

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

May 2005

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President's Message

(Huh?)

General Meeting, 1 April.

The meeting was called to order at 1942 hours by President John Boyd KE6ORI. Other board members present were John Iacono KF6VYH, Norm Baetz WA5CLK and Phil Dunlap K6PHD. There was a total of 15 members present. There was no Treasurer's report given; it will be presented at the board meeting.

An update on the club's comm. van: the de-humidifier is doing its job and the moisture inside the truck caused by the recent rains, and leaking seals, is drying up.

Connie Sawtelle AE6PA reported all is set for the two upcoming social events, the picnic at Sam Taylor Park in September and our annual Christmas party in December. More news on these in future issues.

John Boyd is going to the Dayton Hamvention in May and has volunteered to pick up some raffle gifts for the Christmas party.

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF asked for volunteers for special events. Anyone interested please contact Randy. It's really important that we all get involved. The dates for these events are listed in last months QSA-5, (and in column two of this page. Duh! Ed.)

It was reported that the receiver on Big Rock will be replaced soon, possibly on the weekend of April 16-17.

John Butler is in the process of completely revamping our antenna system at the clubhouse. A lot has been accomplished and more will be done. Nice job, John.

New **Tech** classes are coming up May 28th and June 4th with a test on June 11th. Pass the word around to prospective hams. Randy said there are **General** classes being held in the East Bay. Contact him for details.

Go to page two, column one.

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. We believe that the Double Century supplies food and drink along the route and at the finish. Others may do the same. See Randy KA6BQF for further info.

7 May **Human Race** 07:30-12:00
Civic Center (5)

31 May **Pacific Sun 10K Run** (5)
College of Marin 07:30-11:30

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

Mailing Address

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Board Meeting, 12 April.

Norm WA6CLK, our secretary was not on site for the meeting so some minutes were recorded by a couple of volunteer stand-ins, Dave KG6TCJ and Raine KG6GII. Your editor was not present, either, so we can only assume that these two temporary scribes were not threatened with bodily harm had they failed to come up with a few words to be used in the May issue of QSA-5 and were, therefore, valid volunteers. So far, so good.

The document was turned over to our President John KE6ORI for safe keeping until he could get it to the editor of QSA-5 for posting in this spot. John said he would deliver it to the clubhouse on Sunday 24 April. However, by the time John reached bible/babble class Sunday morning, the minutes had mysteriously disappeared with no valid explanation.

Now, as to the reason the document went missing, we can only speculate. Was the cause just a case of minor carelessness? Or was there a sinister motive involved here? Could there have been something on that piece of paper that certain unknown persons did not want to be seen by the general membership? No other board members at the meeting have come forward with any information, leading to the suspicion that all of them are in cahoots in a possible cover up. But of what? As far as we can tell, nothing of any real value is missing from the clubhouse. All the donated equipment still resides in the shack.

Whispers of 'Mexico', 'Reno', 'Vegas' and the phrase 'How many miles to the border?' have been overheard at the clubhouse. Quick! Check the bank accounts!

Gen. Meeting, from page one, col. 1

The Field Day site is still up in the air. We have an OK on the Marin Rod and Gun Club site but there is a push for a new location, possibly to get better coverage/publicity.

Connie Sawtelle reminded the members that the new site for the monthly Sunday breakfast (the 3rd Sunday) is at the Depot Garden Café just down the street from the smelly Flatiron Bldg. toward the Safeway store.

John Iacono said he might be moving out of the area—possibly to Sacramento, where his female friend resides—so he might be looking for people to help him with some of his moving workload.

Some of the surplus equipment the club has accumulated will be sold with club members having first option. Stay tuned.

Randy Jenkins gave the club a very interesting and informative talk on Special Events. The meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours.

Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary.

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Subject: Dear John

The ultimate response to a Dear John letter. You gotta love a man like this! Humor in the face of defeat.

A Marine was deployed to Afghanistan. While he was there he received a letter from his girlfriend. In the letter she explained that she had met two other guys while he had been gone and she wanted to break up with him. AND, she wanted the pictures of herself returned.

So the Marine did what any squared-away Marine would do. He went around to his buddies and collected all the surplus photos of women he could find. He then mailed about 25 pictures of women, with clothes and without, to his girlfriend with the following note:

"I don't remember which one you are. Please remove your picture and send the rest back."

NOW THERE IS A REAL MARINE

From the 'net.

**SF Section News 4/18/05
Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV**

On the weekend of May 14 and 15, 2005, EMCOMM West 2005 will be held at the Holiday Inn in Reno. EMCOMM is a specialty convention with emphasis on the emergency services aspects of Amateur Radio. The discounted fee is good to May 1st and the hotel is only \$59 per night. More information on EMCOMM can be found at <http://emcommwest.org>.

The San Francisco Section Convention will once again be hosted by the Humboldt County clubs in Ferndale June 3 through 5. There are always some equipment treasures in the swap, and informative seminars. For those in your group who aren't as interested in Ham stuff, Victorian Ferndale has plenty to see. Visit their website at <http://www.humboldt-arc.org> for information on the convention. Make your reservation now!

Spring has sprung and most clubs' public service season has started. If your club is providing communications support for a worthy organization and you need additional help, feel free to contact a nearby club for support. Mutual aid between the clubs is a great way to meet other hams in the area. If you don't know who to contact in your nearby clubs, let me know. I'll put you in touch with the right people.

I visited the Anchor Bay ARC in March. Ken Reynoldson KE6WC is the current President of this outstanding club. Their dinner meeting was well attended and quite lively. Amateur Radio is quite alive in this area where cell phones have limited use. Members participated in a multi-agency Search and Rescue training conference held in their area. They are planning their Field Day at the local light house. Thanks for the hospitality, Ken!

This last Friday, the San Francisco ARC meeting program was presentations by the SF ACS, ARES and NERT organizations. ACS leader Connie Berry KF6WEA brought everyone up to date on San Francisco's ACS program. ARES DEC Merlin Willis N6OFY talked on the role ARES takes on in the area. SFARC provides support by offering its repeaters when needed.

Go to column three.

From column two.

It was good to hear how the organizations work together to provide quality service to the citizens of San Francisco.

Have a great Spring!

73, Bill

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Sharper Image Loses.

You may have noticed the ads/commercials placed by SHARPER IMAGE on TV and in newspapers, touting the benefits of its IONIC BREEZE QUADRA air cleaner. They may have a large number of these things on hand and desire to unload them to the ignorant before the following becomes common knowledge.

From CONSUMER REPORTS for May 2005:

"Sharper Image Corp. has ended a product disparagement lawsuit that it brought against Consumers Union, publisher of Consumer Reports, paying CU court-ordered attorneys' fees and costs totaling \$525,000.

SHARPER IMAGE sued after CONSUMER REPORTS judged the company's IONIC BREEZE QUADRA air cleaner "ineffective" in an October 2003 report. A US District Court dismissed the suit, ruling that SHARPER IMAGE had not shown our findings to be false. Because SHARPER IMAGE'S claims affected CR's rights of free speech and press, the court ordered the company to pay our legal expenses. SHARPER IMAGE filed an appeal but later withdrew it, ending legal action."

"SHARPER IMAGE'S decision to withdraw its appeal puts an end to a lawsuit that should never have been filed, over reviews that were truthful, carefully researched, and fairly stated," said Jim Guest, president of CONSUMERS UNION. "This is a victory for every American concerned about the rights of an unbiased organization to test products independently, and to speak out in the interest of product performance and quality."

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To keep your system clock synced to WWV, go here for a FREE download site:

<http://www.winsite.com/bin/Info?100000034325>

DX Info From W6FQS

You may already have and use some of these websites. I consult them on a daily basis to keep in touch with what to expect on the various bands.

www.dxscape.com This a near real-time spotting dx cluster net that covers all the bands. Tells you who working who on what frequency and what time.

<http://oh2aq.kolumbus.com/dxs/> This is the DX summit net that provides basically the same info as the above but in a slightly different format. I use both to compare but I find this one is a bit slower to update than dxscape.

<http://dx.qsl.net/propagation> This one gives you the SFI-2100 Mhz. Solar flux index, the Ap-planetary A index, the Kp-planetary K index, the solar wind velocity and proton density per cubic centimeter, notes any CME-coronal mass ejections, the x-rays, any solar flares and the magnitude, that is A,B,C,M or X and the time of occurrence. The sunspot number. The extent of the aurora at the north and south poles and commentary re: the status of the earths geomagnetic field. Also, is a real-time greyline world map showing exactly what portions of our earth are in daylight or darkness. *i.e.*, the position of the greyline and the location of the sun at high-noon.

<http://www.usno.navy.mil/> This is the Naval Observatory. You can click on the "data services" link. Type-in your town location and get monthly or one-day readout of the exact time of sunrise/sunset in you location. This ties-in with the greyline info and is very important on 160, 80 and 40 meters if you really want to work a distance.

Also, buy the book titled "Low-Band DXing" available via the ARRL written by ON4UN which is excellent. Sort of "the bible" for DXers on these bands. It describes many little-known propagation vagaries seldom mentioned in other books such as "chordal propagation." Fascinating reading and it also has a wealth of antenna information. Go to column two.

From column one.

I used to spend hours tuning around trying to figure out what band I should be on to work what area and what was coming through. Now and then, I would hear a DX station on but there was usually a big pile-up and I didn't often get through. Now, I check-out these websites while the rig is warming up and make an informed decision as to what I want to do. The odds of stumbling across China, Taiwan, India, Bulgaria or whatever or an expedition on some rock in the middle of nowhere are quite slim. The spotting nets mentioned above get you right on freq. and you either hear them or you don't. If you don't and others in your area are hearing and working them, then, you know you need either less noise, a better antenna or a better receiver. At least, it's not a crap-shoot. Check it out.

Pinky W6FQS, Chico, CA

A Little Insight on the State Lottery.

We used to buy an occasional ticket when the total grew large enough to tempt us, but that was years ago. No longer. And we believe that we weaned at least one other sucker away from the habit.

When he told us he was going to buy a ticket one afternoon, we inquired of him if he used any particular numbers or just grabbed a quick-pick. He said that he used the same numbers every time. We asked if he had any objection to trying the digits one through six or any other consecutive string of numbers. He replied that those would never come up together. We answered that they had just as good a chance as any other combination of numbers. He thought about that for a moment, nodded, and as far as we know, has not bought any more State Lottery tickets. At least he won't admit to it if he has. Ed.

From the pilot during his welcome message: "Delta Airlines is pleased to have some of the best flight attendants in the industry. Unfortunately, none of them are on this flight!"

Another flight attendant's comment on a less than perfect landing: "We ask you to please remain seated as Captain Kangaroo bounces us to the terminal."

Viagra Story.

This elderly lady went to the doctor for a checkup. Everything checked out fine. She pulled the doctor aside and said, "Doctor, I haven't had sex for years now and I was wondering how I can increase my husband's sex drive."

The doctor smiled and said, "Have you tried giving him Viagra?"

The lady frowned. "Doctor, I can't even get him to take aspirin when he has a headache," she claimed.

"Well," the doctor continued, "let me suggest something. Crush the Viagra into a powder. When you are giving him coffee, stir it into the coffee and serve it. He won't notice a thing."

The old gal was delighted. She left the doctor's office quickly. Weeks later she returned. She was frowning and the doctor asked her what was wrong. She shook her head.

"How did it go?" the doctor asked.

"Terrible, doctor, terrible."

"Did it not work?"

"Yes," the old lady said, "it worked.

I did as you said and he got up and ripped his clothes off right then and there and we made mad love on the table. It was the best sex that I'd had in 25 years."

"Then what is the problem, ma'am?"

"Well," she said. "I can't ever show my face in McDonald's again."



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QST March 1963

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

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Additional Board Members:

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Herman Weiss WP4DCM 789-9576

Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849

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Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170

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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:

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Public Service Event Coordinator

This will probably be a shared responsibility.

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