

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter November 2004 Page 1

President's Message

Maybe next year. Maybe not.

General Meeting, 1 Oct.

President John Boyd called the meeting to order at 19:35 hours.

First on the agenda was correspondence. A request by the Marin County Registrar of Voters to use the Club House for the upcoming elections was referred to the Board of Directors. A second letter from the State of California was received concerning the payment of certificate of non-profit fees. It was thought that these fees had been paid and the notice from the state and our payment crossed in the mail.

In the absence of the Treasurer, Connie Sawtelle AE6PA gave a brief report on the club's bank accounts and funds on hand. The report was approved as submitted.

Committee Reports:

Communications Truck

John Boyd has donated a 160 channel Kenwood Commercial Radio tuned to two meters, with dual control heads, to be installed in the truck. Doug Slusher reprogrammed the UHF Radio currently in the truck and found that it will need to be put on the bench for fine tuning. John also donated two tuned cavities capable of 100 watts.

Technical Committee

The club is perusing a grant to convert the 147.330 repeater to a voting system with the help of Doug Slusher, John Boyd and Dave Hodgson. Doug reported that he would be performing the preventive maintenance on all of the clubs repeaters and expected it to be completed by the end of November. Doug also is looking into a lower level site in the Inverness area of West Marin to locate an input to the 147.330 repeater system.

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Website at W6SG.NET

Phone 415.389.6630

Don't Miss This One!

On November 5th, 2004, at our monthly meeting, Marin Amateur Radio Society will be hosting Dr. Allan Eschelman, MD, K6SRZ who was part of a DXpedition—April 4 to 15, 2004—to Banaba (Ocean Island) in the Gilberts, about 260 miles SW of Tarawa. (a battle site well known during WW2, especially to the Marines. Ed.)

Ron Kosciusko KG6SVW was kind enough to set this up for us and tells us that Dr. Eschelman is an excellent speaker who will also have a video presentation. This sounds like something we can all enjoy so please come on out to our meeting at 27 Shell Road in Mill Valley. The program will begin at 8:00 pm SHARP, so come early and join us for dinner starting at 6:30. Beverages and dessert will also be provided.

Connie, AE6PA

Look up K6SRZ on QRZ.COM for Allan's radio amateur background. Ed.

SAVE DECEMBER 5th--Time for a Party!

We will be having our annual Christmas Party on Sunday, December 5th, at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel with a delicious dinner, **open bar**, exciting door prizes and entertainment. There is a sign-up sheet in the November QSA-5 with all the details. This needs to be returned by November 20th as **the hotel will not accommodate walk-ins**. If you do not receive the QSA-5, and are reading someone else's, please do call me at 415-382-6463 to sign up. All are welcome and we have a great time of fellowship every year!! Hope to see all of you at our events. 73, Connie AE6PA and Ben N6PJZ Sawtelle.

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Board Meeting 12 Oct.

President John Boyd KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 1935 hours. Other board members present were Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Herman Weiss WP4DCM, Raine Strom KG6GII and Phil Dunlap K6PHD. Others present were Frank Strom, Randy KA6BQF and Ron Koseiusko KG6SVW.

New correspondence was a letter from the County of Marin verifying the use of the clubhouse for the November elections.

Phil Dunlap asked if the club could follow up with the removal of a tower and antennas from the property of Frank K6OVV Turco's widow. All equipment removed is free to the remover. The club will look into this.

No treasurer's report was given; it was up to date at the General meeting.

It was suggested that a social type of meeting, with possibly a pot luck dinner, be held in the Spring instead of the Fall. It was also suggested that the annual picnic be held in late summer, after school is back in session, so we can be better assured of a good location.

Randy talked about upcoming special events. He also talked about the advantages of higher powered radios in case of power failures. There was also discussion about the hams participating in special events and their insurance requirements.

John Boyd and Doug Slusher discussed the possible use of GPS in operators' cars during special events.

There was discussion about the County's closing of its Mt. Tam site at the former Air Force installation on

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Minutes of the general meeting, continued.

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There is an area north of Pt. Reyes Station that is a dead spot and this input would fix that. The bad news of the night was a report from a recent meeting held with Shelly Grant, the Marin County Radio Officer, that all of the repeater site tenants at the old Mt. Tam Air Force base bowling alley must relocate on or before June of 2005 as the site is being returned to nature. This installation is home to our Tam input to the 147.330 repeater system. It is hoped an alternate site can be found that will not affect the 146.700 or 443.250 repeaters which are located north of the bowling ally at Middle Peak. Lastly, MERA has received permission to build their repeater site in Sonoma County at Bay Hill and the court case looks to be over for the Tiburon tower and repeater. So start saving your pennies for a digital scanner. (Point of interest: MERA will only be replacing all of the current County and City low band [30-50mc] radios. The HF and UHF systems will remain for backup use)

Recreation Committee

Connie reported that preparations for our annual Christmas Party on Sunday December 5th at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel with a delicious dinner, exciting door prizes and entertainment have been completed. The sign-up sheet with all the details is included with this issue of QSA-5 . The menu will be the same as last year. The rub is \$25.00/head which includes an **OPEN BAR!** The **hotel is not allowing walk-ins** so it is important to sign up ahead of time.

Training Classes

Ben reported that upcoming Technician Classes will be December 4th and the 11th starting at 8:00 AM with a VE exam on December 18th.

Membership

Ben and Connie reported that they had received 83 checks which brings the dues current for 90 of our members.

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Some of the payments were at the family rate. There are still 51 members who have not yet sent in their dues.

Come on folks, it's only \$20 and helps us pay for the summer picnic and other club events. (Not to mention QSA-5 which runs between \$6 and \$7/year/member, including printing and postage. Ed.)

VE Testing

Al Weisman reported the recent VE exam had only one participant and they passed their Technician test. Three others missed the exam because of being Red Cross volunteers who were assigned to Florida for hurricane relief work.

RACES

Dave Hodgson reported that the quarterly meeting of the MOA-RACES group would be October 9th 9:00 AM at the Marin County Civic Center EOC. He also talked about Public Service Events and how they are fun (and can be fattening. Ed.)and help with learning emergency communications. Dave also said that a RACES training class would begin in the next few weeks.

Old Business

President Boyd asked if there were any nominations to the Board of Directors. Two members have been nominated: Phil Dunlap and Dave Hodgson. John asked that if anyone wishes to nominate someone, please contact him or any of the Board of Directors.

New Business

Connie asked the Board to remove her as a candidate for ham of the year she felt that others were more deserving. President Boyd stated that she was put on the list because of her dedication and hard work for the club and members and felt her request was not justified and her name would remain on the ballot.

For the good of the order

President Boyd announced the upcoming Pacificon, October 15th through the 17th and hoped the membership could attend. He also stated that he had found an internet site with ham software for

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the Macintosh computers. Anyone interested is requested to contact John.

Chuck Deatrack WA6SQQ has been working with APRS and is asking for anyone who has a system set up to contact him as he could use some advice.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:55 Hours.

Club Secretary Norm Baetz WA6CLK was on vacation. **Dave Hodgson** KG6TCJ, acting Secretary

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Board Meeting

From page one.

Mt. Tam and what that will mean to the repeaters the club has at the site.

As far as club house repairs and remodeling, the old car in the back parking area will be removed, some repairs in the upstairs apartment have been made and hopefully the repairs on the roof will withstand the rigors of winter storms.

Technician classes will be held on Dec. 4 and 11 with the testing on the 18th.

Kevin Foley KF6YUF reported that there was a lack of interest at the Mt. Tam and Redwood high schools as far as setting up ham clubs and the equipment the club loaned will be reevaluated.

Classes for new RACES members will be held in November.

A slate of candidates for next year's board of directors will be presented to the membership at the November meeting and the ballots will go out shortly after.

Club membership dues notices will be sent out in January. (unlike this year's mickeymousery. Ed.) The dues will stay the same at \$20.00, a better deal than the San Francisco ARC which charges \$25 plus \$5 for each additional member in the same household.

Raine and Frank Strom celebrated their 1st wedding anniversary at the meeting.

Randy asked if we could invite non-member hams, who had participated in the special events, to our Christmas party. Same deal as for members. This was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 2025 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, secretary.

==>FCC WARNS ADDITIONAL TRUCKING FIRMS ABOUT UNLICENSED 10-METER OPERATION

The FCC has issued warning notices to five more trucking companies asking them to respond to allegations that their drivers may have transmitted illegally on the 10-meter amateur band. The alleged violations, based on "information before the Commission" as opposed to FCC monitoring, are said to have occurred in North Carolina, Pennsylvania and California.

"While many truckers use Citizens Band radio equipment, please be advised that operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of Section 301 of the Communications Act of 1934," FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth wrote the five firms in late August. The letters were made public September 18. Hollingsworth warned that violators, if caught and convicted, are subject to fines or prison time as well as seizure of their equipment.

In three of the cases, the frequency involved was 28.085 MHz--in the CW band--while the other two cases cited transmissions on 28.215 MHz and 28.315 MHz. .

In general, trucking company and courier services have responded promptly and positively to similar FCC warnings, indicating that they would warn drivers to refrain from unlicensed use of amateur frequencies.

"UPS does not condone using any radio equipment that violates FCC rules," said a statement that went out to its drivers earlier this year after the FCC issued a Warning Notice to the package delivery service alleging unlicensed 10-meter operation. "Employees continuing to use radio equipment that violates FCC rules and UPS policy may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action along with fines or penalties owed to the FCC."

UPS also admonished its drivers regarding the use of CB power amplifiers and transceivers capable of operation on both 10 and 11 meters. UPS said violating FCC rules also ignores the terms of its collective bargaining agreement with the Teamsters Union.

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A New Jersey trucking firm that received an FCC Warning Notice last spring promised to look into the allegations and "immediately remove all illegal equipment" from the truck in question. Gaffney, South Carolina, trucking company J Grady Randolph Inc wrote Hollingsworth earlier this year to say it had also received an anonymous report citing allegations similar to those in an FCC Warning Notice to the firm. Director of Human Resources and Safety W. O. Brown said Grady Randolph immediately advised all of its drivers that it is against the law to operate Amateur Radio equipment without a license.

"We feel the problem with 10-meter radios is very widespread in this industry, since most truck stops have them for sale," Brown added. "We will continue to police our trucks in an attempt to prevent future incidents of such violations."

While it's uncertain that these and similar admonitions have translated into fewer instances of alleged unlicensed operation on 10 meters by truckers, no further allegations have been raised involving operators of firms, such as UPS, that already have received FCC warning notices.

Trade a 1943 Copper Cent for a New Ford?

The coin world was set on its ear in 1947 when a collector found a copper 1943 penny in his pocket change. Exactly where it (and others) came from has never been determined; speculation is that about forty 1943 pennies were struck on the copper-zinc-tin blanks left over from the previous year's production. Seventeen have surfaced so far, and they've all fetched goodly amounts when they've been sold. The first one was offered for sale in 1958 and fetched over \$40,000. A similar piece was sold for \$10,000 at a coin convention in 1981. The highest amount paid for a 1943 copper cent so far was \$82,500 in 1996.

The 1943 copper cent has been counterfeited by coating steel cents with copper or by altering the dates of 1945, 1948, and 1949. Regular 1943 pennies are easily verified with a magnet. (No, the swap for a new Ford was an urban myth, but we really wanted to believe it as kids in the 1940s. Ed.)

Membership Renewals.

We are told that close to fifty members have not renewed for 2004. For any of those fifty intending to wait for 2005 to renew, there'll be no free ride for 2004. It'll cost you \$40 to get current. However, unlike 2004, the renewal notices should be mailed on time, or pretty close to it.

Biography Info for VA7VV from QRZ.COM

"As a professional amateur radio operator, Jerome, VA7VV has been the recipient of the prestigious WAVZC (Worked All Vancouver Zip Codes) award seven years running. He holds the Canadian record for sending the longest non-mechanical CQ without signing a callsign: 2 days, 4 hours, 8 minutes and 42 seconds, and presently holds the 40 meter distance record for 60 watt light bulb antenna work. His record of never having scored a single point in any recognized contest goes unchallenged to this day. He is a non-member of ARRL, CARF and FISTS and receives no publications relating to amateur radio through the mail or other media, nor has he ever. Jerome can read and write in seven languages but speaks only in Morse code."

You can learn more about VA7VV at his website:

<http://members.shaw.ca/va7vv>

Stuff for Sale.

Kenwood r-2000 short-wave receiver. Contact to discuss best offer? K I 6 H T B r i a n 4 5 4 - 9 4 6 2 marinxs@webtv.net

Don't forget to get your MARS badge with your name and call at Aviron Trophy at 1522 4th. St. in San Rafael, across from Caine's Tires. Only \$5. The deal expires 12/31 or when the 25 are gone. Choice of colors.

Q: I've heard that cardiovascular exercise can prolong life. Is this true?

A: Your heart is only good for so many beats, and that's it. Don't waste them on exercise. Everything wears out eventually. Speeding up your heart will not make you live longer; that's like saying you can extend the life of your car by driving it faster. Want to live longer? Take a nap.

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

President:

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

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:

Trustee for K6GWE:

Doug Slusher KF6AKU

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.

Editor of QSA-5:

Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318

Corrections, additions, suggestions

& stuff wanted or for sale,

phone or send to:

K6PHD@ARRL.NET

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