

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

## The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

May 2006 Page 1

### President's Message

April showers bring May flowers. If this is true then every garden in the Bay Area should be overflowing with color. I don't know about all of you but I am happy to see the sun; I think we all were wondering if we would see it again before May.

Our first Public Service event of the year, "The Relay", went off without a hitch thanks to the hard work by Chuck WA6SQQ and all of you who volunteered. The rain held off until around 4 AM in Sausalito and even then it was very light. The last team left Marin just before 5 AM, about an hour ahead of 2005's last group. There were 116 teams that started this year, a little less than half as many as we normally see. One can only speculate that the low participation was due to the date change from October to April. Hopefully the turnout next year will be better. I know "Organs are Us" depends on this event for a major part of their annual fund raising.

For all of you who didn't make the April General Membership meeting, you missed a great presentation on **Pneumatic Antenna Launchers** by Alan Biocca, WB6ZQZ and Eric Williams, WD6CMU. The launchers can propel a modified tennis ball—a little added weight for stability—approximately 200 feet up, into or over trees, towing 50# test line, for HF antenna deployment. I can just see us using one at the Rod and Gun Club setting up for Field Day. We would almost certainly send the ball out on to highway 580.

Alan and Eric have a great web site which will give you all the info:  
[www.antennalaunchers.com](http://www.antennalaunchers.com).  
 (Questions answered there. For a picture, see page two. ed.)

It appears that the interest in a club swap meet is fading. I have not heard from anyone willing to organize the event. This will be my last request for one of you to come forward and take the lead.

Randy KA6BQF and Tom KG6TCM still need volunteers for upcoming Public Service Events so again I ask all of you to check your calendars and pick an event you can help with. These events help us promote the Club, Amateur Radio and our community service for the citizens of Marin, awareness of which is extremely helpful when we negotiate with the powers that be for our repeater sites.

Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ.

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

### Public Service Events for 2006

Here is the 2006 schedule so far:

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| May 6      | Miwok 100K                                |
| May 13     | Marin Human Race                          |
| June 11    | The Dipsea                                |
| June 24    | Double Dipsea                             |
| August 5   | Marin Century / Mt. Tam<br>Double Century |
| August 19  | Holstein Hundred                          |
| October 15 | Escape from Alcatraz                      |

**Randy KA6BQF**

**We are still looking for volunteers for the Miwok 100K on Saturday, May 6. We have several shifts available throughout the day. Please contact me if you are interested.**

**We will also need volunteers for the Marin Human Race on Saturday, May 13. This is an easy morning assignment at the Civic Center.**

**Thank you to all of you who assisted with the "Relay" on April 8, and those of you who have responded so far.**

**Hope to hear from you soon,**

**Randy Jenkins**  
[ka6bqf@arrl.net](mailto:ka6bqf@arrl.net) 510-526-4089

### ARRL Section Mgr. News.

The weekend of May 6-7 is EM-COMMWEST 2006 in Reno, NV. Please visit [www.emcommwest.org](http://www.emcommwest.org) for more information. You don't want to miss the best conference in emergency communications and procedures this side of the Mississippi.  
 73, Bill KH6GJV

### QCWA Meeting

Wednesday 19 April we met at Day's Inn in Novato. Chinese buffet. We collect \$10/person and that also provides for a free lunch for the winner of the drawing. Also on site: Chet WA6PAC, Ben N6PJZ, Dick K6JOQ, George WR6D. Total was fifteen.

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

### Board Meeting 18 April

The meeting was called to order by the President at 19:30. Present were President Dave KG6TCJ; Vice-President/Treasurer Eric KG6WOU; Secretary Randy KA6BQF; Board Members John KE6ORI; Al W5ALW; Tom KG6TCM; Kevin KF6YUF; Raine KG6GGI; and Frank WA6JTP; Trustees Doug KF6AKU and Augie KØCQL; and QSA-5 Editor K6PHD.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the March Board of Director's Meeting were approved as published in QSA-5.

Truck Committee Chair John Boyd reported that he had pulled the generator out and had taken it in for service. The shop had not yet looked at it. The Board authorized an expenditure not to exceed \$1000.00 for necessary repairs. There was some discussion of methods to get the body work done. John also has information on replacement parts and painting prices.

Public Service Chair Randy Jenkins reported that "The Relay" was completed. He still needs volunteers for the Miwok on May 6th and the Human Race on May 13.

President Dave Hodgson requested the use of the clubhouse for RACES training.

Under Technical Committee, Trustee Doug Slusher reported that weather and road conditions continue to delay access to the repeater sites for maintenance. Doug is exploring a site for a temporary repeater for public service events. Dave reported one APRS tracker was complete and the other two were under construction.

Old Business: The March financial report, and club expenses in general, were discussed. Committee chairs were asked to estimate their annual expenses. Various expenditures were discussed. A donation box will be put out to help defray the expenses of providing food at the general membership meetings. (We've been eating pretty high on the hog at regular meetings. The March Financial Statement shows an amount of \$157.89 for those snacks at the March 3 meeting. ed.) The annual report is being prepared, and will be reviewed by the board. The status of the expected donation of UHF radios to the club was discussed.

Page two, column three.

**General Meeting 7 April.**

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 by President Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ. Other board members present were; Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF; John Boyd, KE6ORI; K6GWE Trustee Doug Slusher, KF6AKU; and W6SG Trustee August Koehler, KØCQL.

Guest present were Gary, KD6WSY; and our program presenters Alan Biocca, WB6ZQZ; Eric Williams, WD6CMU; and Chris Biocca, KG6LXL.

The Agenda was approved as submitted.

Secretary Randy stated that a letter to the upstairs tenant was being drafted, and President Dave stated that he had been in contact with a neighbor, Tanya Kennedy, about the comm truck cover.

President Dave summarized the Board of Directors agenda at the last meeting. Bids were being sought on the roof leak issue. A possible building cleaning contract has been deferred until May. Expenses for 2005 were under review. Donation of a desk for the clubhouse was declined. (This was a heavy steel unit, incorrectly touted as a steal desk, which it may have been had it contained one of the historic Johnson Desk Kilowatts. ed.) A donation of UHF radios to the club was being pursued.

Our bookkeeper, Connie Sawtelle, AE6PA reported balances of \$9,015.74 in checking, \$5,510.25 in the repeater CD, \$19,501.18 in the reserve CD, for a total of \$34,027.17. All bills were current, and we were expecting a (very. ed.) large bill for insurance soon.

As Recreation Committee Chair Connie reported that she had reserved the site at Samuel Taylor State Park for the September 23rd Picnic. We need to discuss food for the picnic. No other social events were planned.

Public Service Chair Randy reported on upcoming public service events, including the Relay on April 8, and the Miwok 100K on May 6. Chuck Deatrick, WA6SQQ, still needed volunteers for the Relay. Randy was soliciting volunteers for the Miwok. The Marin Human Race will take place on May 13.

Trustee Doug made the Technical Report. Things seemed to be going well. The 146.700 repeater still needs to be visited, when weather permits. The antenna may need to be evaluated. The controller on Tam also needs work. P/M on San Pedro Ridge needs to be scheduled. Doug and Dave are working on access issues with sites. Upgrading to a voting system has been deferred. President Dave reported that one of the three trackers for

Column two, top.

From column one.

the APRS project was completed, and the others would be under construction.

The Comm Truck Committee Chair John Boyd had been in contact with Indian Valley College's auto body program about body work for the truck. John reported that he would remove the generator from the van, and planned to take it in for service.

Education Chair Ben Sawtelle, N6PJZ, reported that a new question pool for the Technician License would become effective on July 1st. Ben proposed that classes for the Technician could be held on June 10 and 17, to be followed by a VE Exam on June 24. It was discussed that VE Liaison Al Weisman had already scheduled VE Exams for June 3 and September 9. Ben said that the training could be rescheduled.

Field Day Chair Norm Baetz, WA6CLK, reported that the Marin Rod & Gun Club was available for Field Day. Other sites had been discussed, none were viable.

Membership: Ben Sawtelle reported that we have 136 members on the list.

Kid's Day Chair Rem Donnelly, K6BBQ, reported that Kid's Day would be at the Discovery Museum in Sausalito on Saturday, June 17th. Rem will need some help. Questions were raised about internet/WiFi access at the site.

Under Old Business, the status of the restroom, kitchen and office areas was discussed. President Dave commented on holding a Swap Meet at the clubhouse in the fall and asked for someone to volunteer to organize it. No volunteers.

There was no New Business.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:14.

A presentation on getting antenna supports into trees using a pneumatic tennis ball launcher was given by Alan Biocca, WB6ZQZ; Eric Williams, WD6CMU; and Chris Biocca, KG6LXL.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF Secretary ka6bqf@arrl.net

**BLONDE ON THE SUN**

A Russian, an American, and a Blonde were talking one day. The Russian said, "We were the first in space!" The American said, "We were the first on the moon!" The Blonde said, "So what? We're going to be the first on the sun!"

The Russian and the American looked at each other and shook their heads. "You can't land on the sun, you idiot! You'll burn up!" said the Russian. To which the Blonde replied, "We're not stupid, you know. We're going at night!"

Board Meeting, cont. from page one.

New Business: The complaint from an adjacent property owner regarding the comm truck awning was discussed. Dave reported that he has checked out prices for a less obtrusive cover for the awning.

Kid's Day will be on June 17th at the Discovery Museum in Sausalito. Rem K6BBQ had inquired about getting banners made for this event and has reported some prices to the Board.

Establishment of an e-mail account (Hopefully a free one. ed.) for the membership committee to receive on-line membership applications was discussed.

Editor Phil Dunlap will begin sending editions of QSA-5 to Glenn Meader N1ZKW, our webmaster, for posting on the website two months after publication.

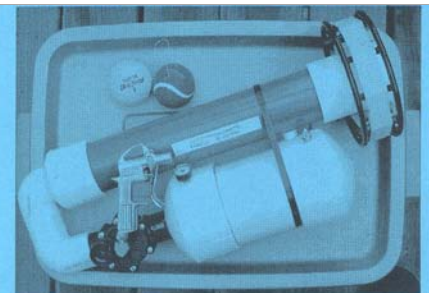
VP Eric Rosenquist inquired about establishing an IRLP node on one of the repeaters.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:43

Respectfully submitted  
Randy Jenkins KA6BQF, Secretary.

A blonde was playing Trivial Pursuit one night. It was her turn. She rolled the dice and she landed on Science & Nature. Her question was, "If you are in a vacuum and someone calls your name, can you hear it?"

She thought for a time and then asked, "Is it on or off?"



**Model CSV19™ Antenna Launcher Specifications**

- Overall Length: approx. 19 inches.
- Weight: approx. 6.5 pounds.
- Barrel: 16 inches Tennis Ball size.
- Chamber: 100 cu in (approx 1.5 liters)
- Valve: 1" sprinkler valve
  - modified for pneumatic actuation
- Pressure Rating: materials rated to minimum 120 psi working pressure.
- Operational Pressure:
  - 80 psi maximum recommended.
- Performance: with a 4oz. Tennis ball
  - Approx. 200 feet height at 80 psi.
  - Approx. 150 feet at 50 psi.
  - Approx. 100 feet at 40 psi.
- Designed to fit in Rubbermaid™ tote.
- Shown above with Zip Reel

**Building Mgr. Report.**

As a result of the unusually wet weather, no progress has been made on several pending projects. Once ten days in a row of clear, warm weather occur and things dry out a bit, we can get back on track. The canopy issue is top priority, with the upstairs tenant bathroom repair not far behind. I will be asking for a helper to assist with the re-caulking job. That is all for this time.  
73 John Butler KF6GNI

**Good Things to Know #5150.**

Some PC users may know this little trick. It might be handy for elder-fahrten whose eyes aren't as good as they once were. If you hold the Ctrl key down and rotate the mouse wheel, print on the screen will change size. It's not important to remember which way to turn the mouse wheel to increase or decrease the character size. Just try it.

**What's Your Connection Speed?**

Find out your connection speed. Go to <http://www.speakeasy.net/> At the bottom right corner click on Speed Test. Pick a server location, on the left, and let the test run to completion. Read the upload and download figures.

**Whatever Happened**

to the website that listed all the available, unused calls? You could look for a specific call or just browse through them all. Probably took too much time to keep current.

**Vee belts and hoses.**

Need a belt or hose for that classic car you have stored in a friend's barn up in Sonoma County? Or maybe you became the caretaker of an elderly garden tiller that's missing a reverse belt but the eight-horse Briggs & Stratton runs too well to junk it. Try this site:

[www.goodyearbeltsandhose.com/selecter.html](http://www.goodyearbeltsandhose.com/selecter.html)

For those with hi speed internet connections, try this site for some humorous videos: <http://gprime.net/video/>

**ARRL DOCUMENTS FLAWS IN MANASSAS BPL INTERFERENCE REPORT.**

And on and on it goes.

In response to a report from BPL operator COMTek that claims its BPL system in Manassas, Virginia cannot be shown to be the cause of ongoing interference complaints by local amateurs, the ARRL has documented the report's shortcomings and again has demanded that the FCC shut down the system until the interference problems are solved.

In an April 14, 2006 letter to two FCC officials, ARRL General Counsel Christopher D. Imlay, W3KD, concluded: "In light of the record of long-standing interference to licensed stations in Manassas, and the failure of COMTek and the City of Manassas to comply with Section 15.615(d), the Commission should require that the BPL system be shut down immediately, and not resume its operation until the facility is shown to be in full compliance with Commission rules regarding radiated emissions and the non-interference requirement of Section 15.5 of the Commission's rules."

The 10 page letter, addressed to Joseph Casey, Chief, Spectrum Enforcement Division, and Katherine Power, of the Spectrum Enforcement Division, sets forth in detail the "tortured history of interference complaints involving the BPL system." COMTek's report was submitted to the FCC in response to a letter from Casey to the City of Manassas and COMTek requiring a "report of system compliance and your report of actions taken to address the alleged harmful interference." The report states, "COMTek believes that the current configuration of the Manassas BPL System is not the source of interference to amateur radio licensees." The ARRL response, citing ongoing interference complaints, called the study "fatally and obviously flawed."

Appended to the ARRL letter to the FCC was a detailed analysis of the technical study prepared by ARRL Lab Manager Ed Hare, W1RFI. The analysis concluded: "...the testing that was performed in no way is sufficient to reach any general conclusions about emissions levels." The analysis goes on to criticize the methodology and conclusions of the tests, which were performed by Product Safety Engineering, Inc. Hare's analysis found a number of deficiencies in the PSE report, including:

Go to column three.

From column two.

The testing was not done in accordance with the FCC's recommended test guidelines; The test equipment used -- a spectrum analyzer and a passive loop antenna -- was not sufficient to measure notch depth nor to measure the ambient noise levels; PSE tested only one amateur band at a single location, which was insufficient to establish compliance or non-interference; a n d

The testing does not follow good engineering practice and is not sufficient to have met the requirements set forth by the FCC for this testing.

The ARRL letter to the FCC concluded: "...The Manassas and COMTek non-responses to the Commission's directive; their vague assurances to work with the Amateur Radio operators in the future; and their stonewalling on the cause of the harmful interference should not be tolerated by the Enforcement Bureau and will not be further tolerated by the Amateur Radio community in Manassas, or by ARRL."

From the ARRL letter.

A government big enough to give you everything you want, is strong enough to take everything you have.

..... Thomas Jefferson.

No man's life, liberty, or property is safe while the legislature is in session.

....Mark Twain (1866)

Government is the great fiction, through which everybody endeavors to live at the expense of everybody else.

....Frederic Bastiat, French Economist (1801-1850)

Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries.

.....Douglas Casey, Classmate of Bill Clinton at Georgetown University.

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys.

.....P. J. O'Rourke, Civil Libertarian

The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery

.....Winston Churchill

What this country needs are more unemployed politicians.

...Edward Langley, Artist (1928 - 1995).

Bored? Try [www.starterupsteve.com/swf/](http://www.starterupsteve.com/swf/)

**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.

|  |                               |  |
|--|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Marin Amateur Radio Society</b>     | <b>Education Chair:</b>       | <b>ARRL WAS Local Rep:</b>               |
| <b>President:</b>                      | Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170   | Rem O'Donnely K6BBQ                      |
| Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864           | kermode7@hotmail.com          | <b>DX Representative of ARRL:</b>        |
| <b>Vice President:</b>                 | <b>Membership Chair:</b>      | Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829             |
| Eric Rosenquist KG6WOU 257-8841        | Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170   | <b>WEBMASTER</b>                         |
| <b>Secretary:</b>                      | <b>VE Liaison:</b>            | Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948              |
| Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089      | Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978 | N1ZKW@ARRL.NET                           |
| <b>Treasurer:</b> We're workin' on it. | <b>Building Mgr.</b>          | <b>Public Service Event Coordinators</b> |
| <b>Additional Board Members:</b>       | John Butler KF6GNI 892-4958   | Randy Jenkins KA6BQF                     |
| Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978          | <b>Trustee for W6SG:</b>      | 510-526-4089                             |
| Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849            | Augie Koehler KØCQL           | Asst. Tom Jordan KG6TCM                  |
| Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170            | <b>Trustee for K6GWE:</b>     | 497-4406                                 |
| Frank Strom WA6JTP 453-3170            | Doug Slusher KF6AKU           | Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ                    |
| Tom Jordan KG6TCM 497-4406             | <b>Sunday Emergency Nets:</b> | 897-7267                                 |
| John Boyd KE6ORI 924-4419              | <b>HF</b> Frank Strom WA6JTP  | <b>Editor of QSA-5:</b>                  |
|  | <b>VHF</b> Raine Strom KG6GII | Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318               |
|  |                               | K6PHD@ARRL.NET                           |

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

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 Address  
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