

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

August 2000

## August Program Speaker

The guest speaker for the August 4th meeting at Alto will be **Bill Stewart KF6RMK**. He will speak on QRP radio. 7:30 PM

## Plain Talk

The primary purpose of QSA-5 is to announce the meeting date and the speaker, if any, and hopefully coax a huge attendance to the event. It also reports on what transpired at the last meeting by publishing the minutes of same, plus what business was transacted at the Directors meeting.

Unfortunately, there was no membership nor director's meeting in July. This leaves practically one page blank this month to be filled and zilch input to fill it.

Hey Guys and Gals, when this happens, it is a golden opportunity for some of you considerably talented members to have something of interest that you have written appear in print. A standby file could be created from which to draw these gems as needed.

It doesn't have to be about radio. It could be an interesting encounter with someone or a highlight from a trip.

It is Monday, 7/24/00 @1300 and if nothing reaches me by Thursday, I offer you the following for better or worse.  
.....Ed

## 1000 Marbles

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours

of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the basement shack with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning, turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it.

I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham radio in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind, he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling, whomever he was talking with, something about "a thousand marbles".

I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to say. "Well, Tom, it sure sounds like you're busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have to work sixty or seventy hours a week to make ends meet. Too bad you missed your daughter's dance recital."

He continued, "Let me tell you something Tom, something that has helped me keep a good perspective on my own priorities." And that's when he began to explain his theory of a "thousand marbles."

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years." "Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3900 which is the number of Saturdays

**New Mailing Address for those writing to us!**  
**P.O. Box 6423**  
**San Rafael, CA 94903**

that the average person has in his entire lifetime.

Now stick with me Tom, I'm getting to the important part." "It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail", he went on, "and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them left to enjoy."

"So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round-up 1000 marbles. I took them home and put them inside of a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear.

Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away." "I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out, to help get your priorities straight."

"Now let me tell you one last thing before I sign-off with you and take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little

## ARRL Pacific Division Update July 2000

You may know that SB-1714, which is our first step toward restraining local jurisdictions from regulating Amateur service antennas out of existence, passed the California Senate 39-0 on May 30. From there it has gone to the Assembly for consideration.

On June 6, SB1714 was assigned to the Local Government Committee of the California Assembly. The members of the committee are Assembly members Longville (Chair), Pacheco (Vice Chair), Corbett, Kaloogian, Kuehl, Thompson, Torlakson and Wiggins. The present text of the bill may still be found at <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov>; click on "bills" and search on "1714" (no quotes). The text is also appended to this Update. It has been amended slightly since last month.

We have just been informed that the SB-1714 will be considered in the Local Government Committee on Wednesday, June 28. Preparations are in progress right now for a small group to appear before the Committee in support of the bill. The makeup of our group is in a state of flux at the moment, but current plans are for our group to be led by Vice Director Valio, W6RGG, ably supported by Sacramento Valley Section Manager Jerry Boyd, K6BZ, and possibly Volunteer Counsel Coordinator Harry Styron, K6HS. I will be out of the country on that date so will not be able to attend.

We do not have a sponsor in the Assembly, so we need to be more active in support that was necessary in the Senate, where we had the minority leader carrying the bill. We continue to face opposition to any meaningful bill from the California League of Cities and other lobbying organizations with land use and real estate.

You should express your opinion (hopefully supportive) to your individual Assembly member and to the members of the Local Government Committee and/or to the committee staff. At this point please do not

suggest changes to the bill, because any amendment in the Assembly would effectively kill it for this year. In its present form it doesn't hurt, and it will permit us to work with the Governor's Office of Planning and Research to get (hopefully) something next year that will really help.

You may find your Assembly member's name in the government pages of the telephone directory or on the web by going to <http://www.assembly.ca.gov> and using the zip code finders that can be found off those pages. Every Assembly member may be contacted by mail addressed to him or her by name at PO Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 94249-0001. Every Assembly member may be contacted by e-mail at an address constructed as `assemblymember.<name>@assembly.ca.gov`, where `<name>` is the last name of the Assembly member. For example, Assemblyman Sam Aanestad of the 3rd district has e-mail address `assemblymember.aanestad@assembly.ca.gov`.

Each member of the Assembly has individual office, telephone and fax numbers in his district and in Sacramento. Local offices are listed in the government section in your phone directory. A great deal of information about each member can be found off of the <http://www.assembly.ca.gov> page.

The Local Government Committee is more primitive, for they have no e-mail address. Their snail-mail address is 1020 N Street, Room 157, Sacramento, CA 94814. Their telephone number is 1-916-319-3958 and their fax number is 1-916-319-3959. You should send them a copy of every letter addressed to your Assembly member or to the Assembly members of the Local Government Committee. In the Senate we got a very misleading support count in the legislative analysts' comments, because few of our letters went to the committee staff. They said we only had six letters in support, which is only the count of letters that went to the staff itself -- they apparently did not see the many letters addressed to the individual Senators.

It is sufficient just to write or telephone to say "I am an Amateur Radio Service licensee and I support SB-1714." Staff at each level simply keeps a count for and against for the member. The Assembly member generally will not see the individual letters, only the count.

Please at least tell me and our Pacific Division Volunteer Counsel Coordinator Harry Styron, K6HS, ([hlstryon@wcrklaw.com](mailto:hlstryon@wcrklaw.com)) that you have written, to whom you have written, and if your letter was for or against the bill. This way we can keep a count for when we appear before the Committee.

Harry K6HS, has also created a SB-1714 mail list. The list contains periodic updates and alerts related to SB-1714.

(Thanks to Harry Styron, K6HS and Mike Mitchell W6RW, for most of the information provided above.)

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more time.

"It was nice to meet you Tom, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. 75 year Old Man, this is K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter. Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honehy, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast."

"What brought this on?" she asked with a smile. "Oh, nothing special, it's just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. Hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy some marbles."

Anon.

## For Computer users Only

### Computer Humor

**Backup:** Opposite of go forward

**Batch Processing:** Making a lot of cookies at once

**Binary: Possessing:** The ability to have friends of both sexes

**Bit:** 12-1/2 cents

**Buffer:** Programmer who works in the nude.

**Bug:** 1. Programmer's term for a feature.

2. An elusive creature living in a program which makes it incorrect. Note: The activity of "debugging" or removing bugs from a program ends when a programmer gets tired of doing it, not when all the bugs are removed.

**Character Density:** The number of very weird people in the office, divided by the floor space.

**Computer Club:** Used to strike computer forcefully upon receiving error messages.

**Compile:** A heap of decomposing vegetable matter.

**Compiler:** Noah Webster (1758-1843)

**Cursor:** An expert in 4-letter words.

**Hardware:** The parts of a computer which can get kicked.

### ----- Last Minute Arrival

Dear Pete,

We need to start a search for a person who will take over my job as Secretary for MARS.

### Picnic.

So far we have 32 people signed up. Our Menu has been expanded to include chips and dip.

Ray Canziani will be doing the honors cooking the tri-tip and his lovely wife Elita will help.

Chet Rice will have the horseshoe pits ready.

The road in to Miwok Meadows will be marked with balloons.

Don't forget for those of you having difficulty getting around, you can drive right up to a picnic table.

Don't forget to bring salad that you can share. I will see you all there.

## Roster corrections and additions

Angelini, **San Rafael, 94901**

Burnham, **Albert - k6rim@pacbell.net**

Joe Knowles K6KEW is now an **Extra**  
Congratulations Joe!

Rich Carbine - **rich@idlehour.org**

Rathbone is **aj6y@onebox.com**

Ballard is **461-0259 - E -**

**420ben@home.com**

Herman Weiss is **WP4**

Add **Elida Canziani KF6WSU - T -**  
same details as Ray Canziani

add new members: **Carl T. Schuler,**  
**208 Riviera Dr., San Rafael, CA**  
**94901, 456-3791 -T-**

**Paula Radder, 14 Gomez Way, Mill**  
**Valley, 94941, 388-8432 -T-**

Woody Wilson, remove one **K** from his call

### Parking problem

We have handicapped bible class attendees and perfectly agile members are parking in our handicapped zones.

Shame! Shame!

### We need a Secretary

Our very capable Don Schroder KF6WSI, is moving back East. He will be hard to replace but there is someone out there who has been thinking, "Gee, I should to do something for the club, those guys would appreciate the help.

?

Hi Woody, we all miss you at bible class and send you our very best 73

### Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

27 Shell Road

Mill Valley, CA 94941-1551

389-6630

#### President:

Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136

#### Vice President:

Norm Baetz WA6CLK 479-6238

#### Secretary:

Don Schroder KF6WSI,

#### Treasurer:

Lorraine Karl K2VDG 479-8928

#### Director:

Jackson Sauers KB6JRI 388-3094

#### Director:

Gordon Haberfelde KR6DP 246-1754

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Leo Bodian K5BAQ 435-4300

#### Education Chairman:

Curtis Thames KF6TAA 453-2925

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Pete Wolford N6IYU 924-1578

#### VE Liaison:

Stu Dake AC6GD 382-8317

#### Station Manager & Trustee:

Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136

#### Sunday Emergency Nets:

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VHF Doug Marklinger KC6UNF

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#### Editor of QSA-5:

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### Club Meetings

**General Membership Meeting** is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM.

**Business Meeting** meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley. Next meeting is Tuesday, Aug 8th 2000. Members are encouraged to attend.

**Sunday morning informal meeting**, jokingly called The Bible Class, meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting at roughly at 0800 hours and closes down about 1100 hours.

Dues structure is: \$20.00 per year for regular or family memberships. No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

### Coming Events

**Annual Picnic**, August 19th at Miwok Meadows opposite China Camp. This is club sponsored and is an entirely free event, BUT we must know in advance who will attend. You all received the mailing, so please respond.

**Education:** Due to vacations, there will be no classes in August.

**Take** note of the **new address** below the fold!

**Marin Amateur Radio Society, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 6423**  
**San Rafael, CA 94903**

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