

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter October 2006 Page 1

President's Message.

Fall is here and the days are cooler and growing shorter but on Saturday Sept. 23 at Samuel P Taylor Park the weather could not have been better for our annual picnic. Connie AE6PA and Ben N6PJZ put on a great feed with the help of Randy KA6BQF as the BBQ wizard, Denice KI6BBR who did the green salads and Phil K6PHD and Doug KD6SAU for helping in setting up and hauling the supplies. Thank you all. From the feedback I have received, all of you who attended had a great time. Again **Thank You, Connie.** We could not have done it without you.

Come on down a little early, around 6 to 7 PM, for the next general meeting on Friday 6 October. We will be putting on a BBQ with the surplus tri-tip, hotdogs and potato salad from the picnic. With luck, Randy will do a repeat of his picnic performance, on our two Weber grills out behind the clubhouse. We'll serve until the food runs out. The program will be a presentation about radio KPH in West Marin. Denice KI6BBR will be leading a field trip to the KPH station in the next few months so this will be a great opportunity to learn about what we will be seeing.

The mystery of the clubhouse key and lock box cover going missing has not been solved. So to be sure the clubhouse is relatively secure, the board has authorized the door lock to be re-keyed. We also looked at alternative means of entrance but they are all considerably more expensive and hard to justify for our small group. We are still open to ideas, and are looking for someone with deep pockets.

The problems with the comm truck generator look to be over, for now. Last May John KE6ORI and Doug KF6AKU removed the generator from the truck and took it to an authorized repair shop in the East Bay. There it sat for two months. When we went looking for it, the shop had not even diagnosed the needed repairs. Several days later they came back to us with the info that it needed a new carburetor which we authorized to be replaced. When Phil K6PHD and I went to pick it up we found

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Website at W6SG.NET
Phone 415.389.6630

Thank you

To everyone who helped make the annual picnic easy and fun!! It was so good to see all of you.

Special thanks to Ben Sawtelle for helping gather the supplies, Phil Dunlap for ice & beverage detail, Doug Short for tablecloth & table cleaning duty, Denice Stoops for those picturesque delicious salads, Randy Jenkins, our 5 star Grill Sergeant and Raine Strom for helping with the setup. **'73 Connie AE6PA.**

It's your website

By Glenn Meader, N1ZKW, webmaster.

The club website, www.w6sg.net is a valuable club resource. In my role as webmaster, I keep it maintained. However, I'm not an editor, so I don't create the info posted on the site, you do. I'll put whatever you want on the site (within reason – on the subject of Amateur Radio). If you have a great idea for something that should be on the site, let's make it happen. Have you noticed some out-of-date or incorrect info on the site? It's as simple as sending me an email detailing what needs to be created or changed. My email address is all over the site (lower left-hand corner of most pages)

For example, we could have a photo tour of our club house, repeater sites and comm truck. All someone has to do is take digital photos and email them to me with some descriptive prose detailing what's in the pictures.

To see what such an article could look like, browse the article I wrote about my tour of the NMC Coast Guard station in Point Reyes

<http://w6sg.net/NMC/index.html>

Let's all make our club website excellent, with your contributions. Glenn.

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

General Meeting 1 September.

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Hodgson at 19:29 hours. There were twenty members present. Board members present included Dave Hodgson, Randy Jenkins, Al Weisman, Raine Strom, Frank Strom, and Augie Koehler.

The agenda was approved as submitted.

Pres. Dave reported on incoming communications:

We had a notice from the Department of Homeland Security on National Preparedness Month; Amateur Radio Awareness Month was scheduled for September 16.

We also had a notice about a hamfest in Fresno on September 15th and 16th.

Additionally, we received a message from the GGNRA to contact them about our repeater equipment on West Peak. The message was discussed at some length.

President Dave reported on the actions of the Board of Directors:

President Dave Trustee Doug met with a general contractor about repairs to the building.

The Board of Directors OK'd repairs to the com truck generator by Al W5ALW.

The Board of Directors approved a sum not to exceed \$500 for the purchase of a new canopy for the com truck shelter.

The board discussed the implications of HIPPA on communications for public service events.

Treasurer's Report: Our bookkeeper Connie Sawtelle reported balances of \$10,001.29 in checking accounts before the deposit of the rent check, and \$19,518.08 in savings deposits, for total assets of \$34,067.37.

Recreation Committee: Connie Sawtelle reported that the picnic was scheduled for September 23, at Samuel P. Taylor State Park, in the Redwood Grove from noon to 6 p.m. Connie also reported that a deposit had been made with the Four Points Sheraton Hotel for our Christmas party which would be scheduled for December 3rd. The menu was discussed, and the price will remain at \$25.

Public Service Committee: Chairman Randy reported on the successful completion of the Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century and the Holstein Hundred bike rides and thanked all those who had participated. Jenkins commented that almost 40% of the amateurs who were recruited to volunteer

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Board Meeting 12 September.

The meeting was called to order by President Dave Hodgson at 1930 hours. Present were Board Members Hodgson, Jordan, Boyd, Foley, and Jenkins; Trustees Slusher and Koehler; and Editor Dunlap.

The agenda was approved as submitted.

The minutes of the previous Board of Directors meeting were approved as submitted without the Editor's additions or deletions.

Treasurer: No report. The Board requires additional information from the bookkeeper.

Membership: Action on a letter expressing interest in the club was tabled by unanimous vote.

A committee to study housekeeping changes to the bylaws was appointed. The committee will consist of Randy Jenkins KA6BQF, Doug Slusher KF6AKU, and Tom Jordan KG6TCM. The committee will make an initial report at the October Board of Directors meeting.

Recreation Committee: The picnic is scheduled for September 23.

Public Service: The next scheduled events are the Peak Hike on September 30 and The Escape from Alcatraz on October 14. There was a question about another bike ride in October, **Pedaling for Progress**. As of this meeting we had not been contacted about that event. There was also a question about The Holstein Hundred which was reported to have gone well.

Technical Committee: Doug Slusher reported on contact with the National Park Service about the West Peak site.

Comm Truck Committee: John Boyd reported that the generator had been cleaned, repaired, and reinstalled in the comm truck. It now runs well and quietly.

Education Committee: The next training sessions have been scheduled for November 11 and 18th.

Volunteer Examiner: The next VE session is scheduled for December 2.

RACES: The RACES picnic is on September 16. Dave Hodgson reported on a change in the RACES leadership.

Building Manager: John Butler continues sealing the parking lot. John is concerned about the status of the new cover for the comm truck shelter. Ceiling tiles for the meeting room have been delivered. John will continue work on the radio room this winter. John has a concern about the drainage culvert on the West side of the building. The Board discussed options on the roof leaks that have occurred periodically. There was discussion of options and logistics for any alterations to the building.

Old Business: John Boyd, Frank Strom and Raine Strom will man the table at Pacificon. There was discussion about displays and literature for the table. Randy Jenkins will provide a display backdrop.

Column two, top.

New Business: The Board Of Directors voted to set the dues beginning in 2007 at \$25 for individual membership and student/senior membership and \$30 for family membership.

The issue of a Nominating Committee was continued until the next board meeting.

Options were discussed regarding the front door lock. It was decided to re-key the existing lock at this time and continue discussions on further options.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2041 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF, Secretary.

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the Secretary's files at the corporate office.

(The editor reserves the right to correct blatant errors in grammar, spelling and sentence structure and to cut back on the excessive use of clichés and puffery—some readers may have to look that one up—but does not guarantee perfection in this. Outright falsehoods are allowed to pass as is for the time being. ed.)

Pres' Msg, cont. from page one

out they had been looking at the wrong generator. The unit they had quoted the repairs on belonged to KGO TV. Well, the next day they informed us that ours needed an upper-end rebuild at a cost of \$2,500. Well, to make a long story short, Al W5ALW our club super mechanic volunteered to check it out.

Lo and behold! Al was able to fix it by replacing a blown head gasket and we installed new plugs and changed the oil for a cost of under \$60. Yes, it pays to be frugal HAMS, always looking for a way to save a few bucks. I want to also thank Tom KG6TCM for helping move and transport the beast and Randy KA6BQF for spending a Saturday cleaning and cleaning and cleaning.

Lastly, we have one public service event left for the year. October 14th is the annual **Escape From Alcatraz**. This is a triathlon that starts with a swim from Alcatraz to Aquatic Park in San Francisco, then a bike ride to Old Mill Park in Mill Valley. Then they run a double Dipsea! We are really short of help this year so please, if you can lend a hand let Tom Jordan or me know.

Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:15.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins KA6BQF Secretary.

The official copy of these minutes resides in these Secretary's notes as filed in the corporate office.

General Meeting, cont.

to work those events were from outside of the Marin Club.

Randy reported on the upcoming Waves to Wine ride in Sonoma County, the Mt. Tam Peak Hike coming up on September 30, and the Escape from Alcatraz on October 14.

Technical Committee: Dave Hodgson reported on a problem with the 146.70 repeater. If the malfunction continues, it will be looked at by our technical committee chairman Doug Slusher.

Com Truck Committee: Al Weisman is working on the generator.

Education Committee: Ben Sawtelle reported that the next classes would be held on November 11 and November 18. He will teach either a Technician class or a General class depending on demand.

VE Committee: VE Liaison Al Weisman reported that there would be a VE session on Saturday, September 9. The next following VE session will be on Saturday, December 2.

Membership Committee: Chair Raine Strom reported that we had a new member; Doug Hoople, KG6JIC.

Building Manager: John Butler submitted a written report, which was reported by president Hodgson. He has been working on a silent key project which he has almost completed. John continues with a re coating of the driveway and parking areas in front of the building. John asked about the status of the new cover for the comm truck canopy. John asked about the delivery of replacement ceiling tiles. John will continue work on the radio room this winter. John commented that he will investigate a potential problem with the drainage conduit on the west side of the building. John plans to hold a question and answer session at the picnic on September 23. Dave Hodgson reported on the issue of the missing key box cover and missing building key, and discussed our various options.

Old Business: Dave Hodgson reported on staffing of the Pacificon table on October 13 14 and 15. The table will be staffed by Frank Strom, Raine Strom, and John Boyd. We are in the process of producing literature to be distributed at the table.

Good of the Order: President Hodgson responded to a question from the floor on the situation with the Mt. Tam repeaters. Dave outlined in general terms our plan of action regarding our equipment on West Peak and on Middle Peak.

Regarding a question from the floor about the new election, Hodgson replied that it would be on the agenda soon.

Member John Reid announced that the Red Oak Victory would be holding a pancake breakfast on Sunday, September 10, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Al Weisman reported that he had a piece of computer equipment that needed a new home.

President Dave asked for any suggestions for presentations at the club meetings. Member Denice Stoops suggested a program on KPH. Vice president Randy also suggested a program possibly from AMSAT. <<<Go left to column two

K6GWE Repeaters

2 meters

Big Rock Ridge 147.330 +

INPUTS

- pl 203.5 Big Rock
- pl 179.9 Mt. Tam west
- pl 167.9 Mt. Barnabe
- pl 192.8 Tiburon

Mt. Tamalpais 146.700 -

- pl 179.9 Mt. Tam input

San Pedro Ridge 147.330 +

- pl 173.8 off-line - reserve status.

440

San Pedro Ridge

- 443.525 + pl 82.5

Mt. Tamalpais

- 443.250 + pl 179.9

Gerritsen Gets Seven Years.

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 19, 2006 -- It was a day many radio amateurs in Southern California had been anticipating for a long time. On September 18, US District Court Judge R. Gary Klausner sentenced convicted radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, now 70, to seven years imprisonment and imposed \$15,225 in fines on six counts -- one a felony -- that included willful and malicious interference with radio communications and transmitting without a license. Before sentencing, Gerritsen apologized to the federal government, the FCC and the local Amateur Radio community, which had endured the brunt of Gerritsen's on-air tirades and outright jamming. "I'm sorry, and I apologize to everyone here," Gerritsen told those in the courtroom, which included more than a dozen radio amateurs and Gerritsen's family members. Gerritsen's contrition did nothing to convince Klausner toward leniency. More at www.arrl.org/

From the ARRL Letter.

Iron Eyes Cody was an actor who throughout his life claimed to be of Cherokee/Cree extraction. Yet his asserted ancestry was just as artificial as the tear that rolled down his cheek in that television spot — the tear was glycerin, and the "Indian" a second-generation Italian-American.

If your back yard looks like an aluminum Porcupine.....you might be a ham!

If you are afraid to pull into a parking garage because of antennas on your roof.....you might be a ham!

Contributed by a deranged reader.

More on K6HWL, Highway Louie.

Al Melcher W6ARM

It was with great interest that I read your article on Frank Toles, K6HWL in the June 2005 issue of QSA-5 which brought back memories. In the 40s and 50s I was active along with a gang of hams in the Bay Area on 3995 AM mobile. Most of us used Gonset converters working through our car radios for receiving. Of course they were broad and often we were "blocked" by Frankie tuning up his mobile rigs. Due to our complaints, he used to try to go to some remote area to do it but he still wiped us out. At that time I was living in San Leandro and I think Frankie was living in Castro Valley so he usually went back into Crow Canyon but with that signal, we still heard him.

I think that I was the one who gave him the nickname Highway Louie because I often worked him while he was on the "highway" traveling to and from construction jobs and it fit nicely as a phonetic for his call. I don't remember the rig that you described but, probably it was at a later date, I remember that he bought a new Thunderbird, tore out the passenger seat and had the glove box removed and made a big cutout in the dashboard to accommodate the rack that it was mounted in. The transmitter was located along side of him in the front of the car and as I recall had a couple of Eimac pentodes in the final. The antenna you described had a large copper toilet bowl float at the top to prevent corona discharge. Once while parked under some trees, he set a tree on fire because some of the leaves touched the antenna.

As I recall, unlike the rig that you described, he powered it with two Leece-Neville alternators under the hood and had the power supply in the trunk with AC input from the alternators for the high voltage power transformer and filament transformers and I think he used mercury vapor rectifiers of some sort (866s or 872s?). The transformers and chokes really loaded down the trunk and the power supply took up most of the room even though the trunks were large in those cars. Because it took a while for the alternators to get up to speed, you could always tell it was Frankie when he came on the air because the carrier signal came on gradually, not with full power like a fixed station.

In the 70s, I had a cabin cruiser that I berthed in the delta and Frankie had moved to Bethel Island. I talked to him on 2 meters

Column two.

from the boat and invited him to visit my wife and me on the boat. He had retired by then and told about some of his experiences while working on the Oroville Dam and how he was able to design a remote control system by modifying garage door openers to use with some of the earth moving equipment so they could run several of them while controlling them from afar. He was, to say the least, a very ingenious guy and one of a kind.

At that time my call was W6YQB and I was one of the three who started to work 75 meter mobile in the Bay Area after the FCC allowed it. The three of us W6MRM and W6PYH (both silent keys) were at the old Electric Supply store (later Elmar) in Oakland and were trying to decide where to operate on the band but thought it would be best at the edge of the high end to reduce interference from fixed stations. W6PYH worked there and checked the crystal supply where he found three crystals for 3996 so we used those. Later it became 3995 but the receivers were so broad those days that it didn't matter.

I now live in Rancho Murieta, near Sacramento, having moved here from the Bay Area in 2003 after my wife died. I have three sons who are licensed, Dick WA6MDI who is a jet pilot now living in Louisiana, Bob, K7BOB who lives in Eugene, Oregon and Don, W6CZ who lives in Oakland. Don owns several acres in Mariposa where he has built a huge DX station that can be operated remotely by computer so I confine my occasional activity on 75 to using that. I live in an area where antennas are restricted so that serves me nicely. All of us were active on 2 meters when we lived in the Bay Area and often worked through the repeater on Mount Tam until they converted it to TTY. I also noticed that you show a location in Twain Harte in QRZ. My son Bob had a cabin there before moving to Oregon and we used to spend a lot of time there and really enjoyed it. I met several Bay Area hams who had cabins there and some who lived there the year round. Most of them are now silent keys. I will be 87 in November so there aren't many of my old friends left any longer. Ham radio has been a big part of my life and I have many fond memories of

the good times and friends that I have met because of it.

Take care and "thanks for listening".
73.....Al Melcher, W6ARM

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 to try to keep the clowns honest. However, they probably would not be successful at that.

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:	Building Mgr.	Public Service Event Coordinators
Additional Board Members:	John Butler KF6GNI 892-4958	Randy Jenkins KA6BQF
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Frank Strom WA6JTP 453-3170	Doug Slusher KF6AKU	Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ
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Stamp

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