

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

July 2009

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Remember! Put the MARS picnic on your calendars for Saturday, September 26. Bring a dish to share and something to BBQ. Hot coals and drinks will be provided. We are confirmed for the group day use area at Samuel P. Taylor State Park, Redwood Grove. However, this State Park is on the list of State parks to be closed due to State budget shortfalls. Should this happen, the Lagunitas Lake day use area has been reserved as a backup. If you have any questions, please call Marilyn, N6VAW, at 415.479.3704.

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 01 **Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century** 4:30 a.m. to 11:30 PM. 25 to 35 volunteers needed. 2700 cyclists over 200 miles of Marin and Sonoma Counties. Morning, afternoon, and evening shifts available.

Volunteers are needed to man net control, nine aid stations or checkpoints, and as ride along communicators in up to 10 SAG vehicles. Shifts are available throughout the day and evening, beginning as early as 5 a.m., and ending as late as 11 p.m. The more volunteers we get, the shorter the shifts can be. Sag and patrol drivers are also welcome.

Thank you to Andrew, Chris, Stanton, Dave, Doug, Seth, Phil, and Rita, who have already volunteered. If you are interested, or your name does not appear above and you have already said something, please contact me. ka6bqf@arrl.net We would like to get another 25 names on the roster this year.

(There is a potential risk of weight gain in the volunteers due to the food and drink available at the aid stations and at start/finish. ed.)

Thank you, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

ka6bqf@arrl.net

510-526-4089

President, VE Liason & Public Service
Co-Coordinator

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.

POBox 6423

San Rafael, CA 94903

MARS Board Meeting, June 11, 2009

President Randy KA6BQF called the meeting to order at 1935 hours. Other board members present were Dave KG6TCJ, Phil K6PHD, Rich W6UDS, Marilyn N6VAW, Norm WA6CLK, John KE6ORI, Doug KF6AKW, Horst and Augie KØCQL. The minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's report were approved.

Phil reported an increase of two new members. Marilyn said that Lake Lagunitis would be a backup for our picnic in case the facilities at Sam Taylor State park were not available.

Our Christmas party will be held at the clubhouse and we will be looking for a catering service.

Randy gave a review of upcoming public service events. Volunteers are always needed. Just give Randy a call.

Doug is pricing a new repeater for Big Rock Ridge. More information to follow.

The comm. truck brake repair has been completed and the pedal no longer goes to the floor. Generator problems were also discussed.

There will be a Tech license class starting in October and also a class for new hams to discuss the ins and outs of ham radio and how to increase their interest in their new hobby.

Horst gave an update on events at the Civic Center. RACES; OES, etc..

Rich said the upstairs renter requested permission to erect a satellite dish on the roof. This was approved.

There was a report on Field Day setup. All members and friends are invited. A note on fundraising: a grant reply has been mailed and we should get word back soon. Hopefully clubhouse construction will start late July or early August.

Doug said the **IJ** would donate desks and chairs if the club is interested. The meeting was adjourned at 2020 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

K6GWE Repeaters**Big Rock Ridge 147.330 +****2 meters**

pl 203.5

pl 179.9

pl 167.9

pl 192.8

INPUTS

Big Rock

Mt. Tam west

Mt. Barnabe

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.

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.

See over 100 Field Day Pics here. If you don't see yourself, you prolly weren't there.

<http://marilyn.mediatunnel.com/album.php?a=249>

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

General Meeting, June 5, 2009

The meeting was called to order by president Randy Jenkins at 1930 hours. Other board members present were Horst Dannecker, Phil Dunlap, Rich Carbine, Marilyn Bagshaw, Norm Baetz, Doug Slusher, Dave Hodgson, John Boyd and Augie Koehler. The minutes of the last meeting were approved and the evening's agenda was also approved. Member introductions were made.

Justin Smith volunteered to run the Christmas party (to be held at the club house) with assistance from Marilyn Bagshaw and hopefully many other volunteers. Marilyn also announced that in case we have a problem in getting the Sam Taylor site for our picnic she has Lake Lagunitas as an alternative. This all depends on the State's park closures.

The Treasurer's report was approved and Phil said we gained another new member.

Randy talked about upcoming public service events. As always, volunteers are needed. The technical committee said all repeaters are working including the new one at Randy's qth.

John said the comm. truck was going in for brake work.

There is interest in starting a Tech licensing class, also a class on just finding out what you can do with your license after you get it . A VE session will be held July 11.

There will be a general clubhouse cleanup coming up. Field Day is also coming up. Setup is on Friday, June 26. We fire up at 11:00 Saturday 6/27 and operate for the next 24 hours. All are welcome. No general meeting in July. Next meeting will be Aug 7.

The meeting was adjourned at 1950 hours after which our guest speaker Jerry Foster WA6BXV gave a very interesting and informative talk on digital communications, including a demo on amateur slow-scan TV.

Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #16

by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

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"Return with us now to those thrilling days of yesteryear."

In our last installment, we saw how, when the FCC created the Technician class license back in 1951, their intention was to give it a separate and unique purpose. The Commission stated that the Technician class license was established expressly for serious minded experimenters who needed spectrum space in which to conduct their tests. It was not established as a communicators' service and was not to be a stepping stone between the Novice and General class licenses. The original Technician class operator only had privileges above 220 Mc. In 1955, they were given six meters and in 1959, the 145-147 Mc. segment of two meters. Getting additional frequencies for Technicians was difficult--the petitions could not mention "communications" as a reason, but rather had to show that there was a need for additional experimentation on the six and two meter bands. Because of the "experimental" nature of the license, Technicians were not allowed to become RACES stations. They also faced some discrimination by a few higher class amateurs--in fact, several proposals were made to the FCC to "punish" Technicians who used the airwaves to communicate, rather than to experiment.

In 1962, two events occurred. First, the FCC denied petitions to give Technicians the 29.5-29.7 Mc. segment of ten meters as well as full two meter privileges. In rejecting these petitions, the FCC said there was "considerable misunderstanding" about the role of the Technician class, and restated the "experimenter" policy they had issued in 1951. Also that year, a new amateur publication hit the market- "VHF Horizons." Concentrating on six meters and above, this magazine was full of technical articles, construction projects, contest information, and VHF news. But it was the editorial content of "VHF Horizons" that broke new ground.

Next page, column one.

[The Wayback Machine, cont.](#)

For the first time, an amateur magazine called for a rewrite of FCC policy. They wanted Technicians to be considered full-fledged amateurs and not just experimenters. Naturally, this caused controversy in the amateur community. Technicians who considered themselves communicators flocked to this new publication, while some higher class amateurs condemned it and restated their position that "communicating" Technicians were violating FCC policy.

Unfortunately, "VHF Horizons" was not able to turn a profit, and expired after only two years.

In 1967, the FCC instituted "incentive licensing". While the actual frequency loss by Technicians was minimal--just the first 100 kc. CW segment of six meters--the FCC still struck a blow to those wishing to remove the "experimenter" status from this license. The FCC once again turned aside requests to expand Technician privileges to the full two meter band. In addition, the FCC also removed two meter voice privileges for Novices and took away the right for an amateur to simultaneously hold a Novice and Technician license. According to the Commission, too many Novices were operating two meter voice, were not increasing their code speed, and were upgrading only to Technician instead of General when their Novice license expired. Once again, the 1951 policy was restated.

However, despite the FCC's position, thousands of Technicians were on the VHF bands as communicators. With the rise of two meter FM, new Technicians were taking to the airwaves every day, mostly with surplus wide-band commercial equipment. Recognizing that the role of this class of license had evolved, the ARRL Board of Directors met on November 1, 1969 and came to a decision. In an editorial in the December 1969 issue of "QST" entitled "Technicians as Communicators", the ARRL's new position was stated--Technicians were no longer just experimenters, but rather full fledged communicators.

Column two.

The ARRL proposed that they be given the full two meter band, the 29.5 to 29.7 Mc. segment of ten meters, and the ability to once again hold a Novice license simultaneously. The ARRL put these proposals before the FCC in a petition.

The FCC did not immediately respond to this petition, but rather, in 1971 issued an odd ruling in which they stated that a Technician class amateur could not use a repeater in which the input was in the Technician subband of 145-147 MHz, but the output was above 147. Nevertheless, since the repeater subband in the early 70's was 146-148 MHz and the Technician was not allowed above 147, the FCC was under pressure. On October 17, 1972, Technicians were given the 147-148 MHz segment of two meters. The FCC denied Technicians ten meters, Novices privileges, and the 144-145 MHz portion of two meters, but the door was opened.

With thousands of Technicians on two meter FM, the FCC then moved slowly toward full VHF privileges for them, realizing that the "experimenter" designation was obsolete. In 1975, Technicians were given Novice frequency privileges. When the new repeater subband was opened at 144.5-145.5 MHz, Technician privileges were expanded to 144.5-148. The FCC also realized that Technicians could no longer be excluded from RACES operation. In 1976, the FCC eliminated the "mail order" status of the Technician exam and required applicants to show up at an FCC examination point.

Finally, in 1978, Technicians received full two meter privileges. In the eyes of the FCC, they were full-fledged amateurs. In 1987, the exam was made easier by splitting element 3--the General written exam--into 3A for Technician and 3B for General. This is why those Technicians licensed before March 1987 only have to take the 13 WPM code test to upgrade to General. Also in 1987, Technicians received sideband privileges in the 28.3 to 28.5 MHz segment of ten meters.

Column three

And, in a final act of "Technician Liberation" in 1991, 40 years after the license was established, the code-free Technician was created. So, if you meet a Technician who has been licensed since the 60's, treat him or her with dignity and respect, for they have suffered and endured years of being ostracized so that today's Technicians can enjoy full VHF/UHF privileges.

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A Fast Key Makes Contact With a Parked Car.

When I tell this story to friends who are not hams all I get is a blank look, but I know you will understand why the event left me feeling amazed and disoriented. It started out mundanely enough. I was cruising the neighborhood of Oakland, California's Rockridge Cafe, a favorite grill of mine in which to have a burger or some soup at lunchtime.

As I motored slowly along Forest Street, a block or two before College Avenue I began to hear Morse code, just slightly faster than I can copy in my head, but definitely Morse. Rolling down my window to hear a little better I realized it was a car horn, sending at 20-some words a minute. When I drew abreast of the car sending the code it was completely empty. I could clearly discern that each and every group of dits and dahs was a letter and not just some random making and breaking of a short in the horn circuit.

Shaking my head in puzzlement I continued looking for a parking space and, finding none, I turned right on Lawton and went around the block. Arriving back on Forest I discovered that the car was still sending what sounded like the middle of a long rag-chew. Pulling up next to the car I stopped, looking all around to see if someone was playing a trick on passersby, but there was no one in sight.

Now here's the bizarre part, and at the same time the thing that gave me a clue as to the explanation of the mystery. Going along with what I assumed was a joke, I expressed my appreciation by sounding out HI HI HI on my own car horn. Instantly the sending stopped, then, after a long pause, resumed.

Aha. Suddenly I realized what must be going on. Somewhere within earshot of my horn was a ham with an indoor antenna (I had already looked around for exterior ones).

Column two.

And, in a one-in-a-million chance, there happened to be a car parked near his house with a defect in the horn circuit, perhaps some corrosion, that was rectifying the RF and somehow shorting the horn. Or perhaps the rectification was occurring in some solid-state component of the horn circuit. This notion was corroborated by the fact that the CW was sounding at a much faster rate than one can send Morse using the horn button itself.

I had a good laugh envisioning the operator, startled in the middle of his rag-chew, who suddenly hears someone outside his house sending HI HI HI on his car horn. If he heard my car horn why didn't he hear the original car horn? Well for two reasons I can think of: Going at such high speed the tone was pretty light and tentative, not very loud. And it would have coincided with and may have been masked by his CW side tone.

Finally finding a parking space, I went on to have a good lunch at the Rockridge. Later my only regret was that I didn't think to send a QRZ (Who is calling me?) with my own car horn and sign de W6EW. If I'd had time to dig out a pencil I might even have been able to read the mail (listen in.) and copy his call when he signed during his exchanges. Perhaps I could have enticed the operator to come out to the street so I could meet him or her.

If anyone knows the ham living near the corner of Boyd and Forest in Oakland, he or she might find this story amusing if you will be kind enough to pass it along.

Denis "Doc" Franklin, W6EW, has been a ham for 42 years who, since his retirement from medical practice in 2000, has written several previous QST articles on the use of HF Winlink2000 on oceanographic research ships and Winlink HF/VHF/UHF in emergency and disaster communications applications.

From the ARRL Website.

DIPSEA. Handing out water at Cardiac.



John Smoot N6ZVU helps with setup.



The MED crew; both are hams.



Water by cup or from that sponge.



Gatorade. One runner poured it on his head.



MARS Repeater Info and a Sound Suggestion By Anthony Andrianos KC6KIM

There is a list of 2 meter repeater inputs below; let's hope you have them in your radios' memories! I did say radios = mobile, base, handheld. Ok, not everyone has three FM rigs, but having the MARS two meter and 70 cm (443) repeaters in your radio memory is a good idea... next to using them!

Let's take a look at our primary repeater: The "147.330 machine" has a +0.600 kHz input frequency of 147.930. Did you know there are 4 receiver sites/inputs, to this repeater? The transmitter is on Big Rock Ridge between San Rafael and Novato.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------|-----------|
| 1. Big Rock Ridge | PL tone of | 203.5 Hz. |
| 2. Mt. Tamalpais West | | 179.9 |
| 3. Mt. Tiburon | | 192.8 |
| 4. Mt. Barnabe | | 167.8 |

And we have another repeater on this same frequency. It's our backup "stand alone" repeater on San Pedro Ridge, up near the location of the former 'NIKE radar site, and is also on 147.330+ with a PL tone of 173.8 Hz. This is for EMERGENCY BACKUP use only if there is a failure at Big Rock. It will transmit on 147.330 just like the Big Rock machine but with a different footprint (coverage area). It does not cover the County as well as the Big Rock machine and can not be heard in most of West Marin.

With the hilly topography of Marin we are fortunate to have such a system as you can, in most instances, work the 147.330 machine even with a five watt handheld! That leads us to a few questions: How are your radios' memories managed? Why would this be an issue? What kind of setup would be of help to all operators, especially MOBILE, RACES, EMCOM and public service event volunteers as regards this?

How about a synchronized channel assignment for our system, *i.e.*, a 147.330 memory protocol? For instance:

Channel 1- Big Rock (203.5) Big Rock	BGRK33	You could opt to use these abbreviations in your
Channel 2- Tam W (179.9) Tamalpais West	TAMW33	radio displays, the 33 so as not to confuse these
Channel 3- Tibrn (192.8) Mt. Tiburon	TBRN33	with TAM700, our other 2m repeater, or our two
Channel 4- Brnbe (167.9) Mt. Barnabe	BARN33	443 mHz repeaters for those who have dual band
Channel 5- SnPdros (173.8) San Pedro Ridge (back up)	PDRO33	radios, TAM443 and PDR443 .
Channel 6- 733 TA (no pl, no offset, to use as a direct or talk around- simplex)	SMPX33	Most radios with an alpha/numeric display feature will accommodate at most 6 or 7 characters.

(See repeater info on page two, column one. ed.)

What are the advantages of doing this? Suppose one of our operators is traveling the County and starts to fade, picket fence, or just drop out? A suggestion to switch to another **specific** channel/receiver site could enable the mobile to continue the contact. With all radios using the same channel number/to PL setup, we have the ability to assist each other when signals start to fade, especially if one is not too familiar with the area he/she is in.

For example: (the names used are to protect the innocent.) Suppose Bob, at home in Novato, is talking to Jack who is mobile in Woodacre and headed east toward Fairfax. He is using the Mt. Barnabe receiver (PL 167.9). After he tops Whites hill and his signal into Barnabe starts to degrade, Bob in Novato would be able to assist Jack, suggesting he go to the Big Rock (203.5) receiver, channel 1. Having uniform channel memory assignments, Jack can simply switch from channel 4 to channel 1 and continue the communication. As Jack heads south toward San Francisco, his signal starts to fade going into the Waldo tunnel. Bob then suggests Jack switch to the Tiburon (192.8) receiver, channel 3. Same result as before, no fading, or picket fencing, a usually rapid variation in signal strength.

With new hams in the county joining our ranks, a channel plan is a great way for all of us, as well as the old timers, to assist in maintaining clear communications with one another as we travel around in our unique VHF/UHF challenging geography.

With the 147.330 system in its current configuration, PL tone access, we have an opportunity to stay on that frequency throughout the County, and the Bay Area in general. We do have to change channels as we travel to maintain communications but much of the guess work is eliminated.

If you have an HT or mobile be sure to put all of the 147.330 PL access tones in your memory bank. That way we can keep in constant contact most times! Uniform memory assignments would be a easy way for all to help new as well seasoned hams in our "RF challenged" Marin County.

Anthony KC6KIM can be found more often on the 147.330 repeater than the average user.

QSA 5 July 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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