

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

November 2009

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Pres' Msg.

Greetings fellow MARS members. There's lots to report this month, so let's get right into it.

We have an election for the Board of Directors coming up soon. We need a couple of new members on the Board to run for a two year term. A couple of us, myself included, are termed out and we need some new blood on the Board. Please consider accepting a position to keep the club running and, as Phil says, "Keep the bastards honest."

The heavy rains in October resulted in some damage to the meeting room at the clubhouse. We had water coming in from the deck at the rear of the apartment above, as well as some water that got into the apartment. We'll need to make some additional repairs to the building. The money for the repairs will probably come out of our building fund.

We already have a contract in place for some work in the meeting room area, that will finish the kitchen and complete additional work in the bathrooms. The costs for that project are being covered by a grant that we received. We are planning to have both projects completed before the Christmas party on December 12.

This year's Christmas party is scheduled to be held at the clubhouse. We are planning a buffet dinner with ham, turkey, and all the traditional trimmings. Please see additional information elsewhere in QSA-5. Thanks to Justin Smith who is heading up the Christmas party committee. Thank you to everyone who participated in a public service event this year. Things went very smoothly for most of the events, and we could not have accomplished the good work that we did

Column two.

without all the hours that were volunteered by our members and our friends in other clubs. We have already been contacted by several of the organizations that we serve to reserve their dates for the coming year. We will get those posted on the website as soon as we can. Special thanks to Michael Fisher K6MLF who helped me out with public service event organization this year.

The technical committee has worked hard to keep the repeater systems working. There have been several challenges along the way but these guys have overcome them and kept us operating. A vote of thanks from all of us is well-deserved.

We will be holding a VE session on Saturday, November 14, 9 a.m. at the clubhouse. If you're interested in upgrading your license, or if you have a friend who wants to test for a new license, this is a good opportunity and we will be happy to assist you.

As this is the end of my term on the Board, I want to thank all the members who have made serving as your president for the last two years a real pleasure. While I may no longer be on the Board of Directors, I still intend to be around, continuing as a VE liaison, helping with public service, and doing anything I can for the club. To all those who participate in our public service events, as volunteer examiners, on the Board of Directors, checking in on the net, or just coming to a Friday night meeting or a Sunday morning session, thanks again and 73.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF
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510 526.4089
President, VE Liason & Public Service
Co-Coordinator
Marin Amateur Radio Society
www.w6sg.net

**POBox 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903**

Board Of Directors Meeting Oct. 8,2009

Dave KG6TCJ called the meeting to order at 1930 hrs but soon after President Randy KA6BQF arrived and took over the proceedings. Other board members present were Phil K6PHD, Norm WA6CLK, Marilyn N6VAW, Rich W6UDS, Augie KØCQL and Justin AF6NY. The Treasurer's report was given and approved as was the minutes of the last board meeting.

There are a few minor repeater problems but Doug KF6AKU is looking into that. The comm. truck has had the brake work done and is operational but is still in need of a bit more repair work.

We're all finished with Public Service events for the year. Thanks to all who volunteered.

There was to be a RACES meeting at the Civic Center this coming Saturday.

Rich talked about repair work for the upstairs apartment and also about upcoming remodeling in the clubhouse.

There was a report on the picnic at Sam Taylor Park. The people who attended had a pretty good time and all avoided serious injury.

Justin AF6NY is in charge of this year's Christmas party. He gave a report on preparations for this event. It should be a fun affair. Further updates will be in QSA-5.

The meeting was adjourned at 2045 hrs.

Submitted by Norm WA6CLK, Secretary

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

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

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.

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.

An elderly gentleman and his wife were invited to their friends' home for dinner one evening. He was impressed by the way the host preceded every request to his wife with endearing terms such as: Honey, My Love, Darling, Sweetheart, Pumpkin, etc. The host couple had been married almost 70 years and, clearly, they were still very much in love.

While the wives were in the kitchen, the old man leaned over to his host, 'I think it's wonderful that, after all these years, you still call your wife all those loving pet names'.

The host hung his head. 'I have to tell you the truth,' he said, 'Her name slipped my mind about 10 years ago, and I'm scared to death to ask the cranky old bitch what her name is.'

Christmas Party 12/12/2009

For the first time in several years—was it 2001?—we are planning to hold this event at the clubhouse. Our kitchen is scheduled to be fully operational prior to the 12th as are the rest rooms, thanks to the \$35K grant MARS received. The menu will consist of the usual turkey and ham, plus the stuffing and all the other stuff we stuff ourselves with. Bring your own Zantac 150 or Pepcid AC; it's really amazing how much food you can shovel down and survive quite well if you use one of those.

Randy KA6BQF has somehow come up with a gallon can of cranberry sauce, the lumpy variety. We might also have some of the non-lumpy type in case you're thinking that all of those lumps may not be cranberries as shown on the can label. Bring your own wine. No corkage except for Two-Buck Chuck, to compensate our cork puller for the embarrassment at having to open it. (Actually, we have a case of TBChuck cab and another of chardonnay hidden in our garage. Don't tell.)

There will be the usual raffle prizes. Reservations are being accepted from now until about a week prior to the party so we can lay in enough food to assure that even the appetites of our gourmands will be eliminated or, at least, reduced.

The charge will be \$25 per person to cover the food and prizes. To minimize no-shows, this must be paid in advance with your reservation. Send 'em to MARS, POBox 6423, San Rafael 94903.

RAIN DAMAGE

The small deck at the rear of the second floor of the clubhouse had drain problems again, apparently caused by leaves clogging it. We got some water in the rear of our first floor space. Not in the radio room, however. A permanent fix should be put in place soon. This was not a problem when our building was a fire house. There was no carpet or dropped-ceiling tiles, then, and any water that got in landed on the concrete floor.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #21

by Bill Continelli, W2XOY
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In May of 1970, with the Vietnam War in full swing, the United States invaded Cambodia for the purpose of rooting out the Communists using that country as a base of operations. This led to protests at College campuses across the nation, and the deaths of four students at Kent State University in Ohio. At this point, the demonstrations exploded on virtually every major campus nationwide.

One problem facing the leaders of these protests was how to exchange news and information with their colleague brothers and sisters on other campuses. The internet was in it's embryonic stage, and available to only the military and a few select universities; network news and wire services were not to be trusted (after all, they were run by people over the age of 30); the mail was too slow, and in a shambles after the recent postal strike; and long distance telephone calls were too expensive for students surviving on part time jobs and Care Packages from their parents. Thus, they turned to an institution that was prevalent at that time on almost every college campus--Amateur Radio. The Student Information Net was born.

The net appeared on 7260 khz and 14.294 Mhz in the 40 and 20 meter bands. Net Controls included K1WGM, at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA, and W2UC, at Union College in Schenectady, NY. At first, the net was used solely for the purpose of gathering and exchanging information as to what was happening on the various campuses nationwide. The net was so good at this, as a matter of fact, that they began to feed news to the wire services and the major networks.

However, the net soon expanded in scope, and that's where the trouble began. Dialog was encouraged among the various participants on the merits of the war, and what type of protests should be used. News bulletins were passed as traffic, to be rebroadcast on the college radio stations.

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Funds were solicited for the continuation of the student strike activities. Traffic was passed encouraging students to send their draft cards to Washington D.C. for a massive bonfire. A boycott of Coca Cola was discussed, as well as a demonstration to be held at Fort Dix on May 16. W2UC and W3EAX exchanged information on the demonstration at the University of Maryland and the attempt to block U.S. Route 1. W2UC claimed that they were forwarding all information received to a "clearing center", the location of which was not specified.

Then it started--the jamming, the deliberate interference, and the name calling by several unidentified stations. The net continued through the jamming, and operated for about a month- -long enough for the U.S. to withdraw from Cambodia, and for the summer break to arrive. But the controversy was just beginning.

The July, 1970 issue of QST contained an editorial in which the ARRL stated that the use of the amateur bands for heated political discussion was a self imposed taboo in amateur radio. They said that because of amateur radio's international status, what goes out over the air can have negative political consequences for us at future radio conferences. As a result, according to the ARRL, there was no place on the amateur bands for arguing about the Vietnam War, advocating resistance to the draft, and talking about the new and permissive morality. The ARRL also condemned the jammers, stating that "Frontier Justice", vigilantes, and "Joe McCarthyism" had even less place than politics in amateur radio.

The letters from hams poured into QST. By a 2 to 1 ratio, they opposed the use of amateur radio for political purposes. One writer stated the net was a violation of national security and notified his local FBI office. Another stated that the net advocated mass disobedience to the laws of the land. One amateur stated "We must keep politics and jammers off the amateur bands. A political discussion on the amateur frequencies is as inappropriate as a political speech on an air traffic control

channel.

The ARRL's reference to "McCarthyism" brought a rebuke from an amateur who said that Joe McCarthy was a "great American", who was proven correct in every case. And finally, one letter called the net participants "creeps", and sympathized with those who caused the QRM.

On the other side, supporters of the net were appalled at the deliberate jamming and claimed that the net was non-political, provided accurate information, facilitated good will, and prevented false rumors. Members of the Student Information net claimed that the traffic passed was legal and was eventually carried by the UPI & AP wire services.

Several writers brought up constitutional issues, claiming that the First Amendment gave the net operators the right to do what they did, as well as the right for every amateur to discuss anything, including unpopular causes, on the air. One ham, ex-W6SDW, condemned the anti civil libertarian attitude of the ARRL & a majority of hams, and gave up his license as a protest.

The Student Information Net lasted only one month, but it opened the door to the concept that amateur radio did not exist in a technical vacuum, and that discussions of current political and social events were allowable on the amateur bands. Have we gone too far in the "anything goes" direction? That's up to you to decide. As a postscript, W2UC has recently been reactivated at Union College. If you ever hear it on the air, remember the role it played in amateur radio history 28 years ago.

In our next installment, we are going to jump back in time to the depths of the Great Depression, the early 30's. I hope to see you then.

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Yesterday I received the following letter from our local Target.

Dear Mrs. Goodsell,

Over the past six months, your husband has caused quite a commotion in our store. We cannot tolerate this behavior and have been forced to ban both of you from the store. Our complaints against your husband, Mr. Goodsell, are listed below and are documented by our video surveillance cameras.

June 15: Took 24 boxes of condoms and randomly put them in other people's carts when they weren't looking.

July 2: Set all the alarm clocks in Housewares to go off at 5-minute intervals.

July 19: Walked up to an employee and told her in an official voice, 'Code 3 in Housewares. Get on it right away'. This caused the employee to leave her assigned station and receive a reprimand from her Supervisor that in turn resulted with a union grievance, causing management to lose time and costing the company money.

August 4: Went to the Service Desk and tried to put a bag of M&Ms on layaway.

August 14: Moved a 'CAUTION - WET FLOOR' sign to a carpeted area.

August 15: Set up a tent in the camping department and told the children shoppers he would invite them in if they would bring pillows and blankets from the bedding department to which twenty children obliged.

August 23: When a clerk asked if they could help him he began crying and screamed, 'Why can't you people just leave me alone?' EMTs were called.

September 4: Looked right into the security camera and used it as a mirror while he picked his nose.

September 10: While handling guns in the hunting department, he asked the clerk where the antidepressants were.

October 6: In the auto department, he practiced his 'Madonna look' by using different sizes of funnels.

October 21: When an announcement came over the loud speaker, he assumed a fetal position and screamed 'OH NO! IT'S THOSE VOICES AGAIN!'

And last, but not least:

October 23: Went into a fitting room, shut the door, waited awhile, and then yelled very loudly, 'Hey! There's no toilet paper in here.'

Hi All

A dedicated day of Operation (DDO) took place aboard the USS Pampanito, SS-383 this last Saturday, October 17, 2009. We had a single operator at NJ6VT this time around, our Michael Fischer, K6MLF. Michael did a splendid job of operating the station and talking with the visitors aboard the boat! Thank you Michael! Here is Michael's DDO report:

Den Regan, K6ZJU
CO Pampanito A.R.C.
USS Pampanito, SS-383
San Francisco

--- On **Sun, 10/18/09, Michael Fischer** <fischer@igc.org> wrote:

From: Michael Fischer <fischer@igc.org>
Subject: PARC DDO for October 17, 2009
To: "Dennis Regan" <k6zju@yahoo.com>
Date: Sunday, October 18, 2009, 10:26 AM

Hiya, Den—

I wish we were able to operate more frequently on the boat, the visitors like it so much.

I spent 5+ hours aboard yesterday, from just before 1 pm to just before 6 pm. I was able to operate for a little more than three hours, and the last hour and a half was spent logging my contacts and talking with the people who crowded around (and inside) the radio room, just wanting to talk with someone about the boat and about radio. That was the time I really missed having a partner...while I was on the radio, calling CQ or actively logging, people didn't stop to interrupt—but after I was off the air, it was tough dragging myself away!

At the beginning of my shift, I took 20 minutes to get the radio running—I had failed, in my notes about startup, to remind myself to click the antenna switch over to 2. So, with the switch set to 1, I was unable to tune the radio and to get a signal out. By process of elimination, that simple switch-flip cured the problem.

I logged 46 SSB contacts, all of them on 7.260 by calling CQ. My first contact was the Hornet; the second contact was Bill, KF6RMK, who apologized for not being able to be aboard. It was a special event day for the US Coast Guard Auxiliary, and we contacted several of them in WA, CA and AZ. All of the contacts were in the West: OR, WA, ID, UT, AZ, MT, NV and CA.

One of the contacts was with KE7HHW/AG in Boise, on her first day of operating. Another was with John, 95 years old and living alone in Oregon, who had just set up a station after decades of being off the air. Jaden, KE7ZPD, is a 10-year-old ham in Saint George, UT, with whom I had exchanged a QSO during the California QSO party. John, N9YQ, is a former submariner in Vancouver, WA, who served on the USS Redfish. Mitch, KB7MLC, of Hillsborough, OR, wondered if the submarine in Portland, the USS Blueback, has a ham radio club and Russ, N7QR, came on the air shortly thereafter to tell me (Mitch had signed off) that K0KT was the contact for the Blueback ARC.

Three of the hams were patient enough to exchange greetings with a half-dozen young people who came into the radio room at separate times for their first ham radio experience on the air, beaming parents in the background.

November 17 is our next DDO—it's on my calendar.

Cordially,

Michael

Michael Fischer

131 Bolsa Avenue

Mill Valley, CA 94941-1101

415 383 5855

415 519 2201 cell

415 578 8773 work iPhone

QSA 5 November 2009

General Membership Meeting is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse at 27 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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The Mailing
 Address
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