

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

March, 2001

March Meeting Speaker Show & Tell by Ed Karl, KOKL

President's Message

Well, here I am the new president of the Marin Amateur Radio Society. I am not sure how I got here but here I am. I find myself in need of a break from studying for my Extra Class upgrade. I hope it will be easier to write the president's message. We shall see.

As we go forward into 2001 we have the ARRL Field Day, our annual picnic and, of course, our Christmas party to look forward to. We also hope to bring more young people into our hobby. As I write this I am trying to arrange a location for Kids' Day on June 16th. I have scouted a few locations that draw large numbers of them on Saturdays on a regular basis and I hope to have more to report on this event very soon. Another goal is to try to increase our membership by making ourselves more visible in the County. Any members wanting to participate in any of the above mentioned events, or if you know of an event in which we can promote amateur radio, please contact me or any officer or board member. See page three for their names, calls and phone numbers.

Our Sunday get together at the Alto clubhouse has become very popular. If you think you don't have the time to drop by, get up a little earlier and come on down. The approximately three hour window from 0800 to 1100 is easy to hit.

73 de John, KF6VYH

The following is condensed from the weekly ARRL letter of the American Radio Relay League.

Amateur Radio legend William I. "Bill" Orr, W6SAI, of Menlo Park, California, died in his sleep January 24. He was 81.

An ARRL member, Orr was best known for his numerous amateur radio books and reference works, many aimed at beginners. His titles include The Radio Handbook, The Beam Antenna Handbook, The Quad Antenna Handbook, The VHF-UHF Manual and The W6SAI HF Antenna Handbook, some written in collaboration with Stu Cowan, W2LX.

Licensed in 1934 at 15 as W2HCE in New York, Orr graduated in EE from UC in the early 40s. From the 40s through the 80s he was a frequent contributor to QST, writing about tube-type amps, Project OSCAR and other topics. Orr built some of the amps once used at W1AW.

For many years Orr worked with tube manufacturer EIMAC. Orr's application notes for EIMAC products were favorite reading within the amateur community. In later years, he wrote columns for Ham Radio mag and, more recently, for CQ.

Chip Margelli, K7JA, of Yaesu, said Orr's readers could always build his projects, knowing that Orr had tested them in the field first to be sure they worked.

Orr owned a condo in Maui and operated from there two or three times a year as KH6ADR.

Orr's wife, Sunny, died about five years ago, and he lived alone. He is survived by four daughters and a son.

ARRL Offers New Five-Year Plan

With a membership dues increase going into effect 1 July, 2001, the ARRL is offering a special five-year membership plan until then, so members can lock in at the current, lower dues rates. Effective immediately, current or prospective ARRL members in the US and its possessions can obtain a five-year renewal or membership

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

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for \$146 (\$122 for over 65ers) a saving of \$24 (\$18 for 65ers) from the cost of year-to-year renewal at **CURRENT** rates. After 30 June, 2001, the annual dues will go to \$39 and \$34, respectively.

So what this looks like is that five years for \$146 comes out to \$29.20/year v.

\$39/year after June 2001. Of course, you have to gamble that you'll live long enough to make it pay. \$146/39= about three years & nine months to break even. After that, you're money ahead, about forty-nine bucks over the five years. For those over sixty-five it figures out to forty-eight. You only have to live three years & a little over seven months to hit the break even point. With any luck you can put your membership in your revocable living trust and if you don't live the full five years, it goes to your favorite heir. Or maybe the executor of your estate could just change the mailing address, if necessary. hi

Consider life membership at \$850 for those well under 65 or \$700 for seniors. (if you're 63 I'd wait a little while.) At \$39/year and no increase (very doubtful) in rates, you'd have to live less than 22 years, but since increases are inevitable, you can revise that figure downward. The \$700 rub for over 65ers seems to be a bigger gamble. Of course, if you die you wouldn't have to tell the ARRL about it, and if you just happened to renew your ticket shortly before going belly up, you'd have at least another ten years of QST delivered to any address your heirs desired unless somebody ratted on you. You could even make a few recordings of your voice prior to your demise and

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MARS General Meeting Feb 2, 2001

Pres. John Iocono, KF6VYH, called the meeting to order at 1953 hours. Officers president were John Boyd KB6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Jackson Sauers W6JRI, Rich Carbine W6UDS and Doug Slusher KF6AKU.

Introductions were made and guests were welcomed. Total attendance was approx. 23. The minutes of the last general meeting were approved.

Lorraine passed out copies of the treasurer's report and, after a brief discussion, it was approved.

Rich announced that the Club picnic is set for August. Date/time to be announced. A letter has been sent to the Rod & Gun Club requesting the use of their facilities for our Field Day event in June.

Rich said he was having a designer put together plans for possible remodeling of the Club's kitchen and restroom areas. More news at future meetings.

Ed Karl said that there would be a work party set up to do repairs at the Big Rock repeater site in the near future. There was some discussion about a TV repeater. Ed also said he was available for code practice sessions on Sunday mornings at the clubhouse.

Ben Sawtelle, N6PJZ, said all arrangements have been made for the Club's next Christmas party on Dec. 9th.

John Iocono is trying to set up a Kids' Day in the Mall to introduce young people to ham radio.

Roger Davidson, WB6HZO, discussed the resignation of Valerie Quigley as OES coordinator and the possibility of having the Club pick a liaison person to interact with RACES. Rich discussed the rules governing the Club with the County OES.

Fred Torta talked about the possibility of giving a slide show presentation on Guglielmo Marconi, 1874-1937. This would concern the first trans Atlantic and Pacific wireless transmissions. The Club hopes to have Fred at a future meeting.

John Iocono discussed the Club's budget and said that it would soon be

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From page one column three these could be played and replayed on one of the 40m oldfart nets. Chances are that nobody would notice the difference as long as you chose subject matter that would not likely require updating over those ten years, or so. For instance, you could talk about your equipment and how it's getting along in years and that you're thinking about getting something newer. Or things entirely unrelated to amateur radio like how well your chain saw runs, your chickens lay, or your old Chevy pickup's gas mileage. A half dozen recordings should be sufficient due to the short term memory of the listeners. If someone should detect some repetition in your transmissions, whomever? was operating your equipment could switch to another net.

Not really legal but who's gonna know? Your call would be in many logbooks and all outside your home area would assume that you were still alive and kicking. Those living near would keep their mouths shut out of respect for the 'deceased'.

From column one finalized. Also, new training videos will be purchased as soon as they are available.

Steve Rathbone, AJ6Y, was our speaker and gave a very interesting report on the various disaster groups in the Bay Area pertaining to their communications capabilities. He also spoke on SEMS, Standard Emergency Management System. Steve is very knowledgeable on this subject and we hope he will give us updates in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 2043 hours.

Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, secretary.

Joe Knowles, K6KEW, formerly of Marinwood and Corte Madera showed up at the Sunday morning 'babble' class on 2/18. Back in the 60s Joe was well known for his blue VDUB with Gonnset Commander (single 6146) on 3885kc AM and VERY LONG Master Mobile center-loaded antenna which was reported to have contacted overhead wires in The City on more than one occasion.

MARS Regular Board Meeting Feb. 6, 2001

Pres. John Iocono called the meeting to order at 1932 hours.

Officers present were Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Jackson Sauers W6JRI, Rich Carbine W6UDS and Doug Slusher KF6AKU.

Lorraine gave the treasurer's report and, after a brief discussion, it was approved. She suggested we list the Club in the Pac Bell white pages and this was approved. She is still looking into getting garbage collection service for the clubhouse. The County Registrar of Voters asked for the use of the clubhouse for the May election. This was approved and the County so notified.

There could be a problem with the use of the Kaiser Hospital facilities for the next VE exam. The Board offered the use of the clubhouse, if necessary. A work party was planned for Sunday 2/11 at the Big Rock repeater site. The Mt. Tam repeater has been having some off-freq problems. This will be looked into.

George Rothbart, KF6VSG, suggested setting up an interlink between a repeater in Seattle and one here in Marin. There was discussion about various FCC rules and regulations. More on this in the future.

Ed Karl offered to show and narrate a video entitled "Rescue at Sea" at the March meeting. His offer was gratefully accepted.

The 2001 Christmas party was discussed and all appears to be ready for another enjoyable evening.

Rich, the building manager, presented preliminary plans for remodeling the kitchen and restroom areas, and roof repairs above these areas, if necessary. More on this and the cost estimates will be revealed at future meetings.

Ed Karl requested he be allowed to purchase some tower sections from the Club. This was approved by the Board.

Herman Weiss suggested that the Club have its own emblem/logo patch. The board proposed running a contest among the members for a design. More on this in QSA-5.

The meeting was adjourned at 2020 hours.

Submitted by Norm Baetz, WA6CLK

Tip on LGB AT-11MP Autotuner

Had a weird problem with this otherwise fine box, on 75m ONLY. Using an ICOM 706MkIIIG at any power level over two on ICOM's scale of L-2 to 9-H, the relays would chatter continuously until the RF was shut off. This unit was factory assembled. Found that the case had no DC continuity with the pc board and SO-239 common ground. The case was floating. The heads of the mounting screws never got through the paint on the case. Excellent paint job. The easy fix was removal of each of the nine screws which mount the pc board and the SO-239s, scraping a little paint off around the holes and installing a star washer on each screw head. Now, maybe we can check in on 3892 and 3915. Then again, maybe not. The 40m dipoles don't seem to do a very good job on 75m running just the 706 barefoot. But the tuner works great!

Keeping NiMH Batteries For HTs At The Ready

The trickle charge rate for NiMH batteries which will keep them topped up and ready to go at all times is, conservatively, the rated ampere-hours divided by fifty. For example, a unit rated at 1800 mAh would be trickled at 1800/50 or 36 ma. Rates as high as Ah/20 can be used though the lower rate seems to keep the battery fully charged.

Connect resistors in series with your charger until you get the right value of current into a fully charged battery. Any good multimeter with a current range or two should do the measuring job. We used a very elderly Westinghouse 0-100 DC ma panel meter that came from Air Force MARS at Hamilton AFB back in the sixties. Using other hardware from the junk box we set up both regular/slow charge and trickle with a SPDT switch and a half watt resistor.

Another method is to forget all this just leave your HT in its original charge/trickle mode. Not as much fun, though.

Roster corrections and additions from Pete Wolford, N6IYU

Silent Key WB6EFY, Roland MacCubbin, a Club member of long standing, passed away three weeks ago. Perhaps someone who knew him well can write a short obit?

New member: John Crowley, 43 Alta Vista Ave., Mill Valley. KF6WSK/T.

For those of you who haven't paid your dues, you will not receive the next issue of QSA-5. We hope that you will reconsider and stay in the Club.

After perhaps fifteen years of being your membership chairman, I am resigning this position. Hopefully, one of you readers would like to volunteer his/her services. I will help you get started.

Pete N6IYU

Club or Society?

Talk has been heard re returning to the term 'club' from the present 'society'. So far it's all been positive. Few, if any, have been defending 'society'. There is some confusion with the other MARS and this has been said by some to be enough reason for the change. Others have mentioned the two thirds of a century history of MARC and that this should be sufficient grounds for returning to 'club'.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT ON THIS! WHATEVER YOUR PREFERENCE, EMAIL IT TO K6PHD@AOL.COM OR PHONE 491-0318 AND LEAVE A SHORT MESSAGE. NO PHONE? MAIL TO 604 GALERITA WAY, SAN RAFAEL 94903.

The tally, ONLY, will be forwarded to El Boardo. All will be anonymous.

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Errors, additions, deletions in the above info? Let us know, preferably by email or in writing. If we're in eyeball mode, make sure we write it down. ed.

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 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

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

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Address
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