

# Q S A - 5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

October 2004 Page 1

## President's Message

He speaks well. Can't write.

### General Meeting, 3 Sept.

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, and Herman Weiss WP4DCM, There was a total of 21 members and guests present.

Correspondence was read and Connie Sawtelle AE6PA gave the treasurers report and it was approved. Connie also talked about a possible pot-luck dinner to coincide with the November meeting. She also asked if the members were happy with the dinner selection at last year's Christmas party. If not, send her your preferences.

John Boyd gave a report on the use of the club's truck in the recent special events. He also mentioned there may be new safety requirements involving operation of the 40+ foot pneumatic antenna mast on the truck. This will be looked into.

John Boyd and Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ gave a report on recent public service events the club provided communication, etc., for, and the possible implementation of improvements for upcoming events.

Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV our San Francisco Section Manager also discussed what can be added to future events to make them easier. Bill also talked about the upcoming Pacificon which will be held on Oct. 15, 16, and 17. It's always been a fun event and all are encouraged to attend.

Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ announced new Tech classes to be given on Sept 11 and 18<sup>th</sup>. Test will be Sept 25<sup>th</sup>. Further Tech classes to be given in December. Ben also said that as of Sept. 3, 74 members have been paid up with their dues.

Rem Calvin K6BBQ talked about his bicycle trailer radio and said he could  
Go to page two, column one.

## Website at W6SG.NET

Phone 415.389.6630

### How About a Name/Call badge for Five Bucks?

Between now and the end of 2004 you can get one of these at Aviron Trophy at 1522 4th St., San Rafael, across from Caine's (We beat COSTCO) Tires. You have a choice of colors so you heavy imbibers can get something that won't clash with your scarlet beaks.

This is a 1" x 3" engraved plastic laminate with your name on one line, your call below it and a pin on the back to draw a little blood from your body if your aim is a little shaky when installing it. Take a look at the badge Chet WA6PAC wears to the meetings and to Sunday babble class. Ask to see his puncture wound scars.

Normal quantity price is \$7 for this deal but, due to a donation by **Chet, WA6PAC** who set it up, the first twenty-five MARS members who can make it thru the door get the temporary reduced rate of only \$5 which is good thru the end of the year, or UNTIL THE FIRST 25 ARE GONE. Limit is one badge per call. You could probably send in one gopher/gofur with the cash to order for several members.

Call up Aviron Trophies at 457-1221. For you elderfahrten, that's GLenwood 7-1221. **Check out the available colors** on their website at [www.aviron trophy.com/namebadges.html](http://www.aviron trophy.com/namebadges.html). Or just wander in.

There was no checkin on 3915kc on Sunday 9/19 due to weak, unintelligible audio from the transceiver used for HF. It was discovered later that a button pusher had been at work and had narrowed both IFs to their minimum settings.

## Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6423  
San Rafael, CA 94903

### Board Meeting, 14 Sept.

President John Boyd KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. Other board members in attendance were John Iacono KF6VYH, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Kevin Foley KF6YUF and Herman Weiss WP4DCM.

There was no new correspondence and nothing new as far as the comm truck is concerned.

It was announced that Doug Slusher and Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ are trying to get County money, a grant, to help pay for repeater improvements. There was further discussion on what kind of improvements are needed. Doug said he will have cost estimates and some prices by the next meeting.

John Boyd asked for a slate to be submitted, by our next meeting, of potential board members to be elected for the year 2005. John also suggested the club start preparations early for next year's Field Day. This could include a possible new site and also asking other ham clubs to participate with us.

John Iacono said we would skip the Kids Day event scheduled for the winter but will plan on a summer one, most likely to be held at the Corte Madera Shopping Center.

Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ talked about the upcoming Tech classes and said a new combo DVD/VHS player and instruction disks have been purchased for VE use. No new General classes are planned for the near future.

It was also pointed out that the club's website W6SG should be up-to-date.

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General meeting, from page two.

use some help in finishing it up. Give Rem a call if you can help.

A new slate of candidates for next year's board must be set up for elections in Nov. Anyone interested in serving please get in contact with a board member. The meeting was adjourned at 2025 hours.

Submitted by Norm Baetz Secretary.

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A short note from our SF Section Mgr.: I enjoyed the article about the Clampers in the MARS newsletter. Satisfactory!

Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV  
Sam Brannon Chapter  
E Clampus Vitus  
And so recorded.

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**We have requests for communicators for the following events:**

**Sunday, October 3, 2004 Dolphin Club Escape From Alcatraz Triathlon (Run Portion)**

and

**Dipsea Trail; Mill Valley to Stinson Beach and Back 09:30 - 16:00 Four volunteers needed. Contact Randy KA6BQF ka6bqf@arrl.net**

**Saturday October 23 - Sunday October 24 Providian Relay Sonoma County Line to SF County Line 21:00 - 04:00 Contact Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ chaslin@cmc.net**

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**Connie Sawtelle's call, AE6PA,** now resides on ham plates on their familiar VDUB.

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High blood pressure sufferers: simply cut yourself and bleed for a while, thus reducing the pressure in your veins.

A mouse trap, placed on top of your alarm clock, will prevent you from rolling over and going back to sleep when you hit the snooze button.

Have a bad tooth ache? Hit your thumb with a hammer, then you will forget about the tooth ache.

Everyone seems normal until you get to know them.

## Pacificon

Pacificon 2004 will be held on October 15, 16, and 17th at the San Ramon Marriott, 2500 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, Ca. Talk-in frequency 147.06+ (PL 100hz).

Antenna forum, legal forum and club meeting will be held on Friday.

Saturday events include VE testing T-hunt, Satellite demo, JOTA, QRP forum. Noontime entertainment provided by Chuck Smith's Stony Ridge Ramblers, a traditional Dixieland group. Wouff-Houng ceremony will be held at midnight for ARRL members.

The popular Swap meet this year will be held on Sunday as will attendance prize drawings, exhibitors and vendors of amateur radio equipment.

Forums on technical and related subjects pertinent to the amateur radio community will be held on Saturday and Sunday. Breakfast speaker will be Randall Larson, Editor of 9-1-1 Magazine, a publication which focuses on management of emergency communications.

Banquet speaker will be Kay Craigie, N3KN, second vice president of the ARRL, designer of the "Big Project" which enables teachers to integrate ham radio into their school subject matter. Kay now sits on the League's Administration & Finance Committee.

Admission \$10.00 in advance or \$15.00 at the door. Info contact Pacificon 2004 at <http://www.pacificon.org>

### Board Meeting, from page two.

There was a discussion on future special events to be held this year and improvements for next year.

John Boyd said our renter's old Volvo has not been towed away and she would be reminded to do so.

John also received the board's OK to have the carpets cleaned in the clubhouse.

The RIGblaster unit for PSK 31 operation that the club purchased recently will soon be installed in the radio room. You can try it here before investing your own money in the necessary hardware. The software is free/downloadable.

Meeting was adjourned at 2032 hours.

Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

## LET'S MAKE A DEAL: FCC AGREES TO TRADE AMATEUR'S LICENSE FOR BIG FINE

The FCC has agreed to write off a \$12,000 fine it levied against an Iowa man in exchange for his giving up his Amateur Radio license for five years. The FCC last year affirmed a \$12,000 fine against Technician licensee Scott E. Kamm, NØUGN, of Sioux City. Kamm later filed a Petition for Reconsideration that proposed the license-for-fine quid pro quo. The Commission formally granted his petition in a September 7 Memorandum and Order (M&O).

The FCC said its Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) would process the withdrawal of Kamm's license renewal application concurrently with its order. FCC Enforcement Chief David Solomon signed the M&O, which was released September 9.

Following up on Amateur Radio complaints in the fall of 2002, agents from the FCC's Kansas City field office tracked interfering signals to Kamm's station--which was in Waterbury, Nebraska, at the time. Several months earlier, however, the FCC had granted Kamm's application to change his mailing address to a location in Sioux City. In January 2003, the FCC issued a Notice of Apparent Liability to Kamm alleging willful and repeated interference to ongoing amateur communications, broadcasting of music, and failure to identify by call sign while operating on a 2-meter repeater.

During 2002, Kamm was the target of several letters and an FCC Warning Notice from FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth. In the fall of that year, the WTB set aside Kamm's renewal application based upon complaints about the operation of his station and questions regarding his qualifications to be a licensee. Kamm's license expired September 29, 2002, and his renewal application reverted to pending status while the matter was referred to the Enforcement Bureau.

Condensed—you'd hardly know it—from the  
ARRL Letter

**Call for Ham Volunteers for Oakland Event.**

The Bikeathon fundraiser, Bike Against the Odds, is looking for SAG drivers and Amateur Radio communications. This year's event will be on Sunday, October 24 from 7 AM to 3 PM.

Please reply to [mikep@pdarrl.org](mailto:mikep@pdarrl.org) for more information, or to volunteer. You can also reach me, Mike Pompa, KB6MP in the evenings at 510-531-8209. I will send volunteers a short questionnaire to help place you in an appropriate role.

Last year's experience shows that mobile rigs were a necessity on half of the routes, so I am hoping to attract hams who are willing to drive their mobile equipped vehicles with **SAG (Supplies and Gear)**. This means you will drive with a bike mechanic or first aid/EMT, and may have to stash a bike or two on a bike rack, or deliver cases of water/food to a rest stop. Of course, with rest stops and the main event at Lake Merrit, there are plenty of opportunities for HT equipped volunteers to help with communications.

Routes cover from 12-65 miles, all on streets of Oakland, Orinda and Moraga.

The organizers are the Breast Cancer Fund, which focuses on breast cancer prevention and the Oakland Yellow Jackets bicycle group. This year's ride is in honor of KTVU's Faith Fancher, who passed away on the day of last year's ride.

<http://www.oaklandyellowjackets.org/>

<http://www.breastcancerfund.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=57653>

73, Mike Pompa, KB6MP

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If you are choking on an ice cube, don't panic. Simply pour a cup of boiling water down your throat and presto! The blockage will be almost instantly removed.

Clumsy? Avoid cutting yourself while slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold them while you chop away.

**"INTRUDER SIGNAL" ON 40 METERS REMAINS A MYSTERY FOR NOW.**

An unidentified signal that's been showing up on the 40-meter phone band on or about 7238 kHz has mystified amateurs in the western US and Canada, where it's been heard frequently for the past few weeks. Although it resembles a steady carrier, a closer inspection suggests that the intruding signal actually is a series of closely spaced signals. Don Moman, VE6JY, in Edmonton, Alberta, says the signal is quite loud at his QTH.

"This signal looks a lot more interesting than it would sound--just a broad tone/hum/buzz, depending on where you tune," he said. One spectrogram from VE6JY showed perhaps a half-dozen or more discrete signals. "It's certainly loud enough out here, peaking broadly south-southwest from Edmonton," he said. Moman was using a 5-element Yagi and was hearing the signal at 10 dB over S9. That conforms with observations reported by Bob Gonsett, W6VR, at Communications General Corp (CGC). He says engineers at the CGC lab in Fallbrook, California took a quick look at the intruder September 6 at around 2120 UTC and found "several close-spaced CW carriers--perhaps from one specially modulated transmitter, perhaps from transmitters at different locations," he reported. CGC reported the signals appeared on 7238.063, 7238.150, 7238.237 and 7238.412 kHz, with the 7238.237 kHz signal being "the strongest of the group."

While no one's sure what it is, the FCC HF Direction Finding Facility has been able to determine that it's coming from somewhere north of Prescott, Arizona, and west of Interstate 17. FCC monitoring indicates the "buzz" is centered on 7238.1 kHz with a bandwidth of about 1 kHz and spikes spaced at about 90 Hz apart.

Reports to the International Amateur Radio Union Region 2 Monitoring System indicate the signal has been heard from about 1700 to 2130 UTC, although Moman reported hearing it at around 0300 UTC and said the signal

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From column two.

even went off the air for a few seconds while he was listening to it. Jack Roland, KE0VH, in Colorado, also heard the signals for a couple of evenings this week. "Something is not right there," he remarked.

High Noon Net Manager Bill Savage, N5FLD, in Albuquerque, New Mexico said several net participants--in Nebraska, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming, Minnesota and Arizona--were able to hear the mystery signal.

Plagiarized in its entirety from the  
**ARRL LETTER**

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

The other night I was invited for a night out with the girls. I told my husband that I would be home by midnight, "I promise!" Well, the hours passed and the margaritas went down way too easily.

Around 3 a.m., a bit blitzed, I headed for home. Just as I got in the door, the cuckoo clock in the hall started up and cuckooed 3 times.

Realizing my husband would probably wake up, I cuckooed another 9 times. I was really proud of myself for coming up with such a quick-witted solution (even when totally smashed), in order to escape a possible conflict with him.

The next morning my husband asked me what time I got in, and I told him midnight. He didn't seem disturbed at all. Whew! Got away with that one! Then he said, "We need a new cuckoo clock."

When I asked him why, he said, "Well, last night our clock cuckooed! three times, then said, "Oh, s...", cuckooed 4 more times, cleared its throat, cuckooed another 3 times, giggled, cuckooed twice more, and then tripped over the cat and farted."

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Be Really Good To Your Family and Friends. You never know when you are going to need them to empty your bedpan.

**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

##### Additional Board Members:

Al Weisman W5ALW 510.237.1978

Herman Weiss WP4DCM 789-9576

Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849

Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318

Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170

##### Education Chair:

Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170

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

N1ZKW@ARRL.NET

##### Public Service Event Coordinator

This will probably be a shared responsibility.

##### Editor of QSA-5:

Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318

K6PHD@ARRL.NET

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