

# QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

November 2010

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## Pres' Msg.

I just finished doing something that I have been doing regularly since 1974. It is not much fun; it can be worrisome and I know that if I do it wrong I will suffer for it. The actual act is pretty simple and only took about ten minutes. While my heart rate did not change, my blood pressure did increase. The physical act required little effort but the preparation took some time. I had to gird my loins before, and after I finished I felt a sense of relief and of a responsibility discharged.

As you have probably already guessed, the act I engaged in was voting. Back in 1974 the congress had seen fit to grant suffrage to eighteen year olds. We were at war and, being an eighteen year old, getting drafted was almost a certainty. Social change was in the air and on the streets. My family taught me that as a citizen of the United States of America I had many freedoms and rights. In addition to those freedoms and rights, there were duties and responsibilities.

My first duty was to participate in self governance. Not necessarily by running for office, not withstanding the fact I was president of the radio club. It did mean actively going to the polling place and exercising my franchise. Voting was a little intimidating at first. I voted at my elementary school. The poll workers were the mothers of my cohorts and I knew them all. We voted using the Port-A-Punch system that in 2000 would give us the infamous hanging chad.

The act was the still the simplest part. What took time and effort was figuring out how to vote, whom to support, which propositions

Column two.

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**MARS Website at W6SG.NET**  
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to endorse and which to decline.

Political advertising back in the seventies was much more gentle and civil disobedience was out of control. There was much complaining about national, state and local government. I was raised to believe that if I did not vote, I had no right complain. So vote I did.

Politicians in general seem to be a slimy lot, but their acts affect our lives in real ways. Political advertising is an embarrassment and a disservice but, just like most advertising, it is annoying and effective. Negative advertising works because it gets many of us to just not vote. That means that a small active minority get to make the decisions. If you want to understand what happens when we don't vote, think about Bell California, a city of thirty thousand people where no one watched their elected officials, and those officials voted themselves outrageous compensations.

They, you know the great they, them, the ones who are not us, want you not to vote. They get to decide how to use our money and resources. They get to decide what is legal and what is not. These choices should be made by us. Voting is our duty as citizens. It is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. Please take time Tuesday 2 November to vote.

73

Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS

Board Meeting, 14 October 2010

The meeting was called to order at 1930 hours by President Curtis Ardourel. Other board members present were Jerry Foster, Phil Dunlap, Norm Baetz, Rich Carbine, John Boyd, Doug Slusher, August Koehler and Matt Schallock. Tonight's agenda was approved with some additions. Last month's board minutes were approved.

Public service events are over for the year.

Doug Slusher said we are still waiting for the new equipment to come for the Big Rock repeater.

A Tech class will be starting this coming Sunday and a VE test will be held on Nov. 13.

Rich Carbine and our contractor have to go over plans for upcoming club house and second floor renovations.

The board voted for a packet station to be set up in the clubhouse. Matt Schallock has volunteered to be our Field Day chairman for next year. This will again be in conjunction with REDXA. He will gladly accept all help.

The guest speakers for the Nov. meeting will be several hams who are interested in QRP and will discuss and display some of their equipment.

Rich said there will be additional antenna work done for the club's station and a crank-up tower will be donated. If we can't use it, it could be sold to a club member.

DSL internet access will be soon be available at the club house.

There was a discussion on the possibility of having paid advertisements in QSA-5.

A nominating committee was named to select a slate for next year's board.

The Christmas party will be held on Saturday Dec. 4 at the clubhouse and Matt and John Boyd

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have volunteered to be co-chairman.

Rich suggested buying a Clear Speech speaker for the club's HF rig used for Sunday check-in, and the board voted approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 2022 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

### General Meeting, 1 October 1-2010

President Curtis Ardourel started the meeting at 1930 hours. There were 22 members present. Introductions were made and this evening's agenda was approved. The minutes of the last meeting were also approved. This past board meeting was reviewed.

A couple of the items discussed concerned building maintenance and the installation of a DSL system in the clubhouse.

The Treasurer's report and membership status were submitted.

Randy Jenkins gave a wrap-up on the last of the public service events the club participated in this year.

Doug Slusher gave an update on our new repeater equipment for Big Rock.

There is still the smog check and generator work to done on the comm. truck.

New Tech classes will begin on Oct. 10 and a VE exam is scheduled for Nov. 13. Rich Carbine announced that new RACES officers have been selected and he is installing a new antenna on-top the Marin jail facility. Rich also talked about ongoing work being done both in the clubhouse and upstairs apartment.

There was a call for help in organizing next year's Field Day. Also a need for a few members to form a nominating committee for next year's Board of Directors election.

The regular meeting was adjourned at 1950 hours and was followed by a narrated video the DXpedition to Midway Atoll in October of 2009 with the call sign K4M. This was very interesting. Thanks to Rich for bringing it to the meeting.

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

**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 all HFers and at **10:15 on the 147.330 repeater** for all VHFers. 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 +/-.

**I would like to say thank you to everyone who took time to participate in one of the public service events this year.** Because you volunteered your time and talent, we were able to have another successful season. Many of you went long distances, and worked long hours, and all of you contributed to that success. Your efforts were appreciated by the event organizers and participants, and greatly contributed to the safety of those involved.

**THANK YOU!**

**Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF**

ka6bqf@arrl.net

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Secretary, Education, & Public Events

East Bay Amateur Radio Club

www.eastbayarc.org

VE Liaison & Public Service Co-

Coordinator

Marin Amateur Radio Society

www.w6sg.net

**THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #32**

**by Bill Continelli, W2XOY**

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Backlogged, paralyzed, swamped, and overwhelmed. These are the words that described the FCC in January, 1977. The reason? Citizens Band Radio applications. The "CB craze" had started in 1974 with the first gas crisis. Fueled by top ten songs, TV shows, and movies, CB radio became an incredibly popular fad among the public in the days before computers, the internet, cable TV, or cellular phones. Prior to the gas crisis, the licensed CB population had stabilized at 800,000. Now, over 500,000 applications per month poured into the FCC Gettysburg Office. The peak was reached in January, when one million applications came in. By the end of 1977, over 10 million CB licenses were issued.

The explosive growth in 11 meter activity, coupled with the unresolved "Class E CB" issue, caused increased friction between CBers and hams. The ARRL was still fighting the proposed reallocation of 2 MHz in our 220 band to Class E. Instead, the League suggested a new CB band at 900 MHz. Then, on April 4, 1977, the Class E fight was thrust into the public spotlight. Jack Anderson, in his nationally syndicated column, charged that the FCC was staffed by "Ham Henchmen", who conspired with the 300,000 amateurs to keep 9 million CBers from getting expanded frequencies. The ARRL, along with dozens of hams, sent rebuttals to the media. The friction gradually subsided when the FCC announced the 27 MHz CB band would be expanded from 23 to 40 channels. The Class E question was settled on October 13, 1977, when the FCC dropped the idea. Our 220 band was safe--for now.

Ironically, the United States lost \$200,000,000 on the CB boom. How? Well, late in 1976, a Federal Court overturned the FCC's license fee structure. Rather than appeal the decision and/or overhaul their fee assessment procedure, the FCC suspended collection of all license fees, effective January 1, 1977. A Class D CB license cost \$20; you can do the math. Incidentally, amateurs benefited from the license fee suspension. A new or renewed license, except for Novice, used to cost \$9; now it was free.

Amateur radio was growing in 1977. At the beginning of the year, there were 293,655 hams. By midyear, the number was 313,000 and on December 31 it was

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**327,000.** This was a healthy 11% growth in 1 year, and a 25% increase over the 1974 census. The biggest single reason was probably 2 meter FM. Hundreds of repeaters, with the distinctive "WR" prefix, covered the country coast to coast. The pages of QST were filled with ads for crystal controlled 2 meter FM rigs such as the Midland 13-500 and 13-505, the Wilson 1402 and 1405, the Regency HR-2B and HR-312, the Genave GTX-1 and GTX-10, and the Heathkit HW-202. With crystals for 12 channel operation, these units cost about \$250. Counting inflation, that's about \$600 today. For the 1977 operator who wanted the latest in synthesized technology, Clegg had the FM-DX for \$599 (\$1400 today), and Heathkit introduced the HW-2036, which covered the 146-148 MHz FM segment of the 2 meter band.

For those on a tight budget, VHF Engineering had a 1 watt 2 meter transmitter kit for \$29.95, a 2 meter receiver kit for \$69.95, and a 2 watt, 4 channel, 2 meter HT kit for \$129.95.

Technicians now had Novice privileges, but were still banned from 50.0--50.1 and 144--145 MHz. However, the 2 meter repeater segment at 146--148 MHz was becoming crowded. In response to several petitions, on November 4, 1977, the FCC opened a new repeater subband from 144.5--145.5 MHz. In addition, they deleted the separate station license requirements for repeaters. Any amateur, except for Novice, could now put up a repeater without prior FCC approval. Logging requirements for repeaters were simplified. Finally, Technicians were given full access to the new repeater subband, although the 144.0--144.5 segment was still out of bounds.

In other FCC news for **1977**, on March 1 "instant upgrading" appeared. Licensed amateurs could immediately use new privileges upon passing the test for a higher class license, rather than waiting 6-8 weeks for the overloaded FCC to send the new license.

On July 1, any Extra Class amateur could apply for a 1 x 2 call. Column two.

Due to a 500% increase in amateur exams, as well as a massive workload, the FCC announced on August 18 that the cw **sending** test would be eliminated for all licenses above Novice. However, the FCC had one proposal that brought forth the wrath of the amateur community. Citing illegal CB operation on the "10 1/2" meter band (i.e. the frequencies between 27.405 and 28 MHz), the FCC wanted to ban commercial amplifiers capable of operation between 24 and 35 MHz, and to require Type Acceptance on any amplifier that operated below 144 MHz. Except for Novice VXOs in the early 70's, the FCC had never required Type Acceptance on any amateur transmitter. The amateur community strongly opposed this proposal. Hams were being punished for the crimes of others. The FCC promised an answer by 1978.

In summary, 1977 was a good year for amateurs, but there was still some unfinished business. Would Technicians get the full 2 meter band and, along with the Generals, regain the 50.0--50.1 MHz segment they lost under Incentive Licensing? Would CB radio continue its massive growth and make more demands on amateur frequencies? Finally, would the FCC ban 10 meter amplifiers? The answers lie in 1978. Join us next time.

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A while back, when I was considerably younger, I picked up a date at her parents home. I had scraped together some money to take her to a fancy restaurant. She ordered the most expensive items on the menu: shrimp cocktail, lobster, filet mignon and bottle of champagne. I asked her, "Does your mother feed you like that when you eat at home?" "No", she replied. "but my mother is not expecting a (insert your best guess) tonight."

I said, "Enjoy."

From the 'net.

**Desert Storm Adventure**

The teacher gave her fifth grade class an assignment: Get their parents to tell them a story with a moral at the end of it. The next day, the kids came back and, one by one, began to tell their stories.

There were all the usual types of stuff: spilled milk and pennies saved. But then the teacher realized that Janie was the only one who hadn't given her report.

"Janie, do you have a story to share?"

"Yes, ma'am. My daddy told me a story about my mommy. She was a Marine pilot in Desert Storm, and her plane got hit. She had to bail out over enemy territory, and all she had was a bottle of Jack Daniel's, a pistol, and a survival knife.

She drank the whiskey on the way down so she wouldn't lose it if the bottle broke. Then her parachute landed her right in the middle of 20 Iraqi troops. She shot 15 of them with the pistol, until she ran out of ammo, killed four more with the knife until the blade broke, and then she killed the last Iraqi with her bare hands."

"Good Heavens," said the horrified teacher. What did your Daddy tell you was the moral to this horrible story?"

"Don't f\_\_\_ with Mommy when she's been drinking."

I love these touching stories!



## KPH/KSM

It's known by many that the KPH/KSM transmit and receive sites are open for public visits \*most\* Saturdays. But we thought it might be worth making a general invitation so everyone will know they're welcome.

NOTE: Due to personal schedules we are not at the sites once or twice a year. If you'll be making a special trip be \*sure\* to let us know beforehand so we can confirm that we'll be there.

For those interested in operating we have configured Position 6 as the guest position with both vintage and modern gear (modern meaning the equipment that was in service in 1997 when KPH ceased operations at the site). See:

<http://tinyurl.com/26ccdtf>

If you have an FCC commercial telegraph license of any grade you can sit the circuit at KSM and have your ticket endorsed to that effect. If you would like to operate K6KPH all you need is a knowledge of Morse and a willingness to work the stations that want to contact K6KPH. No license is required so ex-commercial ops who never got a ham ticket are welcome. Bring your key and cans or use ours. Duties are easy: all you have to do is copy press at 40wpm on the mill! Just kidding. Operators of all levels are welcome.

I won't burden you with details in this message but suffice it to say that visits to both the transmit and receive sites can be arranged.

But remember, if you're making a special trip be sure to let us know you're coming so we can provide details and directions and be ready to give you the "A" ticket tour when you arrive.

VY 73,  
RD

**If you'd like to receive information like this directly and are not a member of our email list just send a message to**

**[radiomarine-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:radiomarine-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)**

Richard Dillman  
Chief Operator, Coast Station KSM  
Maritime Radio Historical Society  
<http://www.radiomarine.org>

## Things You'd Rather Not Hear During Surgery

- Better save that. We'll need it for the autopsy.
- Someone call the janitor - we're going to need a mop.
- Accept this sacrifice, O Great Lord of Darkness!
- Spot! Spot! Come back with that! Bad Dog!
- Wait a minute, if this is his spleen, then what's that?
- Hand me that...uh...that...uh.....thingie.
- Oh no! I just lost my Rolex.
- Oops! Hey, has anyone ever survived 500ml of this stuff before?
- Damn, there go the lights again...
- You know, there's big money in kidneys. Hell, the guy's got two of them.
- Everybody stand back! I lost my contact lens!
- Could you stop that thing from beating; it's throwing my concentration off.
- What do you mean he wasn't in for a sex change...!
- Anyone see where I left that scalpel?
- This patient has already had some kids, am I correct?
- Nurse, did this patient sign the organ donor card?
- Don't worry; I think it's sharp enough.
- What do you mean "You want a divorce"!
- She's gonna blow! Everyone take cover!!!
- FIRE! FIRE! Everyone get out of here!

Pried from the internet.

Hi All

Here is the DDO Report for Saturday, October 16, 2010 aboard the USS Pampanito, SS-383. Both myself and Michael Fischer, K6MLF, were the ROs. Here is Michael's DDO Report. Michael wanted me to edit his report, but no editing was required! Great report Michael and thanks for being aboard the USS Pampanito for our October DDO !!

73,

Den Regan, K6ZJU  
CO Pampanito A.R.C. NJ6VT  
USS Pampanito, SS-383  
San Francisco

--- On **Fri, 10/22/10, Michael Fischer** <[fischer@igc.org](mailto:fischer@igc.org)> wrote:

To: Den Regan , CO , USS Pampanito ARC NJ6VT

From: Michael Fischer, RO

Subject: DDO Report, 17 Oct 10

It was a cool and drizzly day last Sunday, and many of our visitors' shoulders were wet from the rain they braved to come aboard.

Nonetheless, the radio room was in operation from 1030 until 1530. The two of us caught up on paperwork, opened the mail, organized the logbooks, swept the deck, and installed a year or two of new blank log sheets. There appears to be at least one DDO's log sheets missing; hopefully, they will be restored to their place in the near future.

We spoke with intrepid visitors from the UK, Australia, Sweden, Scotland, Italy, and around the US, enlightening them with the explanation of the red lighting in the control room, showing them how to look up to find the chrome columns of the periscopes, and entertaining them with tales of distant hf contacts.

Den had a good and extended CW QSO on 40 meters with a ham in Tennessee who was exciting a dipole 6 feet above the ground, and Michael had a dozen responses to his CQ calls, also on 40 meters— including one from the Illinois QSO Party. One extended QSO was with Bob KJ6KJU from North Fork , CA ; Bob had served in the 1960s on both SS 242 and SS 424, the *Bluegill* and the *Quillback*, respectively. He expressed interest in operating aboard, so, of course, we extended an invitation to him to contact us when he plans to be in town. On CW, Den was blasted by swarms of strong Japanese signals on a variety of frequencies: pileups seeking inaudible DX contacts in some remote corner of the world.

Our next scheduled DDO is the second Saturday of November, 13 November 2010. For any of our shipmates who do not plan to enter either the Japan or the Kentucky QSO Parties that day, we hope to see you aboard!

Respectfully submitted, Michael K6MLF

cc: Aaron Washington, Ship's manager

Diane Cooper, Museum Curator

Denice Stoops, Chief RO, KXCH, SS Jeremiah O'Brien

William McCollum, RO USS Pampanito WW-II

## QSA-5 November 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. Come a little early for pizza or whatever. 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 a two story building, second from the corner on the left directly under the power lines. Don't worry, they haven't fallen on us, yet.

**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 nets.** Come on down and watch Matt K6OHD do the nets. You could try it yourself, while Matt stands by, and get rid of any mike fright you might have. If at any time you feel a panic attack coming on, Matt will get you thru it.

<p><b>Marin Amateur Radio Society</b>  <b>President:</b>                  Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS                  510-595-3494</p> <p><b>Vice President:</b>                  Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b>                  Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b>                  Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864</p> <p><b>Additional Board Members:</b>                  John Boyd KE6ORI 924-4419                  Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136                  Horst Dannecker KA6BHZ 459-6163                  Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318                  Matt Schallock K6OHD 531-2676</p>	<p><b>Education Chair:</b>                  Randy?</p> <p><b>Membership:</b>                  Dave and Phil</p> <p><b>VE Liaison:</b>                  Randy Jenkins KA6BQF                  510-526-4089</p> <p><b>Bldg. Manager</b>                  Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136</p> <p><b>Trustee for W6SG:</b>                  Augie Koehler KØCQL</p> <p><b>Trustee for K6GWE:</b>                  Doug Slusher KF6AKU</p> <p><b>Sunday Emergency Nets:</b>                  Matt Schallock K6OHD</p>	<p><b>DX Representative of ARRL:</b>                  Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</p> <p><b>WEBMASTER</b>                  Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948                  N1ZKW@ARRL.NET</p> <p><b>Public Service Event Coordinator</b>                  Randy Jenkins KA6BQF                  510-526-4089</p> <p><b>ARRL San Francisco Section Mgr.</b>                  Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG</p> <p><b>Editor of QSA-5 and Procurer of                  The Bellywash</b>                  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

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