

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

**President's Message**

(What dat?)

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**General Meeting, 6 May**

The meeting was called to order by President John Boyd KE6ORI at 1935 hours. Other board members present were John Iacono KF6VYH, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ and Phil Dunlap K6PHD. There were 20 members and guests in attendance.

After our guests were introduced, and correspondence read, Connie Sawtelle AE6PA gave the Treasurer's report. It was approved.

John Boyd gave an update on the club's comm. truck. A new battery is to be purchased and an estimate on possible body work and repainting will be looked into.

Connie said all arrangements have been made for our annual Christmas party to be held at the Four Points hotel in Terra Linda on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

Sept 17 will be the date of the club's picnic. More details will follow. Keep these dates in mind.

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF gave a run-down on upcoming Special Events. Please contact Randy if you can help. The more volunteers, the easier it will be.

The repairs to the receiver on Big Rock will be made after John Boyd gets back from the Hamvention in Dayton, OH. John is also going to haul some of our old VHF gear that's been accumulating dust in the back room and will try to sell it in the flea market there. John also announced that the upstairs renter's old Volvo wagon, that hasn't moved in years, has finally been towed away.

John Butler, our building manager, has been redoing our antenna system in the back of the building. It's not finished yet but looks great. Take a look at it the next time you come to the club.

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**Website at W6SG.NET**

**Phone 415.389.6630**

**Special Events for 2005.**

**Most of these events are on a Saturday. The DIPSEA is on Sunday as is the Escape From Alcatraz. The Saturn Relay runs on both days. The figure in parens is the number of volunteers required for each event. Last year the Double Century crew supplied food and drink along the route and at the finish. Others may do the same. See Randy KA6BQF for further info.**

**510.526.4089 ka6bqf@arrl.net**

12 June **DIPSEA** 08:00-12:00  
 Mill Valley—Stinson Beach **(12)**

25 June **Double Dipsea** 08:00-15:00  
 Stinson Beach—Mill Valley **(6)**

22 July **Bike Around the Bay** **(15+)**  
 Novato 04:00-23:30

5 August **Marin Century/Mt. Tam**  
 Novato **Double Century** **(15+)**  
 04:00-23:30

19 August **Holstein Hundred** **(15+)**  
 Tomales 06:00-20:00

26 August **Headlands 50K** **(9)**  
 Rodeo Beach 07:00-17:00

2 October **Escape from Alcatraz** **(5)**  
 Mill Valley 10:00-17:00

15/16 October **Saturn Relay** **(9)**  
 Petaluma—Sausalito 18:00-04:00

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**Having Trouble with CW Exams? Want a quick review? Got nothing better to do?**

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**Mailing Address**

**P.O. Box 6423  
 San Rafael, CA 94903**

**Board Meeting, 10 May**

The meeting was called to order by President John Boyd KE6ORI at 1935 hours. Other board members present were John Iacono KF6VYH, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ and Kevin Foley KF6YUF.

There was a discussion about the surplus equipment in the radio room. Fair prices will be determined on the pieces the board decides to sell with club members given first option. One possibility is a silent auction. Give us your thoughts.

John Boyd will try to take some old VHF/UHF gear to the ARRL Hamfest in Dayton to sell at the flea market. John is also looking for someone to volunteer to become the club's historian to gather stray photos and, possibly, put them in albums with accompanying notes and information. There was talk about adding more photos to QSA-5, primarily after specially events like the Christmas party, Field Day, Kid's Day, etc.

There is a dead/dying battery in the comm truck. Seems that the charge rate was excessive, usually caused by monitoring applied voltage rather than current. This and other repairs will be taken care of after John and Doug come back from Dayton.

Dave Hodgson gave a report on the search for alternate Field Day sites and it was decided to return to the Marin Rod and Gun Club. The other sites were deemed way too expensive. All members who wish to participate are urged to get in contact with Dave or Chet Rice so they can plan station set-ups and procure the required food and drink.

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General Meeting, cont.

Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ said there would be Tech classes on May 28 and June 4 with the test on June 11.

Dave Hodgson said that after a lot of investigation it has been decided to hold Field Day at our old site, the Marin Rod and Gun Club. Other sites that were looked into were found to be too expensive. The date for Field Day is the last week-end in June.

One of our guests was Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, who is SF Section Mgr. in the ARRL Pacific Division. Bill gave an update of the latest news from the FCC and ARRL and an invitation to come to the various ham events in the area. He talked about the new FCC chairman and said new license restructuring may come by this summer.

The meeting was adjourned at 2010 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

Board Meeting, cont.

Field Day is the weekend of June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>.

The possible purchase of ATV gear for the club was discussed and it was approved if the prices at Dayton were reasonable.

The club's participation in Kid's Day and at the Senior's Fair at the Civic Center will be looked into. More information on these to follow.

The meeting was adjourned at 2045 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

**Kid's Day, Reno.**

We are planning to have stations established throughout the Reno Nevada area, at some of our local Libraries, in commemoration of "Kid's Day" and in conjunction with a donation of Amateur Radio Manuals to our local Library system!

Look for us on the standard Kid's Day frequencies or work us by accessing Reno's - IRLP node 3257.

Club station: WA7DG  
<http://NvHamKids.hopto.org>

A man was telling his neighbor, "I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect."

"Really," answered the neighbor. "What kind is it?"  
"Twelve thirty."

**FEDERAL AGENTS ARREST, DETAIN ALLEGED CALIFORNIA JAMMER**

They finally got that ..... clown.

Reputed Los Angeles-area repeater jammer and former Amateur Radio licensee Jack Gerritsen was taken off the air and into custody this week. Acting on a criminal complaint, FBI special agents, accompanied by personnel from the FCC Los Angeles Field Office, arrested the 68-year-old Gerritsen without incident early May 5 at his home in Bell, California. Federal agents also confiscated Gerritsen's radio equipment.

"A criminal complaint filed Wednesday afternoon charges Gerritsen with a felony charge of malicious interference with a communications system operated by the United States and a misdemeanor count of transmitting radio signals without a license," said a May 5 statement from the office of Debra W. Yang, US Attorney for the Central District of California. "The two charges carry a potential penalty of 11 years in federal prison."

At an initial court appearance May 5, bond was set at \$250,000 "fully secured." A spokesman in the US Attorney's office explained that Gerritsen will have to post property or cash to be released, but that it will be several days before the necessary paperwork is ready--assuming that Gerritsen is able to make bail. Once released on bond, Gerritsen would be subject to home detention and barred from possessing any radio equipment, the spokesman said, adding that Gerritsen's house would remain subject to search to make sure.

Unless Gerritsen is indicted beforehand, a preliminary hearing in the case is set for May 25, with arraignment to follow on May 31.

The criminal complaint says an FCC investigation revealed that Gerritsen "transmits his prerecorded political messages and real-time harassment and profanity for hours at a time, often making it impossible for licensed radio operators to use the public frequencies."

Gerritsen already faces a total of \$52,000 in FCC-imposed or proposed forfeitures for alleged interference. In March, the FCC denied a Petition for Reconsideration and upheld a \$10,000 fine against Gerritsen for interfering with Amateur Radio communications.

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Gerritsen has yet to pay the fine.

An FBI affidavit sworn out this week in advance of obtaining a search warrant of Gerritsen's residence indicates that FCC agents have been investigating multiple instances of unlawful radio transmissions and malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen over the past four years. They've also spoken with him in person and asked to inspect his station, although earlier FCC documents say he refused that request.

In addition to Amateur Radio repeater communications, Gerritsen is alleged to have interfered with Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) transmissions. The FCC also reported that it has received complaints from other government agencies that Gerritsen interfered with local and state police and fire agencies, the American Red Cross, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary and other radio services. A MARS training exercise in March had to be canceled as a result of interference attributed to Gerritsen.

Earlier this week, Gerritsen, who briefly held the call sign KG6IRO as a Technician licensee and still uses it on the air, was taken into custody by Bell, California, police officers on an unrelated contempt of court citation after violating the terms of a temporary restraining order (TRO) a local radio amateur had obtained to keep Gerritsen off a local repeater. He was released without bond after being held for a few hours and was reported back on area repeaters not long afterward.

Radio amateurs on the West Coast have been complaining for months about the slow pace of enforcement action in the Gerritsen case. Los Angeles-area repeater owners have taken to shutting down their machines to avoid the nearly constant barrage of malicious interference attributed to Gerritsen.

Five years ago, Gerritsen was convicted in state court of interfering with police radio transmissions and sentenced to 38 months in prison. Following his release in July 2003, the FCC soon began receiving complaints about Gerritsen's activity on the airwaves, according to this week's criminal complaint. **From the ARRL LETTER.**

**Item For Sale.**

Ramsey 2 meter amplifier to bring your hand held up to approx. 25 W. Asking \$35.00

Dick Sadler, KD6RUP  
San Rafael 415 485-1835

**Highway Louie, SK.**

We happened to notice the call **K6HWL** in the silent key section of the May QST. Frank Toles held that call twice. He had a Conditional class license and first appeared in the 1956 Callbook. In about 1979 he upgraded to a General class. That call vanished about 1983 but showed up again in the 1997 Callbook. He lived in Bethel Island and was also W6AFD at one time.

The holder of K6HWL was known as Highway Louie. He ran a claimed kilowatt mobile on AM and was one of those people who might be called sort of a legend in his own time.

We met him at one of the Fresno Hamfests about 1962, when he drove a black T-Bird which, by that time, Ford had turned into something closer to a T-Boat or T-Barge.

His antenna was a length of chrome plated, six inch exhaust stack topped with a whip and a large (anti) corona cage, which sat on an insulating block several inches thick that looked something like mica. The final was in the trunk and—we're a little hazy on this, too—was a pair of 813s running max power of close to 500 watts in, each, standing straight up on the floor of the trunk. Don't remember what band/s he was set up for. The plate supply came from four dynamotors stacked 2x2 with the outputs connected in series-parallel. These were also in the trunk. You really didn't want to stand too close to that installation; there was no temptation to stick your fingers in there though we assumed an interlock on the trunk lid. Unfortunately we didn't have a camera so this is all dredged up from a 43 year old memory. Anyone reading this who has more info on the subject of K6HWL, or remembers anything differently, is welcome to send it to the QSA-5 editor at K6PHD@ARRL.NET.

Maybe you have a story or two about W7JPI, the elderly inebriate at Hideaway Ranch in Nevada, long an SK we'd bet. Ed.

**Field Day****Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ.**

The planning for Field Day this year has been very enlightening and down right frustrating. During the search for a location and talking with officials it became clear that amateur radio needs more PR. It also showed us the poor financial condition of our local Cities and Federal Parks.

Last February we met with the Marin County Disaster and Citizen's Corps Council hoping to gain their interest in participating in Field Day. They can help bring groups such as the Sheriff's Search and Rescue, Red Cross, County Fire, RACES and the local Neighborhood Cert, Nert groups together. The idea was to have a mini disaster fair to be held in conjunction with our annual Field Day. This would be the hook to entice people to come and learn about our club and amateur radio. They were very conducive to the idea but felt there was not enough time to prepare and even wanted us to move our 'sacred holiday' to correspond with the County Fair. Failing to get a program together at the County level we contacted the different groups and received similar responses of not enough time to prepare, other obligations, not interested on and on. Well in the end the idea of a mini disaster fair was shot 1. to hell. 2. down. (Your choice)

Our next big setback was in finding a location. We held meetings almost every Sunday for two months discussing locations throughout Marin, finally settling on Marinship Park in Sausalito, with Ft. Baker as an alternate. Now we get to the money matters. In years past we just needed to ask for permission to setup in a local park. City government folks new about hams, what they did for their communities and would happily wave any fees for their facilities. This is not true today. Marinship Park was going to cost us \$17 per hour plus insurance and deposit along with a paperwork trail that felt like we were buying a house. The Feds for GGNRA were even worse. Once we started adding up all the fees and costs for rental equipment and all, it was going to cost us \$1,200.00 to \$1,400.00 for the weekend. This was way too much; this money can go a lot further for remodeling the clubhouse than for playing radio for a week-

This year's Field Day on June 25 & 26 will be at our regular hangout, the Rod and Gun Club. We need to be grateful that they donate their facilities to us with the only cost being a donation of \$100 to cover our garbage and all. We will be advertising the event in hopes of getting a few folks to stop by and, of course, we'll have an information table on site when/if they do. The drill will be similar to last year with us setting up on Friday afternoon the 24th, for which we need volunteers!! All of you who turn out to help will receive a gourmet—it could be a gourmand—dinner. We will be operating 4A and especially need CW operators this year. If you missed the J. Leno show last Friday the 5/13, he had a contest to see if text messaging via cell phone is faster than sending the same message by tried and true Morse code. You can download the video clip from the internet at [Http://hamradio.dyns.net](http://hamradio.dyns.net)). It was no contest. CW ruled and beat the text messaging guys by a mile. Minute? Help keep the tradition alive and come operate CW at Field Day.

We should have a great time. Come out Saturday afternoon and operate, talk with friends and stay for dinner that evening. If you are planning on having dinner please RSVP with Chet WA6PAC 461-0657 or Tom KG6TCM 497-4406.

**Conquer That Five WPM Code.**

**Augie Koehler KØCQL, Bill Stewart KF6RMK and Ron Kosciusko KG6SVW will be available 30 minutes prior to the regular meeting from 7 to 7:30 at the MARS clubhouse to conduct a very quick workshop on CW.**

**We will go into some of the tricks of learning code and some practical hands-on keying. If there is enough interest, we would be willing to discuss other sessions of a similar nature leading up to the VE exam.**

**Ron KG6SVW**

John Boyd take notice.

"My parents didn't want to move to Florida, but they turned sixty and that's the law." --Jerry Seinfeld.

In October of 1987, Peter Wolford, N6IYU, looked up from his desk at the Hamilton Field Marin ARC Clubhouse site, building 549, and said to me, "You passed!" I didn't even realize I was taking the CW portion of the Novice test. I was enrolled in the Novice class under the direction of Peter and Mike Edwards, W6FCQ, two fine teachers. Peter said we would be taking a practice test. We took a break. Then we returned for the technical portion of the class. In those days, classes went on for several weeks, at night for several hours. Peter passed us all on the practice test thereby avoiding our test anxiety. He was a man generous with his time, generous with his humor. When we passed our General class test out at Two Rock Coast Guard Station, he made us epaulets to wear on our shoulders.

Peter was a long time friend of Ron Panton, W6VG, who many of you may know. He is a lifetime member and on the Board of the NCDXC. With a long friendship between Peter and Ron, I asked Ron for his musings on Peter. Here is what he wrote:

**Dear Marilyn:**

So sorry our mutual friend is no longer with us. Of course you know that we had a sked on 80 fone every Monday morning. Peter used to say, because of me, he got a ham license. Don't know if that is true. However, we did discover during one of those skeds that we had a mutual contact in the Oakland Symphony around 65 years ago. Peter was playing the bassoon and I the trumpet at the rehearsals and at the concert at the Old Folks Home in Niles or somewhere down in that region, The first trumpet and the 1st bassoon did not show up, so Peter and I were the scapegoats. Needless to say, we fell flat on our faces, trying to fill in for missing hot shots.

Peter knew Helga's (Ron's wife) brother at KCBS where Peter tuned the piano, and I worked in master control. So, Helga's brother talked me into going to the SF Opera house where he sold souvenir programs, and rented out opera glasses. So, I also ushered as Helga was doing, the rest is history, 54 years or so.

Peter and I loved sailing, but he had an old stink pot of a motor boat, about 10 feet long I think. I had a beautiful Star class sail boat. I talked Peter into getting interested in sail boat, rather than little stink pots. He arranged with some guy for us to take the Trimaran. I was shocked, but we went out in SF bay. It got a little windy and the mast snapped off, and we were rescued by the Coast Guard. Boy, did I laugh out loud, and for a long, long time. Peter then got a Tahiti Ketch. Beautiful proper boat. However, one night he left it moored near Santa Cruz, very foggy night, and his beautiful ketch ran aground and was destroyed. Sad. Many more boats were owned by Peter, but none as beautiful as the Tahiti Ketch.

I also presume you knew Peter had only one lung. Blew a very loud bagpipe though. When he was in the SF hospital, I donated some blood for him. When his mother died she remembered me in her will.

I'll see if I can come up with some musings about Pete. Ron Panton, W6VG, and his wife, Helga, who live in Menlo Park, knew him VERY well. Ron and I were on the board of the NCDXC. I just emailed Ron and Helga asking them for some information about Pete. He taught me CW in 1987. Very talented man in other fields: a sailor, had his own boat, sailed up the coast, lost the boat! Played bag pipes. Was a piano tuner. Etc. etc. We'll put our heads together and you can put the finer touches on it.

Hi gang,

I am recruiting volunteer amateur operators for the following events:

The Marin Memorial Races (formerly the Pacific Sun Races). Memorial Day, Monday May 30. 7:00 AM to 11:30 AM Kentfield Six volunteers needed.

The Dipsea Race, Sunday June 12. 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM Dipsea Trail, Mill Valley to Stinson Beach Ten to fifteen volunteers needed.

The Double Dipsea, Saturday June 25. 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM Dipsea Trail, Stinson Beach to Mill Valley to Stinson Beach. Six volunteers needed.

Please contact me if you are available to help.

Thanks, Randy Jenkins KA6BQF

**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:**

**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:**

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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:**

Augie Koehler KØCQL

**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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The Mailing  
 Address  
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