

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter March. 2003 Page 2

## President's Message

Wow. 2003 is zipping by fast. I can't believe it's March already. Hopefully, by the time you read this you will have already received your renewal notices and sent off your checks. We really do appreciate your support.

The exterior painting of the clubhouse is under way. The painters are taking advantage of this dry spell and are making great progress. A special thank you to John Butler, KF6GNI, for overseeing this project. The building really looks good, John!

It's nice to know there is a future for amateur radio. Recently I have been encouraged by the efforts of the students at Tam High in Mill Valley in organizing an amateur radio club. Kevin Foley, KF6YUF, has been working closely with the students and faculty sponsor to help them in their quest. Because a radio club would not be complete without a radio, our club has donated a surplus HF radio and antenna to help get them started. The last I heard, the students were getting a lesson in red tape as they were attempting to get the signatures that would allow them to put an antenna on the roof. Good Luck.

Now if that bit of news didn't give you a good feeling maybe this will. Since getting Tam High going, the word has gotten out and we have been approached by students at Marin Catholic and Redwood High looking for support in doing the same. If anyone out there has any equipment they would like to donate to this worthy cause please get in touch with me.

Amateur radio meant a lot to me when I was in high school and I would love to see it make a comeback.

Go to column two.

## Website at W6SG.NET Phone 415.389.6630

**Tentative VE Test Dates for 2003**  
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.

From column one.

Of course, back then we had to shovel coal into our radios to make them work, but that's another story.

73 for now!  
Doug Slusher KF6AKU

The Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club, VOMARC, of Sonoma is having a **HAMFEST** on **April 26, 2003**. It will be held from 8 am to noon at the Veteran's Memorial Building, 126 First Street West, **Sonoma**. This is a fine hamfest and will have a swapmeet, breakfast, VE exam and demonstrations on QRP, AMSAT, homebrew equipment and a beginners' transmitter hunt. Talk in will be on **145.35**, minus, with a PL of **88.5**. Come and enjoy.

An emergency net is run every Tuesday evening on 3915 kc. This covers the section and every one is invited to participate. This is also the area emergency frequency for night time use, while 7245 kc is the daytime frequency. Come and give it a try.

The **West Marin Amateur Radio Club** at Pt. Reyes now has regular meetings on the first Tuesday of the month. Breakfast meetings are also held. (No info on time or location was given. Contact a West Marin ham on this. Ed.)

I'm trying to see if there's any excitement "adopting" the **Solomon Islands Radio Club**. Please visit **H44A.com**. Ed KOKL

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

## Regular Meeting 7 Feb.

Our secretary was not present at the meeting so the editor received no minutes thereof.

Al Weisman gave a good presentation on the pros and cons of patents. There was plenty of food. The leftovers are turning green in the reefer as we write this. ed.

**MARS annual picnic** to be held Saturday **August 16th**. all day at **Sam Taylor Park**. The date is booked. Club provides the fire, soda and beer, corn on cob, salad. You bring your own main course. (meat or?). **FREE** including parking for 30 cars, with space for 80 people.

For more info contact Lorraine, 479-8928 or lork2vgd@aol.com

The San Pedro UHF repeater (443.525) with autopatch is back on line as of Sunday February 16th.

The FCC has sent warning notices to 10 individuals--eight of them Amateur Radio licensees--for operating without a license in the 11-meter band. All but one of the operators live in the Greater New York City area.

"Such operation will subject you to fine or imprisonment, as well as an in rem seizure of radio transmitting equipment, in cooperation with the United States Attorney for your jurisdiction," FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth wrote January 15. He cited "monitoring information before the Commission" indicating that the individuals were transmitting on 26.540 and/or 26.555 MHz, frequencies allocated for government use. Fines for unlicensed operation can run as high as \$10,000. From the ARRL Letter.

### Repeater News

Recently, the Big Rock repeater failed. It operates on 147.33 Mhz, and has 4 input receive locations with a 5th and possibly a sixth to be added. Apparently there is some confusion over how the entire system works. This explanation should help your understanding of what is actually going on:

The Marin Amateur Radio Society (MARS) owns and operates 5 repeaters in Marin County. Four of them operate independently and are complete stand alone systems;

A. 443.250 (UHF) operates from Mt. Tamalpais. It has a new Kenwood 25 watt repeater. The PL is 179.9Hz.\*

B. 443.525 (UHF) operates from San Pedro above San Rafael. It is also a new Kenwood 25 watt repeater. The PL is 82.5Hz\*

\*Autopatch equipped, MARS members only have access.

Both of these repeaters use positive offset, that is the transmit freq. from your radio is +5Mhz.

C. 176.70 (VHF) Operates from Mt. Tamalpais. It is a new Kenwood 25 watt repeater. The PL is 179.9. This repeater uses -600 Khz offset. That is, your radio transmits -600Khz.

D. 147.33 (VHF) Operates from San Pedro above San Rafael. It is a GE Mastr Pro operating at 50 watts with PL 173.8 Hz. This repeater is primarily a backup for the "big" system on Big Rock. This repeater system uses positive offset. The input freq. is +600 Khz from your transmitter.

All of the above repeaters receive and transmit from the same location. And are referred to as stand alone repeaters and are not connected to each other or into the Big Rock system.

In addition, MARS operates the 147.33 SYSTEM. It transmits from Big Rock Ridge in Novato. It is important you understand this is a SYSTEM. The **INPUTS** are as follows;

1. Big Rock PL 203.5 Hz
2. Mt. Tamalpais (west peak)  
PL 179.9 Hz
3. Mt. Barnabe PL 167.9 Hz
4. Tiburon PL 167 Hz

Go to column two.

From column one.

There is no west repeater, or Tiburon repeater or any other iteration. This system is designed to allow access to the 147.33 output from Big Rock (the only output) from anywhere in the county by merely selecting the correct input PL tone based on your location. The remote receivers are connected by 440 radio into Big Rock and then retransmitted on 147.33. So when calling in from West County it's probably best to use Barnabe. Use Tiburon from the South and Mt. Tam from Mill Valley or San Rafael.

Summary- Although the Big Rock system went down this past weekend (2/8-9) and we hope to have a work party up there Sunday, there still is a 147.33 repeater from San Pedro. It is lower in height and does not "see" west too well but there still is coverage. You can also switch to any of the other 4 repeaters for communications needs.

Please do not "assume" anything! If you don't know the answer refer questions to MARS or repeater committee member. Confusion can result in missed communications.

### Ed Karl K0KL

#### Public Service Events 2003

Here is a list of dates or approximate dates of events that I know of in 2003:

April

Multiple Sclerosis - About 5 hours

May

MiWok Run - 1st part of May -

5:30A to 10:30PM - 100K

Human Race - Mid May -

About 4 hours

Pacific Sun Race - Memorial Day

About 4 hours

June

Dipsea Race - Sun. June 8th

About 7 hours

Double Dipsea - Sat. June 21

About 7 hours

August

Headlands 50K - About 8hrs

October

Providian Relay - Oct 11/12 Sat/

Sun. Arrives in Marin Co. about

3PM on Sat afternoon and leaves

4AM on Sunday morning...

Each location about 8hrs

**Chuck WA6SQQ**

### FCC PROPOSES FINE FOR HAM ACCUSED OF INTENTIONAL INTERFERENCE

The FCC has proposed fining a Nebraska Technician-class Amateur Radio operator, Scott E. Kamm, NOUGN, of Waterbury, \$12,000 for alleged willful and repeated interference, broadcasting of music and failing to identify with his call sign. The FCC's Kansas City office released the Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (NAL) on January 24.

Responding to complaints of continuing interference on the input of a 2-meter repeater, FCC agents monitored the frequency last December 9. They observed "very strong signals on the frequency 146.31 MHz consisting of music, sound effects, unmodulated carriers" and no station ID. The FCC said the transmissions were "interfering with existing communications in progress" between other amateur stations.

The FCC said it used direction-finding techniques to determine that the source of the signals was Kamm's residence in Waterbury. The next day, an FCC agent monitored the same sorts of transmissions, tracked the source to Kamm's residence, and inspected Kamm's amateur station.

"The agent found an amateur radio transceiver capable of operating on 146.31 MHz," the FCC said. Kamm claimed no transmissions were made from his station and that he used the unit to receive only.

Based on its evidence, however, the FCC Kansas City office determined that Kamm "willfully and repeatedly" violated FCC Part 97 rules "by causing intentional interference, broadcasting music and failing to identify with his station call sign." The FCC determined that the appropriate fine was \$12,000 and ordered Kamm to pay the fine within 30 days unless Kamm seeks a reduction or appeals the proposed forfeiture.

Kamm already has come to the attention of the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. He was the target of several letters and an FCC Warning Notice from Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth during 2002. Last fall, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau set aside Kamm's amateur license based upon complaints about the operation of his station and questions regarding his qualifications to be a licensee. Kamm's license expired last September, and his renewal application has reverted to a pending status while the matter was referred to the Enforcement Bureau.

**What I Did This Saturday**

By Ken Winters N5AUX

Well it was too cold (and no sunshine) to ride the Harley today but I got a call from one of my Ham Radio friends who said they could use a couple more experienced Net Control Radio Officers at the Emergency Operations Center (command post) in Nacogdoches where they were coordinating the recovery of debris from the Columbia Space Shuttle so I loaded up my portable radios, maps, bunker gear and IDs and headed off straight down 287 and 3 hours later I was sitting comfortably in one of the biggest, most luxurious motor homes I've ever seen. (One of the RV dealers in Nacogdoches had decided to let the Ham Radio Operators use it for their mobile command post.)

When any kind of major disaster (such as airliner crashes, train derailments, etc.) occur the police, fire, EMS, DPS, FBI, etc., all converge on the scene and their radios are not capable of communicating with any other agencies except their own (and in rugged terrain like East Texas some of them even have trouble talking with each other) so they use Ham Radio Operators with hand-held and mobile radios to communicate with the coordinators and search teams.

We usually set up net control operations in a tent but some cities and counties have donated trailers and even motor homes for "mobile command centers". Fort Worth and Dallas have really nice RVs with radios and operator positions for every agency set up inside side-by-side. In Nacogdoches they have two Ham nets running, one in a trailer and one in that new RV on loan.

As I type this message local TV station Ch.8 (ABC) is running tonight's coverage on the recovery efforts and they're showing some really good shots of parts of the command center and some of the recovery teams.

Anyway, the Hams set up a radio network (called a "net") and every team in the field and every agency operating a command post within the operations center has a Ham Radio Operator assigned to them and when one team needs to communicate with

Go to column two.

another team or unit they use Ham Radio when their own radios (and cell phones) won't work - which is most of the time in these situations... especially when they need to talk to a different agency. In this case we had (have) the FBI, FEMA, TX DPS, local sheriff, police, fire, EMS, search & rescue and of course, NASA people all needing to talk with each other. The "Net Control Station" operator maintains order and everyone requests permission from Net Control before passing their traffic on the net. It makes order out of chaos and we always get very high praise from all those agencies for the effective and professional way we run these "nets". Same thing happens during severe weather, in which case it's called a "Skywarn Net". TMI?

Just thought you'd like to know a little background. Before I took my turn as Net Control today I visited all the other units and operations including the "Recovery Point" where they were bringing back all the bits and pieces found out in the field. I saw quite a lot of parts... it really brings it home when you see the level of destruction. All kinds of materials and most looked like they'd been through a shredding machine.

One funny story came up today... one team had just found a piece of debris and they had just marked its location with a circle of spray paint and were photographing it and mapping its location with their GPS gear when one of the property owners' dogs--obviously not a trained search dog--ran up and grabbed the piece and ran off with it !!! They chased the dog (obviously untrained "trackers" too since chasing a dog just makes him run farther and faster) and eventually got the shuttle part back by distracting the mutt. They picked up a branch and teased him with it and when they threw the branch the dog dropped the shuttle debris and ran off to fetch the stick.

One of the recovery guys took the piece back to the original location and put it back inside the painted circle. When the little old lady who owned the place told the guy "Oh, my Goodness... isn't that poisonous?", he just replied, "Ma'm, if your dog gets sick tonight, call me!".

Go to column three.

Don't worry... they do put us all through a brief training class complete with pictures of things like the unexploded explosive bolts (a few have been found "undamaged") and other items that shouldn't be touched... But most of the parts are actually safe to handle... they just put it out on TV that it's all dangerous to try and deter sightseers and news crews from disturbing the evidence. Anyway... that's how I spent my Saturday... what did YOU do today?

Don't worry... they do put us all through a brief training class complete with pictures of things like the unexploded explosive bolts (a few have been found "undamaged") and other items that shouldn't be touched... But most of the parts are actually safe to handle... they just put it out on TV that it's all dangerous to try and deter sightseers and news crews from disturbing the evidence. Anyway... that's how I spent my Saturday... what did YOU do today?

John Stuart KM6QX member Contra Costa County R.A.C.E.S. received the above came from his cousin Edward, KB6JJK, who frequently receives e-mail from Ken.

Submitted by Steve Rathbone , AJ6Y  
=====

Michigan Pirate Broadcaster Banned from Ham Radio for Five Years.

The FCC has canceled the license of a Michigan Amateur Radio operator and told him he may not apply for another ham ticket until 2007. The Commission took the action against Thomas A. Brothers, ex-K18BE, of Berkley, because he'd been the operator of an unlicensed FM pirate radio station.

FCC sources say the Commission's Detroit Field Office became aware as early as 1998 that Brothers was operating an FM pirate radio station on 88.3 MHz from his home. On multiple occasions, an FCC agent used direction-finding gear to track the signal to Brothers' residence and sent Brothers Warning Notices ordering him off the air. Brothers ceased the pirate broadcasting in 1998, but by 2000 he was back on the air, and an agent from the Detroit Field Office again traced the broadcast signal to Brothers' home at least twice in 2000 and 2001, following up with Warning Notices.

From The ARRL Letter.

**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:**  
 We're workin' on it.  
**Additional Board Members:**  
 Al Weisman W5ALW 510.237.1978  
 Herman Weiss WP4DCM 789-9576  
 Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849  
 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318  
 Raine Kinney KG6GII 453-3170  
 Lorraine Karl N2VGD 479-8928

**Education Chair:**  
 Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170  
**Membership Chair:**  
 Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120  
**VE Liaison:**  
 Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978  
**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** Raine Kinney KG6GII

**ARRL WAS Local Rep:**  
 Jackson Sauers W6JRI 388-4094  
**DX Representative of ARRL:**  
 Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829  
**Editor of QSA-5:**  
 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318  
 604 Galerita Way,  
 San Rafael, 94903-2908  
 Email: K6PHD@ARRL.NET

=====  
**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