

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

August 2009

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Pres' Msg.

First, I want to thank everyone who has helped out this year on a public service event. It has been a challenging year, and the membership has once again stepped up and met the challenge. As I'm writing this, we are doing the Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century bicycle events on August 1 (tomorrow), and we still have the Holstein 100 on August 15, the Peak Hike on September 27, and the Dolphin Club Triathlon in October.

I also want to thank the members of other clubs who come forward to help out with our events, particularly the Oakland Amateur Radio Association (ORAC) and the East Bay Amateur Radio Club (EBARC). Members of both these organizations have provided critical fill-ins when needed.

On September 26, we are planning to hold our annual club picnic at Samuel P. Taylor State Park. The club will provide charcoal and beverages. Bring your own meat to barbecue and a dish to pass. Thank you to Marilyn N6VAW for organizing this event.

We are planning to hold our Christmas party at the clubhouse this year. Justin Smith AF6NY is chairing this committee. If you're interested in helping out with this, please contact Justin.

We are planning to have the kitchen at the clubhouse finished prior to the Christmas party. As you may have heard, we have applied for a grant for additional money to help complete this project, among others. We also plan to have a general cleanup of the clubhouse prior to the Christmas party.

It isn't too early to begin thinking about elections for the board of directors coming up in November. Several long term members, including myself, will be termed out, and not eligible to run again or serve as officers. Please consider serving on the board and helping the club to steer a straight course.

Column two. >>>

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

Volunteers Needed

Saturday, August 15 The Holstein 100.
7 a.m. to 7 PM 12 to 15 volunteers needed.
500 cyclists over 100 miles of Marin and Sonoma Counties. Morning and afternoon shifts available. This event benefits the West Marin Senior Center. Start/finish is Tomales High School.

As of Thursday, 8/6, we have a speaker for the meeting Friday evening. He's WA6VEX, Dr. Robert Uhrhammer, from the Berkeley Seismo Lab.

Looks like many hams knew he was one, too. From his QRZ record:

KB2GSD
WALTER L CRONKITE, JR
51 W 52 ST STE 1934
NEW YORK, NY 10019
USA

Lookups: 42265

Despite the fact that I will not be your president next year, I intend to remain involved with the club. With the concurrence of the new Board, I would continue as the VE Liaison, and be involved on the education committee.

73,
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF
ka6bqf@arrl.net
510 526.4089

President, VE Liaison & Public Service
Co-Coordinator

POBox 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

MARS Board Meeting, July 9, 2009

President Randy Jenkins opened the meeting at 1930 hours. Other board members present were Horst Dannecker, Dave Hodgson, Norm Baetz, Phil Dunlap, John Boyd, Rich Carbine, Justin Smith, August Koehler and Doug Slusher. Tonight's agenda and minutes of the last board meeting were approved. There was a request from the County of Marin to use our facilities for voting purposes and this was also approved.

Phil K6PHD said we had one new member.

Everything is on track for our summer picnic and the Christmas party. This year's Xmas function will be held at the clubhouse. To cut costs, we will supply our own food, no outside catering. Some members have already volunteered to supply hams and turkeys. The price of tickets is still to be determined but it'll be a lot less than the last few year's prices.

Public service events: Double Century and Holstein still need volunteers. The Tech committee is still looking into the club's repeater on Big Rock. John Boyd is also looking into the possible replacement of the truck's generator.

This coming Saturday the club will be putting on a presentation on "Now that you have your license, what can you do with it".

Rich W6UDS said the upstairs rental's front door needs work. New kitchen cabinets for the clubhouse still to be decided upon. (Our HF antenna is now an inverted vee. ed.)

The Field Day results were excellent, everything went well and all seemed to have a good time. The easement sign is still to be installed and we're still waiting for donations to the club to be processed. The club has decided to keep our P.O. box in Terra Linda.

Rich mentioned that Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV would like to speak at a club meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 2025 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
San Pedro Ridge 147.330 +
 pl 173.8 off-line - reserve status.
Mt. Tamalpais 146.700 -
 pl 179.9 Mt. Tam input
440
San Pedro Ridge
 443.525 + pl 82.5
Mt. Tamalpais
 443.250 + pl 179.9

There Was No General Meeting in July
 due to conflict with the 4 July weekend.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #16
 by **Bill Continelli, W2XOY**
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Larger than usual type font in parts of this and some other issues serves two purposes. It’s little easier to read for a minority of the Elderfahrten but it’s mainly to use up more column space when we run short of stuff to print. You can help! Send something that you think might interest the members. If you have done this in the past and have not seen your stuff show up here, chalk it up to insufficient space at the time or, more likely, short term memory problems with the editor. Take a chance! KC6KIM did and has not been physically attacked, so far. However, he does check out the immediate area carefully when emptying his POBox.

“Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear.”

Repeaters. It seems they are everywhere, and they are. Several thousand amateur repeaters operate on our bands from 29.5 MHZ all the way thru the microwave range. In fact, there are more amateur repeaters in the U.S. & Canada than there are AM Broadcast Stations. How and when did this evolve? Let's take a look at the development of repeaters in the Amateur Community.

If you had to guess when the first repeater came on the air, what would you say? 1970?, 1965?, 1955? Try 1932!!! It was in the early 30'S that the first "Duplex Phone Relay Stations", (as they were then called), came into existence. W1AWW & W1HMO set up a manned relay station in a 90 foot wooden lookout tower near Springfield Mass. They used a superregenerative receiver tuned to 60 MC (the top of the old 5 meter band), and a modulated oscillator transmitter on 56 MC, (the bottom of the band). Stations in Connecticut, Massachusetts or Rhode Island could transmit on 60 MC, and have their signals manually rebroadcast on 56 MC. This relay station, of course, was in operation only when amateurs were on duty at the lookout tower. Fully automatic repeater operation was still over 30 years away.

In the 1950'S and early 60'S, there were a few AM repeaters on the air in California. But for the most part, VHF operations in the 1940'S thru the late 60'S were on AM phone in the simplex mode, with a handful of sideband stations thrown in. Using crystal controlled transmitters with about 10 watts, and single conversion superhets, the typical VHF operator had a range of 10-15 miles, not counting any band openings.

There were a handful of FM stations of course, but the development of FM as a mainstream amateur mode of communication had been pushed aside by sideband. As early as 1940, QST had construction projects for a complete

MARS Sunday morning check-ins are held at **10:00 on 3915kc** for HFers and at **10:15 on the 147.330 repeater** for all members and guests. Those members who are suffering from hangovers, are out of town or have a better thing or two to do on Sunday mornings are excused.

Subject: A Stimulus Story

A Stimulus Story. It is the month of August, on the shores of the Black Sea, it is raining, and the little town looks totally deserted. It is tough times, everybody is in debt, and everybody lives on credit. Suddenly, a rich tourist comes to town. He enters the only hotel, lays a 100 Euro note on the reception counter, and goes to inspect the rooms upstairs in order to pick one. The hotel proprietor takes the 100 Euro note and runs to pay his debt to the butcher. The Butcher takes the 100 Euro note, and runs to pay his debt to the pig grower. The pig grower takes the 100 Euro note, and runs to pay his debt to the supplier of his feed and fuel. The supplier of feed and fuel takes the 100 Euro note and runs to pay his debt to the town's prostitute that in these hard times, gave her services on credit. The hooker runs to the hotel, and pays off her debt with the 100 Euro note to the hotel proprietor to pay for the rooms that she rented when she brought her clients there. The hotel proprietor then lays the 100 Euro note back on the counter so that the rich tourist will not suspect anything. At that moment, the rich tourist comes down after inspecting the rooms, and takes his 100 Euro note, after saying that he did not like any of the rooms, and leaves town. No one earned anything. However, the whole town is now without debt, and looks to the future with a lot of optimism. And that, ladies and gentlemen, is how the United States Government is doing business today.

The clubhouse furnace fires up at 0800 Sundays as required so if you show up, you won't freeze your ass off. Take a chance. Come on down 0800 to 1100 +/- . Ben N6PJZ has the place opened up before 0800.

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

Is This on YOUR calendar?
 From Bill Hillendahl
 ARRL SF Section Mgr.
September 26, 2009, San Francisco Section Convention at St. Bernard's 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.
 See you at the swaps.
 73, Bill KH6GJV

She: There's a dead snake in the back yard.
 He: Must be reptile dysfunction.

Is it true that corndogs at the Marin County Fair were priced at \$4 and have shrunk in size?

112 MC FM station, but FM took a back seat in 1947 when sideband appeared. Now, however, thanks to an FCC edict, it was about to make a comeback.

In 1960, the FCC issued new requirements for the users of VHF commercial frequencies. Over the period from 1960 to 1970, commercial users gradually phased in narrow band (5 KC deviation) equipment to replace the wide band (15 KC) transceivers they had been using. Rather than revamp the older equipment to meet the new standards, they simply purchased new radios. The old units made their way to the surplus market, where they were quickly snapped up by amateurs. Converting this equipment to ham frequencies was relatively easy, and soon hundreds of stations were operating on 52.525 MC and 146.940. Why those frequencies? Well, 52.525 was the lowest 6 meter frequency on which wide band FM was allowed, and 146.94 was chosen to accommodate Technicians who weren't allowed above 147 MC. Thus, these became the first "calling Channels". It wasn't long before some surplus commercial equipment was revamped into repeaters. Unlike the 1932 setup, these were fully automatic devices, with no need for a control operator to be present. This, however, presented problems. Part 97 at that time contained no provision for repeater operation, and it was unclear as to whether it was legal to operate a repeater without a control operator present. Many proposals were presented to the FCC to clarify the rules in regards to repeaters. FM and repeaters received considerable publicity in 1969 when Hurricane Camille caused widespread destruction in the Gulf Coast and Virginia. This was the first time mobile rigs, FM and repeaters were used extensively in an emergency. FM activity increased in late 1969 and early 1970 with the ARRL's announcement that it no longer considered Technicians to be just experimenters, but rather full fledged Communicators. Also adding to the popularity of FM was the introduction of the first commercial rigs for the Amateur market,

Column two.

from manufacturers such as Galaxy, Clegg, and Drake. By 1970, it was clear that coordinated, legal growth of FM and repeaters was necessary.

In early 1970, the FCC proposed its first repeater rules. They were as follows: On 6 meters, repeater inputs would be from 52.5 TO 52.7, with the outputs at 53.0 to 53.2 MHZ.. For 2 meters, repeater inputs would be authorized from 146.3 to 146.6, and the corresponding outputs would be from 146.9 TO 147.2. On our 220 band, the input/output subbands were 223.1--223.3 and 224.1--224.3, while on 440 repeaters would be authorized on 447.7--448.9 for inputs and 449.1--449.3 for outputs. (By the way, it looks like the 1970 FCC proposal contained a typo in the 440 MHZ segments). "Whistle on" or other coded access would be required--carrier activated repeaters would NOT be allowed. No cross band, linked or chain repeaters or multiple outputs would be allowed.

The maximum power permitted was 600 watts input (about 400 watts output). And, finally, the FCC declined to allow fully automatic repeater operation, the proposed rules required the licensee of a repeater station to be in attendance at the transmitter or at an authorized fixed control point and to monitor all transmissions of the station. The proposed repeater rules appeared unduly restrictive to many hams. Except for 2 meters, each band had only a 200 KHZ wide input/output window. On 2 meters the input/output subbands were 300 KHZ wide--but 2/3 of the repeater output subband was above 147 MHZ--where Technicians weren't allowed!! The FCC had still not acted on the ARRL's 1969 proposal to open all VHF frequencies to Technicians. When the FCC was questioned on the legality of a Technician using a repeater whose input was within the 145-147 subband, but whose output was above 147, they said the Technician operator COULD NOT USE THE REPEATER. The FCC went on to say "the licensee of such a repeater should sit there with the latest Callbook showing license class and keep his finger on the NO-NO button". (Yes, this is an actual quote). So much for liberal repeater rules.

Despite the FCC's rather restricted proposed rules, repeater operations flourished throughout 1970 & 1971. Over 200 repeaters were on the air by 1971, almost all of them in the 146--147 MHZ range so they could be used by Technicians. But, with the uncertain status of future FCC rules, the lack of national frequency standards, and the inability of Technicians to operate the full 2 meter band, a dark cloud hung over the FM world.

In our next installment, we will review the ARRL's national plan for 2 meter FM, as well as the revised FCC rules on repeater operation. I hope you will join me.

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Odds & Ends

Only Irish coffee provides in a single glass all four essential food groups: alcohol, caffeine, sugar and fat.

We've all heard that "the exception proves the rule" which is a crock of it. It's obvious to any thinking person that the exception disproves the rule, unless the word 'prove' is used in its less common meaning of 'to test.' Think 'proving ground'.

Gendarme is not a generic term for policeman in France. Gendarmes are soldiers on police duty. The word for police in France is police and is pronounced as we do.

Water vapor is lighter than dry air, otherwise barometers would not work as they do, dropping when the moisture content of air increases and rising with drier air.

Moscow has a Kremlin but so do many other Russian cities. It's just that Moscow's is the best known. Also, it's not a specific building but a complex inside a large walled area.

Jacksonville, FL, is the largest US city in area at 885 sq. miles. LA has 498.

2m Ham radio 1 kw amplifier project (San Bruno)

Date: 2009-07-26, 9:43PM PDT
Reply to:
sale-r9k6x-1290773754@craigslist.org

Started this project years ago but unfinished. Time to clear out the storage so free to a licensed ham radio operator is a partly built home designed 2 meter (144Mhz) amplifier in the approximately 1 KW CW (FM) or 2 KW SSB class. Based on a military (Navy) 150 Mhz AM transmitter made of heavy (A real understatement!) silver plated brass everything. Navy must have paid through the nose for this. I designed this as a 2 tube push pull single stage grid driven design using 2 4CX250 tubes or similar. The mechanical part is mostly built- chassis, power supply and amp deck. Needs finish wiring and tuning. I may have some tubes for it, if not they are cheap and readily available as surplus; lots of spare parts, maybe even another spare VHF and/or UHF deck if I recall (for 432 MHz) but not sure, haven't dug through it. Technical advice gladly given if you need it. Whole box weighs maybe 70 pounds. I hate to scrap all these beautiful parts from US Naval history which could be converted to a very elegant showpiece amplifier. Would be nice for SSB or reduced power **output FM maybe 800 watts** (FM is a nasty duty cycle). I am willing to ship also at YOUR cost pre-paid wherever in the world you'd want it. Tell a friend if you are not interested. Again, the amp is free, the shipping isn't. Free to pick up in San Bruno or meet me in Palo Alto at work to pick it up. Must be a licensed Ham Operator- no flea market scavengers for this item please. Provide callsign on first email. Be prepared to show a copy of your ticket please. 73 from N6RF. Good in the call book.

QSA-5 May 1976

Field Day 1976 will be held June 26 and 27 at Tamarancho Boy Scout Camp on Iron Springs Road not too far from Farifax, according to Tim Starkweather, WA6AJN, Field Day chairman for Marin Amateur radio Club.

Site elevation is about 800 ft, an A-frame structure is available for use, latrines are handy, and swimming and fishing are available within walking distance, so facilities should be more than adequate.

Food for Saturday night and Sunday morning will be in charge of June Moore, WB6CIE. Antenna rigging and site construction will be supervised by Woody Wilson, WA6KVV, and Roy Hunt, W6QPG.

Norm Baetz, WN6CLK, will head Novice station activities and interested persons should contact him for information and to get on the set-up / take-down crew.

Publicity will be handled by Bill Gwynne and he will be PR man at Field Day, introducing visitors to the possibilities of our avocation.

From the files of Bill Provines, W6JBZ

MARC officers for 1976

Pres.	Mike Edwards	W6FCQ
Vice	Jan Harvey	WA6MGK
Sec.	Norm Baetz	WN6CLK
Treas.	Gene Halm	K6JGX
QSA-5 ed.	Len Spencer	WA6CBQ

“There is nothing more frightening to behold than bold, dynamic ignorance in action.”

Harry S Truman

(No period after the S as it is not an abbreviation for anything.)

More May 1976 QSA-5

Change in the cost of Amateur Radio auto license plates is imminent unless positive action is taken to prevent Assembly Bill 4271 becoming law.

Assemblyman Michael Wornum (D) Marin County has introduced such a bill into the California Assembly which would put call letter license plates in the same category as “vanity” plates with fees to be \$25 for original application, \$12 for a transfer and \$10 annual fee.

Amateur Radio licensees have enjoyed call letter license plates for more than 20 years, based on the fact the Amateur Radio operators perform public service. Purpose of the special plates is to give amateurs a distinctive identification so they may be identified easily in time of emergency. We need to defend ourselves and work to have call letter plates removed from this bill.

This bill comes up for hearing May 6 before the Assembly Committee on Transportation. At present the original application costs \$3 and there is a small transfer fee—no annual fee. An additional requirement is that Department of Motor Vehicles has to notify local law enforcement officials of the address of the Amateur Radio operator.

From the files of Bill Provines, W6JBZ

From Den Regan. CO of Pampanito ARC

Hi All !

Our dedicated Day of Operation (DDO) for Saturday, July 11, 2009 got underway around 1150 hours on board the USS Pampanito. The operators were Michael Fischer, K6MLF, and myself, Den, K6ZJU.

We started NJ6VT radio ops on the 40 meter CW band, making a few contacts and then spent some time operating around 7260 kc on SSB.. One interesting contact was made with Charlie, WA6HIQ, in San Diego: a designer of radio antennas for German U-Boats! Charlie was working us with one of his U-Boat antennas! We extended an invitation for Charlie to come aboard to be interrogated, but he politely declined our invitation.

We switched to the 20 meter SSB band and operated around 14260 kc, making a good number of contacts there. All in all we made 27 QSOs both on 20 and 40 meters. Most of these QSOs were made by Michael. Band conditions were fair to poor with near zero sun spot numbers. Rapid and sometimes deep fading or QSB was dominant throughout the day. We did not hear the Red Oak Victory or the USS Hornet on this weekend. I was hoping that we could partner up with these ships as we often do.

I switched to the 17 meter CW band and worked FM5LD, Phil, in Martinique. That was the "big DX" for the day. QSB ended this QSO and the band faded one more time, forcing a return to the 20 and 40 meter bands.

The visitor traffic was good we enjoyed talking with many who stopped by the radio shack, especially the youngsters. One visitor we met was Lt. Commander Suarez from the Peruvian navy. He told me that Peru has six of modern German U-Boats, either Type 209 or 212. I am not clear on the class of boat he was referring to: the German Type 209 is strictly a diesel - electric boat and the Type 212 is diesel - electric and is also independently powered by a hydrogen/oxygen fuel cell. The independent fuel cell gives the Type 212 the capability of this sub of staying submerged for two weeks! Commander Suarez said that they use fuel cells, so it must be a Type 212, although I could not confirm this. I find no official listing of Type 212 U-Boats for the Peruvian navy! Lt. Commander Suarez will shortly become an XO on one of these boats and is currently stationed in, of all places, San Diego! Who knew?

Our next DDO is scheduled for Saturday, August 8, 2009. Please keep that date in mind and let me know if you can help out! We need more radio club member participation!

73,

Den Regan, K6ZJU

CO Pampanito A.R.C. NJ6VT

USS Pampanito, SS-383

Pier 45, Shed A

San Francisco

cc: Aaron Washington, Ship's Manager

Diane Cooper, Museum Curator

Denice Stoops, Chief Operator, KXCH, Jeremiah O'Brien

William McCollum, Radio Operator, USS Pampanito

QSA 5 August 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 AF6NY</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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P. O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Stamp

The Mailing
 Address
 Goes Here