

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

April 2009

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President's Message.

Dave KG6TCJ and I have just completed teaching a Technician license class and we're looking forward to having several students pass the test. We're debating on whether to hold another Technician class this fall or a General upgrade class. We need some input from the membership, determine if there's interest in the General class.

We have VE (volunteer exam) sessions scheduled this year for April 11, July 11, and November 14. If you're interested in upgrading your license, these offer you the opportunity. By the way, our hard-working volunteers could use some company. Please consider getting your Volunteer Examiner credential.

Building update: You may have noticed the excavation at the northeast corner of our lot if you've been down to the clubhouse lately. The county is replacing a storm drain in Shell Road. This drain carries the water off the hill above us, and intersects with another storm drain that runs through the East side of our property. We inherited the responsibility for maintenance of the drain under our East side driveway. Workers from the county have performed a cursory inspection of the pipe under our driveway, and have determined that it is in reasonably good shape. However, we will probably have to do something about it, not too far in the future. As some of you will recall, we replaced the final section of that pipe at the south end of our property a couple years ago.

We have the following public service events coming up: April 25 Ridge to Bridge. May 02 Miwok 100 K. May 02/03 The Relay. May 09 The Human Race. June 14 The Dipsea Race. June 27 Double Dipsea. August 1 Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century. August 15 Holstein 100. We should also have two events scheduled in September, and one event for October. (We have yet to be contacted by the event organizers.) Some of you have already volunteered for an event, thank you. We are also looking at assisting

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Website at W6SG.NET

Phone 415.389.6630

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

Picnic Less Than Six Months Away!

Members and guests, put Saturday, September 26, 2009 on your calendars! MARS annual outdoor, fall celebration will be held in the Redwood Grove Group Picnic Area at Samuel P. Taylor State Park, 15 miles west of San Rafael on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. The Club will provide drinks, hot charcoal, table coverings and utensils. You provide whatever needs grilling and a side dish to share. If conditions have been difficult in your household and food money is scarce, bring something that you like but, with luck, nobody else will so you can take most of it back home. Develop a taste for haggis, a popular dish among the Scottish. (Think oatmeal, sheep liver and lungs and a few other things to help cover the taste, boiled in the **sheep's stomach**.) Well, maybe it's not popular with all Scots. Learn about it here:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haggis>

So that we don't have 50 desserts, we've divided up the side dishes as follows:

Last name begins with:

A to H = Bring appetizers

I to P = Bring salads

Q to Z = Bring desserts

If you intend to bring a haggis, change your last name to one that starts with A to H. This stuff doesn't qualify as a salad and it's definitely not a dessert. For an alternative to haggis, you might bring some lutefisk.

We are limited to 20 cars, so if it is convenient, carpooling would be the way to come.

We'll be posting reminders during the next few months. Be sure to note the date as you will not want to miss this event! If you have any questions, please call Marilyn, N6VAW, at 415.479.3704.

POBox 6423

San Rafael, CA 94903

**Marin Amateur Radio Society
Board Meeting, 12 March 2009.**

President Randy KA6BQF called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. Also present were Directors Baetz, Bagshaw, Carbine, Dunlap, Dannecker, Koehler, Slusher, Hodgson and Smith. The evening's agenda and last month's minutes were approved.

Dave KG6TCJ presented the Treasurer's report and Phil K6PHD said we had picked up a new member who resides in Novato.

Marilyn N6VAW said we have reserved our usual space for our September Picnic at Sam Taylor Park.

Randy announced some future Public Service Events and asked for additional volunteers.

Doug KF6AKU said that recent lightning strikes have knocked out our repeater on Mt. Tam and it would be repaired ASAP. The state of the Tiburon repeater is still in the talking stage with the Water District.

Nothing new with the Comm truck, generator repair still needed.

Tech classes still ongoing in March and a VE exam to follow on 11 April.

Rich W6UDS talked about a clubhouse roof leak.

There was a 5 minute closed Executive session. The board meeting resumed with a discussion on kitchen remodeling and Dave said he would check out costs.

There was a short discussion on Field Day.

Randy said the club is still looking for donations.

Rich is still on the hunt for a Christmas party site.

Doug said there may possibly be serious work done on the storm drain on Shell Rd. down to where it takes a left turn at the front of our lot. Sink holes have been a problem. From there, the drain runs the length of our lot, under concrete, condition unknown. It is not plugged and has handled all the water fed into it w/o overflowing. The county will let us know when digging starts.

The meeting was adjourned at 2043 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

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

Join the Elderfahrten Net on Mondays and Thursdays at 0800 on 3892kc.

General Meeting, 6 March, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President Randy KA6BQF at 1930 hours. There were a total of 22 members and guests in attendance. There was an introduction and all gave a brief background of themselves.

Our guest speaker, Dean Straw N6BV, gave a very informative talk on HF antennas, primarily pertaining to DX.

At 2045 hours after a short break the regular meeting was called to order. After the agenda and 2009 budget were approved the Treasurer's report was given and was also approved. A request by the County for a future use of the clubhouse was also approved. Phil K6PHD said membership renewals were coming in and reminded others to send theirs in. Marilyn N6VAW has reserved a site for our Sept. picnic at Sam Taylor park. Further information about this in future issues.

We still need a Christmas party chairman so help would be very appreciated. Randy gave an update on future Public Service events and the need for volunteers. Anyone wanting to help contact Randy.

Doug Slusher talked about a couple of our repeater sites, one of which was damaged by recent lightning strikes.

Tech classes are continuing on Saturdays and Sundays and a VE test will be held April 11.

Rich W6UDS gave a brief talk on repairs going on in the clubhouse and upstairs apartment. Dave Hodgson, Justin Smith and Rich talked about Field Day which will be held in June at the Marin Rod and Gun Club. More info to follow. The meeting was adjourned at 2115 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

Test session: 9:00 am Saturday,
 April 11, 2009
 (Marin Amateur Radio Society, 27
 Shell Road, Mill Valley, CA)

Test Fee: \$15
 Contact: Randy Jenkins,
 KA6BQF (ka6bqf@arrl.net)
 510 526-4089
 or Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ
 (kg6tcj@comcast.net)
 415 332-1864

Licenses renewed, also, if within ninety days of expiration.

Pres' Msg, cont. from page one.

the Sonoma Club with the Waves to Wine bike ride in September. That two day event starts in San Francisco and finishes in Santa Rosa. We are looking at helping on the first day when the event passes through Marin County.

Dave KG6TCJ and Justin KI6TDT have agreed to serve as co-chairman for Field Day which is the weekend of June 27 and 28. Our site at the Marin Rod and Gun Club has been reserved, and we continue planning our joint operation with Red X. A field day planning meeting is being scheduled.

We still need someone to volunteer as our recreation chair. Marilyn, N6VAW, has volunteered to organize our annual picnic, but we need someone to organize our Christmas party. At our last membership meeting, most of the members present seem to favor having a catered event at the clubhouse. Again, membership input is needed, and we really need someone to step up to help organize that event.

High frequency propagation continues to be interesting. We have had several weeks when zero sunspot activity was recorded. According to the propagation experts, we haven't seen a solar minimum like this in a century. We'll have to see how this iteration of the 11 year solar cycle progresses toward the maximum.

Hope to see you at the club meetings or at some of the Sunday morning get-togethers.

73, Randy Jenkins KA6BQF

The clubhouse furnace fires up at 0800 every Sunday so if you show up, you won't freeze your ass off. Take a chance.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #13
by Bill Continelli, W2XOY
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Mention November 22 to many people in the US, and they will immediately associate it with the date that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. But for amateur radio operators, especially those licensed for more than 30 years, it means something totally different: INCENTIVE LICENSING. In a three-stage process starting on November 22, 1967, and ending on November 22, 1969, the FCC instituted "incentive licensing," ostensibly designed to encourage amateurs to upgrade, but in reality a process under which most amateurs lost up to 50% of the frequencies they usually operated. Incentive licensing (or incentive punishment as some have called it) has been blamed for the demise of many American amateur radio equipment manufacturers such as Hammarlund and Hallicrafters, a temporary decline in the number of licensed hams, and bitter feelings against the ARRL and FCC that last to this day. As we approach the 30th anniversary of incentive Licensing, let's take a look at the events that led up to this controversial decision. In order to do so, we must go back to 1951.

Prior to 1951, a rather simple license structure existed in this country. Amateurs had a Class A, Class B or Class C license. Class A conveyed all amateur privileges on all frequencies, including exclusive access to the 75 and 20 meter phone bands. Class A required passing a comprehensive theory exam, and a 13 WPM CW test, which included sending as well as receiving. Class B conveyed all CW privileges on all bands, and allowed phone operation on 160, 11 and ten meters in the HF spectrum, and on all VHF/UHF frequencies. Note that 75 and 20 phone operation was limited to Class A hams. What about 40 and 15 meters? Well, 40 at that time was CW only. And as for 21 Mc, It wasn't a ham band back then! 15 meters was given to us in 1947 in exchange for the 14.35-14.40 mc segment of 20 meters, but the 15 meter band actually wasn't available to hams until 1952. In addition, 160 meter access was severely restricted at that time because of LORAN Radionavigation and 11 meters was a secondary US only allocation, with limited popularity, so the Class B ham who wanted HF phone action went to ten meters by default. Class B hams passed the same 13 WPM code test as Class A, but a less comprehensive written test.

[The Wayback Machine](#), from page two.

Class C gave the exact same privileges as Class B, but the exam was given by mail, under the supervision of a Class B (or higher) license, to those who couldn't walk the 175 miles (uphill both ways through the snow!) to a quarterly FCC examination point.

In 1951, the FCC reorganized the entire license structure. Class A was replaced by the Advanced, Class B by the General, and Class C by the Conditional. Three new licenses were created at that time, the Extra, Technician and Novice. The Extra (actually "Amateur Extra") had a 20 WPM code requirement and a written exam more difficult than the old Class A. In order to qualify for the Extra, one needed to be licensed as a Class B or General for at least two years, in addition to passing the test. However, if you held a Class B, or General license (or higher), and you were licensed prior to April, 1917, you could get an Extra with no additional test. Technicians had to pass the General theory and a five WPM CW test. They had privileges above 220 Mc only. Novices had a basic 20 question written exam, the five WPM code test, and limited CW privileges on 80, 11 and two meters, as well as voice privileges on two meters. This was a one-year, non-renewable license. The Advanced was available until December 31, 1952, for upgrades/new licenses, at which time it was withdrawn from availability. Those holding Advanced class licenses could continue to renew, but no new licenses were issued. In 1952-53, the FCC also dropped a couple of other surprises -- phone operation was allowed for the first time on 40 meters, 15 meters was finally opened, the 14.35-14.4 Mc segment of 20 meters was removed from the amateur service and, in the biggest bombshell of them all, Generals (former Class B) and Conditionals (former Class C) were given access to all former exclusive Class A phone frequencies. Now, Conditional, General, Advanced and Extra Class operators had the exact on-the-air privileges. During the 1950s, Novices were given 40 and 15 meter CW privileges in addition to their 80 meter segment and 11 meters was removed. Technicians got six meters in 1955 and the 145-147 Mc segment of two meters in 1959. Technicians could also hold a Novice class license simultaneously.

Many amateurs were unhappy with this structure. Extras complained that they had to go through a two year waiting period as a General or Advanced, had to pass a difficult test, and yet received no exclusive frequencies

Column two.

for their efforts. Advanced class amateurs were upset with the "limbo" status of their licenses, the fact that they no longer held the highest class license, and the fact that they no longer had exclusive use of 75 and 20 meter phone. General, Advanced and Extra class amateurs complained that Novices should not have been given 15 meter CW. The General, Advanced and Extra class hams were also opposed to increasing Technician class privileges, for reasons we will see in our next installment.

In summary, although the vast number of hams were satisfied, a small minority had complaints. And the ARRL listened. In 1963, acting on complaints they claim they received from members and operators in other countries, the ARRL proposed "Incentive Licensing." In an editorial, the ARRL implied that perhaps it was a mistake when the Class B and Generals were given the 75 and 20 meter phone segments. The ARRL's stand was now clear. Exclusive frequencies must be restored to the Advanced and Extra class amateurs in order to give the Generals an "incentive" to upgrade. Of course, what was left unsaid was that in order to do so, frequencies would have to be taken away from the General class hams.

What was the ARRL's original proposal? How did hams react to it? What was the controversy about the Technician class license that was dragged to the forefront in this battle? Be on board "The Wayback Machine" next time for the answers!

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[The Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club has decided not to sponsor the Pacificon Convention this year. Pacificon 2009, the annual ARRL Pacific Division Convention, will be held at Emcommwest, on May 1-3, 2009, at the Circus Circus Hotel in Reno, Nevada](#)

<http://www.emcommwest.org/>

The Callbook library at the clubhouse needs back issues from the 1960s and 70s. If you've squirreled away any of these, they would really help round out the series which covers from about 1956 to the present. We'll even take partial, moldy/smelly copies and don't care what may be written in/on them. You will not even be asked to identify individual stains which may be present in or on these relics from the distant past.

Are these on YOUR calendar?

From Bill Hillendahl
ARRL SF Section Mgr.

April 25, 2009, Saturday - The Valley of the Moon ARC will be holding their annual Hamfest and Swap at the Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building, 126 First Street West, Sonoma. This hamfest features a swap meet (one of the few in the area), VE session, Fox Hunt and their famous pancake and egg breakfast. For updated information, please visit their website at

www.vomarc.org

On the same day, Dale Westerterp WB6TMS' Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society will be operating special event station K6P from Petaluma during its Butter & Egg Day Parade (1600 - 2300Z) honoring Petaluma as the egg capital of the world. 7.050, 7.260, 14.260, 146.91. QSL via KE6LPO PO Box 2922 Petaluma CA 94953-2922.

May 1-3, 2009, EmCommWest / Pacificon in Reno, NV. This is THE premier ARRL specialty conference for those interested in emergency communications. Whether a newcomer or seasoned participant, EmCommWest offers something for everyone. This year, they have a special line up of guest speakers and are expanding the program to accommodate the broader interests of Pacificon. For more information and reservation specifics, visit

www.emcommwest.org

September 26, 2009, San Francisco Section Convention at St. Bernards High School in Eureka. Hosted by the Humboldt clubs, the convention will include a banquet dinner as well as a swap and raffle prizes. Check www.humboldt-arc.org for more and up-to-date information.

Have a great Spring! See you at the swaps.

73, Bill KH6GJV

On May 1, 2, and 3, PACIFICON 2009, the Pacific Division Convention, will be held with Emcommwest in Reno, Nevada. The convention will take place at Circus Circus Hotel, with lots to do and see. Our keynote speaker from the ARRL will be Field Organization Supervisor Steve Ewald, WV1X, and on Saturday night our special guest speaker will be Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, formerly of the FCC. This is one evening you don't want to miss, but we are filling up and seating is limited—so hurry and register now! Advance registration is only \$10, but will be \$15 at the door, and ADVANCE REGISTRATION ENDS APRIL 22nd. The vendor hall has been expanded and features a host of great products and services from the latest gear and rigs to antennas, books, badges, jewelry, and much more!

Led by HRO, Icom, and Yaesu, many of your favorite vendors will be there! Our Saturday morning "Reno Ham Swap" is FREE to all sellers (just bring your tables and chairs and you're set). The swap will be in the hotel's parking lot right across the street at 6th and Sierra with setup after 6am and selling begins at 7am. Then at Mid-night Saturday night, don't miss out on the mysterious but always fun, "WOUFF-HONG Ceremony this year! Plus, YOU COULD WIN SOME GREAT PRIZES - like radios, H/Ts, antennas, gear, gift certificates, go-kits and supplies; and lots more in our raffles going on all weekend! Our special event station, N7V, will be operating from the swap site all day, so come operate, visit or make a contact, and collect our special QSL card. All information and registration details can be found on our website at <http://www.emcommwest.org/>.

Questions? email info@emcommwest.org. Come and enjoy a fun-filled weekend in "The Biggest Little City In The World" at EMCOMMWEST / PACIFICON 2009!

ARRL Pacific Division
Director: Robert Vallio, W6RGG
w6rgg@arrl.org

If you're going to Reno, consider a side trip to VC, Virginia City, to check out the

Western Historic Radio Museum
Virginia City, Nevada

radiomuseum@msn.com

Owner Operators:

**Henry Rogers W7HTR
Sharon Rogers KK7EI**

See page 5 for info.



From last month's QSA-5, if you haven't figured out who this actor is, here're a few clues: black leather, motorcycle, Clint Eastwood. If you come up with the right answer, let your editor know at k6phd@arrl.net. We've had one correct response, so far, from Den Regan K6ZJU, CO of Pampanito ARC. NJ6VT

Volunteer vote counters.



Western Historic Radio Museum
Virginia City, Nevada

Owner Operators: Henry Rogers W7HTR
Sharon Rogers KK7EI

MUSEUM HOURS

May thru October - Our hours are normally **10:00AM to 5:00PM** but we do operate on a "by chance" or "by appointment" schedule. We are generally open most days during the summer but, if you are coming to Virginia City just to visit the museum, we suggest that you e-mail in advance for confirmation that we will be open on the day you plan to visit, (please try to be SPECIFIC as to the DATE you want to visit.)

November thru April - We are open during the winter "by chance" or "by appointment." We are usually closed January and February but appointments are always welcome. If you are coming to Virginia City during the winter just to visit the museum, we suggest that you make an appointment, (please be SPECIFIC as to DATE AND TIME you want to visit.) Be aware that weather conditions can change rapidly here and snow storms are common at this time of the year.

E-mail for museum hours confirmation or appointments: **Western Historic Radio Museum**

Location: **Parish House, 109 South F Street, Virginia City, Nevada**

Mailing address: **P.O. Box 73, Virginia City, NV 89440**

email radiomuseum@msn.com

There is an admission charge for the museum: \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children (under 15 years old.)

Driving Directions

From Reno - Drive south on Hwy 395 out of Reno and take Exit 57B to the junction of Hwy 395 and Hwys 341 & 431. Turn left on to Hwy 341 and proceed 12.5 miles to Virginia City. Continue south on Hwy 341 (C Street in Virginia City) and turn left at Taylor Street. The Museum is located on the corner of F Street and Taylor Street, just behind St. Mary's in Mountains Catholic Church.

From Carson City - Drive East out of Carson City on Hwy 50 and turn left on to Hwy 341 just east of Mound House. Proceed about 4 miles on Hwy 341 to the junction of Hwy 341(truck route) and Hwy 342(thru Silver City and Gold Hill.) Large vehicles (RVs, etc.) should take the truck route, otherwise proceed 4 miles on Hwy 342, going through Silver City and Gold Hill to Virginia City. The truck route(Hwy 341) and Hwy 342 merge at the south end of Virginia City. Proceed north on Hwy 341 (C Street in Virginia City) and turn right at Taylor Street. The Museum is located just behind St. Mary's in the Mountains Catholic Church on the corner of F street and Taylor Street.



Everyone with an Internet connection should check out this article on SNOPE.COM from The April Reader's Digest. It could prevent you from being taken in by Internet BS, of which there is much.

<http://www.rd.com/your-america-inspiring-people-and-stories/rumor-detectives-true-story-or-online-hoax/article122216.html>

Info of Little Value: DRILL PRESS

A tall upright machine useful for suddenly snatching flat bar stock out of your hands so that it smacks you in the chest and flings your beer across the room, denting the freshly-painted project which you had carefully set in the corner where nothing could get to it.

QSA 5 April 2009

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 from 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, dismemberment or flooding, 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: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089</p> <p>Vice President: Horst Dannecker KH6BHZ</p> <p>Secretary: Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887</p> <p>Treasurer: Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864</p> <p>Additional Board Members: Marilyn Bagshaw N6VAW 479-3136 John Boyd KE6ORI Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 Justin Smith KI6TDT</p>	<p>Education Chair: Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170 kermode7@hotmail.com</p> <p>Membership: Dave and Phil</p> <p>VE Liaison: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089</p> <p>Bldg. Manager Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136</p> <p>Trustee for W6SG: Augie Koehler KØCQL</p> <p>Trustee for K6GWE: Doug Slusher KF6AKU</p> <p>Sunday Emergency Nets: HF Ben's been doing both. VHF</p>	<p>DX Representative of ARRL: Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</p> <p>WEBMASTER Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET</p> <p>Public Service Event Coordinator Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089</p> <p>ARRL San Francisco Section Mgr. Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG</p> <p>Editor of QSA-5 and Procurer of The Bellywash Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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The Mailing
 Address
 Goes Here