

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

July 2007

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## Greetings to the MARS Membership from the desk of the President.

My July column announces a few mile stones in my term of office.

At the half way point I am pleased to announce that the building repairs have begun. Martin Heagney Construction started working on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Martin's bid was well received by the Board and he is eager and enthusiastic about the project. The scope of job includes much of the work that was called for in the 2000 plans. Martin is open to ideas and suggestions as we go along.

I am eagerly awaiting our score totals from last weekend's Field Day event. The first joint effort by the REDXA club and ours was a roaring success. At last count the number of contacts was at 2498. The towers and antennas were truly impressive. My sincere thanks to all the club members who helped to make this year's emergency test possible. Thank you to all the volunteers who transported, erected, operated, supplied equipment, staged operating positions, cooked and broke down the equipment when it was all over. The teamwork and professionalism displayed was a pleasure to watch.

One week ago tonight I completed my FCC First Class telegraph license examinations. Some of you have already heard that I passed my exam elements. I am hoping to be allowed to progress from a T-3 directly to a T-1. The application, test scores and documentation of my coast station experience have been forwarded to the FCC by the testing facility. All I can do now is await the FCC's decision.

Those of you wishing to attend the commercial radio annual event known as Night of Nights VIII are reminded that the caterer (me) has requested RSVP's. You may email me:

**da.stoops@sbcglobal.net** or leave a message on my home phone: 415-868-9697 if you plan to attend. Amateur operators are needed to man K6KPH which will be activated simultaneously for the first time during Column two.

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

## Public Service Events for 2007.

**Sat. August 4** Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century 20 People

**Sat. August 18** Holstein Hundred 15 People

**Sun. September 30** - Escape from Alcatraz

**For info on these events contact**  
**Randy KA6BQF 510-526-4089 or**  
**Chuck WA6SQQ 897-7267**

From column one.

this historic event. Cross banding is not permitted by FCC regulations, but there has been enough interest in hams being able to work the station during the event that we will be accommodating them this year.

The Board of Directors is exploring some membership raising tactics. If you have any experience with this topic, or suggestions on how to raise our numbers, please contact a board member with them.

Remember the picnic this year is BYOMAADTP: "bring your own meat and a dish to pass". To avoid duplication or omission it is suggested that if your last name starts with A-H please bring appetizers. If your last name starts with I-N please bring salads, and if your last name starts with O-Z please bring a dessert. The club will be providing charcoal and sodas. As always, remember that this is your club. Please attend membership meetings (and board meetings) and express your needs, desires and opinions; the board cannot serve you if we don't know what you'd like.

Until next month,  
73/88 Denice Stoops, President

**July Board Meeting will take place immediately after the July General Meeting, 7/6.**

**POBox 6423**  
**San Rafael, CA 94903**

## General Membership Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Denice Stoops at 1935hrs. There were 20 members present. The evening's agenda was approved.

In lieu of a guest speaker, our President talked about her time in the U.S. Coast guard and as a cw operator at KPH. Especially interesting was her experience in securing a commercial license. A lot of time and fortitude involved.

The minutes were approved as printed in QSA-5.

There was no treasurer's report and no new correspondence.

## Committee reports:

The club's picnic is set for Sept. 15. Ben Sawtelle said that members must supply their own hotdogs, hamburgers, or meats.

Ben also brought up the Christmas party to be held at Deer Park Villa. The menu and prices were discussed.

Nothing new to report on Public Service events but Randy is always in need of volunteers. Doug Slusher had nothing new on the repeater sites and said the comm truck is running very well. It has been used at various events.

Our VE Coordinator said there was quite a bit of interest in the VE exams to be held on June 2 and asked for VE examiners to help out. He also said there may be future changes in the General class questions.

Director Rich W6UDS discussed Field Day. He said there will be a "look over" of the Marin Rod and Gun club site on June 8. Antennas and towers will be brought down to the club by REDXA to expedite the Friday "before Field Day" set-up. Any member free that day is welcome to attend. We need all the help we can get.

The club is still looking for contractors to submit bids for repairing and remodeling the club house. Denice has been in contact with one who seems to be one we can work with. She has contacted several roofing contractors but none have called back.

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**Fighting the 10 Meter 'Freeband' Invasion**

If you are wondering what all those conversations without call signs are on 28.085 MHz, well it appears to be a small invasion of unlicensed truckers and so called Freeband operators of our 10 meter band. We have more in this report:

Originally confined to portions of the mid-West, the pirate trucker and Freeband epidemic appears to be spreading nationwide. This, as more and more of these illegal operators are making their unauthorized home on 28.085 Megahertz and several other 10 meter frequencies.

And what is the Amateur Radio community doing about this invasion? On the surface at least, very little. With the upper High frequency bands not offering very much DX these days, the majority of hams are sticking to 20, 40 and 80 meters with few stations heard in the 15, 12 and 10 meter spectrum. So the truckers and Freebanders see this is fair game for their unlawful operations and are busy establishing squatters rights in these bands.

What about the FCC? Well it's doing what it can. There have been several well publicized violation notices sent to trucking firms. They request owners to instruct their drivers to curtail any operations for which they are not licensed and threatening punitive action such as fines. But that's about it. With the FCC enforcement folks stretched thin and Freeband operations being among the lowest of priorities on the enforcement agenda, there is no reason to believe that there is going to be any sort of massive sweep by the Federal government to clear these pirate operators out of the ham radio bands.

In the end, it will be the ham radio community that will have to defend these frequencies. And it does that by using them. If hams load up 10 meters or any band with legitimate Amateur Radio operations, there will be no place for the illegals to play and they will go elsewhere.

In the case of 28.085, there have been suggestions that this frequency become a national CW or RTTY Calling Channel. That's a pretty good approach. Another is for every ham with the capability of operating 10 meters to start holding QSO's on that frequency. As any Morse enthusiast will tell you, CW can get through even when faced with all sorts of QRM including pirate operators using voice. Column 2.

From column one.

The bottom line: if licensed radio amateurs fill up 10 meters even for local chats, the truckers and Freebanders will soon be looking elsewhere for a new home.

Evi Simons  
Amateur Radio Newsline.

About two decades ago, then 73 Magazine editor Wayne Green, W2NSD, coined the phrase "Use it or lose it." Back then, it was applied to the pending transfer of 220 to 222 MHz away from Amateur Radio. Today the same words ring important in fighting those without licenses who are trying to take 10 meters forcibly from hams.

Sent in by Dave KG6TCJ, MARS Treasurer.

Education: There was discussion about upcoming classes. It was unclear if the classes scheduled for July 14 and 21st would be going forward. Dave Hodgson will be assisting Ben Sawtelle in teaching classes. VE Liaison Al Weisman reported that we had a good session on June 3.

RACES Liaison: RACES will be holding a drill in September.

**Building Manager:** Rich Carbine reported on a third bid for the work at the clubhouse From Heagerty Construction, in the amount of \$23,600. From meetings that Rich Carbine and Denice Stoops had with the contractor, it looks promising. Denice will begin investigating what will be required for permits from the County.

**Old Business:**

Field Day: Needs for Field Day were discussed; setup on Friday, food, and publicity. Talk in would be on 147.570 simplex or the 147.330 repeater. Computers and logging have been taken care of by Doug Slusher.

**Fundraising:** Dave Hodgson had discussions with one of our new members who is a grant writer and will be happy to help us with formulating grant requests. Al Weisman reported that he had contact with one of the managers of Mechanic's Bank and Al believed there was a possibility of getting a grant from them. Other possible sources of funds were discussed.

**Culvert Repair:** Doug Slusher is still working on getting pricing for the pipe that will be needed to complete the culvert repair.

**Christmas Party Menu:** Denice will scan the menu into a computer file, and the prospective menu will be published in QSA 5.

The Board approved the recommendation of the Public Service Chairman and the Trustee that the Sonoma Club be allowed the use of the repeaters for the MS Society Waves to Wine event on September 29.

The meeting was adjourned at 2103 hrs. Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins KA6BQF, Secretary

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

**Board of Directors Meeting June 14**

The meeting was called to order at 1938 hrs by President Denice Stoops. All directors and trustees were present.

Secretary Randy reported communications from the Double Dipsea, the Holstein 100, and the Escape from Alcatraz.

Treasurer Dave reported \$3539.00 in income for the month of May, and \$820.56 in expenses. Dave also reported a 60% drop in the water bill after the installation of the pressure reducing valve on the water supply for the building. Dave also reported that Vice President Eric Rosenquist made a \$250 donation to the building fund.

Membership: Phil K6PHD reported that we had approximately 12 fewer members than at this time last year. Vice president Eric inquired if there was any way to contact new hams in the county, and whether it would be worthwhile. After discussion, Tom Jordan, Doug Slusher, and Eric Rosenquist were appointed a committee to investigate and begin contacting prospective members.

President Denice reported on the upcoming "Night of Nights VIII" in Bolinas and Point Reyes on Thursday, July 12. Festivities begin at 1500 and the broadcast begins at 1700. Because this event would have occur on the next scheduled board meeting evening, **the July Board of Directors Meeting was rescheduled to Friday, July 6, following the general membership meeting.**

Public Service: Chairman Randy reported that we had successfully completed communications for the Dipsea Race. We had a very busy day. Upcoming events included the Double Dipsea on Saturday, June 23 plus The Marin Century/Mt. Tam Double Century and the Holstein Hundred in August; and the Escape form Alcatraz in September. Dave reported that he had been issued a MERA radio and had permission to use it during events for emergencies. Some of the lessons learned from this year's Dipsea will be discussed at an informal meeting at the RACES picnic next Saturday.

Technical Committee: Trustee Doug Slusher reported that the repeaters were working well. Doug has received some reports of noise on the repeater frequency and will be investigating.

**Comm Truck:** Trustee Slusher reported that it was working well. Doug showed the radio box that was being donated by him for use in the comm truck. Randy commented that the comm truck would be used for communications at the Double Dipsea. Column two.

**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

Maybe we've gone too far...  
 This morning, from a cave somewhere in Pakistan, Taliban Minister of Migration, Mohammed Omar, warned the United States that if military action against Iraq continues, Taliban authorities would cut off America's supply of convenience store managers.  
 If this action does not yield sufficient results, cab drivers will be next, followed by Dell and AOL customer service reps, and Motel 6 managers.  
 It's getting ugly.

Little Johnny attended a horse auction with his father. He watched as his father moved from horse to horse, running his hands up and down the horse's legs and rump, and chest.  
 After a few minutes, Johnny asked, "Dad, why are you doing that?"  
 His father replied, "Because when I'm buying horses, I have to make sure that they are healthy and in good shape before I buy."  
 Johnny, looking worried, said, "Dad, I think the UPS guy wants to buy Mom."



Rich W6UDS putting one of the SteppIR antennas together.

Pres. Denice K16BBR working some CW. (As of 6/27 she has new First Class Radiotelegraph license ( T1) #005)



**Autopatch, How to.**  
 Heard a station just now, 0004Z, using the autopatch on the 443.525 machine today and they failed to follow correct protocol for use. Suggest a short primer on proper use of the patch:  
 1. Listen to repeater to insure that it is clear [hint: Use 443.250 machine if in range as a good alternate].  
 2. Key up, announce: "[station ID] for the patch".  
 3. Unkey, pause.  
 4. Key up, dial patch access [\*] and 7-digit phone number.  
 5. Unkey.  
 6. Complete phone call [it's helpful to remind them you are on the patch].  
 7. Key up, terminate patch [#].  
 8. Unkey, wait for patch to announce call termination.  
 9. Key up, announce: "[station ID] clear of the patch"  
 10. Unkey.  
 11. Done.  
 I cannot remember if all our repeaters have autopatch capability. It would be good to list the ones that do. I know both UHF machines have the feature.  
 I'm always glad to have access to a patch and I'm happy to hear it get used, but I do want everyone to know how to properly and legally ID.  
**Eric. KG6WOU, MARS VP.**

**Field Day**



General Meeting, from page one.  
 (That situation has changed since the meeting. The work is underway. ed.)  
 There have been minor problems with the club's web site, mainly outdated info. Hopefully this will soon be cleared up.  
 There was an overall discussion of the best ways to raise funds to cover the expense of repair and remodeling. John Boyd brought up the idea of hiring a marketing mgr. for fund raising.  
 Denice talked about the up-coming "Night of Nights" at the KPH site in Bolinas. There will be an open house on July 12. All are invited.  
 The meeting was adjourned at 2032 hrs. Submitted by acting Secretary Norm Baetz , WA6CLK

Ole was walking home late at night, through the park, and sees a woman in the shadows.  
 "Twenty dollars" she whispers.  
 He'd never been with a hooker before, but decides, what the hell, it's only twenty bucks.  
 So they hide in the bushes. They're going at it for a minute when all of a sudden a light flashes on them -- it's a police officer. "What's going on here, people?" asks the officer.  
 "I'm making luff to my wife ," Ole answers indignantly.  
 "Oh, I'm sorry." says the cop. "I didn't know."  
 "Vell," says Ole, "I din't neder, 'til you shine that damn light in her face."

Chet, working a little mobile HF. No timeout for a nap this year?



John KE6ZSN from REDXA, and Rich.

Mars breaker box. Also a standby eight pound facilitator.

**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><b>Marin Amateur Radio Society</b>  <b>President:</b>                  Denice Stoops KI6BBR 672-0303  <b>Vice President:</b>                  Eric Rosenquist KG6WOU 257-8841  <b>Secretary:</b>                  Randy Jenkins KA6BQF                  510-526-4089  <b>Treasurer:</b>                  Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864  <b>Additional Board Members:</b>                  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><b>Education Chair:</b>                  Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170                  kermode7@hotmail.com  <b>Membership:</b> Dave and Phil  <b>VE Liaison:</b>                  Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978  <b>Bldg. Manager</b>                  Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136  <b>Trustee for W6SG:</b>                  Augie Koehler KØCQL  <b>Trustee for K6GWE:</b>                  Doug Slusher KF6AKU  <b>Sunday Emergency Nets:</b>  <b>HF</b> Frank Strom WA6JTP  <b>VHF</b> Raine Strom KG6GII                  Corrections to K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>	<p><b>DX Representative of ARRL:</b>                  Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829  <b>WEBMASTER</b>                  Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948                  N1ZKW@ARRL.NET  <b>Public Service Event Coordinators</b>                  Randy Jenkins KA6BQF                  510-526-4089                  Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ                  897-7267                  Asst. Tom Jordan KG6TCM                  497-4406  <b>Editor of QSA-5:</b>                  Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318                  K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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**Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 6423**  
**San Rafael, CA 94903**

Stamp

Would you buy a used rig from this man?



The Mailing  
 Address  
 Goes Here