

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

President's Message

As I start the June President's message, we have just finished two more races: the Miwok 100K and the Human Race 4K. I would like to commend the following volunteers for helping with the Miwok 100K: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF, Stu Dake AC6GD, Robert E. Lee KD6KWV, Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ, Ed Bodington N6BNJ, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Garry Sello KG6JHS, Terry McPhearson KF6FFM, John Collins KE6DDA, George Rothbart KF6VSG and James Rothbart KG6AID.

I would also like to thank those who turned out for the Human Race: Ed Bodington N6BNJ, Greg Exline KD6YRB, Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ and Michael Blum KF6FVF.

Races still to be run this season include The Dipsea on June 9th., The Double Dipsea on June 23rd., The Holstein Hundred on Saturday Aug. 17th., the Providian Relay in October and a few others. If you would like to help out with any of these events, contact me at (415)897-0413 or e-mail me at KF6VYH@arri.net.

I also hope to be able to set up a Kids Day station on Saturday June 16th. Also let's not forget Field Day on the weekend of June 23rd. We will again be set up at the Marin Rod and Gun Club.

The club has filed the necessary paperwork to change the trustee for W6SG from Rich Carbine W6UDS, who has resigned that position, to Steve Rathbone AJ6Y. (See page four. ed.)

73 John KF6VYH

Always listening to the radio.

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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.

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General Meeting, 5/3 2002

President John Iacono, KF6VYH, called the meeting to order at 1940. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Doug Slusher KF6AKU and Kevin Foley KF6YUF. There were a total of 25 members and guests present.

Lorraine Karl passed out the treasurer report and after a brief discussion it was approved.

There was nothing to report as far as the building renovation or the club's truck maintenance. More update on this at the next board meeting and the June general meeting.

John Iacono said he has not heard from the Corte Madera Shopping Center about using their facilities for this year's Kids Day. Another site may be used. John will update this in the near future.

Curtis Thames AE6BM announced his resignation as Education Chairman effective immediately. The next class is set for Sept. 13, so he will assist his replacement in getting the class started. He was warmly applauded for the fine job he has done. He will be sorely missed. Someone is needed to take over Curtis' position.

Kevin Foley talked about the August picnic at the Presidio Yacht Club. He passed out sign-up sheets and asked for volunteers to specify how they can

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

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assist with either supplying food, drink or helping with cleanup.

Lorraine Karl said all arrangements have been made with the Sheraton Hotel in Terra Linda for this year's Christmas party. She talked about decorations, music, and the open bar.

Ed Karl K0KL talked about this year's Field Day and would like a commitment as far as operators manning the sites and also who will attend the Saturday evening dinner. Chet Rice will be doing his usual great job serving Sunday breakfast. Give Ed a call and let him know if you will attend.

Doug Slusher said that repairs on the Big Rock repeater are underway. Ed Karl gave a brief update on the general conditions of the various repeaters in Marin County. Ed also said he will be giving code practice transmissions on 2 meters every Tuesday at 8:00 pm. The frequency is 146.70.

John Iacono, as the new Public Service Chairman, said there has been good response as far as radio volunteers for the various events. Keep a check in QSA-5 and see what up-coming events you might help out on and give John a call.

John also talked about his trip this past weekend to the DX convention in Visalia. He commented on the dinner, raffles and guest speakers. All in all a nice program.

Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV talked about the latest developments with the repeater problems between the Sonoma Radio Club and Sonoma County. He also told about an

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upcoming overnight trip EARS is taking to Alcatraz Island.

Tim Bosma, W6ISS gave a brief talk about satellite communication and said he would give a longer talk at a future meeting.

Bob Fajardo WA6VOI talked about the upcoming Armed Forces Day test and said all hams are welcome to participate.

Ed Karl gave an interesting and informative talk on heterodyning. The meeting was adjourned at 2050.

Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

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Board Meeting, 5/14 2002

The meeting was called to order by President John Iacono KF6VYH at 1930 hours. Other board members present were Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Rich Carbine W6UDS, Jackson Sauers W6JRI and Phil Dunlap K6PHD.

Lorraine passed out the Treasurer's report. She also said the club taxes and insurance have been paid. The insurance covers both the club's building and the comm. truck.

Rich Carbine announced his resignation as the club's trustee. Rich discussed the repair and renovation of the clubhouse and suggested that due to the potential high costs of those repairs and renovations, that they be delayed until next year after the new board can come up with an annual budget. This was approved by the board.

John Iacono said a site for Kids Day, this June, is still not finalized but he is still investigating. John also discussed the various races and events that the club is involved with and said more volunteers will be welcomed.

The board thanked Curtis Thames AE6BM for his past work as Education Chairman.

The meeting was adjourned at 2050 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

Editor Finally Gets Out on 75!

Failing to radiate significant amounts RF on 75m much further than Terrible Linda across highway 101, we seriously considered a borrowed and slightly oxidized Butternut HF6V from Stu AC6GD. But after realizing how many radials this antenna would require for good signal propagation, and finding that these would have to run into the neighbors' yards and under a new County kiddy park out back, even with a pre-existing eight foot Copperweld ground rod down into the salty Bay mud, we decided to try something else.

So, we took down our tried & true 40m dipole and replaced it with a Van Gordon G5RV-E. That's the one with 31 feet of 450 ohm ladder line but w/o the 70 feet of RG-8X coax. Saved 22 bucks here. We attached the existing RG-8—from the now gone 40m dipole—which now loops to the ground from the roof and back up to the air vent at the end of the garage wall, to the adaptor at the lower end of the ladder line. Plenty of time to adjust that coax, later.

The excess length on the ends of this 102 foot dipole was detoured down at an angle of about 45 degrees and attached to the fences on each side of our lot. To lower/raise this antenna requires four separate lines to cleats mounted on the fences. A forty-two year old, very rusty five section TV mast, bought from SF Radio in our Novice days—but w/o the arc-5 roller coil that used to resonate that puppy and occupy a box at the base—raised up about thirty feet on one end of the house and a home-made thirty foot EMT mast on the right rear corner of the back fence provide the necessary elevation AGL.

Re Novice days in 1960, after retiring our surplus TCS TX with its homebrew yellow paint job and Johnson lo-pass filter fastened to the top with pipe clamps, we ran a Viking One which we picked up at the 1961 Fresno Hamfest, xtal controlled of course, but with one modification.

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High voltage silicon diodes were available and we pulled the rectifier tubes and replaced them with a pair of these, soldered into an octal plug from Allied Radio and inserted into one of the rect. tube sockets. Increased the plate voltage to 750, just enough to get 150 watts input to that 4D32 final. Novices were allowed only 75 watts input on those HF bands which were available to us. Because I was in what I considered a "bad location" at the time, the cul-de-sac of Corte Sereno in Greenbrae, I justified the power increase, to myself at least. I assume the statute of limitations has long since run out on this Federal Crime. (grin)

Back to the G5RV-E. Rich W6UDS provided an item, which will be installed soon, called a "LADDER GRABBER" which is supposed to prevent broken and corroded connections at the center of the dipole. This worthwhile addition is/was made by EMTECH at 3641 Preble St., Bremereton, WA 98312. Tel. 360.415.0804.

Next came the tests with the LDG AT-11MP autotuner, the one that sounds like a "handful of nickels in a blender" as it attempts a good match. Amazing! Magic! The reflected power meter hardly twitches on all bands including 30, 17 and 12, except 10m, and this can be improved by a second press of the tune button. It even gets a good match on 6m!

First real test was at check in on 3915kc. on 5/12. Got a good signal report from W6SG. Maybe a little better than that of another station on 75m over in expensive Tiburon?

Next 75m test will be on a Monday or Thursday on the 3892kc Old Farts' Net. And, maybe, we'll leave that coax alone at its present length.

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Looking for a one ohm +or- resistor to load an Astron power supply for testing. Already have a beefy 0.5 ohm pot for fine tuning and an accurate ammeter/shunt combo. Will return resistor after use, if desired.

Contact Phil at K6PHD@AOL.COM or 491-0318.

April 27, 2002

TO: Marin Amateur Radio Society
Board of Directors

FROM: Rich Carbine, W6UDS, Building Mgr. And Trustee

RE: Remodel Update

The remodel of our Alto Clubhouse rests on facts I have outlined below. Having been a licensed Contractor/Estimator in Marin for over 25 years, I have some concerns, which I will explain.

Before I invest time in securing bids on the job, it is mandatory for me to know the amount MARS will budget for the remodel. I cannot enter into a contract and will not put my signature and contractor's license on the line unless I am assured the funds will be there. I will not enter into a binding agreement without knowledge of what the Club has set aside for the project.

As a Contractor, I have never worked without a budget. This draft is a projection outlining MARS' basic expenses for one year. This is just an estimate from the knowledge I have.

As I have frequently mentioned at the BOD and general meetings, the total remodel, which includes replacing the upper roof fascia and installing gutters, not counting the exterior painting, will far exceed \$20,000.

In the four plus years we have owned the building we have completed extensive remodeling:

- Remodeled the upstairs apartment
- Constructed the new radio room
- Installed a new forced air heating system
- Installed a dropped ceiling
- Installed fluorescent lighting
- Replaced second story roofing
- Painted the main room interior and installed carpeting
- Upgraded wiring and plumbing

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|---|------------------|
| Tenant's Deposit due to Tennant upon departure. | \$4,000+ |
| Vacant Apt. Coverage | \$4,200 (2 mos.) |
| Field Day | \$600 |
| Membership Meetings Food | \$1,200 |
| Christmas Party | \$800+ |
| Utilities: PG&E, Phone, Water: | \$1,200 |
| Repeater Fund | \$3,000 |
| Truck Fund | \$500 + |
| Possible refund may be requested by an anonymous donor (see George Klein) | \$1,000 |
| Insurance, incl. comm. truck coverage. | \$4,100 |
| Taxes (minimum) | \$500 ? |
| Picnic | \$300 |
| Clubhouse Cleaning | \$900 |
| Total | \$22,300 |

Much of this work was the result of surmounting unsuspected problems and was done out of necessity. Soon we will have completed architect's plans for major building improvements including:

- A new first story roof
- Bathrooms upgrade
- Kitchen installation
- Construction of a library
- Workshop area at the rear

The plans will include an estimate of cost based on square footage of the project.

Looking at the last Financial Report, I do not feel confident that we can enter into contracts with subcontractors when I consider MARS' expenses I have outlined above.

At this time, my recommendation is that we postpone the remodel until 2003 or later at which time we should have an approved budget, which will lock in these needed expenses.

In addition, since my position as Trustee of W6SG places me on the BOD, giving me a vote on financial issues, I consider this position as a conflict of interest knowing how I will vote on financial matters until the building remodel is completed. Therefore, this document also serves as my resignation as Trustee of W6SG as soon as the BOD finds an Extra class member to serve in that position.

Respectively submitted by
Rich Carbine, W6UDS

Ham Radio for the Compleat Idiot

The following is an actual letter. The original was typewritten, and all spelling and grammar has been carefully left intact.

To Mr. (name omitted)
 District Manager for Alabama
 Radio Shack
 3300 N.Pace Blvd.
 Pensacola, FL. 32505

Dear Sire,
 This letter is complain about the problems I have having with the ham radio model number 19-1101 I had got from your company Radio Shack. I had this shipped special to me from your store 1096 Eastdale Mall Montgomery Alabama. I was got this because I think that i would get transmitt furthur that I did with the TRC 217 40 channel walkie talkie. The problem that had first was when I was going to hook this radio HTX-1000 to the antenna the conektor on the radio was wrong it wouldn't attach to my cable. I was able to hook it finally by making a small change in in the connektor. As soon as I tried to use it there was no sound coming at all. This happened for two days and I never did get to talk to anybody the whole two days. That day the cable company came knocking my door and said there was something causing problems at my house and disconnected my radio from the cable line. you knew when i brought the Radio that I was going to use that for my antenne. You didn't tell me not to why not? Next time I decided to put the HTX-1000 in my automobile I thought I would see how it worked their. I hooked it to my CB-antenna and at least I could hear people. But what happens now is no one wants to talk to me because they says you have to have a licencs to talk to them. Why? I dont have to have a licencs to talk on my CB. They'll talk to me there. Anyhow it dont matter much anymore because somebody done took the radio HTX-1000 from my

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automobile.

What I would like for you Radio Shack to do is refund my money because I don't have the radio anymore and its not my fault i dont and I think you should give me back my money. Also the cable company here says that I hurt something in there line and want to be paid fix it. It will cost \$27482.98 to fix the equipment they say was damaged because you didnt tell me not to hook it to the cable. Please remit to me the check for \$27758.53 for damages due. To save this matter from going to court the check must be in my hand by June first or I will turn this over to my attorneys of law.

Thank you. name withheld

Phranque O'Pinion Column

We have a ham operator in the county who does not seem to understand why we are holding CW practice on the Mt. Tam 146.700 repeater. He apparently sees a problem with this choice of freqs and feels that code practice should be done on an HF band. Lets keep in mind that the people who are learning CW do not all have HF gear, yet. He even tried to make a call during the RACES net on Tuesday 21 May. I heard him complain about, "Some kind of roll call on 147.330" while he was on 146.700. Of course, that roll call was the RACES net. Of course, he is not a MARS member. I do know his call sign: NR6I. Of course, we do not own the air waves, but we do own the equipment. Maybe NR6I should just stay off the repeaters if he does not like how MARS uses them.

Just an opinion by Phranque O'

Rebuttals to any opinions expressed in this publication are welcome. ed.

Come on out for **FIELD DAY** at the Marin Rod & Gun Club site near the Richmond/San Rafael bridge, where the sanitary facilities are a helluva lot better—spacious, well lighted and clean—than what you would find behind a bush on San Pedro or Big Rock Ridges. ed.

More on Kathleen Parkin, 6SO, in San Rafael.
 from
"The Electrical Experimenter"
November 1916 issue.

WIRELESS FROM GIRL IN CALIFORNIA HEARD IN LYNN, MASS.

"The message, "Hello Massachusetts, how are you?" vibrating its way across the country from San Rafael, Cal., was picked up by Gustave A. F. Werner with his wireless receiver in the Highland First station, Lynn, recently.

The message was sent by Miss Kathleen G. Parkin, 6SO, fifteen years old, one of the youngest girl wireless operators in the country. She made the query and added her address.

Werner immediately replied, "First rate, thank you."

She is a member of the American Radio Relay League, to which organization Werner also belongs. Miss Parkin and her work were described in the last issue of this journal."

I hope this gives you some more information and it is exciting for me to find these extra tidbits!!!!!!!

I am very pleased to be of help to you and the Marin Amateur Radio Club in this and any other matter.

Please keep me apprised of how things are going and what information you find. I would love to be able to review it at a meeting or while visiting who ever receives the information and is putting it all together.

73 Len WA6KLK ARRL San Francisco Section Manager.

As time allows, we will return to the California Room of the Marin County Library at the Civic Center to search through more of the Kathleen Parkin interview she gave in 1977.

Christmas is really a Humbug!

(another column by Phranque O'Pinion, 5U4GB, the low frequency DXer)

So the last Board meeting really proved what a couple of curmudgeon board members could do. They bitched and whined about the new Christmas Party location (not an attack mind you) by finding fault with all the work done by the Treasurer. MARS has gone through four months of this type of ill mannered behavior. How about halting it.

It's interesting that one of the attackers from the building committee will never tell you up front what they're doing, when checks are written and for how much. You get that news when the bank statement arrives and then must transfer money to the building account to keep them in chittlins. Never mind that, as Treasurer, you take full legal responsibility for a small California Corporation, including its accounts. Hey fans, it's all part of the job.

You, the Treasurer, must fill in the forms for the Feds and State Franchise Board and, oh yes, sign YOUR name to the corporation documents, too. You get to meet with the CPA for tax purposes and, again, YOU get to sign the club's tax return. Maybe you can also visit the clubhouse once a month, in the middle of the week, daytime of course, to let the cleaning crew in.

You also must have the ability to estimate attendance at meetings, order food, pick it up and deliver it to the clubhouse. (Then you will be told that the only reason some people attend is for the free food; never mind that the BOARD voted UNANIMOUSLY to provide eats at the meetings). It's YOUR fault the building committee has no construction money. The constant personal attacks continue such as "... this is a joke" regarding financial reports. Mind you this by someone who comes from the building committee with, "I don't know how much is in the account"! HEY FELLA, IT'S ON THAT SAME MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT! TRY READING IT ONCE IN AWHILE!

As for the statement "we have no money," check the balance sheet, we are richer than all the clubs in the San Francisco section put together, or so the SCM reported recently. Meaning of the attack, you (Treasurer) dared to suggest to move the Christmas Party to another location, I {we} don't like that and the gang of two will attack, attack, attack. These attacks can and will get up close and personal. Never mind there is a BOARD resolution to have the party outside the beloved clubhouse. That one was settled months ago. It's YOUR fault there is no money. Check the books, we can start some of the projects, just not all that you want all at once.

As far as the financial reports being a joke, never mind that the same day that attack was made, the Treasurer just signed the CPA generated tax forms. Apparently the State, the Feds and the club's own CPA seemed OK with the report. Hey fans, it's the same report you have been getting for 2 years now. Nary a word will be said until you take an action that the gang of two disagree with. The attack will go on and on for months, how the sacred clubhouse needs the money (amount not defined until just this last meeting), when the building committee submitted a budget. That was really a JOKE, based mostly on FANTASY ACCOUNTING!

Still no plan submitted as to implementation. But it's YOUR fault that the club hasn't been able to squirrel away \$20,000 per year for the beloved building. No answers how to pay the bills like insurance, telephone, electricity, water and taxes, etc. It's just YOUR fault that the club is squandering the money for Board approved activities.

You'll love this one breathless readers: An anonymous donor suddenly is elevated to Sainthood, but your saving the club money month in and month out, with tireless devotion and your work, is never going to be mentioned much less ever get someone to say "thanks, I [we] appreciated it." So let's hail to Saint "I don't know who he is."

As for the Christmas Party that started the whole display of bad mannered attacks, it's still on for the first weekend in December. This proves once again, particularly when it comes to Christmas, no good deed will go unpunished, especially if the gang of two disagrees. A real inducement to serve ... Merry Christmas to all.

Phranque O'Pinion, 5U4GB

Rebuttals to any opinion expressed in this publication are welcome. ed.

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.

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John Boyd KE6ORI 662-1447
Secretary:
Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887
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Membership Chair:
Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120
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Building Mgr. & Trustee for W6SG:
Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136
Trustee for K6GWE:
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Sunday Emergency Nets:
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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.
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San Rafael, CA 94903

Stamp

The Mailing
Address
Goes Here