

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter September 2005 Page 1

## President's Message

Nope.

### General Meeting, 1 July

The meeting was called to order by President John Boyd KE6ORI at 1940 hrs. Other board members present were John Iacono KF6VYH, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Raine Strom KG6GII, Frank Strom WA6JTP, and Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ. There was a total of 25 members and guests present.

Visitors were introduced and Connie Sawtelle AE6PA gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved.

Randy Jenkins KF6BQF and Dave Hodgson gave an update on the club's truck repairs and renovations. John Boyd will look into the costs of body work and repainting. The truck did a fine job on Field Day.

Connie talked about the club's picnic which will be held at Sam Taylor state park on Sept. 17. She is looking for suggestions from members on what food to provide. This will be decided at the August meeting.

The Christmas party is still scheduled for December at the Four Points Hotel in December.

Randy Jenkins thanked all who helped out at the Double Dipsea race and talked about upcoming special events. Volunteers needed for these. Please contact Randy if you can help.

Dave Hodgson gave a report on Field Day and thanked all who participated. There was an improvement in our score over last year and everyone seemed to have had a good time. The food provided was good and the weather, though cool at night, was ideal during the day. Ideas for a new location for next years Field Day were brought up but nothing was decided.

Dave also talked about last months RACES meeting, nothing new, and also said the County has donated some

Go to column two.

## Website at W6SG.NET

Phone 415.389.6630

### COME TO THE PICNIC!

**MARS' Annual Picnic will be on Saturday, September 17th from noon to 6:00 with lots of good food and fellowship. Please plan to come on out to the Redwood Grove at Samuel Taylor Park and enjoy the day with us!!! Connie AE6PA**

### Special Events for 2005.

**Most of these events are on a Saturday. The Escape From Alcatraz is on Sunday. 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**

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

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

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

### General meeting, cont.

Ham TV equipment to the club. It needs some repair but could be a start on the club getting into ATV. The meeting was adjourned at 2020 hrs. Submitted by Norm Baetz.

There was no August issue of QSA5 due to a mechanical failure of the CPU 'heatsink retention mechanism' on our PC main board. Finally got a replacement part from Intel, shipped not from the Peninsula but from Louisville, KY.

## Mailing Address

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

### General Meeting, 5 August

President John Boyd KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 1935 hours.

There was a total of 21 members present. As usual there was a great food spread provided by Connie Sawtelle AE6PA. Correspondence was read and Connie gave the treasurers report which was approved.

On committee reports, John Boyd said the club's truck was equipped well enough to be used in future special events.

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF gave an up-date on past and future special events. The more volunteers we get to help out the easier it gets. Contact Randy if you can help.

Connie Sawtelle said arrangements are proceeding for the club's Sept. 17 picnic at Sam Taylor Park but could use some suggestions as far as food selection is concerned.

Work on the Big Rock repeater is finished and hopefully the problems have been solved.

John Butler gave a report on the club's antenna system. A new dipole has been erected and the vertical has been moved and new radials installed. John is currently in the process of redoing the radio room with new desks and shelves. A new work area is planed, part of an entirely new layout.

Ben Sawtelle said there would be a new Tech class starting on Sept 24<sup>th</sup> and the exam would be on Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>. Dave Hodgson talked about future County emergency drills that RACES would be involved with. Connie proposed we send a donation to the Marin Rod and Gun Club to thank them for the use of their facility for Field Day. John Boyd said the FCC has proposed the elimination of code as a requirement for all amateur licenses, possibly by early next year. John also mentioned the Pacificon Hamfest will be held on Sept. 14 thru the 16<sup>th</sup>. The Meeting was adjourned at 2010 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

**Some Stuff on Field Day 2005.**

Field Day was again held at the Marin Rod & Gun Club site. It's a comfortable place for us/we Elder-fahrten. Operating locations sheltered from the elements, adequate sanitary facilities and convenient places to sit down to eat, BS, etc.

The regulars were there. Chet, Norm, both Dougs, Ben & Connie and others. Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ was the FD chairman this year, we believe. We used John Boyd's diesel generator for a second year. Don't remember the time but it powered down unexpectedly. Either a temp sensor failed or the cooling fan motor went belly-up. Temporary fix, which lasted for the duration, was a large box fan, supplied by Horst KA6BHZ, blowing air backward through the radiator.

Saturday dinner was, as last year, store-bought lasagna. There were no forks until Horst came to the rescue again. He had his 29 foot fifth-wheel on site. Otherwise, we would have been eating that glop with our fingers. (grin) Return with us (next Field Day) to those thrilling cheese burgers of yesteryear.

Eric KG6WOU provided a keg of Coors surrounded by ice in a large plastic carrier with a built-in tap. Unfortunately, the weather was cool and there was a lot left over.



Ben & Connie



Ben & Chet      Coors & Cola.



Choking the Chicken Down.



Nap Time.



Norm & Rich actually making contacts.



Pat & The Ol' Lecher.



Behind Raine is part of the MMWD's experimental desalination plant. No free samples that day.



Eric, Horst & Phil. Able to stand with mutual aid.



The horse on the right has injured its forelegs and the other horse is towing it back to the barn.



Looks like Field Day wore Dave out.

Due to a request, we moved the staple from the usual corner of this pub to the other side. After doing this we remembered the reason for using the original location. Fewer jams in the PO's machines because the staple was at the trailing edge. It's going back. Ed.

**Quarter Century Wireless Assn.**

The Marin/Sonoma chapter of the QCWA meets for lunch on the third Wednesday at Days Inn in Northern Novato. The lunch is Chinese buffet. All you can eat for under ten bucks out the door. You don't have to be a member. Info NR6I@JUNO.COM

**SS Pampanito Amateur Radio Club.**

We need a few new members. If you are a CW op, that's a plus but not mandatory. Meetings are on the fifth Wednesday of the month, but not on consecutive months. We aim for quarterly meetings, when possible.

Meet on the boat, 1900 hr, at Pier 45 at Fisherman's Wharf. The sub is moored right ahead of the Jeremiah O'Brien. Free covered parking for members ON THE PIER while at meetings or DDO. You could come a little early and have dinner at the wharf.

We have what is called a "dedicated day of operation", DDO, once a month on a Saturday, running from late morning to mid-to-late afternoon. If the bands are dead, we go home earlier. Usually two members so you only get the duty every few months. The idea is to make contacts, send out QSLs along with a brochure on the Pampanito. The rig is a Yaesu 890 and radiates from part of the original top-side antenna. The original radio gear is still in place and is fired up occasionally. Appearance is kept as it was in 1945 and the modern ham gear cannot be seen by the visitors.

If you're interested, you could ride along with a member to one of the evening meetings. They are not long, drawn out things and you'll be home before bed time. Next meetings are 31 Aug. and 30 Nov.

Some of the members you might recognize are Jerry Foster WA6BXV, Bill Stewart KF6RMK, Marilyn Bagshaw N6VAW, Rich Carbine W6UDS and Phil Dunlap K6PHD. Ed.

**HAMS PACK COURTROOM AT GERRITSEN SENTENCING**

Radio amateurs turned out in force July 13 as reputed Los Angeles-area radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, who was briefly licensed as KG6IRO, was sentenced on state charges of threatening another amateur and his daughter via a local repeater. He was convicted July 8. Some 50 radio amateurs showed up for the sentencing, and many more mailed or e-mailed the court.

Superior Court Judge Craig J. Mitchell gave Gerritsen 120 days in jail and three years probation. He also barred Gerritsen from any contact with those who had testified against him and from operating ham gear without a valid FCC license. Gerritsen was arrested in May on a contempt citation for allegedly violating the terms of a temporary restraining order the victimized radio amateur had obtained to keep Gerritsen off a local repeater. That radio amateur and two others subsequently testified against Gerritsen.

Serving as his own attorney, Gerritsen contended he was falsely accused and that his First Amendment rights were being violated. Mitchell told Gerritsen the case was not about the First Amendment but about Gerritsen's threatening and bullying behavior.

The 69-year-old Bell, California, resident still faces federal charges following his May 5 arrest and seizure of his radio equipment by FBI agents accompanied by FCC personnel. Released on bond in that case, he's been subject to monitored home detention and barred from possessing or using any radio equipment. The federal criminal complaint cited an FCC investigation revealing that Gerritsen "often 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."

The FCC has affirmed a \$10,000 fine against Gerritsen for unlicensed operation and proposed another \$42,000 in forfeitures for alleged interference-related infractions.--some information provided by Burton Brink, N6USO.

The 120 days is for the threats made against the other amateur and his daughter. None of this has to do with his other "antics" which the FCC is getting him for.

From the ARRL Letter.

**Board Meeting, 9 August.**

The meeting was called to order by V.P. John Iacono KF6VYH at 1935 hours. Other board members present were Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ, Raine Strom KG6GII, Kevin Foley KF6YUF, Augie Koehler KØCQL, and Phil Dunlap K6PHD.

The treasurers report as presented at the General meeting was approved.

Dave Hodgson said that work was done on the Big Rock repeater and while the results were not perfect they were more than adequate. There was a discussion on the future of the repeaters on Mt. Tam and Tiburon as the leases will be coming up for renewal, with luck. Dave said he would get in touch with the proper people to try to work things out.

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF is looking into the possibility of setting up a repeater on Grizzly Peak, that would help with Special events.

Nothing new with the truck committee. It was voted to send a check for \$100.00 to the Marin Rod and Gun Club to say thanks for the use of their site for Field Day.

Randy Jenkins talked about upcoming Special events and is again looking for volunteers to help out. Check out the W6SG website or QSA-5. The board decided to hold on to the radio gear until the renovation of the radio room is complete. John Butler is doing a great job there and also on the antennas out back. Next time you're at the club take a look.

There was talk about the members' E-mail addresses that are on the web site and the spam abuses that at times occur. Because of this, Glenn Meader, our Webmaster, has converted all the @s to (at)s.

Kevin ended the meeting by praising the people who took part in the recent bike ride and said that they were very professional.

The meeting was adjourned at 2015 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz secretary.

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This year the **Marin Cyclists, Inc.**, will reimburse our SAG drivers for fuel costs on 6 August. Send your gas receipt to <r\_k\_c@msn.com> We sent in a bill for \$30.91 and included our mileage of a little over 200. Got a check for \$40. Are they paying on miles driven? We didn't ask. 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. 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.

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

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 Address  
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