

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Oct., 2001

October Speaker

Dr. George Rothbart, KF6VSG
on PSK31

President's Message

This will be a short message for October. I was not able to attend the picnic due to a requirement that I be at work that day. I understand it went well and Stu AC6GD met with other area VEs so that our test sessions would not overlap. There is a VE test session coming up at the club house on Dec. 15th.

We did have the vote on a new club logo at the September meeting. The new logo should be turning up on the web site and in a few other areas soon. I would like to thank all the participants.

If you have not had a chance, the auto patch is working again on 443.525 pl 82.5. We will be replacing the two repeaters on Mt. Tam soon, hopefully before the rains start.

John Boyd KE6ORI is making good progress with the communications truck. If you have not seen this truck you should come to one of the meetings and take a look. Speaking of meetings, at the October meeting George KF6VSG will be giving a talk on PSK31 that should be very informative.

For those of you that have internet access you might check out the ARRL site, arrl.org. They have run some very good articles about hams who were helping out at the World Trade Center disaster. Lets hope we do not find a need to use ham radio under the same circumstances again. 73 John

Website at W6SG.NET

Nominating Committee Needed.

We need a few people for this easy job. The bylaws state that the following year's prospective officers must be named by the November general meeting date. The committee should be formed and get this simple chore out of the way at the October 5th meeting. Come on down and nominate yourself. Or you and a friend could nominate each other. Has happened before. Please do not attempt to nominate any family pets.

Extra Class License Classes to Start October 27.

Ed K0KL will once again be holding classes for upgrading to Extra Class. The instruction manual will be the ARRL Extra Class License Manual. You must provide your own; none will be provided by M.A.R.S. The fee for non M.A.R.S. members will be \$5, free to members. Dates are 10/27, 11/3, 11/10, 11/17. Time is 9 am to noon at the clubhouse in Mill Valley. Please call to register 479-8928.

Missing Issues, Aug. & Sept.

Some of the members may have noticed that there was no QSA-5 for the months of August or September. This was because the editor was on vacation and out of the County during the critical periods near the ends of the prior months when the paper is put together, and then printed by Office Depot. Also, proximity to computers with MSPub 2000 and laser printers was not an option at these times. Expect to see a pretty much normal schedule from this point until, at least, next summer.

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Ed Karl's Column

443.525 Back on the Air!

The repeater for 443.525 has been replaced, a new Kenwood unit and Link.

The controller was installed September 2nd. After debugging, it is now in service and performing better than anticipated. Full local autopatch capabilities are included. Check with Doug KF6AKU for access to the patch. It is anticipated that there will be no abuses and keeping the calling area local will eliminate high bills.

The repeater is located on San Pedro, and has a nice, clean air conditioned home, so it should have a long and happy life.

Next job is replacement of 146.70 and 443.525 on Mt. Tam. The plan is to complete the installation before the rainy season starts. The prototype Kenwood/ Link System is the plan for the Mt. Tam. site, with autopatch on the 2 meter repeater at this location.

2001 M.A.R.S. Picnic a success!

A larger turnout and gentle breezes marked the annual M.A.R.S. picnic held at Miwok Meadows in China Camp State Park August 25th. Stu AC6GD served as Master Chef with salad, shrimp on the barbie, London broil and other goodies for the dinner. I met Stu at Safeway at 08:30 where we picked up all the grub and liquid and brought it to site, which was beautifully cleaned and ready for us.

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**MARS General Meeting
Sept. 7, 2001**

The meeting was called to order by President John Iacono KF6VYH at 1930 hours. Other officers present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Rich Carbine W6UDS, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Jackson Sauers W6JRI, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, and Ray Canziani KF6RXA. There were a total of 35 members and guests present.

Ed Karl K0KL, standing in for Treasurer Lorraine Karl K2VGD, submitted the treasurer's report. After a brief discussion it was approved.

There were reports from various committee heads. John Boyd talked about the repairs made so far to the comm. truck. At the next board meeting he will propose additional undertakings.

Chet Rice WA6PAC, speaking for the Education committee, discussed the classes currently being held and future VE tests.

Rich Carbine said he was still having difficulty finding a contractor to go over remodeling plans for the clubhouse. Roof repair is the first concern but this can be put off for awhile.

Doug Slusher said the new repeater on San Pedro is in operation and performing well. Phase two will be a new repeater for Mt. Tam.

Ben Sawtelle N6PJX said the caterer for the Christmas party will be at our Oct. meeting to go over the menu. Otherwise everything is set for the dinner to be held December 8.

Ed Karl proposed the club look into entering the ARRL VHF contest next year. He would like to get an idea of how much interest there would be in this venture.

Rich Carbine said about 40 people came to the club's picnic at China Camp on August 25. He thanked all who helped out and especially Stu Dake AC6GD, our main chef. Great job Stu!

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Dr. George Rothbart KF6VSG said he would be willing to talk about PSK31 at a future club meeting. He is going to give such a talk at this coming PACIFICON in October.

Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, ARRL SF Section Asst. Mgr. talked about various events happening in the area. He also discussed problems the Sonoma County hams are having with control of the repeater with county agencies.

Ed Karl was our second speaker of the evening and gave a very interesting talk on different types of antennas, some of the facts and myths, especially the "Carolina Windom".

The meeting concluded at 2100 hours.

Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK secretary

Want to see yourself in print?

Do you have something to say? Write it down and get it to the editor or email it and you could see it here. Expose yourself to ridicule and embarrassment. We do that every issue! Maybe change a mind or two. **Do you have the guts?** Don't worry too much about your grammar or sentence structure. The editor had to take Bonehead English at College of Marin back in 1954, still remembers a few things and will adjust your input a little as required so you won't look too much like a dummy.

We reserve the right to edit for brevity and other stuff, depending on how much space we have to fill in a particular month. Take a chance. You can be anonymous, as long as the editor knows your true identity. If Phranque O'Pinion 5R4GB can do it, so can you.

MARS Regular Board Meeting Sept. 11, 2001

Well, there was a board meeting but we were an officer or two short of a quorum so nothing important was decided. The only member who took any notes downed a can of Lite Beer so probably didn't remember anything, anyway.

How About Another Member Poll?

As far back as we can remember, this club has had its general meetings on Fridays. In these modern times, many of us have other, not necessarily better, things to do on a Friday eve. Life is a series of choices, right?

During the summer, attendance is down. Some organizations cease non-mandatory ops entirely during the summer months.

For the retired, it's quite often not important which day a meeting is on but for those still working, Friday night may be a time to do something a little more lively. Fact: Friday evening club meetings are a cause of lower turnout, especially during the summer months. This can also be a cause of lower membership, overall.

Those of us attending school or college might want to keep the Friday meetings so as to have more time for homework on the other week nights. However, a midweek meeting might be a good excuse, for some, not to do any homework on that evening.

It has been found that most club meetings have bigger turnouts if held midweek. Here's the question: **1. Would you prefer a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening meeting over the current Friday date? 2. How about the second week of the month v. the first week?**

Mail, email at K6PHD@AOL.COM, or just hand your written opinion to the editor. No names will be recorded; just totals.

Guest Commentary

Here's an email your editor rec'd.
Hi Phil,
I was looking for info on another ham, searching the web by call sign, when it occurred to me to see if I could locate the current holder of the K6PHD call. I got my license in 1955 at age 12 (KN6PHD/K6PHD) and operated actively for about 4 years from my home in San Marino (near Pasadena) before substituting interests in girls, cars and getting into college. About the time I tapered off operating I encountered someone else bootlegging my call with an extremely powerful transmitter. A rather surreal experience! In any event I just thought I'd say HI. I live near Asheville, NC now and pursue another long-time interest, flying. I got my pilot's license just out of high school and now fly an airplane I built from a kit. 73, Brent Battles.

Vanity Call Fees Cut. (a little)

On Sept. 10 the FCC dropped the fee for new, or renewal of, vanity call signs from \$14 to \$12. An estimated 8000 applicants will apply for vanity calls in the current fiscal year. If you have a six character call, you can shorten it by at least one character. When we got our first call, WA6PKX, back in the early sixties (it's been reissued) we really would have preferred a K6 prefix. Now we have one! There are thousands of unused W6 and K6 calls out there waiting for you. Your initials might be available. Maybe, in a 1X3 call sign, you could find a three-letter abbreviation for something really gross that only you and a small circle of your friends would be familiar with. The possibilities are many. Check out this site:

www.carroll-usa.com/vanity

We've been watching an available 2x1 call sign since last year, KS6F, and have been checking on it occasionally to see if someone would grab it. After several months, somebody tried, which caused the listing to go from black to red until final disposition. Apparently the request failed, or the applicant had put in for more than one

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Stu started prep around 10. Shrimp peeled, fire started. We iced the beer, wine and soda. Chips and salsa were available right away. John Boyd showed up around 1 pm to show off the new comm. truck for the first time and demonstrated the tower and dual band antenna mounted on the top. Quite a show, I must say.

Yellow jackets joined us for dinner, so I ate one... added a little spice to the London broil.

Guests from Hamilton, West County and Sonoma joined us to review VE sessions next year. All seemed to be coordinated. School dates were also established.

We secured at about 3 pm.

Rich W6UDS and Stu are to be commended for the great time had by all and the fellowship which overflowed that day.

Ed K0KL

From column one.

call sign, and the red has gone back to black. So it's still there, as of 9/20. It's the only sixth district 2x1 call with a K prefix available, except for KL6 prefixes which are not available in California. KS6F SOUNDS like a perfectly OK call. Maybe there's a curse on it? Did the former holder die under mysterious circumstances?

If you opt for vanity license plates on your California registered car or truck, (not amateur call plates) you pay a \$25 fee every year. Not so for ham call plates. Just a one time charge. Go for it. Sorry, you can't get 'em on your Harley or a trailer. But maybe they've changed the motor vehicle code. Our copy is a couple of years down level. It's worth a look.

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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

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

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The Mailing
Address
Goes Here
