

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

October 2007

Page 1

Pres' Msg.

Greetings from the Desk of the President. How was the picnic? I was obligated to docent the radio room on the SS Jeremiah O'Brien for a "steaming weekend" so I was not able to join you. Thanks to those who attended Chuck Deatrick's memorial service for representing the club. We are sending a donation to one of the charities in Chuck's memory.

Here's a reminder that PacifiCon is on Oct 19/20/21.

The nominating committee will be approaching members to participate in the upcoming board election. There are 4 vacancies that need to be filled.

The menu for the Christmas party dinner has been posted on the web site. Please read and follow the link to email me your choices so I can narrow down the menu to determine which three entrees we will have to select from. Final reservation with meal choice needs to be submitted by Nov 15, so I would like to narrow down the choices by the first of November. The restaurant will require a firm head count with entree by Nov 28.

The board has discussed the need for a building fund drive. We will have more information about that after next month's meeting. The preliminary goal to continue work on the building and replenish funds that have been spent on the project is \$50K with \$10K of that to come from the membership. Mind you this is just a goal we are setting for the end of 2008. The building project should be moving forward again. On Oct 3rd I am meeting with a prospective craftsman who will be able to finish the entire job. Get your meal choices off the website (or page two. ed.) and email me as soon as you can.

The board doesn't know what you want from the club if you don't express your needs and desires. See you at the membership meeting on October 5th. 73/88 to all, Denice Stoops, President.

Website at W6SG.NET
Phone 415.389.6630

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

We lost Charles L. 'Chuck' Deatrick, WA6SQQ, on 11 September. His obit may be read at:

<http://www.legacy.com/MarinIJ/DeathNotices.asp>

It will be available on that site for 45 days from the IJ published date of 18 September. Once there, scroll down to Search Options.

Chuck, USMC 1953-57, was probably best known among MARS members for his dedication in setting up our volunteer crews for the annual public service events that club members worked.

Donations in the Memory of Charles (Chuck) Deatrick can be made to:

Organs 'R' Us, 570 El Camino Real, Suite 150-330

Redwood City, CA 94063

Attention: Dr. Jeff Shapiro

Does your wireless mouse battery have a short life?

If you use a wireless mouse on a desk PC and get 'battery low' messages because the receiver is plugged into a USB port at the back of the PC, get a USB extension cable and plug the mouse receiver into the outboard end of it. Place that end in sight of the mouse and the battery will last a long time. Ours has been running for several weeks on one AA cell and it's left turned on most nights. It's not an LED type. Microsoft model 1054, in this example, which also has the magnifier feature for small type and elder-eyes; just push a small button on the left side and put the cursor over the area you want to enlarge. Then you can move it around to handle a whole doc.

POBox 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

General Membership Meeting
Friday, September 9, 2007

The meeting was called to order by president Denice Stoops at 19:32 hrs. Twenty three members were in attendance.

Secretary Randy Jenkins reported on incoming communications from Zero Breast Cancer. Dave Hodgson commented on a letter from the State of California, that had been found in the mailbox in front of the building and was a year old. Dave suggested that we need to check the mailbox more frequently.

President Denice Stoops reported on the actions of the Board of Directors meetings on August 9 and August 27. The meeting on August 9 included a session with the contractor doing the remodeling work. The special meeting on August 27 was called to discuss the status of the remodeling work, and resulted in a vote to dismiss the contractor.

Treasurer Dave Hodgson reported August income of \$2200.00 and expenses of \$871.94.

Committee Reports:

Public Service: Randy Jenkins reported on the upcoming Escape from Alcatraz on September 29, and the request for assistance with Waves to Wine on September 29 and 30.

Technical: Dave Hodgson reported that there had been a problem with the 147.33 machine that had resolved itself, and that we were still in question as to the effect of the DOD complaints about interference in the 70 cm band to the Pave Paws radar system in Marysville.

Education: Ben Sawtelle discussed the new format for presenting the Technician Class license, which was a PowerPoint based instructional system. Dave Hodgson reported that the class for the Tam Valley CERT group had just concluded, and a special VE session was being scheduled for September 30. VE Coordinator: Randy Jenkins commented on the VE session scheduled for September 30.

Field Day: Rich Carbine confirmed that the reservation to use the Marin Rod and Gun Club for Field Day 2008 was all set.

Page 3, column 3.

For our MARS Christmas Dinner December 2nd at The Deer Park Villa in Fairfax we must pick three entrees out of nine and one desert out of four from the lists below. So please select your favorite in each category. The three most popular entrees will be available to choose from. The most popular desert wins.

Denice will be contacting all of you who will have made reservations by November 15th so that you may choose your entree from the three favorites.

Entrées

1. Roasted Choice New York Strip
2. Oven Broiled Salmon Filet
3. Spinach & Cheese Ravioli Marinara
4. Chicken Breast Sauté with Mushrooms
5. Chicken Piccata
6. Roasted Leg of Lamb
7. Penne Primavera
8. Roasted Breast of Turkey with Stuffing & Gravy
9. Seasoned Roasted Half Chicken

Deserts

1. Spumoni Ice Cream
2. Raspberry Sorbet
3. Chocolate Sundae
4. Lemon Sorbet

Please email or contact Denice with your picks by **November 15th**. If you do not vote the Board will do it for you and remember: the Board has several single members who do the majority of their cooking with micro-waves.

We are taking reservations now through **November 15th**
Dinner this year will be \$35.00 per person **in advance** which you can send to:

MARS Xmas Dinner
PO Box 6432
San Rafael, Ca. 94903.

We are sorry but we cannot accept unscheduled walk-ins or ANY payments at the door this year. Deer Park Villa is preparing individual meals so we need to submit the three top entrees and one desert with the count of each in advance.

In addition to club-supplied raffle prizes at the dinner, if you have some excess equipment, etc., in good operating condition and easy to carry (no Collins Autotune stuff from the middle of the 20th century) that's just taking up space in your shack, you could donate it to the raffle.

A man enters a barbershop for a shave. While the barber is foaming him up, he mentions the problems he has getting a close shave around the cheeks. "I have just the thing," says the barber taking a small wooden ball from a nearby drawer. "Just place this between your cheek and gum." The client places the ball in his mouth and the barber proceeds with the closest shave the man has ever experienced. After a few strokes, the client asks in garbled speech, "And what if I swallow it?" "No problem," says the barber. "Just bring it back tomorrow like everyone else does."

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

Want to know everything there is about BPL –Broadband Over Powerlines? Go to <http://bplinterference.wikispaces.com/>

It wasn't Kool-Aid that was served at Jonestown. Some stuff called Flavor Aid, with potassium cyanide mixed in. Grape. Probably synthetic and cheaper.

The longest highway in the country? Old US 20. 3365 miles. Goes from Boston to Newport, OR on the coast. If you're in a hurry, stay on the Interstates.

Your worst piece of ham gear?
 FT-207R(otten) and the FT-90R(otten)
 by W2IRT on February 5, 2004
 "This goes back many years, but the first real P.O.S. radio I ever owned was the Yaesu FT-207R(otten). It was a syntha-sized 2M HT from about 1980 or 81. This thing was pure unadulterated guano.
 Battery contacts were flimsy and would not stay in contact, the 3 or 4 character red LED display was wonky and never read correctly, the thing was an intermod box despite being 144-148 only, batteries never held a charge for more than a couple of hours, tops. The radio was mechanically unreliable in the extreme, the three front-panel switches needed constant squirts of contact cleaner and the BNC eventually had its nipples worn off (ouch!).
 I forget what eventually happened to this thing, but I've got no doubt it's polluting a landfill somewhere. Good riddance."
 W2IRT

Board Of Directors Meeting
 Thursday, September 13, 2007
 Board members present: Norm Baetz, Phil Dunlap, Randy Jenkins, Denice Stoops, Dave Hodgson, Rich Carbine, station trustees Doug Slusher and Augie Koehler.
 The meeting was called to order at 19:29 hrs by president Denice Stoops.
Secretary: The minutes of the August 9 board meeting and the August 27 special board meeting were approved as e-mailed. Communications: Jenkins reported that a thank you postcard was received from the Holstein Hundred.
Treasurer: Dave Hodgson submitted his monthly report. It was approved by the Board of Directors.
Committee reports:
Membership: A report was received on the passing of Chuck Deatruck WA6SQQ.
Recreation: The picnic is coming up on Saturday, September 15. The Christmas party will be scheduled for December 2. Preferences for the menu need to be received by November 1. Reservations need to be received by November 15.
Public Service: Randy reported on the Escape from Alcatraz, Waves to Wine, and a possible event in October, the Peak Hike.
Technical: Doug Slusher reported that he was still waiting for an opportunity to perform the maintenance at Big Rock.
Comm Truck: DaveHodgson reported that the mast works well. Doug will be taking the truck for a smog check this month.
Education: Jenkins and Hodgson reported on the recently concluded Technician class. A special VE session will be held on September 30 for the class.
 VE Liaison: Randy commented that more VEs were needed.
 RACES Liaison: Hodgson reported on an upcoming RACES drill with HHS.
 Old Business:
 The building managers, Carbine and Stoops, reported that we were still looking for a new contractor to complete the construction project. Priorities are completion of the roof, patching of the stucco exterior, and completion of the plumbing. Alan Best broke out the concrete stub walls that needed to be removed. Some additional work may be completed by volunteer labor. Jenkins suggested that we needed to investigate our coverage, as to whether we needed to carry workman's compensation insurance. Fundraising was discussed. Jenkins suggested that we needed to set a goal.
 Column two, lower.

General Meeting, cont.
Building Managers: Denice Stoops and Rich Carbine reported on the dismissal of the contractor, and some of the reasons behind it. One potential new contractor had been interviewed. The garbage dumpster had been picked up and removed. Some of the cleanup work will be completed by volunteer labor of club members.
Old Business:
 We still need to select a menu for the Christmas party dinner at Deer Park Villa. Ideas for fund raising were discussed.
New Business:
 John Boyd asked if we were going to have a table at Pacificon again this year. The consensus of the membership was yes.
 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:16 hrs.
 Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF Secretary.

Board Meeting, cont.
 A fundraising goal of \$50,000 with \$10,000 to be solicited from the membership by the end of 2008 was agreed to.
Culvert Repair: Doug reported that the culvert had been re-measured and the actual measurement seems to be 30 inches. Doug will get hold of a supplier to get us a price.
Pacificon Table: We will staff a club table at Pacificon, and Randy will request a reservation.
 Election Committee: We still need to appoint a committee. There will be four directors elected this fall. Al Weisman has termed out, and is ineligible to be reelected. Tom Jordan and Randy Jenkins are eligible to be re-elected to another term. Eric Rosenquist will not be available part of 2008.
New Business:
 Pres. Denice will send a sympathy card to Chuck Deatruck's family. The club will make a \$25 donation in Chuck's name to a charity chosen by his family.
 A committee consisting of Dunlap, Baetz, and Jordan will take care of disposal of the remaining trash out front from the construction.
 Rich Carbine relayed a request from the Redwood DX club to store their new beam at our clunhouse. Approved.
 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:28 hrs.
 Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins KA6BQF Secretary.

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 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 Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ 897-7267 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>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

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

Stamp

The Mailing
Address
Goes Here

