

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Feb., 2002

## President's Message

I don't have a lot for this month's President's Message. As I mentioned last month we have Field Day, Kids Day and the Club Pick-Nick coming up. We hope to participate in a VHF contest, also. I would like to encourage all our members to join the fun and participate in these events. Of course, this year we will have our club communications truck available for these events.

With the growing popularity of PSK31 I am hoping we can have a station set up for PSK31 at Field Day this year. Of course, it would be great to have a PSK31 station set up in the club house.

Lets not forget we are still looking for a **Public Service Coordinator** for the events for which we provide communications support. The Dipsea, Double Dipsea and Holstein 100 among others. Lets not forget we will need **volunteers** to help out.

There's an IC-706MkIIIG in North Korea, P5/4L4FN. If you're interested in this DX contact, check out:

[www.amsatnet.com/p5.html](http://www.amsatnet.com/p5.html)  
and see page 91 of the Feb. QST.

73, John

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(From the Jan. 31 IJ)

Our own **Doug Slusher** KF6AKU has been selected as the Marin Independent Journal Employee of The Month for January 2002. Doug, whatever bennies went along with the award, just bring them on down to the clubhouse and we will help you spend, eat, etc. them.

## Website at W6SG.NET

### A Trip to the SS Red Oak Victory

Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, our ARRL Asst. Mgr. for the San Francisco Section, invited your editor to attend the January meeting of the Red Oak Victory Amateur Radio Club (ROVARC) in Point Richmond on Saturday 5 January. The Red Oak Victory is a Victory ship built by Kaiser Shipyards in Richmond in 1944 and differs from the Liberty ships in that it has a steam turbine power plant which makes it twice as fast, at 16 knots, as the Libs which used a triple expansion reciprocating engine, three cylinders, small, medium and large to use the same steam three times before condensing it back into feed water for the boiler. Re superheated steam, which was the rule in modern steam locomotives and still is in marine steam power plants, the temperature could be very high, as much as 1000 degrees F. or more, I'm told. A pinhole steam leak could be found by waving a wooden stick near the suspected leak. When the stick caught fire, you'd found your leak!

Dues for the club are only ten bucks so we joined and got a tour of the ship from the wheel house to the aft end of the shaft alley, which is below the water line.

Minutes of the meetings arrive by email. Here is part of January's:

Red Oak Victory Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes - January 5, 2002.

Annual Dues are due! They are \$10 per year, send to: Charles Jackson, Treasurer, 18 Highgate Rd., Kensington, CA 95404.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am PST in the Officers' Mess aboard the SS Red Oak Victory. Attendance: Members (15): Ken DeBrecht WB6NOV, Gary Elliott WA6KCP, Vern Orme AA6YE, David Jackson KC6SSF, Alan Craddock WB6DXZ, Zach Hamill KG6ABA,

## Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6423  
San Rafael, CA 94903

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Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, Larry Fitzsimons KD6SPV, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Jim Nolan, Rich Secondari K6TR, Jim Waite WA6EZJ, Henry Primbsch KK6PH, Ralph Leon W6NGE, Ivan Sturman W6PIV, Guests: (the guests became members)

After the meeting was called to order introductions were done around the room.

Ken announced that the HF transmitter was successfully operated into a dummy load.

Jim Nolan gave a presentation on the restoration process, fund raising, and getting active with the ship.

Dues were collected and three new members joined the club.

Ivan reported that **tubes** are available **free** for non-profit organizations. However, he needs an official letter listing the tubes which are required by the club.

Gary suggested that everyone try to get to the SF Maritime Museum, which has a very good display of the radio room from a Victory ship. The radios are operated each first Sunday by volunteers. However, they have a fixed frequency, crystal only as, unlike that on the ROV, the VFO is inoperative.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM PST.

The next ROVARC meeting will be 10:00 AM PST on February 3, 2002 in the Officers Mess (if available).

Respectfully submitted: David Jackson, Secretary, Red Oak Victory Amateur Radio Club.

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### General Meeting, 4 January 2002.

President John Iacono called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. Other board members present were Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Jackson Sauers W6JRI, Rich Carbine W6UDS, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, and Kevin Foley KF6YUF. There were a total of 28 members and guests in attendance.

Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ brought us up to date on this past Christmas party. A very successful event.

This year's club officers were introduced.

Ed Karl K0KL discussed the new repeaters.

John Iacono told us that Field Day again will be held at the Marin Rod and Gun Club. This will be on the last weekend in June. The club also plans to participate in this year's ARRL VHF contest in September. Mt. Tam is a possible site.

Rich Carbine said he was waiting to hear from our architect concerning remodeling plans for our clubhouse. More on this to report by our next meeting. Rich also said the club has decided to hold another picnic this summer. It will be held in August but the site has not been determined.

John Iacono will look into having the club participate in Kids Day again this year. This will occur in June on the weekend prior to Field Day. Location will be the Corte Madera Shopping Center.

Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, ARRL Asst. SF Section mgr. talked about the importance of the ARRL, the amateur census

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and about coming conventions in Dayton and Ferndale. Bill also brought us up to date on the continuing problems between Sonoma County and the Sonoma County Amateur Radio Club over the use of their repeater.

As a final note Bill asked for greater interaction between various ham clubs.

Al Weisman W5ALW was our guest speaker and gave a very informative and eye-opening account of his recent trip to Japan. It was both a business and pleasure trip and Al had a chance to meet some hams in various Japanese cities. Thanks, Al, for a nice talk.

And again thank you, Lorraine, for the usual excellent food spread.

The meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

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Red Oak Victory Amateur Radio Club meets on the ship in Point Richmond, first Saturday at 10:00.

If you know where the road tunnel is that parallels the railroad tunnel which was used for access to the Santa Fe RR car ferry pier, you're almost there. Take the first turnoff to the right after crossing the Richmond bridge. Wind your way through town to the RR track. Then look for the two tunnels. Before the present freeway was built, Santa Fe car switching would often block the old road. One track that they used goes through the RR tunnel. Just drive through the other one and when you get to the point where the road makes a hard left you'll see the ship dead ahead. If you know where to look, you can spot the ship from the bridge, assuming you can see over the railing. Park outside the gates and walk on in. Wear something warm. The power plant is "cold iron" and all power on board comes from PG+E.

To learn more about the ship, go to <redoakvictory.org> and click on history.

### Board Meeting 8 Jan. 2002

President John Iacono KF6VYH called the meeting to order at 1800 hours. Other board members present were Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Jackson Sauers W6JRI, Rich Carbine W6UDS, Herman Weiss WP4DCM and Phil Dunlap K6PHD.

Lorraine Karl presented the treasurers report and it was approved.

The board elected the following officers for the year 2002: John Iacono KF6VYH, President, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Treasurer, and Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

Rich Carbine said he should be hearing from our architect soon in regard to remodeling plans for our clubhouse.

It was also decided that Rich and Norm Baetz will check out the equipment that has been donated to the club. Some of it will be used by the club and the rest will be sold with club members having first option to bid/buy.

Ed Karl K0KL discussed the new repeaters on Mt. Tam and mentioned that the Big Rock repeater needs some servicing.

The site for Field Day will again be at the Marin Rod and Gun Club and will be held on the last weekend in June.

It was decided to have another club picnic this year. This event will be held in August but the site is still to be determined.

Curtis Thames KF6TAO suggested the club look into purchasing a Fax machine. It was agreed to look into this.

The meeting was adjourned at 1900 hours.

Submitted by Norm Baetz

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**Check out:**

[www.radioblvd.com](http://www.radioblvd.com)

**Please note! Effective immediately, the Bureau has a new address.**

POBox 530, Weed, CA 96094

<[www.kqz.com/qslbureau6.html](http://www.kqz.com/qslbureau6.html)>

The W6 Incoming QSL Bureau is staffed by over two dozen dedicated California radio amateurs who volunteer their time to distribute DX QSL cards to you.

General information which applies to all the ARRL-supported U.S. Incoming QSL Bureaus is available from the ARRL Web pages. Although the Incoming Bureau system operates under the guidance of ARRL, you are not required to be an ARRL member to use it.

A few things specific to the W6 Bureau are:

The W6 QSL Bureau *prefers* to supply envelopes for you. Each envelope, including one first class stamp, is 60 cents each. You must send a self-sticking label with your call sign, name and address for each envelope ordered. The Bureau suggests you order a minimum of four (4) envelopes and no more than ten (10) at one time.

If you normally receive many DX QSLs, please send additional funds to purchase stamps for additional postage.

You may send your own envelopes but they **must** be 5" x 7 1/2", #35. DX QSLs do not fit in smaller envelopes and larger envelopes do not fit in our files.

If you decide to use your own 5" x 7 1/2" envelopes, you must: --Address the envelope horizontally with your name clearly printed or typed. Good rubber stamp impressions or self-sticking labels may be used but should be large enough to be readable. --Your call sign in letters 1/4" to 1/2" high should be printed clearly in the upper left-hand corner, but no name or return address under the call sign. --Place one first class stamp (for one ounce) in the upper right hand corner.

You may send stamps for extra postage, but a cash deposit is preferred. You may send a check or money order payable to "6th District QSL Bureau". An individual account will be kept for you and when more envelopes or postage are required, you will be advised.

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From column one.

Your account is maintained by, and cards shipped from, an individual letter sorter as determined by the first letter following the "6" in your call sign. The individual sorters are literally spread throughout California. When you send envelopes, monies or an inquiry, it may be several weeks before your individual letter sorter receives them. We distribute sorted cards and envelopes to the individual sorters monthly. If your mail arrives at the Post Office just after a pickup, it is very likely that it will be 6-7 weeks before your sorter receives it. If he or she sends you a shipment of cards in the meantime, your account status would not show your latest submission. It should appear on the next shipment however.

This bureau is asking for your cooperation pertaining to call sign changes. Effective immediately when you have changed your call sign, please open an account with the bureau under your new call. Your existing account will be kept open and after approximately a year, your existing envelopes and postage credits will be transferred to your "new" account. Implementing this policy will significantly reduce the delay in getting your QSL cards to you. Currently, your cards have to be transferred from segment manager to segment manager, creating a significant delay. Thanks for your cooperation. If you have any other questions, please contact us at the address at the top of this page or via email.

The above info was sent in by John KF6VYH.

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Odds and Ends

Dock? Pier? Which is which? The ship docks at the pier. Or sometimes is put in DRY dock. In other words, pier is dry and dock is wet. You can walk on a pier but you'd have to swim in a dock. Unless it was a dry dock, and even that is wet until the water is pumped out and the ship supported on blocks under the keel.

Blame the media for the confusion?

**FCC AFFIRMS \$10,000 FINE IN AMATEUR PIRATE CASE**

The FCC has fined a Texas man \$10,000 for transmitting without a license on an Amateur Radio band. Following a Notice of Apparent Liability issued in September, the FCC affirmed the \$10,000 fine in a December 26 Forfeiture Order to David Edwin Merrell of Wichita Falls. The FCC said Merrell did not respond to the NAL.

In its earlier NAL, the FCC said it was acting on "numerous complaints" from the amateur community that an unidentified station operating on 7235 and 7238 kHz in the 40-meter band was causing "intentional interference to authorized communications." The FCC's High Frequency Direction Finding network determined that the signal was located in the Wichita Falls area.

Last June, agents in the FCC's Dallas office monitored an unidentified station on 7220 kHz and determined that the transmission was coming from Merrell's residence. "The station did not identify and transmitted only one-way broadcasts," the FCC said.

During a station inspection, Merrell "admitted to the transmissions and stated that he did not have a station operator license," the FCC said. Unconfirmed reports to the FCC indicate that Merrell may have continued to occasionally transmit on 40 meters following the FCC visit.

"Considering the entire record and applying the statutory factors listed above, this case warrants a \$10,000 forfeiture," the FCC concluded. Merrell has 30 days from the date of the Order's release to pay the fine. If not paid, the matter could be referred to the Department of Justice for collection.

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Learn from the mistakes of others. You won't live long enough to make them all yourself. (From Herman Weiss WP4DCM)

**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 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.

**President:**

John Iacono KF6VYH 897-0413

**Vice President:**

John Boyd KE6ORI 662-1447

**Secretary:**

Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887

**Treasurer:**

Lorraine Karl K2VGD 479-8928

**Additional Board Members:**

Jackson Sauers W6JRI 388-4094

Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120

Herman Weiss WP4DCM 789-9576

Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849

Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318

**Marin Amateur Radio Society**

**Education Chair:**

Curtis Thames KF6TAO 453-2925

**Membership Chair:**

Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120

**VE Liaison:**

Stu Dake AC6GD 382-8317

**Building Mgr. & Trustee for W6SG:**

Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136

**Trustee for K6GWE:**

Bob Webb WB6QPR

**Sunday Emergency Nets:**

**HF** Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136

**VHF** Jesse Crocker KG6FNX

Raine Kinney KG6GII

**ARRL WAS Local Rep:**

Jackson Sauers W6JRI 388-4094

**DX Representative of ARRL:**

Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829

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**Errors, additions or deletions? Let us know, preferably by email or PacBell. If we're in eyeball mode, make sure we write it down. ed. (Poor grammar is n.a.)**

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

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

Stamp

The Mailing  
Address  
Goes Here