

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

June 2007

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Pres' Message.

Greetings
from the Desk of the President.

The Editor tells me that I have already used up my quota of columns for the year, but I'm gonna keep writin' 'em til I run out of things to say.... Wednesday I met Tom McEvoy, one of the contractors who is interested in working on the clubhouse. I had a very favorable impression of him. I hope to interview another. I'm sure you've heard by now, that the Board of Directors voted to fund the building repairs.

I participated in a couple of public service events in May. If you have been meaning to volunteer, give it a try. I rather enjoyed myself at all the events.

Field Day is June 23 and 24. If you have not signed up to operate this year, the chart/watch list is on the BB at the clubhouse. **If you plan to attend the dinner on Saturday evening, the RSVP cut off date is June 16. Be sure to let Dave H know you're coming.**

Work parties and fund raisers (or suggestions) will be needed, keep your weekends free, and contact Rich Carbine to get on the list of "worker bees".

If you're interested in seeing commercial operation of a real licensed Coast Station, KPH/KSM/KFS will be broadcasting an evening of morse on July 12, for it's annual Night of Nights VIII. The doors open at 3pm and the broadcast starts at 5:01pm. The event is open to the public. Please RSVP to me directly if you plan to attend. Beverages, nosh and cake will be served. I was told to keep it short, so here you have it. Come to meetings, make your desires known to Board Members. This is your club! 73/88/da Denice Stoops, President.

Last month we told you that the May issue would be the last hard copy except for those w/o internet access or for members who whined about it. (grin) That was the intent but it hasn't quite worked out that way, yet. More info on page three, column two.

Website at W6SG.NET
Phone 415.389.6630

Field day 2007 June 23 & 24

Come join us for our annual Field Day exercise at the Marin Rod and Gun Club in San Rafael From 12 Noon Saturday to 11 Am Sunday

Our 2007 Field Day planning is almost complete. This year we will be teaming up with the Redwood Empire DX Association (REDXA) at our prime location, the Marin Rod and Gun Club. REDXA is known for their DX expertise and have scored high in past years. We will be operating 3A which will give the contesters, laidback operators and QRPers plenty of radio time. We will also be playing on VHF/UHF simplex and single sideband and we hope to do some digital and if we can work it out, satellite comms. So no matter what license class you hold we will have a place for you to get on the air and have fun.

REDXA will be bringing three military type crank-up towers which we will hang a SteppIR antennas and a beam for 40 meters. We also will be setting up inverted "V's" for 75 and 80 meters. With all the aluminum and copper in the air we should have a ball pulling in the contacts.

To get the towers and all up and operational will take some muscle so we are asking for help Friday from 12 noon to setup and then Sunday around 11 AM to take it all down. We also have a signup sheet for operators on the bulletin board at the clubhouse. So if you have a preference for operating times please fill in the sheet first come first to play.

Chet will be setting out the cold cuts for the operators' Saturday lunch. Dinner is strictly RSVP. **(we will accept \$5 donations to cover the cost)** We have to have an accurate count of who will be eating this year so if you will be stopping by we need to know by June 16. For the operators who handle the grave yard shift, breakfast will be provided. This year looks to be a blast so plan on stopping by and getting on the air. Any questions, and **to RSVP**, contact Dave KG6TCJ kg6tcj(at)arrl.net or 332-1864, Rich 479-3136 or Phil 491-

POBox 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

General Membership Meeting 4 May

The meeting was called to order at 1930 hrs by President Denice Stoops. There were eighteen members and guests.

Guest present: Dwight Hills, KI6JGL.

The minutes were approved as printed in QSA 5.

Communications: A letter was received from the Human Race committee requesting communications for their May 12 event. An e-mail was received from the Double Dipsea people, requesting a communications request form.

President Denice reviewed the actions of the April board meeting. Field Day planning continues. A sympathy card was sent to Mirriam Bodian.

Treasurer's Report: March income \$4060.00. Expenses, including annual insurance bill, \$5630.66. Checking \$917.67. Savings accounts \$39,268.20.

Committee Reports:

Recreation: The picnic is still set for September 15, and the same site as last year has been reserved. Discussion of the Christmas party was deferred to old business.

Public Service: Two events are scheduled for tomorrow, Saturday, May 5: The Miwok 100 K, and The Relay. Both events have barely enough staff. The next two events following are The Human Race on Saturday, May 12, and The Dipsea, on Sunday, June 10. Volunteers are needed.

Technical: The Tiburon input to The Big Rock System is back up again.

RACES: The County of Marin has signed the MOU with the club, regarding the use of the repeaters for RACES purposes.

Education: Technician class instruction is scheduled for July 14 and 21.

VE Coordinator: The next VE session is scheduled for Saturday, June 2.

Field Day: Set up for Field Day will begin at noon on Friday, June 22. **Persons attending Saturday's dinner must RSVP to Dave 332-1864, Rich 479-3136 or Phil 491-0318 by 16 June.**

Page two, column three.

Board of Directors Meeting, 10 May

The meeting was called to order at 1931 hrs by President Denice Stoops. All board members, including both trustees were present.

The minutes of the previous Board of Directors meeting were approved as e-mailed.

Secretary Jenkins reported on an incoming letter from the Marin Center for Volunteer Leadership, requesting communications assistance for the Human Race on May 12. Randy has also received an e-mail from the organizers of the Double Dipsea asking for a communications request form.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dave Hodgson reported an anonymous \$500 donation. Dave explained that the insurance policy covered all the club's assets, including the building, the repeater sites, the communications truck, and liability. Treasurer Dave said that the check was not yet in his possession. (The check has been deposited. ed.)

RACES Liaison: Hodgson also reported that new RACES members would be subject to a full background check by the Sheriff's Department.

Building Manager: Rich reported that another estimate had been obtained from McEvoy Construction. Cost around \$5000/wk. He discussed relocation of the electrical service for the upstairs apartment, which Rich would undertake for the cost of materials. The work that McEvoy would undertake would be the structural reconstruction of the Northeast corner of the building. Rich estimated that the total package to get started would be around \$20,000. After further discussion, a motion was made by Director Rosenquist, seconded by Director Jordan, that the sum of \$25,000 be allocated toward starting construction, consisting of repairs to the northeast corner of the building, and electrical upgrades to the electrical service for the upstairs apartment. After discussion the motion was passed with one nay and one abstention.

Old Business:

Culvert Repair: Doug Slusher will get a price on a 24 inch diameter by 20 foot section of plastic drain culvert.

Field Day: The computers for logging have been lined up, We are waiting on software. A StepIR antenna is on loan for Field Day.

Column two.

From column one.

There was a discussion about food, and the need to sign up operators.

Fund Raising: There was a discussion about a grant made to the city of San Rafael of \$23,000 for amateur radio equipment in San Rafael's public buildings. There was a question about talent within the club membership for grant application writing.

Building Project: Stoops and Carbine will get together to review the bids submitted by the contractors.

New Business:

Christmas Party Menu Choices: Options were discussed, there are still plenty of time to make a decision.

Director Carbine requested a review of the Comm. truck expenses. Treasurer Dave produced a report based on the previous two years and projecting this year's expenses. The report was accepted without further action.

There being no further business, 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 in the corporate office.

Public Service Events for 2007.

At the present time, the list below shows some of the Public Service events that are normally manned by Amateur Radio personnel. Just a heads up to give advance notice of some of the dates. Randy KA6BQF.

Sun. June 10,
Dipsea (0700 - 1700 hrs)

Sat. June 16, Terrible Two (0800-2230 hrs) A Sonoma County event.

Sat. June 23 Double Dipsea
5-6 People

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

General Meeting, cont.

There will be a list of operators and times to operate. We will be operating class 3A. We will also be setting up GOTA station. Arrangements for publicity have been made.

VE Coordinator: The next VE session is scheduled for Saturday, June 2.

Old Business:

The Board of Directors has determined that this year's **Christmas party will be held at Deer Park Villa in Fairfax.** Cost will be \$35 per person.

The building manager reports that he has a second bid on the work, from McEvoy Construction. We are hoping for a third bid.

Good of the Order: Hank Blake, KB6HK, again brought up the idea of keeping a listing book at the clubhouse where members could post equipment for sale. Dave Hodgson said that it might also be possible to put that info in the members-only section of the website. The password for the members only section was discussed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1959 hrs.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

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

ARRL FILES FEDERAL APPEALS COURT BRIEF IN PETITION FOR REVIEW OF BPL RULES

The ARRL has filed a federal appeals court brief outlining its case and requesting oral arguments in its petition for review of the FCC's broadband over power line (BPL) rules. The League has petitioned the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit to review the FCC's October 2004 Report and Order (R&O) and its 2006 Memorandum Opinion and Order. The ARRL contends, among other things, that the FCC's actions in adopting rules to govern unlicensed BPL systems fundamentally alter the longstanding rights of radio spectrum licensees, including Amateur Radio operators.

"For the first time ever, the FCC has permitted new unlicensed devices to operate in spectrum bands already occupied by licensees, even if the unlicensed operations cause harmful interference to the licensees," the League said in stating its case. "The orders under review reverse nearly seven decades of consistent statutory interpretation and upset the settled expectations of licensees without so much as acknowledging the reversal, let alone justifying it." Page 4, column 1.

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

BPL from page 2, column three.

The ARRL argues that the FCC's approach to adopting rules to govern BPL flies in the face of Section 301 of the Communications Act, which requires that operators of devices that emit radio frequency energy first obtain an FCC license. "For years, the FCC has consistently read Section 301 to apply to unintentional radiators, such as BPL devices, and has expressly embodied that interpretation in its rules," the League's brief recounts.

The Commission then compounded its error by asserting that BPL devices do not fall within Section 301 at all, the League said. "This hail-Mary attempt at justification is another unexplained departure from prior policy that independently requires invalidation of the orders," the ARRL remarked in its brief.

The ARRL contends that the FCC orders under review "jeopardize the license rights of ARRL's members and other license holders by authorizing providers of a new device -- Access Broadband over Power Lines, or 'BPL' -- to send radio signals across the electric grid in the frequencies the license holders occupy, but without having to obtain an FCC license."

The League's brief further asserts that the FCC "has failed to discuss or disclose significant information in the record that potentially contradicts its key interference findings," and seeks to have the FCC produce the information. The ARRL alleges that the Commission not only withheld its internal studies until it was too late to comment but has yet to release portions of studies that may not support its own conclusions. The FCC has claimed that these are "internal communications" that it did not rely upon in reaching its decision to adopt the BPL rules.

From the ARRL Letter.

More than the normal number of typos and misspellings may be found in this issue. It was mickeymoused together in a shorter amount of time than is usual .

QSA-5 going to PDF. (pretty soon)

By now, members with internet access should have a free down-loadable program called Acrobat Reader. It'll be used to handle files in PDF (portable document format and no, we don't know what that means) like online QSA-5. Most of us have run into downloads in PDF in just searching on the 'net'. The PDF version of QSA-5 may be larger than the hard copy edition--this could depend on how much stuff we can plagiarize off the 'net--and could have color where the paper copy is limited to B&W due to cost.

Instead of it being sent to you, QSA-5 will be available on our website with the latest issue being password protected. Older issues will still be available w/o use of the password. For all the paranoids, the club's roster will also be password protected. The password can't be included in an issue of the club paper for an obvious reason. It will either be mailed or emailed.

Sleeping Beauty, Tom Thumb, and Quasimodo were talking one day. Sleeping Beauty said, "I believe myself to be the most beautiful girl in the world."

Tom Thumb said, "I must be the smallest person in the world."

Quasimodo said, "I absolutely have to be the most disgusting person in the world."

So they all decided to go to the Guinness Book of World Records to have their claims verified. Sleeping Beauty went in first and came out looking deliriously happy. "It's official, I AM the most beautiful girl in the world."

Tom Thumb went next and emerged triumphant, "I am now officially the smallest person in the world."

Sometime later, Quasimodo comes out looking utterly confused and says, "Who the hell is Rosie O'Donnell ?"

Contrary to popular belief, poinsettia plants are not poisonous to humans. If you ate the whole plant, it might make you sick but it wouldn't kill you.

Public Service Report

Thanks to all you wonderful people who helped out on The Miwok 100 K, The Relay, and The Human Race. Several of you did double duty by working both The Miwok and The Relay. Everyone did their assignments in a professional manner.

The Miwok had 225 participants, and we manned aid stations and checkpoints over a 17 hour period. We handled the usual logistical traffic, including one lost runner who was eventually found by race sweeps.

The Relay had around 400 participants, and we manned aid stations and checkpoints over a 14 hour period. The Relay had some minor incidents which were handled expeditiously.

The Human Race had around 2000 participants, and we manned water stops and checkpoints over a three hour period. During the event we received a report of a lost child who was participating in the race. She had become separated from her friends. Within minutes of the report, the ham radio operators at one of the checkpoints had located the young lady, and she was escorted toward the finish line where her friends were waiting. Good work Elisabeth!

We are now recruiting volunteers for The Dipsea Race on Sunday, June 10, and for the double Dipsea Race on Saturday, June 23. Come on out and have some fun while providing a valuable service to the community.

We have also been contacted by the Salvation Army, who are looking for amateur volunteers to help man their canteen unit which is based in San Rafael. Volunteers would perform both radio duties and operational duties (cooking and serving) for the canteen unit when it's deployed. Contact Captain Thomas Stambaugh at the Salvation Army in San Rafael if you're interested. The canteen unit already has amateur radio equipment installed on board.

Randy, KA6BQF

Contrary to popular belief, poinsettia plants are not poisonous to humans. If you ate the whole plant, it might make you sick but it wouldn't kill you.

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</p> <p>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</p> <p>VE Liaison: Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978 Bldg. Manager Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136</p> <p>Trustee for W6SG: Augie Koehler KØCQL Trustee for K6GWE: Doug Slusher KF6AKU Sunday Emergency Nets: HF Frank Strom WA6JTP VHF Raine Strom KG6GII</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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</p> <p>Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ 897-7267</p> <p>Asst. Tom Jordan KG6TCM 497-4406</p> <p>Editor of QSA-5: Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
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The Mailing
 Address
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