

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Jan/Feb 2004 Page 2

## President's Message? Weaseled Out, Again.

### Board Meeting, 9 January 2004

The meeting was called to order at 1940 hours by President Doug Slusher KF6AKU. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Lorraine Karl K2VGD, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Raine Strom KG6GII and acting treasurer Ed Karl KØKL.

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

Lorraine Karl talked about the recent Christmas party and said that Connie Sawtelle KG6RAW would take over planning for next year's party.

Doug Slusher is looking for volunteers to chair Field Day ops for 2004 and to take over John Iacono's Special Events position. Doug said the Special Events spot might be divided up amongst several members.

John Boyd said the redo to the club's truck is coming along well. He also displayed a couple of magnetic publicity banners the club can show at special events. He said there is still time to order club T-shirts. Just look him up.

Doug said all repairs have been made on the repeaters and all are in operation or standby/reserve. There will be a new UHF repeater installed on Mt. Tam in the near future.

The board discussed the topic of club treasurer and decided to keep it as a board position but to hire someone else to do the bookkeeping. Since Ed Karl is retiring and moving out of state, a replacement is being sought.

There was a discussion on clubhouse roof repair, furnace cleaning and a general cleanup in the radio room.

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## Website at W6SG.NET Phone 415.389.6630

Last chance to get your General ticket with the present question pool. See page three, column three.

Board Meeting, from column one.

The Board approved the purchase of some bookcases to house our collection of ham Callbooks, etc.

Raine brought up the possibility of stocking the clubhouse with sleeping bags, non-perishable food and other emergency supplies in case the need arose.

The board decided that there will be a short meeting before the general January 2nd. meeting to elect officers.

The meeting was adjourned at 2100 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

## Why HF?

KF6PDR and I had just got off our motorcycles at our campsite at Pismo Coast State Beach, which is located in Oceano, CA, 2 miles south of Pismo Beach, when the earth shook at 11:15 AM on December 22<sup>nd</sup> leaving an aftermath of cracks in the asphalt roadways up to 3 inches, a broken water main and no electricity. The small liquor store had so many broken bottles you could smell booze up the street!

Not knowing where the epicenter of the quake was, my first reaction was to try to call home on the cell phone. Guess what? Cell phones were dead. I went into the RV, turned on the Icom 706 and tuned into the Noontime Net on 40m. There I instantly got the info I was trying to obtain and, if necessary, I could have asked someone to pass traffic for me. (They closed the park, and gave us until noon the next day to vacate our campsite.)

So remember, next time you think HF is dead, think further than the usual QSOs and keep your batteries charged. **Stu AC6GD**

February Meeting Speaker will be Andy Oppel, N6AJO, ARRL Pacific Division Vice-Director. He will speak on "The Future of Amateur Radio", an update on a variety of topics important to the future of our hobby, including Antenna Legislation, Operator Education, The Big Project, and Spectrum Protection.

## General Meeting, 5 December 2003

For the second consecutive year the MARS Christmas party was held at the Sheraton Hotel in Terra Linda. Again, it was a very successful venture due mainly to the hard work by Lorraine Karl K2VGD and Connie Sawtelle KG6RAW. The proceedings started at 5:00 PM with a bar hosted by the club that was open throughout the evening. (Due to the fact that we are a rather conservative group, no one got plastered so, unfortunately, there are no humorous stories to relate here. ed.)

Around 7:00 PM a buffet dinner was served and quite a dinner it was. Chicken, beef, pasta and all the trimmings were provided followed by a desert tray that added a few more calories to our bodies. After dinner President Doug Slusher KF6AKU talked about the club activities of 2003. He also introduced the newly elected board members.

Ed Karl KØKL had a few words to say. This will be Ed's and Lorraine's last Christmas party with the club as they are retiring to Missouri.

Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ presented the Ham of The Year award to Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ for his outstanding contributions on behalf of the club. He and John Iacono organized the communications the club provided for special events in the County this year.

Go to next page, column one.

Christmas Party, con't. from page two, column three.

Music for dining—in some cases it was difficult to carry on a conversation with someone across the table—and dancing was provided by a one man band and this was followed by a sing-along of Christmas songs. (Some sang well. A few wisely just mouthed the words, not being able to carry a tune or, possibly, having a voice best suited for calling cows to the barn for milking. These shall remain anonymous. ed.)

The highlight of the evening's entertainment was John Iacono KF6VYH who again, as during last year's event, put on a great magic show (with a minimum amount of smoke caused by burning moustache hair. ed.). John even showed us how a couple of the illusions were performed.

The evening ended with the drawing for prizes.

(By arrangement with the hotel management, leftover food in foam plastic clamshells was made available to those with guts enough to pick it up from a table near the door. The pasta mixed well with leftover beef stew the next day. ed.)

There was a total of 31 members and guests present. The party was officially over at 9:00 PM.

Submitted by Norm Baetz, WA6CLK, Secretary.

**Board Meeting , 13 January.**

The meeting was called to order by outgoing President Doug Slusher KF6AKU at 1950 hours. Other board members present were John Boyd KE6ORI, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, John Iacono KF6VYH, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, and Al Weisman W5ALW.

The first item on the agenda was the selection of officers. The following were selected – John Boyd as President, John Iacono as his V.P., Doug Slusher Treasurer and Norm Baetz will remain as Secretary. John Boyd assumed his post as our new President and gave his thoughts on how the club could progress through the coming year. One of the first things Go to column two, top.

Board Meeting, From Column One. the board should present to the membership is a budget so we can plan any improvements for this year.

Another hope John had was to get together a long view plan of what activities the club should get involved with. John Iacono volunteered to be liaison between the club and the county to coordinate emergency and public service events.

Doug Slusher is looking for help in joining his technical committee.

Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ talked about future ham classes and tests the club will sponsor. These dates will be listed shortly. Ben also requested money to cover the cost of purchasing new training tapes from ARRL. This was approved.

There was a discussion about insurance for the clubhouse. Doug Slusher suggested we increase the insurance. This was approved by the board.

Al Weisman talked about the club participating with a sister city in Japan in community services and possible emergencies. Also seeing if the Red Cross wants to get involved. Al will look into this and get back to the club at a later date.

Connie Sawtelle KG6RAW said arrangements are already being made for next years Christmas party and also a date will be made for this summer's club picnic.

**Club dues notices for 2004 will be mailed to all members shortly.**

There was a request by Mill Valley CERT for the possible use of our parking lot in time of emergencies. The club will look into this and decide at a future meeting.

Kevin Foley asked for an update on clubhouse repairs and modifications. It was announced that plans for a new kitchen are forthcoming and will be presented to the membership for their input.

There was discussion about Field Day, Kids Day and the County Fair. Looking for volunteers to help.

The meeting was adjourned at 2050 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

Life is NOT like a box of chocolates. Life is like a jar of jalapeños. What you do today May burn your ass tomorrow!

**General Meeting, 2 Jan.**

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1940 hours by President Doug Slusher KF6AKU. Due to various reasons, including the time of the month for the meeting, the selection of club officers was postponed until the board meeting to be held on Jan. 13, 2004.

There were 12 members in attendance so a very informal meeting was held.

John Iacono KF6VYH came forward and gave a talk on GPS. The meeting was adjourned at 2045 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

**Beginning July 1st a new question pool will be used for the General Class license exam. Now is your best chance to go for it under the present, easier collection. Watch this publication for class dates.**

**New General Class Question Pool Released.**

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators has released a revised and expanded Amateur Radio General class (Element 3) question pool into the public domain. The new question pool becomes effective July 1, 2004, and must be used to generate all General written examinations administered on or after that date.

"The pool has been expanded to 432 questions," said ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, a member of the Question Pool Committee, who notes that all sub-elements grew slightly. "The largest increase in questions this time around was in our Operating Procedures and Amateur Radio Practices sub-elements," he said. The General class question pool does not contain any diagrams or symbols.

Somewhat condensed from the ARRL Letter.

**Do You Have Something for Sale?**

Advertise FREE in this publication. Send your info to the editor.

**Who Is Boston Charlie?**

The following was originally intended for the December issue. However, by the time we found it all the space was filled. So here is a 1961 version of "Deck The Halls" made famous by Walt Kelly's Pogo Possum and the swamp critters, for some of you elderfahrten who can't remember the words:

Deck us all with Boston Charlie,  
Walla Walla, Wash, and Kalamazoo!  
Nora's freezin' on the trolley,  
Swaller dollar cauliflower Alleygaroo!  
Don't we know archaic barrel,  
Lullaby Lilla Boy, Louisville Lou.  
Trolley Molly don't love Harold,  
Boola Boola Pensacoola Hullabaloo!

It was Pogo who uttered, in 1971, the now well known saying, "We have met the enemy and he is us." He was referring to those who scatter or otherwise dispose of trash on public lands.

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When the FCC was issuing WA prefix calls, the Novice prefix was W V.

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**PADERBORN, GERMANY**

Overzealous zookeeper Friedrich Riesfeldt fed his constipated elephant Stefan 22 doses of animal laxative and more than a bushel of berries, figs and prunes before the plugged-up pachyderm finally let it fly, and suffocated the keeper under 200 pounds of \_\_\_\_! (Your choice.)

Investigators say ill-fated Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded on him. "The sheer force of the elephant's unexpected defecation knocked Mr. Riesfeldt to the ground, where he struck his head on a rock and lay unconscious as the elephant continued to evacuate his bowels on top of him" said flabbergasted Paderborn police detective Erik Dern. With no one there to help him, he lay under all that dung for at least an hour before a watchman came along, and during that time he suffocated. It seems to be just one of those freak accidents where "\$\_t happens."

**Member Input.**

I read an article on the ARRL website about the FCC receiving complaints about hang gliders in the **Bay Area** using ham radios without being licensed. (See column three. ed.) I suggest we get ourselves listed on the U.S. Hang Glider association re Tech classes. We can also contact the local hang gliding clubs. Give me your feedback. John KF6VYH

**kf6vyh@earthlink.net**

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**Paul "Woody" Binford, W6LHH, SK**

Formerly of Novato and recently of Auburn. CA.

Woody was a long time resident of Novato. He ran Woody's TV sales and service located in a small shopping center just off Novato Blvd. He had a son, Paul, and a nice looking daughter (can't remember her name). They were both in high school around the same time that I was in school so they must be about my age (59).

My Dad knew Woody also from school days in San Rafael, I think.

Sad news. Woody was a nice old guy. from

Bill Miner, K6WLM, ex WA6JUL and WG6H. Formerly of Novato, where his surplus TCS transmitter was well known on 3885kc. in the early 1960s AM days.

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**DARWIN AWARD HONORABLE MENTIONS**

In Guthrie, OK, in October, Jason Heck tried to kill a millipede with a shot from his 22 caliber rifle, but the bullet ricocheted off a rock near the hole and hit pal Antonio Martinez in the head, fracturing his skull.

In Elyria, Ohio, in October, Martyn Eskins, attempting to clean out cobwebs in his basement, declined to use a broom in favor of a propane torch and caused a fire that burned the first and second floors of his house.

Paul Stiller, 47, was hospitalized in Andover Township, NJ, and his wife Bonnie was also injured, when a quarter-stick of dynamite blew up in their car. While driving around at 2 AM, the bored couple lit the dynamite and tried to toss it out the window to see what would happen, but apparently failed to notice the window was closed.

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**To Hang Glider Ops.**

**Advisory Notice: Unlicensed Radio Operation**

Dear Sirs:

The Commission is receiving an increasing number of complaints that users of your facilities are operating Amateur Radio equipment, specifically hand-held radio transceivers, without a license.

While we encourage the use of radio equipment for the safety of your flyers, there are numerous radio services not requiring a license, such as the Family Radio Service (FRS) and the Multiple Use Radio Service (MURS). The use of Amateur Radio Transmitting equipment is also permissible *as long as the users are licensed in the Amateur Radio Service. The use of radio transmitting equipment in a service where a license is required, without obtaining a license, is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, and will result in criminal penalties.* Fines normally range from \$7,500 to \$10,000.

We would appreciate your advising your users of this notice. If you need further information regarding what type of radio operation would be suitable for your needs, or if you want more information regarding the requirements for obtaining an Amateur Radio license please feel free to call me at 717-338-2502.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely, W. Riley Hollingsworth.

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**Operating an HT in a Vehicle.**

Not the best place to do this. Right? Your radiated signal goes up and down like the Dow. There's a neat little accessory made to help solve this problem. It's an external antenna mount that hangs from your rollup window and comes with a BNC connector to plug your HT antenna into. See page 97 of the Winter HRO catalog, upper right corner. You hang it on your window glass and close the window on it. It's held steady by the window and the upper channel. Several feet of coax, also with a BNC connector, plug into your HT. \$15.95 + tax. For the same price you can get one that hangs from the inside of a window with suction cups. Both great for car-to-car simplex. ed.

**Adventures in moving**

By Ed Karl KØKL

Friday December 19<sup>th</sup>. My last day at work. I have reserved a trailer from U-Haul and confirmed it Thursday for pickup at 2 PM. I call as we are going to be a little late. No problem. We get there at 3 but there's NO TRAILER. Mind you I'm in Santa Rosa, as the San Rafael outlet could not fill the order. U-Haul's Traffic people had said they'd found a trailer in Santa Rosa. What a mess.

After lots of gnashing of teeth, U-Haul agrees to give me a 14' truck and an auto carrier for the same price.

OK, I say I'll pickup the carrier in the morning. We'll load the truck the night before. Although we have the space figured out for a trailer, we now have more room and therefore box and load more stuff (nothing specific, mostly more radio stuff and anything we think we can do without for awhile here in Marin.

Saturday December 20<sup>th</sup>. Arrive at U-Haul about 8 am and am told no auto carrier. I go nuts. Finally the sane male, as opposed to the air-head female who I suspect gave my trailer away the day before, tells me "no problem." So I take our truck into the back, he hitches the trailer to the truck. An auto carrier is one where you drive your vehicle onto a 4 wheel trailer, as opposed to a tow dolly where only 2 wheels are off the ground. In the process of loading the Jimmy onto the trailer, the hitch pops off of the mounting ball and almost catapults him into the street. After he figures how to tighten the ball assembly I get the Jimmy onto the trailer and tie it down. Remember that we had planned use my new pickup and haul a cargo trailer. We now have a U-Haul truck and the Jimmy's on the trailer. The Jimmy is for transportation at the

other end and for transportation back to Marin. Fortunately both it and the PUp have HF and VHF/UHF radio. So at least I can ham a bit on the way back. Or so I'm planning ...

Sunday December 21<sup>st</sup>, awaken in Needles, CA to a bright day refreshed (?) and ready. We eat and take to the road. All is well stopping in Flagstaff. Don't believe the signs; the restaurants are not easily found from the freeway exit. You have to go way into town to find what the advertisements were about. Crossing busy tracks stopped by 2- 100 car freight trains. If anybody doubts the economy is coming back, every 5 minutes a freight came by with either modular containers or trailer truck type containers headed West. A like mount going east. Coupled with the amount of trucks moving along I-40, we should be in good shape.

No incidents. Made it to Albuquerque by 8 PM. Dinner and a soft bed.

Monday December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Leave New Mexico for Texas, only to find flat land and miles and miles of miles and miles. Snow squall starts about the time we need gas. Great fun filling the truck with the slowest pump imaginable in blowing snow. Wind gusts were to 45 mph going to Amarillo, though as time went on the snow went away. Crossing into Oklahoma was rain and more rain, blowing, night driving with the aforementioned trucks. Got behind a real careful driver and stayed with him until the squall abated. Overnight in Oak City, very restful. Getting the hang of this long haul stuff.

Tuesday December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Moving out of Oklahoma on I-44, now I know we're getting close. I used to take I-44 to work in St. Louis every day. A good portion between Oak City and Tulsa, and Tulsa and

Missouri is the Will Rogers Turnpike. Best road on the trip but always stop at the rest areas, very far apart. Miss one and you're dead. Anyway, very good road but you pay for your thrills: \$8.50 twice on this road; only tolls on the trip. Arrived at my daughter's place at 7:30pm. Unloaded the Jimmy and we now are back on our grounds. Staying at a motel until I can tell if the cabin is habitable (shower in the bathroom construction status unknown)

Wednesday December 24<sup>th</sup>, Go to storage area near cabin; unload truck, plenty of room in space (10 X 30 x 10) fill with dishes and stuff, some ham equipment. SB-201 going to shack can't find cordless phone or maybe I need a phone less cord. Car came off of carrier real easy, return to local U-Haul guy. Bring truck to him at 4:30, note this is Christmas Eve, he's gone home. I leave keys in drop box and am rid of the truck.

Christmas Day through New Year's Day January 1<sup>st</sup>, Various projects, and find phone 2 days ago, but the line is broken! Call local Telco, guy comes out and finds critters chewed through line. This was a temporary line made from inside cat 3 cable, oh by the way also ran across driveway. So anyway he fixes line for me, answering machine cordless phone now hooked up, can take messages! But can't call next town. Turns out I never ordered long distance service with the phone (so that's why bill was only 15 bucks!) Nobody told me needed long distance for in state calls. I have AT&T in San Rafael for everything, more involved here. Anyway newly ordered service will get what I need like AOL. Supposed to be ready next day, it wasn't. Turns out problem in central office, not accepting data about access and long distance carrier.

### Adventures in Moving, cont.

On the good side, they were so upset that the line had not been buried in a timely fashion they send installer out New Year's Day. Does a great job with outside armored cable, 6 pair right to the cabin around all water and sewer lines. Conduit into the junction box and all.

New Year's Day I arrive at farm to work, let Telco guy in and find high voltage electric line on the ground laying across the field. It's a neutral so no problem. Electric company repairs while I'm at lunch. Lock my keys in cabin. Good thing son-in-law has set. Drive to his place (25 miles) get keys, go to Home Depot for ground rod. 8 feet by 5/8 inch. Takes 45 minutes with an 8-pound beater to whack into ground. Hook up antennae through high voltage insulators and brass rod through wall, into porcelain double pole double throw bronze knife switch. I can't tell how many years I've held onto this antique but, I'll bet it's pre-WW2. Perfect for the installation though.

So, looking back built operating table with 10 outlet Plugmold, a 220 outlet and a 4 outlet box on the end. Used 3/4" birch plywood and 2 x 4 construction. Has own electric junction box with 30 amp service from wall outlet (left over from electric range. #6 copper about 8 feet long ties into ground, 14 gauge ladder line to 2 antennae. My dream station is taking shape.

When I was gainfully employed we had an expression about projects taking the longest, most circuitous route to finish. Happened over and over on this one, but it was worth it. Yet to be done: Culligan to install filters when out next. Fence guy putting in new fence and gate at main entrance and 4 fence sections at entrance to second parcel. Just want to seal it up with other than a chain and lock. I had about 25 tons of rock added to the driveway. Finer mix, we'll use a Bobcat to grade it. Let it rain for a few times and will harden like concrete. Remember, the driveway with the circle at end is about 450 feet long.

So, as you can tell, I've been pretty busy getting the place into shape. We stayed at a motel the whole time as shower not done and slight sulfur smell from water (tastes great, makes good coffee) but Lorraine not comfortable with it. Culligan should take care of that. We are finishing the interior of the shower in the morning (Friday) and have a guy coming by for a custom shower door, so that should be done by next trip, though I expect we will still stay in motel, it should be a relatively short trip.

We elected to drive back to the Bay area, as I want to bring back our pillows and my tools to pack the rest of the stuff. Will continue this tome as events unfold. By the way, saw all out kids and most of the grandchildren making for a wonderful adventure so far. Temperatures here in Missouri unbelievable, mostly 55- 65 in the day and maybe 30s at night. Tomorrow (Friday) should be 70! However, Sunday is scheduled to begin a round of winter with snow, wind and cold in the 20s presently predicted. We have already set our minds to leave Saturday afternoon, so maybe we'll just have some rain as we hustle out of town.

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**The ARRL will ask the FCC to create a new entry-level Amateur Radio license that would include HF phone privileges without requiring a Morse code test.** The League also will propose consolidating all current licensees into three classes, retaining the Element 1 Morse requirement--now 5 WPM--only for the highest class. The ARRL Board of Directors overwhelmingly approved the plan January 16 during its Annual Meeting in Windsor, Connecticut. The proposals--developed by the ARRL Executive Committee following a Board instruction last July--are in response to changes made in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). They would continue a process of streamlining the amateur licensing structure that the FCC began more than five years ago but left unfinished in the Amateur Service license restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) that went into effect April 15, 2000.

The entry-level license class--being called "Novice" for now--would require a 25-question written exam. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters as well as VHF and UHF privileges on 6 and 2 meters and on 222-225 and 430-450 MHz. Power output would be restricted to 100 W on 80, 40, and 15 meters and to 50 W on 10 meters and up.

"The Board sought to achieve balance in giving new Novice licensees the opportunity to sample a wider range of Amateur Radio activity than is available to current Technicians while retaining a motivation to upgrade," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. Under the ARRL plan, current Novice licensees--now the smallest and least active group of radio amateurs--would be grandfathered to the new entry-level class without further testing.

The middle group of licensees--Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General--would be merged into a new General license that also would not require a Morse examination. Current Technician and Tech Plus license holders automatically would gain current General class privileges without additional testing. The current Element 3 General examination would remain in place for new applicants.

**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.

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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##### Trustee for K6GWE:

Bob Webb WB6QPR

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**VHF** Raine Kinney KG6GII

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##### Public Service Event Coordinator

This may be a shared responsibility for 2004.

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