

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

December 2008

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Greetings from the desk of The Pres.

Thank you everyone! I've certainly enjoyed myself, these past two years as your president and I looked forward to seeing some of you at the Christmas dinner.

This will be my last column in QSA5, but if you like my writing, you can follow me to Chick Factor International, where I am writing my memoirs about my telegraphic career for the benefit of women and young girl amateur operators all over the world. I have committed myself to at least 11 more columns (2 columns already "in the can"). If you 'google' Chick Factor, you should find a link to subscribe to the newsletter.

Best wishes to everyone for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. I am headed to Michigan to celebrate with my Father. The older we both get, the deeper the meaning of being together as a family during the holidays becomes. My younger sisters are spread out in North Carolina and Tennessee this year and will not be joining us. I am honored to have my Dad all to myself this year. Honor your loved ones this year with the gift of your presence. Spend time together while you're able.

I will be continuing as a volunteer on the SS Jeremiah O'Brien, in her radio department and also as Treasurer of the Maritime Radio Historical Society. The MRHS is kicking off a larger fund raising campaign in the coming year. Circle your calendar for July 12, and plan to join us for our Tenth Annual Night of Nights at the RCA facility in the Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

These various duties are probably going to keep me away from the clubhouse for a while, but I will gladly lend support or mentoring to anyone who has an interest in CW. There's a rumor that I will even be active on the 80 meter CW bands one of these days.

Thank you again for your support and confidence during my term.

73/88

Denice Stoops, KI6BBR.

Website at W6SG.NET
Phone 415.389.6630
For ARRL SF Section news, go to
www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF

Important note to our Members.

Due to our next regular Membership meeting falling on the day after New Years, the Board of Directors at our November meeting decided to forego it. We felt that a number of our members would be out of town or have family plans as many people will have a four day holiday.

If any member has an issue he/she would like to bring to the Board's attention, or just needs to have a meeting to attend to stave off the withdrawals of not having a night out with pizza, they are welcome to come to our Board meeting January 8 at 1930 hours. For those with the other clocks, that's 7:30 PM. Oh, sorry, we do not have food but will not turn down Pot Luck.

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a pretty good New Year.

Dave KG6TCJ and Your Board of Directors.

(Come on down and see that this bunch of clowns remains semi-trustworthy. Our treasury has a few bucks in it and the border isn't that far away. ed.)

POBox 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Marin Amateur Radio Society
Board Meeting, November 13, 2008

The meeting was brought to order by Vice Chair Randy Jenkins at 19:35 Hours.

Present were, Randy Jenkins, Rich Carbine, John Boyd, Phil Dunlap, Dave Hodgson, Doug Slusher, Augie Koehler, Denice Stoops arrived at 19:55 Hours.

The resignation of Elisabeth Thomas Matej as Club Secretary was accepted.

Minutes from the September 9 2008 meeting were tabled until the December meeting. After acknowledging, they be amended to reflect that the Board meet in closed session about a legal issue and that no actions were taken by the Board during the session.

Correspondence:

A donation from the Dolphin Club and the MS Society were received

Treasurers Report:

The treasurer's report was read and accepted.

Membership:

The Board acknowledged two new members.

Recreation:

As the RSVP for the Christmas party December 7 has been low, the Board authorized that an invitation be mailed to all members. Ben Sawtelle will be arranging door prizes and was authorized to spend \$300 for them. President Stoops noted that the Recreation committee Chair Position is still open.

Public Service:

The next event "The Relay" will be in April 2009, PS Chair Jenkins noted that a new PS Committee Chair is needed, as he will not take it next year. He offered to help and has all the contact information.

Technical:

Technical Committee Chair Slusher noted that the East Bay "4C's" club was back using the 146.700 Mt Tam Repeater as their repeater controller failed. Doug will be loaning them a spare he has and help them install it.

Education:

Dave Hodgson reported that he was hoping to have Technician Classes starting in the second week of February 2009.

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

I'm not a superstitious guy, but when my mother in law dies, and I go to the funeral home, I'm driving a wooden stake through her heart. I've seen those movies, they always come back to get you, I'm taking no chances.

General Meeting 7 November

Call to order 19:30 hours.

Agenda approved, passed w/o objection.

Guests: Peter Otis, KI6SVF, Stanton Gleason KD6SWU, Sarah Jacobs KI6TZA with her dad, John, and our guest speaker Andy Oppel, Vice-director San Francisco section of ARRL.

Minutes of October 3, 2008 meeting approved, passed w/o objection.

Communications:

Donation of \$100 from the Dolphin Club.

Actions of the October 9 board meeting—board approved covering overcharge to upgrade menu selections for December 7 Christmas dinner.

Treasurer's report: Income \$3,130.00, expenses \$3,469.70; checking account balance = \$16,497.88. Paid entire property tax this month.

Chairpeople needed: Recreation, public service, Field Day, Kids' Day. You do not need to be a board member. Public service committee could be shared. First event is The Relay, in April.

Column two

Technical committee: Doug reports he went up on Mt. Tam with spectrum analyzer to assess 146.700 and the repeater showed no problems, so he'll try again and hope for a clue about the recurrent static, which generally seems to be getting worse. No correspondence from PAVE PAWS.

Comm truck: Nothing new that is, the generator is still inop. We still have our 5KW spare gassed and ready.

Education: May try to do a technician class after February 1.

VE coordinator: Session is coming up Saturday, November 15, 9:00 a.m.

Field Day: We were 38th in the nation in our category.

Membership: We have a few new ones.

Building manager: Water pressure has been turned down, more tinkering seems to have solved whatever leaking was taking place.

Old Business

Prescriptive Easement: Doug is still working on the wording of the letter to our neighbors.

Election committee for board of directors: We need one more name for a full ticket. Please volunteer.

Next general membership meeting, January 2, 2009 has been cancelled. Next board of directors meeting is November 13, 2008.

Randy reports that CCC has sent thanks for being able to use our repeater; theirs is now fixed.

Adjourned 19:55 p.m. for presentation by Andy Oppel N6AJO, Vice-Director Pacific Division ARRL.

[After listening to the Elderfahrten Net on 3892 kc, 0800 Monday and Thursday, we decided that the cartoon from QST on the address page was needed, again.](#)

[Maybe on a regular schedule. \(grin\)](#)

From page one, column three.

VE:

Randy Jenkins reported the next VE session was set for 08:00 Hours November 15 2008 at the clubhouse.

RACES:

No Changes reported.

Field Day:

Rich Carbine has volunteered to be the go between for REDXA and MARS for the 2009 Field Day. We are still looking for a Chair.

Building Manager:

Phil Dunlap reported the water leak in the upstairs apartment has been repaired. The shower valve still needs work. Denice stoops will order a new front door for the apartment when Randy Jenkins sends her the dimensions.

Old Business:

The easement letter is pending the attachment of our parcel map.

The election committee is looking for two members to round out the 2009 Board of Directors Ballot.

New Business:

Should the Board of Directors Minutes be published in the club newsletter QSA5? The Board moved this item to their December meeting.

Closed Session:

The Board Adjourned to Closed Session at 20:10 Hours (Motion Doug Slusher; Second John Boyd approved without objection)

The Board reconvened at 20:30 Hours. Discussion, only. Vice Pres. Jenkins announced that the Board had just meet in closed session to discuss a legal issue and that no actions were taken.

For the good of the order:

Outgoing President Denice Stoops thanked the Board for their time serving and all its members help in supporting her during her tenure.

Adjourned at 20:45 to December 12 2008

(Motion Doug Slusher; Second John Boyd. Approved without objection)

Meeting Minutes submitted to the Board by Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ

THE WAYBACK MACHINE -- ISSUE #9
 by Bill Continelli, W2XOY
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If Arthur Miller, Tennessee Williams, or Eugene O'Neill had been amateur radio operators, one of them certainly would have written a play about the VHF frequency allocation battle of the mid 1940's. For, except for sex, this event had all the elements of great drama--Power, Passion, Politics, Greed, and sudden twists and turns in the plot were the hallmark of this epic battle. It hastened the destruction of probably the greatest man in the history of radio, solidified the stranglehold of another in his quest for total television domination, doomed a viable alternative in the infant television industry, and gave birth to the predecessor of CB radio. Got your attention? Then let's open our Playbills and read the

CAST OF CHARACTERS

THE ARRL AND THE 50,000 AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS--

Prior to World War II, hams were virtually the only major users of the "UHF" spectrum (as the frequencies above 25 Mc were then known). They had the use of the 10 meter band (28-30 Mc) and 5 meters (56-60 Mc) since the late 1920's, as well as a small slice of spectrum at 400 Mc. In the late 1930's, the FCC had allocated two new bands to amateurs--2 1/2 meters (112-116 Mc) and 1 1/4 meters (224-230 Mc). Except for 10 meters, most of the operations on these frequencies were done with very simple equipment. Modulated oscillators and super-regenerative receivers were the mainstay of their activities. For those not familiar with this type of equipment, a modulated oscillator was a tube coupled to a tuned circuit directly on the desired frequency which was modulated by another tube. Since crystal control and frequency multiplication were not used, the resulting signal varied in both frequency and amplitude when the oscillator was modulated. The only way to receive such an unstable signal was with a super-regenerative receiver. Invented by Major Edwin Armstrong in the early 20's, the "supergenny" was extremely sensitive, but very broadbanded. It gave off a loud "rushing" noise (like an FM receiver unscquelched). A complete 'phone station of this type could be built with only 3 tubes--an important consideration for the Depression era hams.

Except for limited operation on the 112-116 Mc band in World War II under

Column two

WERS (War Emergency Radio Service), amateur stations had been silent since December 7, 1941. Now, late in 1944, with the end of the war in sight and new VHF/UHF tubes in production for the War effort, the ARRL was making plans for more bands above 25 Mc.

MAJOR EDWIN H ARMSTRONG--

The unquestioned "Father of Modern Radio", Major Armstrong had experienced several setbacks in the 1920's and 30's, partly because of his secretive nature and uncompromising attitude. He had delayed in obtaining his original patent on the regenerative detector, and when he did finally apply, he omitted the oscillating properties of the circuit. Lee De Forest challenged Armstrong on this invention by submitting a circuit of his own that he claimed he developed in mid-1912. Armstrong initially won, based on the fact that De Forest's design was basically uncontrolled feedback. When, however, Armstrong flaunted his court victory (by flying a flag with his patent number on it where De Forest could see it), and when Armstrong refused to grant De Forest a license to manufacture regenerative receivers, De Forest went back to court--and this time won. In two separate cases, the Supreme Court ruled that De Forest, not Armstrong, was the inventor of regeneration. This was bad enough, but then Armstrong lost another court battle. Although he had invented the superheterodyne receiver while in France in 1918, it was based partly on a crude, barely functional converter designed by a Frenchman. Despite the obvious superiority of Armstrong's design, the courts ruled against him again.

Desperate for a success to reverse these setbacks, Armstrong turned to the idea of FM. At that time, the late 1920's, the concept of FM was known, but it was widely believed that it was impractical, if not impossible. Armstrong, however, proved them wrong, and by 1933-34 had developed an operational, noise free, wideband FM system. He offered it to RCA, which had the first right of refusal. RCA, for reasons we will see in a moment, declined to fully develop FM, and Armstrong turned to GE. In Schenectady, NY, he found an ally in W.R.G. Baker, a GE Vice President, who saw the potential in FM. With GE's help, he continued to develop FM, got the FCC to allocate a slice of the VHF spectrum for FM broadcasting (42-50 Mc), and set up his first FM broadcasting station--

Column three

W2XMN in Alpine, NJ. With two other pioneer FM stations, W1XPW in Meriden, CT, and W2XOY in Schenectady coming on the air in 1939-1940, the new Yankee Network was up and running. Armstrong was convinced that, once the war ended, FM would completely replace AM as the broadcasting standard, and he wanted a large chunk of VHF frequencies to accommodate it.

BRIGADIER GENERAL DAVID SARNOFF AND RCA--

For the first forty five years of it's corporate life, RCA WAS Sarnoff and vice versa. From his humble beginnings as a telegraph boy and the wireless operator who copied the "Olympic" wireless signals about the doomed "Titanic", he had risen quickly in the Marconi organization, and was with RCA from the start. Sarnoff had watched the progress of his old friend Armstrong as he developed FM. However, he had other plans for RCA. Sarnoff was convinced that television was the future and radio was the past. Throughout the 1930's, he had poured millions of RCA's dollars into an all electronic television system, to replace the crude mechanical "spinning disk" sets that were in the experimental stage. By the late 1930's, he had a viable, all electronic system ready to go. On April 20, 1939, at the New York World's Fair, Sarnoff introduced commercial television to the world, using the slices of VHF spectrum that the FCC had set aside for experimental television.

Sarnoff's interest in the VHF frequencies extended beyond obtaining large allocations for television; he also wanted to minimize the frequencies available for FM broadcast. To him, radio was simply radio, an old technology made obsolete by television. He also realized that the public had a limited amount of disposable income available, and he wanted every spare dollar to be spent on TV sets, not FM radios. Sarnoff saw FM broadcasting as a serious threat to his beloved child, and he wasn't going to allow FM to gobble precious VHF frequencies that he felt rightfully belonged to television.

WILLIAM PALEY AND CBS--

Although only a supporting player in this drama, William Paley and his CBS Network almost changed the course of TV history, and, at one point, had both the FCC and the Supreme Court on their side. Paley, through the genius of Peter Goldmark, one of CBS' top engineers, had developed a

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working color television system with brilliant, lifelike colors more than a decade before RCA's color system was remotely viable.

In 1940, as CBS was looking for a way to get past Sarnoff and RCA's stranglehold of patents on their all electronic black and white system, Peter Goldmark came up with the solution. Going back to the 1920's and the mechanical spinning disk, Goldmark developed a hybrid electronic-mechanical system. Using the spinning disk (which CBS now called the color wheel) with red, blue and green filters, he scanned it with an electron beam. On the receiving end, a similar "color wheel" synchronized to spin at the same speed detected the color signal. On August 28 and September 4, 1940, CBS gave demonstrations of their color TV system to the FCC. The FCC was very impressed with the vivid, sharp clarity of the colors they saw on the screen. By contrast, RCA's color system was an embarrassing flop.

In addition to wanting television to start off directly with color, Goldmark was also convinced that the postwar TV frequency allocations should be on UHF, not VHF. In fact, CBS was so sure that their UHF color system would become the industry standard, that they had no plans to apply for any VHF TV license.

And so, the players in this drama wait in the wings for their cue to come out on the stage. How will they react to the FCC's first VHF allocations proposal, issued in late 1944? Who will live past ACT I? Who will make it to the final curtain call? "The Wayback Machine", with front row seats, will have the answers.

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Can you ID this Marin County site?

Ole and Sven die in a snowmobiling accident, drunker than skunks, and go to Hell. The Devil observes that they are really enjoying themselves. He says to them 'Doesn't the heat and smoke bother you?'

Ole replies, 'Vell, ya know, ve're from northern Minnesoota, da land of snow an ice, an ve're yust happy fer a chance ta varm up a little bit, ya know.'

The devil decides that these two aren't miserable enough and turns up the heat even more. When he returns to the room of the two guys from Minnesota, the devil finds them in light jackets and hats, grilling Walleye and drinking beer. The devil is astonished and exclaims, 'Everyone down here is in misery, and you two seem to be enjoying yourselves?'

Sven replies, 'Vell, ya know, ve don't git too much varm veather up dere at da Falls, so ve've yust got ta haff a fish fry vhen da veather's dis nice.'

The devil is absolutely furious. He can hardly see straight. Finally he comes up with the answer. The two guys love the heat because they have been cold all their lives. The devil decides to turn all the heat off in Hell. The next morning, the temperature is 60 below zero, icicles are hanging everywhere, and people are shivering so bad that they are unable to wail, moan or gnash their teeth.

The devil smiles and heads for the room with Ole and Sven. He gets there and finds them back in their parkas, bomber hats, and mittens. They are jumping up and down, cheering, yelling and screaming like mad men.

The devil is dumbfounded, 'I don't understand, when I turn up the heat you're happy. Now its freezing cold and you're still happy. What is wrong with you two?'

They both look at the devil in surprise and say, 'Vell, don't ya know, if hell iss froze over, dat must mean da Vikings von da Super Bowl.'

For Sale

ICOM 706 MKIIG transceiver and gear.

Includes ASTRON RS-35 power supply, SUPERANTE 40-6M Portable Travel Antenna, MJF Headphones. Bought June 2003, but only used for a few hours, then stored.



\$595.

I originally got my license so that I could transmit on my sailboat during a long voyage. But then I sold my boat and moved to a house where I cannot put up an antenna. So I have a barely used ICOM 706.

Peter Pike, KG6RSQ,
MARS member.

11 Scott Place,
Greenbrae, CA 94904

T: 415-461-4482 /

E: peter@pikenet.com

QSA 5 December 2008

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 +or-. Sometimes we even talk about radio. 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. So far, he hasn't forgotten how to get to the clubhouse.

Dues structure is: \$25. per year. \$30. for family memberships. No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

<p>Marin Amateur Radio Society President: Denice Stoops KI6BBR 672-0303 Vice President: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 Secretary: Elisabeth Thomas-Matej KG6IMV 381-0585 Treasurer: Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864 Additional Board Members: Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887 John Boyd KE6ORI Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Horst Dannecker KA6BHZ Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318</p>	<p>Education Chair: Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170 kermode7@hotmail.com Membership: Dave and Phil VE Liaison: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 Bldg. Manager Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Trustee for W6SG: Augie Koehler KØCQL Trustee for K6GWE: Doug Slusher KF6AKU Sunday Emergency Nets: HF Ben's been doing both. VHF</p>	<p>DX Representative of ARRL: Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829 WEBMASTER Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET Public Service Event Coordinator Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 ARRL San Francisco Section Mgr. Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG Editor of QSA-5: Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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The Mailing
 Address
 Goes Here