



The President's Corner

Manuel *AE6SG*

I would like to thank everyone for coming to meetings, and supporting our club. I hope that this year we can have some activities and get out and have some fun. I would like to see a summer activity that would involve the family as well.

I would like to thank Jeffery and Sheri Hardy for their support in the club. Jeff has done a great job on his presentations and will be missed by the club as well as his involvement with the ARES group, as a member and as an instructor for our Technician Radio Class license course. Sheri has been very supportive in both the Morongo Basin Radio Club and ARES. Jeff, Sheri and Logan our youngest member will be missed by all.

I would like everyone to think about nominations for Vice President and Secretary. I believe that taking an active part in the club will foster a greater base of representation and more ideas will come forward.

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2013 CLUB OFFICERS

- **President** - Manuel Borges *AE6SG*
- **Vice President** - Jeffrey Hardy *KJ6BOI*
- **Secretary** - Sheri Hardy *KJ6JVI*
- **Treasurer** - Glenn Miller *N6GIW*

The Treasurer's Report

Glenn *N6GIW*

Balance on 12-17-12: \$1332.39
Income
Picnic raffle: \$57.00
Membership renewals: \$15.00
50/50 meeting raffle on 1-17-13: \$34.00
Deposit on 1-28-13: \$106.00

Expenses
Verizon phone line (auto patch): \$23.04
St. Christopher Church meeting hall: \$20.00

Treasury Balance: \$1395.35

73 de Glenn N6GIW – Treasurer\

Repeater Committee Report

Chris WB6CDF climbed up to the antenna on the W6IF repeater recently and remounted the radial rods. Wind or birds had caused two of the four radials to break off. Our repeaters are working well.

Remember to key up and pause for a second prior to speaking on our club repeater link system so that your first syllables won't be cut off.

The club repeaters are open to use by all licensed amateur radio operators.

On another subject, it has been a tradition of amateur radio operators that we keep our clocks set accurately to WWV. You can monitor WWV on 10.000 MHz on your HF rig, or check the time on your cell phone.

Questions about our club repeater system are always welcome. Contact Glenn N6GIW or Chris WB6CDF.

We have had some talk about doing a fox hunt; I would like to see someone take that run with it. We have some transmitters; they require some work, but appear to be functional.

If you know someone who is ill let Glenn Miller, or one of the club officers know so that we can sent out get well cards.

I would also like to the club to consider paid advertisement in our newsletter.

For our February meeting we will have Keith Board - N6GKB do a presentation on Amateur Television (ATV).

I also wish to thank Andy Frees for his job in getting the newsletter out.

Thank you for your support,

Manuel AE6SG
MARC President

OUR NEXT MEETING

WHEN:

Thursday, February 21, 2013 7:00pm

WHERE:

St. Christopher of the Desert Catholic Church
61161 Sunburst Dr. Joshua Tree, CA

HOW TO GET THERE:

Traveling EAST or WEST on Hwy. 62, turn SOUTH on Sunnyhill Road in Joshua Tree.

Go ½ mile SOUTH and turn EAST on Sunburst Drive. The Church is located at the end of the block.

Parking Problems



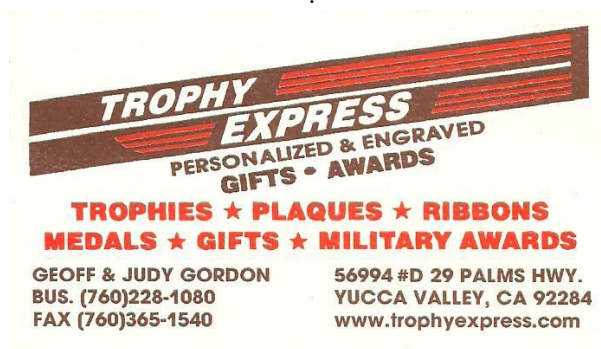
At the last meeting our Secretary Sheri KJ6JVI received a complaint about members parking on Sunburst Drive, across from the Church, during the meeting.

Vehicles parking in the red zone (shown above) will cause problems for the Church's neighbors because the dirt berms on the roadside will be damaged.

Remember that there is additional parking on the other side of the Church so, **PLEASE...**

Don't park in the area shown in **red** above.

Local Business Advertising



Packet Radio was the star at the January meeting

If you haven't been attending the monthly club meetings, you've been missing a real treat.

The presentations are always interesting, and for a newer ham like myself, I go away from the meeting with a little better understanding of our hobby.

This last month was outstanding.

On January 17th, Jeffrey Hardy *KJ6BOI* gave an exceptional presentation on Packet Radio.

His material was well organized and to the point. He obviously spent a great deal of time preparing and he's been kind enough to make the entire PowerPoint presentation available to any club members who are interested.

Thank you Jeffery, I had no idea that there was so much to do in Packet Radio.

At the February meeting we're scheduled to have a presentation about Amateur TV.

Articles from our members are welcome

I want to take some space to say "Thank You" to Jerry Chambers *W6LQR* and Tom McLean *KJ6DZT* for the articles that they submitted this month.

As the editor, I am always looking for articles to keep the newsletter informative and entertaining.

Contributions of story ideas, pictures and articles related to Amateur Radio are welcome and encouraged.

Club members can submit material by sending an email to ai6af@apachepark.org or contacting me at the monthly membership meeting.

Emailed submissions should be in the WORD or PDF format, if possible. Photos can be sent in JPG, GIF or almost any popular format.

The deadline for submissions is the 3rd Thursday of each month. (Club meeting night)

I hope to hear from you soon!!!

Digital Radio – TNC or Sound Card Interface

Jerry Chambers *W6LQR*

The information to and from a computer is digital, a series of pulses containing information along with control commands etc.

The radio is expecting the sound of our voice and doesn't know what to do with all those strange pulses so what is needed is a computer program to make the conversion, and where this is done is the difference between a TNC and a Sound Card Interface.

TNC -

Required for Pactor & Amtor, going from TX to RX and back is too fast for most computers.

Software is built in, may or may not be upgradeable for other modes.

Computer requirements are minimal, just about any PC as long as it will run the terminal program.

Free's up computer sound card for other programs.

Sound Card Interface -

Less expensive than a TNC

Operate almost any mode and a new mode only requires downloading the software. Verify the software is available for the mode you want to run. FLDIGI for instance doesn't run

Packet (not yet anyway) but MultiPSK does.

More stringent computer requirements, preferably Windows XP or later.

Note that you also may need a USB to RS-232 converter for either a TNC or sound card interface as the later PC's don't have a RS-232 connection.

You also should ask around about anything on Ebay to be sure it will meet your needs. I for example use a BayPac BP-1 for Packet but it won't work with Windows 2000 or later and I run it under MSDOS.

Please Email me at bevandjerry@copper.net if you have any questions.

Jerry - W6LQR

Software Defined Radio

A look at the Flex – 3000-

Tom McLean KJ6DZT



Three years ago I got my Amateur Radio License and like many Hams sought to find the “ultimate” HF/VHF/UHF radio. After thoroughly mastering my Yaesu FT-857D Mobile/Base (barefoot), I began looking to upgrade. By the way, in mastering the FT-857D the greatest asset/component was the ability to “reset to factory default settings” when everything goes south ... which in my case was often!

While flying at 35,000 feet on one of my many trips last year, I was reading QST Magazine and became exposed to the new concept of a Software Defined Radio which defied almost all of the now accepted conventions and it didn’t even have a tuning knob. I was intrigued and couldn’t wait to ferret out the specifics and details of the

Flex 3000/6000. I made a call to Flex Radio and surprise-surprise, a live, American speaking “Techie” that answered ALL my questions, concerns and technical questions with one phone call. What a concept! and made in the USA! It doesn’t get any better.

This is not intended to be a technical article but a practical description of a new concept in transceivers.

I settled on the Flex (FR) 3000 as the Flex 6000 was WAY over my budget – no regrets. The Flex 3000 requires a computer and prompted me to refurbish and upgrade my spare Fujitsu Laptop with a SSD, Windows 7 and 4 Gigabytes of memory.** The Flex 3000 sits next to my FT-857D on a 39” tempered glass computer desk. My space is limited in my home office as you can see in the picture. Flex 3000 is (12.25”x12.25”x1.75”) and sits below the computer. The size was a decisive factor in my purchasing this radio.

The radio puts out 100 watts on all HF bands and six meters. The power can be varied manually for each band, by a very accurate drive control but can also be adjusted by software, so as to drive linear amplifiers. Not there yet!

With the Flex, there is one (1) cable, aka a “fire wire”. Not as well-known as a USB cable. There is also one antenna connection in the rear.

Flex Radio (FR) eliminates the use of coax cables with 3rd party Virtual Audio Cable (VAC) software by use of the SDR interface and eliminates the use of an external sound card and TNC. Steve Nance K5FR has a free program (DDUtil) which works hand-in-hand with numerous other programs which simulates pairing of comports from real ones to virtual comports. With these two programs you can load and run numerous programs simultaneously i.e. a logging program, rig controller, etc. all without any leads.

The FR is capable of manually testing and calibrating itself if necessary. Calibration data is stored in the EEPROM file and can be recalibrated at any time. Sort of a reset if needed.



Notice the split screen pan adapter and the waterfall below. The bandwidth is shown as LSB and a filter of 2.9k. The filters are located in the lower right hand corner. By-the-way the filters are programmable.

The peak on the pan adapter shows activity on the band and corresponds to the activity on the waterfall below. These give you a digital picture of the segment of the band that you are tuned and by clicking the mouse on or over the waterfall or pan adapter immediately connect you to that frequency. Operation, tuning, and selection are accomplished with the mouse and the

computer keyboard. The keys are programmable for individual preferences. The excellent receive and transmit audio features are outstanding. Imagine *digital stereo on Bose speakers* where the audio can be shaped by a graphic equalizer which can adjust transmit and receive audio to your own preference.

Flex Radio (FR) has an on-line forum for questions and answers. FR provides a constant stream of enhancements on mostly a weekly basis that incorporate both internally developed and customer provided features and updates. Do you want a new radio every week? Duh! Sure you do! Users of FR Systems transceivers simply download and install free software updates from the FR Systems website in order to get a new radio.

Questions for customer service and technical support are just a phone call or email away and they usually get back to you in less than 24 hours.

In conclusion, my experience with the Flex 3000 has been nothing but a positive experience. The manual is written in precise step-by-step English even I can understand. I am still in the learning curve phase and there is a lot to learn. Initial set-up was easy and had me on the air in less than an hour of unpacking. I recommend that you read all the instructions before proceeding ... just a helpful hint!

73

Tom McLean (KJ6DZT)

760.393.1799 if you have any questions.

** Flex Radio will operate under many Operating Systems and is capable of emulating several Manufacturers, i.e. Kenwood TS 2000. I find my Fujitsu even with the SSD and upgrades adequate but could be better. This should not be surprising!

CLUB REPEATERS

The Morongo Basin Amateur
Radio Club has 2 vhf repeaters:

- **Yucca Valley ***
W6BA 146.790 MHz
(- shift, 136.5 PL)
- **Twentynine Palms ***
W6IF 147.060 MHz
(+ shift, 136.5 PL)

* Linked Repeaters

These are open repeaters. You
do not have to be a club member
to use them.

A club net is held each Tuesday
at 7PM on the W6BA repeater.

You do not have to be a club
member to be a net member.

The local EMERGENCY
COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE
(ECS) group conducts a net at
6:45 p.m., each **Monday** on the
W6BA repeater.

The local ARES group also
conducts their weekly net each
Monday at **7:15 pm** on the
W6BA repeater

MARC Membership Application

Please use this form.

Your membership is effective immediately and expires one year from the date you join.

Make your check payable to MARC and mail it to:

MARC
PO BOX 1995
YUCCA VALLEY, CA 92286.

Date _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Call Sign _____ License Class _____

Single \$15 _____

Family \$20 _____ Additional Name/s _____

1/10/2010

February 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 ECS Net 6:45pm ARES Net 7:15pm	5 Club Net 7:00 pm	6	7 ARES Meeting 7:00 pm Y.V. Community Center	8	9
10	11 ECS Net 6:45pm ARES Net 7:15pm	12 Club Net 7:00 pm	13	14	15	16
17	18 ECS Net 6:45pm ARES Net 7:15pm	19 Club Net 7:00 pm	20	21 <u>Club Meeting</u> <u>7:00 pm</u> St. Christopher's Joshua Tree	22	23
24	25 ECS Net 6:45pm ARES Net 7:15pm	26 Club Net 7:00 pm	27	28		