

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

February 2009

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President's Message.

Happy 2009 to everyone. It is my honor to serve as president of the Marin Amateur Radio Society for 2009. Our thanks to our outgoing president, Denice Stoops, KI6BBR, for the great job that she did the during the previous two years. I hope to do as well.

Public service has always been a big part of the focus of this club. We have events starting on Saturday, April 25, and running into October. The list of events is on our website, www.w6sg.net, as well as other information about the club. We still need a public service chairman for 2009, and several people to serve on that committee. We will also be recruiting volunteers for our events very soon.

We encourage you to come to the monthly meetings the first Friday of each month. We usually have a light supper around seven, and the meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. We have speakers lined up for March and for April. In March, we have Dean Straw, N6BV, who will be giving us a presentation on contesting antennas. In April, Tom Taze-laar, KG6MAC, will give a presentation and demonstration on soldering techniques. If there is a subject you would like to see covered, or you have a suggestion for a speaker or presentation, please let any board member know. Members are also always welcome at the Board of Directors meeting, which is held the second Thursday of each month.

We have scheduled a Technician license class to begin on March 8. If you know anyone who would like to get their HAM license, please send them our way. We have also scheduled VE sessions for April 11, July 11, and November 14. VE sessions are at 9 a.m. at the clubhouse.

Marilyn, N6VAW, has agreed to organize this year's picnic in September. We still need someone to chair the recreation committee, and to organize the Christmas party. If you'd like to help Marilyn with the picnic, or to be on the Christmas party committee, Column two.

Website at W6SG.NET

Phone 415.389.6630

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

Program for March 6 Meeting.

We will have Dean Straw, N6BV (Yes, the ARRL Antenna Book Editor) talking on contest antennas and Tom Taze-laar, KG6MAC on April 3 presenting a talk and demonstration on soldering. You'll even find out how to correctly solder on a PL 259 connector w/o destroying it, and avoid COAX RAGE, during which more than a few hams have been known to throw the solder lump-coated connector and the coax on the floor and attempt to stomp the s_____ out of them.

please let us know.

Field Day is quickly approaching in June. This year, we will again be participating with REDXA, and be situated at the Marin Rod and Gun Club. Rich, W6UDS, will again be the liaison between two clubs.

We need a chairperson, and several people willing to serve on the Field Day committee.

Hope to see you at one of the club meetings or at our weekly Sunday morning get-togethers, 0800 to 1100 +or-.

73, Randy Jenkins KA6BQF

ka6bqf@arrl.net

510.526.4089

President, VE Liason & Public Service Co-Coordinator

Marin Amateur Radio Society

www.w6sg.net

If you missed some of the Super Bowl commercials, you can see ten of them here:

http://superbowlads.fanhouse.com/quarter3/Heroes-Football_Game/2409754

POBox 6423

San Rafael, CA 94903

Marin Amateur Radio Society
Board Meeting, 8 January 2009.

V.P. Randy Jenkins called the meeting to order at 1937 hours. Also present were Baetz, Bagshaw, Boyd, Carbine, Dannecker, Dunlap, Koehler, and Slusher. The minutes of the last Board meeting were approved.

A couple of pieces of correspondence: County of Marin requested the use of the clubhouse for elections in June and November. This was approved.

There was a request for club assistance at the upcoming Miwok and DipSea events.

Our Treasurer was not present so there was no Treasurer's report.

Marilyn Bagshaw N6VAW, has agreed to be co-chair for our annual picnic scheduled for Sam Taylor park this coming Sept. The club is looking for someone to be chairman for Field Day and the Christmas party.

Randy Jenkins discussed upcoming Public Service events. Volunteers are needed. Events and dates will be listed in upcoming QSA Issues.

Doug Slusher reported that the Big Rock repeater was back on the air. (Nobody knows for sure why that is but there were a few guesses put forth. Water entering where it is least desired. Electronic failure. Cold solder joint. Evil Spirits. Your choice. ed.)

There may be an Education class in March and VE classes are scheduled for April, July and November.

Rich Carbine said there was a plumbing problem in the upstairs apartment. A plumber was called in and the problem was corrected.

Randy discussed future program speakers. The one for the April meeting sounds interesting for anyone that does kit building, a lesson on effective soldering. Any ideas for future speakers would be appreciated.

Page two, column one.

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

Board Meeting, cont.

Rich W6UDS Carbine has requested the use of the Marin Rod and Gun Club rear area for our Field Day site. Again this year we will work together with the Redwood Empire DX Assn.

Doug Slusher had a conversation with our next door neighbor concerning the prevention of a prescriptive easement on the small section of the club's property that lies outside the fence. They were understanding.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 2013 for a brief Executive session. The regular meeting was resumed at 2015 hours. No decisions are made at these sessions; they are for information, only.

The election results for the 2009 year are Norm Baetz, Rich Carbine, Horst Dannecker, Phil Dunlap and John Boyd. Marilyn Bagshaw agreed to finish the last year of former board member Elisabeth Matej who resigned from the board. After the election results were announced the board elected Randy Jenkins as President, Horst Dannecker as Vice-President, Dave Hodgson remains in the Treasurer spot. Norm Baetz takes the Secretary's job. A new member was also elected to the board: **Justin Smith** who lives in Southern Marin and has the call **KI6TDT**. He's seriously into CW and could be a future Field Day Op.

Budget discussion was postponed to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2025 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Secretary

HAM Classes: Technician.Start Date: Sunday, March 8th, 2009

Time: 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Frequency Weekly 3/8, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4

Duration: 5 weeks

Location: Marin Amateur Radio Society Clubhouse
 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley, CA

Text: The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual (Technician)

(Available from ARRL, HRO Oakland or at the first class)

Cost: Class is free, ARRL manual is \$25

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

Do you change your own oil?

If not, would you if it wasn't such a pain in the ass to get rid of the used oil? The hazardous waste dump off Andersen Drive in San Rafael will take it, free, but they are/were usually short of empty oil containers.

There's a simple solution if you have a cat that uses a litter box and the stuff comes in a plastic container with a screw cap. Think COSTCO. Maybe you have a neighbor who has a cat and you can talk him out of an empty one. Just buy a large funnel to fit the litter container's spout and dump the used oil from your drain pan (KRAGENS) into it. The waste handlers will dump your oil and return your container.

Try to keep the used oil off your driveway. Attempt to catschit all in your drain pan. Those of us who have experience changing motor oil know that the engineers who design engines always Column three.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #11

by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

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In our last installment, we saw how the FCC shifted from an initial VHF/UHF band plan that was radically different from today's allocations, to a proposal which closely parallels the frequencies we have today. Amateurs were happier with the January 1945 plan over the November 1944 one, as it restored our ten meter band back to where it belonged, and gave us a full 4 Mc at six meters.

One person who was not happy with the January 1945 plan was Edwin Armstrong, inventor of the Regenerative, Super-regenerative and Superheterodyne receivers, and the Father of FM. He wanted the FM Broadcast band to stay in the 42-50 Mc area: instead, he suddenly saw it transferred up to 84-102 Mc., which would make every FM station and receiver obsolete. He knew that David Sarnoff of RCA was behind this, as RCA wanted television in the frequencies now occupied by FM. Sarnoff and the RCA engineers had an interesting argument, FM they said, should be moved higher in frequency to avoid the Sporadic E skip.

Armstrong fought back. He pointed out that FM, due to it's capture effect, was less susceptible to skip interference than television, which used AM for the video carrier. He ran tests and submitted data showing that the skip interference to FM would be far less than imagined, and certainly a fraction of what TV would endure. The ARRL, by the way, was in favor of moving FM up to the 84-102 Mc area. To counteract the arguments that FM receivers would become obsolete by the move, QST in the May 1945 issue ran the schematic of a 1 tube converter, which hallicrafters said they could build for \$5.60.

In late May, 1945, the FCC announced the three alternatives that were being considered for the disputed 44-108 Mc region.

Continued on next page

try to put the oil filter in a place where it will dump part of its contents on your driveway, via your forearm, while you're unscrewing it. If you've become adept at avoiding this miniature deluge, it may get waylaid by a belly pan under the engine, if your vehicle is so equipped. From there it will find your driveway at its leisure. Another thing to avoid is rolling in an oil puddle when you go to reinsert the drain plug. You'll remember Page three, column three.

. They were:

ALTERNATIVE #1 --

- 44-48 Mc--Amateur (We would have a 7 meter band under this proposal)
- 48-50 Mc--Facsimile Broadcasting
- 50-54 Mc--Educational FM Broadcasting
- 54-68 Mc--Commercial FM Broadcasting
- 68-74 Mc--TV Channel 1
- 74-78 Mc--Aeronautical fixed and mobile
- 78-108 Mc--TV Channels 2-6

ALTERNATIVE #2 --

- 44-56 Mc--TV Channels 1 & 2
- 56-60 Mc--Amateur 5 Meter Band
- 60-66 Mc--TV Channel 3
- 66-68 Mc--Facsimile Broadcasting
- 68-72 Mc--Educational FM Broadcasting
- 72-86 Mc--Commercial FM Broadcasting
- 86-104 Mc--TV Channels 4-6
- 104-108 Mc--Non-Government fixed and mobile.

ALTERNATIVE #3 --

- 44-50 Mc--TV Channel 1
- 50-54 Mc--Amateur 6 Meter band
- 54-84 Mc--TV Channels 2-6
- 84-88 Mc--Educational FM Broadcasting
- 88-102 Mc--Commercial FM Broadcasting
- 102-104 Mc--Facsimile Broadcasting
- 104-108 Mc--Non-Government fixed and mobile.

Except for the 44-108 Mc region, which was still up in the air, the 25-44 and 108 Mc and higher frequencies were fairly well established at today's allocations. The only major exception was the 470-480 Mc band, which was still allocated to Facsimile Broadcasting. The FCC indicated that tests would be run through the summer months to determine which Alternative was the best.

Reaction was quick to the proposals. Except for the ARRL, almost none of the major players liked Alternative 2, so the choice lay between 1 and 3. The ARRL found #2 acceptable because it preserved our 5 meter band. Of the other two alternatives, the ARRL was strongly opposed to #1. A 44-48 Mc seven meter band would have too much skip, was too close to our ten meter band, and too far from two meters. In the end, the ARRL came out in favor of Alternative #3 because, it was believed that the FM band should be as far as possible from our ham bands in order to avoid IF interference to FM receivers.

Naturally, Major Armstrong was in favor of Alternative #1. He continued to make extensive tests and bombarded the FCC with the results. However, Armstrong never realized that the political clout of General Sarnoff and RCA could overcome any test results. The Major thought he had the summer to complete his tests. Instead, on June 27, 1945, the FCC decided on Alternative #3, with a few minor changes to bring the allocations in line with what we have today. FM was definitely at 88-108 Mc, and amateurs had a six meter band at 50-54 Mc, nestled snug between TV Channels 1 and 2.

Armstrong was stunned, but he didn't give up. As late as 1947, he was still submitting data to the FCC in regards to the effect of skip on FM Broadcasts. But it was too late. For a period of time, there were two FM Broadcast bands, as stations in the new 88-108 Mc allocation coexisted with the older ones between 42-50 Mc, but by 1947, the old FM band was a memory, and sat waiting for TV Channel 1 to take over.

However, a new controversy was brewing. With thousands of amateurs on our new six meter band, and thousands of TV's pouring out of (mostly RCA) factories, a new concept was entering the amateur language -- TVI. In our next installment, we will look at the TV wars of the 1940's and why the ARRL wanted channel 2, instead of channel 1, eliminated.

So, until then, I hope your six meter QSOs aren't causing interference to the "Texaco Star Theatre."

that experience, definitely.

Avoid changing your motor oil on windy days. The first 4 and 8/10 quarts take 10 percent of the drain time and go directly into the drain pan. Good heavy stream. The last 2/10 qt. requires 90 percent of the time. If it's windy, that little stream at the end which seems to go on forever, while you go inside for a beer, will surely miss the drain pan and be scattered over a wider area under your vehicle. Being dirty oil, it shows up really well on the concrete after you have finished the job. Just smear it around a bit with a few paper towels. It'll fade from view, mostly, in two or three months and be gone when it's time to do the job again.

Most important: don't forget to reinsert the drain plug before refilling the crankcase. This is one mistake which, if you make it, you'll make only once. Memory of the ridicule and embarrassment will definitely prevent this from happening a second time. With luck, if this happens, it'll be at the end of the day and approaching darkness will hide that big puddle on the driveway while you figure how to clean it up. You may hear from the front door, "What are you doing out there so long?" Better to reply that you cross-threaded the drain plug or can't find it. (It'll be in the drain pan.)

Good News.

An excerpt from the ARRL letter.

"Despite the enormous and unwarranted hype given to BPL by the FCC under Chairmen Powell and Martin, the message from the marketplace is clear: BPL is going nowhere as a means of delivering broadband connectivity to consumers," observed ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

"Still, the FCC has unfinished business with respect to BPL. It has been nine months since the federal Court of Appeals ordered the Commission to correct the errors it committed in adopting rules that inadequately protect licensed radio services from BPL interference

<<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/25/10064/>>

yet the FCC has made no effort to comply. With the change at the FCC helm that is about to take place, we hope the foot-dragging will come to an end and the Commission will fulfill its obligations to the Court as well as to its licensees .

Marin Amateur Radio Society
 2009 Board of Directors
 President Randy Jenkins KA6BQF
 Vice-President Horst Dannecker KA6BHZ
 Treasurer Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ
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 Director / QSA-5 Editor Phil Dunlap K6PHD
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 Director John Boyd KE6ORI
 Director Rich Carbine W6UDS
 Director Justin Smith KI6TDT
 Trustee W6SG August Kohler K0CQL
 Trustee K6GWE Doug Slusher KF6AKU

2009 Public Service Events

Date	Event	Description	Hours	Volunteers
Saturday, April 25	Ridge to Bridge	Hike & Bike Ride	6AM-6PM	6-7
Saturday, May 02	Miwok 100 K.	Trail Run	5AM-10PM	8-10
Sunday, May 03	The Relay	Team Race	3PM-6AM	6-8
Saturday, May 09	The Human Race	5K Walk-Run	8AM-Noon	4-5
Sunday, June 14	The Dipsea	Trail Run	8AM-1PM	12+
Saturday, June 27	Double Dipsea	Trail Run	8AM-3PM	5-7
Saturday, August 1	Marin Century/Mt. Tam	Double Century Bike Ride	5AM-11PM	20+
Saturday, August 15	Holstein 100	Bike Ride	7AM-7PM	15+
Sept ??	Dipsea Trail Hike	Trail Hike (Breast Cancer Fund)	7AM-5PM	5
Sept??	Peak Hike	Trail Hike (Zero Breast Cancer)	7AM-5PM	5-6
Oct ??	Escape From Alcatraz	Triathlon	9AM-5PM	7
Other Events:				
May 03	Grizzly Peak Century Bike Ride		6AM-7PM	10+
Contact: ka6bqf@arrl.net or Texx@delong.org				

VE Test Dates: April 11, July 11, November 14

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

ka6bqf@arrl.net

510 526.4089

President, VE Liason & Public Service Co-Coordinator

Marin Amateur Radio Society

www.w6sg.net

Technician Classes:

Start Date: Sunday, March 8th, 2008 Time:

Frequency Weekly 3/8, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28, 4/4 11:00 am to 3:00 pm

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 or Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ (kg6tcj@comcast.net) 415 332-1864

Stuff From Outta The Past.

Don't have a date on the Brando info.



on his South Sea Island

Want to chat with *Marlon Brando*? If you own a ham radio, maybe you can.

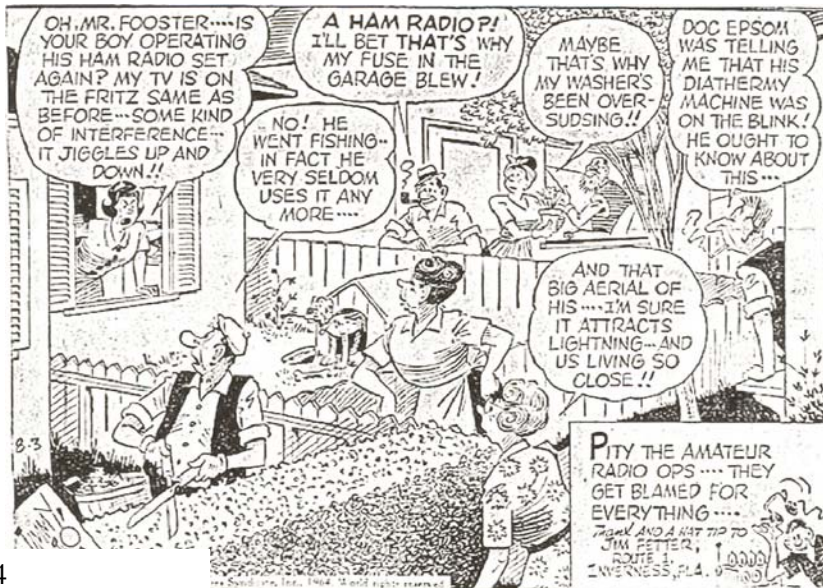
The corpulent star, who hasn't made a movie since 1980, apparently spends most of his time on his private island of Tetiaroa, 20 minutes flying time north of Tahiti. He walks along the beach naked and sometimes sleeps under the stars. Above all, he protects his privacy, allowing no one ashore except invited guests.

But one visitor, director *Roger Vadim*, revealed that Brando talks to ham-radio operators around the world using a secret alias. Since shortwave distorts voices, nobody has yet recognized Brando's famous mumble.

In his recent book *Bigger Secrets*, author William Poundstone reports that Brando's radio call letters start with FO8 and that the best time to try to contact him is between 8:00 p.m. and midnight French Polynesia time, or 4:00 a.m. in mid-America.

One radio hobbyist checked his logbook for Poundstone and found he had spoken with someone with the call letters FO8GJ in the Tahitian islands. The caller's name was Martin Brandeaux.

"It would be too great a coincidence for there to be another operator in French Polynesia with a name that similar to Brando's," writes Poundstone.



QSA 5 February 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 or dismemberment, 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: Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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The Mailing
 Address
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