

Q S A - 5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter September 2004 Page 2

President's Message.

Haven't seen one since early 2003.

General Meeting, 6 August.

Our secretary was not present and nobody thought to record any of the proceedings.

This was a common problem, for a quite different reason, with a fraternal organization called ECV, or E Clampus Vitus. Members were, and are, known as Clampers. At their meetings, in gold rush towns during the last half of the 19th century, as all Clampers know, no one was in any condition to take minutes, and after a meeting no one could be found who remembered what had happened.

The following is taken from an address to the San Francisco Corral of Westerners on June 25, 1991. It won the *Westerners International Phillip A. Danielson Award* for best presentation to a Corral by a Westerner in 1991. **Presented by Dr. Albert Shumate, MD, ECV** author of numerous books on San Francisco history, and a Humbug of Sublime, Noble, and Grand proportions.

"What does E Clampus Vitus mean? Well, that is the greatest mystery of all, because none of us know what it means!

What is the purpose of the society? There is a description of the society that all of you have heard. It is claimed ECV is a historical drinking society; others claim it to be a drinking historical society. The debate continues; it has never been solved.

The objectives of ECV are well known: Members swear to take care of the widows and orphans -- especially the widows.

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Website at W6SG.NET Phone 415.389.6630

NorCal Repeater Data by Freq and City.

www.n6sex.com/rptrs/freq1.htm

www.n6sex.com/rptrs/city1.htm

From Fresno to the Oregon border. Includes Reno area. Printable. Cheaper than a book and easier to read than some.

The call signs of those having sent in their **Field Day logs** have been posted on the ARRL website. For some reason W6SG was not among them.

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The governing authority of the Clampers is equally as explicit: **All members are officers and all officers are of equal indignity.**

ECV was popular because it afforded the young men at the mines with a perfect excuse for horseplay. Furthermore, as in the East, it ridiculed the stuffy secret fraternal, benevolent, and political societies, such as the Masons, Odd Fellows, and in the mid-1850s, Know-Nothings, which were so important in the **Gold Rush** days. Not only were there chapters in such well-known towns as Yreka, Nevada City, Auburn, Placerville, Sonora, and Mariposa, but in mining camps, some long gone. There are records of lodges in Morristown, Rabbit Creek (La Porte), Howland Flat, Sawpit Flat, St. Louis, Portwine, Comanche Camp, Yankee Jim's, Freeze Out, and the one I like the best, Hell's Delight. Also the Clampers were in the bigger cities, such as Sacramento, Marysville, Stockton, Petaluma, and Benicia. In San Francisco, it was here as early as 1852.

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Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Board Meeting, 9 August.

President John Boyd KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. Other board members present were John Iacono KF6VYH, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, Raine Strom KG6GII and Steve Rathbone AJ6Y.

Randy KA6BQF gave a report on two recent special events, the Marin Century and the Double Century bike rides. There was a total of 18 hams participating including some from the East Bay and Davis clubs. Kevin Foley rode in the Double Century. Thankyou notes will be mailed to these clubs. The Holstein will be the next event.

Steve Rathbone resigned as trustee for W6SG for personal reasons and his resignation was accepted by the board. A new Trustee will be appointed in the near future.

John Boyd and Doug Slusher discussed the repeaters in the area, problems that are being encountered and possible solutions. Kevin Foley and Dave Hodgson gave their thoughts and Doug said that by the next general meeting we may have some resolutions.

John Iacono talked about next year's Kids Day and said he's received an invitation to return to the Town Center in Corte Madera.

Dave Hodgson asked about the possible use of the clubhouse for RACES training. The board approved this request.

Raine Strom suggested that the club hold a 'pot luck' sometime this fall. This could be a part of the November meeting and it will be discussed at the September general meeting.

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Board Meeting, cont.

Randy talked about upcoming events and suggested that hams from other clubs who participate be invited to our club's functions.

Kevin Foley, on behalf of the bicycle clubs, thanked the hams who helped out in the recent bike ride events.

The meeting was adjourned at 2055 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

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There were also chapters outside the state. In 1858, during the great Fraser River gold rush, Clampers went up to British Columbia. That is probably natural, because there were over 20,000 miners from California that went to that fiasco.

A book written in 1963, called *Ghost Towns of British Columbia*, mentioned the establishment of the Clampers in Fort Douglas. I wrote to the author, Bruce Ramsey, and got a letter back that was rather amusing. I had written my letter on stationery of **E Clampus Vitus**. He said that he came in from lunch, saw the envelope, and thought he was seeing a ghost.

In 1858, a meeting was called in Honolulu, and Clampers were active in Carson City and Virginia City, Nevada, during the Comstock Lode years. However, when the last century came to an end, gold mining and the Gold Rush towns faded. **E Clampus Vitus** also waned. However there was some activity in Downieville, and Sierra City (1890s), Nevada City (1908), Marysville (1911-1916), Colusa and Willows (1913), and in Quincy (1917-1918). *The Quincy Plumas National Bulletin* of April 5, 1917, used half of the front page describing a Clamper parade. The other half of the page was devoted to the US Senate's voting for war against Germany! Most likely World War I was a factor in the fading of ECV. By the end of the 1920s, the order was just a memory.

Carl Wheat has written that in 1930, on the "road from Columbia to Parrott's Ferry"

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he said to his companion, fellow attorney **George Ezra Dane**, "Let's revive the Clampers." I do not believe this sensational revelation is entirely true. During his last disabling illness, Carl gave me some Clamper materials. In it, I found where he had put aside notes from books and different little articles that he had found about the Clampers. He had been thinking about the Clampers for a long time. Anyway, in 1931, at a luncheon at the Clift Hotel in San Francisco, Wheat, Dane, Leon Whitsell and their friends decided to revive ECV. **Frederick C. Clift** [of hotel fame] was one of the Charter Members, incidentally.

Carl Wheat "discovered" a Clamper of the old order, who aided the revival immensely. **Adam Lee Moore** was the last Noble Grand Humbug of **Balaam Lodge in Sierra City**. Adam always referred to it as "**Sigh-era**." He was the link, in Wheat's words, in the "Apostolic succession from the Clampatriarchs of old." Moore had an excellent memory and recalled the words of the old initiation ritual.

Moore had been a red-shirted miner and stage coach driver among other things, lived to be 99, and was quite a person. I had the pleasure of driving with Adam Moore, his wife, and Lee Stopple from San Francisco to Downieville on May 31, 1941. We were delivering a new charter for a meeting of the Chapter and initiation to be held that night. I was a lot younger then and more easily shocked, and I know I was shocked when the PBCs [Poor Blind Candidates] came down the main street of the town, with people lining the sidewalks, holding torches and chanting a dirge: "Poor sons of bitches, E Clampus Vitus, poor sons of bitches." Tired after the drive and initiation, I said to Adam, "I'm going to bed." I'll never forget his answer, and he had just turned 94 at the time, "Ain't yah going to dance?" And he went!

The Clampers went to the Indian Reservation outside of Tuolumne City on the Memorial weekend of 1937. (Now called the 'Rancheria') Chief William Fuller was a Clamper. I remember it well because I was a PBC. I was invited to become a Clamper by a schoolmate of mine in grammar and high school,

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Edgar Kahn. "Cable Car" Kahn, as we called him, was the author of *Cable Car Days in San Francisco* (1940). Anyway, Edgar was rather serious in some ways, and he said to me, "Al, don't bring any liquor because it's an Indian reservation. It's illegal. Also, Clampers are hardy, bring a sleeping bag." I did. At first we had an Indian dinner. I'll never forget it because I didn't eat it. It was fried grasshoppers and acorn bread. Try it some time. Anyway, I put my sleeping bag on the cold hard ground and prepared to sleep. Every Clamper, who had sense, left and went down to the hotel and the nearest bar. Hardly had I put down the sleeping bag, when the Indians who had performed the dances and served the horrible food, started eating hot dogs. They had hired a Filipino jazz band to play, brought out whiskey from every place, and got as drunk as skunks.

Since 1957, E Clampus Vitus has grown in an amazing manner. It has over 40 chapters now. While ECV has spread, serious orders such as the Odd Fellows, once so popular and influential, have faded. (The Oddfellows Lodge in Columbia was saved from extinction by the local Clampers who became members of the lodge.)

However, the growth of the Clampers is not that surprising considering the amazing service it has done for the nation. One example will suffice. In 1937, when I was a PBC, Sir Francis Drake's "plate of brass" claiming California for England had appeared just the year before. Tests in recent years have virtually destroyed its credibility on metallurgical analysis, but in 1937, the Clampers were concerned about California being claimed by the English King.

Drake had claimed that the Miwok Indians had "freely resigned" their right and title in the whole land." William Fuller, who was hereditary chief of the Mi-Wuks, knew he had the authority to nullify the Englishman's claim. Before the assembled Brethren, he made this Clamplamation:

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"Bee it knowne unto all men by their presence: Whereas, in the year of Grace of 1579, the Great Hi-oh, of the Mee-Wuks was seduced by that buccaneer, Francis Drake to deliver this land of **Nova Albion to Elizabeth ye Queene**, and Her successors forever. Now, therefore I the present Chief Hi-oh, of the Mee-Wuk Nation, do now revoke said grant on grounds of deceit, fraud, and failure to occupy the said domain. William Fuller, G. H. Done in the presence of **E Clampus Vitus**, May 29, 1937."

A copy of this revocation reached the desk of the President of the United States. I have it on absolute authority, from a person of prominence. I cannot mention his name, but he was in Washington, DC, at that time. He said that it was the first time that he had seen President Franklin D. Roosevelt smile in a long time. Roosevelt knew that our glorious State would remain part of the Union. Thanks to ECV, you and your children are still under this flag, this glorious Star Spangled Banner!

However, you will not find this proclamation in the text books of your children. You will not find it in the standard histories. Do the Clampers resent that? No! Why not? Because they are a meek group; a group that would never blow its own horn. They give aid to the widows, but do they expect to be thanked? No! Do they expect them to say "**Satisfactory?**" No! E Clampus Vitus is a self-effacing group with a mysterious past!!"

Dr. Albert Shumate, MD, ECV, dec.

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Stuff for Sale.

Kenwood TS-430S--\$300

Astron RS-20A--\$50

Astron RS-7A--\$20

Mosley Mini 33A Beam--\$50

Brian KI6HT

marinxs@webtv.net

454-9462

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Download a putting program.
<http://upchucky.net/~upchucky/games/miniputt.html>

Thanks to all the fine amateurs who volunteered their time to provide communications for the Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century ride on August 7 and/or the Holstein Hundred ride on August 21.

Particular thanks go to our friends from the East Bay and Yolo clubs who came over to help. The organizers of both rides were really impressed by our communications efforts and skills.

Thanks to John KE6ORI, Ed N6BNJ, Chet WA6PAC, Chuck WA6SQQ, George KF6VSG, John KF6VYH, Phil K6PHD, Craig KG6VMT, Doug KF6AKU, Tom KG6TCM, Dave KG6TCJ, Gary KG6JHS, Chris N6JGC, Robert KC6UDS, John N6JDW, Stanton KD6SWU, Texx KG6ATH, Bob K6LGZ and Michael KG6DER. **Job well done!**

de KA6BQF Randy

(Of course, the food and drink supplied by the organizers of these events may have had something to do with attracting the ham volunteers. Some of the riders paid in the neighborhood of \$70. to enter, depending on the length of their projected ride. Ed.)

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ARRL GOES TO BAT FOR ARIZONA AMATEURS, SEEKS BPL FIELD TRIAL SHUTDOWN.

The ARRL has asked the FCC to immediately shut down a broadband over power line (BPL) field trial in the Cottonwood, Arizona, area because it's causing "severe interference" to Amateur Radio communication. Electric Broadband LLC and utility APS have been operating the BPL experiment at two Yavapai County sites since June under a Special Temporary Authorization (STA) the FCC granted Electric Broadband in March. Michael Kinney, KU7W, filed the first Amateur Radio complaint in June. It cited testing by the Verde Valley Amateur Radio Association (VVARA) <<http://www.vvara.org>> in the 1.8-30 MHz range to show that BPL interference made attempts at ham radio communication useless.

"The interference on typical Amateur Radio equipment shows received undesired signal levels in excess of 60 dB over S9 on the receiver's signal strength meter," ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, told FCC officials on the

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League's behalf. "The utility and Electric Broadband were contacted, and no response was received." The ARRL asserted that both companies are aware that the BPL field trial has been causing harmful interference and "neither has taken any steps to either resolve it or terminate the test."

The League said VVARA and ARRL testing indicates "extremely high" levels of radiated RF energy on amateur HF allocations--well in excess of the FCC Part 15 levels with which Electric Broadband told the FCC it would comply. VVARA testing revealed "actual harmful interference" from the BPL system to mobile stations in the vicinity and to a fixed station.

ARRL called on the FCC to instruct Electric Broadband and APS to shut down the BPL trial immediately and not resume operation until it can demonstrate that all interference issues have been resolved. It also insisted that the FCC immediately revoke any STAs granted for the Cottonwood or nearby operations, and that it institute forfeiture proceedings against the two companies for knowingly causing harmful interference.

Condensed, a lot, from the ARRL Letter.

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Stuff for Sale

#1. **ICOM 745** HF radio with desk mic \$300. Ham band and general coverage. Includes WARC bands. Has FM module. This is a great rig, by the way. A friend of mine has just returned from a 5 year sail around the world with his. There's nothing like a true love in ones life but I need room for another rig to take its place.

#2. **ALINCO Model DR605**
2 meter & 440 VHF/UHF \$200.

Contact Jere KQ6HB at 415 382 8724 or email

kq6hbjvl@yahoo.com

Use "radio" in subject line.

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In 1959, IBM introduced the **IBM 1401** data processing system, the first computer system to reach 10,000 units in sales. Maximum main storage/memory size was 16K.