

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter December 2004 Page 1

## President's Message

### General Meeting, 5 Nov.

The meeting was called to order by President John Boyd KE6ORI at 1930 hours. Other board members present were John Iacono KF6VYH, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, and Herman Weiss WP4DCM. There was a total of 24 members and guests in attendance.

Connie Sawtelle AE6PA gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved. She also mentioned some recent monetary donations given to the club. Connie also said she was going to have a final meeting with someone from the hotel staff where the club is having its Christmas party. There was a reminder for members and non-members to submit their reservations for this event. John Boyd and Doug Slusher talked about various improvements they had in mind for the comm van and our repeater sites. John is looking at prices for marine band radios to cover that phase of emergency services.

Speaking of Public Services, they're all finished for this year. Many thanks to all the people who helped out.

The building committee reported that repairs on the roof were successful; no evidence of leaks observed after the latest rains.

There will be Tech classes on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> with tests on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Rem K6BBQ reported on his ham-bike outing at the Octoberfest in Fairfax and said he had some inquiries about his set-up.

The business meeting ended at 2005 hours and was followed by Dr. Allan Eschelman, MD, K6SRZ giving a talk and video presentation on his participation on a DXpedition this past April to Banaba, one of the Gilbert Islands. The talk and video were excellent, not just for the contest

Go to column two.

## Website at W6SG.NET Phone 415.389.6630

General Meeting, cont.  
preparations and results but about the history of the island and the people who live there. A very good show.

The meeting was over by 2115 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

### 2004 Election of Board Members And Other Stuff.

Ballots have been mailed out to paid-up members. There are around fifty former members who have not paid their dues for 2004 and who will be deleted from the roster and the QSA-5 mailing list in 2005. They will receive a dues notice in EARLY—unlike this year—2005, along with those who did renew for 2004. There will be one difference. Reinstatement for those who are delinquent for 2004 will cost them \$40. \$20 will only get them paid to 1 Jan. 2005.

If you didn't get an election ballot, you are among the delinquent for 2004. If you believe that you have paid your dues for 2004, a copy of your cancelled check will back you up. Fair enough?

If you've just had a belly full of QSA-5, we welcome stuff from our readers to help fill up these columns. See page four in this issue. Rem K6BBQ filled the whole page, with a little overflow to page two, on the subject of tricycle mobile operation on 20m sideband with an ICOM 706 running off a battery. This includes some DX, short and long.

Q: Should I cut down on meat and eat more fruits and vegetables?

A: What does a cow eat? Hay and corn. And what are these? Vegetables. So a steak is nothing more than an efficient way of delivering veggies to your system. Need grain? Eat a chicken. And pork chop can give you 100% of your recommended daily allowance of vegetable products.

## Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6423  
San Rafael, CA 94903

### Board Meeting, 9 Nov.

President John Boyd KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 1955 hours. Other board members present were John Iacono KF6VYH, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, and Al Weisman W5ALW.

It is hoped that election ballots for next year's officers will be sent out this coming Sunday so the new board will be introduced at the Christmas party in December. (Ballots were mailed to paid up members. Ed.)

Doug Slusher will investigate whether the repeater site on Mt. Tam's west peak will remain after the Fed Gov's lease expires in 2005. Doug is also looking into possible state financial aid for painting the club's comm van.

Al Weisman asked the club to look into the matter of assisting the Apache Indian tribe in New Mexico in acquiring some FM radio equipment. This would be used to further the teaching of the Apache language and customs. The board asked for more information before deciding on this matter.

Kevin Foley will look into reacquiring some radio gear the club lent to Tam High school. Evidently there is not enough interest in their ham club.

Doug Slusher said the new club stationery is being printed and will be in use soon.

There was a discussion on future club speakers and club presentations.

The meeting was adjourned at 2050 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

**Word Origins: Posh**

"The story goes that the more well-to-do passengers traveling to and from India used to have POSH written against their bookings, standing for 'Port Out, Starboard Home' (indicating the more desirable cabins, on the shady side of the ship). Unfortunately, this story did not make its appearance until the 1930s, when the term had been in use for some twenty years, and the word does not appear to have been recorded in the form 'P.O.S.H.', which would be expected if it had originated as an abbreviation. Despite exhaustive inquiries by the late Mr. George Chowdharay-Best, researcher for the OED, including interviews with former travelers and inspection of shipping company documents, no supporting evidence has been found."

"Acronymic explanations catch our fancy due to the "hidden knowledge" factor. Most of us feel a bit of a glow when we think we're in possession of information others aren't privy to, and when a titillating or apt story is thrown in behind the trivia, these things just take off. "Tips" does not come from "To insure prompt service," yet that canard is widely believed. Likewise, "golf" didn't spring to life out of "Gentlemen only; ladies forbidden," and 'news' is not an acronym for north, east, west and south."

Plagiarized off the internet.

**Field Day Results**

The December issue of QST has the tally of 2004's Field Day scores. Not a lot of activity in the San Francisco Section. REDXA, the Redwood Empire DX Association did not hold Field Day this year. Those clubs and/or amateurs listed are:

- Sonoma County Radio Amateurs
- Humboldt ARC
- Willits ARS
- West Marin ARS

- Three home stations:
- W6YQQ Placerville
- N6YEU Healdsburg, Pres. of REDXA.
- AA6DX Eureka

There was no listing for MARS.

Howcum?

From page four, column three.

US participating in discussions of various outdoor portable and mobile ham radio topics. The group has some QRP fans but also has plenty of hams who use the full 100 watts that most rigs will provide.

**By Rem Calvin, K6BBQ, San Rafael**

(We could have used a smaller font and put this all on one page but some of The Elderfahrten in the club may have had a more difficult time reading it. Ed.)

As of 11/10/04 California had 106,908 licensed amateurs or 14.57 % of all US hams, giving the state the number 1 position with the most licensed amateurs.

- Novice 5,507
- Technician 49,455
- Technician Plus 9,363
- General 17,852
- Advanced 10,853
- Extra 12,335
- Clubs 1,543

Provided by Dave KG6TCJ, who is totally responsible for stealing the above copyrighted material.

There are 1555 hams, listed on the QRZ.COM Winter 2004-2005 CD, living in the 94901-94979 zip code area, which includes a little of southern Sonoma County. The codes 94980 to 94999 are not assigned. Yet.

Many of us knew the Carter B. Smith of long time Bay Area radio fame—he worked at KSFO when Don Sherwood was there—is a ham, Advanced Class K6CWM of Tiburon. Carter B. was with Don at the Art & Garden Center in Ross when KSFO put on the Weed Contests for two years back in the sixties. First prize for Senior Biggest (weed) was won both years by Roy Domke, then of Nicasio, now of Sonoma County, with a hauling assist in his '61 VDUB Microbus by Phil K6PHD. The weeds, in garbage cans, were so tall that they stuck out through the sunroof.

Now it has been brought to our attention that a Stanley G. Burford, KG6IKW, licensed 10/01, of San Rafael, bears the same name as a newsman on KGO. ed.

**USS Pampanito ARC**

The submarine is moored at pier 45, forward of the SS Jeremiah O'Brien. We joined the Pampanito's ARC and went aboard with Marilyn N6VAW on Saturday 11/13 to make some contacts with the club's YAESU rig, the model of which we can't remember. Had heard that the QRN in the area can be difficult to work through so took along a ClearSpeech speaker to clean up the audio, if necessary. It was. And we made 17 contacts on 20m SB. Then the band faded in mid-afternoon. The antenna is one half of the original length antenna used during WW2. There is also an antenna for VHF.

Contacts ranged all the way from Anchorage; Nanaimo, Vancouver and Gabriola Island, BC; Lopez Island and Spokane; Idaho, Colorado, Illinois, Arizona and Georgia. The shortest haul, and our only Cal contact, was from the top of Mt. Diablo.

Operating on the Pampanito has one or two minuses. One is the \$5 bridge toll. A minor negative is operating in the tiny original radio room. All the original equipment is still installed and the YAESU rig is out of site of the visitors who walk by the door. But a big plus cancels that out. Free reserved parking right on pier 45 among the fish trucks.

Every contact gets a QSL card unless they decline it, which is rare, and a brochure about the sub in the same envelope. You only operate once every few months on a voluntary scheduled basis. Avoid major holidays, however; the traffic is fierce. Normal weekends are OK and you can eat a seafood lunch within a short walking distance of the pier. Pier 39 is close by if you want to play tourist.

If we can come up with the next scheduled op dates on the PamPanito, they'll be printed in QSA-5 so you can try for one of the QSL cards. The original club call was KF6DSP but the war-time call of the sub, NJVT, became available with a six in the middle, now NJ6VT.

Marin members: Bill Stewart, KF6RMK; Marilyn Bagshaw, N6VAW; Rich Carbine, W6UDS; Jerry Foster, WA6BXV; Norm Baetz, WA6CLK; Bob & Eleanor Fajardo, WA6VOI, KA6VEU; Phil Dunlap, K6PHD.

### 20 Meter Tricycle Mobile

Back in late September on one of my 'ride, tune, talk and tweak' sessions on the HF recumbent tricycle project, I carried out an idea to help make it possible for me to set up and roll out faster and more easily. Setting up the entire configuration of trike, trailer and ham gear wears me out physically before I even get rolling. It was because of this difficulty, and my idea, that I got out that sunny day. Rather than put everything into both the trailer and trike, this time I placed everything needed only onto my trike. I rode toward downtown San Rafael, complete with a tall HF antenna and a long, black insulated wire cut for 20 meters to act as my radial; it dragged and bounced behind the trike. Sometimes I think I need to make a sign for drivers to see as I get plenty of cars pulling up beside me and saying, "Hey, you've got a wire dragging", "There's a wire dragging behind you", a pedestrian yelling from far off, or some similar show of concern about the dragging counterpoise. "Yes Virginia, I know I am dragging a wire behind my tricycle."

Riding along, I tuned around 20 meters on the 706 and heard a couple of state QSO party contests going. I tried contacting a Texas station using 20 watts, and then using 30 watts he heard me. My first rolling Texas QSO, fine business as they say. Heading toward Albert Park I was calling CQ on the 14.342.50 HFpack\* (pedestrian and bike mobile as well as other outdoor ham enthusiasts, e.g., HF rowboat mobile) frequency and made contact with Mark, KIØPF who was pedestrian mobile in Colorado Springs. The QSO continued as I rode into Albert Park. Each of us took a few turns before the band conditions abruptly ended our QSO. Almost immediately after this I heard a loud voice in my headset. This was a ham in Calgary. He had been listening to us and introduced himself when he got a chance. Mike, VA6MJT was operating from his home shack but said he also takes his rig out in the field as do most HFpackers. Go to column two.

From column one.

This ham frequency that I was having so much fun with is the usual hang out for the HFpack group of hams. Earlier this year 18.157.50Mhz. was the main HFpack operating frequency. However, with the changes in the solar cycle, 20 meters became the new band with 14.342.50 being listed as the new calling frequency.

Mark came back into range and we had a long and enjoyable ragchew as he walked and I pedaled around. Throughout most of the QSO I ran 20 watts, but when he was having trouble hearing me I increased the power to 30 watts. He signed off and headed in for dinner and I headed home while looking for more stations to work. The state QSO parties were still going strong and I worked K4NTI in the Alabama QSO Party, although I did have to use 50 watts. Another first state for me as a tricycle mobile. I tuned again and worked a Texas station using 40 watts. On all of my previous trike test runs I had never been so successful at making contacts. At first it was a matter of improving the grounding, then getting the right toroids, and now it had come down to having the right radial with the best connection for it that I could make.

It was after 6pm now and although I was approaching home, I wasn't able to call it quits; I was having too much ham joy and felt addicted. I needed more tricycle mobile QSOs. I passed home and started turning down side streets, riding down long lanes and rolling along most of the streets in the Bret Harte neighborhood. Beside the regular interference in various parts of my neighborhood the conditions had changed on the band and it was harder to find a station that I could hear well enough to be able to work. I tuned around some more and heard a pile up. I decided to listen to find out who everyone was working. It was a ham operating in The Scandinavian Activity Contest. This ham was OH8NC in Finland who said he was 150 miles away from the Arctic Circle. Wow, that's a long way from San Rafael. I took a deep breath as I sent out my call, hoping my signal would be heard. No go; I didn't bust through the pile up. I tried again, "K6BBQ, tricycle mobile" and then I heard, "Who's the mobile?"

Go to column three.

From column three.

"Kilo six bravo bravo quebec," I called out loudly. I was running 50 watts and although I was being heard overseas, I wasn't loud enough for the Finnish ham operator to copy me. It was about two hours since I started my HF trike mobile operation and I hadn't taken the multi meter to the 33Ah gel cell at all to check on the voltage and quit before I went below the halfway point. I was concerned about the battery but I had to try to be heard again. I set the rig for 100 watts now as I prepared to jump back into the pile up. I keyed down, "K6BBQ, tricycle mobile". "The mobile again," I heard. Great! I got called back during my first go. I repeated my call and it was just the suffix that I had to repeat. "Bravo, bravo, quebec...bravo, bravo" (and added my common helper) "Just like barbecue." He copied all of my call now, thanked me and wished me a safe ride as the Alabama ham and Mark in Colorado Springs did earlier in the day. YES! I just bagged my first overseas DX on my trike! I was elated.

All of those other stations I wanted to try to contact, after I was done with my Colorado ragchew, had disappeared. The QSO itch had been scratched big time by being able to work the Finland station. This had been my best tricycle ham radio DX day so far.

As far as my idea of having all of the ham gear just on the trike rather than split between the trike and trailer, I did shave a little bit off the setup time and when I was all done the break down time was shorter. I overdid it being on the trike that long but the satisfaction of a functioning HF station on my trike and all of those good contacts topped off with a great DX QSO made it worthwhile.

**\*Hfpack, <[www.hfpack.com](http://www.hfpack.com)>.**

Those of you who attended Pacificon may have gone to the portable operating seminar where some of the HFpack group hams spoke and showed their tools of the trade. One of these hams, Budd, W3FF, of Bud-dipole fame has a very active email reflector with hams in and out of the

A little bit more on page two, column two.

Fast on the heels of a \$10,000 Forfeiture Order (FO), the FCC has now proposed to fine Jack Gerritsen, ex-KG6IRO, of Bell, California, an additional \$21,000 for interfering with Amateur Radio communications. Gerritsen has been the target of copious complaints of insistent interference to numerous ham radio repeaters. The FCC affirmed the \$10,000 forfeiture in October. The latest proposed fine stems from further specific alleged instances of interference earlier this year.

"Gerritsen's threats against other operators and his abusive use of amateur frequencies are the antithesis of good amateur practice and engineering," the FCC said in its December 2 Notice of Apparent Liability (NAL). The FCC concluded that Gerritsen willfully and repeatedly violated §333 of the Communications Act of 1934 by maliciously interfering with the communications of authorized Amateur Service users.

In 2001, the FCC's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) swiftly rescinded its Amateur Radio license grant to Gerritsen after learning of his earlier state conviction for interfering with police communications. His application remains on hold for now. As a result of the conviction, which he's appealed, Gerritsen ultimately spent some time in jail. But he continues to maintain erroneously that the FCC can't take away his operating privileges without a hearing, and that he still has a ham ticket.

The NAL cites three specific instances of interference attributed to Gerritsen and mentioned several others in proposing the huge fine, which includes an "upward adjustment" from the base forfeiture amount of \$7000. "Despite warnings and a prior NAL and Forfeiture Order, Gerritsen's unauthorized willful and malicious interfering radio operations have been ongoing for several months," said the NAL, signed by FCC Los Angeles Office District Director Catherine Deaton.

In one instance in September, the FCC said, a complaint from an ARRL Official Observer alleged that Gerritsen "deliberately and maliciously

interfered with the Young Hams Net" on a 2-meter repeater. On other occasions, an individual identifying himself as Jack Gerritsen and/or using the KG6IRO call sign, has monopolized various LA-area repeaters for long periods, the FCC said, preventing other users from accessing the machines.

Several times, FCC agents have tracked interfering transmissions to Gerritsen's residence. Commission representatives have advised him that he does not have authority to transmit on amateur frequencies and warned him to keep off the ham bands.

Gerritsen has not been heard on LA-area repeaters for more than three weeks now, and there's evidence he's staying south of the US border--at least for the time being. The FCC gave Gerritsen 30 days to pay or appeal the proposed fine.

### **Vee belts and hoses.**

Need a belt or hose for that classic car you have stored in a friend's barn up in Sonoma County? Or maybe you became the caretaker of an elderly garden tiller that's missing a reverse belt but the eight-horse Briggs & Stratton runs too well to junk it. Try this site:

[www.goodyearbeltsandhose.com/selector.html](http://www.goodyearbeltsandhose.com/selector.html)

That Monkey Ward tiller is a 1964 model and both drive belts were found on this site. Gates had just one of the two.

**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 directly 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.

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

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John Boyd KE6ORI

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##### Secretary:

Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887

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Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318

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##### Trustee for W6SG:

##### Trustee for K6GWE:

Doug Slusher KF6AKU

##### Sunday Emergency Nets:

**HF** Frank Strom WA6JTP

**VHF** Raine Strom KG6GII

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##### Public Service Event Coordinator

This will probably be a shared responsibility.

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