

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

October 2010

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Pres' Msg.

The autumnal equinox has just passed. The days are getting shorter. The air waves are full of political advertisements and even my voice mail is full of political gas. What passes for political rhetoric today is enough to put you off your feed. Unfortunately it doesn't seem to help me lose any weight, energy perhaps, hope perhaps but not weight.

In electronics we have the concept of signal to noise ratio that expresses the difference between the intended signal level versus the noise level corrupting that signal, expressed in decibels. As hams we are unusually good at picking out that faint distant signal from the QRM, QRN and all the other QSOs going on.

At a time when most of us think anything involving voting or elections should be avoided like the plague I am going to make a very ill timed request. Its time to think about the club board. Elections are approaching and we need to once again choose the members of our board.

Board members serve two-year terms with a maximum of three consecutive terms. This means that over time the membership of the board must change, and a diversity of opinion on the board makes for better governance. At the November regular meeting of the club the names of candidates for the board must be announced. There are two ways get nominated. One is complicated but exists to prevent the board from just nominating their friends. The bylaws state: **“Any member in good standing may nominate in writing any other member in good standing for the office of director. Any such additional nominees** Column two.

POBox 6423, San Rafael, 93903

shall be seconded by at least one other member in good standing, and the nominee must submit a written statement that he or she would serve if elected.”

The other way is much simpler. At the next board meeting we will appoint a nominating committee to develop a slate of candidates. You can make it known to that committee that you are interested in serving. As I don't know who will be on the committee and as I will not be a member of that committee I will forward any names that are sent to me to the committee. You can send snail mail to Curtis Ardourel, 6021 Christie Avenue, Emeryville, CA 94608 or email at WA6UDS@ARRL.NET. No campaigning is required, no political ads are needed. You don't have to make any speeches, work any precincts, kiss any babies, or seek campaign contributions.

What does it mean to serve? You are signing up for twelve board meetings a year. A quick check of attendance indicates that on average board members make it to nine meetings per year. We have a large board so we rarely have trouble getting a quorum. Most board meetings last about an hour. We discuss club and amateur radio issues and steer the direction of the club.

Many of you perform some public service. Serving on the board is such a service and the public you are serving is the other members of the club. We need your help to keep the club on the right track. Please think about running for the Board of Directors.

73, Curtis WA6UDS

**MARS Website at W6SG.NET
Phone 415-389-6630**

Board Meeting, 9 September 2010

Members present: Curtis WA6UDS, Dave KG6TCJ, Horst KA6BHZ, John KE6ORI, Matt K6OHD, August KØCQL, Doug KF6AKU, Phil K6PHD, and Rich W6UDS. Randy KA6BQF was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 19:42 hrs by president Curtis. In the absence of the Secretary, Randy was requested to take minutes.

The agenda was approved as presented. The minutes of the August 12 meeting were approved as published.

Communications: Registrar of Voters request for 2011 polling place.

Treasurer KG7TCJ submitted his report for the month of August.

Committee reports:

Membership- about 110 members
Recreation-Picnic on September 12.
Public Service- 3 events to go, 9/25 and 10/02.

Technical Committee – The power amp for the Big Rock replacement repr. was not as ordered and has been sent back. The rest of the equipment tested fine.

Comm. truck –The generator needs to go in the shop after we finish with events. Registration and smog testing due this month.

Education – Planning a technician class in October.

VE Liaison –Next session, November 13.

RACES – Quarterly Meeting 9/11, 9:00.

Building Manager – The contractor is almost finished with the kitchen and bathrooms. Rear deck leak in apartment to be next project; discussed. Motion to approved NTE \$5000.00 for contractor to proceed with exploration. AKU/ORI Passed. The work schedule was discussed. The apartment kitchen floor was discussed. Next page, Column one.

Field Day Committee – Looking for a chairman for next June.
 Speakers – Rich W6UDS will bring a DXpedition video for the October program.
 Old Business:
 The prescriptive easement sign was attempted to be posted.
 Apartment Repairs – Floor, Front Door
 Fire Extinguishers – No Progress
 Antennas & Feedlines – Almost completed.
 On-Line Dues – No Progress
 Internet Access – Signed up with DSL Extreme \$24.83/Month
 Advertising in QSA-5 – Pending
 Club Product Sales – Members to be surveyed.
 New Business:
 John Boyd will report on a possible money raiser, The Shares Card.
 There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:19 hours.
 Respectfully submitted,
 Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF Acting Secretary.

From member Pinky W6FQS

.....looks as if Rich has been pretty successful with the W6SG antennas and all. Allowing for band conditions, the sig has been pretty good lately. They have been hearing all the stations checking in that I could hear. And, one or two that were so weak that I could barely copy so it's clearly an improvement. Not so long ago, W6SG didn't even hear Michael K6MLF across town check-in and I copied him well in Chico with nothing special in the way of antennas. And this was under normal band conditions. I think Rich deserves an honorable mention in the newsletter if you have a space to fill.
 Regards, Pink

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 +/-.

We have another electrical contractor who has volunteered his time to help us. He has already installed some pipe and new outlets on the west wall. Obviously, he can work alone or give me a hand when available.

I'm sure some of you may know him. His name is John Beatty and is usually known as J.B. He's AD6WX And lives in Mill Valley
 73, Rich W6UDS

THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #31
by Bill Continelli, W2XOY
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It was a dark and stormy night. The young Novice sat alone in the big, Gothic, Victorian style house. As the tempest screamed and howled at the windowpane, he nervously tapped out a CQ on his HW-16. Behind him the house creaked and groaned ominously. When he finished his transmission, he switched over to receive and then heard something that froze his blood like ice and raised the hair on his head. His mouth opened in a wordless scream. For there, in his nigh headphones, dot for dot, dash for dash, was his CQ, exactly the way he had sent it.

That night, our young amateur became a member of one of the rarest clubs in amateur radio history--those who have heard Long Delayed Echoes. Like Flying Saucers, Long Delayed Echoes are a matter of debate. Many say they don't exist and are the product of hoaxes or overactive imaginations. Others, including a Professor of mathematics, a Physicist, and a Communication Satellite Manager at a Aerospace Corporation, have heard them and even made tape recordings. Let's take a look at the history of Long Delayed Echoes, or LDEs for short.

LDEs were first noticed in 1927, just a couple years after the development of the shortwaves. Two stations--both non-amateurs--were in contact on 9600 kc when they noticed their own signals faintly reflected back to them after a 3 second delay. Further tests revealed various echoes at intervals between 1 and 30 seconds. Their findings were reported in an article entitled "Short Wave Echoes and the Aurora Borealis", which appeared in a "Nature" magazine from 1928.

The first QST article on LDEs appeared in August, 1934. However, follow-up reports were sporadic and infrequent. Then, in 1948, the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University undertook a year long study of Long Delayed Echoes. They transmitted 27,000 test signals on 13.4 and 20.6 mc. The result?

Next page, column one.

Not one LDE was recorded. For many in the scientific world, the issue was now settled.

Like Flying Saucers, however, LDEs refused to die. Throughout the 1940s, 50s and 60s, dozens of amateurs heard them. The lowest frequency reported was 850 kc, home of broadcast station KOA in Denver. The highest was on the 2 meter band. LDEs appeared on all popular modes in use--AM, CW and SSB. Most reports were from the shortwave bands between 3.5 and 28 mc. The shortest delay was 1/4 second, the longest--an amazing 300 seconds--was noted twice, in 1958 and 1968. Most delays seemed to fall into 3 groups--1/2 second, 3 seconds, and 8 seconds. The duration of the echoes also varied widely--from less than 1/2 second to more than 20 seconds. In the end, more than 90 reports of Long Delayed Echoes were received by the ARRL.

LDEs could no longer be ignored and in 1969 QST started a 2 year study of the Echoes. Many possible solutions were proposed:

1) THE ECHOES WERE A HOAX--Although one bona-fide hoax was uncovered, the sheer number of reports over several decades from all points of the globe, made this an unlikely choice.

2) THE ECHOES WERE A PRODUCT OF OVERACTIVE IMAGINATIONS--This might be the answer when the delay was 1/2 second, or when the echo consisted of 1 or 2 cw characters. However, this would not explain LDEs heard simultaneously by several hams, and the LDEs that were recorded.

3) THE ECHOES INVOLVED MULTIPLE PASSES OF THE SIGNAL AROUND THE EARTH. Since radio waves travel at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second) a complete RF orbit takes 1/7 of a second. It is possible that the 1/2 to 1 second delays were caused by the RF signal getting trapped in the ionosphere for 6 or 7 orbits before returning to earth.

Col two.

4) THE ECHOES ARE THE RESULT OF MOONBOUNCE. This may explain the LDEs with a 2 1/2 to 3 second delay. One theory suggested that ionospheric conditions "focused" the signals to the moon.

5) THE ECHOES WERE THE RESULT OF A COSMIC REPEATER. Yes, this really was proposed. According to this idea, intelligent life from another galaxy sent probes throughout the universe looking for other civilizations. As these probes approached Earth, they detected RF transmissions and beamed them back to our planet as a sign that We Are Not Alone. Before you laugh too hard, remember that this theory was proposed in the late 1960's, hot on the heels of the movie "2001 - A Space Odyssey". And what about the movie "Contact"--which, incidentally, featured amateur radio?

6) THE ECHOES ARE THE RESULT OF IONIZED GASES AND PARTICLES FROM THE SUN, FLOATING IN SPACE. This theory could explain the 8 second delays. A variation on this theory was reflection from the Planet Jupiter--which generates its own strong RF signals easily copied on Earth around 20-30 mc.

So, what was the answer? Well, there was never a definitive conclusion. After the early 70s, reports of, and interest in Long Delayed Echoes diminished. Today, they are just a question mark in amateur radio history. After all, I've NEVER NEVER heard heard LDEs LDEs, have have you you?

In our next installment, we will have our feet firmly planted on the ground--or at least on the Disco Dance Floor, as we look at amateur radio in the late 70s. I hope to see you then.

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Check this site. It shows a sea-water antenna in use.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tIZUhu21sQ>

MARS Picnic

Gordy WB6OVH and Cheri KB6DSA Fuller, with Buster the pooch, showed up at the Marin Amateur Radio Soc. Picnic at Sam Taylor Park on Sunday 12 September. Because they live in Fair Oaks, we don't see enough of them. They are MARS members and former denizens of Marin. Gordy is a past pres' MARC. Buster was a hit with all attendees.

Our annual picnic went well tho we had only about sixteen show up. The weather was ideal with a temp in the high 60s.

A man entered the bus with both of his front pockets full of golf balls and sat down next to a beautiful (you guessed it) blonde. The puzzled blonde kept looking at him and his bulging pockets.

Finally, after many side glances from her, he said, "Its golf balls."

Nevertheless, the blonde continued to look at him for a very long time, deeply thinking about what he had said.

After several minutes, not being able to contain her curiosity any longer, she asked, "Does it hurt as much as tennis elbow?"

For Sale.

ICOM IC-208H dual band 144/440 55/50 watts. Never removed from the box. Prolly too hard to put back in. MSRP was \$319.00. Make offer over \$150.00. Randy KA6BQF has a couple and your editor uses one in the pickup. Programmable from your PC keyboard. For \$200 we'll throw in an Astron RS-12A power supply so you can operate it at home as well as mobile.



This photo was taken at the MARS picnic by Marilyn N6VAW. The three clowns on the left, grinning uncontrollably, had earlier been reported to have disappeared into the brush with a small plastic bag of green stuff and a funny looking pipe and returned with large, empty jars which formerly held peanut butter and strawberry jam.

Early Sunday Evening Rambling Space Filler.

The temp was 80° late Sunday afternoon in Marin County and the ice cream truck came around again, maybe for the last time of the season. Maybe not. No problem; we don't buy. But he plays the same tune, over and over and over from his external speakers. You may remember it. It's "Do Your T__s Hang Low?" The rest of it goes "Do they wobble to and fro? Can you tie 'em in a knot, can you tie 'em in a bow? Can you throw 'em over your shoulder like a Continental soldier? Do your t__s hang low?"

(We're going to substitute 'boobs for the remainder of this in the off chance that someone may be offended. Hard to say in 2010.)

Of course, if you're familiar with that song, you may visualize those boobs wobbling to and fro. Perfectly natural. But being tied in a bow? We'd rather not. Being thrown over one's shoulder? That's a possible and, of course, requires 'hanging low' to pull it off.

In Boy Scout Camp Parsons near Brinnon on Hood Canal, an arm of Puget Sound in 1950 they tried to make us believe the song was about ears. We were not fooled. No human ear could ever perform those calisthenics except for those attached to an obscure bunch in Africa who stretched their earlobes to accommodate some kind of inserts. Wooden disks? No way they'd tie 'em in a knot.

Anyway, we'd like to hear a different tune played from those ice cream trucks. Maybe something we heard in music class at John Marshall Jr. High in Seattle about 1948: Danse Macabre would be different and you could hum along with it. Well, parts of it.

Slaughter on Tenth Avenue would be really great!

To hear the present tune in use in a short, humorous video go to:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=73180ST2u_c

Hi All!

Our monthly Dedicated Day of Operation (DDO) kicked off this last Saturday, September 11, 2010 aboard the USS Pampanito. Band conditions on 40 meters were poor, so I moved to 20 meters and found this band to be fairly active.

I was not able to do much in the way of operating NJ6VT this time around, being kept busy with visitors aboard the boat, many from England, the Netherlands, and Germany. Several visitors had a keen interest in submarines, having been aboard submarines that were now museum boats in their country much like the Pampanito is now. The boat's station, NJ6VT, was secured at 4 pm.

Our next DDO is scheduled for Saturday, October 9, 2010. Please let me know if you can help out. We could use a few more volunteers aboard the boat to help out with visitor traffic etc.

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

cc: Aaron Washington, Ship's Manager
Diane Cooper, SF Maritime Museum Curator
Denice Stoops, Chief R/O, KXCH, SS
Jeremiah O'Brien

William McCollum, R/O, USS Pampanito, SS-383 WWII.

United States supports new secondary MF Amateur Radio allocations.

The ARRL reports that the United States is supporting new secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 461-469 kHz and 471-478 kHz.

The Federal Communications Commission and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), the spectrum regulators for United States private sector and government users, respectively - have agreed to support a secondary MF allocation to the Amateur Radio Service at 461-469 kHz and 471-478 kHz at the 2012 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-12), to be held in Geneva, Switzerland from January 23-February 17, 2010. FCC and NTIA officials formally presented the proposal at a meeting of the Second Permanent Consultative Committee (PCC.II) of the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL), held August 30-September 3 in Fortaleza, Brazil.

QSA-5 October 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>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 Matt Schallock K6OHD</p>	<p>Education Chair: Randy?</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: Matt Schallock K6OHD</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.

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The Mailing
 Address
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