

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

May, 2002

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President's Message

I would like to start out the May President's Message with a simple request. I have become aware of the fact that some of the information in the member section of our web site is not up to date. For those members who are on line, would you please check your info when you get a chance so that it can be updated, if necessary. I know we have a large number of web e-mail addresses that are not correct. If you find your information is not, it would be great if you could send the correct info to Doug KF6AKU so that he can update our files.

I would also like to thank the following radio operators for helping out with the MS Walk on April 7th. Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ, Ed Bodington N6BNJ, Jerry Knecht KC6UYC, Ed Karl K0KL, And Paulette Leston KE6CFW. We have additional events scheduled in the next few months and I am looking for radio operators to help out. If you have not volunteered in the past and have questions regarding what is involved, contact me and I will fill you in with regard to what equipment is required. These events are very important to our club and are very useful in getting, and keeping, the public exposed to ham radio.

Some of our members have been using PSK31 and the RIGblaster (the RIGblaster is used to interface computers and transceivers for digital radio communications) We will be setting up a PSK31 station at the clubhouse and we also hope to have a class in PSK31 operation. I have talked to the people at West Mountain Radio who manufacture the RIGblaster. When I told them I was the President of the Marin Amateur Radio Society they offered a discount if we could find 10 people

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Website at W6SG.NET

General Meeting 5 April 2002

The meeting was called to order by Pres. John Iacono, KF6VYH at 19:30. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6KLLK, Rich Carbine W6UDS, Jackson Sauers W6JRI, Herm Weiss WP4DCM and Doug Slusher KF6AKU. There were a total of 22 members present.

There was a discussion on the recent decision by the board, at a special board meeting, to hold the annual Christmas party at the Sheraton Hotel in Terra Linda. The club will come up with approximately \$10 additional per ticket to cover expenses in excess of the per person \$25 charge. Doug Slusher, Kevin Foley and Ed Karl have volunteered to pay for the wine and soft drinks.

Lorraine Karl presented the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

Ed Karl, K0KL, asked those wishing to participate in Field Day, and/or to attend the Saturday evening on-site dinner, to let him know so that he would have some idea of how many stations to set up and how much food to buy. June 22-23.

Herm Weiss, our picnic chairman, discussed the August picnic, estimating the costs of various items. This will be covered at the board meeting on April 9.

Rich Carbine, in regard to our building renovation project, said that our architect has been paid for services already performed and should have a further update on the plans in the near future. The roof repair is the highest priority item. Rich asked for volunteers to help in some of the remodeling to help defray costs.

Lorraine said that the musician we hired for the last two Christmas parties will play for us again. She also talked

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

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who would like to by RIGblasters. The RIGblaster is not limited to PSK31 operation; it will work with just about any mode of communication, except FSTV. The discount would be 10%. If anyone is interested contact me. If you would like to read more about the RIGblaster, their web address is www.westmountainradio.com.

I am now working on coverage for the Dipsea race. If you would like to volunteer let me know ASAP
73, John KF6VYH

===== **Empire Amateur Radio Soc.**

Has secured permission for an over-nighter on **ALCATRAZ** 18 May 2002. Contact Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, at 707.544.4943 or Jim Lee, KE6VGV, at 415.388.1980 for information.
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===== **Battery too Weak to Start Engine**

because you got longwinded on one or more QSOs while parked in a good DX location? Chuck WA6SQQ Deatrick suggests the "Battery Brain", available from jcwhitney.com. Click on ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS and then BATTERY ACCESSORIES to get the info. The BBrain disconnects the positive lead when the voltage drops below a preset level. To start engine, just push the reset to reconnect. To check out the competition's specs, search on "battery buddy" or "priority start". The only negative side to these devices is that you might lose the stations programmed in your AM/FM radio when this unit disconnects. There are ways around this if you never can remember how to reprogram your stations' freqs.

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General Meeting, continued.

about raffle prizes and decorations. The hotel has our deposit.

Pres. John has made inquiries in regard to the club's participation in Kids Day in June. More later on this. John has also taken over Chuck, WA6SQQ, Deatrick's job of Public Service Coordinator. He asked for volunteers for coming events which are listed on the yellow sheet in April's QSA-5. John also mentioned that the repeater problem that the Sonoma County Amateur Radio Club was having with Sonoma County was ruled in favor of the County. No further info on this yet.

Jack Troup, WA6JYU, was our guest speaker and gave a very interesting talk on microwave radio, its history, development and its application to ham radio.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:30. Submitted by Norm Baetz, WA6CLK, Secretary.

Board Meeting, 9 April 2002

President John Iacono KF6VYH called the meeting to order at 19:30. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Jackson Sauers W6JRI, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, Phil Dunlap K6PHD and Rich Carbine W6UDS.

Lorraine Karl passed out the Treasurer's report and after a brief discussion it was approved.

Rich Carbine said that that the architect should have the revised plans for the renovation of the clubhouse finished in a couple of weeks. Rich also brought up the need for a budget to make sure all the various club costs can be met.

John Boyd talked about the repairs needed for the club's truck, especially in regard to its electrical system and also brought up the possible purchase of equipment at the upcoming Dayton Hamvention.

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The truck may be used for Field Day and the Dipsea race.

Herman Weiss talked about the club picnic to be held in August at the Presidio Yacht Club. He asked for volunteers to assist in providing the food. There was more discussion about what the club could provide and what the members would bring for their own use. There will be more information in upcoming issues of QSA-5.

Lorraine Karl talked about the Christmas party to be held at the Sheraton Hotel in Terra Linda. She discussed the seating arrangements, raffle prizes, and wine for the tables. Doug Slusher, Kevin Foley and Ed Karl have offered to purchase wine and soft drinks for the tables.

Pres. John Iacono discussed his new job as Public Service Coordinator and is looking for volunteers for the events listed on the yellow flyer in April's QSA-5. He also mentioned someone is needed to oversee the packet equipment used by the county. John also talked about ham classes, club projects, and ideas to get new members. A presentation to bike clubs was one of the ideas.

There was a discussion on purchasing equipment to set up a recently donated computer on PSK31. The board approved the purchase of a basic RIGblaster for the time being. (These sell for 60 bucks for the no mike unit, and \$110. if you expect to be using a mike with your rig, at AES. See page 149 of their winter catalog or page 143 of the new spring/summer edition. ed.)

Ed Karl, K0KL, talked about the need to get a count of people who will participate in Field Day so he could set up a budget.

John Iacono said the club is in need of a cleaning service. Lorraine said she will look into this and has one in mind.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:00. Submitted by Norm Baetz, WA6CLK, Secretary.

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Free to a good home: original Mac SE. 1 meg RAM, 800k floppy, 20 SC hard drive. Model M5011. email to elderhiker@yahoo.com N6BNJ

FIELD DAY IS GETTING CLOSE!

Just a little over a month away! You can count on a good time operating at this historical annual event. There will be **FOOD** throughout and plenty of **LIQUID** refreshment and, by the way, we'll have several stations that you can operate. Lend a hand and operate for a few hours. Stop by and socialize. **PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU'RE COMING.**

We also need to know at least a few days prior to that weekend how many will be attending the **SATURDAY EVENING DINNER**. The amount of food purchased must be limited to that which will feed those who let us know in advance that they will be there to eat it. This will be a catered meal so **NO RESERVATION, NO CHOW**. No cooking will be done on site for this meal so you shouldn't show up with a bag of hotdogs and buns and expect to fling 'em on a grill. What grill? That would be ideal at lunch time, though. We'll take all the help we can get at the other mealtimes. This means that the Field Day Chairman can actually get on the radio and operate and not get stuck in the kitchen/galley.

We are again operating a class 3A setup and need your help to get the score up to a respectable level.

There is a layout on the board at the clubhouse. Come to the meeting and sign up.

Thanks, Ed K0KL, Field Day 2002 Chairman.

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Life is like a sewer. What you get out of it depends upon what you put into it. *Tom Lehrer.*

KATHLEEN PARKIN, THE WIRELESS GIRL

At the age of fifteen, in 1916, there was a girl living on Terradillo Ave. in San Rafael who had a "first grade commercial radio operator's license", issued by the US Government's Bureau of Navigation in May of that year. She was allotted 1/2 kilowatt. Her call was 6SO. Kathleen Parkin, who died in San Rafael in 1990, was beginning her third year of high school at Dominican College, where a small wireless set had been installed for the instruction of the physics class. In October of 1916, she was featured on the cover of "The Electrical Experimenter" which, at that time, had the largest circulation of that type of publication in the US.

Our ARRL SF Section Mgr., Len Gwinn, WA6KLLK, brought a color copy of the cover of that issue plus the accompanying article entitled "The Feminine Wireless Amateur" to a MARS meeting earlier this year. We started with the Alumni group of Dominican U., then to San Domenico School in Sleepy Hollow, followed by the Marin History Museum and finally to Civic Center Library, searching for more info.

Kathleen Parkin was born in the former Flagstaff Inn in Bolinas in 1900 and moved to San Rafael shortly before the 1906 earthquake. After a short stay on Lincoln Ave., she lived the rest of her life at 22 Terradillo Ave. in the Dominican area. The following is part of an interview she gave on 23 Sept. 1977, thirteen years before her death. The interviewer is CE. Kathleen is KP. Also present was Mrs Thomas (Ann) Kent of Kentfield.

CE: Well, now, what was the brother, was it Jack who followed sort of your father's bent -

KP: Well, no.

CE: Well he was a mechanical—your father was a mechanical engineer -

KP: Yes—Jack was more electrician, Dad never had much to do with electricity but Jack was the one who, you see, made these radios -

CE: Well, I understand that you had your shop, his shop, right here, the Parkin Manufacturing Company -

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KP: Right at the top of the garden.

CE: Right in the top of the garden and of his many achievements here's a condenser that -

KP: Mercury condenser -

CE: Mercury condenser that is about two and a quarter inches in diameter-

KP: Three inches -

CE: Three it is—and an advancement of its time certainly. And you have a rheostat here that looks like an advancement that has been patented, and these were made right here -

KP: Yes.

CE: And you became involved, how did that happen, Kathy, you had a bent for -

KP: Oh, I used to help Jack with his instruments. When we came here I was nine, I think it was and Jack would always be making something up there and so I used to go up and help him, you know. We'd put up his aerials and **he had one antenna, believe it or not, from the tree in our garden right across Terradillo right down to a tree on Grand Avenue, over the telephone poles, over the PG&E wires, nobody even asked permission.**

CE: Just did it. Well, I notice in this little pamphlet something that's touching to me today, your trademark of the company was the peak of perfection and you showed Mt. Tam in the background.

KP: Yes—and then he made quite a few radio sets.

CE: I see—the Parkin Manufacturing Company, here's a radio set. Well, I was terribly fascinated here to see an issue of a magazine of October 1916 entitled *The Electrical Experimenter* which, at that time, had the largest circulation of any electrical publication, and in it is an article about you, "The Feminine Wireless Amateur". Now, it's quite extraordinary at that time, it's even unusual now for someone at the age of fifteen, which you were then, to acquire a first class radio operator's license.

KP: I would never have bothered to

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do it but Jack wanted me to and Jack's friends all said—you know persuaded me to do it and I never thought of doing it, I didn't want the notoriety.

CE: Well, of course not but you achieved it.

KP: Well, I remember their putting my picture on the cover but—then it was reprinted in the *Literary Digest* and *Popular Mechanics* and *Wireless Age*, you know. I got letters from all over. I've still got some.

CE: I suppose you've communicated actually, literally with everybody—a great distance around here. Do you still do any of that?

KP: No. The set that you see there (on the cover) is still up there in my bedroom, it's all intact.

CE: I bet you constructed this.

KP: I made it all.

CE: You made the entire -

KP: Jack made the table. But I mean I'm not allowed to use it now, you know. (obsolete equipment) If I did I probably would get all these sets out of order around here. (TVI) It's a quarter kilowatt transformer that had nine miles of wire on it. Jack—when we wound it up in the shop there we had to wind it through melted paraffin and Jack had this thing to show the length of the wire we used, you know-

CE: So you had nine miles of wire going out. Tell me when you were going to Dominican did you have any inkling that you'd be involved in this sort of work? What were some of your subjects at Dominican that you particularly loved?

KP: Physics, chemistry and algebra and geometry and -

CE: So you were science oriented?

KP: Well, yes.

CE: You were a scientist.

KP: I think I should have taken something else.

The complete interview is available to read and to make copies in the California Room of the Civic Center Library. Kathleen's brother Jack, formerly 6LX, died in 1948. They were ARRL members.

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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

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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

**DAVID K. BRADLEY, W6CUB,
SK**

8 December 2001

Some of the 'elderfahrten' in the County may remember Dave as the guy who ran AMRAD SUPPLY at 33rd & Balboa in The City in the 1960s, until he realized the business didn't do a very good job of making a profit. We actually bought a used EICO tube tester from him about forty years back, when home brewing a twenty-watt mobile bootleg rig for 3885 kc., and for our Heath Mohawk receiver and other long-gone tube gear.

We got a copy of his obit from the SK Administrator at QST. Dave served in the US Air Force in Korea and later got a BS degree from Stanford in 1957. He worked in the electronics industry in Silicon Valley and the Midwest until he retired in 1987. Dave was a member of the Quarter Century Wireless Association. He was 70.

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**More from a former member,
Greg Greenwood, WB6FZH**

Great to hear from you Phil. I remember your name from MARC days, but do not have a specific memory of you. I have lived in more than one place at a time through the last 25 plus years. Usually Marin and places like Trinity, Aptos, Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, Weaverville and Sonoma County. I am trying to find a way to continue to live in Trinity, but my financial resources are few, post divorce, and I may have to go elsewhere to go back to work for someone else. I have some time left to figure it out.

My last residence in Marin was in '93 in Tiburon, up on St. Bernard, with my XYL. I ran into Leo Bodian on the air one day there. By '94 I was at the edge of Kaneohe Bay, Oahu, with vertical, G5RV, eggbeaters, and some homebrew satellite antennas. Great radio location, EU and AK were off the back deck, West Coast to my right. I developed a different perspective on

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radio and the world out on that island, but was in CA several weeks a year working, and I ran my small alarm company in Marin and Trinity, with my 800# from HI.

I still have my MARC name badge from '63. On the computer monitor on my left as I write this I am watching the packet from the International Space Station scroll down and just turned my beacon on for a couple of bursts .. there it is.. now turned it off.. have you seen the <http://www.ariss.net> page? <http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?> WB6FZH ?

It is funny, I came down and emptied some business/personal storage I kept in San Rafael last year, to relocate the items elsewhere. I was surprised, I did not go on the usual nostalgic ride and have a meal at Marin Joes or somewhere. I felt that slowly but surely on visits over the last few years that most of everything in Marin and the Bay Area was better left to memory for me. Most was gone or changed; of course I did allow that I may have changed a bit too.

I enjoy fielding the e-mail from the AOL pages and some of the other websites I have up on the web; takes too much time sometimes, but I want to help folks looking for help on some of the gear on my pages, etc. Recently I emailed an image of a TCS rx blank station chart to Italy, a Johnson matchbox instruction set and diagram to Greece, and am sending some free knobs for a TCS tx to EU for the cost of the postage one of these days. But my favorite adventure is the time a guy finds a TCS tx in a dumpster not far from London, is not into radio, but knows it is old and does not deserve to go to dump. So he does a web search and turns me up. I tell him what it is, etc., and give him URL of a British MIL-RADIO group, and a couple days later I hear from the guy that picked it up and he will have it back on the air soon in London. Small world.

I am glad that you took over the Editor Job. Someone has to do it. I put out a 9.5 page newsletter from a printer-compatible website edition, and maintained the

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website in Hawaii for the Koolau Amateur Radio Club for several years. I even did it from here for a couple years, but became strapped for time and nobody picked up the newsletter but did take over the website. If you think of it, pass my good wishes on to the membership in the newsletter and maybe the <http://members.aol.com/greg6fzh/> website or the <http://www.trinitycam.com> and would love to hear from anyone still alive that I might remember.

I remember the Tamalpais Club in Novato, the GWE repeater on San Pedro. I mostly remember almost driving off the top in fog into Black Canyon. I remember fondly Field Day and finally up here I talked the club into getting insurance so we could have club field day, or disbanding the club. I am happy to say we are mailing the check for insurance thru the ARRL plan Friday. Unfortunately, there will not be the handful of teenagers that will be the hams of the future here. (not for lack of trying) but at 54, I am one of the youngest in the Trinity County Amateur Radio Club <http://www.tcoe.trinity.k12.ca.us/~tcarc/>

I am very close to getting an application signed, I think, for ARISS Space Station Event at one of the schools later similar to <http://www.snowcrest.net/wb6fzh/tcdeep1.html>. You can hear kids and Astronaut, see one photo, more photos to be posted this weekend and links to helpful sites for others who might be interested.

Ham radio has been good to me and I try to return the favor. If you would have told me that this old glow in the dark guy would teach himself to chat with Cosmonauts and Astronauts, or digipeat of MIR from Hawaii to CA, or digipeat from here to Houston off ISS, etc., I would have thought you were crazy. Of course, the real crazy thing was standing in the sun on the deck in HI, with beam in one hand pointing at AO-27, microphone from 2m ht with one watt out in the other, headphones

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