

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

May 2008

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Greetings from the desk of the Pres.

A couple days ago, on Saturday April 26th, Radio Amateurs all over the world were honoring the birthday of Guglielmo Marconi with an event that has come to be known as International Marconi Day, or IMD for short. I participated from the receive site of KPH in Pt. Reyes by transmitting Morse using our vanity call, K6KPH. IMD is a contest of sorts, and logs are submitted to the Cornwall club in England to be scored. For the past couple of years KSM/KPH has participated by transmitting one of the bulletins that must be copied for points and we did it again this year. I am not a tester myself but, in the spirit of celebrating Marconi's birthday, I planned to operate this year. I have to admit that, aside from exchanging pleasantries and short messages to and from KSM a couple of Saturdays each month, I haven't done much operating lately so I welcomed the opportunity to practice. Just when I had cleared my desk of pending QSLs, another event came along. It is a bit late to invite you to join us this year, but keep in mind that this event is open to the public and we welcome guest operators to participate.

Our next membership meeting at the clubhouse is May 2nd. Hope to see you there. It's time to think about finishing off the kitchen. If you have any suggestions or see a sale on cabinets, email a board member.

The club's 75th anniversary picnic needs a chairman.

Field Day is two months away and, if you have never participated in that event, I encourage you to join us at the Marin Rod & Gun club and join in the fun. I don't know how many people are still needed for set up on Friday June 27, but I hope to be there as close to the end of the work day as I can manage. Watching the military surplus 40+ foot towers go up is awesome. One of our 3A stations still needs a coordinator, so please contact the co-chairs of the event, myself or Dave Hodgson, if you want to participate. There will be a BBQ dinner on Saturday evening and I will be providing dessert. Hope to see you there!

73 es 88 Denice.

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

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

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

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
Vice Pres. & Public Service
Coordinator 510-526-4089

Don't miss the Wayback Machine on page three. There's some interesting info on the Titanic sinking we didn't get from the movie.

P.O.Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Board of Directors Meeting 10 April

In attendance: Directors Horst Dannecker, Rich Carbine, Phil Dunlap, Denice Stoops, Randy Jenkins, Dave Hodgson, and John Boyd; Trustees Augie Koehler and Doug Slusher.

The meeting was called to order at 19:35 hours by President Denice Stoops.

The Agenda was approved as amended. The minutes of the March 13 BOD meeting were approved as e-mailed.

Treasurer Hodgson gave his report. March income was \$2,441.50, expenses were \$1,807.51, and the account balance was \$11,081.11 The annual insurance bill of \$4566.00 was approved for payment ; Boyd/Jenkins/ Pass.

Committees:

Membership - Dunlap reported that we had a couple of new members

Public Service - Jenkins reported on the upcoming Relay, 4/19; Miwok 100K, 5/03: and Human Race, 5/10.

Technical -. Need to check (replace?) 146.70 repeater antenna, using a bonded climber.

Comm Truck - Boyd reported that he had a lead on a remote cable for the Kenwood VHF radio for the truck.

VE - Testing dates are 7/12 and 11/15.

RACES - Meeting on 4/26 9 - 11 AM

Building Manager -Stoops reported that the correct procedure for repairs was e-mailed to the tenant. Carbine reported that he would be doing some additional electrical work soon, with additional expenditures.

Old Business:

Fundraising - We have a possible donor.

Easement sign - Still on order, may have to re-order.

75th Anniversary - Scheduled for 9/14. Still need a chairman.

Christmas Party Venue - Deer Park Villa on 12/07 selected by motion; Boyd/Slusher/ Pass

July Meeting - General meeting canceled.

Field Day - Dunlap reported that the generator starter had been repaired.

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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

Health Benefits Of Being Overweight

A new report suggests that being overweight is not as harmful as is commonly believed, and actually confers some surprising benefits.

Being five to ten pounds overweight could protect people from ailments ranging from tuberculosis to Alzheimer's disease, research indicates. Those carrying 15 to 25 extra pounds are better able to recover from adverse conditions such as emphysema, pneumonia, and various injuries and infections, states the report.

Thirty to forty pounds of flab could help fend off breast, kidney, pancreatic, prostate, and colon cancer. And an extra fifty pounds on the scale may improve eyesight, reverse baldness, cure the common cold, and reduce global warming.

In general, the report concludes, overweight people are happier, more successful in business, smarter, and friendlier.

The study was funded by a research grant from McDonald's, Burger King, Jack in the Box, Taco Bell, Domino's Pizza, Starbucks, Haagen Dazs, Sara Lee, and Krispy Kreme.

Three women: one engaged, one married, and one a mistress, are chatting about their relationships and decided to amaze their men. That night all three will wear black leather bras, stiletto heels and a mask over their eyes.

After a few days they meet up for lunch. The engaged woman: “The other night when my boyfriend came over he found me with a black leather bodice, tall stilettos and a mask. He saw me and said, "You are the woman of my life. I love you." Then we made love all night long.”

The mistress: “Me too! The other night I met my lover at his office and I was wearing the leather bodice, heels, mask over my eyes and a raincoat. When I opened the raincoat he didn't say a word, but we had wild sex all night.”

The married woman: “I sent the kids to stay at my mother's house for the night. When my husband came home, I was wearing the leather bodice, black stockings, stilettos, and a mask over my eyes.

As soon as he came in the door and saw me he said, "What's for dinner, Batman?"

General Meeting 4 April

Call to order: 19:30.
 Agenda passed w/o objection.
 New members: Walt Westfall W2CLV.
 Guests: Tyler Daniels (ham, Boy Scout) and his mom, Debbie Utter, Girl Scout Troop leader.

Minutes approved, approved w/o objection.
 No communications.

Actions of March 13, 2008 Board meeting: We confirmed that we have a budget, confirmed other items covered in general meeting, memorial for Al Weisman is up in the air because of the unexpected death of his wife, who would have been the executor.

September 14 will be the party/BBQ here at the clubhouse to celebrate our 75th anniversary.

Treasurer's report: March income 2,441.50, March expenses \$1,807.51.

Committee reports

Recreation committee: Picnic to be held at the clubhouse in September.

Education: Three candidates and six VEs showed up March 15. Two candidates passed. Jul 12 and Nov. 15 are the next VE dates.

Field Day: Met with member of RDXA and worked out details. Rich says donations would be helpful, as would volunteers to help set up on Friday night, June 27 (two 50-foot towers).

Membership committee: Have a little over 100 members.

Old business:

Christmas Party: Rich UDS has a tentative date of Dec. 7th at Deer Park Villa, and we need to decide ASAP—cost around \$38.00 a person, and it's the only Sunday in December we can get. Dave TCJ was going to check out the Spinnaker in Sausalito. (Turned out to be too expensive. ed.)

New business:

Need to change date of July general membership meeting, which falls on July 4th holiday.

April 18th is World Amateur Radio Day. IRU (International Radio Union) says that all new hams should try a new mode of transmission on that day!

Meeting turned over to Bill Ragsdale, K6KM, to speak about Boy Scouts and ham radio.

Elisabeth Thomas-Matej, Secretary

Board Meeting, cont.

Website – Hodgson reported that the website had been updated.

New Business:

Field Day – John Boyd submitted prices for tee shirts. Food was discussed. The station will operate 3A and will use W6SG callsign. Publicity was discussed.

Repeater Access – Slusher reported that the appropriate commands had been distributed to the appropriate RACES officers.

PO Box Key – Dunlap reported that a replacement key was obtained for \$1.00.

PS Event Support – Jenkins reported on a request for radio equipped sweeps for the Peak Hike on September 21. We will ask for volunteers but cannot guarantee that coverage.

Meeting Format – This topic was discussed at length. We will try to truncate committee reports at the General Membership Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:52.

Respectfully submitted

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Vice –president
 ka6bqf@arrl.net

Vice President, VE Liason & Public Service Coordinator

Marin Amateur Radio Society

510 526.4089

www.w6sg.net

Dog For Sale. Free to good home. Excellent guard dog. Owner cannot afford to feed him anymore, as there are no more thieves, murderers, or molesters left in the neighborhood for him to eat. Most of them knew him, for a very brief period, as “Holy S__t!”

THE WAYBACK MACHINE -- ISSUE #2
 by Bill Continelli, W2XOY
 reprinted with permission

Monday, April 15, 1912, 12:30 AM. "The Wayback Machine" is over the North Atlantic, at 41 degrees 46' North, and 50 degrees 14' West. Down below is a majestic ship, the largest and most luxurious ship in the world, on its maiden voyage. In the wireless room is a 5 kW Marconi station, and before it sit two tired operators, who make \$20 per month, not as employees of the shipping line, but rather as employees of the Marconi Company. The "in" basket is still full of messages, everything from personal telegrams to stock market quotations. They are so busy working Cape Race, Newfoundland, that they didn't even notice the slight grinding jar 30 minutes earlier. As the two wireless operators, Jack Phillips and Harold Bride, passed the routine traffic, the Captain came in, said the ship had struck an iceberg, and told them to send a distress call at once. The blue spark jumped across the gap as Phillips sent "CQD" (come quick danger). "Send SOS." Bride said, "It's the new call and it may be your last chance to send it".

Thus began the moment in history that changed radio. Two hours later, Jack Phillips and over 1500 others were dead, the "Titanic" lay at the bottom of the ocean, and 713 survivors huddled in half filled lifeboats waiting to be rescued. The tragic errors in the story of the "Titanic" pointed out the need for wireless regulation.

The first ship to answer the distress call was the German Liner, the "Frankfurt". While the "Frankfurt" wireless operator was informing his captain, the "Carpathia" and Cape Race chimed in. When the "Frankfurt" operator came back to get more information, Phillips tapped back "SHUT UP, SHUT UP, YOU FOOL. STAND BY AND KEEP OUT". While this would seem bizarre by our standards, it made perfect sense to the operators of 1912. The "Titanic", "Carpathia", and Cape Race were equipped with Marconi operators and stations, while the "Frankfurt" utilized the services of Marconi's German competitor, Telefunken. This commercial war was extended down to the individual operators. No routine traffic would EVER pass from a Marconi station to a rival, and, even in an emergency, if Marconi stations were available, the others would be shut out.

Column two.

The wireless controversy would continue after the "Carpathia" picked up the survivors. A wireless message was received, allegedly from the "Carpathia", which said "ALL PASSENGERS OF LINER "TITANIC" SAFELY TRANSFERRED TO THIS SHIP AND "S.S. PARISIAN". SEA CALM. "TITANIC" BEING TOWED BY ALLEN LINER "VIRGINIAN" TO PORT".

Other wireless messages appeared, also stating that ALL passengers were safe, and the ship was being towed in. There was just one problem--these messages were not coming from the "Carpathia". For one thing, her wireless had a maximum range of 150 miles. For another, the "Carpathia" wireless operator had made only a few transmissions to the "Olympic" (sister ship of the "Titanic" and another Marconi operation), in which he tapped out the list of survivors, some coded messages from Bruce Ismay, President of White Star Lines, then shut down his station. So complete was the radio silence from the "Carpathia", that they refused to answer the calls from Navy cruisers sent to the scene by President Taft.

The White Star Line, owners of the "Titanic", were still insisting that everyone was safe and the ship had not sunk. But even as they made these claims, they had all the horrific details from the "Olympic". And so would the rest of the world, thanks to a 21 year old operator named David Sarnoff, who managed to detect the faint signals of the "Olympic", and broke the story. Faced with the truth, and hounded by thousands of reporters and outraged relatives of passengers, the White Star Liner officials finally broke down and revealed all. Meanwhile, the "Carpathia" steamed towards New York City. When she passed within range of shore stations, there were "frenzied attempts by amateur wireless operators which formed a hissing mixture from which scarcely a complete sentence was intelligible". It didn't matter, because the radio silence continued.

At the Port of New York, the "Carpathia" was met by Senator William A. Smith of Michigan, a no-nonsense Populist who was the Chairman of the committee investigating the shipwreck. He immediately slapped subpoenas on everyone possible, including Harold Bride and Harold Cottam, wireless operator on the "Carpathia". Marconi himself, who was in the U.S. at the time, (and had planned on taking

Column three.

the "Titanic" back to England), was also summoned to appear. The hearings revealed the information given above, plus the disturbing fact that the "Californian" was just 10 miles from the "Titanic". Not only did the "Californian" not have a full time wireless operation, but the ship's captain ignored the eight distress rockets sent up by the "Titanic". As to the origin of the false messages concerning the saving of the ship and passengers, no answer was ever found. However, Senator Smith sarcastically noted that, in the interim, the "Titanic" was quickly reinsured, and stock in the Marconi Company jumped from \$55 to \$225 per share. The Senator DID find out the cause of the "Carpathia" radio silence--it was Marconi himself. He had sent wireless messages to Bride and Cottam stating "MARCONI COMPANY TAKING GOOD CARE OF YOU-KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT-HOLD YOUR STORY-YOU WILL GET BIG MONEY-NOW CLEAR". It turned out that Marconi had an agreement with the New York Times for an exclusive story. Thus, essential information for desperate relatives and official inquiries from the President took a back seat to Marconi's interest.

When Marconi got on the stand, Senator Smith pounced on him with astonishing vehemence. Marconi had been lionized by the nation, and now the Senator was treating him like any other entrepreneur who put profit above the public. Senator Smith was warned that his attack on a man as popular as Marconi was political suicide, but he didn't care. In his obsession with his belief that the unregulated wireless spectrum was partly to blame in the "Titanic" disaster, he painted Marconi as a man willing to subordinate the public good to his goal of a complete wireless equipment AND spectrum monopoly. Senator Smith used the "Titanic" hearings to condemn the laissez-faire status of the wireless, and appeal

On May 18, 1912, Senator Smith introduced a bill in the Senate. Among its provisions: 1) ships carrying 50 passengers or more must have a wireless set with a minimum range of 100 miles; 2) wireless sets must have an auxiliary power supply which can operate until the wireless room itself was under water or otherwise destroyed; and 3) two or more operators provide continuous service day and night. In response to the interference generated over the years, and especially **Page four, column 1.**

From page three, column three.

since "Carpathia" was within range, a provision was added that "private stations could not use wavelengths in excess of 200 meters, except by special permission". To avoid "ownership" of the spectrum by the Marconi Company, licenses would be required, issued by the Secretary of Commerce. Each Government, Marine, or Commercial station would be authorized a specific wavelength, power level, and hours of operation.

The initial legislation had considered the elimination of all private, non-commercial (i.e., amateur) stations, but Congress realized that would be difficult and expensive to enforce. Therefore, since it was a "well known fact" that long wavelengths were the best, and anything below 250 meters was useless, except for local communication, it was decided to compromise and give the amateurs 200 meters, where they could work 25 miles maximum and would die out of their own accord in a few years. How the amateurs coped with 200 meters will be our focus next time. Hope you'll join us then for another trip on "The Way-back Machine."

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My sister and I were at the mall and passed by a store that sold a variety of candy and nuts.

As we were looking at the display case, the boy behind the counter asked if we needed any help. I replied, "No, I'm just looking at your nuts." My sister started to laugh hysterically. The boy grinned, and I turned beet-red and walked away. To this day, my sister has never let me forget.

Can anyone identify this object, shown about ¼ actual size? It was found near the East Bay Terminal in SF.



We welcome stuff sent in by members to possibly be used as filler for blank column space. Here's some sent in by Dave TCJ:

Dear Fellow Hams,

I would like to extend an invitation to one of the oldest and continuous running hamfests in the world, Glacier-Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest on 18-20 July 2008.

We are located between West Glacier and East Glacier on highway 2. We are just south of one the most beautiful national parks in America, "Glacier National Park".

Please go to our website at www.gwhamfest.org for further information. Camping is available on-site, but there are limited campsites with full hook-ups. Please visit:

<http://www.glaciermeadowrvpark.com/> for more information and to make reservations.

Download a Hamfest registration Application from: <http://www.gwhamfest.org/docs/2008registrationform.pdf>

Campsite registration application from: <http://www.gwhamfest.org/docs/2008campground.pdf>

Please share this with your fellow hams and clubs and we hope to see you there.

73,
Ken Hanks, W7GMC
Glacier Waterton Hamfest.

The hamfest site is in northern Montana about forty miles below the British Columbia line in case you plan on vacationing up that way this year.

A bit of local history from the 40s. This was the front of a folder, here reduced in size, which holds a photo shot at the Rose Bowl. No, the editor, being a kid in Seattle at the time, was not there.



WHY I DIDN'T WIN THE CONTEST:

1. I WANTED TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH MY FAMILY.
2. MY SECTION HAS TRICKY LETTERS.
3. NOBODY EVER HEARD OF THE YEAR I WAS FIRST LICENSED.
4. I LOST MY LUCKY HAM RADIO BADGE.
5. THE ICE CREAM MAN KEPT DRIVING BY.
6. ONLY LOST SOULS ARE GOOD AT THIS.
7. MY CALLSIGN MEANS SOMETHING BAD IN JAPANESE.
8. I WASTED ALL MY TESTOSTERONE PILLS ON THE TOUR DE FRANCE.

Check the speed of your internet connection, both down and upload.

<http://www.pcpitstop.com/internet/Bandwidth.asp>

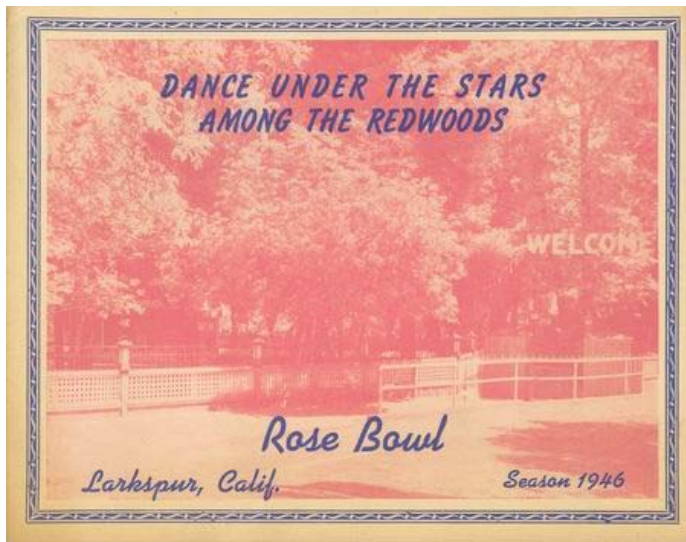
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General Membership Meeting is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse on Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Turn right at the first stop light west off hwy 101 at the Mill Valley/Tiburon exit. Angle right at next 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.

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

Stamp

The Mailing
 Address
 Goes Here

For those unlucky enough to have missed 'Dag's Bag' in the Pacific Sun in the 1970s and 80s, here's one of the weekly strips from November 1976. The original header read, "The Diary of a Freakout" but was toned down to "Running Barefoot Through Your Mind." Nobody at the Sun admits to knowing what happened to the cartoonist, Chas, or even what his full name was. Rumor had it that Dag was removed from the paper because of complaints of political incorrectness from local whiners.

Many of the strips have been preserved in old issues of the Sun in the microfilm drawers of the Marin County Library at the Civic center.



Pacific Sun, Week of November 19-25, 1976