

# QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

March 2008

Greetings from the desk of the President,

In case you haven't heard, I accepted a second term in office. I hope we can accomplish a little more work on the club house as well as have a stellar showing on Field Day this year. Our public service calendar is filling up nicely. I encourage everyone to volunteer if you have the time. I participated in a couple of events last spring, and the "people watching" factor was at least a 9.5 if not a ten. Some very worthwhile charities raise money through these events, especially at the Human Race. I am not able to serve as net control for the Relay this year because of a scheduling conflict with the SS O'Brien.

It seems we have lost track of Al Weisman. He had been at Mt Zion in SF. If anyone knows where he is please let me or Doug Slusher know. I haven't been checking in to the Sunday morning net because my 2 meter radio is still in my pickup which is staying in Corte Madera these days.

Thanks to everyone who cleaned up the club house prior to the Super Tuesday primary election. See you all in a week at the March 7th meeting. Bring your ideas for the coming year's activities and meeting presentations. This is your club and unless you tell the board of directors what you'd like to see happen or express yourself at membership meetings, we aren't going to hear you. 73/88 to all, Denice.

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)

**Here's 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 smaller 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](mailto:ka6bqf@arrl.net)  
Secretary & Public Service  
Coordinator 510-526-4089

**This is the last issue for all 2007 members. Those who have renewed will continue to get QSA-5 as a PDF file. The current issues will be posted to the website after two months.**

POBox 6423  
San Rafael, 94903-0423

## Board of Directors Meeting, 2 February

The meeting was called to order at 20:20 hrs by president Denice Stoops. Present were Board Members Denice Stoops, Dave Hodgson, Phil Dunlap, Rich Carbine, Elisabeth Thomas-Matej, Doug Slusher, Horst Dannecker, and Augie Koehler. Also present were Madelaine Matej, Peter Cooke, Eric Rosenquist, Hank Blake, Texx Woodworth, and Rita Brenden. This meeting was held in lieu of the normally scheduled February 14 Valentine's Day Board meeting.

The agenda was accepted as amended to add the election of 2008 officers. The minutes of the January Board of Directors meeting were approved as e-mailed.

**Communications** consisted of a letter from the Dipsea Race Committee.

**Treasurer** Hodgson submitted his report for January which was approved. There was a discussion about rent for the apartment upstairs.

**Committee reports** were the same as those presented at the general membership meeting immediately prior to the Board meeting. See page two for the general meeting minutes.

### Old Business:

There was a discussion about fund raising.

Elisabeth had a question about dues. A letter has been sent out requesting donations.

There was another discussion about the status of the potential prescriptive easement problem at the rear of the property. Doug Slusher will obtain a sign that we can post on the rear fence.

### New Business:

Election of Officers: Denice Stoops was re-elected as President, Randy Jenkins was elected as Vice President, Elisabeth Thomas-Matej was elected as Secretary, Dave Hodgson was reelected as Treasurer.

The Board of Directors determined that the second Thursday of each month would continue to be a scheduled Board of Directors meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:40 hours.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary

**General Membership Meeting  
Friday, February 01, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 19:35 hours by President Denice Stoops. 18 members or guests signed in. The meeting agenda was accepted as submitted.

A new member, Dan Hobbble, NI6B, was introduced.

The minutes of the November 02, 2007 general membership meeting were approved as submitted.

**Correspondence:** A letter was received from the Dipsea.

**President's report:** Denice Stoops reported that ballots were counted after the January Board of Directors meeting; the 75th anniversary of the club was discussed; the clubhouse will be used as a polling place on Tuesday, February 5; painting had started on the newly refinished office; the purchase of two new covers for the comm truck awning was approved.

**Treasurer's report:** Dave Hodgson reported January income of \$4410.00 and \$2860.28 in expenses.

**Committee reports:**

**Recreation Committee** - no report.

**Public Service Committee** - Randy Jenkins reported on The Relay on April 19. Volunteers are being recruited by Gary Sello. Also coming up are the Miwok 100 on May 3 and the Human Race on May 10.

**Technical Committee** - Doug Slusher reported no problems with the system. We are still waiting to see if any of our repeaters are on the second list of repeaters that interfere with PAVE PAWS in Marysville.

**Comm Truck Committee** - Dave Hodgson reported that two covers for the awning would be ordered at a price of \$70 each.

**Education Committee** - Dave Hodgson reported that we are getting some interest in a Technician class from the Marin Auxiliary Medical Corps.

**VE Liaison** - A VE session has been scheduled for Saturday, March 15.

**Field Day** - We still have no chairman for Field Day. The Marin Rod and Gun Club space has been reserved. Rich Carbine will be the liaison between MARS and RedEx.

**Membership Committee** - Phil Dunlap reported that membership renewals were trickling in; 40 to 50 renewals had been received.

**Building Managers** - Rich Carbine reported that we had been through several heavy rains, and there were no leaks apparent in the new work.

Column two.

**General Meeting, cont.**

The door for the handicapped bathroom should be delivered on Monday. We need a second coat of paint in the office. We received a donation of cabinets, which we have decided will be used in the workshop in the back room rather than in the kitchen.

**Old Business:**

**Election** - Elisabeth Thomas-Matej, Horst Dannecker, John Boyd, and Randy Jenkins were elected to the Board of Directors.

We still need to organize a painting party, and need to make some repairs to the walls around the electrical outlets.

**Fundraising** - We now have a thermometer (graph) that shows fund raising to date.

**Al Weisman** - Al is now at UCSF/Mt. Zion Hospital. He would appreciate phone calls in the afternoon.

**New business:**

Ideas for the 75th anniversary of the club were discussed. A T-shirt that could also be a fundraiser for the club was discussed; operating a special event station was suggested; and holding an open house at the clubhouse was also discussed. President Stoops suggested that we needed a committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:05 hours.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary

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

Can you name this actress, the 1964 movie she was in and the character she played? Shown at the Rafael theater in that year.



Don't know or can't remember? Ask any member of the elderfahrten or the editor for the answer.

**You are a Redneck Ham Operator if...**

1. One leg of your dipole is tied to the out-house. Your ground rod is in the pit.
2. Needle nose pliers are needed to turn your mobile transceiver on and off.
3. You paid more for your mobile antenna than you did for your wife's wedding ring.
4. You paused for ID every ten minutes while on your honeymoon.
5. Your spouse says, "Honey, do you love me?" And your response is ROGER ROGER ROGER!
6. Your trailer home is an integral part of your antenna.
7. You paid more for your mobile rig than the pickup it's mounted in.
8. Your home station power supply consists of jumper cables hanging out the window of your shack attached to the battery of your pickup.
9. Your HF rig is the latest ICOM or YAESU and your desk mike came from Radio Shack.
10. Your idea of RF is REAL FINE audio.
11. Your homebrew amplifier resembles a moonshine still in Alabama.
12. Your TV antenna and 10 meter beam are one and the same.
13. You own a linear amplifier but not a lawn mower.

Contributed by Dave KG6TCJ, as near as we can remember.

**Graph Paper**

Need some graph paper for a small project, inch or centimeter? **Don't buy it.** Print it from this free site:

<http://incompetech.com/graphpaper/>

Choose lines/inch or lines/cm. A few colors, too.

For some funny stuff.

[www.snopes.com/humor/humor.asp](http://www.snopes.com/humor/humor.asp)

**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

A man robs a bank and takes hostages. He asks the first hostage, "Did you see me rob the bank?"

The hostage answers, "Yes." The robber promptly shoots him in the head. Then he asks the second hostage if he saw him rob the bank. The hostage answers, "No, but my wife did."

**The Wayback Machine #26**  
**By William Continelli, W2XOY**

What was the post-war world of amateur radio like? Let's take a look at our hobby as it existed in the late 1940's. In November 1945, amateurs were allowed back on the air on the 10 meter, 5 meter, and the new 2 meter band. The 5 meter band from 56-60 mc was temporary--by March 1946 we were moved in the great post war frequency shuffle to our new 6 meter home from 50-54 mc. As for the new 2 meter band, it replaced our old 2 1/2 meter allocation which ran from 112-116 mc. Throughout 1946, the military gradually vacated the 80, 75, 40, and 20 meter bands, turning them back over to amateur operations. We lost a few frequencies--the 160 meter band was staying in the hands of the military for LORAN Radionavigation, and we lost the top 300 kc of 10 meters, from 29.7 to 30 mc. To compensate us for this loss, the FCC, in 1946, gave hams an allocation at 27 mc to be shared on a secondary basis with industrial, scientific and medical devices. Dubbed the "11 meter band", it was unique as the only HF allocation where A0 and A2 emissions were allowed. The amateur population was pushing 60,000, and the FCC was running out of "W" call signs in the 9 call areas.       Column 2.

So, the FCC created the 10th call district in 1946, and redrew the district boundaries. The license structure was the same as before the war. Class A hams had all amateur privileges, including exclusive use of the 75 and 20 meter phone bands. Class B had all cw privileges, and phone operation on 10 meters and above. Note that at the time, 40 meters was cw only, and 15 meters didn't exist yet. Class C had the same frequencies as Class B, but it was a mail order license for those in remote areas.

The only change the FCC made to the license structure in the 1940's was to allow applicants to copy the code either by printing, or by longhand. Prior to the war, the code test had to be copied in longhand only. Most hams used cw or AM phone, but there were 2 new modes on the horizon. Narrow band fm enjoyed a brief surge in popularity. QST had several articles on VHF and even HF fm operation. Phase modulation, a variation on fm, made its first appearance in 1947. But the big news was something called "SSSC", or Single Sideband Suppressed Carrier". SSB, as it would eventually be called, appeared on the ham bands late in 1947. Throughout 1948, QST was full of articles on this new mode. And, how do you get your fm or SSB signal to the antenna?? Try an item developed during the war--coaxial cable. And, with coax, came a new concern over reflected power. Thus, the first SWR meters were described in QST. So, what rig do you want to use on the air? How about war surplus? Starting in late 1946, the pages of QST and CQ were filled with ads for military surplus equipment. Numerous articles showed how to modify these rigs for amateur use. The most popular war surplus receiver was the BC-342, which was built like a battleship, and tuned from 1.5 to 18 mc. I operated one in my Novice days. Maybe you want a new rig. Try the Hallicrafters Model S-40, the Hammarlund HQ-129X (which was another receiver I owned), the National NC-46, or the Collins 75A. But, the "Packard" of the post war radios had to be the Hallicrafters SX-42 receiver. This "radio man's radio" had every possible feature, tuned from 540 kc to 110 mc, and cost \$250 in 1946 dollars. That's about \$1700 today. Perhaps you would like to build your own rig. GE, Sylvania and RCA had pages of ads showing off their new miniature and sub-miniature tubes. The "sub-minis" were only 1 1/2 inches tall and 3/8 of an inch wide. Col. 3.

For those who think the 2 meter HT was an invention of the 70's, it may surprise you to learn that they existed in 1947, using those tiny tubes. But be careful when you get on the air. A new term is finding its way into the amateur world--TVI. In 1947, the FCC eliminated TV Channel 1 to reduce 6 meter interference, but amateurs had to learn to shield their equipment. With the help of good engineering practices, the TVI monster was kept at bay--sort of. The Atlantic City Conference was held in 1947. Hams gained a 15 meter band, which was finally allocated to us in 1952. Amateurs proved their worth as two disasters, one natural and one man made, struck Texas in April 1947. Tornados sliced through the State, killing 150. And, in Texas City, an explosion on board a freighter set off a chain reaction that killed 600, wounded 2000, and destroyed two square miles of the city. Dozens of portable and mobile stations rushed to the scene and provided necessary communications on 75 and 10 meters. Also on a somber note, Kenneth B. Warner, W1EH, the Secretary and General Manager of the ARRL since 1919, died in 1948. By the way, do you need a job? Are you bored with your life? Do you crave adventure? Then Hallicrafters has a job for you!! In the fall of 1947, they are sponsoring a 6 month expedition to the Dark Continent--Africa--the Belgian Congo to be exact. They need an experienced Class A amateur to operate the radio equipment. If you feel you are qualified, send them your application by July 1, 1947. Finally, what's an "amplifying crystal"? You don't know?? Well, maybe you know it better by its other name--the transistor. This new device was first described in the October 1948 issue of QST. No one at that time realized the full potential of this little component, or knew how it would revolutionize the world of communications.

In our next installment, we will take a look at the 1950's-- 1958 to be exact. by Bill Continelli, W2XOY These columns were originally written for the Schenectady Museum Amateur Radio Association. Copyright 1999, 2001 by William Continelli, W2XOY. All rights reserved.

**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><b>Marin Amateur Radio Society</b>  <b>President:</b>                  Denice Stoops KI6BBR 672-0303  <b>Vice President:</b>                  Randy Jenkins KA6BQF                  510-526-4089  <b>Secretary:</b>                  Elisabeth T-M KI6IMV 381-0585  <b>Treasurer:</b>                  Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864  <b>Additional Board Members:</b>                  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 Thomas-Matej                  KG6IMV 381-0585</p>	<p><b>Education Chair:</b>                  Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170                  kermode7@hotmail.com  <b>Membership:</b> Dave and Phil  <b>VE Liaison:</b>  <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> Ben's been doing both.  <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                  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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**Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.**  
**P. O. Box 6423**  
**San Rafael, CA 94903**

Stamp

The Mailing  
 Address  
 Goes Here

## Why 50 Ohms ?

We usually use transmission lines and devices with 50 Ohms characteristic impedance. Why this value ?

**Yves Oesh HB9DTX** has the following explanation :

- one can show that attenuation in a coaxial transmission line is minimal for an external conductor / internal conductor diameter ratio equal to 3.59. This ratio gives a characteristic impedance of about 77 Ohms.

- one can show that the diameter ratio that allows to transmit maximal power through a coaxial line without cracking is 1.65. This ratio gives a characteristic impedance of about 30 Ohms

That's why industry chose a middle value of 50 Ohms, which is a compromise between minimal loss and maximal transmitted power.

We also understand why TV installation use 75 Ohms impedance : this is impedance that allows minimal loss. And because TV doesn't use (on the receiver side) high amount of power, impedance has been chosen to minimize loss.

A biker is riding by the zoo, when he sees a little girl leaning into the lion's cage. Suddenly, the lion grabs her by the cuff of her jacket and tries to pull her inside to slaughter her, under the eyes of her screaming parents. The biker jumps off his bike, runs to the cage and hits the lion square on the nose with a powerful punch. Whimpering from the pain the lion jumps back, letting go of the girl. The biker brings her to her terrified parents, who **thank him endlessly**. (We had to delete that last part or we'd never finish the story.)

A reporter has seen the whole scene, and addressing the biker, says - "Sir, this was the most gallant and brave thing I saw a man do in my whole life."

"It was nothing, really, the lion was behind bars. I just saw this little kid in danger, and SOMEBODY had to save her."

"Well, I'll make sure this won't go unnoticed. I'm a journalist, you know", the reporter said, "and tomorrow's papers will have this on the first page. What motorcycle do you drive?"

"A Harley Davidson chopper."

The journalist leaves.

The following morning the biker buys the paper to see if it indeed brings news of his actions, and reads, on first page:

**BIKER GANG MEMBER ASSAULTS AFRICAN IMMIGRANT AND STEALS HIS LUNCH.**

### THINGS THAT ARE DIFFICULT TO SAY WHEN DRUNK:

1. Innovative
2. Preliminary
3. Proliferation
4. Cinnamon

### THINGS THAT ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO SAY WHEN DRUNK:

1. Specificity
2. Anti-constitutionally
3. Passive-aggressive disorder
4. Transubstantiate

### THINGS THAT ARE DOWNRIGHT IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY WHEN DRUNK:

1. No thanks, I'm married.
2. Nope, no more booze for me!
3. Sorry, but you're not really my type.
4. Taco Bell? No thanks, I'm not hungry.
5. Good evening, officer. Isn't it lovely out tonight?
6. Oh, I couldn't! No one wants to hear me sing karaoke.
7. I'm not interested in fighting you.
8. Thank you, but I won't make any attempt to dance, I have no coordination. I'd hate to look like a fool!
9. Where is the nearest bathroom? I refuse to pee in this parking lot or on the side of the road.
10. I must be going home now, as I have to work in the morning.