

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

February 2008

Pres' Msg.

Greetings from the desk of the Pres.

In the interest of promoting love and peace in the MARS membership family, the February board meeting will not be held on the second Thursday, that being Valentine's Day. It will follow the general membership meeting on Feb 1st.

On January 21st some kitchen cabinets were rescued from the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Bolinas outpost student kitchen. I haven't seen them first hand. They may not be appropriate for our newly remodeled kitchen space but are reported to be suitable for the back garage area. Thanks to Doug Slusher and Phil Dunlap for going out in the rain to get them.

Replacement hardware that will be compatible with the existing bore in the ADA bathroom door has been ordered and should arrive in time to have the door re-hung before election day. (On site Monday 2/4. ed.) The meeting room will need to be cleaned and reorganized to make room for the voting machines. Our own ballots were counted at the board of directors meeting. Welcome to the **new Board members: John Boyd KE6ORI, Elisabeth Matej KI6IMV and Horst Dannecker KA6BHZ.** We hope you can all stick around after the general membership meeting to attend your first board meeting.

Our building fundraising drive is officially underway. Please check the thermometer on the clubhouse wall for progress updates.

In view of the recent weather, I encourage everyone with home or portable stations to check in to the weekly nets on Sunday mornings. See you at the meeting.

Denice Stoops, President.

Website at **W6SG.NET**
Phone **415.389.6630**

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

MARC/MARS will be 75 years old this coming August. We have two members left who were part of the original group, Bill Provinces, W6JBZ, formerly of Mill Valley and now living in Novato. Other than his being a ham, Bill is well known for firing, as a teenager, on the Shay locomotives that ran on the Mt. Tam Railroad in the early part of the last century. Our other charter member is Ken Bowman W6IBQ, also a former resident of Mill Valley, now in Terra Linda.

Both of these hams are life members of MARC/MARS.

Here is the MARS Calendar of Public Service Events for 2008 (so far):

Saturday, April 19 - The Relay 3PM - 5 AM 8-10 Volunteers

Saturday, May 03 - Miwok 100 5 AM - 10 PM 10-12 Volunteers

Saturday, May 10 - Human Race 8AM - Noon 6-8 Volunteers

Sunday, June 8 - The Dipsea Race 8AM- 2 PM 12 - 14 Volunteers

Saturday, June 21 - Double-Dipsea 8AM - 3 PM 8-10 Volunteers

Saturday, August 02 - Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century 4AM - Midnight 20+ Volunteers

Saturday, August 16 - Holstein Hundred 6AM-7PM 15+ Volunteers

We expect a couple of additional small events, and there are opportunities in adjacent areas where volunteers are needed. Adjacent hams help us in Marin and we should return the favor, when/where possible.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF,
ka6bqf@arrl.net
Secretary & Public Service Coordinator
510 526.4089

POBox 6423
San Rafael, 94903-0423

Board of Directors Meeting, 1/10/08

The meeting was called to order at 19:39 hours. Present were Directors Stoops, Dunlap, Carbine, Baetz, Hodgson, and Jenkins; Trustees Koehler, and Slusher.

The agenda was accepted as amended. There were no guests present.

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

Actions at the December board meeting were discussed; mostly financial discussions.

Treasurer Hodgson submitted his monthly report for December 2007. The report showed \$2475 in income and \$2860.28 in expenses. All contractors have been paid off. Expenses for the Christmas party exceeded receipts by around \$200. The Treasurer's report was approved by vote of the board.

Committee Reports:

Technical Committee-During the storm, we lost power at San Pedro Ridge, Tam West, and Barnabe.

Comm Truck Committee-during the storm, the awning over the truck blew down. It has been re-erected. We need to purchase a new cover for the awning. A motion was made to authorize Dave Hodgson to purchase two awning covers at a cost not to exceed \$200.

VE Coordinator-a VE session will be scheduled for March 15.

Field Day-we still need a chairman.

Building Manager-we are still waiting for paint in the office. The door has been installed on the ADA bathroom. It needs to go back to the shop to be re-bored for the correct backset.

Old Business:

The ballots need to be counted. A committee will be convened after the board meeting to perform that function.

We need to schedule a painting party. Alan Best has already started on the painting.

Board meeting from page one.
Fundraising; Elisabeth is working on it.
 AI W6ALW is at Mt Zion Med Center.
Dues Increase: By a vote of the Board of Directors, the proposal to increase the dues for 2008 was rescinded, and will be reevaluated for 2009. We will concentrate on fund raising.

New Business:
 The February board meeting will be scheduled to take place after the general membership meeting on February 1. The normally scheduled meeting falls on Valentine's Day.

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the Marin Amateur Radio Club. We need to decide what we will do to commemorate this occasion.

There was a discussion about the leak from the deck in the upstairs apartment, and what to do about it..

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:26 hours. Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

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

Amateur Radio Operators Gain New LF Band

At the now concluded World Radio-communications Conference in Geneva, Switzerland; a worldwide secondary allocation of 135.7-137.8 kHz was approved. This marks the first time since allocations to radio services began that the amateur service has had an allocation below the medium-wave broadcasting band. The effective date is not yet set, and, in any case, Amateur Radio operators must wait until their own administrations authorize the new allocation before they can use it.
 Contributed by Randy KA6BQF

"Political Correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical, liberal minority and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a turd by the clean end."
 Anonymous

Thought for the day: Calling an illegal alien an 'undocumented immigrant' is like calling a drug dealer an 'unlicensed pharmacist'.
 Unknown.

Comments welcome on either or both.

New Officers Elected at The 2/1 Board Meeting

The Board meeting followed the regular meeting. Our President, Denise KI6BBR, is staying on for 2008. Randy KA6BQF moved from Secretary to Vice Pres. Elisabeth KI6IMV is our new Secretary. Dave KG6TCJ remains as Treasurer. John KE6ORI stayed home so as to not be selected for a club office. He claims he just forgot the meeting.

Humorless Drivel.

Because the January general meeting had to be canceled because of the heavy weather, we have no meeting minutes to help fill these columns.

We were lucky in that we suffered no PG&E power loss during the storms. However, the pump station behind our neighbor's house required a large truck-hauled generator to prevent sewer backup. It ran full time until power was restored and we knew each time when the turd pump came on because the diesel stumbled for a few milliseconds.

We did suffer a terrible hardship when the cable failed, twice. Luckily, the outages were not too long. During the second one we tried to use our backup dial-up internet connection only to find the phone out, too. We were forced to turn on the radio, and survived. An appointment was made with AT&T for a tech to come out on Monday 1/6, between the hours of 0800 and 1700. Great! Wherever the water got into the phone connections on the pole across the street, it dried out by Saturday evening and the trouble call was cancelled when AT&T was able to call in early Monday. The sump pump out back, which drains the area under the house via 1½ inch pipe under the foundation never faltered.

For those of you flying with your new HT radios with a spare Li-On battery or two, there are new restrictions on how you can transport them on an airplane going into effect January 1st:

New US DOT Hazmat Safety Rule to Place Lithium Battery Limits in Carry-on Baggage on Passenger Aircraft Effective January 1, 2008

Passengers will no longer be able to pack loose lithium batteries in checked luggage beginning January 1, 2008 once new federal safety rules take effect. The new regulation, designed to reduce the risk of lithium battery fires, will continue to allow lithium batteries in checked baggage if they are installed in electronic devices, or in carry-on baggage if stored in plastic bags.

Common consumer electronics such as travel cameras, cell phones, and most laptop computers are still allowed in carry-on and checked luggage. However, the rule limits individuals to bringing only two extended-life spare rechargeable lithium batteries, such as laptop and professional audio/video/camera equipment lithium batteries in carry-on baggage.

“Doing something as simple as keeping a spare battery in its original retail packaging or a plastic zip-lock bag will prevent unintentional short-circuiting and fires,” said Krista Edwards, Deputy Administrator of the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

Lithium batteries are considered hazardous materials because they can overheat and ignite in certain conditions. Safety testing conducted by the FAA found that current aircraft cargo fire suppression system would not be capable of suppressing a fire if a shipment of non-rechargeable lithium batteries were ignited in flight.

“This rule protects the passenger,” said Lynne Osmus, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) assistant administrator for security and hazardous materials. “It’s one more step for safety. It’s the right thing to do and the right time to do it.”

In addition to the new rule, PHMSA is working with the FAA, the National Transportation Safety Board, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the battery and airline industries, airline employee organizations, testing laboratories, and the emergency response communities to increase public awareness about battery-related risks and developments. These useful safety tips are highlighted at the public website: <http://safetravel.dot.gov>.

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

The Swedish mountaineer, Christer Ols-son, has stated in a press-conference that his attempt to climb over the sound-barrier has failed again.

WISH I'D THOUGHT OF THIS!

At a high school in Montana, a group of students played a prank -- they let three goats loose in the school.

But, before turning them loose, they painted numbers on the sides of the goats. 1, 2, 4.

School Administrators spent most of the day looking for No. 3.

From John KF6VYH

Grandpa was driving with his 9 year old granddaughter and beeped the horn by mistake. She turned and looked at him for an explanation. He said, 'I did that by accident.' She replied, 'I know that, Grandpa.' He replied, 'How did you know?' She said, 'Because you didn't say 'a...hole' afterwards.

The Victorian Internet: The Remarkable Story of the Telegraph and the Nineteenth Century's On-Line Pioneers" by Tom Standage
 Sent by Elisabeth KI6IMV
From N1EA
 "I heard a lot of good reviews about it on the radio when it came out about 10 years ago." DR
 Also, on Denice KI6BBR being elected to a second term as Pres. of MARS:
 "Good going - the club needs someone who sends with painted fingernails on a bug!!!!!" 73 DR
 Read N1EA's bio on QRZ.

History of Single Sideband(SSB), a refinement of amplitude modulation that more efficiently uses electrical power and bandwidth.

Amplitude modulation produces a modulated output signal that has twice the bandwidth of the original baseband signal. Single-sideband modulation avoids this bandwidth doubling, and the power wasted on a carrier, at the cost of somewhat increased device complexity.

The first U. S. patent for SSB modulation was applied for on 1 December, 1915 by John Renshaw Carson. Patent 1,449,382, titled "Method and Means for Signaling with High Frequency Waves" was awarded to Carson on March 27, 1923 and assigned to AT&T.

The U.S. Navy experimented with SSB over its radio circuits prior to World War I. SSB first entered commercial service in January 7, 1927 on the long-wave transatlantic public radiotelephone circuit between New York and London. The high power SSB transmitters were located at Rocky Point, New York and Rugby, England. The receivers were in very quiet locations in Houlton, Maine and Cupar, Scotland.

SSB was also used over long-distance telephone lines, as part of a technique known as frequency-division multiplexing. (FDM) was pioneered by telephone companies in the 1930s. This enabled many voice channels to be sent down a single physical circuit. The use of SSB meant that the channels could be spaced (usually) just 4,000 Hz apart, while offering a speech bandwidth of nominally 300 – 3,400 Hz.

Amateur radio operators began to seriously experiment with SSB after World War II. It has become a de facto standard for long-distance voice radio transmissions since then.

Source provided by Dave KG6TCJ

One of the more popular early sideband rigs, among those who could afford, it was the Collins KWM-2. It ran a pair of 6146s in the final.

Introduction	Date	Price:
KWM-2	-- 1959	/ \$1150
KWM-2A	-- 1961	/ \$1250;
(Price \$3533.00 in 1977)		
PLATE INPUT POWER:		
175 watts PEP on SSB; 160 watts on CW.		
OUTPUT POWER (50 ohm load):		
100 watts PEP (3.4-15 MHz); 90 watts PEP (15-25 MHz); 80 watts PEP (25-30 MHz).		

Here're some pics of the clubhouse taken in December after most of the reconstruction had been done.



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. 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 there.

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 Matej KI6IMV 381-0585 Treasurer: Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864 Additional Board Members: Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887 John Boyd KE6ORI 924-4419 Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Horst Dannecker KA6BHZ 459-6163 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 Elisabeth Matej KG6IMV 381-0585</p>	<p>Education Chair: Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170 kermode7@hotmail.com Membership: Dave and Phil VE Liaison: 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 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 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>
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