

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

March 2005

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President's Message

(Ain't seen one since 2003)

General Meeting, 4 February.

President John Boyd KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 1932 hours. Other board members present were John Iacono KF6VYH, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, and Doug Slusher KF6AKU. There were about 20 members and guests present.

Connie Sawtelle AE6PA gave the Treasurer's report and after a brief discussion it was approved. Connie also suggested the club's annual picnic be held in Sept. and that was also approved. Another suggestion by Connie was moving the 3rd Sunday club breakfast to a new location. This is to the Depot Garden on B street. This was approved.

John Boyd said there were some problems with the comm truck but it was being looked into. Also he said the programmable radios for the van will be installed soon.

John and Randy discussed the upcoming special events, especially the Miwok 100 and the Human Race and said more volunteers were needed.

Doug Slusher said the receiver on Big Rock is being replaced and the UHF rig for the van still has to be installed. He also said the trustee papers for the club's stations have been mailed.

John Butler, in charge of building maintenance, has fixed the roof leak repaired the side gate, painted the radio room door and moved the vertical antenna in the back lot to a better location and added some radials.

Modifications for the men's room were discussed.

The Ten Tec rig that was on loan to Tam H.S. was returned.

All of the rigs and other equipment the club has will be inventoried and some of it will be sold with club members having first option.

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Website at W6SG.NET

Phone 415.389.6630

Lookie Here!

Guest Speaker for 4 March Meeting.

Dr. Robert Uhrhammer, WB6VEX, is the chief research seismologist at Cal, and will speak on the Great Sumatran Earthquake and Tsunami, and on anything else related to earthquakes. Bob has many requests for speaking engagements, and we are lucky to get him.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Come on down to the clubhouse at 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley, right under the power lines. Meeting starts at 7:30pm but come a little early for the food and drink. As much bellywash as you can hold. By request, we even have bottled water. Ed.

This issue of QSA-5 will be the last for those who chose not to renew the membership to MARS. Dues received prior to the printing date of the April issue will get you reinstated and on the roster which will be printed in April.

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6423

San Rafael, CA 94903

Board Meeting, 8 February.

The meeting was called to order at 1945 hours by John Iacono KF6VYH. Other board members present were Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Raine Strom KG6GII, Frank Strom WA6JTP, Kevin Foley KF6YUF and Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ.

During the recent rains there was quite a bit of moisture that got inside the club's comm truck. One of the members offered the use of his dehumidifier to dry it out.

Doug Slusher has replaced the receiver on the Big Rock repeater.

Tech classes are to be held at the club toward the end of February with possible code classes to follow, but no date as yet for this. The Field Day committee Dave Hodgson, Chet Rice and Norm Baetz will try to set up an alternate site this year to the Marin Rod and Gun Club location. Any recommendations, please contact any board member.

There was a discussion about RACES and the club's participation in it.

John Iacono gave a brief update on this year's Special Events.

The board decided to pay the club's insurance bill in one lump sum instead of quarterly to save some costs.

The PG & E bill was especially high this past month; the board will look into ways of reducing it.

Phil Dunlap recommended that any member not being current with his dues not to receive QSA-5 after the March issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 2006 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

HAM RADIO SAVES A HAM IN ALASKA

Two Alaskan hikers on a day outing in rugged mountains near Anchorage saw their afternoon turn into something entirely unexpected February 12. One of them--Jesse Jones, KL1RK--slipped and fell more than 200 feet down a steep ravine, losing his snowshoes in the process. Jones found himself trapped between a low overhang on one side and a swift-moving stream on the other. Even worse was the fact that his descent could continue into the water at any moment, and almost certain death from hypothermia. With more than 10 feet on the ground, the loss of his snowshoes meant he could not walk out. On the plus side, Jones had taken along his 2-meter handheld transceiver. After several unsuccessful tries, he finally was able to access the wide-area WL7CVG repeater atop Mt Susitna, almost 40 miles distant.

"As a control operator for the repeater, I heard his weak 'Mayday! Mayday! Mayday!' call just a few minutes after 4 PM local time," reports Jim Wiley, KL7CC. "I immediately called 911 and was placed in contact with the local fire department rescue coordinator. I was able to pass on Jesse's messages to the local rescue coordinator, including coordinates from a GPS unit he was carrying." Wiley says the rescue coordinator's office called out the local mountain rescue group and the Alaska State Troopers, who immediately left for the scene.

The rescue team met with Jones's climbing partner, who had been able to hike out to a place where he could assist the rescuers. Jones was able to keep in touch via 2 meters to report his condition, but his signal into the repeater was marginal. Although uninjured, the sub-zero cold was numbing his extremities to the point that he was having trouble operating his transceiver.

Unable to execute the rescue themselves, the team called an Air National Guard unit, which flew a helicopter to the scene.

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From column one.

While the presence of high-voltage power lines just above Jones' position complicated matters, the chopper was able to lower some para-rescue jumpers to a nearby location, from which they could rappel to his position and, after a few hours, extricate him.

Briefly hospitalized for a checkup, Jones was released just before midnight, cold and a bit hungry, but otherwise okay. Wiley says several local hams also assisted the effort, either directly or by their connection with local emergency service groups.

From the ARR Letter.

New QST column aims to take mystery out of modern ham gear

(Feb 25, 2005) -- A new column, "Getting to Know Your Radio" will debut in the April edition of QST. Author and ARRL Product Review Editor Joel Hallas, W1ZR, says the column "basically talks about what all those knobs do" on modern equipment. "The idea is to acquaint users with the typical features of modern radios." Hallas says there was a time when radio receivers were pretty easy to understand--in some cases not all that much different from the broadcast set in the kitchen--so most new amateurs could quickly learn their way around the front panel. It's a new world now. "It's fair to say that modern transceivers have come a long way since the *boat anchors* of the 1950s and earlier," he says. "Many transceiver makers seem to sell their wares by claiming the most and newest features." As a result, modern ham transceivers can be pretty intimidating, making operation daunting for newcomers and veterans alike. The first installment of "Getting to Know Your Radio" will cover the now-popular--and common--passband tuning feature. Hallas says a column on audio compression systems is just ahead.

General Meeting from page one.

Dave Hodgson talked about the upcoming Field Day, June 25-26.

There was a discussion about various new sites other than our old standby the Marin Rod And Gun Club.

There was a discussion about training classes for both RACES and Tech licenses.

There was a reminder that dues are due. Please said yours in as soon as possible.

There was a discussion on programs and speakers for future club meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 2011 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

Three handsome male dogs are walking down the street when they see a beautiful, enticing, female Poodle. The three male dogs fall all over themselves in an effort to be the one to reach her first, but end up arriving in front of her at the same time. The males are speechless before her beauty, slobbering on themselves and hoping for just a glance from her in return. Aware of her charms and her obvious effect on the three suitors, she decides to be kind and tells them "The first one who can use the words "liver" and "cheese" together in an imaginative, intelligent sentence can go out with me." The sturdy, muscular black Lab speaks up quickly and says "I love liver and cheese." "Oh, how childish," said the Poodle. "That shows no imagination or intelligence whatsoever." She turned to the tall, shiny Golden Retriever and said "How well can you do?" "Ummmm...I HATE liver and cheese," blurts the Golden Retriever. "My, my," said the Poodle. "I guess it's hopeless. That's just as dumb as the Lab's sentence." She then turns to the last of the three dogs and says, "How about you, little guy?" The last of the three, tiny in stature but big in fame and finesse, is the Taco Bell chihuahua. He gives her a smile, a sly wink, turns to the Golden Retriever and the Lab and says...

"Liver alone. Cheese mine."

FCC Fines Continue to Mount in Gerritsen Case

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 25, 2005-- Briefly licensed radio amateur and alleged jammer Jack Gerritsen, ex-KG6IRO, of Bell, California, now faces a total of \$52,000 in FCC-imposed or proposed fines. In a January 21 *Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture* (NAL) the FCC proposed to levy another \$21,000 forfeiture on Gerritsen--this time for apparently violating Section 333 of the Communications Act by interfering with a US Coast Guard rescue effort last October 29 on amateur frequencies. Part 97 Amateur Service rules also require that control operators "give priority to stations providing emergency communications," the FCC noted.

"Gerritsen's apparent willful and malicious interference with the radio communications of the Coast Guard Auxiliary officer who was attempting to communicate with a ship in distress is egregious," said the most recent NAL, signed by FCC Los Angeles District Office District Director Catherine Deaton. "According to the evidence, Gerritsen knowingly operates, without a license, radio transmission equipment." In the NAL, the FCC alleged that Gerritsen continued to transmit "despite repeated warnings and requests to vacate the frequency."

The latest proposed forfeiture factors in an "upward adjustment" from the \$7000 base fine for causing interference to licensed stations, the NAL said. The FCC already has affirmed a \$10,000 fine levied against Gerritsen last year for interfering with Amateur Radio communications. In December, the Commission proposed an additional \$21,000 fine, citing additional instances of alleged interference on amateur frequencies.

Erroneously claiming he's still licensed, Gerritsen has been accused of bombarding numerous Los Angeles-area repeaters with verbal tirades, often identifying with his now-deleted amateur call sign. The FCC in 2001 granted Gerritsen a Technician ticket, then promptly set it aside

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when it learned of Gerritsen's state conviction for interfering with public safety radio communications. Gerritsen spent some time in jail as a result of that case, which he's appealing.

The FCC has advised Gerritsen orally and in writing that he has no authority to operate radio transmitting equipment on amateur frequencies. He has claimed--incorrectly--that the FCC cannot take away his operating authority without a hearing.

In mid-December, the ARRL called upon FCC Enforcement Chief David Solomon to intervene with the US Attorney's office in the Gerritsen case, citing the urgency of the situation and suggesting "that procedures other than monetary forfeitures be brought to bear." ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, suggested in the letter that the time for gathering additional evidence was past, since the malicious interference continues.

According to the FCC, the October 29, 2004, incident involved efforts by a member of the US Coast Guard Auxiliary to contact the sailing vessel *Elke-Marie* after a storm rendered the boat's VHF marine radio non-operational. The vessel had working Amateur Radio gear, however. When the USCGA officer attempted to contact the *S/V Elke-Marie* on behalf of the Coast Guard using the Catalina Island Amateur Radio Association (CARA) VHF repeater, "Gerritsen began speaking and transmitting a pre-recorded message," the officer and the complainant in the case--the wife of a passenger on the sailboat--alleged.

Although the officer asked him to stand down, Gerritsen continued to transmit, accusing the officer of declaring a sham emergency in an effort to jam Gerritsen's transmissions. "Gerritsen," the NAL recounts, "continued transmitting for approximately 40 minutes, repeatedly playing a taped recording and ultimately ending his transmission by saying, 'If you jam me, I'll jam you.'"

Within 90 minutes of the incident, FCC agents tracked a signal on the repeater's input frequency to Gerritsen's residence, but attempts to contact him by telephone proved unsuccessful. Later that same day, FCC officials tracked to Gerritsen's residence a transmission on

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on another 2-meter frequency during which the operator identified using KG6IRO. As the agents approached Gerritsen's front door, they heard a voice from inside the dwelling that "synchronized with the voice heard on the agent's handheld scanner," the NAL said. No one answered the door, however.

A CARA official told the FCC's Los Angeles office that he had not only monitored the alleged interference by Gerritsen but had recorded the incident. The recording was provided to the FCC.

Several hundred ARRL members from the Los Angeles area have complained to the League about Gerritsen's alleged activities. In its letter in December, the ARRL called on the Enforcement Bureau to "arrange for appropriate proceedings to be initiated to cause the incessant and damaging malicious interference to cease."

FCC Enforcement Bureau Assistant Chief George R. Dillon responded to the League by saying the Commission was "treating the allegations contained in your letter and the complaints we have received regarding his actions very seriously."

From the ARRL Website.

Where are the Vigilantes, now that we could use them? Ed. <GRIN>

Mary Clancy goes up to Father O'Grady after his Sunday morning service, and she's in tears. He says, "So what's bothering you, Mary my dear?" She says, "Oh, Father, I've got terrible news. My husband passed away last night." The priest says, "Oh, Mary, that's terrible. Tell me, Mary, did he have any last requests?" She says, "That he did, Father."

The priest says, "What did he ask, Mary?" She says, "He said, 'Please Mary, put down that damn gun...'"

"I can't understand how the cat came to have kittens," an old lady said to the vet. "I never let her out and no other cats are allowed near her." The vet looked around and saw a large tom sitting by the fireplace. "What about him?" He asked. "Oh, don't be silly," said the old lady. "That's her brother."

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

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John Boyd KE6ORI

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Trustee for K6GWE:

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Public Service Event Coordinator

This will probably be a shared responsibility.

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