

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter April 2003 Page 2

President's Message

There ain't any.

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DXCC TO ACCEPT IRAQ PORTABLE OPERATIONS APPROVED BY C.O.s

ARRL Membership Services Manager Wayne Mills, N7NG, says the League will accept for DXCC credit YI/ operations from Iraq by US or British military personnel provided the operator has written permission from his or her commanding officer, until an interim Iraqi civilian government is in place," Mills said. After that point, operators would need documented permission from Iraqi authorities.

The Daily DX <<http://www.dailydx.com>> has reported that several hams with the US military in Iraq have been showing up on the air in recent days. Mark Smith, NG5L, has been active from near Nasiriya as YI/NG5L on SSB, usually around 0500 UTC near 14.195 MHz. He's also been spotted in Europe and North America on other 20-meter frequencies and at other times of the day. Smith is in Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division.

Jim Dunkerton, YI/KT4CK, has been active on 15-meter SSB between 1430 and 1600 UTC. Dunkerton is believed to be with the 101st Airborne. Bob Furzer, 9K2ZZ/K4CY, reportedly has been on the air from Iraq as K4CY/p or K4CY/m. Other hams are known to be in Iraq but have not yet been reported on the air.

Still not known is whether Ed Giorgadze, 4L4FN--now in the Middle East after wrapping up his North Korean (P5) operation last fall--will be on a United Nations World Food Program assignment inside Iraq in the near future. That could depend in part on how big a role the UN plays in rebuilding Iraq.

From the ARRL Letter

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 at the 27 Shell Rd. clubhouse. Time will be 0900. For more info see page four.

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Don't forget the Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club's **HAMFEST** on **April 26. 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.

Len, WA6KLK

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"America's quiet warriors are the legion of ham radio operators, 700,000 of them, who are always at ready for backup duty in emergencies--amateur, unpaid, uncelebrated, civilian radio operators, during and after floods and fires and tornadoes. After the 9/11 attacks, hams were indispensable in reuniting friends and families. Most recently it was they who expedited the search for debris after the disaster to the space shuttle Columbia, and right now, at this moment, they are involved in homeland security to a greater degree than you would want me to make public."

Paul Harvey, 3/19

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This is a list of the events I am now seeking volunteers for. If anyone is interested please contact me.

Miwok 100 May 3rd. Saturday Human Race May 10th. Saturday Pac. Sun 10K May 26th. Monday Memorial Day.

If you would like to help, send an e-mail or call me at 897-0413.

73, John KF6VYH@ARRL.NET

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 - May 3rd.

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

Human Race - May 10th.

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 8 hours.

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 8 hours.

Chuck WA6SQQ

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To register your phone number to block telemarketing calls, go to nocall.doj.state.ca.us

General Meeting 7 March 2003

The meeting was called to order at 1940 hours by VP John Boyd KE6ORI. Other board members present were Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Al Weisman W5ALW, Raine Kinney KG6GIF, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, and Kevin Foley KF6YUF. There were a total of 25 members and guests present.

There was no Treasurers report. It should be available at the next board meeting. There was an update on clubhouse repairs. The painting of the outside of the building has been completed and a new side fence on the right side is finished. Next on the repair agenda will be a roof leak.

John Boyd said there was nothing new on our van renovation. Work is still to be done on the mast.

The repeater committee announced all repeaters were in working order.

Lorraine Karl talked about the club's picnic to be held at Sam Taylor State Park on Saturday Aug. 16. Guests are asked to bring the meat/main dish of their choice. Everything else will be supplied by the club.

The Christmas party again will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel. The date is Dec. 7. More details on this event later in the year.

There was a discussion on Field Day sites. As of now it's set to be held at the Marin Rod and Gun Club but this may change.

John Iacono KF6VYH talked about upcoming special events the club is participating in and asked for volunteers to get in touch with him. He is still trying to get something arranged for Kid's Day.

There was a discussion on the club setting up a booth at the Marin County Fair. This would require the commitment of a good number of volunteers.

Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ revealed the schedule for the next series of **Tech Classes - April 12 & 19** followed by the **exam on April 26**. There will be classes for General and Extra upgrades in the future, times and dates to be determined.

Go to column two.

From column one.

Tam High Amateur Radio Club is starting to hold classes to provide info about ham radio. MARS supplied a Ten Tec station to help the club get started. Along this line Ed Karl KØKL suggested that older hams be extra friendly and helpful when meeting new hams on the air.

There was no official program but Bill Stewart KF6RWK described his recently completed QRP rig. Ed Karl finished the evening by talking about PEP, speech processing and other audio features.

The meeting ended at 2040 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

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Education and Testing

Starting July 1st. There will be a new and larger question pool in effect for the Technician license so tell anyone you talk to that now is better/easier than later.

Ed Karl will again have his seminars to prepare for the Extra Class test. Dates will probably be in May and announced in the next QSA5 and on the W6SG website. Present plans call for sessions to prepare for the General Class exam if there is sufficient interest. These could be during the summer months with a VE session on September 27. Please let me know if you wish to upgrade.

There seems to be a lot of interest in the April classes so any help will be gratefully received. Half day, all day, or both days would be appreciated.

I have a new email address as follows: Ben7ham@aol.com. Phone is still the same at 415.382.1170. Let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

73, Ben N6PJZ

.....@ARRL.NET

Want to send emails to fellow hams but don't know their addresses? If they are ARRL members and have email addresses, use @ARRL.NET after their call. ARRL will relay for you. If you're not sure of either of those conditions, try it anyway. Can't hurt.

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Interesting website.

<http://home.mn.rr.com/t1camp1/Focus.swf>

Board Meeting 11 March 2003

The meeting was called to order by VP John Boyd KE6ORI at 1935 hours. Other board members present were Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Raine Kinney KG6EII, Steve Rathbone AJ6Y, and Kevin Foley KF6YUF. There was no treasurers report. It will be sent by mail to the board members.

There was discussion on **Field Day**. The site may be at the Marin Rod and Gun Club but that may change. The club is still looking for someone to be in charge of Field Day.

John Boyd said there may be a donation of a 900mc repeater. There would be some cost in setting this up and John asked the board to decide if this was practicable.

John Iacono KF6VYH said he was still looking into working with the Boy Scouts, setting up ham radio classes and he needs volunteers.

The club setting up a station on Kids Day is still a possibility. Looking for a good site.

There was a discussion on upgrading emergency power at the repeater sites at Big Rock, San Pedro and Mt. Tam.

John Boyd brought up the subject of dress codes for MARS members participating in public service events. He will list this in a future issue of QSA-5. John is also looking to acquire some sort of jacket/vest for operators to wear at these events.

The meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

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Want to make these? Ø Ø Ø Ø

Here's a tip, particularly useful to hams in W/K/N ZERO land. To print a slashed zero, hold the ALT key and press in order: zero, two, one, six. When the ALT key is released you'll get Ø, actually a slashed O but close enough. You must be in NumLock mode and use the ten key pad. Ed Karl KØKL has already been trained in this. If you download Code Page 437—search on it—from the net, you'll find 255 other special characters like ñ ½ ¼ ö ° ² to play with.

From an insert to QSA-5, about forty years ago.

“Several years ago, the concept of the tri-pole antenna was advocated in a technical article in QSA-5. Since that time, many amateurs have constructed this device and have had excellent results with it.

For those that have not heard of the tri-pole, here is what it is. Three 60ft wires are spaced 120° apart, the lower ends are tied to whatever supports are available, and the center is raised by a pole until the wires are taut. Two of the wires are tied together at the top to the outer shield of a feed line of RG-8/U, at least 60 ft. long. The center lead is connected to the third wire. The entire system is insulated from the mast by small egg insulators, tied close to the mast. Pull the feed line away from the mast, so that it is between the two common connected wires.

This is the tri-pole and it will be resonant near the center of the 75 meter phone band, but broad enough to cover the full phone band with enough left over to operate in the CW portion, also. It will also accept power on all of the other CW and phone bands, but don't depend on having a one-to-one standing wave indication.”

and

Excerpt from ‘Discussion of a Vertical Antenna.’

“When the guys are all tied to the mast, carry the whole thing over to where you set the Coke bottle. Insert the small end of the bottle into the base of the mast and stand the mast upright. While it balances there, swaying in the breeze, run around and make the guys fast to whatever you can find to tie them to. It might help if the XYL and the junior ops steadied the mast, but if you're fast you can do it yourself—just don't count on it. Now that your antenna is sky borne, drive a ground stake near the base of the mast, making certain not to break the Coke bottle when the hammer slips.”

Ed Olmstead, K6LCF (SK)

Original QSA-5 inserts provided by
Jerry Craner K6QDG

News from our Section Manager Len Gwinn, WA6KLLK

The San Francisco Section Convention will again be held in Ferndale on June 21 and 22. Friday June 20 is the setup day. This is the weekend prior to Field Day. Rosalie White, K1STO, head of the ARRL Field and Education Services Unit will be coming out to join us and see the beautiful Ferndale area. With its B & Bs and camping/RV sites at the fairgrounds, it would make a nice family getaway. Motels are available in the area also. There will be swap tables, vendors, food, forums, displays and a GOOD banquet Saturday evening (limited seating) so get your reservations in early. There will also be a foxhunt Sunday morning. It is understood that a Level I Emergency Course will be taught with half of it on Saturday and half on Sunday (pre-registration required). See www.humboldt-ARC.org for additional details.

Del Norte County ARC is building foxhunt antennas and starting to have foxhunts also. There is an IRLP node there under construction. For additional information on this linking and method of communications, see www.irlp.net.

Fort Bragg and Willits ARCs are getting busy with public service events as are clubs in other counties in the Section. Runs, walks, motorcycle races and other events are good training grounds for emergency work. Get involved in your local clubs activities.

The Marin and West Marin ARCs are busy getting emergency communications ready or any event during which they might be needed. Many new hams are coming from the classes given by these folks also. West Marin is working with the Park Service on radio coverage surveys of the park trails to help locate lost hikers or for other emergencies. Nothing has been heard from the Hamilton Radio Club lately.

Sonoma County hams/ARES are working with the county ACS emergency communications. A MOU will be signed shortly to provide better guidelines for the procedures that will be implemented if needed. Several

Go to column three.

From column two.

members of SCRA worked at the Santa Rosa Junior College radio station recently as the gateway station for the International Space Station Amateur Radio sessions to schools. This was a big success.

San Francisco County is working on another repeater to help cover the area. Serious work is being done with the City/County by the ARES group. Much time has been spent in meetings and on basic ground work for emergencies. This includes all clubs there in the city.

The REDXA has a nice newsletter and it is very interesting to note that many of them are HF contesters. Reading their last newsletter indicates that many of them compete and do VERY well. I believe the section is well represented by them. A lot of these contests are in cw, so loosen up the elbow, get out the key, and enjoy the original mode of radio communications. A beautiful quilt has been made by a member for a raffle to help fund the Northern California DX Foundation. It will be raffled at the DX Convention in Visalia in May.

EMCOMM WEST is the premier emergency communication meeting in the western United States. It will be held in Reno this year on May 31. It should be noted that KE6EAQ is no longer the Section Emergency Coordinator for the San Francisco Section. I will be starting a search for a new SEC in a few weeks. This position requires ARRL membership (as all appointed positions do), and will require that ARRL Emergency Management Courses be passed. Anyone interested start putting together a resume and interests for submission soon.

A second web site for the section is now under construction. This additional website will be able to have pictures, more written information and be updated on a daily or weekly basis as needed. I hope that I can get enough information from the various groups to be able to do that. Please send your club information to me at wa6klk@arrl.org

ARRL San Francisco Section
Section Manager: Leonard D. Gwinn,
WA6KLLK
wa6klk@arrl.org

Board Meeting 8 April 2003

Attending: Al Weisman, 'Raine Kinney, Steve Rathbone, Kevin Foley, John Boyd, Lorraine Karl

Vice President John Boyd called the meeting to order at 7:45 PM.

Committee Reports:

Truck: has a list of Public Service events and hopes to have the truck ready for all of them.

Repeater: Not too much to report, has a list of possible projects including starting to look into a voting setup for the Big Rock system. Looking into additional receive sites to compensate for the shutdown of San Pedro.

Picnic: No changes since the membership meeting.

Christmas Party: No changes since the membership meeting.

Norm WA6CLK was reported to be doing better.

New Business: Al Weisman reported a desire to coordinate test dates with other clubs to prevent conflicts.

Field Day: There was a discussion regarding lack of enthusiasm for Field Day and the possibility of not participating as a club event this year. A motion was made to have Field Day participation on a voluntary basis. This would include ad hoc food and setup. \$100 was approved for refreshments and expenses.

There was a suggestion about a club award for participation in events such as races and other club activities.

Followed a general discussion regarding a general lack of enthusiasm among members.

There was a discussion regarding starting a radio club at Redwood High.

The board will again poll looking for a Treasurer. Ed Karl volunteered to take care of the books and financial affairs to relieve Doug of so much work.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

Submitted by Ed KØKL

Membership Meeting 4 April 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Doug Slusher at 7:45pm.

The Treasurer's Report was not ready but will be presented at the monthly Board of Director's meeting.

Doug reported that there were about 70-75 renewals received to date. This is a high percentage and will continue for the next few months.

Report of the Technical Committee: The San Pedro VHF repeater has been placed on standby service. The repeater has a controller attached which will allow the control operators to turn the unit on when needed to operate in place of Big Rock if there is a failure of the big Rock system.

It was acknowledged that there is a hole in the San Rafael-San Anselmo valley. The technical committee is exploring sites for possible use as a remote input from that location.

Public Service: there are 3 races on the calendar for May, the Miwok is scheduled for May 3rd, The Human Race scheduled for mid-May and the Pacific Sun race scheduled for Memorial Day. Interested parties should contact John KF6VYH to sign up and get an assignment.

Field Day: There is no chairman at present so any further action was tabled until May.

VE Report: by Al W5ALW, the next test is scheduled Saturday April 24th. at 9:30 AM at the Mill Valley Clubhouse.

Picnic: Lorraine reported that the site in Samuel Taylor Park has been confirmed in August. More info as the date approaches. The club will furnish all except for your meat. Bread, soda, condiments, salad, etc., including Bar-B-Que facilities.

Christmas: The annual Christmas Party and Dinner will again be the first Sunday in December at the Sheraton in Terra Linda. More information as it becomes available

There was a discussion about having a Club breakfast one Sunday per month. Mike K6RYL will investigate and publicize.

It was reported that Norm WA6CLK was in Kaiser Hospital. Kevin was to arrange a posse to visit him Sunday.

From column two.

Kids Day: John KF6VYH gave a brief report on the event, scheduled for the w/e prior to Field Day in June.

There was a suggestion that the club consider erecting a satellite station at the clubhouse; the matter was turned over to the Technical Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM, followed by an excellent presentation by Alan WA6DNR on satellite reception and transmission.

Submitted by Ed KØKL

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FOR CHOW HOUNDS

First Monthly Isak's MARS Breakfast.

I am pleased to announce that plans are underway for the First Monthly Isak's MARS Breakfast to be held at the Flatiron Sports Bar, 2nd. at B streets in San Rafael. For those unaware, Isak has been a legend of the breakfast world in Marin for over 30 years. He closed his café on B street some time ago, but has resurfaced to resurrect his famous breakfasts at the request of the owners of the Flatiron. All parties concerned are both excited and eager to host our club. They have even agreed to provide free coffee to club members. The dates and time will be decided at the May 2nd meeting. Most likely it would be on Saturday mornings, 8-10am. Sunday was considered, but it was agreed that it would be a bad idea to disrupt the Sunday morning Bible (Babble) Class. Kids are welcome, and parking should be easy as there are a number of parking lots nearby, as well as on-street parking. I would welcome your questions and comments between now and the May meeting. Please take the trouble to contact me at 415.381.5126 or by e-mail at mike@healthcomputing.com so we can tailor this to the wishes of the majority. (See a menu on page 6. ed.)

Mike K6RVL

Original Recipes from.....



Isaks Diner
Breakfast Menu

- Buttermilk Waffle -
with blueberries & bacon
\$7.95

PANCAKES: (Isak's Original Recipes)

- Silver Dollar Pancakes (a "B" Street tradition) \$3.95
- Short Stack \$3.95
- Tall Stack \$4.75
- Short Stack with blueberries, bananas or walnuts \$4.75
- Tall Stack with blueberries, bananas or walnuts \$5.50
- (Add Real Maple Syrup) \$1.00

PAT'S PANCAKE SANDWICH
(3 pancakes, 2 bacon or sausage and 1 egg) \$5.95

EDIE'S PANCAKE SANDWICH
(2 pancakes, 2 eggs and 2 bacon or sausage) \$5.95
Add blueberries, bananas or walnuts for an extra \$1.00

- Fresh Fruit Bowl -
Topped with granola & yogurt
\$4.95

- Breakfast Sandwich -
1 egg, ham & cheese on toast
or english muffin \$4.95

- Beverages**
- Coffee or tea \$1.50
 - Hot Chocolate \$2.00
 - Sodas \$1.50
 - Juices Regular - \$2.50
 - Pint - \$3.50
- (Juices - apple, cranberry, tomato, orange or grapefruit)*

- Side Orders**
- Bacon, Ham or Sausage \$2.95
 - Hash Browns \$1.95
 - Bagel & Cream Cheese (with lox \$4.95) \$2.50
 - Bagel, English Muffin or Toast & jam . \$1.50

Breakfast served 7 DAYS A WEEK from 7-11 am.

Upstairs room (seats 50) available for breakfast meetings & other events.
Call (415)257-4320 to reserve for your group.



The Flatiron
Sports Bar and Late Night Grill

THREE EGG BREAKFASTS:

(Includes coffee, hash brown potatoes and toast. Wheat, white, rye, sourdough or raisin bread. English muffin or bagel is \$.25@ extra)

- Choice of ham, bacon, sausage or beef patty \$6.75
- Choice of Linguica, Polish, Cajun, Smoked Chicken Apple sausage \$7.50
- Kosher salami and eggs \$6.75
- Huevos Rancheros (black beans, jalapeno jack cheese, tortillas, salsa \$8.25
- Meatless Breakfast (eggs, hash browns and sliced grilled tomatoes) \$4.60

- Joe's Special -
Chopped Spinach, Ground Beef,
Mushrooms, Eggs, & Onions
scrambled together with hash
browns, toast & coffee \$8.95

- Flatiron's "444" Breakfast -
4 eggs, 4 strips of bacon, 4 link
sausages, 4 pieces of toast,
½ lb. of hash browns & coffee.
\$9.95

-Steak & Eggs -
12 oz Rib Eye Steak, 3 eggs, hash
browns, toast & coffee \$10.95

- French Toast -
White, Wheat, Raisin or
Sourdough-Choice of Bacon or
Sausage, includes coffee....\$6.95

FLATIRON OMELETTES:

(Omelettes served with hash browns, toast & coffee. Swiss, Cheddar or Jack Cheese)

- Plain three egg omelette \$4.95
- Cheese omelette \$5.75
- Mushroom and cheese \$6.95
- Ham and cheese \$6.95
- Chili & Cheese \$6.95
- Sausage, onion and cheese \$6.95
- Smoked salmon and grilled onion \$7.95

Breakfast served 7 DAYS A WEEK from 7-11 am.



The Livermore and Foothill swapmeets are also back in action. Check bay area repeaters to ask for additional information as to dates and times. I know the Foothill swap starts REAL early in the morning!! WA6KLK



More Section news.
Speaking of contests, the ARRL VHF/UHF contest is coming up the second weekend of June. FM is also used and the common frequencies are 52.525, 146.55, 223.5, 446.0, and 1294.5. Get on with those FM rigs and get in on the fun. You may find a station near you or a group near you that is running ssb/cw, and it would be nice to visit.

From Len Gwinn, WA6KLK

The horrible truth behind whipped cream

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	Education Chair:	ARRL WAS Local Rep:
President:	Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170	Jackson Sauers W6JRI 388-4094
Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120	Ben7ham@aol.com	DX Representative of ARRL:
Vice President:	Membership Chair:	Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829
John Boyd KE6ORI 662-1447	Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120	WEBMASTER
Secretary:	VE Liaison:	Glenn Meader N1ZKW 331-2492
Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887	Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978	N1ZKW@ARRL.NET
Treasurer:	Building Mgr.	Public Service Event Coordinator
We're still workin' on it.	John Butler KF6GNI 717-3148	John Iacono KF6VYH 897-0413
Additional Board Members:	Trustee for W6SG:	KF6VYH@ARRL.NET
Al Weisman W5ALW 510.237.1978	Steve Rathbone AJ6Y 898-8123	Editor of QSA-5:
Herman Weiss WP4DCM 789-9576	Trustee for K6GWE:	Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318
Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849	Bob Webb WB6QPR	604 Galerita Way,
Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318	Sunday Emergency Nets:	San Rafael, 94903-2908
Raine Kinney KG6GII 453-3170	HF Frank Strom WA6JTP	K6PHD@ARRL.NET
Lorraine Karl K2VGD 479-8928	VHF Raine Kinney KG6GII	

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