

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

March 2010

Page 1

Pres' Msg.

CQ from your new president. I would first like to thank all of you who voted for me. I would also like to thank the board for honoring me with the job of president. Moreover I would like to thank my predecessor Randy Jenkins KA6BQF for his past and ongoing service to the club. I find that as part of the duties of office I am to contribute to QSA-5. This being my first column I apologize in advance for stumbling around a bit. Most of you don't know me so I will make an effort to get you know you.

This is my first, last and only column about me. I will start with a little autobiography, however just to keep thing straight my name is Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS not to be confused with Rich Carbine W6UDS (formerly WB6UDS. ed). I grew up in Marin County, Bel Aire School, Del Mar, Redwood High School, College of Marin. I got my ticket in High School and joined the precursor of this club when the repeater call was K6GWE. One of my classmates who you know well is Doug Slusher KF6AKU. We were both members of the Redwood High School Amateur Radio Club, WB6NVY. I was a secondary control operator on the Mt. Tam repeater back when we used a touch-tone pad audio coupled to the radio to control the repeater. I was also active on the RTTY repeater we had back then. I got started in Ham radio because of my interest in electronics and under the tutelage of Ted MacMillian W6QJA.

I studied theatre in school and worked as a Set designer, Lighting designer, and Sound designer. I left the county in the 80s Col. Two.

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

POBox 6423, San Rafael, 93903

and moved to New York. I lived in New York, Washington D.C., and Los Angeles. After a dozen years of moving around I returned to the Bay Area, no longer working in electronics or the theatre but in Software. For another ten years or so I was a software consultant.

In 1995 I moved from Corte Madera to Emeryville where I still live. I upgraded my old Technician License to General at our clubhouse. In 2005 I started working at the Marin Independent Journal in the IT department where I am today.

I have worked for large organizations, General Electric, the Federal Government, AT&T, Medium size companies SBT and the Marin Independent Journal. I also owned my own consulting company. I am the President of my Homeowner's Association and have been since 1995. I consider it an achievement that in all that time every decision we have taken as a board was unanimous.

I hope to keep our meetings running smoothly. I look forward to getting to know you, your ideas, and together supporting the club's activities, maintaining domestic tranquility, and advancing the cause of Amateur Radio.

Curtis Ardourel ,WA6UDS
510 655 2032
WA6UDS@ARRL.NET
Pres. Marin Amateur Radio Society.

MARS Board Meeting, Feb. 11, 2010
President Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. All board members were present. The evening's agenda was approved.

The MMWD reported that the club had been using excessive water in the last billing session. This will be looked into.

There will be a small insurance refund.

Dave Hodgson gave the Treasurer's report which was approved.

Phil Dunlap said the club had gained a new member.

The next club picnic will probably be in Sept. More details to follow.

There is a listing in February's QSA5 of upcoming Public Service Events. Randy Jenkins could always use more volunteers to help with these so give him a call if you're interested.

There was a discussion on the cost of a new repeater for Big Rock.

Registration costs and generator repairs were also discussed.

We are looking for people interested in becoming Techs or Generals. Get in touch with any board member if you would like to sign up for a class. There will be VE tests in April, July and November.

Jerry Foster WA6BXV talked about the latest happenings with RACES.

Rich Carbine gave an up-date on work being done in the kitchen and bathroom.

For this year's Field Day, in partnership with REDX, we'll be using our call, W6SG, but it's not decided if we will be a 2A or a 3A. The third station might be digital, including RTTY. We hope to have more MARS members to operate.

The old fire extinguishers in the clubhouse will be replaced.

Rich Carbine W6UDS said he will stay on as Building Mgr. (with help) but is still looking for a replacement.

A little more on page two, column two.

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

Join the Elderfahrten Net Mondays and Thursdays at 0800 on 3892kc

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 0700 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.

Triviabit

An Olympic gold medal is made of 550 grams of silver covered with 6? grams of gold, a silver medal is made of 41 grams of copper and 509 grams of silver, and a bronze medal is made of a mix of mostly copper with some tin and zinc to harden it. This means that in today's market a **gold medal is worth approx \$494**, a silver medal \$260, and a bronze medal just \$3.

From the 'net.

A little known fact....

The first testicular guard "cup" was used in Hockey in 1874 and the first helmet was used in 1974.

That means it took 100 years for men to realize that their brain is also important. Also from the 'net.

Board Meeting, cont.

There was some discussion about changing the format for the general meetings.

The Web site is out of date and it is hoped it will be updated soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 2040 hours. by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

The last time first-place medals were made entirely out of gold was at the 1912 Games in Stockholm.

NEW FCC LICENSES					
ISSUED 2005 THROUGH 2009					
Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Jan	876	1,274	1,647	1,755	1,960
Feb	1,357	1,605	2,435	2,998	2,263
Mar	1,705	2,531	3,478	2,816	3,463
Apr	1,486	1,728	2,673	3,090	3,430
May	1,651	2,283	2,607	2,562	2,717
Jun	1,493	1,967	2,281	2,402	3,011
Jul	906	1,401	1,786	2,077	2,220
Aug	1,500	1,623	2,183	2,084	2,102
Sep	1,139	1,357	1,462	1,763	2,116
Oct	1,385	1,781	2,109	2,303	2,404
Nov	1,540	1,993	2,132	2,197	2,344
Dec	1,330	1,569	1,935	2,019	2,114
Totals	16,368	21,112	26,728	28,066	30,144

For those who keep watch on sun spots and HF propagation, try this site:

<http://www.hamqsl.com/solar.html>

These two items from Michael K6MLF

The other night I ordered takeout, and when I looked in the bag, saw they had included four sets of plastic silverware. In other words, someone at the restaurant packed my order, took a second to think about it, and then estimated that there must be at least four people eating to require such a large amount of food. Too bad I was eating by myself. There's nothing like being made to feel like a fat bastard before dinner.

From the Net.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #24
by Bill Continelli, W2XOY
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World War II started on September 1, 1939, when Germany invaded Poland. By May, 1940, Germany had conquered much of Europe, and had her sights on Britain. Although the United States was officially neutral, it was obvious that our sympathies were with the Allies. In addition, it was clear to a few perceptive Americans that we would be drawn into the conflict.

Amateur Radio Operators, like most Americans, began to gear up for War. On June 4, 1940, the FCC issued Order #72, which prohibited amateurs from engaging in foreign communications, or from establishing contact with any or all points outside the continental U.S. and its possessions. The FCC was quite serious about this--they revoked the licenses of several hams who had contact with foreign stations. The "How's DX" column was jokingly referred to as "Where's DX"--so many foreign hams, including our neighbors in Canada, had been off the air since September, 1939.

Throughout 1940 and 1941, the face of amateur radio changed with the darkening war cloud. The War Department sent out a questionnaire to all hams to obtain data on equipment, experience, physical fitness, and availability for service. Columns devoted to the military began to appear, such as "Army-Amateur Radio System Activities", which included the schedule of station WAR on 4025 and 6990 kc. Other columns were "Naval Communication Reserve Notes"; "In the Services", which listed amateurs now in military service; and "USA Calling", which published requests from the Navy, Marines, Army, Army Air Corps, Signal Corps, Merchant Marine, and even the FBI for amateurs proficient as radio operators, electronic specialists, electrical engineers and Communications Officers. In the summer of 1940, the British used the "USA Calling" column to issue an urgent appeal for radio servicemen and amateurs for their Civilian Technical Corps.

Up to 25,000 Americans were requested by the British.

Foreign espionage invaded the ham bands in 1940. The FBI, in a successful bid to capture several foreign agents in the U.S., operated a counter-espionage station in the 20 meter band. Using a phony amateur call, the FBI passed over 500 messages to various spies before arresting them.

Amateurs were members of the Defense Communication Board, which met every week to prepare for a military emergency.

Amateurs also made their own preparations for a national emergency. QST ran several editorials urging hams to improve their CW skills. Many articles appeared on "emergency" equipment, such as vibrator power supplies (to supply the B+ voltage for tubes), battery operated radios, and mobile stations. The 2 1/2 meter band (112-116 mc) was chosen as the primary "Civil Defense" band, and every issue of QST had another 2 1/2 meter construction project, including a few "Walkie-Talkies". Civil Defense coordination and participation was urged.

On July 22, 1941 the FCC, in response to the National Emergency, announced that the 3650 to 3950 kc portion of 80 meters would be withdrawn from amateur use and reassigned to the military for use in an Aircraft Pilot Training program. Amateurs were given a few months to vacate the band, and preparations were made to move popular 80 meter nets to 160. But before the reassignment was completed in December 1941, Pearl Harbor was attacked.

On December 8, 1941, the FCC issued Order Number 87, which read in part: Whereas a state of War exists between the United States and the Imperial Japanese government, and the withdrawal from private use of all amateur frequencies is required for the purpose of National Defense; IT IS ORDERED, that except as may hereafter be specifically authorized by the Commission, no person shall engage in any amateur radio operation...and all frequencies heretofore allocated to amateur radio stations

Next column.

under Part 12 of the Rules and Regulations ARE HEREBY WITHDRAWN. All amateur licensees are hereby notified that the Commission has ordered the immediate suspension of all amateur radio operation in the continental U.S., its territories and possessions.

However, the FCC left a small loophole for amateur operation during the war. Amateurs would be allowed to operate for the purpose of National Defense, upon application of a Federal, State, or local official.

In our next installment, we will look at some amateur operations during WWII. Some will surprise you.

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Random Thoughts Snatched From The Net.

More often than not, when someone is telling me a story all I can think about is that I can't wait for them to finish so that I can tell my own story that's not only better, but also more directly involves me.

Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.

Have you ever been walking down the street and realized that you're going in the complete opposite direction of where you are supposed to be going? But instead of just turning a 180 and walking back in the direction from which you came, you have to first do something like check your watch or phone or make a grand arm gesture and mutter to yourself to ensure that no one in the surrounding area thinks you're crazy by randomly switching directions on the sidewalk.

The letters T and G are very close to each other on a keyboard. This recently became all too apparent to me and consequently I will never be ending a work email with the phrase "Regards" again.

There is a great need for sarcasm font.

Some more in column three.

How the hell are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?

I would rather try to carry 10 plastic grocery bags in each hand than take two trips to bring my groceries in.

I think part of a best friend's job should be to immediately clear your computer history if you die.

The only time I look forward to a red light is when I'm trying to finish a text.

Was learning cursive really necessary?

Lol has gone from meaning, "laugh out loud" to "I have nothing else to say".

I have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger.

Answering the same letter three times or more in a row on a Scantron test is absolutely petrifying.

Whenever someone says "I'm not book smart, but I'm street smart", all I hear is "I'm not real smart, but I'm imaginary smart".

How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear what they said?

I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars teams up to prevent an ass from cutting in at the front. Stay strong, brothers!

Every time I have to spell a word over the phone using 'as in' examples, I will undoubtedly draw a blank and sound like a complete idiot. Today I had to spell my boss's last name to an attorney and said "Yes that's G as in...(ten second lapse)..ummm...Goonies"

What would happen if I hired two private investigators to follow each other?

Sometimes, when I'm watching a movie that I watched when I was younger, I suddenly realize I had no idea WTF was going on when I first saw it.

Hi All

Bill Stewart, KF6RMK, was on board the USS Pampanito Saturday 2/21 operating NJ6VT. I want to thank Bill for the time he spent aboard on a rainy Saturday at the boat. Here is Bill's DDO Report.

73,

Den Regan, K6ZJU

CO Pampanito A.R.C. NJ6VT

USS Pampanito, SS-383

San Francisco

--- On **Mon, 2/22/10**, bill <lite65@earthlink.net> wrote:

From: Bill lite65@earthlink.net

To: "Dennis Regan" <k6zju@yahoo.com>

Date: Monday, February 22, 2010,

DOD Sunday, 21, 2010

Op: Bill Stewart, KF6RMK,

Sunday was rainy but hardy souls from far worse climates were on Fisherman's Wharf enjoying our liquid sunshine, and on board Pampanito escaping from it. One woman from New York commented that it felt like a spring day in NYC, and they were expecting 10 more inches of snow on Monday. Yikes!

I activated NJ6VT around 10:45 AM. 20 meters CW was alive with a world wide DX contest, along with the other usual contests. With much improved band conditions it was especially crowded with very loud and strong sigs.

I wasn't ready for this frantic activity and moved down to 40 meters SSB where it was much more peaceful. I answered a CQ from VE7SCC, a group called "girls / guys on the air". I think they were a special needs group offered an opportunity for them to chat with various hams around the world. They asked questions about the sub and what I thought about the Olympics and who my favorite athlete was, etc. It was a fun QSO and I chatted with about 4 or 5 members before they signed off. Next, Ron, NO6NO, an op from the Hornet called from his home station in Richmond. He extended an invite to any Pampanito ARC member to attend one of their club meetings, any second Sat. at noon.

Later I got a call from N6OND, Skip, an op at the Vets hospital. His QTH was on Mission St., a 599+++ signal indicating NVIS was really in effect today.

The number of visitors was lower than usual due to the rainy weather but hardy folks from Ireland, Canada, DC, and some of the Eastern States didn't seem to notice.

The bands all seemed to be much improved. Ron said 10M was open and I heard some weak CW contesting near the low end of the band, also a very loud beacon located somewhere in CA. All good signs of more DX a-coming. 17M was strong also.

Bill Stewart, KF6RMK

Radio Operator

PARC, NJ6VT

USS Pampanito, SS383

MapQuest really needs to start their directions on #5. Pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.

Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.

A list of members' birthdays by month and day in a club publication is a complete waste of space unless it lets you know each person's age. Very few readers give a rats ass about the rest. (Ass, not the animal, is used on prime time TV. So no whining!)

Dumbass First Aid Things We Thought were OK To Do.

From the Net.

1. Scraping Off a Bee Stinger

This is the granddaddy of all first aid myths. How fast you remove the stinger is much more important than *how* you remove it. Grab it, brush it, flick it -- it doesn't matter -- just don't spend time digging through your wallet for a Visa card to scrape it off.

2. Sucking a Snake Bite

Drug store snake bite kits want you to slice into a newly bitten victim and remove the poison by sucking it out. It doesn't work. It's not like the venom just sits in the wound, waiting for you to remove it with a two-bit rubber suction cup. Sucking it out with your mouth is even worse - the snake can just get a two-for-one special that way.

3. Breathing Into a Paper Bag for Hyperventilation

Running makes you breathe fast. Pneumonia makes you breathe fast. Stress makes you breathe fast. There are a lot of reasons why we hyperventilate (breathe fast). In no case is a paper bag indicated as proper treatment. This one is actually very dangerous. **DO NOT USE A PAPER BAG FOR HYPERVENTILATION!**

4. Peeing on Jellyfish Sting

Hopefully, this is on a clothing-optional beach. Ooh! Cover your eyes, honey! Urine only works if it is acidic. Depending on diet, urine is not always acidic. Therefore, urine does not always work. Vinegar, however, always works. Moral of the story: use vinegar.

5. **Curing Croup with Steam.** (Actually, heated water vapor.) A hot, steamy shower has plenty of good uses, but curing croup is not one of them. Comfort your baby in his own bed until his barking cough gets better and save the shower for you.

(TRIVIABIT inserted here to use up some extra space: Steam only exists above the boiling point of water and is invisible to the human eye. Inhaling steam is not a pleasant way to die. Superheated steam, which propels modern steamships and was used in many of the long gone steam locomotives, can have a temp of several hundred degrees. A pin hole leak in a high pressure steam pipe is to be avoided. It can be found with a simple wood stick. When the stick starts to burn, you've found the leak.

6. Putting Something in a Seizure Patient's Mouth to Bite

While somebody suffering a seizure may very well bite his or her tongue, it rarely becomes an airway emergency. Seizures look scary, but generally do very little harm. You're more apt to cause an airway blockage by stuffing your wallet in the seizure victim's mouth than by leaving the victim alone.

7. Leaning Back with a Nosebleed

I know, I know, mom's going to be mad when you bleed on your soccer uniform, but leaning back will cause you to swallow blood. Since your tummy doesn't like blood, you will vomit the blood. Gross, and it will definitely ruin your soccer uniform.

8. Raw steak on Black Eye

Right out of a Popeye cartoon, this one. Putting raw steak on a black eye does nothing but contaminate the eye with whatever E coli is on the steak. This is all about the cold. Ice works just fine. If you insist on pulling something out of the fridge, try a bag of frozen peas - it's cleaner and it'll work better than the steak.

9. Butter on Burns

What is it with food and first aid? Butter and oil are great for basting, but unless you want to make a burn worse, leave them in the kitchen. Oils hold in the heat, exactly the opposite of what a burn victim needs. If you have to put butter on something - try the steak you won't be using for your black eye.

10. Drinking Alcohol to Warm Up a Cold Victim

Remember the pictures of St. Bernards racing through the snow-covered mountains, kegs of brandy collared to their thick necks? Didn't happen. They were carrying mail. Just because a hot toddy by the fire keeps you warm in the ski lodge, it isn't a good idea to count on the booze in your bota to warm up. Alcohol makes you feel flush and warm, but actually leads to hypothermia in cold weather.

More Random Thoughts from The Net.

Bad decisions make good stories

Whenever I'm in FaceBook stalking someone and I find out that their profile is public I feel like a kid on Christmas morning who just got the Red Ryder BB gun that I always wanted. 546 pictures? Don't mind if I do!

QSA-5 March 2010

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.

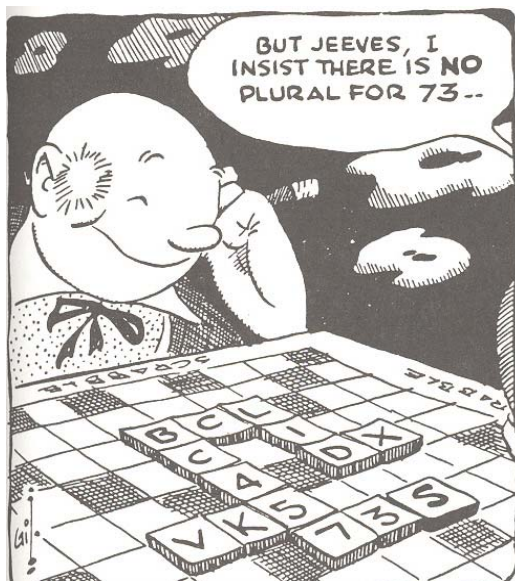
Sunday morning informal meeting, grinningly called the bible/babble class, meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting at roughly 0800 hours and runs to around 1100 hours +or-. Sometimes we even talk about radio. This weekly event is hosted by **Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ**,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



The Mailing
 Address
 Goes Here

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 Same goes for 88.