

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter Nov. 2002 Page 2

## President's Message

As I type my President's message for November we are only three days away from our last public service event for the year and, as usual, I am still trying to find volunteers. I hope that next year this will not be the norm. We will be making some changes to the way these events are handled and will be using our communications truck for most events. We will also be using the MARS clubhouse for some of the net control operations next year.

Lets not forget the **MARS CHRISTMAS PARTY** on **Dec. 8th**. Get your reservations in before November 15th. The Four Points Sheraton cannot accommodate walk ins. Send your reservations to Lorraine Karl, Mars Christmas Party, P. O. Box 6423. San Rafael, CA 94903. The price is \$25.00 per person. **The Prizes**, a Yaesu FT-50RD/41B 144/440 PC programmable HT (see page 50 of the latest AES catalog), an MFJ speaker, a 12 volt power station and more.

### Radio Amateur Education.

Ben Sawtell is our new education chairman. He has been helping out Curtis Thames this year. Curtis wanted to take a break from the job and Ben offered to take over. Thanks Ben.

**VE Liaison.** Stu Dake would like to retire as our VE coordinator. If you are interested in the position, contact Stu or any board member. Of course you must be a VE and have an Extra Class License. Becoming a VE is very easy. You contact the ARRL and they will send you a book to read. Then you just fill out an open book test and wait for your VE ID card. You need to be at least a General Class license holder.

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## Website at W6SG.NET Phone 415.389.6630

### MARS General Meeting Oct. 4,2002

The meeting was called to order at 1930 hours by President John Iacono KF6VYH. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, and Herman Weiss WP4DCM. There were a total of 16 members and guests in attendance.

Ed Karl K0KL presented the treasurer's report for Lorraine Karl K2VGD who was out of town. After a brief discussion it was approved.

John Boyd gave a report on the club's truck repair and remodeling. A final request for further funds will be presented to the board in the near future.

Ed Karl supplied the latest update on our local repeaters. The San Pedro repeater was repaired. Ed also said his code classes on 2 meters were ending.

Pres. John Iacono said that the ballots for the election of the 2003 board would be in the mail shortly. John also talked about upcoming special events that the club was helping with. He said any volunteers would be appreciated. Call John and let him know.

There was a report on the December Christmas party. Some very nice raffle prizes have been purchased.

The radio room has been reorganized. A RigBlaster or reasonable facsimile for PSK31 will be purchased soon.

David Rabin VE7DMR, and Richard Rabin KG6JHZ, spoke to the club on how they were trying to organize a ham club at Tam Hi School. Any donation of equipment would be very much appreciated.

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

### MARS Board Meeting, 8 October 2002

President John Iacono KF6VYH, called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, and Kevin Foley KF6YUF. Ed Karl K0KL, standing in for Lorraine Karl K2VGD, passed out the treasurer's report and after a brief discussion it was approved. Ed also said the 6.700 repeater was not working but hopefully would be back on the air soon.

John Boyd, as head of the comm. truck committee, presented his recommendations on how we should proceed on repairs and acquisition of communications equipment for the vehicle. First plan of action will be to repair the compressor (which raises and lowers the mast), install antenna mounts and purchase a TV antenna for the mast.

Curtis Thames AE6BM announced that Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ will take over as Education chairman. Many thanks to Curtis for a great job.

Doug Slusher, as membership chairman, discussed the upcoming year. The club has about 160 on the mailing list but not all are active.

Ballots for the election for next years board have been sent out. Please be sure to fill them out and send them back.

There was some discussion concerning this year's Christmas party. John Iacono has purchased some nice raffle prizes.

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From page two, column two.

**General Meeting**

Ed Karl was organizing a 2 meter antenna test range on Oct. 5th in Novato. Ed concluded the meeting with a talk on the theory and history of antenna tuners.

The meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

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**Board Meeting**

Some students from Tam high school are organizing an amateur radio club and would appreciate any help and equipment donations. Kevin Foley has volunteered to get in touch with the Tam ham sponsor to see what help the new group can use.

Ed Karl brought up the subject of the Packet stations at the club and asked what we should do with them. They have not been in use for awhile.

There was some discussion about club finances and the budget for 2003.

County elections are coming and the club has offered the use of the clubhouse for voting place.

The meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

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**Don't Get Scammed by Calling Area Code 809.**

FROM AN UNKNOWN SOURCE. "This scam is occurring all over the US. This is pretty scary, especially given the way they try to get you to call. Be sure you read this and pass it on to all your friends and family so they don't get scammed.

(ed. note: We tend to be skeptical whenever we read the phrase, "pass it on to all your friends, etc. Use your own judgment on this one.)

**Major Scam:** Don't respond to emails, phone calls or web pages which tell you to call an 809 area code. We'd like to thank Verizon for bringing this scam to our attention.

From Column One.

**How it Works:** You may receive a message on your answering machine, pager or an email asking you to call a number with the area code 809. The reason given varies. Maybe info on an ill family member, someone has been arrested, or someone has died. In each case you are told to call the 809 number right away. If you do call from the US, you may be charged over \$2400. per minute, or you'll get a long recorded message to keep you on the line. Phone bills of over \$24,000 can occur. The 809 code is partly in the Dominican Republic. Similar to 900 numbers in the US, these can be pay-per-call rackets, and not covered by US law. No warnings of charges and rates.

Trying to fight the charges afterward can be a real nightmare because you actually did make that call. Your local phone co. and long distance carrier will not want to get involved and will most likely tell you that they are simply providing billing for a foreign company. You will end up dealing with a foreign company that argues that they have done nothing wrong."

Sandi Van Handel  
AT&T Service Mgr.  
(Phone number incomplete. ed.)  
902.687.904? Wisconsin area code.

Web site  
<[www.att.com/fraud/home.html#thres/s/](http://www.att.com/fraud/home.html#thres/s/)>

(ed. note: BS? Maybe, maybe not. Page A24 of the Marin phone book lists area codes from 201 to 989, several of which are outside the US including 809. It is not a complete listing.)

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**The Cat's Out of the Bag.**

An often used tool for corporal punishment was the cat o'nine tails which was stored in a red baize bag (red to conceal the blood drawn by it) hence the expression "the cat's out of the bag" which still means that retribution or some kind of action is imminent. Also associated with the expression "hardly enough room to swing a cat" implying restricted space. (No cats were harmed, etc.)

From page two, column one.

You must hold an Extra class license to be in possession of General and Extra class testing materials.

I am sorry to have to report this. I have been notified that Jackson Sauers' has mailed his resignation, with regrets, of his position on the board of directors and will not be able to complete the remainder of his term on the board. The board will find a replacement.

On a final note, by December we should have our new officers installed. Having been your MARS president for two years, I must say it has been great fun. I would like to thank all the club members for their support. I hope to see you at the Christmas party.

John Iacono, KF6VYH

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From page four, column 1.

Watching the flicker of 807 modulators in a Viking I as you speak into a D104 mic, is certainly more stirring on a winter night than considering hole and electron flow.

If truth be known, much, if not all of the above, although true, are merely justification for the insatiable hunt for more and more of these old boxes, simply because they are just too NEAT to have and operate!

For more info go to:  
[www.3rdtech.com/nick/rwab.faq.htm](http://www.3rdtech.com/nick/rwab.faq.htm)

ed. note: We bought a Viking I CW/AM rig at the Fresno Hamfest around 1960. Had a single 4D32 in the final which cost \$50 from Allied Radio in Chicago back then. You could substitute an 829B from Air Force MARS at Hamilton for a lot less, but it was difficult to flatten that 4D32. We removed the two 5R4 rectifier tubes and replaced them with silicon diodes. Got the plate volts to 750 and a bunch more watts input to that 4D32 than Novices were allowed back then. Johnson got smarter when they made the Viking II and put in a pair of 6146s. Rec. was a Heath Mohawk. This was when Marin County was on 3885 kc AM. With the 'death' of AM, this elderly iron went, literally, in the garbage can. Big mistake.

## What are Boatanchors?

### *Big....Heavy....Old....Fun !*

"Boatanchor" is a fond term for vintage tube-type ham radio and communications gear. Manufacturers like Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, National, Johnson, RME, Heath, Collins, etc., made this gear through the mid 1960s. Also included is tube-type military radio gear, homebrew gear, station accessories like microphones and keys, and test equipment of that period.

### Why Boatanchors ?

*by John Brewer WB50AU*

Some may question the desire for 80 pound receivers and 100 pound transmitters, both with filaments sitting there getting hot and wasting power in this day of microprocessor based, mega-memored miniaturized transceivers! Although modern radios are extremely good at what they are designed to do, they are about as interesting to operate as a toaster oven. They have no soul. Additionally, many find a zen-like feeling in taking an old, misused ratty old radio and carefully restoring it back to health. Like cars of the era, boatanchor radios were made to be worked on, modified, and tinkered with. Many think of it as Real Radio in this era where fixing a transceiver is accomplished by boxing it up to send to the manufacturer for a custom VLSI chip replacement. Indeed, a warm soldering iron is almost a requirement for operating a vintage station. Others claim that boatanchors SOUND better than their silicon descendents, and this is generally true. The audio from a Hammarlund or National receiver, or a Johnson transmitter can sound much better than the 300mW audio coming out of the 2" speaker in the typical transceiver.

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## GOOD AMATEUR PRACTICE MEANS NEVER HAVING TO SAY YOU'RE SORRY.

FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth has endorsed a list of several points that he feels help to define the concept of "good amateur practice." Section 97.101(a) of the Amateur Radio Service rules refers to "good engineering and good amateur practice"--considered to refer to maintaining the highest standards of engineering and on-the-air comportment. But the rule lacks specifics.

"Good amateur practice is a hard thing to define," Hollingsworth conceded. "I'd have to say it's operating with the realization that frequencies are shared, that there's going to be occasional interference and that's no reason to become hateful and paranoid."

Hollingsworth says amateurs have to realize that more people than ever are listening in, especially since September 11, 2001, and that amateurs always need to remember that "our rights end where another person's begin."

A Michigan Amateur Radio club has been credited with distributing a list of "Riley-isms" culled from Hollingsworth's various talks at conventions, hamfests and club meetings around the US. Hollingsworth--who verified that he had been cited accurately--says his various comments represent an effort to flesh out what "good amateur practice" consists of for the considerate Amateur Radio operator. According to Hollingsworth, good amateur practice means:

- \* giving a little ground--even if you have a right not to--in order to help preserve Amateur Radio and not cause it to get a bad name or hasten the day when it becomes obsolete.
- \* respecting band plans, because they make it possible for every mode to have a chance.
- \* being aware that we all love Amateur Radio, and there's no need to damage or disgrace it just to save face.

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From Column Two.

- \* keeping personal conflicts off the air. Settle your arguments on the telephone, the Internet or in person. Just keep them off the air.
- \* cutting a net or a contester a break, even if you don't have to and even if you have no interest whatsoever in nets or contesting.
- \* realizing that every right carries responsibilities, and just because you may have a right to do certain things doesn't mean it's right to do them in every circumstance.
- \* you don't "own" or get preference to use any frequency.
- \* not operating so that whoever hears you becomes sorry they ever got into (or tuned in on) Amateur Radio in the first place.

Hollingsworth notes that the list "doesn't touch on a lot of other technical issues, such as using 1500 watts when your signal report received is 40 over 9." Good amateur practice, he said, "just means a lot of things that can't always be quantified."--thanks to Riley Hollingsworth.

### Amateur Radio Glossary, Abbreviations Available on ARRL Web Site

A glossary

<[www.arrl.org/qst/glossary.html](http://www.arrl.org/qst/glossary.html)> of Amateur Radio and electronics terms and a list of abbreviations

<[www.arrl.org/qst/aguide/Abbrev\\_AWE.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/qst/aguide/Abbrev_AWE.pdf)>

found in ARRL publications now are available on the ARRL Web site. The glossary covers the range of terms from "Alternating current (ac)" to "Yagi antenna" and "73." The abbreviations cover the field from "a"--the abbreviation for "atto," the prefix for 10 to the minus 18th--to the Greek letter Omega, the symbol for ohm(s). Also posted is a list of corrections that will appear as "Feedback" <[www.arrl.org/qst/feedback/](http://www.arrl.org/qst/feedback/)> items in QST. The posting of the glossary, abbreviations list and "Feedback" came about as a result of suggestions from members and should prove especially helpful and convenient to newcomers to Amateur Radio.

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