

# Q S A - 5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter November 2005 Page 1

<p><b>President's Message?</b> Don't bet on it.</p>	<p><b>Website at W6SG.NET</b> <b>Phone 415.389.6630</b></p>	<p><b>P.O. Box 6423</b> <b>San Rafael, CA 94903</b></p>
<p><b>General Meeting, 7 October.</b></p> <p>Our secretary was not on site and nobody recorded any minutes for this column. Could we be emulating the Clampers—E Clampus Vitus—of the gold rush era?: “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.”</p> <p>We believe that the strongest drink on site is regular, caffeine-rich COKE. Anyway, here is a substitute for the missing minutes, a short report by John Butler, KF6GNI, our building mgr.</p> <hr/> <p>Building Report, 7 October 2005</p> <p>Unfortunately, other commitments prevent my attendance tonight. However, I spent five hours here today working on the Radio Room Project.</p> <p>I started mounting the North wall material, following rearranging the equipment on the existing shelves. Please be careful, as it is all under the new South bench and stacked in boxes on the left as you enter the room.</p> <p>I also connected the hallicrafters SX-110 receiver to an indoor wire antenna. It works very well; please feel free to try it out. Every shack should have an indoor antenna to help establish baseline noise levels.</p> <p>Work will continue as I have time and resources.</p> <p>John Butler KF6GNI</p> <hr/> <p>For those members and visitors who have seen the shack prior to John's improvements, if you saw it now you would think it was a completely different communications installation which, except for most of the radio equipment, it is. And it's not complete yet. Come on down on a Sunday morning from 0800 to around 1030 to check it out. ed.</p>	<p><b>4 November Meeting</b></p> <p>Come on down to the clubhouse on Friday eve to hear <b>Denice Stoops</b>, former shore station CW op who was known to handle around <b>40 wpm</b>. She has just acquired her General class call, KI6BBR, and is a MARS member. Denice will bring us up to date on the Maritime Radio Historical Society and recall her life as a Coast Guard and shore station operator at sites around the Pacific Basin.</p> <p>Ben, N6PJZ</p> <hr/> <p>Arrive before the 1930 meeting start time and get some free snacks and bellywash. Some of our more rotund members, including your editor, often make this time their dinner hour.</p>	<p><b>Board Meeting 11 October.</b></p> <p>President John Boyd KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 1940 hours. Other board members present were Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ and Kevin Foley KF6YUF.</p> <p>A list of nominees for next year's board has been selected and the ballots will be sent to the members shortly for voting.</p> <p>Doug Slusher presented a bill for recent truck repairs and maintenance costs including tune ups, brake work, etc. These charges were approved by the board. There was a lengthy discussion about the club's truck including projected future repairs and modifications. The truck is in need of body work, painting and there is a rust problem. There was a general opinion that that the truck should be good for several years and then a discussion made to upgrade or purchase another truck. It also was suggested that the club have a community fund raiser to raise money to offset some of these costs. The club will also look into building a shed in the back to protect the truck from the winter rains.</p> <p>Thanks to John Butler the radio room is coming along very nicely. One side is all finished and John is starting on the North wall. All members are invited to operate the equipment.</p> <p>Arrangements are completed for our annual Christmas dinner party and sign-up sheets will go out shortly.</p> <p>There is a county-wide emergency drill scheduled for Nov. 17.</p> <p>Dave Hodgson talked about two public service events coming up. The Escape from Alcatraz and the Saturn relay. Volunteers are needed. Get in touch with Dave or Randy KA6BQF.</p> <p>Doug gave an update on the repeaters and said all were operating in good shape. The meeting was adjourned at 2045 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, secretary.</p>
<p><b>Christmas Dinner Party,</b></p> <p>This space was reserved for stuff on the MARS party at the Four Seasons in Terrible Linda. However, we didn't receive any info—word of mouth is easily forgotten—so all we think we know is that it's in December, probably on a Sunday toward the beginning of the month. Other than that, we're in the dark on this. Some information may be available at the clubhouse on Sunday 10/30 but this publication will be printed no later than Saturday morning.</p>	<p><b>Nominees for Board of Directors For 2006.</b></p> <p>The names were scheduled to be posted in this issue but the source of that information hasn't come through with them. Three emails sent on three consecutive days, replied to and promising to send the names, failed to secure the required info. Maybe he doesn't want anyone to know? Well, the job</p>	

**Sad Story**

Two Minnesotans walk into a pet shop in Dingle. They head to the bird section and Sven says to Hans, "Dat's dem." The owner comes over and asks if he can help them. "Yah, we'll take four of dem dere little budgies in dat cage up dere," says Sven. The owner puts the budgies in a paper bag.

Hans and Sven pay for the birds, leave the shop, get into Sven's pick-up and drive to the top of the Conor Pass. At the Conor Pass, Sven looks down at the 1000-foot drop and says: "Dis looks like a grand place." He takes two birds out of the bag, tapes their feet to his shoulders and jumps off the cliff. Hans watches as Sven falls all the way to the bottom, splattering like an overripe tomato.

Looking down at the remains of his best pal, Hans shakes his head and says: "Dis budgie yumping is too dangerous for me."

BUT WAIT!!!! there's MORE!

PART TWO:

Moments later Ole arrives up at Conor Pass. He's been to the pet shop too. He walks up to the edge of the cliff carrying another paper bag in one hand and a shotgun in the other.

"Hi, Hans. Watch dis," Ole says. He takes a parrot from the bag and throws himself over the edge of the cliff. Hans watches as half way down, Ole takes the gun and shoots the parrot. Ole continues to plummet down and down until he hits the bottom and breaks all 206 bones in his body.

Hans shakes his head and says, "And I'm never trying dat parrot shooting either."

BUT WAIT!!!!.....There's MORE!!

PART THREE:

Hans is just getting over the shock of losing two friends when Lars appears. He's also been to the pet shop and is carrying a paper bag out of which he pulls a chicken. Lars then grasps the chicken by the legs holds it over his head and hurls himself off the cliff and disappears down and down until he hits bottom and is catastrophically disassembled.

Once more Hans shakes his head - "First dere vas Sven with his budgie yumping, den Ole parrot shooting .....and now Lars vas hen glid-

**NEW ARRL PETITION SEEKS TO RESOLVE BPL STANDOFF**

Not all BPL systems are created equal. Some have far less potential to interfere with Amateur Radio than others. That's the rationale behind a petition the ARRL filed this week, asking the FCC to modify the Part 15 BPL rules it adopted a year ago and sharply reduce BPL's interference potential. In exchange, the League said it would withdraw its still-pending Petition for Reconsideration in the BPL proceeding, ET Docket 04-37. The ARRL says its suggested rule amendments--which take into consideration recent advancements in BPL technology--will "resolve unsettled but substantial interference issues" affecting Amateur Radio and other HF users.

"It is no longer the case that all BPL systems inherently radiate high levels of RF energy on amateur allocations on overhead medium-voltage power lines," the ARRL said. "Thus, not all BPL architectures have similar potential for harmful interference to the Amateur Radio Service (and to other licensed services). Some have inherently greater potential for interference, as currently configured, than others."

The problematic systems, the League said, are those that make use of the HF spectrum on unshielded overhead medium-voltage lines. BPL systems such as those using DS2 or Main.net technology that lack fixed, permanent notches in the ham bands, the ARRL noted, have been among those involved in interference cases. "As detailed in ARRL's Petition for Reconsideration in this proceeding, "this has resulted, in field tests and in deployments, in substantial, extremely difficult-to-resolve incidents of interference to fixed and mobile Amateur Radio facilities," the League said.

The ARRL said the FCC "has assisted not at all, or imperceptibly, in these cases, and the BPL system operator has either been uncooperative or unable to resolve the interference."

The League said its proposed additional regulations would permit those BPL architectures that are "benign," while discouraging "first-generation interference-causing BPL configurations, unless the latter modify their systems in certain minor aspects." A "benign" system, the ARRL noted, would not apply HF signals on overhead medium-voltage lines and would include fixed, permanent notches in the amateur bands.

Among the several BPL system designs that implement BPL without creating harmful interference to amateur operations, the ARRL specifically cited the Motorola Powerline LV BPL system. Motorola's system doesn't use medium-voltage power lines, and it has been designed to preclude interference to ham radio and other licensed services.

For several weeks, ARRL and Motorola have cooperated in a BPL test stand at W1AW that has operated successfully without significant interference to Amateur Radio. The League also cited BPL systems by Current Technologies, IBEC and Corridor Systems as being among those that meet the additional requirements it's proposing. Current Technologies' BPL deployment in the Cincinnati, Ohio, area, for example, does not make use of medium-voltage lines for transmission of HF signals and utilizes the HomePlug notching protocol. Limited testing, the ARRL said, indicates that, as a result, the interference potential "is minimal relative to Amateur Radio facilities."

Incorporating three elements into the BPL rules adopted last year would essentially resolve all issues that the ARRL and the Amateur Service have with access BPL, the League said: Prohibiting all access BPL systems from using Amateur Radio allocations (except the five channels at 5 MHz, which the current HomePlug system architecture does not notch); prohibiting access BPL systems from using HF bands on medium-voltage power lines; and measuring signal decay from access BPL systems using a more accurate 20 dB/decade extrapolation factor rather than the 40 dB/decade factor the current rules support.

Adopting its proposals, the League said, would result in a more robust product that meets the Commission's stated goals of accommodating BPL as an additional broadband option while protecting licensed radio services. "The present BPL rules achieve the first of the goals, but they are woefully inadequate to meet the second," the ARRL said.

"It is the Commission's obligation to recognize and utilize this opportunity and to amend its rules to protect licensed radio services for the first time in this proceeding," the ARRL concluded. "It can be done without significant system redesign by any BPL provider."

From the ARRL Letter.

**Vanity Call Processing**

Thanks to Hurricane Wilma, the FCC likely will not be processing any vanity call sign applications until late December. The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) halted vanity processing on or about September 23 after realizing that filing and regulatory deadline extensions for licensees in certain states affected by hurricanes Katrina and Rita could affect the vanity program. This week, the FCC announced an additional extension--until December 22--for licensees adversely affected by Hurricane Wilma. Because all three extensions apply to Amateur Radio's two-year "grace period," they could have an impact on vanity call sign processing. A WTB spokesperson said that the Wilma deadline extension probably would have the same effect on vanity processing as the previous two.

The FCC has not announced when vanity processing will resume, but at this point it appears unlikely that the date will be any sooner than December 23. It typically takes approximately three weeks for the FCC to process a vanity call sign application. In August, the FCC raised the vanity application fee to \$21.90.

Condensed quite a bit from the **ARRL Letter**. That missive tends to be excessively wordy.

**Another Golf Story**

A man was golfing with his wife. He hooked one clear off the fairway and it landed in front of a barn. as they were checking the lie, the wife said, "If we open the doors of the barn I think you can play through." They opened the doors and the man took a swing. The ball hit the barn door, bounced back and killed his wife. Six weeks later he was playing the same hole and again hooked it. The ball landed in the same place. A friend, playing with him, checked the lie and suggested opening the doors and playing through. "No way!" said the man. "I tried that and took a nine on this hole."

Two old guys were talking. "I think my wife died," said one. "What do you mean, THINK," responded his friend. "Well the sex is the same, but the sink is filling up with dishes."



Can you ID this car? Made from 1951-54. First sports car introduced by a US manufacturer in twenty years. A two word name. The grill on this 1951 model is a clue. Check it out at <http://www.americansportscars.com/healey.html>

**California Lottery FAQ**

**4. What happens if a winner of a prize paid in installments dies before his or her last installment has been paid?**

The California Lottery® prize is the winner's property and is considered part of the winner's estate. The winner may will the prize or leave it in trust to designated heirs. The California Lottery encourages all winners of large Lottery prizes to consult with financial experts to review their options.

This site shows all the .suffixes and tells you what they mean, e.g., .jpg, .exe, .wmv, etc.

<http://whatis.techtarget.com/fileFormatA/0,289933,sid9,00.html>

**More on Morse**

With three days to go, nearly 3200 comments had been filed--more than 500 of them in the past week--in response to the **FCC** "Morse code" Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) in WT Docket 05-235. The NPRM&O proposes to do away with the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for all license classes. The July NPRM&O also denied several proposals to create a new entry-level license class.

An FCC Report and Order ending this proceeding and announcing the effective date of any rule changes is not likely until sometime in 2006.

From the wordy ARRL Letter

**Stuff for Sale.**

- 1) IC-471H 440 transceiver (75 W) \$350.
- 2) IC-271H 2 mtr (100 W) \$300. or both for \$600.
- 3) Force 12 HF 40-10-15-20 + WARC beam... needs a few standoffs replaced and new wire for the linear loaded 40 meter part, otherwise in good shape. Cost was almost \$1000 new and believe they are still being sold for at least that price. Selling for \$450.
- 4) 40 meter rotatable dipole \$75.

I also have an IC-781 HF transceiver, the one with a scope & built in PS @ 150 watts, sold new for over \$8K. Will sell it for around 2.2K.

**Rich W6UDS 479-3136**

**Got Mold?**

You've probably seen it, that black stuff that forms, usually on the inside of exterior walls behind headboards and other furniture placed close to those walls where air circulation may be minimum. This tip is from a pro painter: Don't waste your time with those wimpy products from the grocery store. Use full strength laundry bleach, applied CAREFULLY with a paint brush or something that is not affected by that 6%—used to be 5¼%—sodium hypochlorite solution. Cellulose sponges are out because they must be used with a rubber glove and soon disintegrate. Ventilate the area; a fan works well to disburse the chlorine gas given off. If the chlorine gets too strong, leave the area for a while. You might want to do this on a day when you can open some windows. Of course, be careful not to get the bleach on anything other than the moldy wall. Don't wash it off. Paint right over it when dry.

We tried this and found that the paint color was not affected. Next step here is to remove our headboard and treat the wall behind it. We found that it's pretty much solid black.

A well insulated wall shouldn't have much of a mold problem but this house was built in 1952 when nobody worried much about the cost of natural gas. Ed.

**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. Angle 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/Board 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.

<p><b>Marin Amateur Radio Society</b></p> <p><b>President:</b> John Boyd KE6ORI</p> <p><b>Vice President:</b> John Iacono KF6VYH 897-0431</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b></p> <p><b>Additional Board Members:</b> Al Weisman W5ALW 510.237.1978 Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170 Frank Strom WA6JTP 453-3170</p>	<p><b>Education Chair:</b> Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170 Ben7ham@aol.com</p> <p><b>Membership Chair:</b> Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120</p> <p><b>VE Liaison:</b> Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978</p> <p><b>Building Mgr.</b> John Butler KF6GNI 717-3148</p> <p><b>Trustee for W6SG:</b> Augie Koehler KØCQL</p> <p><b>Trustee for K6GWE:</b> Doug Slusher KF6AKU</p> <p><b>Sunday Emergency Nets:</b> <b>HF</b> Frank Strom WA6JTP <b>VHF</b> Raine Strom KG6GII</p>	<p><b>ARRL WAS Local Rep:</b></p> <p><b>DX Representative of ARRL:</b> Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</p> <p><b>WEBMASTER</b> Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET</p> <p><b>Public Service Event Coordinator</b> This is a shared responsibility.</p> <p><b>Editor of QSA-5:</b> Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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**Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 6423**  
**San Rafael, CA 94903**

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