access needs to be manually set up. Contact linkrequest@MBARC.net to submit your request.

⁂ Echolink access may need to be manually set up. Contact linkrequest@MBARC.net to submit your request.

MBARC Calendar – October 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sep 27	Sep 28 **ARES Net** 1915 local (7:15pm)	Sep 29 **Tues Night Net** 1900 local (7:00pm) NC: *Aaron* ***KM6IAU***	Sep 30	**1**	**2**	**3**
4	**5** **ARES Net** 1915 local (7:15pm)	**6** **Tues Night Net** 1900 local (7:00pm) NC: *Jim* ***KI6WTI***	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
11	**12** **ARES Net** 1915 local (7:15pm)	**13** **Tues Night Net** 1900 local (7:00pm) NC: *Gerald* ***KN6HQL***	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17** **Club Meeting and Halloween Party** 1400 local (2:00pm) Yucca Mesa Community Center
18	**19** **ARES Net** 1915 local (7:15pm)	**20** **Tues Night Net** 1900 local (7:00pm) NC: *Judy* ***KK6NWG***	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**
25	**26** **ARES Net** 1915 local (7:15pm)	**27** **Tues Night Net** 1900 local (7:00pm) NC: *Aaron* ***KM6IAU***	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**

KD6DIQ AllStarLink Node#28855 Schedule

YV: 145.770MHz, Ø shift, T 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

THU

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

FRI

0400 – 0730 East Coast Refl. #45225
1000 – 1300 Alaska Morning #29332
1800 – 2400 WIN System #2560

SAT

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