

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Dec., 2001

## Christmas Party, Dec. 9.

### President's Message

As I write the President's Message our Christmas party is just a little over a week away. The past year has been an exciting one for the club. We picked up some new members, even some without gray hair. We had a lot of fun with field day as always and held our first Kids Day event at Town Center in Corte Madera.

We received a donation of a communications truck from KPIX, engineered by Ed Karl, KOKL. This truck will be a fine asset for the club during special events, as well as on Field Day and Kids Day.

We have replaced one of our old 440 repeaters (443.525, with auto-patch) and we may have two new machines on Mt. Tam (with a new auto-patch on 146.700) by the time that this news letter arrives in your mail box.

We also made changes to our Ham Radio classes this year, adding the General and Extra classes.

Though I missed the picnic in August at China Camp State Park, I understand it when very well.

Next year may be just as exciting for our club. I have a couple of projects, that were put on hold last year due to time limitations, which I plan to start working on very soon. For those of you who may be interested, we are looking into participating in the VHF Field Day event this coming year.

I hope to see many more of our club members at the club house next year.

From time to time I research the Internet and check when and where other clubs meet around the country. So far I have found that very few clubs have their own club house.

73, John KF6VYH

## Website at W6SG.NET

### Board Meeting Nov. 13.

President John Iacono KF6YVH called the meeting to order at 19:35 hours. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Jackson Sauers W6JRI, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Rich Carbine W6UDS, and Kevin Foley KF6YUF. Other members present were Curtis Thames KF6TAO, Ed Karl KOKL, Ben Sawtelle N6PJX and Phil Dunlap K6PHD.

Rich Carbine discussed the problems with trying to find a contractor to remodel our Alto clubhouse. It was decided to look into hiring an architect to draw up plans. Rich was given the authority to find one to draw up a preliminary draft.

Additional news at the next meeting. Lorraine Karl passed out the treasurers report and this was approved. Lorraine also talked about the Christmas party, involving the purchase of gifts for the ladies. Ben Sawtelle gave additional facts about the party, discussing the menu and raffle prizes. Also a request for volunteers to help set up and decorate the clubhouse the day before the dinner, Saturday Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>.

With the help of Raine Kinney KG6GII and Frank Strom WA6JTP, a beautiful Christmas tree and lights were donated to the club. Many thanks to Raine and Frank.

John Boyd and Ed Karl discussed the latest repeater news and said the new repeater will undergo tests soon. The old repeater will probably be installed in the club's truck.

John Iacono said there may be some operating out of the old Marconi sites, Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>, in West Marin. Anyone interested please contact Fred Tortola at 485-8427.

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**Mailing Address**  
P.O. Box 6423  
San Rafael, CA 94903

**November 11**  
Chuck Deatruck says:

I just received a very good compliment on the volunteer amateur radio operators from Marin Amateur Radio Society, RACES and others who participated in the recent Providian 199 mile Relay. They were voted as the best organized at the Cheese Factory from a total of 36 aid stations in 8 counties. They not only operated the amateur radio but helped other race staff volunteers, who had very little expertise in traffic control, with guiding traffic in and out of the Cheese Factory.

They had to deal with approximately 250 vans turning in and driving back out at various times during an eight hour period. The California Highway Patrol complimented the Race Organizers on how well the Cheese Factory aid station was run this year.

To me, this shows that we can be very flexible when the need arises to help others out of a predicament where other volunteers were in short supply. We didn't tell them, "It's not my job.", but instead stepped in where we saw a need to assist with our experience and rectified problems before someone was injured due to the large volume of vehicle and foot traffic.

Thanks to ALL of those who helped to make all of the foot and bicycle races this year very successful and kept the tradition of Amateur Radio as a valuable public service group.

THANKS,  
Chuck - WA6SQQ

## MARS General Meeting November 2, 2001

President John Iacono KF6VYH called the meeting to order at 19:40 hours. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Herman Weiss WP4DCM and Rich Carbine W6UDS. The minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report were both approved.

Committee reports of interest:

Ben Sawtelle N6PJX gave a report on our Christmas party which will be held on Dec. 9th. All arrangements have been made. Volunteers are needed Dec. 8th, to help set up for the party. A Christmas tree has been donated.

Ed Karl K0KL, on the repeater committee, said the new Mt. Tam repeater will be in operation soon. Ed also talked about upcoming improvements and modifications.

John Boyd, on the truck committee said he has picked up some new ideas from other emergency orgs. and will discuss these at a future board meeting. John and Ed also brought up the possibility of the club setting up a VHF station for an upcoming VHF contest. Possible sites were discussed.

Pres. John Iacono said the club should again consider getting involved in Kids Day next June.

There was discussion on VE tests taking place in December.

One idea on how to use our new club logo design is to print up some generic cards for members to put their own call signs on.

Ed Karl said the nominating committee has set up a slate of candidates for next year and the ballots will be in the mail soon. Lorraine Karl thanked Allen Best K6AJB for help in acquiring some file cabinets.

Anthony Andrianos KC6KIM gave a very interesting talk about his recent trip to Australia. Details of his travels around that country including his ham experiences were very informative.

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John Iacono ended the evening's entertainment by giving a talk on the various GPS instruments his store carries. Thank you John and Anthony.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:15 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, secretary

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Ed Karl said he had gone to the old club site at Hamilton to look over some antennas we had left there. He said they needed too much repair and recommended we offer them to the Hamilton club. The board agreed.

There was a discussion on plaques and memorials to commemorate silent keys. It was decided to look into the possibility of entering the names, calls and related information in the club's website.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:32 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, secretary.

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The results of the election for board members will be in the January issue, mainly because the votes will not have been counted until bible/babble class on Sunday 12/2, the same date that this paper was scheduled to be folded, addressed and stamped by the usual bunch of volunteers. Now, we could have hand-marked the results in this issue immediately after the vote count, over 550 felt pen marks, but it was decided to hold off until the January mailing came out. By that time most of the members should have already been informed. Glenn Meader, our webmaster, will probably have the finals on the website before the year's end.

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When writing about an event which has not yet occurred, for a publication that may not be read until after that event has taken place, the tenses can be mixed up. We apologize for this when it happens and hope you will overlook these minor errors. (grin)

A. Bonehead Vet

This has nothing to do with ham radio.

THE GOONEY BIRD  
by Oscar Brand

In '51 they tried to ground the noble DC-3, and so some lawyers brought the case before the CAB. The Board examined all the facts behind their great oak portal, and then pronounced these simple words, "The Gooney Bird's immortal."

(chorus) THEY PATCH HER UP WITH MASKING TAPE, WITH PAPER CLIPS AND STRINGS, AND STILL SHE FLIES, SHE NEVER DIES..

METHUSELAH WITH WINGS.

The Army toasts their SkyTrain now in lousy scotch and soda. The Tommies raise their tankards high to cheer the old Dakota. Some claim the C-47's best, or the gallant R4D. Forget the claim, they're all the same, the noble DC-3. (chorus)

Douglas built the ship to last, but nobody quite expected the crazy heap would fly and fly no matter how they wrecked it. While nations fall and men retire and jets get obsolete, the Gooney Bird flies on and on, at 11,000 feet. (chorus)

No matter what they do to her, the Gooney Bird still flies. One crippled plane was fitted out with one wing half the size. She hunched her shoulders, then took off, and I know this makes us laugh, one wing askew, and yet she flew ... The DC-2 and a half. (chorus)

She had her faults, but after all, who's perfect in this sphere? Her heating system was a gem. We loved her for her gear. Of course, her windows leaked a bit when the rain came pouring down. She'd keep you warm, but in a storm it's possible you'd drown. (chorus)

Well now she flies the feeder routes and carries mail and freight, She's just an airborne office or a flying twelve ton crate, (chorus)

(Douglas DC-3, in service 1936)

**Guest Commentary**

The following is another letter from our member Phranque O'Pinion 5U4GB, the well known LF DXer, often heard on 175 KHZ working faraway places like Richmond, Berkley or even Milpitas when the skip is in.

So here we go again with another election. I notice participation runs at about 50%, about the same level as Presidential elections. Why not more? Is it the stamp? Are MARS members too cheap (or poor) to spend the pennies to return the ballot? Or do they just feel they don't have the time? Or maybe they have not been to meetings or participated in picnics or events and don't even know the players!

I can't say for sure, but it seems to me the bitching and whining brigade is mostly made up of non voters. And, you know, they really should have nothing to say, cuz they never put their money where their mouths are; they just keep yapping and beefing. Sorta like as if you come from Berkley, if you get my meaning. T'other day I heard of a fellow beefing about the Hospital Net and that no one participates... I ain't seen this guy at any club function for a year and a half!! Maybe if he was that much in earnest he would get a net organized himself. But of course he wouldn't have anything to bitch about except all the work and no one participating. How come nobody helps John on the truck committee? "But that's on Saturday or Sunday when I have other things to do. But I still bitch about the cost and what do we need that truck for, etc." We need it because we ain't got nothing else to spend our money on, I'm guessing, (except repeaters and building maintenance) or because no one comes up with other ideas.

Ol' Phranque will be there this time to tell them where to go with the yapping about "the Mount Vision fiasco" should something reoccur. Yeah, but then again, where were you 8 years ago, at home carping about the smoke and such? Yup that's the ticket, bitch a lot, you

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need the attention.

One more thing... to those who use the repeaters without belonging to the club (read pay your fair share), how about YOU challenging the dead beats into joining the club? Let's start a campaign, yeah constructive bitching, it'll be great!

73 from the real low bands, Phranque, 5U4GB, (who wrote his own intro. ed.)

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Rebuttals to guest commentaries are welcome.

**GLASS MOUNT ANTENNAS**

Did you ever have to remove a glass mounted antenna and then try to re-stick that thing to another window? The Radio Shack dual band 144/440 #19-324 has a replacement adhesive pad available. It's #11574688 and is a special order item at 1.800.843.7422 or you can order it at the Shack and prepay with delivery to your address. Ordinary double sticky tape is worthless for this purpose. This item would probably work with other brands, also.

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How many of us order a spare ops manual for a piece of gear we own, while it's still relatively new, so that if/when we sell it, the clean, unscribed upon, note free, beer can ring stain-deprived publication can accompany the hardware?

We haven't, either. And we've heard people say that they'd give their .....(well, maybe they were exaggerating) for a complete, readable copy of some "How Do I Make It Do That" book.

**Letters to the editor.**

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Comments, commentaries, questions, gripes, desires (pertaining to ham radio), stuff for sale and even complaints are welcome. Send 'em in and they will probably get into this publication. The more you send in, the less drivel we have to come up with on our own to fill these columns. Stu AC6GD, Phranque 5U4GB and Hugh WA6AUD did it. So can you.

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**Errors, additions or deletions?**

**Let us know, preferably by email, PacBell or in writing. If we're in eyeball mode, make sure we write it down. ed.**

**(Poor grammar is n.a.)**

### Club Meetings

**General Membership Meeting** is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse on Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Turn right at the first stop light west off hwy 101 at the Mill Valley/Tiburon exit. Bear to right at next stop sign, then turn left at next street, Shell Road. We are in the two story building on the left under the power lines. The upper floor is a private residence.

**Business Meeting** meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on the second Tuesday of each Month at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend.

**Sunday morning informal meeting**, smilingly called The Bible (or babble)Class, meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting at roughly 0800 hours and runs to around 1100 hours. This weekly event is hosted by **Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ**, our Ham of The Year in 1996, whose absence would be the result of serious disease or dismemberment, only.

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

#### Coming events

The Christmas Party on December 9 , at the clubhouse.

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

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