

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

April, 2002

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President's Message

It's time for another QSA5 newsletter. I am starting this one early. The hardest part of the president's message is trying to decide what to write about; this time the subject matter was easier to decide on.

I tried an experiment in roller skating, something I have not attempted in 40 years. This experiment was held on March 10th, 2002 about 2 pm. By around 3 pm I was riding an ambulance to the emergency room at Folsom Hospital. After 2 sets of x-rays and an MRI it was determined that I had fractured seven ribs. A few days later my doctor had me go to Novato Hospital for more x-rays so she would have some to look at. What was very interesting is that Novato Hospital has a digital x-ray machine, It is much like a digital camera in that there is no film to process. As soon as the x-ray is taken it is ready. I asked them to e-mail a copy to me. I do not think they are going to. On the following Friday I even got to go to the new Novato Community hospital ER. Things did not seem quite right in the morning so off I went to the ER. This time I got a Cat Scan. Of course, this is how they found more problems. My choice was stay home and watch TV and play radio for the weekend or stay in the hospital. Well, the hospital rooms do not have Ham radios so I decided to stay home and miss the hospital food.

One thing I was really impressed with was the eagerness of my fellow hams to offer to help me with whatever I needed while I am at home. Every day I was receiving offers of help. Fortunately I have few needs. As long as I have some bottled water, diet drinks and a little food, I am happy. I am anticipating time to play on the Radio, maybe I will be able to

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Website at W6SG.NET

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work that DX station in North Korea. I might even finish up my studies for the Extra exam. I hope I will recover soon enough to help in some of the public service events we have coming up. I have been told it may be eight weeks before I am fully up to speed.

On a more serious note, we are still looking for a public service coordinator for the special events we provide communications for. We also are looking for volunteers to work these events. This is usually a lot of fun, barring rain. I worked three last year and had a great time and hope to work more this year. It is too bad that more of them are not held on Sunday as Saturday events conflict with my work schedule. It is not very hard work and you get to hang out with your fellow hams. I like to take along a small ice chest filled with snacks when I work one of these events. Of course, I will also have a large thermos of coffee. Another item that comes in real handy would be a pair of long pants with zip-off legs that convert to shorts when it gets warmer outside.

vy 73, John

MARS Board Meeting Feb. 12, 2002

Vice-President John Boyd, KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 1940 hours. Other board members present were Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Rich Carbine W6UDS, Jackson Sauers W6JRI, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Kevin Foley KF6YUF and Phil Dunlap K6PHD.

Secretary Norm Baetz read the minutes of the last board meeting and they were approved. Lorraine Karl passed out the Treasurer's report and after a brief discussion It was also approved.

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

COMING EVENT, MAY 11

Dear John KF6VYH,

I just wanted to get information and an invitation out to the Marin ARC regarding the large Spring Ham Swap in Reno on Saturday May 11.

A number of events are currently being planned to make it a great time for all our visitors. If you would please help by getting the word out it would be appreciated. You can download our flyer at <http://www.nvrams.org/Downloads/Ham%20Swap%202002.pdf>

Thanks & 73, Gary K7VY

Nevada (Reno)-May 11, 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Reno Area Metro Simplex ARC sponsoring the Reno Spring Ham Swap at KNPB Television Station, 1670 N. Virginia St. (on the campus of the University of Nevada, Reno); from I 80, take the Virginia St. exit and head north one mile. Free admission to all. Vendors bring your own tables. Large indoor/outdoor swap. Plenty of parking. Raffle, coffee, doughnuts, tours of the High Definition TV Station, VE Session contact Don Freeman W7FD dfree1@worldnet.att.net, 775-851-1176.

Talk In: 147.060 + (123). Glen Haggard, KK7IH 775-673-6401; kk7ih@nvrams.org;

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

At a special board meeting on March 21, 2002

the board of directors voted to hold our next Christmas party at
The Four Points Sheraton

MARS General Meeting, Feb. 1, 2002

President John Iacono KF6VYH called the meeting to order at 1940 hours. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Rich Carbine W6UDS and Phil Dunlap K6PHD. There were a total of 27 members and guests present. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Lorraine Karl passed out the treasurers report and after a brief discussion it was also approved.

John Boyd and Ed Karl gave out the latest updates on the repeaters and talked about their autopatch capabilities.

John Iacono said the club has approval to use the site at the Marin Rod and Gun Club for Field Day. John also said there is a need for someone to run the Dipsea race communications.

Herman Weiss said that the Presidio Yacht Club has ok'd the use of their facilities for our picnic on August 17.

Rich Carbine gave the those present an update on the interior and exterior plans for renovation of the clubhouse. The drawings are still in the planning stage and members' comments are welcomed. There is still a problem with the roof which must be taken care of first. Rich also thanked everyone who helped out in cleaning out the clubhouse and loading up the dumpster.

John Boyd talked about the latest repairs on the truck and said radio equipment for the interior should be decided upon. Ed Karl K0K1L talked about the use of computers for Field Day and also said Saturday evening dinner plans are still to be decided.

Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV, our ARRL assistant SF Section Mgr., discussed various topics pertaining to the bay area hams. Among items mentioned were Field Day, emergency radio communications, the West Marin Radio Club, changes in future issues of QST,

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General Meeting, continued.

the upcoming Ferndale ARRL convention and asked for continuing help for public service events. There was an update on the repeater problems with the SRAC and Sonoma County. Bill also contributed some ham items for future club raffles.

John Boyd and Doug Slusher KF6AKU said they were going to the Livermore flea market and will try to sell some of the club's excess gear. There are various ham items that were donated to the club and will be on review. Sealed bids will be accepted on these items, which will be sold to the highest bidders at the next board meeting on March 12.

Ed Karl gave an interesting and informative talk on radio receivers, especially on the aspects of frequency calibration. The meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours.

Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary

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From column three

will remain as a Marin Amateur Radio Society project.

John Boyd thanked the members who gave their time to help get rid of a lot of accumulated junk in and around the clubhouse. We filled up a very large debris box.

A request to set up a scholarship for deserving young hams was rescheduled for another meeting.

Sealed bids on surplus donated ham equipment were reviewed by board members. The gear was awarded to the highest bidders. One item, a CUSHCRAFT vertical was donated by the club to the W6SRJ ham site at Santa Rosa Jr. College. There are still some items left and they will be offered to club members. They will be on display at the clubhouse until further notice. The meeting was adjourned at 2100 hrs.

Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

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You can fix 'most anything but a broken promise. A man is only as good as his word.

Anonymous

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Board Meeting, continued.

Rich Carbine said our architect is still going over plans for the remodeling of our clubhouse, especially in regard to the roof repair, and should have something to present to us soon.

John Boyd discussed recent repairs to the club's communication truck. He presented various options for obtaining equipment for the truck, all depending on our perceived needs. He will look into prices and present them at a future meeting.

The repeater committee, Ed Karl K0K1L and John Boyd, talked about the recent problems at a couple of our repeater sites, with emphasis on Big Rock, and told of the difficulties in hiking in to work on the equipment. A replacement repeater for the Big Rock site was discussed and was approved by the board.

The picnic committee, headed by Herman Weiss and Kevin Foley, discussed our upcoming picnic to be held at the Presidio Yacht club at Fort Baker in August. Several ideas were brought up including possible "pot luck" items to be brought by members. Also there was a suggestion to set up a ham station for public viewing. Definite plans will be announced at a future meeting.

Lorraine has volunteered to be the Christmas Party chair and is looking into the possibility of holding this year's party at an "out-of-clubhouse" site. She said she will look into the group prices at various hotels and restaurants and report back to the board.

Ed Karl, as Field Day chair, asked for members to let him know if they are going to participate in Field Day and also if they are going to attend the Saturday evening dinner at the site.

There was also another plea for someone to step in and take over Chuck (WA6SQQ) Dietrich's job as Public Service Coordinator. Chuck has done a great job but feels it's time for someone else to take over. Possibly a couple of hams could team up to do the job and hopefully it

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WB6FZH's TCS Recollections (Greg Greenwood, now in Weaverville)

My first TCS recollection was puzzling over a receiver circuit diagram in 1964. I was 14, and purchased a TCS-5 receiver at the Marin Amateur Radio Club auction meeting in Larkspur, CA.. It did not look anything like my other equipment, and certainly was heavy. I got it apart, looked inside and found the inside still looking like 1943, the date on the identification plate on the front panel. I used tube socket pins to slide over the power socket pins to make connections, and was able to apply 12 volts to the filaments and 250 volts to the receiver B+ input. The receiver came to life and familiar voices on 3885 kc AM were heard. The sensitivity was not great and the bandwidth of the receiver allowed you to hear other stations that came on nearby frequencies. The receiver was used for short-wave listening for a while and eventually gathered dust in my large walk-in closet.

At that time my receiver was my Hallicrafter's SX-110. Licensed in 1963, my station transmitters at that time were a Ranger 1, DX-40, 3-4 mc ARC-5 converted to DSB, and a Homebrew 6AQ5 5w AM Transmitter on 3885. I had contacted a few TCS stations, most as fixed stations, but a few on shipboard and eventually I contacted one on a boat at a local marina. I visited the boat, and was given a TCS tour. It was a complete station, speaker, remote, antenna coil, transmitter, receiver, connecting cables, T-17 carbon microphone, and dynamotor power supply. The dynamotor supply was humming along as I tuned the dial of the receiver, that was it, I had to find a TCS Transmitter and the rest of the TCS Radio System.

It took a year or so for the station parts to materialize. My part-time job at Marin Radio Supply, in San Rafael, on Saturdays and after classes at the College of Marin, in nearby Kentfield financed school and Ham Radio. The job at the wholesale/retail radio-television store was great for getting parts for building things, and meeting Hams and others that furthered my life-long interest in electronics.

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From column one.

A water-damaged TCS technical manual helped to understand the radio. My Dynamotor Power Supply went up and down in pitch as my 50 watt light bulb dummy load began to light and my voice came through the speaker of my Drake 2B across the room. I built an AC power supply to run the radio, and could hardly wait to check into the Sunday morning Red Cross Net on 3885 with my "Boat-Anchor" TCS Radio Set.

The last time I checked in was in 1994 from Trinity County on SSB and it had moved to 3905 khz.

I enjoyed working the Marin Hams on their commute home from San Francisco and beyond in the late afternoons and early evenings on 3885 AM. Some had homebrew AM radios, others converted surplus, and commercial radios. I had purchased a used 1968 Chevrolet Van in 1969 for my Electronic Installation and Repair business. A Webster Bandspanner was installed on the side, and a VHF 1/4 wave whip on the top. I quickly modified a Heathkit MP-1 Transistor Mobile Power Supply to work with the TCS. I remember a big aluminum box with remote control and power cables coming out of it, with terminal strips, relays, and dropping resistors to make the TCS work with the modern power supply. I briefly got to be part of the 3885 AM Mobile Gang as it moved to SSB and 2 meters. My TCS radio was in the back of the Van and was operated a little mobile, but more operation was done from portable locations. Later, more room was needed in the back of the Van for work and other activities, so the TCS was removed.

To be continued, unless we get complaints or threats.

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Y'all ever tried to find a copy of a book you once read, or intended to read, and had no luck? Here's a website that probably has what you're looking for. We found a copy of the 1960 ARRL Handbook. Try this one: www.abebooks.com It lists millions of rare, used and out-of-print books, even "Dick & Jane", available from a network of booksellers.

Karl's Kolumn

(Ain't that cute?)

Hi folks- it's that time of year, Spring! In just 3 short months MARS will once again hold field day at the Marin Rod & Gun Club location.

We would like to put 3 stations on the air, and an additional "guest" station used by unlicensed, but interested, persons or licensed hams without HF privileges. That station will use a different call sign (not W6SG). We will receive extra credit for this but will not be charged for the additional station on our class.

A menu is being developed for the ever popular Saturday evening dinner. Chet Rice will once again serve breakfast Sunday morning, and also handle lunch chores on Saturday.

Mostly we just need PARTICIPATION. Operators are always welcome. We need more for Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. It would be nice to inch our way higher in the "3A" standings. Computers will be used for logging to make life easier for Marilyn N6VAW who always does a great job of getting our entry ready for submission. Please let us know when you can be there and get on the air.

Ed KOKL

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From another former Club member:

Hello Phil, I checked out MARS home page today (3/16), it was interesting! I found many names I remember from my days living in Marin County, 1960 to 1975. Also quite a few more too as I lived most of my life in the SF area. It was nice to talk to you today when you were at your hide-away in Twain Harte.

I just read the March 2002 issue of QSA-5, it looks like you are responsible of it getting done. You did a good job of it!

73, de Bob (Unsworth), W6MTJ

Sonora

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

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

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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.

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Stamp

The Mailing
Address
Goes Here