

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Dec. 2002

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## President's Message

As I write this last President's message of 2002, Thanksgiving is two days away, our club Christmas party is 10 days away. For those of you who made reservations for the Christmas party, I will see you there. For those of you not going to the party, I hope to see at next year's party if not sooner.

A reminder, we are looking for someone to take over VE liaison prior to the end of 2003 when Stu AC6GD retires from the position. If you are interested contact one of the board members.

The 2003 year will involve improvement to the clubhouse and improvements to the way we run public service events. We will also use our communications truck on more occasions. We are also going to try running net control operations from more reliable locations such as the club house or a member's home. This should free up net control operators to spend more time on communications and less looking for a location along some road from where they can reliably hit the repeater.

Our first event for 2003 should be in May and it's not too early to volunteer. For myself, I am taking a year off from the board so that I can spend more time working on the June Kids Day event that ARRL sponsors. I am also going to look into doing something at the Marin County Fair. This will require several volunteers, so I am looking now for any one who would like to help. I would like to run a special event station at the Fair. If anyone is interested contact me at kf6vyh@arrl.net. 73, John

Good judgment comes from experience. Unfortunately, the experience usually comes from bad judgment.

## Website at W6SG.NET Clubhouse phone 415.389.6630

### General Meeting 1 November 2002

The meeting was called to order at 1930 by President John Iacono KF6VYH. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Doug Slusher KF6AKU and Kevin Foley KF6YUF. There was a total of 16 members attending.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Lorraine passed out the treasurers report and after a brief discussion it was approved.

Various committee reports were presented. Lorraine talked about the upcoming Christmas party. She urged all members to get their tickets on time. No tickets at the door. Some great raffle prizes will be given out.

Doug Slusher said the latest repairs have put all our repeaters on the air.

John Boyd gave the latest update on the club's truck on repairs and modifications.

John Iacono said that Stu Dake, AC6GD, wishes to retire as VE Coordinator and we are looking for someone as a replacement. Anyone interested contact John or Stu.

Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ is taking over as Education Chairman, replacing Curtis Thames, AE6BM, who has done a great job these past few years. New tech classes will be held Nov. 30 and Dec 7 at the Alto clubhouse.

John Iacono gave a wrap-up of the Special Events the club was involved with this past year. No further events scheduled until May of 2003.

Ed Karl K0KL mentioned the ARRL CW Sweepstakes to be held the first weekend in Nov.

George Rothbart KF6VSG was our guest speaker and gave an interesting and detailed talk on PSK31, discussing the nature of the mode and also a

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

### MARS Board Meeting 11 November

The meeting was called to order by President John Iacono KF6VYH at 1930. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Steve Rathbone AJ6Y, and Kevin Foley KF6YUF. The minutes of the last meeting were approved. Lorraine Karl passed out the treasurers report and it also was approved.

It was decided to cash in one of our CDs to help pay for possible painting of the exterior of the clubhouse. It was voted to seek several bids on this project. Lorraine also gave a report on our December Christmas party and urged all who wished to attend to send their money in.

John Iacono said that Jackson Sauers W6JRI had sent in his letter of resignation as a board member. It was accepted with regret. A replacement to fill Jackson's term will be announced in the near future.

A check for \$100. was sent to the club in appreciation for our participation in the "Escape from Alcatraz" event. John gave a brief summary of this year's club participation in Special Events, the problems that arose and possible solutions for next year.

There was a discussion about the problems with the San Pedro repeater, especially about users that do not identify. It was decided to look into setting up an Amateur TV repeater if there is enough interest. Also a general talk about repeaters in the area.

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General Meeting, cont.

possibly building a project club members might be interested in. The meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, secretary.

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Board Meeting, cont.

John Boyd gave an update on the club's comm. truck renovation. The weather has slowed down some of the work but it is getting done.

Kevin Foley introduced two young hams, students from Tam High School, one of whom has a General license, who are trying to start up a ham club at the school. They told the board of their plans and asked for any help that the MARS club could give. The board agreed to donate some equipment after Kevin has talked to a school official who would be a sponsor.

The meeting was adjourned at 2035. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

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**Balloting Results**

The four candidates, John Boyd, Kevin Foley, Doug Slusher and Herman Weiss were railroaded back into office on the Board for two-year terms with totals of between 62 and 65 votes. Joining them will be Raine Kinney with 62 votes. They will join Phil Dunlap who has one year to go on his term. **No whining!** There were a few write-ins but they totaled only 5 votes.

On the proposal to amend the by-laws to make a three time consecutive no-show an automatic resignation from the board, sixty aye, five nay, no abstentions.

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**Uncle Leo K6BAQ**

Latest word is that he is in a convalescent hospital in the Tiburon area.

The club needs an old Callbook to fill the gap between 1960 & 1974.

**From Mike Edwards W6FCQ**  
w6fcq@stargate.net

Still trying to get on the air from Erie, PA. Antenna is the main problem for HF operations. 2 meter fm repeaters, five, I can reach from my ground floor apartment. Oh, well.

Especially enjoyed John Brewer's story on "boat anchors". My first really nice home receiver was an RME 69. That and a 6L6/807 xtal controlled rig (70 watts) was heaven for a new ham (me) from 1948 to 1951.

Thanks... Mike (W6FCQ)

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**History Lesson**

The Radio Manufacturing Engineers RME-69 is a general coverage HF receiver using older 6 pin tubes such as the 6C6 and 6D6. Introduced as "ready November 1, 1935", it was marketed primarily to radio amateurs. See the introductory information on page 87 of the November 1935 issue of QST and the full-page ad on page 91 of the December 1935 issue. The model number is derived from "6 bands and 9 tubes".

According to a letter reproduced by RME in an advertisement, one RME-69 was given to the Dutch Underground in 1941 and used throughout the war in clandestine locations in that occupied country. A copy of the ad can be found in the February 1946 issue of QST magazine. Since there are and were no markings on any of the knobs, it is understandable that it could pass as a "laboratory test instrument" to an untrained eye. This radio still does very well in picking up Radio Nederland and other short-wave programs. Thanks to the Allies and to the men and women of the "Verzet" (resistance), the Netherlands and Radio Nederland were liberated in 1945.

REPORT about the use of Receiver R M E - 6 9 in service at the Corps Government Communication Service at Amsterdam and Amersfoort.

Gentlemen:

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**Tentative VE Test Dates for 2003**

Feb. 8, April 26, June 14, Sept. 27 and Nov. 15. Location for all exams is scheduled to be the at the 27 Shell Rd. clubhouse. Time will be 0900.

President and Board of Directors: Please be advised that I will be stepping down as VE liaison for the MARS group at the end 2003 (or sooner if a replacement comes forward before the last scheduled VE session).

Best regards, Stu Dake-AC6GD

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From Column Two.

This receiver was in 1941 placed at the disposal of the underground organization Corps Regeerings Berichten Dienst (Government Communication Service) during the years 1941, 1942, 1943, 1944 and 1945. The receiver was handled daily for some hours to receive the daily news bulletins on short wave length and to listen to signals of secret stations in England, which were transmitting secret messages to the underground forces in the Netherlands.

During the whole period of 5 years of the war the receiver has never been repaired. In September 1944 the receiver was sent to a farm in the neighbourhood of Amersfoort to act as communication receiver on a secret radio station. It has been in use on batteries and under all conditions.

In March 1945 the receiver was shipped to Amsterdam, but the Germans controlled the transport and opened the case, in which the receiver RME 69 was packed. We foolishly told them that the receiver was a laboratory test instrument and they believed it.

So the RME 69 reached its destination and was for 24 hours daily in service on the radio station P.A.D., transmitting station of the Corps Government Communication Service in Amsterdam.

We are convinced for ever that the RME communication receivers belong to the most reliable receivers in the world.

Sincerely yours,  
J.M.F.A. van Dijk,  
Director

**Edwin L. Olmstead, K6LCF  
1922-1996**

We contacted his younger daughter Linda, in the Monterey area, who provided this info. Ed died in Carson City, NV at age 74.

He was a member of MARC and lived in Larkspur, Corte Madera, San Anselmo and Novato.

In the days of tube type equipment in the S.O. cars, Ed maintained it in a repair shop atop Forbes Hill, near Yardbird's garden store. This was before the Civic Center existed and the County Comm. Center was on the second floor at 519 Fourth St. in San Rafael. Only two dispatchers per shift, one being Hank W6ZQK Alvernaz. ed.

You know I heard that Ed Olmstead was a silent key but not much more than that. I know he was one of the FCC's ARRL official observers. 'OO' as we call them today. Because, as you know, in my young, crazy days as a ham I was a hell raiser, but we sure had lots of fun participating in the Tam Radio Club's transmitter hunts (on 3885kc AM ed.) in Novato, Field Day events, etc. Ed Olmstead got me out of trouble at least three times that I remember with the FCC monitoring station. Oh, those were great, fun days with Ham radio.

Jerry WA6BXV

Getting back to Ed, he was big in the American Legion and that is why we had our club meetings at the hall in Larkspur. He also got a MARS station started at HAFB and was also responsible for acquiring the club generator. One day, a long time ago, Ed and I were driving around Hamilton and we spotted this generator with two flat tires sitting out in a field. So Ed got the information off the generator and had it transferred to the MARS program and then transferred it to the MARC. Tnx to Ed, that is how the club got its generator. Vern WA6ASW, SK, overhauled the engine and got it in top working order. That generator was called into service by the San Rafael Fire Dept. during the night of the San Rafael

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railroad tunnel fire. (20 July 1961. ed)  
Joe K6KEW

I'm not sure when Ed left Marin. I know he was here in 1953 or 1954 because he fixed a TV for me. I don't remember if he was Pres. of the club. I just remember him as the person to go to when you had a tech. problem and he was always willing to help.

I also remember when his shop was in Corte Madera around the corner from the old hotel with antenna wires strung around the building. He also had Hallicrafters equipment always turned on in his back room. Then he moved to Larkspur across from the gas station where I used to work for Cliff Archer, and before that, Axel Jensen. He also published for the radio club a monthly tech topics reproduced on a hand crank reproducer machine. I think I still have one on a coke bottle vertical. Then the next month he told us how to make a top fed dipole using the vertical's mast. I just found them.

Jerry K6QDG

Thanks for the info on Ed Olmstead. I lost track of him completely. I still have a certificate from him called WAW (worked all wallpaper) He lived upstairs above his TV repair shop in Corte Madera and had a whole bunch of naked lady photos pinned on the ceiling so he gave me an award for looking at them. I remember he also lived in Novato for awhile and also on "C" St. in San Rafael. I had several old military aircraft receivers around that also covered our 2 meter band. In those days we didn't have FM rptrs. and the few who were on used AM or CW. I remember talking to Bob McCabe, W6YME with some piece of surplus gear. His transmitter drifted so much that I had to keep tuning around so I wouldn't lose him.

I was an original member of the Tamalpais Radio Club that met in Novato, as was Ed. If I remember correctly Hank, W6ZQK was the President. I think I have an old badge around somewhere from the club. At that time, the Marin Club was divided between old guys and young guys

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and there was a lot of friction between them. The old guys had VFO's that were rusted on 1910 Khz. and they didn't seem to want to do much. The young guys were gung-ho and up for most anything but didn't all know what they were doing. I was not all that knowledgeable at the time and remember busting my butt putting up masts and tents for field days and pushing KW gas generators around on hilltops.

W6FQS Pinky

I'd forgotten the location of the Larkspur meetings. I do remember the tunnel fire because Nelson "Stick" Stickle, W6TBV (conditional license acquired while in the Army in Germany) and I ran a flare line at the top of PS Hill to prevent southbound traffic from turning off on Lincoln Ave. When any CHP car stopped, we'd grab his supply of flares. We used my '59 blue VDUB, because it had a short turning radius, and idled along the flare line keeping it lit.

Ed converted a beacon xmitter at Hamilton AFB to a MARS freq. It used to run MCW 24/7 with the code for "SRF", just below the AM broadcast band, and was located in a blockhouse out in a field in the north end of the base, a homing signal for military aircraft. The antenna was a 100 ft. self supporting four legged tower, which is still out there and can be seen from Hwy 37. Fed with R/G 17. Big coax. A silver plated, Teflon insulated equivalent of an SO-239 runs around \$100. Those who were around at the time probably remember hearing that signal on their car AM radios just below Don Sherwood on KSFO at 560kc. The beacon became obsolete around 1961 or so. Don't remember if that xmitter was used much after the conversion. I still have some of the copper tube used in the base loading coils for that tower. There was quite a bit of it.

Ed Olmstead moved to Pacific Grove, then to McMinnville, OR, where he picked up the call W7LMI. Then the rules changed and he was able to take that call to Moberly, MO, in the W/K0 district. Here we lose track of him until his death in Carson City. He expired before his call did.

Phil K6PHD (then WA6PKX)

I have another one for you to re-search. W6TIJ, Ted, we used to call him the old Larkspur fisherman. Can't think of his last name to save my soul but he was active on 10 meter AM with us almost nightly. I know he is SK. His name doesn't show up on the clubs SK list so maybe nobody remembers him now. Gerry Craner was my boss for awhile on the tollboard 3rd floor, number one H St. Tell him I said Hi if you see or talk to him. I have only heard him on a couple of times around check-in time on 3915. Regards, Pinky.

**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.

**Marin Amateur Radio Society**  
**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:**  
Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120  
Herman Weiss WP4DCM 789-9576  
Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849  
Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318  
===VACANT POSITION=====

**Education Chair:**  
Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170  
**Membership Chair:**  
Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120  
**VE Liaison:**  
Stu Dake AC6GD 382-8317  
**Building Mgr.**  
John Butler KF6GNI 717-3148  
**Trustee for W6SG:**  
Steve Rathbone AJ6Y 898-8123  
**Trustee for K6GWE:**  
Bob Webb WB6QPR  
**Sunday Emergency Nets:**  
**HF** Frank Strom? WA6JTP  
**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.

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

Stamp

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Address  
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