

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

July 2004

Page 2

President's Message?

Ain't seen one, yet.

General Meeting 4 June.

President John Boyd KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 19:40 hours. President John asked if there were any visitors. Steve Garaventa introduced himself and was welcomed to the meeting by all. Steve is a studio engineer for KPIX Channel 5 and used to work for Ed Karl KØKL and is currently not a ham but he is working on it.

Correspondence: Secretary Norm Baetz WA6CLK is on vacation. There was none.

Treasurer: Connie Long AE6PA gave the Treasurer's Report. A spreadsheet was provided showing the club bank accounts and CDs as of May 24th 2004. Connie added that one large check was still outstanding for the recent fence & Gate repairs in the amount of \$3,000.

Com Truck: President John reported. Several new signs have been added along with material to repair our current ones thanks to Howard KG6JHW Harker's daughter. The truck was recently used for the "Pacific Sun 10K Run" on Memorial Day Monday May 31. President John also reported a Kenwood commercial 160 channel 2 meter radio with 16 character alpha numeric display has been acquired and will be installed soon.

Recreation Committee: Connie Long talked about the upcoming club picnic Saturday July 17th 12:00 to 17:00 hours at Samuel P. Taylor State Park in the Redwood Grove. A sign up sheet was passed around. If you plan on attending give Connie a call at (415) 382-6463.

Go to column two.

Website at W6SG.NET

Phone 415.389.6630

From column one.

Public Service: John Iacono KF6VYH talked about a number of upcoming events and the need for volunteers. Planned events are the Dipsea Sunday June 13th, The Double Dipsea June 27th, The Century 100/200 kilometer August 7th, Holstein August 14th and the Providian in October. John asked that any members who could help to please contact him or Randy Jenkins KA6BQF.

RACES: President Boyd announced that he had appointed Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ to be club liaison to MOA-RACES. Dave gave a short report on the RACES meeting of May 29th.

Technical Committee: Doug Slusher KF6AKU reported that the club repeaters were in working order. He also talked about assembling parts to convert the input receivers to the Big Rock repeater to a voting system. This would allow for a single PL to be used throughout the county and beyond. Also on the horizon is a 900 Mhz repeater.

Education Committee: Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ talked about the upcoming General upgrade classes June 5th and 12th and VE testing June 19th.

Schools: President John talked about the Tamalpais High School Radio club being heard on 20 meters and was glad that the equipment the club loaned to the school is being used.

Field Day: Dave Hodgson reported that the Marin Rod and Gun Club would be this year's site with antenna and radio setup starting Friday June 26th at 16:30 hours, and on-air contesting to begin at 11:00 hours Saturday the 27th hopefully for continuous 24 hours.

Go to page three, column one.

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Board Meeting 8 June.

President John Boyd KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 19:50 hours. President John announced that due to the July Fourth holiday weekend, there would be no general membership meeting on 2 July. The Board of Directors will meet July 6th at 19:30 hours.

Correspondence: Secretary Norm Baetz WA6CLK is on vacation. There was none.

COM Truck: President John stated that a clock will be installed and thanked Randy Jenkins KA6BQF for arranging for a metal mounting plate to be fabricated at no cost.

Public Service: There was a brief discussion of the volunteer count for the upcoming annual Dipsea foot race.

Building Committee: It was announced that the old battery room has been cleaned and painted and that the old alarm cable was still up on PG&E poles from the club house to East Blithedale.

President Boyd asked for ideas for club renovation projects.

It was suggested that the back concrete parking area be replaced a small section at a time.

It was recommended that our second floor tenant's retired Volvo and our old tower section and antenna parts be removed and a general weed and cleanup be done.

Go to page three, column two.

From page one, column two.
General Meeting.

Building Committee: President John reported that the new gate and a portion of rear fencing have been replaced along with cleaning and painting of the old battery room.

Kids Day: Rem Calvin K6BBQ reported all was ready for the event and the final approval will be granted by the San Rafael City Council for the club to setup at 4th & A St. June 19th 11:00 to 16:00 hours. The club com truck will be on display along with the bicycle mobile trailer. George Rothbart KF6VSG will give a PSK-31 demonstration. Bill Stewart KF6RMK suggested having a rock-mite along with a practice code key and oscillator which were very popular at this years Scout-O-Rama (ding dong?) held at Hamilton Field.

Old Business: it was reported that at the last Board meeting May 10th the club's adjacent neighbors requested that as long as the rear fence was being replaced, could it be realigned to open up the area. This is not possible due to deed restrictions.

Al Weisman W5ALW talked about the club setting up an affiliation with a Japanese club as during the last meeting of the ITU the laws were changed for 3rd party communications with Japan allowing them for planning of and emergency communications.

For the good of the order: President John stated that his 6 meter repeater 52.880 – 500 with a PL of 114.8 was open for all to use.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:45 Hours.

The minutes were submitted by Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ, acting Secretary, at the request of Secretary Norm Baetz WA6CLK.

=====
A man woke up in a hospital after a serious accident. He shouted, "Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs!" The doctor replied, "I know you can't - I've cut off your arms!"

A crippled dog walks into a saloon in the old West. He limps up to the bar and says, "I'm looking for the man who shot my paw."

From page two, column three.
Board Meeting.

Education Committee: Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ held General upgrade classes June 5th with 4 students. The class watched the ARRL education video tapes and it was decided not to have a second class. VE testing will be June 19th.

Schools: A member of The Tamalpais High School Radio club was contacted and the club will not be active for the school summer break but will be back on the air in the fall. The club members were also invited to participate in Field Day.

Field Day: Dave Hodgson reported that the Marin Rod and Gun Club would be this years site with antenna and radio setup Friday June 26th 16:30 Hours. Dave also suggested that next year the club contact all of the county clubs and groups to promote having everyone at one Field Day location.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:30 Hours.

The minutes were submitted by Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ, acting Secretary, at the request of Secretary Norm Baetz WA6CLK.

=====
Scheduled VE exam dates for 2004.

September 25 and December 18. These are all Saturdays. Tech classes will be held prior to each of these dates.

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

=====
Looking to buy or sell something? Advertise your stuff, or wants (within limits) in this publication, FREE. Contact the editor.

=====
Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

Field Day 2004

This year we drew thirty hams to the Marin Rod & Gun Club site at the East end of the Richmond Bridge. The weather was breezy to windy but that's preferable to breezeless heat.

The setup crew of volunteers had the antennas up well before darkness on Friday evening. Power was supplied by a 50 amp @ 120 volt Yamaha diesel generator, weighing close to 575 pounds wet, loaned by Pres. John KE6ORI Boyd. It was operated at the maximum extension of our 250 foot power cable and the exhaust was hardly noticed when the wind blew back in our direction.

The jack rabbits that live in the immediate area are presumed to be semi-pets of the CalTrans crews who have a building or two next to the Rod & Gun. They hang around as if expecting a handout. One rabbit lives under one of our operating position sheds.

Doug KF6AKU Slusher set up his laptops, connected to a server, for logging at the different op positions. We're told that our score could end up higher than the last two year's combined.

The Friday eve meal for the setup crew was from a well known chicken restaurant but there were no fatalities or excessive antacid use.

Chet WA6PAC Rice and Stu AC6GD Dake provided overnight security for the site, sleeping in their vehicles.

Saturday morning promised some kind of sweet rolls/pastry. They mysteriously disappeared; maybe that's why the jack rabbits were scarce the rest of the day?

Serious, sort of, contact making started at 11:00 Saturday by Ben N6PJZ and Connie AE6PA on phone and Norm WA6CLK with two members of the Redwood Empire DX Assoc. on CW. Remember: ours is a FUN Field Day. We don't get too serious about it. The diesel was shut down around 0200 for some nap time and fired up again after a few hours to finish out the 24.

The Saturday evening meal, arranged for by Tom KG6TCM Jordan

Go to page four, column two.

High Water Pressure at the Clubhouse.

There have been comments about the excessive force/flow of the water from the kitchen faucet at the clubhouse. We screwed a gauge on one of the hose bibbs—no, we don't know why they are called that and had to look up the spelling—outside and measured about **125 psi**. A high pressure at the bottom of a hill usually means that this is necessary to supply water to users up the hill w/o using another continuously running pump, or installing a storage tank on the hill with reducers in the street mains, as required. Unfortunately those living at the bottom of the hill sometimes have to install pressure reducers to prevent possible damage to fixtures like water heaters, which are usually designed for a max working pressure of 125 psi. In Santa Venetia, at the lowest elevation, the static pressure was raised to 140 psi. from about 90 a while back and every house has a reducer to cut the pressure to about 75. We'd guess that this change was required to meet fire flow specs in mains up the hill.

There is no reducer installed on the water line to the clubhouse. Adding one would not be that easy for the average home handyman. The 3/4" pipe would have to be cut, a section removed, and the ends re-threaded for the addition of the new reducer. Not really that hard for someone who has invested in a pipe threader.

One negative feature with pressure reducers is that water can only flow one way through them. When cold water is heated it expands and the extra volume normally backs up into the supply line. With a reducer installed, the pressure in the building water system rises, unless some water is used. This can cause leaking at the temp/pressure relief valve on the tank, (normally factory set at 150 psi.) more so if the reducer pressure is adjusted on the high side. No big deal if the relief pipe is vented outside or into a laundry tub. A small expansion tank connected to the water system is one way to solve this minor problem.

Expansion tanks can also reduce water hammer, the jolt that can occur
Go to column two.

From column one.

when a faucet is turned off quickly.

If you are still awake and have read this far, you may have learned some new info which you will most likely never use. (grin) But we have to try to fill these columns with something. Ed.

Field Day

from page three, column three

thru Red Robin Caterers was great and didn't run short. Two varieties of lasagna, salad, rolls. The breeze was a bit strong at dinner time and you had to protect the lighter parts of your salad from fly-away.

Sunday breakfast was conjured up by Dave KG6TCJ Hodgson. Scrambled (on site by Dave) eggs, lots of (really home-cooked) sausages and fried spuds reheated on site in the microwave, OJ to wash it all down and two kinds of pastry. Could these have been the missing carbs from the previous day? In either case, they were improved by a short time in the microwave.

Pres. John KE6ORI Boyd, finished off some leftover lasagna on Sunday at the clubhouse where a few of us went to store equipment after closing down ops at the Rod & Gun. As far as is known, John is still among the living.

We finally ran out of BS, closed up the clubhouse and went home a little after 13:00. Ed.

FCC TURNING BLIND EYE IN BPL PROCEEDING, ARRL CHARGES

The ARRL says the FCC apparently has already made up its mind about broadband over power line (BPL) and "wants no bad news" about the technology. In reply comments filed June 22 on the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rule Making in ET Docket 03-47, the League called on the Commission to take "a fresh look" at BPL before enabling its deployment. Again asking the FCC to put the proceeding on hold for a year, the League recommended that the Commission in the meantime require BPL providers to conduct FCC-monitored interference testing with all stakeholders. The ARRL charged that while an overwhelming majority of comments oppose BPL due
Go to column three.

Public Service Events.

We have the following public service events coming up for which we need volunteers:

Saturday, August 7, 2004 Marin Century 100/200M Bike Ride

Saturday, August 21, 2004 Holstein Hundred Bike Ride

Please contact me at

ka6bqf@aol.com or John at **kf6vyh@earthlink.net**.

73, Randy KA6BQF

BPL

From column two.

to interference concerns, the FCC continues to rely on what the League called "vacuous assurances that BPL would not cause harmful interference." Test data and a growing record of unresolved complaints indicate otherwise, the ARRL said.

"ARRL is of the view that this proceeding has been prejudged and will, in the end, be decided not on the technical issues that should control the outcome of this proceeding, but on the politics of the matter," the League commented. "Given the evidence on the Commission's table, it cannot now authorize BPL at the radiated emission levels proposed, and without substantial restrictions."

Among those restrictions, the League recommended keeping BPL altogether away from all Amateur Radio allocations, should the FCC decide to authorize BPL under its proposed rules. As an alternative, the FCC should guarantee that an interfering BPL system can be shut down immediately in the face of a valid complaint, "not after a BPL provider has taken months to discover that the interference cannot be resolved."

To date, the ARRL contended, the FCC has seemingly ignored the League's BPL technical studies as well as the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Phase 1 BPL study that clearly demonstrate BPL's interference potential. Five additional technical evaluations accompanied the ARRL's reply comments.

From the ARRL letter, where further info on this subject is available.