

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

June, 2001

## June Meeting Speaker

The A52A Bhutan DXpedition video is the June presentation.

### President's Message

I had a chance to work my first VE session on April 28th. at our club house. It was nice being on the other side of the exam table. If any of you have ever thought about becoming a VE, it's quite easy. All you have to do is be a General class or higher Amateur Radio operator and at least 18 years of age. Your first step is to get a VE manual from the ARRL VEC. Then you take an open book test and mail or fax your answer sheet to the ARRL VE Coordinator. If you are interested call the ARRL VEC at 1.800.927-7583.

By the time you read this, field day will be just around the corner. You are welcome to operate on field day. We will be operating the full 24 hours. You can even pack up your tent and sleeping bag and spend the night. Do not forget, there will be a Bar-B-Q Saturday night. There will be ample food and we will feed you.

Let's not forget the Club picnic Sat. Aug 25 at Miwok Meadows, China Camp State Park, San Rafael. RSVP myself or Rich Carbine. And, as with Field Day, there will be an ample food supply, assuming you let Rich or myself know that you are coming.

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## Website at W6SG.NET

### FIELD DAY JUNE 23-24

Is there anyone out there who has not operated from a Field Day location? Once you've done it, you'll never forget it. In the 1960s, the Tamalpais Amateur Radio Club of Novato, then W6JTP, ran Field Day in at least three out-of-the-ordinary spots. We got a chance to use the summit of Mt. Burdell one year and, in addition to using the regular bands, tried communicating from there with light across the Sonoma county line. For two years that we remember, the TARC used a decommissioned chicken house on a hill overlooking downtown Novato. One of the antennas, a vertical, was set up using an elderly discarded crapper for a base insulator. Most, if not all, of the contacts were made on a borrowed Collins KWM-2 running barefoot, as we remember. The third spot was on Big Rock Ridge. Access was by way of a dirt road from the, at the time, Luiz Brothers' ranch which was just west of the big rock on Lucas Valley Road. Sanitary facilities were behind a bush of appropriate size and location.

Now our club is getting ready for this year's event, which will be held at the Marin Rod & Gun Club site near the Richmond-San Rafael bridge. We'll have 15m and 20m stations, and maybe a 40m setup, **not** QRP. 20m phone will always be open to guest ops.

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

From column two.

**WE NEED SOME MORE OPERATORS. Please contact Ed Karl K0KL, edk0kl@aol.com, or 479-8928 soon as to your intentions regarding this event. He would like to plan three fulltime stations. Ed is taking Friday 6/22 off from KPIX to set up and would like some help checking out the generator and getting it to the site, etc.**

**We need a chow count.** Stu Dake has agreed to cook dinner Saturday eve. Chet Rice will do Sunday breakfast and have sandwiches, sangwidges, sammiches (your choice) and stuff for the earlier part of Saturday prior to Stu's main meal. You will not be forced to partake of the on-site food but if you plan to eat, and don't let Ed or John Iacono know that, you will be subject to ridicule, tar, feathers and will be ejected from the area. For those who eat and are not satisfied with the quality or quantity, you can pound on the sides of Stu's camper during the night to get your revenge.

For those of you working the Double Dipsea race, come on by afterward, grab a soda and a sandwich and operate a little, or maybe a lot. Ed informs us that his grandson is coming out to operate, too. =====

## MARS General Meeting May 4, 2001

The meeting was called to order by President John Iacono KF6VYH at 1933 hours. Other officers present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Rich Carbine W6UDS, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, and Herman Weiss WP4DCM. There were 30 members and guests present. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Lorraine Karl passed out the treasurer's report and it was approved.

Ed Karl K0KL, gave an update on Field Day. He's looking for volunteers to man the positions. We will have 3 or 4 stations in operation.

Rich Carbine asked for members who are interested in attending the August picnic to contact him so he can plan on the amount of food and drink to purchase.

Curtis Thames, KF6TAO announced that Ed Karl and Chet Rice WA6PAC will teach a Technician class in the near future. There was a report on the recent VE tests and the open house held at the club facility, evidently a very successful affair. Ed Karl said all his students passed.

Rich Carbine said there was nothing to report on the building remodeling; hopefully there will be some info by next month.

Ben Sawtelle, N6PJZ said all was set for the Christmas party to be held Dec. 9th.

John Iacono is looking for volunteers for Kids Day to be held at the Corte Madera Shopping Center. We will run a station for six hours from 11 am. to 5 pm. The date for this is June 16.

Rich Carbine said that one of our long-time members and a fine CW DX operator, Josephine Hansen WB6ZUC is moving to Sacramento. We wish Jo well.

ARRL asst. SF section mgr. Len Gwinn, WA6KLK gave a report on various clubs in the north region. Len is running for Section Mgr. and spoke of his background in ham radio.

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Doug Slusher said the repeater committee is still looking into purchasing new equipment. It was thought that we would buy Kenwood but that did not work out.

George Rothbart, KF6VSG gave a very interesting and informative talk on his system for linking repeaters through the Internet. He was assisted by his son Rick KF6VSH. The meeting was adjourned at 2055.

Submitted by Norm Baetz.

From column three

John Boyd recommended the club rent a dumpster to get rid of old stuff, mainly paper, that has accumulated at the clubhouse. **We will keep the old callbooks, however.** Members are invited to go over these items before they are tossed.

Herman Weiss said it would be nice if the club appointed someone to check on members who are ill and to send them notes/cards to wish them well and help cheer them up a little. He also suggested the club purchase a wireless mike to be used by guest speakers.

Rich Carbine said there has been no response to the adds in QSA-5 for used club equipment and asked if he could sell it outside the club. This was approved

The meeting was adjourned at 2125 hours.

Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK

## MARS Regular Board Meeting May 8, 2001

President John Iacono, KF6VYH called the meeting to order at 1925 hours. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Jackson Sauers W6JRI, Rich Carbine W6UDS, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, and Kevin Foley KF6YUF. Other members present were Ed Karl K0KL and Phil Dunlap K6PHD.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Lorraine Karl passed out the treasurer's report. After some discussion it was approved. One of the items discussed was an approval to purchase a \$5000.00 CD in the near future. Lorraine also said the club's insurance has been paid. The club has given permission to the County to use our facility as a polling place May 22.

Doug Slusher said that the purchase of new repeater equipment is still not finalized but he should have more information by the next meeting.

Anthony, KC6KIM has given the club an estimate to do monthly cleaning maintenance.

Rich Carbine said that as far as the remodeling of the club interior goes, he recommends finding a new contractor to draw up plans. Doug Slusher said he has someone in mind and would have more information by the next meeting.

John Iacono gave an itemized estimated cost report on the club's upcoming Kids Day Ham Day at the Corte Madera Shopping Center. This will take place on June 16.

A motion by John Boyd to purchase a cabinet to hold the club's TV set was approved.

Ed Karl said that KPIX will donate a Chevrolet Suburban Van to the club. This vehicle is equipped with a generator and a 42 ft. tower. There was discussion on the van's insurance, maintenance, and who would drive it. The van offer was accepted and we should have delivery in about six weeks. Many thanks to Ed for his work in this undertaking.

John Iacono discussed the contest for the club's new logo and said the winner would get two free tickets to the Christmas party.

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We had a good turn out for the May meeting and a very good presentation by George KF6VSG, concerning linking repeaters in distant cities using the Internet. For those of you that missed the meeting, this system was tested last year and for a brief period one of our Marin repeaters was linked to Moscow, Russia. I was quite surprised to hear George calling from Russia while I was driving through the Napa wine country. At the time I had only my dual band 2 meter/440 radio in the car.

Of course, we also had two nice deli trays at the May meeting, one with sandwiches and one with fruit. Having food at the meetings has been very popular.

At our June meeting we will have a video presentation. I believe it will be on the DXpedition to Bhutan. Come to the meeting if you have a chance and grab a snack, too.

More on KIDS DAY, June 16th, 2001. I sent information on this via e-mail to about 18 Amateur Radio Clubs in the Bay Area. The South County ARES posted the information in their news letter and e-mailed a copy to me in PDF format. If anyone would like to read their news letter they can e-mail you a copy. There is a printed copy at the clubhouse. This is the URL for the South County ARES web site <http://www.belmont.gov/orgs/scares/>. (Location) Kids Day.

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From column one.

Communications van: I have been looking forward to being able to make the following announcement. Due to the efforts of Ed Karl K0KL, KPIX television is going to donate to the club one of their used news vans. It will include a 42 foot pneumatic mast and a 4500 watt generator. This should be a fun project for Sunday mornings at the club house. It will also give the club more visibility at the public service events we supply communications for. Thanks Ed for all your work. And thank you KPIX Television.

de John KF6VYH

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**Elmer A. (Bud) Weden,  
N6UUZ**

has donated his amateur equipment to the club since he has gone on inactive status. The major items are 1) ICOM IC-2GAT HT with two batteries, charger, clip-on mike and car antenna. 2) Kenwood TS-440S w/mike, etc. 3) Astron RS20A power supply. 4) 100+ feet of Tandy RG/8 coax.

As Hank (only Edjar Hansen called him Henry) Alvernaz, W6ZQK used to say, "Much grass", Bud!

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To whomever borrowed the club's homebrew field strength meter, to use as a model to build your own?, has that project been completed?

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It's amazing how much blank space can be made to disappear just by increasing the type size.

**Marin Amateur Radio Soc., Inc.**  
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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 at 0800 hours and runs to around 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

KIDS DAY June 16, 11:00 to 17:00 PDT

FIELD DAY June 23-24 at Marin Rod & Gun Club

The Club Picnic Aug. 25 at Miwok Meadows, China Camp State Park.

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

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