

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

May 2004

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President's Message?

General Meeting 2 April 2004.

The meeting was called to order by President John Boyd, KE6ORI. John showed a sample of Power Point Presentation. (It requires a fairly expensive projector. Also, you'd better not get your hands crossed when selecting a CD for a presentation to a group and end up showing pics, in auto/slide show mode, of the hot tub and margarita party you held last summer. Ed.)

Connie Sawtelle KG6RAW presented the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

We had a couple of visitors including SWL (short wave listener) Bill Ashley and Rita from So. Marin CERTS who requested some ham operators for their emergency drills.

John Boyd gave an update on setting up the van with radio gear. The HF transceiver will be installed shortly. Howard Harker KG6JHW will try to get some signs for the van. Doug Slusher KF6AKU has purchased a used console for some of the equipment.

Connie Sawtelle has confirmations for both the picnic at Sam P. Taylor Park and the Christmas party at the Sheraton Hotel in Terra Linda.

John Iacono KF6VYH asked for assistance in some upcoming Public Service events. Check with John for the dates.

Doug Slusher said he would attend an ARC meeting in the East Bay.

A big thanks to Alan Best K6AJB for picking weeds and keeping up with the outside of the clubhouse.

Education Chair Ben Sawtelle talked about the upcoming classes for general class licenses and Al Weisman discussed the VE testing.

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Website at W6SG.NET Phone 415.389.6630

From column one.

The next test is June 19.

It was reported that our website, W6SG.NET—lower case OK, too—has been partially updated.

Steve Rathbone AJ6Y had a VCR tape of his appearance on the TV show "Wheel of Fortune".

The meeting was adjourned at 2110 hours. Submitted by Chet Rice WA6PAC for Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

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.

Scheduled VE exam dates for 2004. 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.

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

Eaters were scarce on 4/18, probably due to the early return of winter. Two members, K6PHD and KE6ORI, forgot about the monthly event and went to the clubhouse instead, where they learned of their error. They then turned around and showed up at the Flatiron in plenty of time for breakfast. Excessive ridicule was not heaped upon the two, due to the meager turnout. After breakfast we, as usual, went to the clubhouse for continuation of babble class and Sunday HF & VHF checkin.

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Board Meeting 13 April.

The meeting was called to order by President John Boyd KE6ORI at 1935 hours. Other board members present were Norm Baetz WA6CLK, John Iacono KF6VYH, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Steve Rathbone AJ6Y and Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ.

Ben Sawtelle, standing in for Connie Sawtelle, gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved. Ben also said our club insurance for the building and truck were up to date.

There was a discussion about some other bill items and a need for club membership renewals to be mailed out.

John Boyd talked about the new items being installed in the truck such as a new clock, HF and VHF/UHF gear and antennas for all required bands. There is also the possibility of purchasing a roof rack.

Phil Dunlap K6PHD said he could always use news items or opinions for QSA-5, so if you have anything you would like to have in print send it to Phil. (You can be anonymous as long as the editor knows who you are. Your secret identity will not be revealed unless, of course, a bribe of an adequate amount is received. Ed.)

John Boyd brought up the subject of clubhouse repairs and improvements, both inside and out. The board agreed that certain items such as a new gate/fence and roof repairs should be taken care of as soon as possible.

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There was discussion on various public events coming up and the on-going need for volunteer radio operators. John Iacono said there was a possibility we might use SCTV—slow scan TV—at the Dipsea race.

It was brought up that the clubhouse restrooms could use some updating. It was agreed and it will be taken care of.

The meeting was adjourned at 2020 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

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More on Field Day from Chico.
by W6FQS

If I didn't have access to such a nice cabin above Chester near Warner Creek, I would join the Marin guys for Field Day. We have been going up there for years. We aren't serious competitors at all. Usually string up a G5RV and run 100 watts. We work a few stations then sit around the campfire for a while.

Someone will get up and go work a few more stations but it's pretty casual. We just like to get out in the woods a bit and enjoy setting up the station. Once we figure it's working well, the operation is casual. No marathon, around-the-clock stuff for us. We usually work about 20 states plus Mexico and Canada and are satisfied with that.

Thanks for the QSA-5. I am going to turn in an application to the Marin club since I have no affiliation with the group up here and talk more often to the Marin guys. Will try to get back with the guys on Monday/Thursday at 0800 on about 3.893. See you, Pinky, W6FQS

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AVSRO(Foothill)Electronics Flea Mkt. 2nd. Saturday of each month from March through October. **New Location:** 11th Ave. at C St. in Sunnyvale. 7am to noon.

asvro.org/fleamarket.shtml
Talk-in: W6ASH 145.27 PL 100
N6NFI 145.23 PL 100

Need a Ground Rod?
Home Depot has copper-clad rods in three sizes: 1/2 x 8ft., 5/8 x 8ft. and 3/4 x 10ft.

Public Service Events.

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

Saturday, May 1, 2004 Miwok 100K Run
Saturday, May 8, 2004 Human Race
Sunday, June 13, 2004 The Dipsea
Saturday, August 7, 2004 Marin Century 100/200M Bike Ride
Saturday, August 21, 2004 Holstein Hundred Bike Ride

If you can volunteer for the Miwok, please contact me at ka6bqf@aol.com of John at kf6vyh@earthlink.net.

73, Randy KA6BQF

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Livermore Swap Meet

1st Sunday of each month at Las Positas College in Livermore. 7am to noon, all year. Info: Ian Parker W6TCP
swap@livermoreark.org
livermore.org/swap/swap.html

From the minutes of the Humboldt ARC for April, printed in RAIN (Radio Amateur Info & News) out of Eureka :

RAFFLE earned \$43. There were 4 happy winners and 1 not so excited winner.

Dale KF6QIB won needle nose pliers.
Lori KF6VFI won batteries. **Eric KF6VFH** won a small brass hammer.
Tom W6GGR won a pair of tweezers. However, it was with some dismay that **Laura KA6VKF** won a squashed roll of toilet paper, this disguised in a smaller box.

Interesting Websites.

LA County Coroner Store.

Mugs, patches, hats, etc., with, what else, a death theme.

http://lacstores.co.la.ca.us/

Calculate Your Life Expectancy.

A set of 23 questions, your answers to which are used to approximate your terminal age.

www.livingto100.com/quiz.htm

Western Historic Radio Museum.

Check out the vintage ham gear.

http://radioblvd.com/

Inflation Calculator. Enter amount, initial year and final year. Range is 1800 to 2002. Can also be used for Canada.

www.westegg.com/inflation/

Urban Legends Reference Pages.

Did Gen. "Blackjack" Pershing really have 49 Moro fanatics shot and buried in pig blood and guts while freeing the 50th man to spread the word, thereby resulting in forty years of peace in the Philippines? Can mixing Coke and aspirin get you high? Find the answer and many more at

http://snopes.com

Forget your CORES/FRN password?

It's possible to reset your CORES/FRN (Commission Registration System/FCC Registration Number)

https://svartifoss2.fcc.gov/cores/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 (available via ULS or

through many on-line call sign servers, such as ARRL's or QRZ) 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.

From the ARRL Letter

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A New Jersey restaurant is facing a \$10,000 fine for operating transmitting equipment on 2 meters w/o a license. The Best Wok in Westville had apparently been using a so-called "long-range cordless telephone" to communicate with its delivery vehicle. The FCC says the telephone in question--said to have been obtained outside the US and not FCC certificated--operated within the 2-meter satellite subband at 145.8376 MHz. Condensed from the ARRL Letter.

Field Day Prep.

Club generator. We towed it home to do some minor maintenance and fix the broken right tail light which had been broken off in the storage shed where the clearances are tight. Because the assembly is plastic, it was repaired with a hot soldering iron and a new ground wire. The trailer now resides outside in the back lot until after Field Day to avoid the possibility of snapping that puppy off again.

The generator, being a new unit just a few years ago, was due for its first oil change. Then the fun began. The two drain plugs are situated over the sheet steel belly pan of the trailer where no drain receptacle can be put in place. We removed one wheel of the trailer and lowered that side as far as possible. Unscrewed the drain plug on the opposite side and attempted to insert a threaded pipe nipple, elbow and extension pipe to position the open end over a large hole in the belly pan. In the process, half the oil ended up on the driveway. A couple copies of the IJ were put in place to soak it up, sort of. The concrete, being more porous than the newspapers, sucked up more than its share, leaving a large stain looking like some animal had been butchered there or it had been the site of a recent road kill. The next oil change will be a much neater operation.

The trailer belonged to the former Alto Volunteer Fire Dept. and came with the clubhouse, we assume. It has 16" wheels and a solid axle with NO SPRINGS so it hops/leaps/bounds (your choice) into the air when going over bumps in the road. It was probably never intended to be towed on a freeway at fifty-five or better. Drivers following tend to stay at what they consider to be a safe distance or change lanes and pass quickly with fearful expressions on their faces, once they observe this weird vehicular behavior. The tires appear to be very elderly. Hard as rocks. Petrified, maybe. The Smithsonian might be interested.

With a bit of con-
 niving, maybe we can come up with a better conveyance for our generator, along with the very long, hard to handle power cable and distribution box which weigh well over 100 pounds.

IOWA AMATEUR GETS BACK LOST, REASSIGNED CALL SIGN

The Easter Bunny was generous to Bill Sorsby of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Earlier this week, the FCC finally made official the reassignment to him of N5BU, the call sign he'd lost in 2001 as a result of what the FCC has termed "filing errors" in its Universal Licensing System (ULS) <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>>. Not only did the FCC erroneously cancel the ARRL member's call sign, it compounded the mistake by reassigning it two years later to another amateur. When Sorsby realized some four months ago that his ticket was gone, he immediately contacted the FCC to find out what had happened and to get it back.

"I am glad to see that the FCC has acted," said Sorsby, who's held N5BU since 1976. As the FCC tells it, in December 1999 it received requests to modify the contact information for the amateur license from Sorsby to Dwana C. Peters of Aircraft Guaranty Title (AGT), the title holder of an aircraft with the call sign 5BU. In the process, AGT also inadvertently associated its FCC Registration Number (FRN) with Sorsby's N5BU Amateur Radio Service license.

"This appears to have resulted from confusion between the aircraft station call sign and the aircraft's registration marking (or 'N number')," the FCC said in an April 5 Order restoring N5BU to Sorsby.

In July 2001, the aircraft was sold, and AGT had the FCC cancel the license for 5BU (as aircraft are permitted to identify). In a separate action several months later, AGT requested cancellation of N5BU, effectively canceling Sorsby's amateur license. When N5BU became available for reassignment under the vanity system two years later, ARRL member David Willard of Ft Smith, Arkansas, filed for it and was granted the call sign last August. Sorsby blames a "security flaw" in the FCC's ULS software for allowing AGT's Peters to "inadvertently corrupt the database records" for his license. Similar problems have affected a small number of

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Amateurs with N-prefix call signs in the past.

The Iowa amateur is philosophical about the four months he spent getting N5BU returned. "It has been a very time-consuming and frustrating ordeal," he told ARRL. "My consolation for the ordeal is that now I'll have a tall? tale to spin for years to come."

To reduce the likelihood of similar problems, ARRL strongly encourages Amateur Service licensees to obtain an FRN via the FCC's Universal Licensing System Web page <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls> (click on "REGISTER CORES/CALL SIGN") and then to associate their Amateur Radio call sign with their FRN. "This prevents other entities from inadvertently making changes to your Amateur Radio license and call sign," said ARRL Regulatory Information Branch Specialist John Hennessee, N1KB.

From the ARRL Letter.

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4/1/2002

CORES FRN Now Required for ASR & ULS

The Universal Licensing System and Antenna Structure Registration now require an FRN (FCC Registration Number) which is acquired from the Commission Registration System (CORES). TIN and SGIN usage is verified in CORES for the presence of an FRN. For all CORES related password issues, please call ULS Technical Support (877) 480-3201 and select option 3. **See address in ARRL Letter above.**

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Triviabit.

We remember back in the 60s Zip, K6BMW, being a PG&E engineer, had a cabin in the Peninsula Area of Lake Almanor. We'd go up there for the opening of deer season in September. Ray Baldi, WA6RWH, SK, did the cooking. Unfortunately, his taste buds had been "shot off in the war" (thank you Tom Lehrer) or his olfactory sense had been crippled. We ate the stuff anyway and most of us were too young, then, to require Roloids or TUMS. It may have been Ray's cooking that eventually did him in at an early age.

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

Vice President:

John Iacono KF6VYH 897-0431

Secretary:

Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887

Treasurer:

Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120

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Herman Weiss WP4DCM 789-9576

Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849

Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318

Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170

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Ben7ham@aol.com

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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

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Public Service Event Coordinator

This will probably be a shared responsibility.

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