

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

September 2007 Page 1

Greetings to the Membership from the overflowing Autumnal desk of the President. I'm knee deep in QSL reports from the KPH 8th Annual Night of Nights. We have 57 so far, including a research vessel in Switzerland and a station in Bali. Thanks again to those of you who participated.

Progress on the clubhouse has reached a plateau, and there will have been an emergency quorum of the Board of Directors, by the time you read this, to address the issues. The contractor has turned out to be dependable and argumentative. We are probably going to have to do a lot of the finish work ourselves. If you haven't already signed up for work parties with Rich Carbine or myself, please get on the list. Jobs that will be in front of us are varied, and there will be something for everyone to help with. You won't need special skills to get in on the action. I would like to see us get everything in shipshape by November.

I have not received any input on the choices of main courses or salads/desserts for the Christmas party at Deer Park Villa. I have asked for a copy of the menu choices to be posted on the website. (See page three.) Please email me with your top three picks. We will have to submit a total of our selections to the Villa 2 days before the event. Keep in mind that the raffle drawing can always use donated prizes.

I have been on three cruises on the SS Jeremiah O'Brien this summer, and have a bunch of photos I would enjoy sharing at one of the upcoming meetings.

Our picnic is next month, hope to see you there.

As always, this is your club, and the Board of Directors won't know what you need or want if you don't come to meetings and express your desires.

73/88

Denice Stoops, President.

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)

## Public Service Events for 2007.

Sat. September 29 - Escape from Alcatraz

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

Picnic Saturday 15 September at our usual great location in Sam Taylor Park. Very easy to find.

Remember the picnic this year is **BYOMASSTIOOM: "Bring Your Own Meat And Some Stuff To Inflict On Other Members"**. To try to limit 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. Please do not use this opportunity to rid your refrigerator of stuff that you can no longer identify. If you have to pry or chip it from its container, it may start to move slowly when it's warmed up and odds are that only the really desperate will take a chance on it. Do not test it on your dog.

The club will be providing the means to cook your meat but not the talent required to do this. If you think that you can't handle the heat and smoke that arises from your meat as it carbonizes over the fire, better pick up something from Trader Mac's on the Miserable Mile on the way out.

The club will provide bottled water and basic bellywash (sodas). If you have a fear of COKE in any of its two basic forms, Diet and Deadlier, you might want to consider bringing your own. We'll prolly also have mustard and relish and whatever else we can find at COSTCO that's been recently Dumpstered out back, assuming that the locals didn't get it all. The picnic crew.

POBox 6423  
San Rafael, CA 94903

General Membership Meeting  
Friday, August 03, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 1927 hrs by president Denice. Seventeen members signed in. New members announced were Peter Cooke, KG6OUE and Mark Atchley, KA6PYX.

Communications: Secretary Randy reported on incoming communications from the Holstein Hundred and Zero Breast Cancer.

Doug Slusher reported on a donation of resistors by Leif Jessen of Blue Coast Web. Doug suggested that a thank you letter should be sent. Denice reported on a donation of QSL cards by Mike Eckard. Doug Short is sorting them.

President Denice reported on the actions at the previous board meeting; mostly discussions of the building project.

Treasurer Dave submitted his monthly report showing a July income of \$2300.75 and July expenses of \$8,518.52. The bank asset balance was \$24,309.56.

## Committee Reports:

**Recreation:** The picnic is scheduled for September 15. The format is bring your own meat and a dish to pass. The Christmas party this year will be at Deer Park Villa in Fairfax. More on this under old business.

**Public Service:** Randy reported on The Marin Century/Mt. Tam Double Century on August 4, the Holstein 100 on August 18, the Dipsea Hike/Run on September 8, and the Escape from Alcatraz on September 29. Volunteers are still needed.

**Technical:** Doug reported that maintenance was due to be performed on the Big Rock site. Any club member who was interested in seeing the site should contact Doug to see if space was available on the trip up.

**Comm Truck:** Randy reported that the mast had been lubricated, and that it was working a helk of a lot better.

**Education:** Dave reported that we would begin teaching a technician class for the CERT group on August 11. The class should run four or five sessions. VE Liaison Al Weisman reported that the next VE session was scheduled for Saturday, September 8.

**Field Day:** President Denice reported that we will need a new chairman for Field Day 2008.

**Building Manager:** President Denice reported that she was disappointed with the performance of the contractor so far.

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**Candidate for Vice Director of ARRL Pacific Division**

I am Rob Brownstein, K6RB. June marked my 49<sup>th</sup> year of active ham radio operations. During those years, I operated CW, phone, and digital modes. I ragchewed, chased DX and participated in various contests. I operated in Field Day and joined local amateur radio clubs in the various places that I’ve lived and operated. In other words, I have enjoyed a broad swath of all the things that ham radio operators do.

Your choice for vice director will serve for the next three years. My opponent wants you to choose him because he has focused almost exclusively on emergency communications, and says that is the primary function for which ham radio is recognized and affirmed.

Most non-hams do get their impressions of ham radio from news stories about hams stepping in during emergencies. But, is that the only thing we do?

All of you know there’s a lot more to ham radio than that and, while emergency communications is a wonderful service to our communities, it is just one aspect of our hobby. To be fully represented, you need someone who knows what you do, whether it’s HF or VHF operation, DXing, contesting, ragchewing, or experimenting. And I’ve done them all.

Who is better suited to serve the diverse needs of today’s Pacific Division amateurs? Do you want someone who does one thing and reads about the others? Or do you want someone who does pretty much all of the same things you do? My opponent and I are both good people, and we want to do what’s best for this division. We just come at it from different places. He’s a specialist; and I am a well-rounded generalist. If you want broad rather than narrow, please give me your vote.  
73, Rob Brownstein, K6RB

Board of Directors Meeting, 9 August.

At 1949 hrs the board met with Martin Heagney from Heagney Construction. The board received a progress report from the contractor.

The Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 2012 hrs by President Denice Stoops. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as e-mailed

Dave Hodgson reported on a letter from the State of California which he was looking into. Also received were membership applications from Michael Fisher and Mondor Borten (sp?). (Sounds like a town in Romania. ed.) Randy reported on incoming communications from Zero Breast Cancer and the Holstein 100.

**Recreation Committee:** Comments were made regarding the picnic. Denice commented on an upcoming cruise (August 18) aboard the Jeremiah O’Brien. We still need to select a Christmas party menu. See BoD in Column two

General Meeting, cont.

She and Rich Carbine would be having a meeting as soon as Rich returned from vacation.

**Old Business: We Still Need to Pick a Menu for the Christmas Party. Please send your selections to President Stoops. (See page three)**

President Denice commented on soliciting gifts from vendors for the Christmas party. We already get several gifts donated by HRO.

Do not forget to bring a dish to pass at the picnic. Presidents Denice inquired about the status of the building fund. There have been several donations made.

**New Business:**

John Boyd inquired about the status of the project to convert the Big Rock Repeater system to a voting system. Doug Slusher replied that it was still on the table and was still being investigated.

Randy reported that he had a line on a presentation for the club, and would pursue it for November or January.

President Denice reported that next month she would have a presentation on her experiences aboard the Jeremiah O’Brien.

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 files at the corporate office.

**BoD, cont.**

Committee reports:

**Public Service:** Randy reported on the upcoming public service events on August 18, September 8, and September 29. He thanked everybody who had participated in the events so far this year.

**Technical:** Doug reported on a problem with the Big Rock input to the 147.33 repeater system that occurred during the Marin Century/Mt. Tam Double Century ride. The problem apparently corrected itself.

**Comm Truck:** Registration renewal for the truck is due next month, and we need to have the vehicle smogged this year. The mast worked fine after lubrication.

**Education Committee:** Dave and Randy will begin teaching technician classes on August 11.

**VE Coordinator:** Al reported the next VE session was scheduled for September 8.

**RACES Liaison:** Dave reported that there would be a RACES Meeting on August 25.

**Building:** Alan Best has spent some time preparing the drainage ditch out back for the installation of the new 20 foot culvert, to be connected to the section running underneath the concreted area.

**Old Business:** Rich gave a report on the progress or lack thereof with the contractor. The board had a protracted discussion, and reached the following conclusion: Provided that the contractor completes all necessary work to pass the necessary inspections to close the walls, the club will  
Column three, lower.

**Candidate Statement: Andy Oppel, N6AJO, for Pacific Division Vice Director**

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Vice-Director since 2003, which included being a member of several ARRL committees: 1) The National Emergency Response Preparedness Committee (NERPC), which delivered a comprehensive study with specific recommendations to improve our readiness to respond to widespread emergencies.

Within the NERPC, I chaired the database group and personally wrote detailed specifications for an ARES registration database, which was subsequently built by ARRL staff and is now ready for use.

2) Since 2006 I have chaired the Technology Task Force, which has reviewed technical development work done by volunteer working groups and presented recommendations to the Board of Directors.

3) In 2003-04 I served on the ARESCOMM Committee, which presented recommendations for ARES digital communications to the Board of Directors at the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Although I work all modes and an occasional contest, as you can see I have a passion for emergency communications not only because it serves our communities well, but also because it is the best way to justify amateur radio to those who would like to take our spectrum away from us.

Prior service to the ARRL includes East Bay Section Manager 2000-2003 and Assistant Section Manager 1981-1999. I have completed ARECC Level I and II and FEMA courses 100, 200, and 700. I serve as Assistant Chief Radio Officer for Alameda County (California) RACES/ARES.

Professionally I am Principal Data Architect for Ceridian, have taught at U.C. Extension for 25 years, and am the author of two published books on database technology. I frequently offer the ARRL advice on information technology issues.

Vice-Directors cannot vote or address the floor at board meetings, so our influence is through background discussions and active listening. I know the process well and can make your ideas and opinions heard.

Andy Oppel andy.oppel@gmail.com  
andy@andyoppel.com  
http://www.andyoppel.com/N6AJO  
520-864-2299

pay up to two thirds of the contract price as agreed. The remaining monies under the agreement will be held until completion of all work and receipt of lien releases from any subcontractors.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2115 hrs.  
Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins KA6BQF Secretary

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

**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

**What is/was your worst piece of ham gear?** This site <http://www.eham.net/articles/7436> records the responses of several, actually many, hams telling of the problems they've had with their equipment. There's some humorous stuff in their descriptions including **POS**, the abbreviation for a commonly used derogatory phrase. It's definitely worth a look.

**Bears vs. Cars.**  
 Even before the end of July, the number of bear-car accidents has already surpassed the record number in the Tahoe area. In 2005, a total of 19 bears were hit, the most for any given year until now, with 20 bears struck by vehicles so far.

A gas station owner in Mississippi was trying to increase his sales so he put up a sign that read, "Free Sex with Fill-Up." Soon a local redneck, Billy Ray, pulled in, filled his tank and asked for his free sex. The owner told him to pick a number from 1 to 10. If he guessed correctly he would get his free sex. The redneck guessed 8, and the proprietor said, "You were close. The number was 7. Sorry. No sex this time." A week later, the same redneck, along with a buddy, Earl, pulled in for another fill-up. Again he asked for his free sex. The proprietor again gave him the same story, and asked him to guess the correct number. The redneck guessed 2 this time. The proprietor said, "Sorry, it was 3. You were close, but no free sex this time." "As they were driving away, the redneck said to his buddy Earl, "I think that game is rigged and he doesn't really give away free sex" Earl replied, "No it ain't, Billy Ray. It ain't rigged. My wife won twice last week and sis hit it first thing this morning."

**Pacific Lumber Co. #9 Heisler 36 ton, two truck locomotive. Heisler Locomotive Works 1921, #1446.**



This locomotive was purchased by the Mt. Tamalpais & Muir Woods Scenic Railway in Marin County, California, (their No. 9) and is the sole surviving locomotive of that unique railroad. For some reason it's operation was unsatisfactory on the Mt. Tam rails and it was sold to Siskiyou Lumber Co. at Macdoel, California, in 1924 becoming their No. 1 and again sold to Dolbeer & Carson Lumber Co. in 1938 and renumbered No. 5. In 1953 it was sold to Pacific Lumber Co. for historical display purposes and later renumbered to its original number, No. 9. It is displayed outside Pacific Lumber Company's museum in Scotia, California, an easy detour off hwy 101 if you're headed for the Eureka area.

A Texas rancher got into his pickup and drove to a neighboring ranch and knocked at the door. A young boy, about 9, opened the door. "Is yer Dad home?" the rancher asked. "No sir, he ain't," the boy replied. "He went into town." Well said the rancher, "is yer Mom here?" "No, sir, she ain't here neither. She went into town with Dad." "How about your brother, Howard? Is he here?" "He went with Mom and Dad." The rancher stood there for a few minutes, shifting from one foot to the other and mumbling to himself. "Is there anything I can do fer ya?" the boy asked politely. "I know where all the tools are, if you want to borrow one. Or maybe I could take a message fer Dad." "Well," said the rancher uncomfortably, "I really wanted to talk to yer Dad. It's about your brother Howard getting my daughter Pearly Mae, pregnant." The boy considered for a moment. "You would have to talk to Pa about that," he finally conceded. "If it helps you any, I know that Pa charges \$50 fer the bull and \$25 fer the hog but, I really don't know how much he gets fer Howard."

This Scottish farmer walks into the neighborhood pub, and orders a whiskey. "Ye see that fence over there?" he says to the bartender. "Ah built it with me own two hands! Dug up the holes with me shovel, chopped doon the trees for the posts by me ownself, laid every last rail! But do they call me 'McGregor the Fence-Builder?' No..." He gulps down the whiskey and orders another. "Ye see that pier on the loch?" He continues, "AH built it me ownself, too. Swam oot into the loch to lay the foondations, laid doon every single board! But do they call me 'McGregor the Pier-Builder?' No. But ye \*\*\*\* (insert word choice here.) ONE sheep...."

For Christmas Dinner December 8<sup>th</sup> at The Deer Park Villa in Fairfax we must pick three Entrées out of nine and one Desert out of four from the lists below. So please select your favorite. The most popular will be available to choose from when you RSVP.

**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 1. If you do not vote the Board will do it for you, and remember: the Board has a lot of single members that do the majority of their cooking with microwave.

da

**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>  <b>VHF</b>    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>ARRL San Francisco Section Mgr.</b>  Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG    <b>Editor of QSA-5:</b>  Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318  K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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The Mailing  
Address  
Goes Here