

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter February 2006 Page 1

President's Message?

Yes! At long last!

At the first Board of Directors meeting on Tuesday 10 January the Board elected new officers I was surprised and honored to be asked to serve as President which I accepted. I am looking forward to working with the membership and the Board of Directors, so any of you with ideas or issues that you feel need attention, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I wish to congratulate Eric Rosenquist KG6WOU our new Vice President and our new Secretary Randy Jenkins KA6BQF, our new Director Tom Jordon KG6TCM, and John Boyd KE6ORI for re-upping another term. The Board did not elect a Treasurer, yet. We felt it was necessary to review our By-Laws at our February meeting to decide if there is a conflict with having a paid accountant keep the Corporations finances. I hope we can find a solution without having to go through the burden of amending the By-Laws. I also want to thank Raine and Frank Strom, Kevin Foley and Al Weisman for continuing as Directors. And to Augie Koehler and Doug Slusher as Trustees of the club's licenses.

Please give a round of applause and thank-yous to outgoing President John Boyd 2004 & 2005, Vice President John Iacono 2004 & 2005, Secretary Norm Baetz 2001 thru 2005 for their dedication and hard work. Also to Doug Slusher for keeping our repeaters operational. Phil Dunlap has termed out as a Director but we twisted his arm to continue as QSA5 editor. Thanks Phil.

We have numerous projects that need to be moved ahead. One that I feel is high on the list is the remodeling of the club house kitchen and bathrooms, which I hope we can complete this year. Public Service is one of the clubs biggest yearly activities and to be able to do our job with these events the Technical Committee has requested

Website at W6SG.NET
Phone 415.389.6630

Pacific Division of ARRL site
www.pdarrl.org
Index of Sections

Dr. Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ, will be giving a presentation on his recent DXpedition to Kure Atoll on Friday, February 10, at the East Bay Amateur Radio Club. Many of you may remember the presentation that Dr. E gave on his trip to Bonaba Island at the Mill Valley clubhouse.

The East Bay club meets at the Salvation Army, 4600 Appian Way, El Sobrante at 7:30 PM. The program should begin about 8:00 PM.
de **KA6BQF Randy**.

(The doc did his Kure presentation at the Redwood Empire DX Assn. in Petaluma on 11 January. REDXA meets at Mr. Magoo's on Petaluma Blvd. North, on the second Wednesday, on the west side just a bit north of the PD. ed.)

Dues notices have been sent out and some members may have received one in error, they having already paid. For those, feel free to ignore the notice and to complement that with an appropriate hand gesture and/or comment.

Public Service Events for 2006

Here is the 2006 schedule so far:

April 8 & 9	The Relay (Organs R Us)
May 6	Miwok 100K
May 13	Marin Human Race
June 11	The Dipsea
June 24	Double Dipsea
August 5	Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century
August 19	Holstein Hundred
October 15	Escape from Alcatraz

Randy KA6BQF

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Board Meeting 10 January

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by 2005 President John Boyd, KE6ORI. Present were Board members John Boyd, KE6ORI; Frank Strom, WA6JTP; Raine Strom, KG6GII; Kevin Foley, KF6YUF; Eric Rosenquist, KG6WOU, Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ, Tom Jordan, KG6TCM, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF; W6SG Trustee August Koehler, KØCQL; and QSA-5 Editor Phil Dunlap, K6PHD. Not in attendance were Board members Al Weisman, W5ALW and K6GWE Trustee Doug Slusher, KF6AKU.

The first order of business was the election of officers for 2006. Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ, agreed to serve as the 2006 President. Dave took over as chairman of the meeting. Eric Rosenquist, KG6WOU, agreed to serve as Vice President for 2006. Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF agreed to serve as 2006 Secretary.

The appointment of a Treasurer for 2006 was tabled after discussion, pending a check of the by-laws.

QSA-5 Editor Phil Dunlap, K6PHD, agreed to continue producing the newsletter.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, agreed to continue as Public Service Chair, to be assisted by Tom Jordan, KG6TCM.

Raine Strom, KG6GII agreed to fill the Membership Chair.

Al Weisman, W5ALW, will be asked to continue as the VE Liaison.

Ben Sawtelle, N6PJZ, will be asked to continue as Education Chair.

John Boyd, KE6ORI, will continue to chair the Truck Committee.

No appointment has been made for the Field Day Committee.

Tom Jordan, KG6TCJ, made a presentation on fundraising possibilities for the communications truck and for public service.

Pres' Message, cont.

the biggest being a portable, easily deployed, repeater which is in the design stage.

We all need to give Tom Jordon KG6TCM a hand with his work in putting together a donations drive to help pay for the comm truck repairs and upgrades. And before I get off my soap box I want to give a big thank you to Raine and Frank Strom for their generous donation of a new RV type portable enclosure for the comm truck which will be a huge help in keeping the interior dry.

Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ, President.

Here is our 2006 Board of Directors

President: Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ
Vice Pres: Eric Rosenquist KG6WOU
Secretary: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF
Treasurer: Not selected

Trustee for K6GWE: Doug Slusher
 KF6AKU

Trustee for W6SG: Augie Koehler
 KØCQL

Membership Chair:

Raine Strom KG6GII

Public Service Committee:

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF
 Tom Jordon KG6TCM

Technical & Comm Truck Committee:

Doug Slusher KF6AKU
 John Boyd KE6ORI
 Randy Jenkins KA6BQF
 Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ

Field Day Chairman:

June 24-25. We need a volunteer/s.

V.E. Coordinator:

Al Weisman W5ALW

Education Chairman:

Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ

Recreation Committee:

Connie Sawtelle AE6PA

ARRL WAS Local Rep:

Rem Calvin K6BBQ

ARRL DX Local Rep:

Jerry Foster WA6BXV

Building Manager:

John Butler KF6GNI

QSA-5 Editor:

Phil Dunlap K6PHD

General Meeting, 6 January

The meeting was opened at 1930 hours by outgoing President John Boyd KE6ORI . Other board members present were John Iacono KF6VYH, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Al Weisman W5ALW, and Dave Hodgson KF6TCJ.

Connie Sawtelle AE6PA gave the treasurers report and it was OK'd. She was also given applause for the great job she did again for organizing the Christmas party. She will look into setting up this coming summer's picnic at Sam Taylor State Park.

There was no correspondence.

Dave Hodgson reported that there was considerable leakage in the club's truck due to the recent rains. The use of a de-humidifier helped but some sort of a shelter is needed for a long term solution. (Or fix the leaks or both. ed.)

John Butler KF6GNI discussed the latest improvements in the radio room. It's really shaping up and all are invited to use the various pieces of equipment. There is a work bench area being set up so members can check out rigs or do a bit of home-brewing. John also said even with the recent heavy rains there were only some minor building leaks. The cost of heating the building came up (good ol' PG&E) and there was discussion on how to cut costs.

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF talked a bit about upcoming special events, dates and more information to come.

There will be Tech and General classes coming up and tests in March. More in next month's paper. Tentative dates for classes are on March 4th and 11th and test on the 18th.

Dave Hodgson talked about the recent flood problems in San Anselmo and how RACES helped with emergency traffic.

There was a discussion about holding Kid's Day this year (June 17) possibly at the Corte Madera shopping center or at Larkspur Landing.

John Boyd talked about the possibility about putting together a portable repeater and also ATV for Public Service.

Connie reminded members that dues are due. Same rates (what a bargain).

Phil K6PHD presented a film on old time railroading, the Mt. Tam line which ran from 1896 to 1930. To column three>>

Board Meeting, cont.

There was a vigorous discussion of several of the ideas presented. Tom will investigate several aspects of the proposal and revisit those ideas again.

Public Service Chairman Randy Jenkins asked approval of an information form, to be sent out to groups that request communications support, that was submitted for consideration at the December Board Meeting. The form was reviewed, and approved for distribution.

President Dave Hodgson passed around a thank-you card for signatures, to be given to our Social Chair, Connie Sawtelle AE6PA, for her great work in 2005.

Frank Strom, WA6JTP, offered to donate a cover structure for the communications truck. The board voted to accept the donation.

Vice-president Eric Rosenquist inquired about the status of the portable repeater. John Boyd reported that it was in progress. Boyd also reported on looking for a portable tower trailer.

The addition of ATV and SSTV equipment to the truck was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:51
 Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary

General Meeting, cont.

(On the 100th anniversary of the railroad in 1996, your editor was persuaded to hike the line from Mill Valley to the top of Tam, about 8½ miles. He survived but limped funny for the next hour or two. Big mistake, stopping at that last refreshment station. Being ten years older now, he would seriously consider running & hiding if it was suggested that he might try it again. Bill Provines (accent the second syllable) W6JBZ, a former employee of the railroad as a teenager, rode up the line the same day with the late Ted Wurm, author of "The Crookedest Railroad in The World", on a flatbed truck equipped with a locomotive whistle powered by compressed air. ed.)

The meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

The Latin Word For "Close Your Eyes and Open Your Mouth" is "Prospectus."

NEWINGTON, CT, Jan 19, 2006

The FCC has ordered several rule revisions to implement changes agreed to at the international level during World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03). Acting Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Chief Catherine W. Seidel signed the [Order](#), released today.

(The following change is probably the only one of any real interest. ed.)

§97.115(a)(2) to facilitate the transmission of international communications on behalf of third parties in emergency or disaster-relief situations, **whether or not** a third-party agreement is in place between the US and the countries involved. The revision now permits communication with any non-US station **"when transmitting emergency or disaster relief communications"** as well as with any non-US station "whose administration has made arrangements with the United States to allow amateur stations to be used for transmitting international communications on behalf of third parties."

The revised rule further provides that no station may transmit third-party traffic *other than* emergency or disaster relief communications to a station whose government has not made a third-party arrangement. Still excepted from the prohibition is any third party eligible to be the control operator of an amateur station.

More on BPL

After the operator of the Manassas, Virginia, BPL system failed to meet its own commitment to resolve complaints of interference to local radio amateurs, the ARRL again demanded the system's immediate shutdown. Writing on the League's behalf, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, told the FCC January 17 that Communications Technologies (COMTek), which operates the BPL system over the municipally owned electric power grid using Main.net equipment on frequencies between 4 MHz and 30 MHz, "has been given every opportunity" over the past 18 months to resolve interference complaints.

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BPL, cont.

COMTek "is now apparently unwilling to voluntarily comply with its regulatory obligation to shut the system down," Imlay said, following a meeting January 17 between company officials and local radio amateurs. An ARRL representative also attended. Imlay said the meeting's outcome dictates "the urgency of the Commission's obligation to finally take action to stop the unlawful operation of the Manassas BPL system."

The League asserts that COMTek did not want to start the meeting with a local newspaper reporter present. Imlay said the company's "bizarre action" indicated that COMTek "was unwilling to subject itself to public scrutiny."

COMTek Vice President Walter Adams acknowledged at this week's meeting that its BPL system was causing harmful interference on Amateur Radio frequencies, despite its pledge to permanently notch ham bands by January 15, the League said. Even so, Adams "specifically declined to take any further steps to mitigate the interference," Imlay continued, calling COMTek's stance "totally unacceptable to the aggrieved licensees in Manassas."

In its letter, the League said it doesn't question COMTek's desire to eliminate the harmful interference. "However, the inescapable fact is that the Main.net hardware now in use in the city's BPL system is, and has been proven, incapable of being configured so as to function as intended without causing harmful interference to radio communication."

"Because COMTek has declined to do so voluntarily, it is imperative that the FCC order the system immediately to cease operation, in accordance with §15.5(c) of the Commission's rules," Imlay's letter concluded, "and that operation not resume unless and until new hardware is installed that is capable of operating without causing harmful interference."

Less than a month ago, the League called on the FCC to shut down the Manassas BPL system in another strongly worded letter. That communication was in response to a November 30 letter from Casey, who'd suggested further cooperation between the complaining radio amateurs and the city-owned BPL system.

Go to column 3.

BPL, cont. again.

"These meetings have not produced any solution to the interference problem but have, instead, created the illusion that the problem is being addressed," Imlay charged in his reply. Ham radio complaints of interference from the BPL system date back to early 2004.

From the ARRL Letter.

Looks like COMTek qualifies for inclusion in our "Canal at The End of The Alimentary Tract" awards section. ed.)

I received an e-mail about a Philadelphia Eagles player who noticed a white powdery substance after a practice. The FBI was called in, and determined that it was the goal line. Any truth to the rumor?
Author unknown.

Some more BS debunked.

The bum dope: Thanks to the Coriolis effect, sinks drain clockwise in the northern hemisphere and counterclockwise in the southern.

The straight skinny: The twisting effect of the Coriolis force is real and does influence certain large things like the movement of air masses, but the effect is so small that it plays no role in determining the direction in which water rotates as it exits from a draining sink.

For further info go to SNOPE.COM and enter 'coriolis' in the search box.

What with all the sadness and trauma going on in the world at the moment, it is worth reflecting on the death of a very important person which almost went un-noticed last week.

Larry La Prise, the man who wrote "The Hokey Pokey," died peacefully at age 83. The most traumatic part for his family was getting him into the coffin. They put his left leg in - and things just started to go downhill from there.

A woman*goes in for her yearly physical. The nurse starts with certain basic items. "How much do you weigh?" she asks. "115," she says. The nurse puts her on the scale. It turns out her weight is 140. The nurse asks, "Your height?" "5 foot 8," she says. The nurse checks and sees that she only measures 5' 5". She then takes her blood pressure and tells the woman it is very high. "Of course it's high!" she screams, "When I came in here I was tall and slender! Now I'm short and fat."

*(For a man, substitute appropriate values.)

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.

Marin Amateur Radio Society	Education Chair:	ARRL WAS Local Rep:
President:	Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170 kermode7@hotmail.com	Rem Calvin K6BBQ
Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864	Membership Chair:	DX Representative of ARRL:
Vice President:	Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170	Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829
Eric Rosenquist KG6WOU 257-8841	VE Liaison:	WEBMASTER
Secretary:	Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978	Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET
Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089	Building Mgr.	Public Service Event Coordinator
Treasurer: We're workin' on it.	John Butler KF6GNI 717-3148	Randy Jenkins KA6BQF Asst. Tom Jordan KG6TCM
Additional Board Members:	Trustee for W6SG:	
Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978	Augie Koehler KØCQL	
Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849	Trustee for K6GWE:	
Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170	Doug Slusher KF6AKU	Editor of QSA-5:
Frank Strom WA6JTP 453-3170	Sunday Emergency Nets:	Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET
Tom Jordan KG6TCM 497-4406	HF Frank Strom WA6JTP	
John Boyd KE6ORI 924-4419	VHF Raine Strom KG6GII	

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The Mailing
 Address
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