

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter Jan-Feb. 2003 Page 2

## President's Message

Welcome and Happy New Year. This is our first QSA-5 of 2003 and it is also my first message as President, so please be kind.

First, I want to thank John Iacono, KF6VYH, for the fantastic job he has done as President during the past two years. John is taking a much-deserved break from the Board but has agreed to stay on as our public event coordinator.

Speaking of public events... One of my personal goals for 2003 will be to find ways to get a greater level of participation out of our membership. Our club provides communications for several events every year. This is a great opportunity for us hams to put a little something back into our community and at the same time practice our emergency radio communications skills. Oh, did I mention the FOOD? Most of the events we do usually end with a good sized spread. (That'll attract me! ed.)

The organizers of these events are very appreciative our skills. The publicity our club receives as well as the promotion of amateur radio is priceless. In the next QSA-5 we will be posting a list of events for coming months. I urge you to take a look at the calendar and pick an event or two. If you have never tried it you don't know what you're missing. If you think you can't participate because you don't have the right equipment, don't drive or whatever, guess again. We can accommodate almost anything. The feeling you get by helping others can't be beat.

Membership renewal notices for 2003 will be going out at the end of this month. I'm in the process of putting together a package that will include a membership card, current roster (I promise) and information

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## Website at W6SG.NET Phone 415.389.6630

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about the club and its repeaters. I would like to include a history of the club from the dark ages to present. If anyone would like to act as the club historian and put something down on paper I would love to hear from you.

I know for most of us the Christmas holiday is but a faint memory but I must say thanks to Lorraine Karl for organizing a wonderful Christmas party. Good music, food and drink combined with talents of legendary magician "Iacono the Great" made for an unforgettable evening. Thanks to all who helped.

More Stuff... Special thanks to Stu Dake and Al Weisman. Al will be taking over the position of VE liaison from Stu as soon as all paperwork is processed. Stu has done a great job as VE and has earned a big thank you from all of us.

73 for now!

Doug Slusher KF6AKU

### 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. Time will be 09:00.

This space originally held a cartoon from the October 1966 issue of QST. Shortly before heading to the printer to have the usual one-hundred-forty copies run, we took another look at the ARRL book "GIL, A COLLECTION OF CLASSIC CARTOONS FROM QST."

We found the following: "All rights reserved. No part of this work may be reproduced in any form except by written permission of the publisher." Breaking into a cold sweat, we quickly deleted the cartoon just as the FBI broke down the door. A close call.

The book may still be available from the ARRL for five bucks. 128 pages.

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

## MARS SPECIAL BOARD MEETING JAN 3, 2003

Prior to the General MARS meeting of Jan. 3, 2003, the board members present elected Doug Slusher KF6AKU President. John Boyd KE6ORI remained as Vice-President and Norm Baetz WA6CLK agreed to stay on as Secretary. These are your MARS officers for 2003. The office of Treasurer, the successor to Lorraine Karl who is stepping down after a very well done job, will be considered at the next board meeting on 14 Feb.

### MARC General Meeting, Jan. 3.

The meeting was called to order 1930 hours by our new President Doug Slusher KF6AKU. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Raine Kinney KG6GII, Herman Weiss WP4DC and Al Weisman W5ALW.

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

Doug Slusher introduced the officers for 2003: John Boyd VP and Norm Baetz Secretary. The treasurer's position will be decided later, possibly at the next board meeting. Doug Slusher discussed the Christmas party, proclaimed it a success and thanked all who attended.

Lorraine Karl said she would stay on as refreshment chairman.

John Boyd gave a report on the comm. truck, saying the choice of radios has been pretty much decided.

Doug and Ed Karl K0KL gave a report on our local repeaters,

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mentioning the various problems and the things being done to correct them.

There was a call for someone to take over the Field Day chairman's job. Doug brought up the idea of possibly having a joint Field Day with one or more ham clubs in the area.

Al Weisman W5ALW volunteered to take over the position of VE when Stu Duke AC6GD retires.

John Iacono KF6VYH, our coordinator of special events, brought up some of the coming events for 2003. One of them will be the second Kids' Day to be held in June.

Another event could include a Club location at the Marin County Fair in July. John said he would set up a schedule and asked for potential volunteers.

Norm Baetz, Secretary

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**MARS BOARD MEETING**

14 January 2003

The meeting was called to order at 1945 hours by President Doug Slusher KF6AKU. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, Al Weisman W5ALW and Raine Kinney KG6GII. Lorraine Karl passed out the 2002 year's end Treasurer's report. After a brief discussion it was approved.

A dues notice for the new year will be sent to all members soon. Included as part of the returnable portion will be a non-binding survey on the member's preference for the scheduled Club meeting day of the week. It has been mentioned that Friday meetings may be a cause of smaller turnouts due to their interference with weekend travel time/schedules, etc.

Doug Slusher said he would get together with our building chairman, John Butler KF6GNI to go over required roof repairs and the scheduling of the painting of the exterior of the building. Doug also said there were still problems with the San Pedro repeater but they are being

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taken care of. A new access for the Mt Tam repeater is being looked into.

John Boyd said the alarm system for the club's truck needs to be replaced. Other potential modifications and repairs to the truck will be presented at the forthcoming budget meeting.

A VE exam has been scheduled for Feb. 8, 2003. It will be at the clubhouse. Al Weisman W5ALW has agreed to take over as VE Chairman for Stu Duke AC6GD.

Doug Slusher said he would get together with our building chairman, John Butler KF6GNI to go over required roof repairs and the scheduling of the painting of the exterior of the building.

Doug also said there still were problems with the San Pedro repeater but that they are being taken care of. A new access for the Mt. Tam repeater is being looked into.

John Boyd said the alarm system for the club's truck needs to be replaced. Other potential modifications and repairs to the truck will be presented at the forthcoming budget meeting.

The club still needs a treasurer. Doug and Al said they will look into the possibility of bringing in an outside person to handle the books.

Lorraine has agreed to keep bringing in the refreshments for the general meetings. She also said we should bring up to the membership how we want to handle next year's Christmas party, whether to hold it at an outside location or return to the clubhouse.

Doug Slusher is looking for guest speakers for this year. Any thoughts on this contact John Boyd, VP.

An HF TenTec rig was turned over on loan to a representative of the Mt. Tam Radio Club. Also supplied was a multi-band dipole.

Doug asked for volunteers to help him make up a budget for the club. The budget committee should be set up by next month. At the same time repeater and truck committees will put forth their recommendations.

Al Weisman brought up some interesting ideas for gifts for future events.

John Boyd ended the meeting by suggesting ways of getting new members for the club.

Norm Baetz, Secretary.

club. The meeting was adjourned at 2045 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary

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I really enjoyed reading the other notes you got from other older club members... they really jarred the memory. And I really thank you for taking the time to get it put together and out to the membership... some of us cannot get around to "Bible Class" or club meetings easily now, and I for one appreciate the extra effort shown in your QSA Five news letter...

Thanks, and 73... Mike...W6FCQ  
( n o w i n " 3 " l a n d )

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**XMAS PARTY**

The 2002 Marin Amateur Radio Society Christmas party was held at the Sheraton Four Seasons Hotel in Terra Linda on the evening of Dec. 8. There were about forty members and guests in attendance. The festivities started around 5:00 pm. There was a free bar provided, which was followed by a buffet dinner.

After dinner our president John Iacono KF6VYH held a raffle, giving away several prizes. Curtis Thames AB6BM won the VHF/UHF HT.

Entertainment followed with John doing a great magic show including a demonstration of "fire eating". Our one man orchestra played throughout the evening providing easy listening and dance music. (There were no calls of "Play an Accordion, Go to Jail!" ed.) There was even a sing along of Christmas songs. The party ended at 9:00 pm.

Norm Baetz, Secretary.

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Everyday I beat my own previous record for number of consecutive days I've stayed alive.

I don't do drugs anymore. I get the same effect just standing up fast.

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.

The government is like a baby's alimentary canal, with a happy appetite at one end and no responsibility at the other. --Ronald Reagan

Helpful hints for operation on the repeaters ... (not counting 10 meter FM) by Ed Karl K0K1

A. Unlike HF operation, it is unnecessary and poor procedure to call "CQ". Many operators used to come "up" to VHF and failed to recognize that we have an open circuit to all who normally listen to the repeater. There is no hiss from the speaker as on HF (the squelch function takes care of this nicely) so many radios are left on frequency.

B. Merely announce your call letters. Anyone listening who wants a conversation will respond.

C. DO NOT use the phrase "... KX6XXX monitoring". To monitor implies the function of a control operator, if you are listening, or are listened to, someone will answer.

D. The repeaters (except the San Pedro VHF repeater, which is for standby service only) all have what is called a "courtesy tone" or beep. This usually takes a few seconds after you have let up on the mike. The purpose is to force courtesy, or leave a place where someone may join the conversation. Always remember to leave space for someone to join in. Failure to observe the courtesy tone will result in the repeater shutting itself down until you do let up. Then you get the steel ball award for timing out, people will point fingers at you and send unkind notes.

E. The word "break" is used for emergency situations only. It should be universally recognized and immediately turn the repeater over to the station making the request. It functions differently on HF. On repeaters it's a must do not ignore this request.

F. Use common sense. When the weather is really foul, be sensitive to the need for emergency communications. No official exercise is necessary, just recognize another station might be in a jam and need help. Leave extra space between short comments. Don't get into long winded

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contacts at a time like this.

G. "Q" Signals are entirely inappropriate on FM or repeater operation. "Q" signals are a form of shorthand useful in a CW message or contact. It is easier to say QTH than "my location is ...". QSL acknowledges receipt of a piece of traffic or information. It is not another way of saying; "OK, roger, I understand, gotcha, or even received". This may be OK on other services, or even sound slick, you think, but NOT on repeaters, makes you sound like you're from another planet. Why don't you ever hear QTR? (What time is it?) It's easier to just ask.

Generally, FM radios have a squelch control. The noise you hear is not "squelch". Squelch is quieting the noise, or background, when there is no signal. The presence of a signal quiets the channel, the squelch opens up and you are able to hear the station. Generally set the squelch about 10 degrees beyond where it quiets the radio. The Big Rock system has several inputs. Check the guide and find where the inputs are physically located in the county. Select the input best for your location. These inputs all use the same frequency and the PL or sub-audible tone causes the inputs to open up and feed the repeater output. Ask a control operator or club member more about the system. It was well engineered, covers the county well and can do a great deal. Just be sure you understand how to use it most efficiently. We have "auto patch" or the use of telephone over the repeater. It is free to MARS members who just need a password to activate the feature. It also works in areas where cell phones have no or spotty coverage, a handy tool. But if you don't know how to use it, or don't know the password it is of little value in an emergency.

And finally, let's help out newcomers find the way. Don't holler at their ignorance of the way life is, or the way they operate. Encourage them and invite them to meetings, give soft handed advice; then we'll all enjoy their friendship.

Ed K0K1

### Do Such People Really Exist?

The FCC has told a Technician-class operator from New York to stay off 20 meters or risk having to defend his license at a hearing. FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth wrote Alexander Sandbrand, N2NNU, of Yonkers December 12 notifying him that the FCC plans to designate his ham ticket for revocation and suspension proceedings if it learns of additional incidents of out-of-band operation.

"This serves as notice that if you engage in any additional incident of out-of band operation, the Enforcement Bureau intends to designate your Amateur station license N2NNU for a revocation hearing before an Administrative Law Judge," Hollingsworth wrote, "and, further, that we intend to designate your Technician-class operator license for suspension for the remainder of the license term, August 26, 2011."

An initial Warning Notice regarding alleged operation on the 20-meter phone band went out to Sandbrand in August 2001, but the FCC has reports that Sandbrand has operated on HF phone since then.

"Information before the Commission indicates that on at least nine occasions subsequent to receipt of that warning letter, you operated out of band," Hollingsworth wrote. He cited reports that N2NNU had operated at various times on 20, 17, 15 and 10 meters between September 2001 and June 2002.

Hollingsworth told ARRL that after the first Warning Notice, Sandbrand called him to complain that **it wasn't fair** that he had to pass additional examination elements to operate on HF phone. "I told him if he wants to operate on HF, he has to take the test like everybody else," Hollingsworth said.

In the latest Warning Notice, Hollingsworth informed Sandbrand that the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau will not process any upgrade applications from him until the matter is resolved. He said this week that he has not heard anything further from Sandbrand.

From the ARRL letter, 10 Jan. 2003

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7 3   f o r   n o w !

Doug Slusher KF6AKU

**I have another old timer** for you to research. 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.

Regards, Pinky W6FQS, Chico.

Here's what we were able to dig up on Teddy Marilli—no, it's not Marelli—K6TIJ. A rare spelling. He had a daughter in May 1923, Patricia Helen Marilli. Mother's maiden name listed as Helen Ruth Shakespeare, maybe the Helen who died in Petaluma in 1987. The daughter probably got married with the usual surname change. There were two more Marillis, Emil S. d. 1924 and Serifino d. 1930. I'd bet they were Ted's parents.

After 1 Jan. 2003 this info won't be available on the net due to a new State law.

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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.

**Marin Amateur Radio Society**  
**President:**  
Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120  
**Vice President:**  
John Boyd KE6ORI 662-1447  
**Secretary:**  
Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887  
**Treasurer:**

**Additional Board Members:**  
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Herman Weiss WP4DCM 789-9576  
Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849  
Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318  
Raine Kinney KG6GII

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Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170  
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**Building Mgr.**  
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Steve Rathbone AJ6Y 898-8123  
**Trustee for K6GWE:**  
Bob Webb WB6QPR  
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**VHF** Jesse Crocker KG6FNX  
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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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