

# QSA-5

Founded 1933

## The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

November 2007

### Pres' Msg.

Greetings from the desk of the president. Fall is in the air and as usual we are enjoying fabulous October extended summer weather.

Thoughts and prayers go out for those of you who have friends and family in southern California.

If you are driving at dusk or after dark on the 31st, be sure to watch out for Trick or Treaters.

The remodeling project at the club house is making good progress. The stairs have been properly water-proofed and the sheet rock is going up inside. The stucco preparations are in place and we should be water tight for winter. There are a few decorating decisions to be made for the kitchen, but most of the construction for this phase has been completed.

Preparations for the Christmas dinner are also underway. Please keep in mind that the RSVP process is in effect for the December 2nd event this year. The Deer Park Villa requires a head count and total number of each main course selections a minimum of two days before the dinner. The three selections are, Steak, Salmon or Turkey. The price per person is \$35 and your reservation with meal choice and payment are due no later than November 25. An official invitation/ballot will be mailed to the membership in the coming weeks. Please return it promptly so we can give the kitchen an accurate head count. Unfortunately NO tickets or payments at the door. Contributions for the raffle are still welcome. Please contact Ben if you have something to donate. Also remember that the Christmas dinner IS the December regular general membership meeting.

The Nomination Committee will be recruiting members to fill the 4 vacancies on the Board of Directors.

Column two.

### Website at W6SG.NET Phone 415.389.6630

For ARRL SF Section news, go to [www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF](http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF)

Please consider joining us on the Board when a committee member approaches you to put your name on the ballot.

It has been an honor as well as a powerful and enriching experience to serve as your president this past year. Thank you for the trust and confidence you have placed in me.

See you at the party! 73/88 Denice Stoops.

From column three.

**Membership:** still trying to come up with ideas to stimulate new membership.

**Building Managers:** construction project back on track and expected to be completed in 3 weeks on budget.

**Old Business:**

**Pacificon:** we have a table reserved but people are needed to man it.

**Culvert repair:** Price of pipe more than expected due to larger diameter. Doug Slusher to seek out another bid before purchasing. Details of the weight of the part and delivery options need to be considered. Doug was given the go ahead to purchase the pipe, as rainy weather is immanent.

Respectfully submitted,  
D.A. Stoops

(The new culvert is on site. The neighbor wasn't too keen on having it extend several feet onto his property so it may be shortened a bit. ed.)

Minutes of the Board meeting apparently disappeared. We are in a condition similar to the Clampers of the 1850s. During their meetings no one was in any shape to record the event and afterward nobody could remember what had taken place. Maybe we'll have better luck in December.

### POBox 6423

#### General Membership Meeting

The minutes of the October 5, 2007 meeting as recorded by John (last name?) and transcribed from his notes by myself as follows.

Meeting called to order at 1935 PDST.

Approved minutes from the Sept 7, 2007 general membership meeting.

**Communications:** Registered letter to Martin Heagney Construction was returned unclaimed.

Thank-you letter was received from the Breast Cancer sponsored public event.

Sympathy card was sent to Linda Deatrick.

Construction on the building is progressing with the new craftsmen on the job.

**Christmas party,** first round of elimination for entree choices is on the website. All attendees of the party should make a selection and submit to the president for tallying.

Treasurer's report read by the Treasurer.

Committee reports:

**Recreation:** repeated request for dinner course selections to be made via the website.

**Public Service:** one more event on Oct 14, one more volunteer needed. Hams requested to attend an event at the San Marin Church to set up demonstration booth.

**CommTruck:** smog inspection was due. Truck needed catalytic converter to pass. Doug Slusher donated the expense of the converter.

**Education:** no new classes are scheduled. VE Testing date is on hold due to lack of VEs. Al Weisman unable to attend the last test date due to health issue.

**Field Day:** committee chairman needed for next year's event. Rich Carbine offered to remain in place as liaison between our club and REDXA. 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

Man comes home, finds his wife with his friend in bed. He shoots his friend and kills him.  
 Wife says "If you continue to behave like this, you will lose ALL your friends"

**Gringo**  
 "The most likely source of 'gringo' is the Spanish word 'gringo' itself, which means 'foreigner' or 'unintelligible gibberish.' The root of 'gringo,' in turn, is thought to have been 'griego,' Spanish for 'Greek,' often applied as slang to any foreigner."

**THE STROKE**  
 An elderly man suffered a massive stroke. The family drove wildly to get him to the emergency room.  
 After what seemed like a very long wait, the E.R. doctor appeared, wearing his scrubs and a long face.  
 Sadly, he said, "His heart is still beating but I'm afraid he is brain-dead."  
 "Oh, Dear God," cried his wife, her hands clasped against her cheeks with shock! "We've never had a (select one from the choices below) in the family before."  
 Democrat  
 Republican  
 Extremist wacko of any persuasion  
 CBer  
 Any 'tard of your choice

A good idea?  
 Do not sign the back of your credit cards.  
 Instead, put "PHOTO ID REQUIRED."

**If you were raised or spent appreciable time in San Francisco's Western Neighborhoods, you might be interested in this site:**

<http://www.outsidelands.org/>

**Richmond District**  
 (North of Golden Gate Park, south of the Presidio, bounded by the ocean and Masonic Avenue.) Includes: Sea Cliff, Presidio Terrace, Jordan Park.

**Sunset District**  
 (South of Golden Gate Park, north of Sloat Boulevard, bounded by the ocean on the west and Stanyan Street/Golden Gate Heights on the east.) Includes: Parkside, Golden Gate Heights, Parkway Terrace.

**West of Twin Peaks**  
 Includes: West Portal, St. Francis Wood, Forest Hill, Balboa Terrace, Westwood Park, Miraloma Park and Sunnyside.

**Lake Merced to OMI**  
 Includes: Ingleside, Ocean View, Merced Heights, Lakeside, Parkmerced, Stonestown, Lakeshore, Ingleside Terraces.

Herb Caen visits Playland for the last time, Monday, September 4, 1972. SF Chron.  
<http://web.archive.org/web/20070704183000/http://www.sonic.net/~playland/herb.html>

Among the things we thought of doing as teenagers and didn't was this (would have been) hilarious prank. It could only have been pulled off well in the old movie theaters that had balconies. Buy a box of Rice Crispies, go to a movie and sit in the front row of the balcony. During one of the quieter movie scenes, throw a few handfuls of the Rice Crispies down on the viewers below while yelling, "SPIDERS! SPIDERS! This place is full of SPIDERS!" The thought of spiders in your hair is not comforting.

If you've never seen the movie "Goonies", rent it and hear what 'Chunk' tells about what he did in a balcony. You'll laugh you ass off, hopefully not literally. And the rest of the movie is good, too. With Sean Austin, Corey Feldman, Martha Plimpton, Josh Brolin, and John Matuszak as the horribly deformed but gentle Sloth.

From a story by Steven Spielberg. Rated PG. 114 minutes. 1985. Definitely worth viewing.

Paddy and Mick are two Irishmen working at the local sawmill. One day Mick slips and his arm gets caught and severed by the big bench saw. Paddy quickly puts the limb in a plastic bag and rushes it and Mick to the local hospital.

Next day, Paddy goes to the hospital and asks after Mick. The nurse says, 'Oh he's out in Rehab exercising'. Paddy couldn't believe it, but here's Mick out the back exercising his now reattached arm. The very next day he's back at work in the saw mill.

Couple of days go by, and then Mick slips and severs his leg on another bloody big saw. So Paddy puts the limb in a plastic bag and rushes it and Mick off to hospital. Next day he calls in to see him and asks the nurse how he is. The nurse replies, 'He's out in the Rehab again exercising'. And sure enough, here's Mick out there doing some serious work on the treadmill. And Mick comes back to work.

But, as usual, within a couple of days he has another accident and severs his head. Wearily Paddy puts the head in a plastic bag and transports it and Mick to hospital. Next day he goes in and asks the nurse how Mick is. The nurse breaks down and cries and says, 'He's dead.' Paddy is shocked, but not surprised. 'I suppose the saw finally did him in.' 'No,' says the nurse, 'Some dopey bastard put his head in a plastic bag and he suffocated.'

**From the Electronics Plus website:**

"We are located in the beautiful downtown area of San Rafael, CA. We've been in business for over 5,000,000,000 years and have served many a dinosaur in our day. Matter of fact, that whole extinction thing? That was us - ready to serve you, the human populace, better! (in an ongoing effort to make you our unwitting slaves! ALL PRAISE THE IMPERIUM! EMPOROR ZOGINABEAR WILL RULE YOU ALL!!!)

... But seriously... Electronics Plus is a family-owned and operated business, which began in San Francisco in 1958. We moved to our current operation at 823 4th Street in San Rafael in February 1970, and we've thrived there ever since. So there."

Courtesy of Bill Provines, W6JBZ, a charter member of MARC. Article is from World Radio March 2000 issue

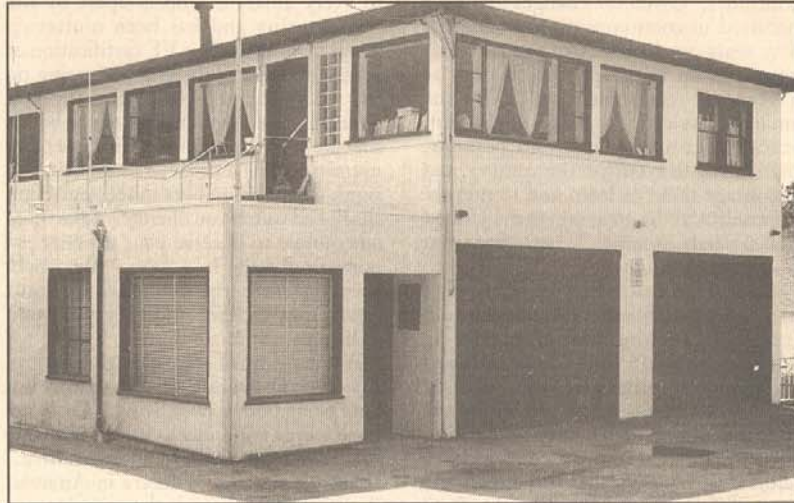
# Firehouse home for Hams

Marilyn Bagshaw, N6VAW  
Rich Carbine, W6UDS

**T**he Marin Amateur Radio Club (MARC), located just north of San Francisco, may not be the only radio club with its own clubhouse, but it just may be the only one which owns and operates out of a firehouse. So, let's back up and read MARC's story and how the membership acquired a firestation.

Bill Provines, W6JBZ, licensed in June of 1933, radioman in the Army in W.W.II and President of MARC in 1962, recalls the history of MARC:

"Byron Goodman, W6CAL, later, W1DX (at the time Section Communications Manager, San Francisco Section, later assigned to ARRL Headquarters) sent out a postcard announcing the first meeting of a group of Marin County Amateur Radio enthusiasts. It was held on August 13, 1933 in a garage in Mill Valley, CA, belonging to Alan Whitaker, W6SG, first MARC President (Army Officer in World War I) whose call sign is now used as the official club call. Alan and I would meet the train from San Francisco, taking Byron and S.G. Culver (Pacific ARRL Director) from the station to the meeting in Alan's garage. (Byron and S.G. were coming



No longer housing fire-fighting apparatus this is now the home of the Marin ARC. Future plans call for this to be a place for community meetings and a possible shelter in time of need.

from San Francisco via ferry boat and train as the Golden Gate Bridge wasn't completed until 1937.) The second meeting was held at Dave Snyder's, W6ZS, house in San Anselmo. The remaining original thirteen members were: Ken Bowman, W6IBQ; Joe Horvath, W6GPB; Charlie Walsh, W6HVX; Ludlum Smith, Frank Simpson; Louis Batch, W6JSN, Dorsey Berringer; Bryant Drake; Paul Crapuchettes; Ernest Brown, W6KNZ and me, Bill Provines, W6JBZ. Roland Zehr, W6BFZ, was the first editor of the club newspaper, QRM, now called QSA-5. We met at various locations, including the science lecture room at Marin Junior College, acquired by Carlton Cherry,

second MARC President, who taught there. QSA-5 was financed by a raffle at each meeting; tickets went for 10 cents each or 3 for a quarter; all prizes were homebrew in those days. Ernest Brown, W6KNZ, replaced me as treasurer and I turned over a treasury of \$40! Woody Wilson, WA6KVW, and Vic Brown, WA6LBL, attended the early meetings also, but weren't Hams yet and were young kids."

The group grew into a mid-size club during the 30s. The Marin Amateur Radio Club was founded in order to develop individual proficiency and stimulate interest in radio while providing public service. Then, World War II came along, there was no amateur radio. Several years passed, the group eventually began meeting again with no permanent home until the 50s when space was allotted to the club by the American Red Cross in its building in San Rafael, CA. The ARRL sanctioned MARC's testing emergency communications; many amateurs were drawn to that site early on Sunday mornings. Because of that scheduled time on the air, our group became known as "The Bible Class" which still exists today in our new meeting place.

In the early 80s, the club was given permission by the Air Force to use building 549 at Hamilton Air Force Base in Novato, CA, after MARC members began operating a MARS station from that location in the 60s. For a time,

A blonde was weed-eating her yard and accidentally cut off the tail of her cat which was hiding in the grass. She rushed her cat, along with the tail over to WALMART! Why WALMART??? WALMART is the largest retailer in the world!!!

A rancher needs to buy a bull to service his cows but has to borrow the money from the bank. The banker who lent the money comes by a week later to see how his investment is doing. The farmer complains that the bull just eats grass and wont even look at the cows. The banker suggests that a veterinarian have a look at the bull.

The next week the banker returns to see if the vet helped. The farmer looks very pleased:

"The bull serviced all my cows twice, broke through the fence, and serviced all my neighbor's cows three times."

"Wow," says the banker, "What did the vet do to that bull?"

"Just gave him some pills," replied the farmer.

"What kind of pills?" asked the banker.

"I don't know," says the farmer, "but they sort of taste like chocolate."

Continued on page four.

another radio club, the Tamalpais Radio Club, held meetings but were the same people as MARC. MARC is a club of amateurs encompassing all interests in radio: DX, VHF, Field Day, Emergency Services (RACES) and monthly programs as well as VE exams. Lloyd, W6KG and Iris, W6KL, Colvin were frequent guests and speakers as they began their journeys as record-holding DXpeditioners.

In 1997 MARC acquired a firehouse which was owned by a group of volunteer firemen in the community, thanks to the efforts of one of our MARC members, Hi Roberts, KO6LS. Hi was one of the remaining volunteer firemen in the Alto area of Mill Valley, CA. His story follows.

"The MARC clubhouse was donated by the remaining 5 members of the Alto Volunteer Firemen, Inc. in 1997. The building was originally a grocery store. When the highway was widened, the volunteer firemen moved it to its present location.

Volunteer firemen had been formed in the early 40s by residents of the unincorporated area outside the town of Mill Valley. The land was donated by its owners; Volunteers rebuilt old engines and acquired used equipment. A fire district was formed with tax money to pay for a chief and hire more firemen.

Improvements and more equipment were financed by bingo games which drew people from far and wide for 24 years. Gradually the district became an all-paid operation supported by property

taxes. The Alto Firemen owned and maintained the building until there were only 5 members left. In 1996, when Chief Heynen passed away, it was decided to donate the building. By criteria set forth in the by-laws, the building could only be transferred to another non-profit group. Many groups came forth with impressive presentations hoping to acquire the valued site; it was

down moving it from one room to another. Something you don't often get an opportunity to fight! It was one of the largest fires we've ever had."

When the day came when the Volunteers had to close down, a \$50,000 endowment was established at the Fire Academy in Santa Rosa, CA, to ensure the continued training of fire-fighters; there was a \$5,000 donation to the

Alto-Richardson Fire District; the building and \$8,000 was donated to the Marin Amateur Radio Club to maintain emergency communications during disasters. The old fire truck went to the Novato American Legion Post. States Hi Roberts, "There were about 15 coats of paint on it; we were always rubbing it down to get it as smooth as we could. If there was a scratch on it, we were in trouble! About twice a week, we'd come over for

drills, clean out the firehouse and wipe the truck down."

So the fire alarm will no longer sound from the Alto Fire building, the truck will no longer roll; the organization as it once was has been extinguished. Occasionally, you'll be able to see the old truck in parades and public displays.

Through volunteer efforts and donations from members of the Marin Amateur Radio Club to substantially improve and repair the building, we are enjoying the benefits of the facility. The building will be used for monthly meetings, teaching classes, VE exams, as well as a facility for a RACES group in emergencies, and possibly a shelter during disasters.

**...the fire alarm will no longer sound from the Alto Fire building, the truck will no longer roll...**

unanimously decided that MARC would be the likely recipient due to its value to the community through public service. It will become a working center in the event of a major catastrophe, serves as a voting site during elections, as well as our meeting place monthly, on first Fridays, and weekly, on Sunday mornings."

One of the most memorable fires fought by the volunteers in the county was the 1963 blaze of the American Distilling Co. in Sausalito. Over 160,000 gallons of bourbon and tequila fuelling the flames! Says Harry Cordall, Captain, with a smile, "Barrels were burning and exploding all over; the bourbon was burning as we tried to chase it

The building is presently being upgraded and is pretty well messed up inside. When the job is completed, the members are encouraged to come on down to check it out. In the meantime, regular and board meetings as well as the Sunday bible/babble class are still held on site. If you don't mind the clutter, come to the next meeting on Friday 11/2. We work around it; no serious injuries or fatalities, so far.

QSL card received by Bill Provines, W6JBZ, from the China Radio Club in Hangchow for a QSO on 3 November 1936.

Bill, a charter MARS member who formerly lived in Mill Valley has moved to Novato. As a teenager, he fired on the Shay locomotives which ran on the Mt. Tam railroad.

