



The President's Corner

Manuel AE6SG

Hope all has a good month so far. I've been under the weather for a few weeks, but all is well. This tax season in on its last week and my work load has dropped off giving me so time for things that I like to do.

Now I must direct some attention to our club and it workings. I understand the reluctance to take on a job, the time it may involve. Most of us have families and jobs that require attention. We also have other who are retired and do have time to do some outside work. This job does require attention and some work. Belonging to a group also means some commitment to that group and I know that there is always a small group of people who do step up for those we have to be thankful. Than we have that group that is there on the sidelines, not able to make up their minds if they should help. We, the club need you, we need your ideas, we need your expertise in what you know best. Now is the time to take that step.

We have a new Secretary, Marilyn, thanks Marilyn. As you all know we are in the process of electing a new vice president. I was hoping that someone would step up and take on that position, as of yet we are without a vice president.

continued on page 2

2013 CLUB OFFICERS

- **President -** Manuel Borges AE6SG
- **Vice President -**
- **Secretary -** Marilyn Lutz AE6FH
- **Treasurer -** Glenn Miller N6GIW

Minutes of the March 21st meeting

The meeting began at 7PM with 21 in attendance. Manuel mentioned the immediate need to find a Vice President and a Secretary. The VP is responsible for coordinating Field Day and arranging for a presentation at the meetings. There were no volunteers for VP, but Marilyn AE6FH accepted the position of Secretary. Andy AI6AF also was elected to the Board of Directors as the Newsletter Editor.

We are looking for more volunteers to teach a possible upcoming Technical License class.

We discussed possible club involvement for Grubstakes Day and Earth Day.

We need a volunteer for Vice President, and some ideas for presentations at club meetings.

Field Day June 22-23. We plan to again use the Johnson Valley Fire Dept. building, pending confirmation of its availability.

The next meeting will be April 18th. Manuel AE6SG will give a presentation on primitive bow making.

Todd KD6DIQ was the 50-50 raffle prize of \$19.

73 de Glenn N6GIW (temporary secretary)

I would like to have you all give this some thought. Help out and take this position. We need this position filled to complete our standing as a club.

Also we need to have a field day committee, I will and as I know most of us are willing to help out, but we need some direction as to where we are going. Who is going to participate and what time slots they may require. This task does require some work and that we all help out.

We had an enjoyable time last year, so I hope that you all give this some thought.

We are also in need of guest speakers, if you have a topic of interest please let me or one of our board members know. This month I will be doing a presentation on Primitive Bow Making. I have found this to be a very rewarding hobby and one that if you so desire can put food on the table.

Thank you all for your support.

Manuel Borges AE6SG
MARC President

Our Sponsors

Borges Associates

Tax Consulting / Preparation Service
57836 Campanula St.
Yucca Valley, Ca. 92284
(760) 365-2652

Personal and Corporate returns
Bonded and CTEC Registered Tax Preparer
All year service available
Appointment Only
Practice since 1989

The Treasurer's Report

Glenn N6GIW

Beginning balance: \$1506.35

Expense: Repeater Site Phone Line: -\$23.04

Income: Bulletin Ads: \$45.00

Membership Renewals: \$30.00

50/50 Drawing: \$18.00

Club checking account balance as of 3-28-13:
\$1576.31

73 Glenn N6GIW
Treasurer

OUR NEXT MEETING

WHEN:

Thursday, April 18, 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 (left) on Sunburst Drive. The Church is located at the end of the block.

Reminder: Club Net & Digital QSO

Every Tuesday evening at **7:00 pm**, a club net is held on our linked repeater system.

The purpose of the net is to share items of mutual interest. It's also a great way to keep in touch with friends between club meetings.

If you've never been on the net or you have just been too busy to join us, take a few minutes on Tuesday evening to fire up your vhf rig and listen in. I'm pretty sure you'll like what you hear.

Information about our club repeaters can be found in this newsletter.

Although it isn't an "officially recognized net", there is a digital QSO held almost every **Tuesday** evening at **8:00 pm**.

A few of the club members meet on **145.550 Mhz Simplex** to practice their typing skills with a "keyboard" QSO in PSK31.

If you are interested in experimenting with digital modes without the added expense of a TNC, then PSK31 would be the perfect place to start.

For more information, feel free to contact either Jerry Chambers **W6LQR** or Andy Frees **AI6AF** or....simply tune to **145.550 Simplex** and join them on any Tuesday evening.

Nets of Interest

At the last club meeting, a member approached me with a couple of questions and an idea for a newsletter article. He got a new HF rig and wants to find a good net in order to make some contacts and "break the ice" on the new bands. Whenever he asks how to find a net he gets a non-answer like "There are a lot of them up on 20 meters" or "check out the 146 box."

His questions are:

"Is the subject of HF nets a deep dark secret?" and "Can't somebody just give me a frequency and time to tune in?" He said that 20 meters is a pretty big place to search if you don't know when or where to look. Also, he hasn't had much luck locating a "146 box" on HF.

As the editor, I can help solve his problem by putting a small column in each newsletter listing various HF nets with their frequencies and check-in times.

This is where my dilemma starts.

I need input from our club members.

If there is an HF net that you listen to on a regular basis, please email me with the net name, frequency, date and time. I won't include your name unless you approve, but I really need some input on this one.

Thanks to everybody in advance for your help.

Andy Frees ai6af@arrl.net

Cross Banding

I received the following email from our Treasurer and Club Repeater Control Operator a few days ago.

It's an important subject that could be easily overlooked or taken for granted, so Glenn gave me permission to reprint his email here:

"Greetings fellow hams.

I'm just sending out a reminder regarding cross-banding. Some Hams do this so that they can use a low-power HT in their home or other location.

It's common to use a simplex frequency to cross band through a base station to the repeaters. Remember that the simplex frequency used must be in the ham bands.

Also, there are frequencies that are set aside for simplex use. Before using a frequency for cross banding, do some research and be sure the frequency isn't an input or output for a repeater somewhere, and that the frequency is in the spectrum appropriate for FM simplex.

The point is that our repeater system is going to be heard on the simplex frequency that you use for cross-banding.

I would like to be informed of any cross-banding beforehand so that we can avoid any confusion, unintentional interference or legal problems.

73 and Happy Easter

Glenn N6GIW "

This month we have the first installment of what promises to be a very interesting multipart article by Tom McLean KJ6DZT.

Tom is a regular contributing author and his articles are always informative and entertaining.

A more experienced member of our club told me "There are 3 things that hams never discuss: Religion, Politics and Grounding."

Well, this time Tom is tackling one of the "big three" with his article on grounding and I'm sure that you'll enjoy it as much as I did.

Before you get started, I want to take a minute to repeat that contributions of story ideas, pictures and articles related to Amateur Radio are welcome and encouraged.

If you've written an article relating in any way to ham radio and are looking for a publisher, please share it with the club.

If you discover a published article in another medium that you think should be published here, let the editor know. I may have to obtain permission to publish it but this is generally not a problem for ham radio related publications.

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

Basic Grounding Notes from this “Dummy”

Tom McLean KJ6DZT – Part Uno, Un, One.

I looked up the term “grounding” in Webster’s Dictionary: [+ obj] : to stop (a child) from leaving the house to spend time with friends as a form of punishment. This was obviously not what I was looking for. What prompted me to do this research was to get the best performance from my two base station radios. I understand the basic elements of grounding from my Technician, General, Extra, and numerous articles that I have read, but I wanted to maximize the effects of grounding and performance at my base station. While most people would expect that a simple reference to ground or earth would suffice, in the world of regulatory compliance and safety it is extremely important that the electrical design engineer or safety engineer define the type of ground required in very specific terms that are recognized as industry standards. For the sake of brevity, this article will address some of the fundamentals of electrical grounding and leave the technical details for the electrical engineering profession to manage.

Asking a few “old timers” about their grounding techniques and systems, instantly led me to believe that this was a ***diverse, complex and controversial*** subject. ***WOW!***

“The term “ground” is synonymous with “earth” and is considered a generic term that refers to a wide array of methods that offer electrical current a common return path to earth”. Several articles that I have read indicated that proper grounding would increase the performance transmitting/receiving of the radios. **OK! How do I accomplish this?** One common denominator in all the articles that I read was to keep the Earth ground to/from the transmitter as ***short*** as possible ***and;***



Eliminate corrosion, rust, oxidation and make certain the connections are tight, better yet solder the connections and ***inspect connections on a regular basis***. So I went out and inspected my grounding system after 2 years (picture left). **Yup! I had it ALL ...** rust, corrosion, oxidation, and loose connections. I would like to blame the roadrunners, quail, and raccoons, for the loose connections but we ultimately know who is at fault. I actually took some vice grips and twisted the ground rod a few times and gave it a few tugs and out came the 8 foot ground rod after being in the ground for two years... so much for ground resistance and contact.

Ok what’s next? After reading numerous, repeat numerous articles and white papers, I finally settled on the following: Joseph J. Carr’s Radio Tech Notes as my guideline to re-invent my grounding system. <http://www.dxing.com/tnotes/tnote02.pdf> there is an abundance of information in this article.

His White Paper on “What is a Good Ground?” seemed to address all of my specific questions and needs. In his paper are some basic premises for Designing, Achieving an Acceptable Ground in Poor Soil.

I started out by redesigning my ground system from the ground up. (No pun intended!) I shortened my distance to and from the ground rod to the transceivers to just under 5 feet just outside my “man-cave” as my XYL calls it. I chose a 10 foot - ½” copper pipe (Type L made in the USA) for the ground rod. The local hardware store had several

slightly dented/damaged ½" copper pipes that I got for half price. Be sure to sort through the pile before buying! Huge Savings!



I used a modified method of Joe Carr's water drilling to drive the ½" pipe into the sand. If anyone tells you there are NO rocks or boulders in the desert particularly in Desert Hot Springs, you have my permission to call them **"fabricators of the truth"**.

Getting a 10 foot - 1/2 inch copper pipe vertical in the sand by water drilling was a major challenge particularly when the type L copper pipe does not bend at all. Good old New England ingenuity prevailed and a few words of wisdom. (\$#@%\$^*@!)

In the drilling process, a hole developed around the pipe that provided a 4" to 5" diameter uniform sand casing around the pipe. After installation, numerous tugs and twists and the pipe would not budge nor

pull out.

Ok! Fair question! Why not use another ½" copper clad steel ground rod? The old copper clad ground rod at the right is completely corroded after 2 years. The lower portion is totally devoid of any copper what so ever and corroded. The top of that old 6" copper clad rod that was above the ground has some remnants of copper. I feel certain that the original manufacturer (隸書(隶书) of this product may have spray painted the copper clad as it didn't last very long. Another reason to buy American! Will this happen to the ½" copper pipe. Probably in the long run, however, there are not two dissimilar metals to cause electrolysis.

Where do we go from here? The next article will show how I completed my grounding system and how it is performing. As I write this, I can categorically tell the readers that transmission and reception and SWR has improved substantially on HF/UHF/VHF.

I shall cover Electrolytic Electrode, Doping the Soil, component grounding, lightning surge protectors, polyphaser protectors, maintaining moisture and much more in the next article.



73

Tom McLean

KJ6DZT

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

April 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 ECS Net 6:45pm ARES Net 7:15pm	2 Club Net 7:00 pm	3	4 ARES Meeting 7:00 pm Good Shepherd Lutheran Ch. Y.V.	5	6
7	8 ECS Net 6:45pm ARES Net 7:15pm	9 Club Net 7:00 pm	10	11	12	13
14	15 ECS Net 6:45pm ARES Net 7:15pm	16 Club Net 7:00 pm	17	18 <u>Club Meeting</u> <u>7:00 pm</u> St. Christopher's Catholic Church Joshua Tree	19	20
21	22 ECS Net 6:45pm ARES Net 7:15pm	23 Club Net 7:00 pm	24	25	26	27
28	29 ECS Net 6:45pm ARES Net 7:15pm	30 Club Net 7:00 pm	31			