

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

March 2009

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President's Message.

2009 promises to be a challenging year. Again, we have a very active public service schedule, and we still have some repair needs at the clubhouse. We are about one third of the way to our fundraising goal for our building repair fund. Dues notices for 2009 were mailed on 17 February. We've held the dues at \$25, and we hope that you choose to renew.

As mentioned in my previous message, we have speakers for the March and April meetings. In March, we have Dean Straw, N6VB, presenting a program on contest antennas. Dean is retired editor of the ARRL Antenna Book. In April, we have Tom Tazelaar, KG6MAC, presenting a program and demonstration on soldering. We are working on a couple of additional presentations. Stay tuned for further developments.

The following public service events coming up for 2009 for which we need volunteer are:

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. Ride, not a race.

August 15 Holstein 100. Ride.

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.

Dave Hodgson and Justin Smith have agreed to serve as co-chairmen 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 REDXA, 'Red X'.

We still lack someone to volunteer as our recreation chair. Marilyn, N6VAW, has volunteered to organize our annual picnic but we require

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.

Tom Tazelaar, KG6MAC on **April 3** presenting a talk and demonstration on soldering.

See page two for installment #12 of **The Wayback Machine**. This month's covers the return of the amateur freqs after WW II and, with the beginning of television, the problem of TVI: interference to television reception by amateur stations. Most TV reception was by rooftop antennas in the early days.

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/>

someone to organize our Christmas party. This may seem a little early but we really need to get a reservation in, in a timely fashion, or the sites may be booked. Anyone who wants to assist with that, or wants to help Marilyn with the picnic, should contact any board member.

Other events that we've considered have been a cleanup of the clubhouse and possibly a swap meet, also at the clubhouse. We really could use some feedback from the membership about what they'd like to see.

Hope to see you at the regular club meetings on the first Friday (pizza) or at the Sunday morning get-togethers.

73, Randy Jenkins KA6BQF

ka6bqf@arrl.net

510-526-4089

President, VE Liaison & Public Service

Co-Coordinator

Marin Amateur Radio Society

www.w6sg.net

POBox 6423

San Rafael, CA 94903

Marin Amateur Radio Society Board Meeting, 12 February 2009.

The meeting was called to order by President Randy Jenkins at 1930 hrs. Other board members present were Dunlap, Baetz, Dannecker, Hodgson, Boyd, Smith, Koehler, and Slusher. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Dave KG6TCJ gave the Treasurer's report and talked about recent plumbing and water bills.

Phil K6PHD said reminders would be sent in the mail regarding membership dues.

Randy talked about upcoming Public Service events and said more volunteers would be welcomed.

Doug Slusher gave an update on the status of the club repeaters and their sites.

There are still problems with the com truck's generator but a manual has been located.

The next V.E. session will be on April 11 and there are 11 sign-ups for the next Tech. Class.

There will be a Marin County RACES meeting Feb. 21 at 9:30 am.

Dean Straw N6BV will be our guest speaker for the March meeting.

Dave and our new board member Justin Smith KI6TDT will co-chair the MARS side of Field Day which again will be held at the Marin Rod and Gun Club. Dave presented a budget report for 2009 and it was approved. There was a discussion on the need for a back room cleanup and possibly the club to sell items at a flea market. These will be further discussed at the next General meeting.

The local CERT group has asked for permission for the use of our parking space for occasional drills. This will have be discussed. A ham in W. Marin has offered to donate some amateur equipment to the club and this was accepted. There was talk about securing internet capability for the club and costs would be looked into. The meeting was adjourned at 2030 hrs. Submitted by

Norm Baetz WA6CLK, 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.

USS PAMPANITO SS 383 NJ6VT**WA6JNZ**

I and several other Amateurs are members of the USS Pampanito Amateur Radio Club and we operate the radio shack on the submarine at Pier 45 in San Francisco. Our call sign is NJ6VT, and mine is WA6JNZ. Most of the time we use CW as the visitors/tourists get more of a feeling for what the sounds of the submarine were in World War II. I think I have told most of you this before, but each year there is a reunion of the original crew on the pier. Of the crew of 87, all of the officers have died, and twenty-seven men still survive, although not all can make it to the reunion. Some of the widows still attend. There is a meal served, then a ceremony remembering those gone. They call the roll, and ring the ship's bell and toss a red rose into the Bay. Then all are invited to come below. The big diesels are fired up, the sub vibrates, the old crew pats Betty Grable on the fanny as they pass her photo, and we start transmitting in Morse Code. With all of that, the old sailors have tears in their eyes and can hardly talk. With all of that, they are remembering how and where they spent their youth on six war patrols in the Pacific sinking Japanese ships, dodging depth charges, and rescuing downed pilots and POWs. They really were a special breed and they won't be around much longer.

Hal WA6JNZ**More on the Pampanito on page four.****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

Looking for a Benefactor

The Club is looking for a video projector for our club presentations and training classes. If your company has gone through an upgrade in its presentation equipment, maybe your IT department will have a surplus projector that you or your company would donate to the club. We are a registered 501 (c)3 nonprofit and can provide a letter for tax purposes.

Dave KG6TCJ

THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #12

by Bill Continelli, W2XOY
 reprinted with permission.

November 15, 1945. The day that amateurs had waited for, ever since December 7, 1941. Finally, after three years and 11 months of wartime radio silence, amateurs were allowed back on the air! Granted, we didn't have everything back yet. The initial authorization allowed amateur operations on 10 meters (28-29.7 Mc), five meters (56-60 Mc), and the new two meter band at 144-148 Mc. And there were restrictions on these limited frequencies. Our old pre-war five meter allocation was temporary. The new post-war band was shifted to six meters (50-54 Mc), but the actual transition would not take place until March 1, 1946. So, we were back on the 56-60 Mc segment for only 3-1/2 months.

On the new two meter band, the frequencies 146.5-148 Mc were unavailable within a 50 mile radius of Washington, DC and Seattle, Washington. The military was still using these frequencies, as well as our 160, 80, 40, and 20 meter HF bands. The military also occupied our new UHF and microwave allocations. It would be months, maybe a year or more, before the Armed Forces would fully vacate our bands and return them to us.

But amateurs didn't care. Unlike 1919, when there was open hostility to us by the military and the threat of our elimination, the post WW II Armed Forces, as well as the FCC, were fully aware of the tremendous assistance that amateurs had given throughout the war and they were eager to give us back our frequencies. The ARRL was working closely with the FCC and the military to get our bands back.

One band, however, was apparently not coming back. Our 160 meter band, the birthplace of our post 1912 operations, was fully occupied by the military with it's new LORAN Radionavigation System. The Armed Services and the FCC made it clear that this segment was to remain for the use of LORAN. Over the years, the ARRL obtained small concessions -- a 25 Kc segment here and there, 25 watt power limitations, day and night restrictions; but from the 1940s right up to the early 80s, our 160 meter band sounded like a huge broadbanded buzz saw as LORAN completely dominated it.

But this was a minor blot on the landscape as amateurs rushed to get back on the air. Ten meters was the band they went to first

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The Wayback Machine, from page two.

and the 28-29.7 Mc range became crowded with those making up for lost time. Two meters was next; hams modified their old 2 1/2 meter equipment to operate on the new band, and soon the rushing sounds of the superregenerative receiver were everywhere. The more adventurous were trying out something called FM. Five meters was quiet. Since the band was available for only 105 days, many hams spent that time converting their rigs to the new six meter band.

On March 1, 1946, our old five meter band died and the new 50-54 Mc segment was born. Also on that date, to compensate amateurs for the loss of 29.7-30 Mc, we were given an 11 meter band at 27 mc. That's right, the present day CB band was once an amateur allocation.

By May 1946, we had our 80/75 meter allocation back. We also had a temporary allocation from 235-240 Mc, which would soon be shifted down to 220-225 Mc. On November 2, 1946, the FCC finally released our 40 and 20 meter bands. By the end of 1946, we had our full HF spectrum back, 80/75, 40 meters (which was CW only), 20, 11 and 10 meters. Note that there was no 15 meter allocation then. Our 15 meter band did not appear until 1952. The military restrictions on our two meter band were lifted in June 1947, and, except for 160 meters, the military was off of our bands.

By 1947, every amateur band from 80 thru two meters was full of stations. But there was trouble brewing. Amateurs weren't the only ones taking to the airwaves. Television was growing by leaps and bounds. In 1946, there were only 7,000 TV sets. In 1947, the number jumped to 180,000, and by 1948, there were over 1 million TVs in use. Amateurs, who were used to harmonically related bands and an empty VHF spectrum, were not prepared for the TVI their neighbors were experiencing. A typical unshielded amateur transmitter, operating on 14, 28 or 50 Mc, could wipe out all the TVs in the neighborhood. QST ran a series of articles on proper shielding and filtering of stations and hams gradually learned to eliminate harmonics from their transmitters. But there was one band where shielding and good design didn't seem to help -- six meters. Our 50-54 Mc segment was sandwiched right between TV channel 1 (44-50 Mc) and channel 2 (54-60 Mc). At that time, only channel 2 was actually being used for TV.

Column two.

The channel 1 range was still part of the old pre-war FM Band (42-50 Mc) which was being phased out in favor of the new 88-108 Mc allocation. We were causing interference to WCBS and the other handful of stations on channel 2. And the problem would only get worse when channel 1 became available. Tests were run and an interesting solution was proposed. Because a television video signal is amplitude modulated, operates with a wide bandwidth and uses the lower portion of the TV channel, it was determined that channel 2 was twice as susceptible to interference from a 6 meter station than channel 1 was. The ARRL's proposal to the FCC? Eliminate channel 2, keep channel 1. But this idea didn't sit well with the stations already on channel 2, nor did it win the approval of Major Armstrong, who was still fighting the grand battle to keep FM Broadcast in the 42-50 Mc range. And so, in August 1947, the FCC withdrew channel 1 from the TV allocations. By the end of 1947, all the pre-war FM broadcast stations had disappeared from the 42-50 Mc range, which was then turned over to Public Service. Amateurs learned to operate in the lower portions of 6 meters to avoid TVI to channel 2.

In our next installment, we are going to look at a major upheaval that began 30 years ago and pitted amateur against amateur, and (according to some) the ARRL against hams. I'm talking about incentive licensing, and how it changed the entire licensing structure.

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Items For Sale

Ramsey 12V 2 Mtr. amplifier to bring your hand held up to approx. 25W. Asking \$35.00

ARRL General Class License Manual, [new Sixth Edition](#). All exam questions with Answer Key to June 30, 2011.

MSRP = \$24.95 Asking = \$15.00. Brand new never used condition.

Dick Sadler, KD6RUP
San Rafael, 415.485.1835

Historybit: Claremont Hotel, Oakland/Berkeley

The main hotel building is entirely in Oakland. However, the southwestern corner of the property owned by the resort falls within the city limits of Berkeley. Part of this section has been leased to the Berkeley Tennis Club since 1917. The rest of it is part of the resort's gardens and parking area, and is used as the resort's mailing address (41 Tunnel Road, Berkeley CA 94705).

The hotel had an unusual **fire escape**, a multi-story spiral slide for guests to make their escape. Many local teenagers were said to have taken the ride but the slide was eventually boarded up, and removed.

The Claremont faced destruction in the 1991 Oakland firestorm, but the flames were stopped just short of the hotel.

A transbay rail line was run right to the doors of the Claremont Hotel (eventually designated the "E" line), approaching from between the tennis courts. The track was removed in 1958 when the Key System ended rail service, but the tennis courts survive, with a path between them where the track used to be. Thus, Claremont Hotel guests not only had a magnificent view of San Francisco, but they could also go there directly from the doorsteps of the lobby.



Can you ID this squinty-eyed actor and/or the movies he was in. If no luck, more clues next month.

DDO Report for NJ6VT, USS Pampanito, SS-383
Sunday, Feb 15, 2009
Bill Stewart KF6RMK

DDO: Dedicated Day of Operation

We arrived at the boat in a strong downpour but there were still some hardy souls in rain gear lined up to tour the Pampanito. I thought the weather conditions might cause it to be a very slow day for visitors but would be proven wrong later.

Rem O'Donneley, K6BBQ joined me as guest op this time. We activated NJ6VT around 10:10 am PST and found the bands a little quiet in the morning. 40 meter CW had a few good strong stations operating but we had no takers of our CQ. We moved up to 20 meter CW where I had a few good QSOs.

Conditions were such as to have the usual QSB problems we have become used to but could copy most stations without straining our ears too much. The use of our vintage ear phones helped quite a bit. Those old phones work pretty darn good and sure come in handy when needed.

After I got my morning "fix" of CW, Rem took a turn on SSB, 20 meters and we soon had about 10 or 12 contacts in the log before lunch time.

Rem had kindly brought his "battle field" lap top computer for easier logging and it was a great help. I'm one of those old time pad and pencil guys and feel very uncomfortable if I don't have a pen or pencil in hand while operating CW. It was a luxury to have Rem recording the QSOs the instant we made a contact. Thank you Rem.

We broke for lunch and I was amazed at how many people were on the pier and around the wharf area in spite of the rain and wind. All the restaurants seemed almost as busy as on a summer day. I guess nothing keeps people away from Fisherman's Wharf!

The afternoon brought a steady stream of people visiting the boat, many of whom were from back East coming to SF for some of our famous liquid sunshine.

We continued on 20 meters in the afternoon and I had a great QSO with a station in Arkansas who was running 2.5 watts from a 4 element beam 50 ft high. Solid copy for about 15 minutes and he gave all the credit to his fine antenna and I had to agree. 20 meters was coming alive with lots of SSB stations heard. Rem found a group QSO with several stations and the op said there might a few others who might want to have a QSO with us. With that invitation, Rem found himself in a huge pileup!

We were logging a station a minute until we had almost 40 contacts (about 37-38 Q's) in the log and still going strong. What fun but it was time to secure and we regretfully had to announce QRT with many stations still calling. I think we may have been put on a spotting net.

We had a contact with a station in Mill Valley who was interested in joining PARC. I got a membership form and will mail it to him along with Den's contact info.

Oh, we also had a fun QSO from a Treasure Island station with a guy running 5 watts. He said he could see us from his window. We also had a QSO with a local running 400 watts. We could have cooked a hot dog on his signal!

All in all we had a fun, a successful day and many thanks to Rem for his participation and bringing a lot of good radio mojo with him.

We secured NJ6VT around 4:00 PST.

Bill Stewart, KF6RMK, Radio Operator
P.A.R.C. NJ6VT USS Pampanito, SS-383, San Francisco

Den here again: Thanks again to Bill Stewart, KF6RMK and Guest Operator Rem, K6BBQ for great work!

I received a very nice letter from Dick Yarrington, W9NOK, in Stockton. Dick wants to know if anyone out there would like to schedule a CW QSO on the HF bands (80/40 meters).

Contact Dick at his e-mail address: dickyarrington@sbcglobal.net

Dick is in the process of returning to ham radio and would like to improve his CW skills. I would be more than glad to help Dick out, but I lost my HF Inverted "V" antenna a few days ago and I am in the process of ordering wire, ladder-line etc to get it back up and running again better than ever! Dick also shared some little known history of the USS Pampanito when it was tied up in Stockton that I will share with you at a later date.

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, SF Maritime Museum
Denice Stoops, KI6BBR; Chief Operator KXCH, Jeremiah O'Brien.

On HF second Saturday 1000 to 1600 +or-. Exception when a
Holiday falls on Saturday, e.g., Valentine's. NJ6VT QSL card.



Marin Amateur Radio Society
General Membership Meeting
February 6, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 1933 hrs by president Randy Jenkins. There were 14 persons who signed the roster sheet. The agenda was approved as submitted.

The minutes of the November general membership meeting were approved as published in QSA-5.

President Jenkins reported on the actions of the Board of Directors at the December and January meetings.

Incoming communications consisted of the water bill, the phone bill and possibly a membership renewal check.

Treasurer Hodgson reported income of \$22,000.05 and expenses of \$1894.20. Dave reported that the deposit account was at \$18,932.11.

Phil K6PHD reported we had possibly one new member. Dues notices will be set out in February.

President Jenkins reported that Marilyn, N6VAW, had agreed to become the co chair of the recreation committee and organize the picnic. We still need a chairperson to organize the holiday party.

President Jenkins reported on the public service committee, and talked about the need for a chairperson. Currently, Randy and Dave Hodgson are organizing events. Jerry Foster WA6BXV said he would help with The Relay on May 2, and would contact Gary Sello. Jenkins reported on a new event this year, Ridge to Bridge.

There was no technical committee report, and no complaints about the repeaters

Jenkins reported that we have a manual for the generator and the com truck. We have been diagnosing the problem with the generator, but could use some help.

Hodgson reported that we have a technician class starting on Sunday, March 8 at 11 a.m.. Succeeding classes will be on Saturdays through April 4.

Jenkins reported that the next VE session would be on Saturday, April 11.

Hodgson reported that RACES would have a meeting on February 21.

The building managers were absent, Hodgson and Jenkins reported on the plumbing repairs to the apartment upstairs.

Hodgson reported that he and Justin Smith would co chair the field day committee.

Old business:

The need for a recreation committee chair, and a public service committee chair was discussed. Field day chair people were taken care of.

New business:

Jenkins discussed the possibility of having a hospitality committee.

Jenkins reported that a request from the Alto CERT group for the use of the parking lot for an exercise, and from the Marin Sheriff's Department Search and Rescue to use the repeaters during a deployment would be discussed at the February 12 Board of Directors meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2002 hrs.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, President (acting secretary).

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the Secretary's records on file at the corporate office.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF
ka6bqf@arrl.net
510 526.4089

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.

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, 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: Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Stamp



MARS Prez Randy KA6BQF at 'Mission Control'.

The Mailing
 Address
 Goes Here

Tune in 3892kc Mon & Thur, 0800.