

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

July, 2002

Page 2

President's Message

Another Dipsea race has come and gone. We had a very large turnout of volunteers for this year's race, twenty-four. I would like to thank them for their help. They included Margarita Hannen KF6UDL, Peter Mendoza KD6QZH, Bindy Beck-Meyer KC6AAN, Gary Meyer N6UZJ, Marilyn Bagshaw N6VAW, Rich Carbine W6UDS, Ken Coch-rane KD6ISK, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Chuck Deatricks WA6SQQ, John Smoot N6ZVU, Jerry Foster WA6BXV, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Nima Gharavi WA6SUP, Michael Ham WA6LCN, Greg Exline KD6YRB, Jim Lee KE6VGV, Randy Jenkins KA6BQF, Ed Bodington N6BNJ, John Collins KE6DDA, Paulette Leston KE6CFW, John Boyd KE6ORI, Helen Bodington and Julie Quilling. You may have noticed that the last two volunteers on the list are not licensed ham radio operators. If anyone knows of a non-ham that is interested, I can find places for them to help out. With most races there are times when a radio operator will need to contact someone from the event staff and that operator may not be able to leave his post. In these cases a non-ham can be of a great value. My hope is at some point to have non-ham operators linked to net control and other positions using other radio services such as GMRS (General Mobile Radio Service) or FRS (Family Radio Service). This would give us more flexibility and could lead to some of these volunteers getting their ham licenses. I was hoping to have Helen Bodington and Julie Quilling outfitted with GMRS radios for the Dipsea but I did not have the time to get that set up. But Michael Ham WA6LCN did

Go to column two.

Website at W6SG.NET

Code Practice Tuesday Evenings on 146.70 repeater at 8:00pm. Following the regular RACES net on 147.33 swing over to Mt. Tam VHF for help in learning the code. Practice done at 6 wpm, starts with basic sounds and moves through the alphabet. Ed Karl, K0KL.

From column one.

bring some GMRS radios that he owns and they came in very handy. We had a runner go down with heat stroke near the intersection of Hwy 1 and Panoramic Hwy. Mike loaned one of his GMRS radios to a member of the race staff and they were able to help out as an extra radio operator. By the way, Michael has been providing the ARRL News that is now carried on the Tuesday night Races net.

As I write this president's message some of our members are enjoying the last few hours of Field Day 2002. I had to work most of Saturday and was not able to help out as much as I have in the past. But I did get a chance to work a few stations on 15 meters. This year the Field Day crew networked the operating stations with some computer logging software. This software is a great tool for field day operations. All you do is type in the call sign of the station you want to work and the software will tell you if you have worked that station already. It will even keep track of your score. Aside from working Field Day at the club's site, I was able to work some stations while I was mobile on 15 and 40 meters. Having an HF rig in the car can sure make driving a lot more fun. Sometimes I look forward to getting stuck in commute traffic so that I can play radio.

One thing I have noticed about the HF bands: I put the HF rig in my car about three weeks ago, and the bands

Go to column three.

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

From column two.

have been very quiet. I am not saying 'dead'. There were the usual nets on 20 and 40 but there has not been much activity on 17 or 15. There were some good openings into Europe on 17 in the evenings. Now, I am not saying that 17 and 15 are dead but, when you spend about 3 weeks listening around on 15 meters, and in all that time you hear only two stations, then on field day the band is full of activity, it has to make you wonder if it is a case of just no one using the band. This is very apparent on 6 meters for those of you that have not spent much time on that band. You can go for months and not hear anyone, then there will be a sudden you are hearing stations on the East coast. I have even worked the East coast with my homemade 6 meter dipole. I just think that bands are as dead as some people would say they are.

73, John KF6VYH

Always listening to the radio.

NEWS FLASH 6/21

San Pedro UHF (443.525) is back on line with autopatch. The repeater took a trip to the Kenwood Hospital for warranty repairs to the RF card. Doug and I put it back on line about 11:30 am Friday 6/21. Then Big Rock quit again, but that is scheduled for a visit next Sunday. It is only the input on 203.5 PL that's intermittent. Maybe we can find the problem and kill the robot, too!

Ed K0KL

**General Meeting
June 7, 2002**

The meeting was called to order by President John Iacono KF6VYH at 19:35 at the Mill Valley clubhouse. Other officers and board members present were Vice President John Boyd KE6ORI, Treasurer Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Education Chairman Curtis Thames KF6TAO and Membership Chairman Doug Slusher KF6AKU. About 25 members and guests were in attendance.

In the absence of secretary Norm Baetz WA6CLK, George Rothbart KF6VSG acted as temporary secretary for the meeting.

Treasurer Lorraine K2VGD presented the financial report. It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the report without modifications.

It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the minutes of the last general meeting as appearing in the June QSA5 newsletter.

Committee Reports:

Field Day: John KF6VYH reported for Rich Carbine W6UDS. Field Day will be at the Marin Rod & Gun Club in San Rafael on Saturday through Sunday, June 22-23, 2002. The event starts around noon on Saturday and runs all night through Sunday morning.

Kids Day: John KF6VYH reported that Kids Day at the Discovery Museum in Sausalito has been cancelled due to a conflict in John's schedule.

Public Events: John KF6VYH reported that public events have been going smoothly. Twenty three three volunteers have signed up for the Dipsea June 9th. The Communications Truck will be at Net Control with a banner and one radio. In addition, Randy Jenkins will be there with his rig. John suggested a banner on the truck to thank KPIX for their donation of the vehicle, since they will be there to cover the event. The Double Dipsea on 7/20 needs 2-4 more volunteers. The

Go to column two.

From column one.

National MS Society will sponsor an event in Hayward/Alameda/SF on Field Day weekend and needs volunteer operators. Contact John KF6VYH for more information. The Holstein 100 bike ride on Saturday 8/17 needs operators for aid stations and SAG vehicles. See John KF6VYH for more information.

Building Committee: John KF6VYH announced that the club is looking for a new Building Chairman (not necessary to be a board member).

Repeater Committee: Doug KF6AKU reported that the UHF repeater on San Pedro ridge is in the shop for repairs. Kenwood estimates a week for repair. Doug will then reinstall the repeater the next day. The 203.5 repeater on Big Rock is temporarily fixed. Ed K0KL, Doug and Randy Jenkins will work on the controller, connectors and cables. Members are advised to be prepared for down times.

Truck Committee: John Boyd KE6ORI reported that he will be working on the brakes on 6/8 and will be ready for the Dipsea on 6/9. Much of the equipment however is still in the planning stages.

Christmas Party: Lorraine K2VGD reported that the Christmas Party will be on December 8th at the Sheraton Hotel in Terra Linda. There will be a buffet, dance floor, tree, open bar, punch bowl and dinner. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Picnic: Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ reported that only 3 members have responded for the picnic for 8/17. This might be due to a conflict with the Holstein event. **Picnic cancelled. Not rescheduled, yet.**

New Business: Ed K0KL reminded members that code practice takes place on Tuesday nights from 20:00 to 20:20 on 146.700 MHz.

Announcements: George Klein

Go to column three.

From column two.

WR6D of Klein TV in San Rafael announced that the store has 100 watt solid state and tube devices, keyers, etc., that the store is selling to raise money for the **Quarter Century Wireless Association Scholarship Fund**. Drop by the store at **835-3rd street** for more information.

Al Weisman W5ALW reported that a local company has started up manufacturing PSK31 rig-to-computer interfaces. Al reported on the quality of the interface and encouraged interested operators to contact Clancy at (925) 462-8946.

Curtis KF6TAO announced that he is retiring as Education Chairman and encouraged any club member interested in the position to step forward. The next Technician video class will be in September, and the next General class will be at the end of August.

Ed K0KL suggested visiting other clubs, such as the East Bay club or the Santa Rosa club. RACES is also showing some signs of life and Ed suggests checking into the RACES net at 19:30 on Tuesdays on 147.330 MHz.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:00.

Respectfully submitted,
/s George Rothbart KF6VSG

=====

From page four, column three.

fractured ankles, and the lacerations to my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked.

I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope.

Author unknown.

BOARD MEETING JUNE 11, 2002

The meeting was called to order at 19:45 by Pres. John KF6VYH. Others present were Steve AJ6Y Rathbone, Doug KF6AKU Slusher, Kevin KF6YUF Foley, VP John KE6ORI Boyd and Phil K6PHD Dunlap.

The board affirmed the plan for the Club to pay for the food on Field Day as was voted on earlier in the year. This may be take-out, based on a head count at dinner time.

The club will hire someone to act as building manager whose duties will include letting the cleaning staff in when needed.

Also on the subject of new business, MARS will attempt to obtain a GMRS license, and we will convert some donated radios to operate on GMRS frequencies. This will give us the option to enlist non-hams to help out with the public service events we cover. These radios can also be used to train prospective hams to handle traffic. (It was later learned that new GMRS licenses are only issued to individuals.)

On another subject, the 440 repeater on San Pedro ridge should be up and running again soon; the parts have arrived at the repair shop.

Submitted by acting secretary
John KF6VYH

(No one remembers what time the board meeting adjourned—it was around 21:00—as we were wired on DIET COKE by that time. An earlier inspection of the lower regions of the coffee pot under dim light revealed nothing except a few diminishing ripples in the prior Sunday's dregs, causing some minor agitation of the usual variously colored floating islands. Maybe the applied illumination persuaded some unknown being/s to submerge and lie in wait. It was decided not to investigate further. The lid was replaced and weighted securely. A guard was posted. ed.)

=====

Misc. Disconnected Rambling Bits on Field Day in No Particular Order.

Field Day was a no-sweat operation this year, except when putting up the antennas. Over thirty-five people showed up at various times for various purposes, mainly camaraderie,

Go to column two.

From column one.

curiosity, comestibles and even some contesting. Glenn Meader N1ZKW, our webmaster at W6SG.NET came by with a pretty friend. The Field Day site could use more of that. Jesse KG6FNX ran up a total of well over 100 contacts. Chet's WA6PAC non-Cajun semi-blackened eggs cooked Coleman style were a hit as usual—even w/o salt or pepper—served with TURKEY bacon, TURKEY sausage—you are what you eat—ham, OJ and a VERY dark witch's brew vaguely resembling coffee, around 07:00 Sunday. Saturday evening's dinner was simplified to reduce cleanup. Forty-eight pieces of KFC with twelve large sides and a slew of biscuits fed the operating crew and any others on site at the time. Anthony KC6KIM came by just in time for the feed. BYOPAC0Z75 (Bring Your Own Pepcid AC or Zantac 75) Phil K6PHD put the leftovers in his garage reefer and returned them 07:00 Sunday morning sealed in plastic bags on ice for a noon snack; there were no takers on the KFC at breakfast—congealed grease at 07:00 tends to blunt the hunger reflex a bit—but by noon there wasn't much left of it. There were also donuts and sweet rolls on site. They were very slightly petrified and could have been improved by spending a few seconds in a microwave oven but they didn't go to waste. Next year we plan to have a microwave on site. VP John KE6ORI put up a six meter beam and rotor on the comm. truck's pneumatic mast. Don't know what his contact total was but it was a good looking setup. A medium sized branch, probably not quite big enough to qualify as a 'widow maker'—a logging term—broke off of one of the trees bordering the property at one end of the picnic tables. We don't use that particular area but anyone wandering there at the time could have had their hair parted in a different direction. Bill Stewart KF6RMK ran battery-powered QRP CW on 20m pretty much out of the back of his car under a flapping odd-shaped piece of unknown material requiring adjustment occasionally. It wasn't much good as a sun shelter and if it had rained he could have drowned.

(No more space here. Try column three.)

Remember this one? Original version at GOOGLE. Search on "barrel of bricks".

I am writing in response to your request for additional information, for block number 3 of the accident report form. I put 'poor planning' as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following detail will be sufficient. I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using the pulley attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools.

You will note in block number 11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 pounds. Due to my surprise at being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel.

Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two

Go to page three, column three, lower.

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS NEWS

What's happened so far.

We have had a very busy first half of the year providing communications for several of the public service events that we help out with. At the time of this writing, M.A.R.S. has provided communications support for the following races: The MS Walk, Miwok 100K, The Human Race, the Pacific Sun 10K, and the DIPSEA and Double DIPSEA races.

Future Events.

The coming events that MARS will provide communications for include a new one called the Dipsea Hike Run on July 20th. This is not a complete Dipsea. The runners in this race will start in Mill Valley and the finish line will be at the Mountain Theater.

Also scheduled is the Marin Century bike ride on Saturday August 4th. followed by the Holstein 100 bike ride on Saturday Aug. 17th. This is a ride through the West Marin and Sonoma Headlands. We will also be providing communications for the Marin Headlands 50K run on Aug 24th. Then in October we will once again be turning on our radios for the Providian Relay. This bicycle event starts in Calistoga and ends in Santa Cruz.

How to Help.

This is the easy part. All that is required to help out is time. If you have not had the pleasure of working on a public service event, let me answer some of the questions you may have. It

Go to column two.

helps to have a radio, an HT or a mobile radio in your favorite vehicle. However, if you do not have a radio, we can sometimes provide an HT. Some of the races do not require a lot of RF power. In addition to a radio you may need a pad and pencil. It is customary to relay in the numbers of the lead runners to net control. This allows us to keep the people at the finish line informed of the status of the race. This is also done with the last place runners, so that we know when it's time to shut down and go home.

We also provide information regarding race participants who are not able to finish the race. If this condition arises, we relay that information to net control and at that point the information is relayed to the proper event staff.

On some of the larger races like the Dipsea and Double Dipsea, for example, some of the communications locations we cover can be more difficult or time consuming to get to. In these cases we try to assign race personnel to areas that they are physically able to more easily access.

If you would like to help out just send an e-mail or call. I have set up an e-mail account just for special events information. Marsraces@aol.com or you can call (415) 897-0413

W h a t t o B r i n g .

This depends on the event. In the spring and fall you might want to bring a change of clothes as the weather can vary quite a bit. Most races start in the early morning so it might be cold outside then and hot in the afternoon. I like to bring a Polar Fleece vest and a pair of pants with zip-off legs. I would also recommend a good

Go to column three.

pair of hiking boots if you are going to a more remote spot although most people get by just fine with plain old tennies. It won't hurt to bring some water, snacks, and something with polarized lenses. A hat and maybe some sunscreen are good ideas, too. And, of course, an extra battery or two for your HT if you even suspect that one won't last through the event.

To volunteer:

Marsraces@AOL.COM
415.897.0413

John KF6VYH

- =====
- DIPSEA Hike Run July 20**
Start at Mill Valley
 - Marin Century Aug. 4**
Start at Terra Linda High
 - Holstein 100 Aug. 17**
West Marin/Sonoma
 - Marin Headlands 50K Aug. 24**

Providian Relay Oct.
Start at Calistoga

=====

For the July meeting we are going to have a show and tell type of program. If anyone would like to give a 5 to 15 minute talk on anything to do with Amateur Radio, please let me know. I would like to have 4 or 5 people give mini talks about kit building, antennas, DXing, Digital modes, etc. If you would like to talk about a pet project, now is your chance.

73, John KF6VYH
Pres. MARS

Museum Ships Special Event July 19-21

The Annual Museum Ships Special Event, sponsored by the heavy cruiser USS Salem CA-139 in Quincy MA, will take place over the weekend of Friday July 19 through Sunday July 21, 2002.

This year a number of museum ships located on San Francisco Bay will participate on the air along with ships from around the world, including England, Canada, Belgium, Australia, Denmark, Germany and Norway.

Among the local historic ships are Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Presidential Yacht USS Potomac, which started out in 1934 as the Coast Guard cutter *ELECTRA*, 165 feet, 376 gross tons and cruising speed of 10 to 13 knots. It was converted to FDR's yacht *Potomac* and recommissioned as a US Navy vessel in 1936. Other ships are the Lightship *Relief* (Jack London Square, Oakland), the Victory Ship SS Red Oak (Pt. Richmond), Liberty Ship SS Jeremiah O'Brien and submarine USS Pampanito (San Francisco). On board the Potomac, the radio conversations will take place in the Radio Room from which President Roosevelt addressed the American public during World War II. The ships will be using SSB and CW on various frequencies on all the amateur HF bands. For more information on this event (frequencies, certificates, history) please check the USS Salem's Museum Ships Event website at www.qsl.net/k1usn/event.html.

=====

EBARC has arranged for Alan Maenchen, AD6E, to speak at their July 12 meeting about his experience with the recent TI9M DXpedition. MARS members who have an interest in DX are welcome to attend. EBARC meetings are at the Salvation Army, 4600 Appian Way, El Sobrante. Business meeting starts at 7:30 PM, with the speaker beginning about 8:00 PM. From Marin, take 580 across the Richmond Bridge, take Richmond Parkway to I-80, and exit at Appian Way. The Salvation Army is about 2 miles along Appian Way on the left, just past the fire station. 73, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF President EBARC

The Parkin Manufacturing Company of San Rafael, California by Joe Horvath W6GPB of San Rafael, 1975.

It is only fitting that the story of the Parkin Manufacturing Company be recorded and told by one who lives in San Rafael, and personally knew the late John Parkin, Jr. (We all knew him as Jack)

In 1914, Jack Parkin went into the electrical business in San Rafael at 336 Fourth St. The business' name was "The Electro Shop". Here is where the Parkin Mfg. Co. originally got its start, when Jack manufactured miniature sounders and sold them by the hundreds to amateur Morse code operators.

In 1917, Jack joined the US Signal Corp and served his country with honor in WW1.

Before Jack started the Parkin Mfg. Co., he went to work for Haller & Cunningham. Apparently Jack learned the trade of molding Bakelite, and all of the other ramifications that go into the manufacture of radio parts, very well, for he was now able to start tooling up for the start of his company in San Rafael. In 1919, the Parkin Co. began to manufacture the finest Bakelite products on the market.

A fully equipped shop was one of the first necessities, so a tool and die maker was hired to make the dies for the Bakelite molds, and the punch presses for punching out the metal parts.

By now radio was beginning to feel growing pains, so the timing was perfect and the business grew rapidly. By 1920-1921 the business grew to such an extent that there were a total of twenty-one employees and they ran three shifts around the clock. This was an efficient way to run the Bakelite molds, insuring that they were kept hot at all times during the molding process. At the peak of their operation, they were making and marketing over forty-five different products. Hardware they did not manufacture because it was cheaper to buy these items like tap switch points, binding posts, batteries, etc.

Go to column three.

From column two.

They also manufactured and marketed several different model receivers during their existence: type D, type 100, type 105 and others, but at this time they are not identifiable.

The most popular item was the #31 Parkin Audion Panel. This unique detector would accommodate either a UV based DeForest bulb. or the popular Audiotron with the pigtail terminals. It was a much neater looking audion panel than most of those on the market because the UV tube receptacle was flush with the panel. Actually, when the Audiotron was in place, the UV receptacle was hidden.

Parkin also manufactured the Direct Reading Channel Dial for Atwater-Kent receivers, but they were also dandy for any receiver.

Jack Parkin was a real genius, and besides making all of these radios and parts, he was an inventor. He invented the Mercury Variable Condenser, #52, patented October 24, 1922, the #35 Parkin Knob-type Rheostat, patented March 30, 1920 and the #100 Dial-type Rheostat, patented August 1, 1922.

Jack sold the patent rights to the Mercury Variable Condenser to a front man for RCA for \$500. This was later manufactured by the Wireless Specialty Apparatus Co, for RCA as their Model UC-1819 variable condenser.

The advertising motto of the Parkin Mfg. Co. was "The Peak of Perfection". This slogan appeared on all of their advertising.

(Jack Parkin died in 1948. ed.)

Joe W6GPB Horvath, a former MARC member, Silent Key Nov. 1992.

=====

I don't usually pass on sad news like this, but sometimes we need to pause and remember what life is all about. There was a great loss recently. Larry LaPrise, who wrote the song "Hokey Pokey," died this week at age 83. It was extremely difficult for the family to keep his body in the casket. They'd put his left leg inwell, you know the rest.

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 | Marin Amateur Radio Society | ARRL WAS Local Rep:
Jackson Sauers W6JRI 388-4094 |
| Vice President:
John Boyd KE6ORI 662-1447 | Education Chair:
Curtis Thames KF6TAO 453-2925 | DX Representative of ARRL:
Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829 |
| Secretary:
Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887 | Membership Chair:
Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120 | Editor of QSA-5:
Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 |
| Treasurer:
Lorraine Karl K2VGD 479-8928 | VE Liaison:
Stu Dake AC6GD 382-8317 | 604 Galerita Way,
San Rafael, 94903-2908
Email: K6PHD@AOL.COM |
| 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 | Trustee for W6SG:
Steve Rathbone AJ6Y 898-8123
Trustee for K6GWE:
Bob Webb WB6QPR
Building Mgr.
Sunday Emergency Nets:
HF Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136
VHF Jesse Crocker KG6FNX
Raine Kinney KG6GII | =====
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