

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

June 2006 Page 1

President's Message

June looks to be one of the busiest months for club activities and amateur radio. We have Kid's Day, Bring Your HT to Work Day, and Field Day, along with two long time public service events.

To start things off on the 11th is the Dipsea, which for the club is the longest running event—no pun intended—that we support. Question for the club historians: if anyone knows how many years the club has supported this event please let me know. The race kicks off at 8:30 AM with 1,500 runners starting in downtown Mill Valley and, with luck, finishing 7.1 miles later at Stinson Beach. For members who have never helped out, we run the race net from 7 AM to 2 PM and all are welcome to stop by the finish line for lunch. We need 10 to 12 operators for this event so dust-off the HT and lend a hand the weather is normally some of the best of the year but with what it has been doing so fare this year who knows.

Kid's Day will be on Saturday the 17th at the Bay Area Discovery Museum in Ft. Baker. We will bring the comm truck and have tables setup with code oscillators for the kids to learn to send their names along with one or two HF rigs and a VHF rig to let the kids get on the air. Rem K6BBQ has been the lead for this event and I have asked several of our members to help out. It looks like there could be upwards of 500 to 600 kids passing by so if you are free and can lend a hand let Rem or me know ASAP.

Tuesday the 20th is "Bring Your HT to Work Day" so charge up the battery and bring it with you for the day. Try an experiment and set it on your desk it will be interesting to see how many of your coworkers ask what it is. Then at lunch get on the air and invite coworkers (how do you ork a cow? ed.) to transmit third party to show them what ham radio is all about. It is also a good exercise to see which repeaters you can access from work in the event of an emergency. You could also scan/monitor the national simplex calling freq. 146.52.

Column two.

Website at W6SG.NET
Phone 415.389.6630

Public Service Events for 2006

Here is the 2006 schedule so far:
 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
ka6bqf@arrl.net 510-526-4089

From column one.
 Retirees and others not working day shift could also provide contacts. I understand the ARRL will be monitoring the VHF and UHF bands across the country and you could win a prize.

Our holy grail of events for the year is Field Day, noon Saturday through noon Sunday June 24th & 25th. We will be at the Marin Rod and Gun Club. Norm WA6CLK is our Chairman. If you will be participating and plan on being onsite Saturday evening please let Norm know so we can plan dinner. Also he is still looking for help setting up on Friday. If you show up and help we will feed you. Rem has volunteered to get out the word in the press and on Comcast Ch 23 so, hopefully, we will have more visitors this year. If you can only stop by for an hour or so please do and bring your XYL, a friend, relative, neighbor or anyone you think would be interested in playing radio.

For those that have masochistic tendencies and are not happy to just run over Mt Tam one time but need to do it twice there is the Double Dipsea on the 24th. We operate the support net from 8 AM to 3 PM. I know this is the start of Field Day but you only miss the first three hours and there is still plenty of time to do our own masochistic thing by playing radio for twenty-four hours. So start off Field Day by doing the volunteer thing. Please let Randy or Tom know you are available to help cover the Double Dipsea. Page two, column two.

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

General Meeting 9 May

The meeting was called to order at 19:28 by President Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ. Other board members present were; Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF; John Boyd, KE6ORI; Doug Slusher, KF6AKU; and Augie Khoehler, KØCQL.

The Agenda was approved as submitted.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

Secretary Randy reported on incoming and outgoing correspondence.

President Dave summarized the Board of Directors activity at the April meeting. An allocation not to exceed \$1000.00 was approved for repairs and maintenance on the generator in the comm truck. Completed and upcoming public service events were discussed. RACES training at the clubhouse was approved. Radio site PM was discussed. Committee chairs were asked to formulate budget requirements. A donation bucket on the refreshment table was approved. Kid's Day was discussed.

Our bookkeeper, Connie Sawtelle, AE6PA reported balances of \$2,963.09 in checking, \$5,513.55 in the repeater CD's, \$19,401.13 in the reserve accounts, for a total of \$27,886.77. Our annual insurance bill of around \$4,600.00 had been paid, and there were around \$4,500.00 in outstanding deposits to be made.

As Recreation Committee Chair Connie reported that she had received a call from the Sheraton about December's holiday party. No reservation has yet been made. We need to discuss food and logistics for the picnic.

Public Service Chair Randy reported on upcoming public service events, including the Miwok 100K on May 6 and the Marin Human Race on May 13.

General Meeting, from page one.

No word on the Memorial Day Races. The Dipsea is coming up in June. Volunteers for the Miwok should contact Tom, KG6TCM 497-4406

K6GWE Trustee Doug made the Technical Report. He discussed a donation of radio equipment from Central Marin Sanitation, including a repeater, HTs and mobiles. PM is being scheduled. A letter from the Marin County Sheriff's Department to American Tower supporting the continued presence of the Society's repeaters at the Mt. Tam site. There was discussion of sites and a 6 Meter repeater.

The Comm Truck Committee Chair John KE6ORI reported that the generator was removed and had been taken in for service.

Education Chair Ben N6PJZ, reported that classes for Technician would be held on June 10 and 17.

VE Liaison Al W5ALW has scheduled exams for June 3 and Sept. 9.

Field Day Chair Norm WA6CLK, reported that radios, antennas, the site, and other arrangements for Field Day were coming together.

Membership: The current roster is posted on the website.

Kid's Day will be at the Bay Area Discovery Museum in Sausalito on Saturday, June 17th.

President Dave KG6TCJ reported for Building Manager John Butler. John had lowered the truck canopy 24". He is still trying to schedule the work on the bathtub leak upstairs. He is also getting bids on some restoration work on some dry rot in the building. He had arranged for a donation of a utility trailer to the club. It's out back.

Under Old Business, the status of the Swap Meet was discussed. A suggestion to keep a binder of members' equipment for sale at the clubhouse was adopted.

A report on a visit with our oldest member, Bill Provines, was made. Bill is coming up on 98 years, and welcomes visitors.

Doug Slusher reported on the "National SOS Initiative".

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:10.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF Secretary.

Pres' Message, cont.

At our last Board meeting we talked about the annual club Christmas party. No, it is not too early to start planning. You all know it takes a bit of time for us to finalize plans. Question: Do we want to do the same thing as last year or try something new? This is the one recreational event that we spend the most on so please let Connie, at kermode7@hotmail.com, or me know your ideas.

Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ, Pres.

On the first day of college, the Dean addressed the students, pointing out some of the rules. "The female dormitory will be out-of-bounds for all male students, and the male dormitory to the female students. Anybody caught breaking this rule will be fined \$25 the first time." He continued, "Anybody caught breaking this rule the second time will be fined \$50. Being caught a third time will incur a hefty fine of \$100. Are there any questions?" At this point, a male student in the crowd inquired: "How much for a season pass?"

Father Murphy walks into a pub in Donegal, and says to the first man he meets, "Do you want to go to heaven?" The man said, "I do Father."

The priest said, "Then stand over there against the wall." Then the priest asked the second man, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

"Certainly, Father," was the man's reply. "Then stand over there against the wall," said the priest.

Then Father Murphy walked up to O'Toole and said, "Do you want to go to heaven?"

O'Toole said, "No, I don't Father." The priest said, "I don't believe this. You mean to tell me that when you die you don't want to go to heaven?"

O'Toole said, "Oh, when I die, yes. I thought you were getting a group together to go right now."

Guts is arriving home late after a night out with the guys, being assaulted by your wife with a broom, and having the guts to ask: "Are you still cleaning or are you flying somewhere?"

Babbling on About Babble Class.

The turnout for Mother's Day Sunday bible/babble class at the clubhouse was unusually small. Ben, Howard Harker, Chet, Herman Weiss and your editor were the only ones onsite. Then we got lucky and Denice KI6BBR, Big Bad Radio, the KPH CW whiz came in and we stuck her with the 2m check-in—is that one word?—at 10:15. She did a much better job than your editor, who weaseled out of it, would have done. If we had been quicker thinkers we might have given Denice the HF check-in, also, cuz she has a General Class ticket. She had some good news: a new job in Corte Madera. Only catch is that she still has to drive in over the hump from Bolinas.

By the time check-in was complete there were only three of us left and we headed out the door. Because we may be using the club's generator for Field Day in June—it's housed in a trailer w/o springs which leaps into the air whenever the tires come in contact with any irregularity in the road—el director de un periódico towed it home for servicing. Good news: last time we used it was for Field Day 2003 and on Sunday that ten horse Briggs & Stratton started on the second pull. To help insure that this would be so, the gas had been treated with enough STABIL to keep it in good condition for two years, until June 2007. We'd been changing it every year. ed.

Two young boys walked into a pharmacy, picked out a box of TAMPAX and proceeded to the checkout counter. The man at checkout asked the older boy, "Son, how old are you?" "Eight," the boy replied. The man continued, "Do you know how these are used?" The boy replied, "Not exactly, but they aren't for me. They're for my little brother. He's four. We saw on TV that if you use these, you'd be able to swim and ride a bike. He can't do either one."

To impress a woman: Wine her. Dine her. Call her. Hold her. Surprise her. Compliment her. Smile at her. Listen to her. Laugh with her. Cry with her. Romance her. Encourage her. Believe in her. Cuddle with her. Shop with her. Give her jewelry. Buy her flowers. Hold her hand. Write letters to her. Go to the ends of the earth and back for her.

To impress a man: Show up naked. Bring beer, buffalo wings and K-Y. Don't block the TV.



These pics are of our clubhouse radio room, the work of our Bldg. Mgr., John Butler, KF6GNI. Picture #1 shows the SSB station on the far left. It's used for the Sunday 10:00 HF check-in. Next to it is the CW position. On the far right, in pic #2, is the VHF station, used for the Sunday 10:15 VHF check-in.

The power supplies, mostly ASTRON 35s, are in the columns supporting the op positions. Had we thought of it, we'd have included a pic of the antenna farm out back, also the work of John KF6GNI. Neat AND functional. According to Pinky, W6FQS in Chico, our HF signal on 3915 kc and, we assume, on 3892 kc on the Monday/Thursday 0800 net, has improved since John did his magic out back.

Next month we may include a pic of the 4x4 trailer which was donated and that John built up into a good looking piece of equipment. It could eventually house a mobile repeater. We have another 4X4 trailer available which could house the generator and get it out of the unsafe/unstable carrier it's in now. The pressure is kept low in those almost petrified tires which partly compensates for the lack of springs. At least that relic doesn't bounce as high as before. ed.

Board Meeting 8 May

Meeting came to order at 1930. Club president Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ presided. Other board members present were KG6WOU Eric, KF6YUF Kevin, KE6ORI John, KF6AKU Doug, K0CQL Augie, WA6JTP Frank, KG6GII Raine, KG6TCM Tom and QSA5 editor Phil K6PHD.

Minutes from last meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report - Last years expenses and revenue will be tabulated for the Board's use in developing a annual budget for the club.

No membership committee report.

Recreation Committee - Picnic Sept. 23rd. Xmas party discussion was held, specifics to be determined. The President will include this subject in his monthly message to the club, asking for feedback from the club membership.

Public Service - Potential volunteers should contact KA6BQF Randy or KG6TCM Tom. So far all events were safe and successful.

Technical Committee - Report given on repeater performance.

Letter has been sent by the County to American Tower, supporting the club and our emergency communications / public service activities.

Some radios were donated by Central Marin Sanitation and a thank you letter is being drafted.

Com Truck generator repairs are underway.

Field day volunteers should contact WA6CLK, Norm.

Building Committee is going to get bids for repairs.

RACES will hold a training session May 27th 0900 to 1200 at the clubhouse.

The meeting adjourned at 2010. Minutes submitted by Tom KG6TCM. Secretary Randy was out of the County.

Notice from Kamikaze Airlines

"Your seat cushions can be used for flotation; and, in the event of an emergency water landing, please paddle to shore and keep them with our compliments."

Ethanol

For many years a goodly amount of the ethanol produced in this country, and quite a bit produced in places like Scotland, Puerto Rico and several other countries was processed through our livers. Some alcohol, mostly methanol, was used in motor fuel, probably the best known example being in the Offenhauser engines run in the Indie 500 years ago. Those old four-bangers did well, winning the Memorial Day race about 24 times.

The only catch was that the mileage was not very good and much larger quantities of alky were required to do an equivalent amount of work. This year all the Indie cars will run on a methanol/ethanol mix. Next year it'll be straight ethanol and it'll most likely be 'denatured' to prevent us, at least those of us with operational brains, from drinking it. Methanol is already poisonous and can give you the blind staggers, just before it kills you.

We remember ethyl alky from our days in the Navy. It was dyed pink and was known as Pink Lady in some places. Some dummies were convinced that it could be made potable by straining it through a loaf of bread. Those that tried it found out otherwise. The pink color was only for a visible warning and probably had nothing to do with the denaturing process.

Alcohol is much safer for use as a motor fuel; it burns cooler with much less pollution. Even the Ford T was originally designed to run on the stuff. In California we get a small percentage of ethanol in the gasoline we buy. But, beware what's called E85, which is 85 percent ethanol. Mileage supposedly drops at least 25 percent with that mix; some say as much as forty percent.

Making ethanol from corn isn't very cost effective. Sugar cane is a lot better source simply because of the much higher sugar content. Brazil found that using ag crops resulted in a 1:1.2 energy conversion rate. When they used sugar cane that went up to 1:8. Too bad that sugar cane is not a viable crop due to the climate in our country's heartland and Hawaii has much less land in cane than in years past. What about beet sugar? Haven't heard a word about it, yet. 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.

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 | Rem O'Donnely K6BBQ |
| Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864 | kermode7@hotmail.com | DX Representative of ARRL: |
| Vice President: | Membership Chair: | Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829 |
| Eric Rosenquist KG6WOU 257-8841 | Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170 | WEBMASTER |
| Secretary: | VE Liaison: | Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 |
| Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 | Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978 | N1ZKW@ARRL.NET |
| Treasurer: We're workin' on it. | Building Mgr. | Public Service Event Coordinators |
| Additional Board Members: | John Butler KF6GNI 892-4958 | Randy Jenkins KA6BQF |
| Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978 | Trustee for W6SG: | 510-526-4089 |
| Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849 | Augie Koehler KØCQL | Asst. Tom Jordan KG6TCM |
| Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170 | Trustee for K6GWE: | 497-4406 |
| Frank Strom WA6JTP 453-3170 | Doug Slusher KF6AKU | Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ |
| Tom Jordan KG6TCM 497-4406 | Sunday Emergency Nets: | 897-7267 |
| John Boyd KE6ORI 924-4419 | HF Frank Strom WA6JTP | Editor of QSA-5: |
| | VHF Raine Strom KG6GII | Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 |
| | | K6PHD@ARRL.NET |

Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Stamp

The Mailing
 Address
 Goes Here