

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

January 2009

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Things That are Disappearing.

Plagiarized from the 'net.

Amateur radio operators enjoy personal (and often worldwide) wireless communications with each other and are able to support their communities with emergency and disaster communications if necessary, while increasing their personal knowledge of electronics and radio theory. However, proliferation of the Internet and its popularity among youth has caused the decline of amateur radio. In the past five years alone, the number of people holding active ham radio licenses has dropped by 50,000, even though Morse Code is no longer a requirement.

Dial-up internet connections have fallen from 40% in 2001 to 10% in 2008. The combination of an infrastructure to accommodate affordable high speed Internet connections and the disappearing home phone have all but pounded the final nail in the coffin of dial-up Internet access.

Before a few years ago, the standard 60-watt (or, yikes, 100-watt) bulb was the mainstay of every U.S. home. With the green movement and all-things-sustainable-energy crowd, the Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL) is largely replacing the older, Edison-era incandescent bulb. The EPA reports that 2007 sales for Energy Star CFLs nearly doubled from 2006, and these sales accounted for approximately 20 percent of the U.S. light bulb market. And according to USA Today, a new energy bill plans to phase out incandescent bulbs in the next four to 12 years.

The Internet has made so many things obsolete that newspaper classified ads might sound like just another trivial item on a long list. But this is one of those harbingers of the future that could signal the end of civilization as we know it.

While Netflix is looking up at the
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 10 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!

moment, Blockbuster keeps closing store locations by the hundreds. It still has about 6,000 left across the world, but those keep dwindling and the stock is down considerably in 2008, especially since the company gave up a quest of Circuit City. Movie Gallery, which owned the Hollywood Video brand, closed up shop earlier this year. Countless small video chains and mom-and-pop stores have given up the ghost already.

It doesn't require a statistician to prove the rapid disappearance of the film camera in America. Just look to companies like Nikon, the professional's choice for quality camera equipment. In 2006, it announced that it would stop making film cameras, pointing to the shrinking market -- only 3% of its sales in 2005, compared to 75% of sales from digital cameras and equipment.

In 2006, the Radicati Group estimated that, worldwide, 183 billion e-mails were sent each day. Two million each second. By November of 2007, an estimated 3.3 billion Earthlings owned cell phones, and 80% of the world's population had access to cell phone coverage. In 2004, half-a-trillion text messages were sent, and the number has no doubt increased exponentially since then. So where amongst this gorge of gabble is there room for the elegant, polite hand-written letter?

POBox 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Marin Amateur Radio Society
Board Meeting, December 11, 2008

Members present: Doug Slusher, Dave Hodgson, Randy Jenkins, Denice Stoops, Phil Dunlap, and Rich Carbine. Marilyn Bagshaw was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 19:42 hrs by president Denice Stoops. No printed agenda was available, so November's agenda was used as a template.

Treasurer Hodgson submitted his report for the month of October.

Committee reports:

Recreation-need a chairman.

Public Service-need a chairman. First event for 2009 is in April.

Technical Committee – A trip to Big Rock Ridge is necessary in order to repair the receiver. This has been tentatively scheduled for next Sunday, dependent on weather.

Comm truck –Need to get specification on the generator to Denice.

Education – Thinking about a technician class in February.

VE Liaison –Nothing scheduled for 2009 so far.

RACES – Dave updated the status of the member screening procedure.

Building Manager – The toilet upstairs was repaired. Due to a failure in the flush mechanism, we had a high water usage for the preceding billing. Randy reported that he had the new measurements for the upstairs doors and would get them to Denice.

At 20:00 hours the Board of Directors suspended the rules and went into closed session, to receive a confidential report from Rich. At 20:02 hours the Board of Directors came out of closed session, and resumed the normal order of business. No actions were taken in closed session.

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

From page one, column three.

Field Day Committee – We still need a 2009 chairperson. Rich will continue as liaison between MARS and Red X.

Old Business:

The prescriptive easement letter is almost ready to be sent.

The nominating committee has sufficient candidates to fill all vacancies on the board. Ballots will be sent out by December 15, and need to be returned to the club POBox by Friday, 2 Jan.

New Business:

Marilyn Bagshaw, N6VAW, was elected by the Board of Directors to serve the remainder of the term vacated by Elizabeth Thomas-Matej.

The general membership meeting scheduled for Friday, January 2, 2009 was suspended, due to the adjacent holiday.

Changing the club P.O. Box location was discussed. Because that would involve changing mailing addresses with multiple agencies, action on that item was tabled.

Randy reported that he had lined up a program for the month of April, 2009.

The Board of Directors expressed their appreciation to Denice Stoops for her two years of service as President of MARS.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:18 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Acting Secretary

Vice President, VE Liaison, Public Service Coordinator

Marin Amateur Radio Society

MARS Old Farts' (Elderfahrten) Net

Monday and Thursday at 0800. Stop time depends on how many hams show up. 3892 kc nominal frequency; this depends on who's off-freq on a given day, and by how much. Then there's a dummy who follows the off-freq one and so is also off-freq when it comes his turn.

Hear about the latest scary maladies affecting the members; learn about the latest surgical, or other, procedures—what had to be inserted and where—to correct them. Find out what they had—or will be having because they slept in too late—for breakfast. See who signs off early because they hit the snooze button too often and failed to visit the throne of St. John before turning on the rig. **Hear exciting news about the weather in the town next to your own! New members welcomed on the off chance their weather or malady will be different from the rest.**

Sometimes the group even talks about radio. **Don't miss out.**

MARS Monthly Breakfast at the Depot Café next to Safeway on B St.

On the third Sunday of each month at 0800. Usual attendance is from one to four, depending on how many just flat-ass forget to show up. The usual attendees can be recognized by their plus-size girth. The main advantage to having a small number of eaters is that the odds of having more than one conversation at the table are fairly low. However, more than one conversation at a table of four is possible. Fortunately, there are no seats on the ends or there could be three subjects discussed at the same time. In these cases, increasing your volume can sometimes help but this can cause diners at other tables to point and adopt menacing expressions. Keep an eye on them in case they start to get up and head in your direction, especially if they have any heavy objects in their hands, like glass sugar containers.

Take a chance. Easy parking. Look for the mobile antennas across the street in the lot. Be on time. We don't wait on late arrivals. 0800!

[THE WAYBACK MACHINE](#)
ISSUE #10

by [Bill Continelli, W2XOY](#)

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In our last installment, we learned that the "UHF" spectrum above 25 Mc., which during the 1930s was populated only by amateurs, was now in the center of a battle being fought on many fronts. Amateurs wanted their 10, 5, 2-1/2, and 1-1/4 meter bands back. Major Edwin Armstrong wanted to increase the 42-50 Mc. allocation in the new FM broadcast service. General David Sarnoff of RCA wanted huge chunks of VHF space set aside for television, as well as limited spectrum for FM, a potential rival. And William Paley of CBS wanted UHF -- not VHF allocations for CBS' "color wheel" TV system, which they wanted the FCC to adopt as the television standard, in lieu of RCA's competing system. In addition to these major players, other minor characters were also clamoring for VHF frequencies -- the growing aircraft industry, police departments who were tired of the interference-prone 1700 kc. police band and wanted to use FM on vhf -- and even businesses to whom the idea of personal two-way communication was now possible. Thanks to the war and the introduction of new VHF and UHF tubes, the frequencies above 25 Mc. were now the most sought after slice of the RF spectrum.

During late 1944, the FCC held hearings on post-war VHF allocations, in which there were 231 witnesses and 4200 pages of testimony. In November 1944, the first proposal on VHF/UHF allocations was released. See if you could have lived with it...

Due to the format of the remaining text, it will be continued on the next page

From page four.

23.5-27 Mc. -- Industrial Applications
27-29 Mc. -- Amateur 11 Meter Band (yes, that's right!)
29-43 Mc. -- Police, Fire, Emergency, and Local Government
43-58 Mc. -- FM broadcasting
58-60 Mc. -- Amateur 5 Meter Band (note only 2 Mc.)
60-102 Mc. -- TV channels 1-7 (the RCA system)
102-108 Mc. -- Non-government Emergency
108-132 Mc. -- Aircraft
132-144 Mc. -- Government

144-148 Mc. -- Amateur 2 Meter Band
148-152 Mc. -- Government
152-218 Mc. -- TV Channels 8-18 (yes, up to channel 18 and again,
The RCA system)
218-225 Mc. -- Amateur 1-1/4 Meter Band
225-420 Mc. -- Government
420-450 Mc. -- Amateur 70 cm Band
450-460 Mc. -- Facsimile Broadcasting
460-956 Mc. -- UHF Television using the CBS color wheel system

So, under this proposal, our 10 meter band was moved down 1 Mc., we would lose 1/2 of our 5 meter band, we lose 112-116 Mc. but gain 144-148 Mc., our 1-1/4 meter band stays the same, and we gain a large chunk at 420 Mc. The FM broadcast allocation is increased by 85%, police agencies leave the crowded medium wave area for VHF-FM, aircraft has their piece of the pie, and both CBS and RCA have home turfs to battle out the TV standards war. Note also the 450-460 Mc. range allocated to "Facsimile Broadcasting." For those of you who think FAX machines are a recent invention, it may interest you to learn that 60 years ago, a reliable mechanical-electrical FAX system was in use. By the mid-1940s, it was widely believed that every home soon would have a FAX machine. During the night, as you slept, the machine would be tuned to various stations in the 450-460 Mc. range and would print out the next day's newspapers, magazines and catalogues, for you to read in the morning. Another proposal was for a "Veteran's Band", which would be a 2000 Mc.-wide slice of the spectrum above 10,000 Mc. This proposed band would be available for war veterans (and ONLY war veterans) in any way they desired.

The ARRL was quick to object to the proposed allocations. It was not acceptable to amateurs to move our 10-meter band down 1 Mc., to eliminate 50% of 5 meters, and to upset the harmonic relationship of our bands by moving us from 112 up to 144 Mc. The FCC capitulated on 10 and 5 meters, as we will see in a moment. As for the 144-148 Mc. band -- the FCC was firm. 112- 116 Mc. was going to aircraft. Furthermore, the FCC wanted our amateur bands above 100 Mc. to be next to government allocations, so that in time of war or national emergency, they could be used for the expansion of essential governmental radio services. The needs of the government, per the FCC, outweighed the need for a strict harmonic relationship between the amateur bands.

Meanwhile, while the ARRL was arguing over our allocations, General Sarnoff was conducting his campaign behind the scenes. He couldn't eliminate the CBS color wheel UHF system because, at that time, CBS was producing beautiful, lifelike color pictures that impressed the FCC. But he could attack FM. A big deal was made out of the claim that FM broadcasting needed to be moved higher in the VHF range to eliminate interference caused by Sporadic-E skip. Sarnoff, of course, wanted these frequencies for TV. He never explained, and no one seemed to ask, how TV would not be affected. In fact, TV, with its amplitude modulated video signal, would be more susceptible to "E" skip than FM with its capture effect. RCA however had power, money, and influence, and Major Armstrong found he was no match for the corporate giant.

On January 15, 1945, the FCC issued a revised allocation proposal:

25-28 Mc. -- Fixed, Mobile, Industrial, Scientific and Medical
28-30 Mc. -- Amateur 10 Meter Band
30-44 Mc. -- Police, Fire, and Various Governmental Allocations
44-50 Mc. -- TV Channel 1 (now you know where it was!)
50-54 Mc. -- Amateur 6 Meter Band
54-84 Mc. -- TV Channels 2-6
84-102 Mc. -- FM Broadcasting
102-108 Mc. -- Possible Facsimile Broadcasting
108-132 Mc. -- Aircraft
132-144 Mc. -- Government
144-148 Mc. -- Amateur 2 Meters
148-152 Mc. -- Government (note 2 meters sandwiched between two Government bands.

152-162 Mc. -- Police, Fire, and Other Local Government
162-170 Mc. -- Government
170-180 Mc. -- Navigational Aids
180-216 Mc. -- TV Channels 7-12 (note that TV only gets 12 channels here)
216-220 Mc. -- Government
220-225 Mc. -- Amateur 1-1/4 Meter Band
225-420 Mc. -- Government, Including Military Aircraft
420-450 Mc. -- Amateur 70 cm Band
450-460 Mc. -- Air Navigation
460-470 Mc. -- A New "Citizens' Band" (which would eventually evolve into Class A and Class B CB, then into GMRS and the new FRS)
470-480 Mc. -- Facsimile Broadcasting
480-940 Mc. -- Experimental TV (for the CBS system)

Yes, this proposal sounds a lot like what we have today, but the battle was only beginning. Major Armstrong was not giving up on an FM band in the 43-58 Mc. area. He didn't want the thousands of FM receivers and dozens of stations now on the air to suddenly become obsolete. CBS was still convinced that UHF was the place for TV, and their system was the best. During the first half of 1945, the battle would rage with many more proposals to come forth. Join us next time as "The Wayback Machine" continues to watch this epic battle.

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QSA 5 January 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 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.

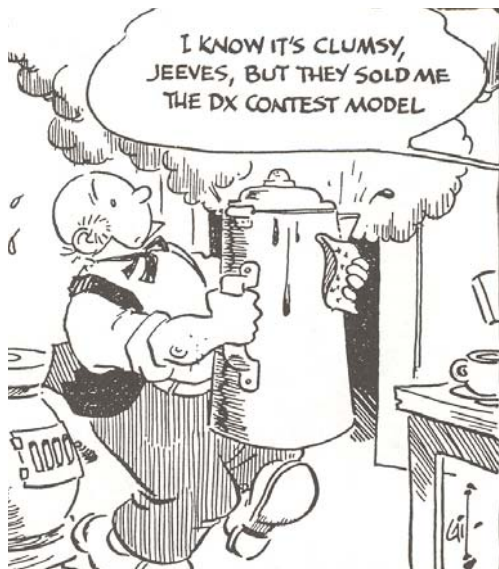
Sunday morning informal meeting, grinningly called the bible/babble class, meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting at roughly 0800 hours and runs to around 1100 hours +or-. Sometimes we even talk about radio. This weekly event is hosted by **Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ**, 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.

<p>Marin Amateur Radio Society President: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089</p> <p>Vice President:</p> <p>Secretary:</p> <p>Treasurer: Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864</p> <p>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</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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Dues structure is: \$25. per year. \$30. for family memberships. No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

Stamp

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



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 Address
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