

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

March 2006 Page 1

President's Message

We have had a productive month around the clubhouse. John Butler has been putting the finishing touches on the radio room. What an improvement over what it was this time last year. As I mentioned last month, Raine and Frank Strom donated an enclosure for the comm truck. This got us off our backsides debating about what we needed and put us to work setting it up. I can report that the comm truck now has a new house. I want to thank our Building Manager John Butler for his expertise in the modifications we had to make, Tom Jordan for his strong back, Eric Rosenquist for his expertise with a core drill for which he donated the rental costs. We needed the core drill to cut through our thoroughly aged concrete parking slab to plant the enclosure legs. Also a big thank you to all of you who contributed your ideas and helped put the canopy section together. I wish I had kept a list so I could name you individually.

At the end of the regular meeting on 3 February, a quorum of the Board of Directors rescheduled the next board meeting from the 14th of February to the 15th to avoid any conflicts with Valentine's Day. Some of us have to keep our significant other happy so we can play radio.

Last month I expressed my wish to see the remodeling of the bathrooms, kitchen and office move ahead. This led to a spirited debate at our last membership meeting which was great to see. Now we need to move ahead and decide what we are willing to do. A number of years back the club had architectural drawings done for the work which we still have. If we stick to the drawings the project will require a substantial amount of money to complete and frankly we do not have the funds. So I am asking all of you to let the Board of Directors know how we should proceed; this is your clubhouse so don't be bashful. Column two, lower.

Website at **W6SG.NET**
Phone **415.389.6630**

Pacific Division of ARRL site
www.pdarrrl.org
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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

From column one.

One thing that must be done is to fix the roof leaks and dry rot that has been exposed. We will be soliciting bids in the next few months for the work.

Our public service calendar is filling up fast with the first event "The Relay" April 8th & 9th has in past years been in the fall but due to scheduling conflicts has been moved to the first full moon in April. We have a new Public Service Event calendar posted at the clubhouse thanks to Tom Jordan and as always we need volunteers. So please review the dates and if you are available to help contact Randy Jenkins ka6bqf at arrl.net and or Tom Jordan kg6tcm at hotmail.com. These events are a great way to practice emcomms plus they are a lot of fun.

I was invited to the preplanning meeting by the Marin Cyclists for their "Marin Century and the Mount Tam Double Century" bicycle race scheduled for August 5th. This is the largest event we support, it drew over 1700 riders last year and is expected to be bigger this year.

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P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Board Meeting 15 February.

The meeting was called to order by President Hodgson at 19:30. Present were Vice-president Rosenquist, KG6WOU; Secretary Jenkins, KA6BQF; Board Members Jordan, KG6TCM, and Strom, WA6JTP; Trustee Koehler, KØCQL; Committee Chairs C. Sawtelle, AE6PA and B. Sawtelle, N6PJZ. Board Member Foley, KF6YUF arrived just after the meeting was called to order. Not present were Board Members Boyd, KE6ORI and Weisman, W5ALW; and Trustee Slusher, KF6AKU.

The agenda was approved as submitted.

The minutes of the January Board of Director's Meeting were approved as published in QSA-5. The minutes of the Special Board of Director's Meeting on February 3 were approved as read.

There was no correspondence reported.

Recreation Committee Chair Connie AE6PA reported that she was still ready to make a reservation for the picnic at Samuel Taylor State Park—just waiting for March 1—for a September reservation. After discussion, the board picked September 23 as the preferred date.

Education Chair Ben Sawtelle reported that the Technician classes are scheduled for 4 and 11 March, with a VE session scheduled for 18 March. Jenkins commented that the new test pool for the Technician License had been released today for tests effective after July 31.

Public Service Chair Jenkins reported that the events were posted on the board. Assistant Chair Jordan has posted a calendar of upcoming events. President Hodgson reported on attending a planning meeting with the Marin Cyclists for the Marin Century / Mt. Tam.

Page two, column three.

From Page one, column two.
 The organizers have requested 25 radio volunteers to ride in SAG (Support And Gear) wagons or to be a SAG. After I regained consciousness I said we would try. The event runs from 5 AM until 10:30 PM. We break our support into two shifts to make it as painless as possible. The high point of the meeting was when they announced a donation to the club of \$900.00 for three new Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS) beacons to track the SAG vehicles. We have been using APRS for a number of events for the last year or so and find it extremely helpful to keep track of our radio operators patrolling the race courses.

After so many years serving on the Board of Directors, Norm Baetz just could not walk away. Norm has volunteered to chair the Field Day committee. He cannot do the job by himself so if you can give him a hand and or if you will be participating June 24 & 25 please let him know so he can keep what little sanity he still has.

In closing I would like to know if there is interest in a swap-meet, possibly sometime this summer. It is a great way to get rid of gear collecting dust in the shack closet and to find that piece of equipment you have been hunting for. If you think this is a good idea let me know and we will look at setting a date.

Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ, President

Your dog got skunk sprayed?
 Forget tomato juice; it doesn't work. Try 1 qt. hydrogen peroxide, ¼ cup baking soda and one tsp. dishwashing liquid. Wash down anything that was sprayed directly. This neutralizes the spray. The smell may remain for a while.

If you think health care is expensive now, wait until you see what it costs when it's free. P.J. O'Rourke

I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle.
 Winston Churchill

Board Meeting Rescheduling.
 A quorum of Board Members being present at the general meeting, it was decided after the meeting to reschedule the February Board meeting to the 15th to avoid any conflict with Valentine's Day. (We do not know whether there were any nay votes on this from those possibly wanting to use the meeting as an excuse to save a lot of bucks on expensive dinners, etc. ed.)

From column three.
 with the building envelope should be resolved before tackling other modifications and/or repairs.
 Building Manager John is exploring the cost of having regular janitorial service for the building.
 The Board discussed the subject of spending versus income and considered several revenue enhancements, to be taken up later.
 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:32
 Respectfully submitted
 Randy Jenkins KA6BQF Secretary.

According to a radio report, a middle school in Oregon was faced with a unique problem. A number of girls were beginning to use lipstick and would put it on in the bathroom. That was fine, but after they put on their lipstick they would press their lips to the mirrors leaving dozens of little lip prints.

Finally, the principal decided that something had to be done. She called all the girls to the bathroom and met them there with the custodian. She explained that all these lip prints were causing a major problem for the custodian who had to clean the mirrors every day.

To demonstrate how difficult it was to clean the mirrors, she asked the custodian to clean one of the mirrors. He took out a long handled brush, dipped it into a toilet, and scrubbed the mirror.

Since then there have been no lip prints on the mirrors.

A blonde pushes her BMW into a gas station. She tells the mechanic it died. After he works on it for a few minutes, it is idling smoothly. She says, "What's the story?" He replies, "Just crap in the carburetor" She asks, "How often do I have to do that?"

Board Meeting, cont.

Double Century. Dave reported that there was a request for 25 volunteers. The Cyclists also proposed a donation to the Society of funds for three APRS units for use in sag vehicles, \$900.00.

Under Technical Committee, Hodgson reported that the 146.70 repeater was back on the air, although no one knows for certain why. A trip up the hill is being scheduled by Hodgson and Slusher.

Dave thanked everyone for their help in putting up the cover for the comm truck, particularly WA6JTP and KG6GII for donating the cover, and KG6WOU and KG6TCM for their help in erecting the supports.

Hodgson reported that Norm Baetz will head the Field Day Committee.

Ben Sawtelle reported that there were 135 persons named in the roster, and that we have 78 renewals so far this year. Dave inquired as to what percentage of those are ARRL members.

Dave reminded the group about the February 25 RACES meeting, 9AM to noon.

Dave talked to K6BBQ about Kids Day. Rem is looking at the Discovery Museum as a possible site.

Dave reported that Building Manager John Butler wanted to finish the radio room, grounding, and comm truck shelter jobs before tackling other projects.

Old Business:
 By-Laws Interpretation: The Board discussed the various sections of the by-laws regarding the office of Treasurer. After discussion the Board adopted the following resolution: *Resolved, we have examined the By-Laws and find that our current practices are in compliance with said By-Laws.*

Treasurer: After discussion of the sections of the By-Laws regarding qualifications of officers, Eric Rosenquist, KG6WOU was nominated and elected Treasurer.

Fundraising: Tom Jordan reported on a presentation to the general membership meeting, an e-mail suggestion box and a physical suggestion box. There was a discussion about special funds v. general funds, and setting priorities.

New Business: Bathrooms, Kitchen, Office: These issues were discussed at length. The Board decided that issues involving leaks and other concerns

Column two, middle.

JENKINS WINS HOTY 2005 TROPHY

The **Ham of the Year** committee, consisting of previous years' recipients, finally came up with a winner for 2005. (The decision itself was easy. Finding a sufficient number of prior receivers, still among the living, was not. ed.) We are pleased to announce that Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, topped the list for his volunteer work during 2005 on Field Day, RACES, and the VE Program. It should be remembered that the 2005 Officers or Board Members were not eligible. This award goes to that selfless club member who volunteered to help make MARS a better club during 2005..... Waytago, Randy!

C.T. Rice-WA6PAC

FCC NONCOMMITTAL ON "MORSE CODE" PROCEEDING ACTION

Just when the FCC will act on the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, remains hazy. The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) last July proposing to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. The Amateur Radio community has filed more than 3800 comments on the proceeding, and additional comments continue to show up, even though the formal comment deadline was last October 31 (with reply comments by November 14). The next--and most-anticipated--step for the Commission is to formally adopt any revisions to its rules and conclude the proceeding with a Report and Order (R&O) that spells out the changes and specifies their effective date.

"There really is no news," an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer told ARRL this week on background. "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention."

More than **30 people die** in elevator-related accidents each year in the United States.

General Meeting, 3 February.

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 by President Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ. Other board members present were Eric Rosenquist, KG6WOU; Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF; John Boyd, KE6ORI; Tom Jordan, KG6TCM; Raine Strom, KG6GII; Frank Strom, W6JTP; and W6SG Trustee August Koehler, KØCQL.

The Agenda was approved as submitted.

Guests present were Gary, KD6WSY and Mike, K6RVL.

President Dave introduced the 2006 officers, Board and committee chairs; Eric, KG6WOU - Vice President, Randy, KA6BQF - Secretary, and Public Service Chair; Tom Jordan - Director and Public Service Assistant; Raine, Director and Membership Chair; Frank - Director, and Augie - trustee of W6SG. Directors Kevin Foley, Al Weisman and Trustee Doug Slusher were not present. Dave also announced that Phil, K6PHD would continue as the QSA-5 Editor.

The minutes of the January General Membership Meeting were approved as published in QSA-5.

The minutes of the January Board of Directors Meeting were summarized by Secretary Jenkins.

Recreation Committee Chair Connie Sawtelle, AE6PA said that she would be reserving the site at Samuel Taylor State Park in March for the September Picnic.

Education Chair Ben Sawtelle, N6PJZ, reported on Technician classes to be held on March 4 and 11, to be followed by a VE Exam on March 18. When questioned about a General class, Ben replied that we were waiting to see the outcome of the FCC proposal on elimination of the Morse Code requirement.

Public Service Chair Randy reported on upcoming public service events, a form to request insurance and other information from supported organizations. Randy also thanked Webmaster Meader for all the updates to the website.

Comm truck Chair Boyd reported that the truck needs AC generator service and maintenance, and he would try to get it done in the next month or so.

President Dave announced that Norm Baetz, WA6CLK,

From column two.

would serve as Field Day Chair. Norm will make preliminary contact with the Marin Rod & Gun club about using their facility. Alternate sites were discussed.

Membership: Ben Sawtelle reported that we have 78 renewals out of 137 on the list. (This is a bit misleading as several of those 137 are in family memberships. ed.)

As RACES Liaison, Dave Hodgson reported on the upcoming RACES meeting on February 25.

Building manager John Butler, KF6GNI, reported on progress of the radio room renovation. Items still pending were completion of the grounding system, installation of additional antennas, additional operating modes, more lighting, a coax cable patch panel, and completion of a DC power system. John expected that this work would be completed this fall.

John then reported on the status of the comm truck canopy project. The anchors had been designed and fabricated, additional materials for raising the supports had been identified and were being procured, that the structure would be bonded to the grounding system, and that additional stabilization cabling would be added.

John also revisited the issue of remodeling the bathrooms, kitchen and office areas. Potential problems with any project were discussed, including ADA and Title 24 compliance, other code issues, and the possible presence of lead paint or asbestos containing materials. John requested written proposals from the membership. The proposals would be reviewed by a committee consisting of John Butler, Eric Rosenquist, and Randy Jenkins, who would then make recommendations to the board and the membership.

Under new business, Tom Jordan gave a presentation about raising funds for repairs and improvements to the comm truck. Tom pointed out the need to develop a list of needed repairs and desired improvements. Donations could be solicited from service organizations, citing the current and potential uses of the vehicle. We need a plan to further and accomplish these goals. There is an e-mail address to submit comments, comtruckfund@gmail.com.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:26 Respectfully submitted, Randy KA6BQF Secretary.

To column three.

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