

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

December 2007

Pres' Msg.

Dear Members,

My letter this month is going to be short, to save room for an appeal to the membership which has been approved by the Board of Directors. We have a good start on the building repairs, but there is more to do. There will be a painting party in the near future, provided that the weather cooperates.

I look forward to eating with those of you who have made reservations for the Christmas Party. I will be driving back from Reno the same day so, if I am a few minutes late, you can start without me. The party will take the place of the general membership meeting for December and the board will be meet as usual on the second Thursday. Merry Christmas to all. 73/88

Denice Stoops

We Need Your Help

As everyone should be aware by now, the first round of overdue repairs to the clubhouse is nearing completion. A new shed style roof has been installed over the corner office, kitchen and bathrooms and a membrane to waterproof the exterior apartment stairs. The roofing contractor guarantees that this will stop the leaks in these rooms that we have lived with for years. We have repaired dry rot, replaced the old galvanized plumbing, and insulated all the walls that were opened up for repairs. We did not stop there. We also added new electrical wiring and lighting, new windows and vinyl floors in the office, kitchen and bathrooms and one of the bathrooms had to be made ADA compliant. During all the repair work to the building we also had to install a new section of 36-inch drainpipe at the far end of our lot at a cost of \$1,000.00.

To accomplish this work, we have expended over \$44,000 in the club's funds.

Column two.

Website at W6SG.NET
Phone 415.389.6630

For ARRL SF Section news, go to
www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF

From column one.

This amount does not include the MANY hours donated by our own Rich Carbine W6UDS in designing, procuring and installing the electrical wiring, distribution boxes and fixtures. Our Madame President obtained the new windows and ADA door thanks to her work connections. She also had to deal with the project and contractors. In addition, many thanks to the members who have helped with some of the grunt work.

As a result, our club's coffers are low. Detailed financial statements are available for any member to review but, in a nutshell, we are out of money to finish the project. The Board feels that what capital remains must be held to cover operating costs and contingency funding for our repeaters and possible emergencies until our reserve is built back up.

If the work that has been done to the club's building this year was all that it needed, we would be sitting pretty but additional repairs are required. The second story rear deck needs to be replaced. We have dry rot in the eaves and we need a new roof on the rear storage room. These repairs will have to be made in the near future – in the next year or two, if possible. The longer we wait the more expensive it becomes. The entire building also badly needs a coat of paint. None of these issues is due to anything but normal building aging and represents deferred maintenance items.

The bottom line is this: it is time for the members to reach into our own pockets to help rebuild the club's bank balance so that we can continue to plan the remainder of the needed repairs to our building.

We have approximately 125 members in the club. If each one donated \$100, we could fund another \$12,500 in needed repairs next year.

Column three.

POBox 6423
San Rafael, 94903-0423

From column two.

This would be a GREAT first step, although it's not enough to cover what needs to be done, so if you can manage more, or could give in installments, it would be very helpful. We do not have an estimate of further work but know that the drains on the rear deck need attention and the deck itself is starting to leak.

While you think about how much you can donate, please consider how lucky we are, as an organization, to have the luxury that we have – not only do we own a building with no mortgage, mind you, but we also have rental income that helps to offset maintenance, helps to pay to keep the lights on and, most importantly, lets us play radio.

In the meantime, we are operating more frugally than in past years in order to sock away a bigger percentage of our income for future repairs to the property. Remember that we own, and pay taxes on, this building and the land it sits on and what we will invest in it is a small percentage of its total value.

Sincerely, Your Board of Directors.

General Membership Meeting

Friday, November 02, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1940 hrs by President Denice Stoops. 23 people signed in. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as submitted.

Under communications, Dave Hodgson reported on receiving a donation of \$100 from the Dolphin Club.

President Denice reported on the actions taken at the October board meeting. An additional \$5,000 had been allocated to the remodeling project. A new contractor had been engaged to complete the construction project, and replacement of the drainpipe at the rear of the property was moving forward.

Treasurer-Dave Hodgson reported \$4390 in income and \$14,100 in expenses. Checking balance was \$4155, savings balance was \$16,202, totaling \$20,357. \$30,772 has been spent on the clubhouse construction project, so far.

Page two, column one

General Meeting, cont. from page one.

The treasurer's report was approved.

Recreation: The Christmas party is coming up on December 2. Get your reservations in. No walk-ins can be accepted.

Public Service: Randy reported on the Escape from Alcatraz and a \$100 donation from the Dolphin Club.

Technical: Doug Slusher reported that we are receiving interference on our repeater control link frequency. We will be installing tone squelch to alleviate the problem. Doug also reported on attending a seminar at Pacificon about the amateur 440 band and Pave Paws. It is still possible that our UHF repeaters may be effected. reasu

Comm Truck: The truck has been smogged and a new catalytic converter donated by Doug Slusher.

VE Coordinator: A special VE session was held for the CERT group.

Field Day: We are looking for a new chairman or 2008.

Membership: We have three new ones.

Building Managers: Denice Stoops reported that stucco, windows, insulation, sheet rock, and exterior paint were complete or nearly so. Rich Carbine reported that we have the drainpipe and it needs to go in next weekend. Rich also said that a new meter panel will be installed in the water heater room, and that he will need help to identify circuits to be transferred to the panel.

Old Business

Ideas for revenue raising for the building fund were discussed. Among the suggestions were a PowerPoint presentation and a letter to the members.

The progress of the membership drive was discussed. The committee consisting of Tom Jordan, Eric Rosenquist, and Doug Slusher is still coming up with ideas.

RSVP's for the Christmas party are due by November 20.

A nominating committee for the upcoming vacancies on the board was discussed.

Good of the Order:

Rich Carbine reported that the owner of Elecraft would be speaking at REDX on 14 November on their new transceiver.

Denice Stoops reported that she had a new presentation lined up that can be expected in January. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2026 hrs

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Jenkins KA6BQF Secretary. The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the secretary's files as maintained at the corporate office.

Board of Directors Meeting Thursday, November 8, 2007

Board members present were Doug Slusher, Dave Hodgson, Phil Dunlap, Norm Baetz, Rich Carbine, Augie Koehler, Denice Stoops, Eric Rosenquist, and Randy Jenkins.

The meeting was called to order at 1927 hrs by President Denice Stoops.

The minutes of the October meeting were not available, and approval of those minutes was tabled.

Communications: Jenkins reported on receiving a request for communications support from the Holstein 100 for 2008.

Treasurer Hodgson reported on the construction costs for the project to date (\$30,722.71), and that additional bills were still outstanding. Dave's report showed \$4390 in income and \$14,086 in expenses for October. There was a discussion of the construction project and how far we wished the contractors to proceed. The board decided to ask the contractors to submit all bills to date, and receipts for materials, so that we could project the cost of the remaining work. Other than work already approved and started, no further work was to be undertaken.

Committee Reports:

Membership: There was a discussion about obtaining mailing lists for amateurs in Marin. The idea was floated of publishing a special edition of QSA-5 to send to non-member amateurs in Marin.

Recreation: The Christmas party was discussed, and someone was to be tasked with getting gifts.

Public Service: Jenkins asked for a report on the Peak Hike. The Holstein Hundred has already requested support for a day in May.

Technical: Doug Slusher reported that he still needs the tone boards to install on the link sites and needs to make a trip up to the hills.

VE Liaison: There was report on Al's condition.

RACES Liaison: There was a RACES meeting scheduled for the coming Saturday. It may be superseded by the need for activation into the oil spill.

Old Business:

Fundraising was discussed.

Nominating Committee: The nominees for the four available positions on the board are Randy Jenkins, Elisabeth Thomas-Matej, John Boyd, and Horst Dannecker.

Column three

Board Meeting, cont., from column two

Installation of the culvert at the rear the property would proceed next Saturday.

Ham-of-the-Year: A nominee was discussed, and referred to the committee for approval. The same person was suggested for honorary life membership, which the board approved.

New Business:

Phil K6PHD brought forward a discussion about the Southern corner of the property, outside the fence, that was being used by one of the neighbors. Phil believed that we needed to prevent a prescriptive easement from being established by notifying the neighbor that we retain title to the property, and taking such other steps as may be necessary. This was discussed at length by the board.

It was brought up that Rem O'Donnely has an ICOM IC-706 that belongs to the club. There was a discussion on whether or not this radio should be available for use at Field Day. Doug Slusher will contact Rem to see if he is still using the radio for publicity, as directed by the club.

Denice Stoops will send a sympathy card to Herman Wiese's widow.

There was a discussion about kitchen cabinets to outfit the remodeled kitchen. No action was taken.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2040 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted,

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary

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

At one time in my life, I thought I had a handle on the meaning of the word "service."

"It's the act of doing things for other people."

Then I heard these terms which reference the word SERVICE:

Internal Revenue Service

Postal Service

Telephone Service

Civil Service

City & County Public Service

Customer Service

Service Stations

Then I became confused about the word "service." This is not what I thought "service" meant.

So today, I overheard two farmers talking, and one of them said he had hired a bull to "service" a few of his cows. BAM! It all came into perspective. Now I understand what all those "service" agencies are doing to us. I hope you now are as enlightened as I am.

K6GWE Repeaters
Big Rock Ridge 147.330 +
2 meters 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

Oil and Air Filters for Your Car/Pickup
 Some of us still change our own oil and filters and purchase these at a local auto parts store, or at Wallyworld if we get as far North as Rohdent Park. There is usually an applications directory available. It might be a hard copy and, with luck, the page you are looking for hasn't been ripped out. It could be one of those electronic devices stuck to a shelf where you follow a series of menus until you find the part number you are looking for. Sometimes these even work and the internal battery is young enough so that you can even read the info on the display. Sometimes you don't make any errors and don't have to start over. Maybe these are installed at a high enough level so you don't have to bend way over to use them and obstruct the aisle. If not, it's at that time that Bovina Behemoth and her brood come along and stop to study something directly behind you in that aisle and you give up and walk away. The next time you look, they are still there and all seem to be in a state of suspended animation.
 To save the trouble of looking up the part numbers each time on site, you could keep a record of them. But that means trying to write down those numbers while standing in the aisle without the pen you usually carry. And, of course, there's not a single piece of paper in your pockets to write on and if there were, there wouldn't be a convenient surface to put that paper that you don't have, on. If you had brought a pen, you might write a few item numbers on the palm of your other hand. That ink will wash off in a day or two. In the meantime, you'd keep that palm concealed so others wouldn't keep asking 'What's that on your hand?'
 Avoid all that trouble and get those part numbers for FRAM (filters) or Autolite (plugs) on line. Here:
<http://www.power-21.com/honeywellpower21i/fram.aspx>
 Keep a list in the glove box so when you forget it, it's only as far as the parking lot and, with luck, it won't be raining.

From MARS member Pinky W6FQS in Chico

Nice to see you again at the REDXA dinner meet. Quite possibly you know something that I don't regarding the 10:00 am Sunday, W6SG check-in on 3.915?

I used to check-in on this one when I lived in San Rafael and we had the same problems of coping with the K7PG swap net on the same frequency as we have today. When I want to name a freq. to meet a friend, I always specify a freq. other than an even 5 kHz so as to avoid the many nets. With today's technology we are able to narrow our front ends down to 1.8 or so on SSB and with DSP we can usually manage to at least hear the loud ones. Often though, as a function of band conditions, I have a problem hearing my call from W6SG over the swap net. It is certain that I am not alone.

It is beyond my understanding why we can't move to 3.918 and agree with the swap net guys for them to move to 3.912. Then, we could all plug-in our hi-fi speakers and enjoy. With my antennas and equipment I can live with it as well as anyone else but I am puzzled as to why it has continued for so many years. I have spoken with K7PG on several occasions and he seems to be a fairly nice sort of a fellow that might agree. I heard them a few months ago discussing a possible freq. change for the swap net but nothing came of it.

Perhaps you could casually bring the matter up for discussion. Three kilohertz doesn't seem to me like a huge QSY for either group. What do you think Phil? Pink

We're way overdue for a frequency change off of 3915 kc. We were forced to change freqs once before when the General class lost 3885 kc, our old countywide spot. When 3885 was returned, we were used to 3915 and didn't go back. And the band plan for 75m reserves 3885 as the AM calling freq, if we remember correctly. Way back then we were all on AM.

Up three to 3918 should be easy for us, and it could be done 1 kc at a time. Those who don't get the word right away will think we're off freq, zero in and get an explanation for the change.

From column two

After a while we could go up one more kc twice, and, with luck, not lose those who check in irregularly. If we made one jump to 3918, probably most would find us anyway but a few might give up. Even if the K7PG bunch doesn't move down three we'd be better off. We can talk it to death or just do it. There'd be prominent notices in QSA-5. There can be no reasonable objection to this minor freq change. We'll just have to ignore any who whine, "But this is the way we've always done it." ed.

Bedding-in the drain extension out back in the weeds. One end is in the trench which is a bit too narrow. Needs some fine tuning.



Praying for guidance.



Now what do we do? A little four part harmony.



A little more praying is called for. Next page.



Damn! That's a big one! Can't go in w/o your boots on.



Not quite deep enough.



Too much old buried concrete and rock preventing a good alignment to the upstream pipe.



Comm truck and manpower pulled it back out.



Luckily, the overcast prevented a reflection off of Randy's head from degrading this picture.



Finally buried. All hands present or accounted for? If anyone's still down there, he's gonna stay there.

The short section of fence at the rear cuts off a small triangle of land from the rest of our property. No one seems to know, yet, how this happened. We have five years from the time the fence was built to do something about this to prevent a prescriptive easement. The fence went up in 2004.

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 Thursday at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend to try to keep the clowns honest.

Sunday morning informal meeting, grinningly called the bible/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: \$25.00 per year. \$30 for family memberships.** No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

There is a senior/student category but nobody knows what the dues are.

<p>Marin Amateur Radio Society President: Denice Stoops KI6BBR 672-0303 Vice President: Eric Rosenquist KG6WOU 257-8841 Secretary: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 Treasurer: Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864 Additional Board Members: Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887 Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 Tom Jordan KG6TCM 497-4406 Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978</p>	<p>Education Chair: Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170 kermode7@hotmail.com Membership: Dave and Phil VE Liaison: Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978 Bldg. Manager Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Trustee for W6SG: Augie Koehler KØCQL Trustee for K6GWE: Doug Slusher KF6AKU Sunday Emergency Nets: HF Ben's been doing both. VHF Corrections to K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>	<p>DX Representative of ARRL: Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829 WEBMASTER Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET Public Service Event Coordinators Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 Asst. Tom Jordan KG6TCM 497-4406 ARRL San Francisco Section Mgr. Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG Editor of QSA-5: Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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Stamp

The Mailing
 Address
 Goes Here