

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter October 2003 Page 2

President's Message? Not a Chance.

===== Last Pancake Breakfast of The Year.

October 12, 2003, 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.

Donation: \$6.00 per person (under 6 years free)

The Red Oak Victory Amateur Radio Club invites you to visit during the Pancake Breakfast and tours will be given of the Red Oak Victory's original Radio Room and the ammo hold which is being renovated as the Ham Shack.

For more information on the "ROVARC" and directions to the Red Oak Victory, (It's easy to find. ed.) please visit our web site at:

www.qsl.net/redoakarc/

or contact our club President: Gary Elliott, GELLIOTTA@aol.com

Thank You: David Jackson, KC6SSF Secretary ROVARC

===== PACIFICON 2003

October 17-19.

www.Pacificon.org

New location, The Marriott Hotel in San Ramon. Easy to find. Huge parking lot. Huge indoor exhibit area. Banquet room with great acoustics/quiet. Swapmeet. Great speakers. Ham classes and testing. Technology forums throughout the entire weekend.

Put on by Mt. Diablo Radio Club, founded 1946, over 300 members.

Website at W6SG.NET Phone 415.389.6630

Do You Have Something for Sale?

Advertise FREE in this publication.

Send your info to the editor.

===== General Meeting, 5 Sept. 2003

Vice President John Boyd KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 19:40. Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Followed a report of committees.

Lorraine K2VGD reported on the picnic; a good time was had by all. The Christmas Party will be held December 7th at the Sheraton Terra Linda, as before. See the newsletter for more information.

John KE6ORI reported from the public service committee. A safety jacket with logo was displayed. These jackets will be provided on the Comm. Truck for any members working an assignment out of the truck.

John reported that the truck went to the Holstein race and worked well. There is also a plan to install a center console in the truck as soon as one can be located.

A suggestion regarding operating in the California QSO Party was made. It is the first weekend in October, and might be fun event for operating from the club station.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned followed by a lively discussion regarding the dropping of the CW proficiency test from the FCC requirements to earn a ham license with HF operating privileges.

The attendance count was twenty.

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Some Military Guidelines: "A slipping gear could let your M203 grenade launcher fire when you least expect it. That would make you quite unpopular in what's left of your unit." -Army's magazine of preventive maintenance.

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

Remaining VE Test Dates for 2003

Nov. 15. Location for all exams is scheduled to be the at the 27 Shell Rd. clubhouse. Time will be 0900.

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This is a list of the remaining events we have on our schedule for this year. If anyone is interested in helping out, contact me at 415. 897. 0413 or at KF6VYH@ARRL.NET

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.

The Escape From Alcatraz
October 19.

We are down to the last two events that we are going to supply communications for this year. They are the Providian relay on Oct 12th. For this one, contact Chuck Dietrick ASAP. I will be out of town for this one and we need quite a few volunteers.

The last event is the escape from Alcatraz on Oct. 19. Again I will be out of town the week BEFORE but I will be back in time to cover one of the locations if needed, though I will be in Jet Lag land. I am going to attempt to set up the Escape from Alcatraz but this will only work if I have all my volunteers lined up before the 10th. of October. Please contact me ASAP.

Remember for the Providian contact Chuck at chaslin@cmc.net
73, John KF6VYH

Board Meeting 9 Sept. '03

The meeting was called to order by President Doug Slusher KF6AKU at 1940 hours. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, Herman Weiss WP4DCM and Al Weisman W5ALW.

Ed Karl KØKL gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

Lorraine Karl K2VGD talked about the Christmas party to be held on Dec. 7th at the Sheraton Hotel in Terra Linda. Ideas for raffle gifts were discussed.

Lorraine also proposed a barbecue to be held at the clubhouse in conjunction with a general cleanup in our back room. This will start at around 10:00 AM on Sunday Sept. 28. This was approved.

John Boyd and Doug Slusher talked about the upkeep and repair of repeaters in the county and also the possible purchase of a commercial radio for the club's comm. truck.

John is also purchasing vests for special events.

Al Weisman said he would not be able to attend the VE exams to be held on Sept. 27th but there would be enough VE examiners available.

Al also proposed setting up 3rd party communications between MARS and Japan. This will be brought up at the next general meeting.

Ed Karl talked about getting MARS a slate of officers for 2004. Ballots for the election will be sent out possibly in October.

The meeting was adjourned at 2035.

Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK secretary.

FOR SALE

YAESU FT-8500 Dual Band Paging Transceiver with FS-10 Smart Controller. Many features. Rx 110-174 and 410-500. Tx 144-148 and 430-450. RF out on VHF=50w. On UHF, 35w. Yaesu ADMS-2C Programming Software, 2 manuals and Yaesu MMB-62 Mobile Controller Bracket. Asking \$100.

See Dick Sadler, KD6RUP, 485-1835 or dick.sadler@comcast.net

Expenses for August

INCOME	\$2030.00
EXPENSES	<u>1962.13</u>
	67.87

This was not a typical expense period. We usually have a few more bucks left over. The monthly Vegas trip for the Board of Directors had to be cancelled.

We can be frugal. In June we allotted about \$200 for Field Day expenses. One of the other clubs that we swap newsletters with set aside \$700.

Bal. on hand, checking \$ 7,711.13

FOR SALE

You wanted the navigation option but it wasn't available on the car you ordered, or you didn't want to pay the \$2,000. There is a low cost option. Consider the GARMIN STREET PILOT III. MSRP is \$1,000. Asking \$595. Includes software, 128 meg datacard, manual, ref. guide, dash mount, USB datacard programmer, PC interface cable, ext. speaker. Voice-prompted turn-by-turn directions to your destination. Contact Dick Sadler at 485-1835 or dick.sadler@comcast.net

Court throws out New York ham's "police radio" case.

A New York court has dismissed a misdemeanor charge against ARRL member Richard C. "Dick" Lalone, KC5GAX, for violation of that state's Vehicle and Traffic Law.

That section prohibits individuals other than law officers from equipping their vehicles with radios "capable of

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receiving signals on the frequencies allocated for police use" without first securing a permit. The section, which also prohibits knowingly interfering with police transmissions, contains an explicit exemption for "any person who holds a valid amateur radio operator's license . . . and who operates a duly licensed portable mobile transmitter and in connection therewith a receiver or receiving set on frequencies exclusively allocated . . . to duly licensed radio amateurs."

In a nearly 1300-word decision, Judge John J. Hallet said it was clear the legislature never intended the provisions to apply to licensed Amateur Radio operators, and he dismissed the charge August 5. Susan Terry, KF4SUE, a former New York assistant attorney general, represented Lalone. ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, and ARRL Regulatory Information Specialist John Hennessee, N1KB, provided advice or assistance to Lalone.

From the ARRL Letter

HOAXED!

Along with many others, QST was snookered by a bogus satellite photo <http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/bl_blackout_photo.htm> that purported to depict the US as seen from space during the August 14 electrical power outage in the Northeast. The image on page 80 of the October issue accompanied a story, "Hams a Bright Spot During Power Blackout," which deals with ham radio's response to the blackout emergency. Widely circulated via the Internet, the image apparently was a retouched composite of old satellite photos with fake identification added. As several astute members have pointed out, among other things, the faked photo shows the blackout zone as totally dark--which it was not--and the area shown is geographically inaccurate. Real power blackout satellite images available on the Internet include these from a US Air

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Force Defense Meteorological Satellite Program (DMSP) satellite <https://afweather.afwa.af.mil/news/black_out.html>. The DMSP satellites have a low-light sensor on board that is sensitive enough to see city lights from space. The capability is unique to the Air Force's weather satellites. There's also a NOAA image on the Universe Today Web site <<http://www.universetoday.com/html/archive/2003-0818.html>>. Another image is available on NASA's Earth Observatory site <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/NewImages/images.php3?img_id=16_273> (courtesy of Chris Elvidge, US Air Force). ARRL regrets the error.

From the ARRL letter.

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Own a Piece of History

Available now. A Swan 350. 400 watts on five bands. See it at the clubhouse. \$120.00 takes it. Email Marc Bruvry mbruvry@pacbell.net. Or call 492-9565.

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Indian Summer? Not yet.

We heard someone say that we were in an Indian Summer, in the second week of September. Not so. Summer normally runs from 21 June to 22 September, the Autumnal Equinox when Fall commences. This year the equinox occurred in the early morning hours of 9/23.

The correct definition of Indian Summer is a period of mild, dry weather, usually accompanied by a hazy atmosphere, occurring in the US and Canada in LATE Fall or early Winter. Some say it cannot occur until after the first freeze.

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How to Protect Your Address Book. Author Unknown.

(Worth a Try. Can't Hurt.)

As you may know, when/if a worm virus gets into your computer it heads straight for your email address book, and sends itself to everyone in there, thus infecting all your friends and

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associates. This trick won't keep the virus from getting into your computer, but it will stop it from using your address book to spread further, **and it will alert you to the fact that the worm has got into your system.**

Here's what you do:

First, open your address book and click on "new contact," just as you would do if you were adding a new friend to your list of email addresses. In the window where you would type your friend's first name, type in "A". For the screen name or email address, type AAAAAAA@AAA.AAA. Now, here's what you've done and why it works: The "name" "A" will be placed at the top of your address book as entry#1. This will be where the worm will start in an effort to send itself to all your friends. But, when it tries to send itself to AAAAAAA@AAA.AAA, it will be undeliverable because of the phony email address you entered. If the first attempt fails (which it will because of the fake address), the worm goes no further and your friends will not be infected. Here's the second great advantage of this method: If an email cannot be delivered, you will be notified of this in your In-Box almost immediately. Hence, if you ever get an email telling you that an email addressed to AAAAAAA@AAA.AAAA could not be delivered, you know right away that you have the worm virus in your system. You can then take steps to get rid of it!

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Last Minute Space Filling Drivel.

(Not a requirement to stay awake, here)

While looking over a copy of the Radio Amateur Directory for Marin County for 1976, we found that most of the calls had W6, WA6, WB6 or K6 prefixes. Quite a change from today's calls. There was also a bunch of WN6 Novice calls. Norm Baetz WN6CLK was one. The repeaters had WR6 prefixes back then. Sunday VHF checkin at 10:20 was on WR6ACS. WR6ACS and WR6ACR show an address of 11 Edgewater Rd., Belvedere. Warren Sichel's, (W6EJY, SK) place. One of the first repeaters, back in the 1960s, was in a surplus ARMY comm. hut on San Pedro Ridge, close to the present

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day installation. Warren had a surplus Army jeep for access when the road to the site, past the NIKE RADAR installation, was muddy in winter. Your editor stored it in his garage in Santa Venetia one winter. Don't remember the year. That Jeep would have been out of place in Belvedere and a little slow for the freeway getting up here.

In a copy of the Marin County ham directory for 1971, your editor is listed under his old call, WA6PKX, though the call had expired by that time. The Tamalpais Am Rad Club was still in existence with the call W6JTP. K6GWE, commonly called the Great White Elephant back then, was listed under its old title "The VHF Expeditionary Society". Terra Linda, Redwood and Novato High Schools all had club calls. MARC dues were \$3/year or \$1.50 after June 30. Meetings were held in Calvin Hall at the rear of the 1st. Presbyterian Church, 5th & E, San Rafael. In the early and mid '60s, when we met in Larkspur, there was usually a raffle at the club meetings. Ken Graham K6RAO, SK, would sometimes bring a Webster Band Spanner mobile antenna for the raffle.

A few hams, like W6COL, (SK) in Greenbrae, had pole pigs, high voltage power line step down transformers, the kind you see on PG&E poles. These, when connected as step up transformers, were used to provide the AC input to hi voltage rectifiers, sometimes called rectumfryers for obvious, to some, reasons. This was very serious high voltage DC for high power transmitting tube plates and could fry you quicklike if you weren't careful. The 833-A single triode could handle a plate supply of up to 4000vdc with forced air cooling and put OUT approx. 1600 watts up to a freq. of 20mc. You could skip the forced air cooling and reduce the plate voltage to 3000 and still run a KW INPUT on ten meters. These figures are for the ICAS rating, Intermittent Commercial and Amateur Service. For CCS, Continuous Commercial Service, and longer tube life, that 1600w output would be reduced to approx 1440w.

Data from "RCA Transmitting Tubes" Tech Manual TT-4 June 1956.

Asleep, yet?

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 987-3948
Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887	Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978	N1ZKW@ARRL.NET
Treasurer:	Building Mgr.	Public Service Event Coordinator
Ed Karl KØKL Temp 479-8928	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	K6PHD@ARRL.NET
Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318	Sunday Emergency Nets:	
Raine Kinney KG6GII 453-3170	HF Frank Strom WA6JTP	
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

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The Mailing
 Address
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