

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

May, 2001

May Meeting Speaker

George Rothbart KF6VSG will present his system for linking repeaters through the Internet.

President's Message

We just got permission to operate a KIDS DAY station at Corte Madera Town Center. Date: June 16, 2001. Time: 1800 to 2400Z. No limit on operating time. Suggested exchange: Name, age, location and favorite color. You are encouraged to work the same station again if an operator has changed. Call "CQ Kid's Day." Suggested Frequencies: 28350 to 28400 kHz, 21380 to 21400, 14270 to 14300 kHz and 2-meter repeater frequencies with permission from your area repeater sponsor. Observe third party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs. If any one would like to help out please let me know. My email is KF6VYH@ARRL.net. My phone number is (415)897-0413

I would like to mention that Ed Karl K0KL had a good turn out for his first class for those wanting to upgrade to General. I also learned that Chet Rice WA6PAC will be teaching the Tech Class and Ed is planning an Extra class. Curtis Thames KF6TAO will be the Head Master for the MARS radio school. We will be the only Amateur Radio club known by us to have a Head Master. (He should be flushed with pride! ed.) By the time you read this the April 28 ARRL VE day will have taken place, and the VE session at the Alto club house followed by the Open house and hotdog barbie will be history.

The entries for the new MARS logo will be voted on at the August Meeting. I have received two entries, so far.
73, John I.

Website at W6SG.NET

Technician Classes at Kaiser Med Center, Terra Linda.

- Technician Classes. Study classes aimed at getting students an entry level Ham License.
- Kaiser Med. Center - Terrible Linda, Conference Rooms 3 & 4 Office Bldg 2 (MOB 2)
- June 2 & 9 - Saturdays 9AM - 4PM
- Sept. 1 & 8 - Saturdays 9AM - 4PM
- Dec. 1 & 8 - Saturdays 9AM - 4PM
- Call Curtis Thames, KF6TAO, Chairman of Education, for reservations at 453-2925.
- Cost is \$25 for classes and includes the book, "Now You're Talking"
- Technician Class Exams:
 - June 16, Sept. 15, and Dec. 15.
 - Kaiser Med. Center - Terra Linda - 8:30 AM until noon. Conf. Rooms 3 & 4 - Office Bldg 2 (MOB 2)
- Instructors:
 - Chet Rice, WA6PAC
 - Ben Sawtelle, N6PJZ

Black dots courtesy of Chet Rice WA6PAC

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

Guest Commentary by Phranque O'Pinion, 5U4GB, the long winded, long wave DXer. (often heard on 175 KHz DXing)

I sometimes wonder about people and their priorities... case in point, "What's in a name"?

There was a tale of 2 clubs. Both were small, and were unable to grow because they didn't have the resources to get bigger. They did their "thing", whatever that was and went through life endlessly getting by, but kinda without joy. They were suspicious of one another as they had been for years, so many years that no one really knew why they were two and not one organization, or why they were suspicious. Sure, "I don't like so-and-so, and they don't like me", existed for reasons to dislike one another. But there was no sound reason to stay separate. Many well-meaning people thought about this, created one of them committees and put endless hours into a "coming together". Each organization lent its contributions to the whole, including a portion of its name. A fine marriage ensued, the combined organization grows monthly, members are happy repeaters are working, birds sing and the sun shines. People even talk to one another (sometimes a lot).

Son of a Gun!! Out come the Nay Sayers. "Why is the organization's name Society and not Club? Why do we meet so far south?" etc., etc.

Well friends, it's like this. Both organizations have history. You know in this politically correct climate we call this heritage. Each half would like to stay attached to its past roots and history. You know, keep the club calls, one for HF, one for VHF/UHF, etc.

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MARS General Meeting

April 6, 2001

President John Iacono KF6VYH called the meeting to order at 1936 hours. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, and Norm Baetz WA6CLK. There were a total of 25 in attendance including members and guests. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Lorraine Karl passed out the treasurer's report and after a brief discussion it was also approved.

John Iacono said all was set for Field Day and the club picnic. Ed Karl K0KL said just show up, food will be plentiful at both events. Rich Carbine W6UDS said there was nothing new on building improvements.

Ed Karl is teaching a General class license upgrade series, which started April 7, for three consecutive Saturday mornings. **A VE exam on April 28 will be followed by an open house and a hotdog barbie.** All are welcome. Ed also said a new repeater purchase is out for bids. Plans are in the works but must be approved by the board. Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ said all is set for the Christmas party, still seven months away but time does fly. John Iacono said he is still waiting for a final OK from the Corte Madera Shopping center people on holding Kids Day at that site. There was a discussion on creating a new logo for the club. **Members are requested to submit their designs.**

The club members gave their approval for RACES to hold their meeting at Alto on April 10 and the board to move their meeting up to 18:30. The editor of QSA-5 suggested we increase the size of the newsletter to 6 pages, when necessary, because of expanded news items. Bill Hillendell KH6GSV, ARRL SF Section Asst. Mgr. talked about the upcoming **Sonoma Hamfest to be held April 28.** He also talked about a recent satellite demo at a Santa Rosa school and also reported on a series of problems between the Sonoma County Radio Club and Sonoma county regarding repeater usage.

Fred Tortoa was our guest speaker and
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gave a very interesting talk and slide show on Marconi radio sites at Cape Cod and Marin including their history and early equipment used.

Meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours.

Norm Baetz, WA6CLK secretary

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Sorta like being a (fill in the country)-American. We all recognize roots. That's what it's all about. We meet so far south because it's too costly to move the building north! The club is where it is, and called what it is because a meeting was held and those that cared enough showed up for that there meeting, voted for accepting this Southern outpost as our headquarters (Clubhouse), then after a time did the same thing and voted for the merger (which included merging the names), and put this thing together. To the Nay Sayers: Maybe if you participated a little more on the air and got to meet your fellow members there would once again be joy in Mudville, and at your home QTH.

As for me, long live "Babble Class" and 175 KHz DX and Marin Amateur Radio Society.

73!

Phranque.

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The numbers are:

Equifax 1-800 525-6285

Experian (formerly TRW)
1- 800 301-7195

Trans Union 1-800-680-7289

Social Security Administration also
has a fraud line at 1-800-269-0271

For Sale by The Club

Kenwood DSP 100 digital signal processor.

Two Drake tuners.

See Rich, W6UDS @ 479-3136

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Marin has over 1000 licensed hams.

MARS Regular Board Meeting Apr. 10, 2001

President John Iacono KF6VYH called the meeting to order at 1835 hours. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Rich Carbine W6UDS, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, Doug Slusher KF6AKU and Jackson Sauers W6JRI.

Lorraine Karl said the club's insurance was due and would take care of its payment. The board agreed that QSA-5 could be increased to six pages if there was sufficient news to warrant its expansion. Doug Slusher said the repeater committee has selected Kenwood equipment to replace that now in use at the San Pedro Ridge site. Also a spare set would be ordered for a future site. Lorraine passed out the Treasurer's report and after a brief discussion, it was approved. Lorraine also brought up the possibility of purchasing another CD. A decision was postponed to the next meeting. There was discussion of the rent for the second story unit in regards to the increase in energy costs which the club pays. This will be looked into. Rich Carbine had nothing new to report on building improvements but did say that Allen Best K6HJB has been doing some outside work. There was talk about Field Day expenses and how they would be handled. John Iacono said the club's Kids Day site at Corte Madera Shopping Center is just about set. It should be finalized soon. Herman Weiss has designed a card to be handed out at Kids Day. John Iacono suggested the club purchase a rubber stamp. There will be an Aug. 1st deadline for a design for a new club logo. Members will vote at the general meeting. Ed Karl K0KL was applauded for teaching the Saturday classes for upgrading to General Class. The meeting was adjourned at 1923 hours. Norm Baetz WA6CLK.

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We had a couple of first-time visitors at the bible/babble class on 4/22. Brian Kirchoff KI6HT and John Keane W6CCV. WELCOME and return soon!

Tired of replacing AA batts in your MFJ-259B SWR Analyzer?

If you didn't opt for the 120 VAC (no, it's not 117 anymore) to 12 VDC supply when you bought/stole/won/"found" your 259B and have used up all the double-As around the house, a better solution is as close as your Radio Shack store. The only store with reasonably priced alkaline AAs is COSTCO. Their house brand went for about two bits each in quantities of 48 last time we checked. Major brands cost an arm & a leg for the required ten cells.

Save a trip to HRO. When you buy Radio Shack's supply # 273-1773, you get an adaptor of your choice thrown in. The one that fits the MFJ-259B is # 273-1716. Both of these are easily found hanging on the wall at RS. MFJ says that the ideal supply voltage is 14.5 but 11 to 18 (preferably less than 16 when the unit is ON), will work. This supply puts out approx. 14.2 while running the 259B, according to the LCD display on the front panel. Ideal! The current drain is 150 ma. max. so with a 500 ma. rating, this baby/puppy/muthuh, etc., is loafing along. The maximum no-load voltage is a measured 15.8, safely below MFJ's specified 18 volt upper limit for "sleep mode" and "OFF".

Price is \$12.99 and includes the adaptor. See page 420, column one, of the 2001 catalog. "Buy one and get your choice of one Adaptaplug at no extra cost."

Here's the stock number info one more time:
supply 273-1773
adaptor 273-1716

Now, if you've got that 259B hanging on the end of the coax in the shack while you go topside in your diesel-stained Topsiders to fine tune the adjustments on that Ringo, it won't be feak & weeble (tnx, Chet) when you return if you left it ON. Using it up on the tower? A light duty AC extension cord works just fine and you can carry the power supply in a pocket, or you can save the AA's for this job and pay the price of convenience. Plugging the external supply into the 259B disables the batts, as it should. If you carry the pair around in an old Lucky Stores bag, keep the external power lead plugged into the 259B. That will save the batts if the power ON button is accidentally depressed. We keep them connected together at all times except when actually using the double A cells.

A Hams Creed by W6JRI

As a ham radio operator I recognize my obligations: 1. To the FCC and the United States of America, who believe that I am sufficiently mature to be entrusted with the ownership, control and operation of a radio frequency transmitter. 2. To my neighbors who may have to trust the safety of their lives and property to my skill and judgment during emergency situations. 3. To my fellow citizens and hams who depend upon me to follow established practices, procedures and courtesies.

To discharge these responsibilities I will at all times observe the highest standards as a ham radio operator. I will never knowingly cause interference to other amateur radio stations or other radio services. If my station causes interference to radio or television equipment I will try to work out a solution with the owner/s of said equipment. I will maintain my proficiency as a ham radio operator and stay informed of current developments in the communications field affecting ham radio. I will conduct myself on the air in such a way as to reflect credit upon myself, the amateur radio service and my country. I will constantly strive to keep my standards high. I pledge adherence to these principles so that I may contribute my part to more efficient radio communications and advance the dignity of ham radio. **Jackson Sauers, W6JRI**

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Your editor finally worked some 10m DX from Twain Harte a month or so ago, in Tuolumne County off hwy 108 at the 3800 foot level. A couple of Aussies and, of course, Japan. Antenna is a 40m dipole strung between two trees and kept taut by an old fashioned screen door spring, which also prevents wire breakage when those trees move in opposite directions. We considered the pulley and weight system but the spring was on hand. The center insulator/connector is homebrew from PVC pipe. See "Hints & Kinks" in the October 2000 issue of QST. ICOM 706MkIIIG and LDG AT-11MP auto-tuner travel back & forth but there is an Astron supply at each location. Those things are heavy. The rig is setup on the bar because that's where the coax comes up through the floor, about a foot to the right of the Jim Beam.

ed.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU LOSE YOUR PURSE OR WALLET

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed using your name, address, SS#, credit, etc. Unfortunately I (author of this piece, unknown) have first hand knowledge, because my wallet was stolen last month and within a week the thief ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information online, and more. But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know. As everyone always advises, cancel your credit cards immediately, but the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know who to call. Keep those where you can find them easily (having to hunt for them is additional stress you WON'T need at that point!). File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important:

Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and SS#. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this - almost 2 weeks after the theft all the damage had been done (there are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert). Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away this weekend. (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

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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

See page Two.

Marin Amateur Radio Society, Inc.
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Stamp

The Mailing
Address
Goes Here
