

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter January 2006 Page 1

President's Message.

Happy New Year I hope your holidays were joyous and Santa was good to you.

The new Board members were all invited to the December Board meeting to meet with the outgoing members and to elect officers. Well good plans do not always come together. Not all of both old and new members could make it so we did not elect 2007 officers; we'll do that at our January Board meeting on the 16th. We did have a good round table discussion concentrating on where the club is going financially this year.

One thing that we did want to do besides being thriftier is to have more speakers at our membership meetings. Anyone who has an idea for a program please let us know. We have a very talented membership with broad-ranging interests within and outside our hobby. It would be great to have a presentation on satellite communications now that there are a bunch of new birds overhead. Or how about someone talking about their experiences with DXing? Another thought is VHF propagation such as the 6 meter opening last fall. These are just a few ideas. There must be one or more of you who would be willing to give a talk or knows someone that would.

That's it for now and may we all have a safe, happy and prosperous new year.

Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ

Programs to be presented at the membership meetings do not have to be limited to Amateur Radio. In the past year or two we have had a couple of videos on railroads that were well received. ed.

Website at W6SG.NET
Phone 415.389.6630

Board Meeting changed to 3rd Tuesday, 16 Jan

Money

Our PG&E bill for the building, averaged, has been running about \$250/month. It has been decided to shut off the furnace unless there is a membership meeting, board meeting or Sunday morning bible/babble class on site. Previously, the thermostat has been set to a low value but the ground floor space, built as a garage, lacks insulation and has too many air leaks to make this practical. Now all we have to do is to remember to shut the furnace off when leaving the clubhouse. Our upstairs tenant has little incentive to conserve gas or electricity because the building has just one common set of meters and we get the bills. This could change in the future.

The large expenses like taxes and insurance we can handle. It's the proliferation of smaller ones that have prevented us from accumulating enough money to do the necessary building repairs. Ways to spend the cash tend to multiply to the point where they use up the available income and we find that we're surviving rent check to rent check. Sounds a little like our Federal Government? Yep. Except the Gov can print more money and 'borrow' from other sources like Social Security to get by. We're a bit more limited. It's time to bite the bullet, or maybe a handier stick, and start reducing some of our non-urgent expenses.

More on this in the February QSA-5.

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

General Membership Meeting 12/3.

Because no one at the Christmas party was willing to perform any unnatural acts for our amusement at the annual December feed, thereby causing this year's enjoyable event to be pretty much a carbon copy of last year's, we had to compose the following drivel to attempt to fill this column with something.

If you went to the clubhouse on Friday, 12/1, to attend the monthly meeting, you obviously didn't get the word on the Christmas Party/regular meeting at the Four Seasons in Terrible Linda. And, if no one you knew saw you leaving the Shell Road site on a non-meeting evening, you didn't have to explain why you came. Of course, if another member showed up, you could lie to each other about why you were there or just admit that the error might have been caused by 'old timer's disease' or just not paying attention.

The party, as usual, turned out well. Not a single fight or clothing malfunction was to be seen. Nor were there any signs of excessive inebriation although the fact that the bar was no-host, unlike last year, could have been the main reason for that. And, believe it or not, the accordion was played softly enough during dinner that we were able to hold conversations across the tables at a fairly reasonable volume.

Whatever the hotel chef/s did to the pork this year, it was the best we've eaten at any of our Christmas parties there.

(John) Iacono (pronounced yaw' kuh no) The Great performed some of his sleight-of-hand tricks again this year. And, as last year, we waited for the odor of burning moustache when he did his fire eating routine. Again, we were disappointed in this. We keep hoping. Maybe next year when he's a little older and, with luck, a little shakier. (Didn't we use this same line last year?)

Norm WA6CLK won the main prize in the drawing, an HT.

Board of Directors Meeting
 Tuesday, December 12, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 1934 hrs by president Dave Hodgson. Present were current board members Dave Hodgson, Al Weisman, John Boyd, Kevin Foley, and Randy Jenkins; trustee Augie Koehler; and incoming board members Phil Dunlap, Denice Stoops, and Rich Carbine.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as e-mailed by secretary Randy Jenkins. Randy said that letters were sent to the candidates with the result of the recent election.

President Dave presented the Treasurer's report for the year through November 6. The report was discussed at length, including expenses for the Christmas party, food at membership meetings, and the costs for running the repeaters.

Dave said that he believed that we'd gained a couple of new members since the last meeting. He reported that there had been a trip to the Mt. Tam middle peak site and that the 2 m repeater there had been replaced with the backup. The defective unit will be sent out for repairs.

John Boyd commented that he had found a rain cover for the com truck that could be used during public service events if necessary.

Dave and others discussed the status of the education committee, and whether there would be a class in January or February.

VE Liaison Al Wiseman reported that there would be a testing session the first Saturday in March.

Dave reported that there would be a RACES membership meeting this coming Saturday at the EOC.

Dave relayed the building manager's report: John Butler said that the 24" drain in the rear of the property is working well. Also that he was aware of a new leak in the building. He has installed a new, beefier wheel on the main gate so it won't hang up and will operate much more easily.

Randy reported that there had been no feedback from the membership about the proposed changes to the bylaws.

A motion was made and passed to table the election of new officers until the January board meeting.

The current and incoming board members conducted a roundtable Column two.

From column one.

discussion of the club's needs, budget priorities, and where the club should focus its activities in the coming year. Everyone was given a chance to speak, and many positive remarks were made.

The meeting was adjourned at 2059 hrs.

Respectfully Submitted, Randy Jenkins KA6BQF, Secretary.

The Treasurer's report and agenda here in reference to shall be appended to the official copy of these minutes. The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the secretary's notes at the corporate office.

Let me know if there are any additions or corrections.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF
 ka6bqf@arrl.net
 Secretary & Public Service Coordinator
 510 526.4089

The End of CW Requirement

Early next year, the US will join the growing list of countries that no longer require Amateur Radio applicants to pass a Morse code test as the entry ticket to HF. Announcement of the pending historic rule change arrived with no fanfare December 15 in an FCC public notice. A full-blown Report and Order (R&O) in the proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, followed December 19.

The best estimate of when the Morse code requirement will go away officially is sometime in February -- 30 days after the R&O appears in the Federal Register.

The FCC cast aside arguments that Morse ability is advantageous in emergencies, concluding that most emergency communication is handled using voice, data, or video techniques. The Commission also turned away assertions that retaining a Morse requirement would help keep out the bad apples. (Meaning CBers. Children's Banders of low IQ, we assume. ed.)

"The record is devoid of a demonstrated nexus between Morse code proficiency and on-the-air conduct," the FCC observed. It concurred with one commenter's observation that "maintaining the code requirement does not purge Amateur Radio of bad operators. Education and self-policing does."

The FCC also ordered that all Technician licensees present and future-- whether or not they've passed a Morse code test, will get privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters identical to those of Novice licensees. "In eliminating this disparity between Technician and Technician Plus Column three, top.

No more code, from column two.

licenses, we are simplifying the Amateur Service licensing structure and promoting regulatory parity," the FCC said.

The FCC took advantage of the occasion to act on the League's Petition for Partial Reconsideration in the "omnibus" proceeding, WT Docket 04-140, calling on the Commission to retain 3620 to 3635 kHz for automatically controlled digital stations by moving the Extra class phone band edge to 3635 kHz. The FCC decided instead to authorize 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, and leave the newly expanded phone band intact.

ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, had this reaction: "While the Commission's decision to delete the Morse code requirement for an Amateur Extra Class license departs from the ARRL's recommendation, it is helpful to have the matter resolved so we can move forward."

Condensed a little from the **ARRL Letter**.

BROADCASTERS INTERVENE TO SUPPORT ARRL IN BPL COURT APPEAL

The Association for Maximum Service Television (MSTV) and the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) have filed a joint motion for leave to intervene in support of the ARRL in its court appeal of the Federal Communications Commission's Broadband over Power Line (BPL) rules. The motion to the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit is dated November 9 and states: "**MSTV and NAB believe that the regulations under review are arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law, and will adversely impact their members by, among other things, permitting unlicensed users of radio spectrum to interfere with licensed uses of the spectrum.**"

MSTV and NAB are entitled to intervene as a matter of right, so the Court is expected to grant the motion. As expected, some BPL proponents are seeking to intervene on the side of the FCC.

ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ, welcomed the support of MSTV and NAB. "It is gratifying that these two prestigious broadcasting organizations recognize the danger posed to all FCC licensees by the FCC's flawed BPL rules. It's good to have them on our side."

From the ARRL Letter.

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

Carol and I are just back from a trip to Hong Kong and Saigon. Sorry I couldn't make the meeting. (Christmas party. ed.)
 My best to all with best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
John Reed KI6BBQ

Joe W6GPB Horvath's former house at 522-3rd. St. is no more. The buildings immediately West of Chopsticks Chinese restaurant have been demolished to make way for a new, as yet unknown to us, type of construction. We're told that Joe's tower, which has been gone for some time, was a landmark in the area.

The teacher gave her fifth grade class an assignment. Get their parents to tell them a story with a moral at the end of it. The next day the kids came back and one by one began to tell their stories.
 "Tony, do you have a story to share?"
 "Yes ma'am. My daddy told a story about my Aunt Karen. She was a pilot in Desert Storm and her plane got hit. She had to bail out over enemy territory and all she had was a flask of whiskey, a pistol and a survival knife. She drank the whiskey on the way down so it wouldn't break and then her parachute landed right in the middle of twenty enemy troops. She shot fifteen of them with the gun until she ran out of spare magazines, killed four more with the knife till the blade broke off in bone, and then she killed the last Iraqi with her bare hands."
 "Good Heavens" said the horrified teacher. "What kind of moral did your daddy tell you from this horrible story?"
 "Stay the hell away from Aunt Karen when she's drinking."

A woman visited a psychic of some local repute. In a dark and gloomy room, gazing at the Tarot cards laid out before her, the Tarot reader delivered the bad news; "There is no easy way to say this so I'll just be blunt, prepare yourself to be a widow. Your husband will die a violent and horrible death this year."
 Visibly shaken, the woman stared at the psychic's lined face, then at the single flickering candle, then down at her hands. She took a few deep breaths to compose herself. She simply had to know. She met the Tarot reader's gaze, steadied her voice, and asked: "Will I get away with it?"

A few minutes before the church services started, the townspeople were sitting in their pews and talking. Suddenly, Satan appeared at the front of the church. Everyone started screaming and running for the front entrance, trampling each other in a frantic effort to get away from evil incarnate. Soon, everyone had exited the church except for one old man calmly sitting in his pew without moving, seeming oblivious to the fact that God's ultimate enemy was in his presence. So Satan walked up to the old man and said "Don't you know who I am?"
 "Yep, sure do."
 "Aren't you afraid of me?"
 "Nope, sure ain't."
 "Don't you realize I can kill you with a word?"
 "Don't doubt it for a minute."
 "Did you know that I could cause you profound, horrifying, physical agony for all eternity??"
 "Yep", was the calm reply.
 "And you're still not afraid??" asked Satan.
 "Nope."
 More than a little perturbed, Satan asked, "Well, why aren't you afraid of me?"
 The man calmly replied..... "Been married to your sister for 68 years."

I spilled Spot remover on my dog. Now he's gone.
 There's a fine line between fishing and just standing on the shore like an idiot.
 When I was a kid, we had a quicksand box in the backyard. I was an only child.....eventually.
 I have a hobby. I have the world's largest collection of sea shells. I keep it scattered on beaches all over the world. Maybe you've seen some of it.

John received a parrot as a gift. The parrot had a bad attitude and an even worse vocabulary. Every word out of the bird's mouth was rude, obnoxious and laced with profanity. John tried and tried to change the bird's attitude by consistently saying only polite words, playing soft music and anything else he could think of to "clean up" the bird's vocabulary. Finally, John was fed up and he yelled at the parrot. The parrot yelled back. John shook the parrot and the parrot got angrier and even ruder. John, in desperation, threw up his hand, grabbed the bird and put him in the freezer. For a few minutes the parrot squawked and kicked and screamed. Then suddenly there was total quiet. Not a peep was heard for over a minute. Fearing that he'd hurt the parrot, John quickly opened the door to the freezer. The parrot calmly stepped out onto John's outstretched arms and said, "I believe I may have offended you with my rude language and actions. I'm sincerely remorseful for my inappropriate transgressions and I fully intend to do everything I can to correct my rude and unforgivable behavior." John was stunned at the change in the bird's attitude.
 As he was about to ask the parrot what had made such a dramatic change in his behavior, the bird continued, "May I ask what the chicken did?"

The scene: Ken and a blonde sitting at the bar watching coverage of an earlier suicide on the 7 o'clock news.
 The blonde looked at Ken and said, "Do you think he'll jump?"
 Ken said, "You know, I bet he'll jump"
 The blonde replied, "Well, I bet he won't."
 Ken placed 20 dollars on the bar and said, "You're on!"
 Just as the blonde placed her money on the bar, the guy did a swan dive off the building, falling to his death. The blonde was very upset and handed her 20 dollars to Ken, saying, "Fair's fair. Here's your money."
 Ken replied, "I can't take your money, I saw this earlier on the 5:00 o'clock news and knew he'd jump."
 The blonde replied, "I did too; but I didn't think he'd do it again."
 Ken took the money.

You're An EXTREME Redneck When.....
 1. You let your 14-year-old daughter smoke at the dinner table in front of her kids.
 2. The Halloween pumpkin on your porch has more teeth than your spouse.

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:** \$25.00 per year for regular or family memberships. No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

Marin Amateur Radio Society
President:
 Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864
Vice President:
 Eric Rosenquist KG6WOU 257-8841
Secretary:
 Randy Jenkins KA6BQF
 510-526-4089
Treasurer:
Additional Board Members:
 Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978
 Tom Jordan KG6TCM 497-4406
 Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887
 Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136
 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318
 Denice Stoops KI6BBR
 Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864

Education Chair:
 Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170
 kermode7@hotmail.com
Membership Chair:
VE Liaison:
 Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978
Building Mgr.
 John Butler KF6GNI 892-4958
Trustee for W6SG:
 Augie Koehler KØCQL
Trustee for K6GWE:
 Doug Slusher KF6AKU
Sunday Emergency Nets:
HF
VHF

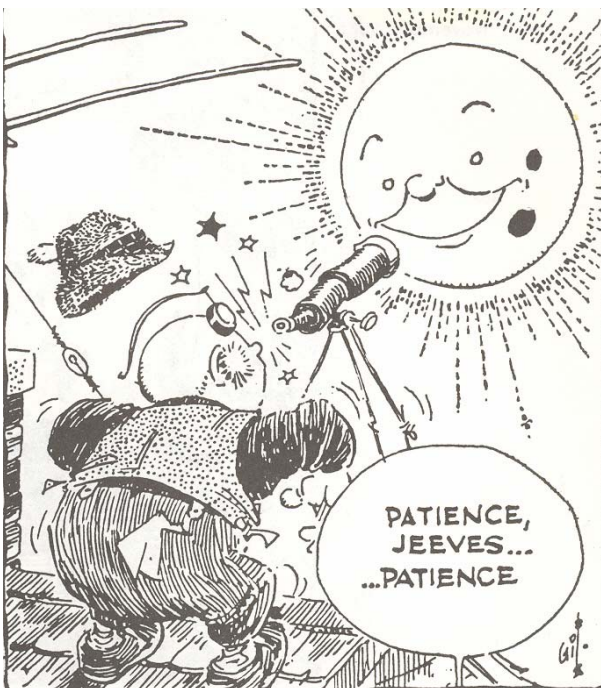
ARRL WAS Local Rep:
 Rem O'Donnely K6BBQ
DX Representative of ARRL:
 Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829
WEBMASTER
 Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948
 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET
Public Service Event Coordinators
 Randy Jenkins KA6BQF
 510-526-4089
 Asst. Tom Jordan KG6TCM
 497-4406
 Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ
 897-7267

Editor of QSA-5:
 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318
 K6PHD@ARRL.NET

Corrections to K6PHD@ARRL.NET

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

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The Mailing
 Address
 Goes Here