

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

May 2010

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Pres' Msg.

Why do we volunteer? Each of us come to it for several and different reasons. As Hams, perhaps we have more reasons than others. I am not up to the task of opining on volunteering for moral reasons or virtue or faith or noblesse oblige. I am more interested in the reasons that are aligned with the amateur radio service.

The very first paragraph of Part 97 includes the words: "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications." The opportunity given to us to serve is pretty much self-evident.

Many of us came to amateur radio because we wanted to experiment. When I started, commercially manufactured radios for the ham bands were far beyond the means of a junior high school student. However surplus radios, projects in QST, and kits could be had. We learned to build our own stations or repair and modify ARC-5s or TCSs, PRCs and a host of other old radios. Hams trained themselves and many went into engineering and research that built the technology that we rely on today. We were inspired to hone our skills and to try new bands, new techniques all for the love of learning and doing rather than for pecuniary reasons.

Many of us came to amateur radio because we wanted to explore. World travel was and is expensive but you could hear the whole world through the static on HF and you could actually talk back

Column 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

to other hams. We sought to learn about and understand people around the world. To open our ears and eyes to languages and cultures and on a very personal level make the world a smaller place. Many of us came to amateur radio because we wanted to expand what we could accomplish as individuals. We did this by furnishing communications for public events. By providing communication in emergencies, passing traffic for persons in the military and for ships at sea. We often end up helping in ways that don't involve a carrier wave. At the same time we render these services we add a human touch to what we do.

A common thread in all of these paths is the desire to improve our skills and ourselves at the same time we help others. This is why we have ARRL Field Day, emergency tests, traffic nets and, of course, public service events. As volunteers we must also remember that we act in support of others. Particularly in the case of public service events. The activities we provide communication to belong to the participants. We don't organize or sponsor these events and we are there to help the folks who are part of the event. It is not our role to reengineer the event in our own image even if we could do it better. I am not advocating looking the other way when a safety issue arises; we have a human obligation to act then.

The season of public service events is upon us and its time to get out there and volunteer!

Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS
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President Marin Amateur Radio Soc.

Board Meeting, April 8,2010

The meeting was called to order by President Curtis Ardourel at 1937 hours. Other board members present were Rich W6UDS, Augie KØCQL, Dave KG6TCJ, Doug KF6AKU and Norm WA6CLK. Also present was Randy KA6BQF. The agenda for tonight's meeting was approved.

Dave presented the Treasurer's report which was approved.

The club's membership is approximately 112 members.

Randy went over upcoming public service events and also discussed the Dipsea which will be held June 13.

Dave gave a report on the cost **if** replacing the repeater equipment on Big Rock. About \$3,100 and 4 to 5 weeks delivery.

Upcoming class for General at the clubhouse and for Techs in the East Bay. There will be a VE test April 24.

Rich said there would be a leadership meeting at RACES. Check with Rich for details. Rich also gave an update of ongoing remodeling in the clubhouse.

We were sorry to hear about the passing of Ben Sawtelle. Our condolences go out to his wife Connie.

We are looking for someone to take charge of the Sunday morning net. There has been a problem with our Kenwood TS-950 and it has been replaced with the TS-850, so hopefully the reception / transmission will improve.

There was discussion on speakers for future general meetings.

Dave presented a budget for the club for 2010 and it was approved.

Possible internet service in the clubhouse will be looked into. Updating the W6SG.net website is overdue and will be implemented.

Floor repairs in the upstairs apartment are being discussed.

Next page, column two.

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

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 +/-.

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

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

General Meeting 2 April 2, 2010

The meeting was called to order by President Curtis WA6UDS at 1932 hr. There were approximately 14 members and guests in attendance. After introductions were made, the agenda for tonight's meeting was presented and approved.

There was a request by the Sonoma club to use our repeater in September.

There was a summary of the survey of members in regard to the FCC request of the use of Ham bands by licensed hospital employees during emergencies and drills.

Our annual picnic will be held in Sept. at Sam Taylor Park. More info to follow.

Column two.

Board Meeting, cont.

There were additional discussions on FC Dockets 10-54 and 10-72 and the club's thoughts.

We will look into the possibility of having the club dues paid online. The cost to the club will be investigated.

The meeting was adjourned at 2048 hours followed by a short Executive meeting which was adjourned at 2054 hours.

Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

General Meeting, from column one.

There was a discussion of upcoming public service events and putting a list of them in QSA 5. Volunteers to help out are always welcomed.

Doug KF6AKU gave us the total cost, about \$3,100, for a new repeater on Big Rock.

Nothing new on the comm. truck. The generator still needs work but the interior of the truck remained dry during the recent rains.

There will be a class for those wanting to upgrade to General on April 18. VE tests to be held April 24, June 19 and Nov. 13.

There will be a RACES meeting at the Civic Center this week.

Remodeling on the kitchen is almost completed and bathroom work has begun which made them unusable. A Porta-Crap has been installed outside the front door, to remain until the work is completed.

Our old fire extinguishers will soon be replaced. Dave Hodgson will be co-chairman with the REDXA club for our Field Day this year.

Our meeting ended with a great presentation of the world of DXing by Jerry Foster and Rich Carbine. This included the use of the computer in finding DX stations by Jerry and Rich's experiences in being DX.

The meeting was adjourned at 2050 hr

Submitted by Norm Baetz, secretary.

Which is correct: bated breath or baited breath? That's easy. Bated was 'abated' until it lost its first 'a'.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #26

by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

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What was the post-war world of amateur radio like? Let's take a look at our hobby as it existed in the late 1940's.

In November 1945, amateurs were allowed back on the air on the 10-meter, 5 meter, and the new 2-meter band. The 5-meter band from 56-60 mc was temporary--by March 1946 we were moved in the great post war frequency shuffle to our new 6-meter home from 50-54 mc. As for the new 2-meter band, it replaced our old 2 1/2 meter allocation which ran from 112-116 mc. Throughout 1946, the military gradually vacated the 80, 75, 40, and 20-meter bands, turning them back over to amateur operations. We lost a few frequencies--the 160-meter band was staying in the hands of the military for LORAN Radionavigation, and we lost the top 300 kc of 10 meters, from 29.7 to 30 mc. To compensate us for this loss, the FCC, in 1946, gave hams an allocation at 27 mc to be shared on a secondary basis with industrial, scientific and medical devices. Dubbed the "11 meter band", it was unique as the only HF allocation where A0 and A2 emissions were allowed.

The amateur population was pushing 60,000, and the FCC was running out of "W" callsigns in the 9 call areas. So, the FCC created the 10th call district in 1946, and redrew the district boundaries. The license structure was the same as before the war. Class A hams had all amateur privileges, including exclusive use of the 75 and 20 meter phone bands. Class B had all cw privileges, and phone operation on 10 meters and above. Note that at the time, 40 meters was cw only, and 15 meters didn't exist yet. Class C had the same frequencies as Class B, but it was a mail order license for those in remote areas. The only change the FCC made to the license structure in the 1940's was to allow applicants to copy the code either by printing, or by long-hand. Prior to the war, the code test had to be copied in longhand only.

Next page, column one.

Most hams used cw or AM phone, but there were 2 new modes on the horizon. Narrow band fm enjoyed a brief surge in popularity. QST had several articles on VHF and even HF fm operation. Phase modulation, a variation on fm, made its first appearance in 1947. But the big news was something called "SSSC", or Single Sideband Suppressed Carrier". SSB, as it would eventually be called, appeared on the ham bands late in 1947. Throughout 1948, QST was full of articles on this new mode. And, how do you get your fm or SSB signal to the antenna?? Try an item developed during the war--coaxial cable. And, with coax, came a new concern over reflected power. Thus, the first SWR meters were described in QST.

So, what rig do you want to use on the air? How about war surplus? Starting in late 1946, the pages of QST and CQ were filled with ads for military surplus equipment. Numerous articles showed how to modify these rigs for amateur use. The most popular war surplus receiver was the BC-342, which was built like a battleship, and tuned from 1.5 to 18 mc. I operated one in my Novice days.

Maybe you want a new rig. Try the hallicrafters (lower case h) Model S-40, the Hammarlund HQ-129X (which was another receiver I owned), the National NC-46, or the Collins 75A. But, the "Packard" of the post war radios had to be the hallicrafters SX-42 receiver. This "radio man's radio" had every possible feature, tuned from 540 kc to 110 mc, and cost \$250 in 1946 dollars. That's about \$1700 today.

Perhaps you would like to build your own rig. GE, Sylvania and RCA had pages of ads showing off their new miniature and sub-miniature tubes. The "sub-minis" were only 1 1/2 inches tall and 3/8 of an inch wide. For those who think the 2-meter HT was an invention of the 70's, it may surprise you to learn that they existed in 1947, using those tiny tubes.

But be careful when you get on the air. A new term is finding its way into the amateur world--**TVI**.

In 1947, the FCC eliminated TV Channel 1 to reduce 6-meter interference, but amateurs had to learn to shield their equipment. With the help of good engineering practices, the TVI monster was kept at bay - sort of.

The Atlantic City Conference was held in 1947. Hams gained a 15-meter band, which was finally allocated to us in 1952.

Amateurs proved their worth as two disasters, one natural and one man made, struck Texas in April 1947. Tornados sliced through the State, killing 150. And, in Texas City, an explosion on board a freighter set off a chain reaction that killed 600, wounded 2000, and destroyed two square miles of the city. Dozens of portable and mobile stations rushed to the scene and provided necessary communications on 75 and 10 meters.

Also on a somber note, Kenneth B. Warner, W1EH, the Secretary and General Manager of the ARRL since 1919, died in 1948.

By the way, do you need a job? Are you bored with your life? Do you crave adventure? Then hallicrafters has a job for you!! In the fall of 1947, they are sponsoring a 6-month expedition to the Dark Continent--Africa--the Belgian Congo to be exact. They need an experienced Class A amateur to operate the radio equipment. If you feel you are qualified, send them your application by July 1, 1947. Finally, what's an "amplifying crystal"? You don't know?? Well, maybe you know it better by its other name--the transistor. This new device was first described in the October 1948 issue of QST. No one at that time realized the full potential of this little component, or knew how it would revolutionize the world of communications.

In our next installment, we will take a look at the 1950's--1958 to be exact.

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Autopatch?

One member has expressed some interest in the auto-patch on Big Rock. Either no one knows how to use it or won't admit to knowing anything about it. Maybe it doesn't work. If not, we should delete any mention of it on our website.

We have a program for the May 7 meeting. Ron Smith KE6RS and Jack Burris K6JEB will have a talk and demonstration on working with surface mount components.

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VE Liasion & Public Service
Co-Coordinator
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Membership

As of April's mail, only five members have not renewed. We've picked up enough new members to keep the total a few more than at this time last year. They're trickling in slowly and we may get some more before this issue goes to email and half a dozen hard copies. Any member knowing one or more of the following former members might try hounding them a little or using threats, at your discretion. If you are caught at it, we don't know anything.

Beckstrand, Jacobs, Stempek, Stewart, Thames.

Noise on 75 m.

We've been experiencing an unusually high noise level at HF check-in time on 3915 kc, 1000 hr, Sundays. Possible receiver problems led to swapping out the Kenwood 950 with a spare 850 by Rich W6UDS.

Your editor, retired and with too much time on his hands, took an AM broadcast receiver and wandered around the property, rotating the receiver CW and CCW, proly (Herb Caen's word) appearing to be a bit confused to anyone watching. We found the noise level at the rear of the building to be quite a bit lower than up front. Using the directional antenna in the AM receiver again, out front, we found that the noise was at its worst near the new power pole at the NE corner, especially near the ground wires running down the pole. We're told that this could be normal and that, maybe, if the noise level was the same at both ends of the antenna they could partially cancel out. The north end of our HF antenna is anchored to the fence a few feet from that pole. Further testing will be done. Most of the incoming RF overcame the noise level on Sunday 25 April, unlike the previous two Sundays.

Hi All,

Our DDO (Dedicated Day of Operation) originally set for April 10 was shifted one week to Saturday, April 17, 2010 aboard the USS Pampanito. Michael Fischer, K6MLF, and myself were aboard the boat.

HF band conditions were generally poor, but there was some DX we had on the 17 meter band. We started out on 40 m CW and I managed one CW QSO with K4SC in Mesa, AZ before noon. Later, Michael made eight QSO's on 40 m SSB, some to the north in Oregon and some in Nevada, SoCal, and Arizona. QSB seemed to be the order of the day on the 40 meter band, and some of our QSO's were made with some difficulty.

Late in the afternoon I tried my luck again on CW on the 17 m band and heard F6GCP in France. I gave him a few calls and raised him, but my signals at that time were not strong enough for a QSO. Later in the afternoon band conditions on 17 meters improved and I did work F6GCP, Pat, in Fairmountier, France. Then I worked JF6CHY in Fukuka, Japan, followed by 6Y5WJ in Malvern, Jamaica. At one point, there was a JA1 interfering with F6GCP - the 17 m band was open to both Asia and Europe at the same time! While there was activity on 17 meters, 10 meters seemed to be dead.

The visitor load was light to moderate. Michael had several young boys and girls talking with KI6JL, Hank, in Canyon Country in SoCal and it was fun to see their faces light up when they realized they were talking with a real person at the other end of microphone!

The highlight of my day was talking with a couple from Germany who were personal friends with Lothar-Gunther Bucheim, the author of the book "Das Boot" and also Jurgen Prochnow, the actor who played the Captain of the U-96 in the movie "Das Boot" - my favorite WW-II movie! They were most impressed with the boat and will tell Mr. Prochnow all about the USS Pampanito when they return to Munich, Germany. Maybe Bucheim and Prochnow will visit the Pampanito someday should they come to San Francisco? I hope so!

Our next DDO is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2010 aboard the USS Pampanito. Let me know if you can help NJ6VT out!

73,

Den Regan, K6ZJU

CO Pampanito A.R.C.

USS Pampanito, SS-383

Pier 45, Shed A

San Francisco

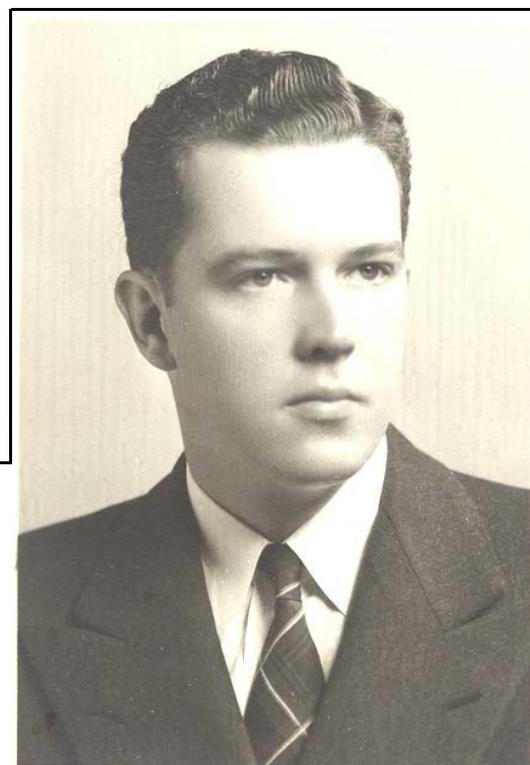
cc: Aaron Washington, Ship's Manager

Diane Cooper, Museum Curator

Denice Stoops, Chief R/O, KXCH, Jeremiah O'Brien

William McCollum, R/O USS Pampanito, SS-383 WW-II

Can you ID this former MARS member?
The photo is dated 1948.



QSA-5 May 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.

The Sunday Emergency net/s test is a good way to get on HF, a little bit, if you've not tried it lately. Come on down and get rid of your mic fright a little at a time. If at any time you feel a panic attack coming on, backup ops are standing by to take over. You will not be obligated to do a repeat performance, however we could use a dedicated op and you'd get your name on this page.

<p>Marin Amateur Radio Society President: Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS 510-595-3494</p> <p>Vice President: Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</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 924-4419 Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 Justin Smith AF6NY 631-379-8818</p>	<p>Education Chair:</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: Come on down on a Sunday morning and try your hand at running the 3915 kc net. Marc KF6VNT tried it and survived with a minor loss of self-esteem.</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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Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P. O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dues structure is: \$25. per year. \$30. for family memberships. No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

Stamp

The Mailing
 Address
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