

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

April 2004 Page 2

President's Message?

A Good Speaker Who Has Apparently Not Mastered the Art of Writing.

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General Meeting 5 March 2004

The meeting was called to order at 1932 hours by President John Boyd KE6ORI. Other board members present were John Iacono KF6VYH, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Phil Dunlap K6PHD and Al Weisman W5ALW. There were 25 members and guests present. Connie Sawtelle KG6RAW gave the treasurers report and it was approved.

John Boyd is still looking for a VHF radio for our club's van. A possible donation might be made.

July 17 is the date for our club's picnic this year. Same site as last years, Redwood Grove, Sam Taylor Park. More details to follow.

Connie Sawtelle said she has made final arrangements for our Christmas party to be held again at the Four Seasons hotel in Terra Linda.

Connie asked when the club's renewal notices will be sent out. This will be looked into.

The club gave warm applause for Connie for providing our monthly food spread and for Phil Dunlap in keeping our refrigerator filled with sodas.

John Iacono talked at length about upcoming Public Service events and the need for volunteers. QSA-5 and the web site will list all the dates.

There is a problem with the UHF site on Mt Tam; Doug Slusher is going to investigate.

The clubhouse is still having leakage problems due to the recent rains. A roofer will check it out and give us a cost for repairs.

Chet Rice, one of our Field Day chairmen, talked about this year's Field Day. Either the Rod and Gun Club or a site at the Civic Center are two possibilities.

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Website at W6SG.NET

Phone 415.389.6630

FIELD DAY 2004

The club's Field Day event this year will be held over the last weekend in June, Friday, Saturday and Sunday June 25, 26 and 27. Come on out for 1 day, or better still all 3 days, sleeping whenever time is available.

This year, we have 3 chairmen: **Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ, Norm Baetz, WA6CLK and Chet Rice, WA6PAC.**

We are currently looking at two spots for setting up our Field Day Stations--The Civic Center, south side of the lagoon. (Beware the Loch Lagoon Monsters, actually butt-pecking ducks and geese.) Our usual space at the Marin Rod and Gun Club has been secured in case no better ideas arise. Plenty of space here for motor homes, camp trailers, fifth-wheel rigs and tents. And convenient sanitary facilities for all attendees. Little poison oak and few hungry rattlers have been spotted at this location. Let any chairman know your preferences. Also be sure to sign up for this event with Chet, WA6PAC, so he can put your name on our Field Day '04 mailing list to keep you informed. The popular Saturday night dinner is being undertaken by Tom Jordan (KG6TCM). Dave (KG6TCJ) has started putting stuff on our W6SG.NET web page. Look there for additional information.

If you want to experience setting up and operating an emergency radio station, this is the time and place to do it. It promises to be a FUN weekend. Talk via CW or SSB to similar stations set up around USA & Canada.... Hope to see you there!!! Chet (WA6PAC)...Tel No. (415) 461-0657

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Obese or Obeast?

Monthly MARS Glutton Breakfast. Third Sunday. Doors open at 0800 at The Flatiron Sports Bar & Grill, 2nd @ B, San Rafael.

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General Meeting, from column one.

This year we plan on having a meeting a week or so ahead of Field Day to go over operating principals and computer logging.

John Boyd gave an up-date on the latest RACES meeting. John also said the club's T shirts will be coming in this weekend.

John also mentioned a possible donation by the county of a trailer. The board will discuss this at their next meeting. (This might allow us to retire the unsafe, no-springs relic that holds the club's generator and has been reported to rise clear off the ground when encountering minor irregularities in the road surface. A replacement trailer could provide a better place to store the long power cable and distribution/breaker box, both of which are heavyweights, as well as the generator. Ed.)

Ben Sawtelle said there would be a visit by some Cub Scouts Sunday morning, 3/7, to see the club station.

Steve Rathbone AJ6Y will be on the TV game show "The Wheel Of Fortune" on March 31st.

The meeting was adjourned at 2035 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

International DX Convention

Apr 23-25 in Visalia. Registration was \$70 before 3/15 but only \$75 after that date. It's the So.Calif DX Club's turn to put it on this year. Download the form at www.scdxc.org/visalia/registration.html

Board Meeting 9 March 2004

President John Boyd KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 1935 hours. Other board members present were Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, John Iacono KF6VYH, Al Weisman W5ALW, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Herman Weiss WP4DCM and Raine Strom KG6GII.

Al Weisman asked if the club's insurance was adequate. It was deemed to be up to date.

John Boyd talked about a series of Public Service events to be held. A possible use of GPS equipment during some of these events was brought up.

John and Doug Slusher discussed licensing for our VHF/UHF repeaters. A new UHF repeater for Mt Tam will be installed soon.

Our building manager, John Butler said he would soon have estimates for roof and fence repairs.

Field Day was discussed and preparations are going ahead.

A possible donation of a trailer to the club from the County was discussed and put on hold.

Al Weisman said he is in contact with officials in Japan as far as sister city status is concerned. He will have an update at our next meeting.

John Boyd talked about equipment for the comm. van and possible upgrade and new placement for the HF vertical in the back lot.

New roster and membership notices will be sent by mail soon. Maybe.

There was some discussion on updating our Web site.

A PSK converter will be purchased soon for our club station. (This unit should be augmented by a recently available unit designed by one of our members, Dr. George Rothbart KF6VSG, which was featured in the Feb. 2004 QST, page 66. Called a **PSKmeter**, it comes in kit form and automatically adjusts the audio so as to prevent the overmod splatter which we experienced at a past Field Day. Go to

www.ssiserver.com/info/pskmeter/ Ed.)

The meeting was adjourned at 2035 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

QRZ Announces New Database Services

QRZ is pleased to announce the grand opening of QRZ Online, our newest call-sign database service. QRZ Online is a subscription based service that provides advanced database lookup features in a fast, commercial-free format.

Does this mean the old database functions of QRZ are going to be shut down? Or is this just a "specialty" added function that one can obtain by paying a fee?

Nope, the existing free QRZ website will not be shut down under any circumstance. Everything that we have and enjoy today will remain as it is. The new website is especially for those who want a commercial-free, higher performance callsign lookup. fred AA7BQ

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The Holstein 100 bike ride date has been changed to **August 21st**.
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Northern California Repeater Directory.

How many times have you had to use the ARRL repeater directory to find repeaters outside of northern Cal? Probably not often, maybe in the Reno/Carson/Tahoe area. There is a directory covering only the top half of the state, from as far south as Bakersfield to Crescent City and Alturas in the north. It's put together by the Northern Amateur Relay Council of California, using a 7" by 8½" format, 28 pages, easy to read hard copy, soft cover. It covers freqs from 29 mc to 2400. There might be a few copies under the counter at HRO, for \$5.º You gotta ask.

In cooperation with the FCC and ARRL, NARCC performs the repeater coordination function for the region. Check out their website at www.narcc.org.

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T33C Dxpediton, April 4-14.

East Bay amateur, Dr. Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ will be among the participants in the T33C DXpediton operating from Bonaba Island. Operations are planned from April 4 through April 14. Further information is available on the dxpediton web site.

73, KA6BQF - Randy
(Just search on **T33C**. Ed.)

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Do You Have Something for Sale?

Or are you looking for some item that may be gathering dust in a member's shack? Advertise FREE in this publication. Send your info to the editor.

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Scheduled VE exam dates for 2004.

March 27, June 19, September 25 and December 18. These are all Saturdays. Tech classes will be held prior to each of these dates. Also, General Class instruction will be held shortly before the June exam. This will be the last time to go for the General ticket before the question pool is enlarged on 1 July.

Hollingsworth issues interference

reminder: FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth says no Amateur Radio stations are exempt from the requirement to avoid unnecessarily interfering with ongoing communications. "It is very important for all stations, including automated ones, to realize that they are responsible for any interference caused when they come on top of existing communications," Hollingsworth said in response to a recent inquiry. "There are no exemptions for automated stations." FCC Part 97.

<<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/news/part97/>> Amateur Service rules generally address interference with other communications in §97.101(d): "No amateur operator shall willfully or maliciously interfere with or cause interference to any radio communication or signal." An amateur had written to Hollingsworth alleging that what appear to be automated PACTOR stations routinely start transmitting atop PSK31 QSOs on 40 and 30 meters. The amateur also contacted one of the PACTOR stations in an effort to "dialogue about it not just complain." Hollingsworth expressed the hope that all involved could work things out. He also points out that stations responding to automated interrogations are equally responsible for not causing interference. "It doesn't mean the frequency is clear merely because they were interrogated by another station," he told ARRL this week. "It's a two-way responsibility."

Bogus ARRL.net messages circulating via e-mail:

Several members have notified ARRL that they have received e-mail messages alleging to be from the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/emailfwd.html>>, "The ARRL.net team" or some variation. The messages, which often carry a subject line along the lines of "Warning about your e-mail account," indicate that the recipient's ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service <call sign>@arrl.net Address will be closed within three days because of

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of an alleged violation of acceptable practices. These messages are false and did not come from The ARRL Forwarding Service. They are the result of one of the variants on a number of viruses now permeating the Internet. A file usually is attached to these messages. As always, do not open any attachments that you cannot identify. Opening the file could result in your computer being infected by a virus. This is only one of the several virus-laden messages currently propagating across the Internet. The ARRL advises its members to be cautious in opening any message and/or attachment, even if it appears to be from someone you know. All of these viruses use e-mail addresses from the address book of an infected computer to falsify the "From:" address in the header to make it appear that the message is from someone the recipient knows.

ARRL Letter**Forget your CORES/FRN password?**

It's possible to reset your CORES/FRN (Commission Registration System/ FCC Registration Number) <<https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/corees/CoresHome.html>> password via the FCC Web site for electronic application filing. This might come in handy if you have forgotten your password, need to change it to another password or were automatically registered for CORES through a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator and don't know your password. Visit the secure "Forgot your Password" <<https://esupport.fcc.gov/password.htm>> Web site and complete all the required fields. You will need to supply your FCC Registration Number (FRN) (available via ULS or through many on-line call sign servers, such as ARRL's) as well as your Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN), typically your Social Security number. Applicants also will need to supply name, e-mail address and telephone number.

ARRL Letter**WEST VIRGINIA HAMS SURPRISE GOVERNOR**

(What Herb Caen would have called an 'awww story'.)

It's not often one sees a state governor at a loss for words. Upon learning that the call sign of his late father, Robert Wise Sr, WA8AYP, was going to be used by the ham radio station in the new Kanawha County Metro Emergency Operations Center in Charleston, West Virginia, Gov. Bob Wise quietly said, "I don't know quite what to say."

In a February 17 ceremony, Gov. Wise prepared to present a \$50,000 check to Kanawha County officials to purchase Amateur Radio gear for the new EOC, set for completion next spring. However, he was interrupted by a voice calling him on the ham radio set up in his office for the event. Control operator Bill Hunter, K8BS, identified the station as WA8AYP. When he handed over the mike, the surprised governor responded, "This is the son of WA8AYP."

It was then that Gov Wise learned that the call sign of his father, who died in 1986, had been secured for the ham station at the new EOC. It was an emotional moment. "Thank you very much for remembering Dad," he said. "I can't think of anything that would make him happier." Then he quipped, "Do I get a QSL card for this?"

To the governor's surprise, officials then unveiled a specially designed WA8AYP QSL card and passed out copies, later signed by the governor for the eager hams in attendance.

Kanawha County Commission President Kent Carper, W8CHS, said Amateur Radio operators provide the county with \$25,000 to \$30,000 a year in free services during disasters.

Some of the state funds also will provide ham gear for a new Mobile Command Center.

On hand was the West Virginia Legislature's only ham radio operator, Kanawha County Delegate Sharon Spencer, KC8KVF, who also serves as the section's ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator.

--Jim Damron, N8TMW

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 to prevent this bunch of hoodwinkers from passing excessive legislation favorable to themselves, only.

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.

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

President:

John Boyd KE6ORI

Vice President:

John Iacono KF6VYH 897-0431

Secretary:

Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887

Treasurer:

Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120

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 Strom KG6GII 453-3170

Education Chair:

Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170

Ben7ham@aol.com

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:

Doug Slusher KF6AKU (shortly)

Sunday Emergency Nets:

HF Frank Strom WA6JTP

VHF Raine Strom KG6GII

ARRL WAS Local Rep:

Jackson Sauers W6JRI 388-4094

DX Representative of ARRL:

Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829

WEBMASTER

Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948

N1ZKW@ARRL.NET

Public Service Event Coordinator

This will probably be a shared responsibility.

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The Mailing
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