

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

September 2010

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Pres' Msg.

In this space I have climbed up on my soapbox about important issues like changes in FCC rules. I have rambled on about the joys of Field Day. I have even been granted the gift of silence, with thanks to Phil for gracefully filling my gap. At this point I must take keyboard in hand and bang out a few more column inches for the good of club and country. This time I am here to get your opinion on a couple of issues that have come before the board. Nothing earth shaking but worth seeking more wisdom than your faithful board member collectively possesses.

The first question is: should we sell advertising in QSA-5? A simple enough question but worth some thought. On the one hand there is tradition. Every day some part of our lives that we grew up thinking was a universal constant like the speed of light or learning Morse Code changes. There is value in those traditions particularly the ones that we can control. On the other hand change is a much a part of life as breathing. What do we lose or gain by making a change. Advertising costs us next to nothing in pure dollars since more than 90% of circulation of QSA-5 is electronic. Additional revenue in club coffers would help us to keep our dues low.

My sense is that there is not a lot of passion one way or another about advertising in QSA-5. Where people get concerned is the actual content and delivery. I suspect that animated ads with techno sound tracks would offend many of us. I know that some of you have strong opinions on what kind advertisements are allowed. A few questions that

Column two.

POBox 6423, San Rafael, 93903

**MARS Picnic Sunday 12 September
At Sam Taylor Park**

could arise might include: Should we only allow ham radio related ads? Should we only allow ads for products made in the U. S. of A., assuming there are any? Should we grant free advertising to members, charities, and/or other clubs? Should we prohibit some products or services like "Ham Cram" courses or political advertising? Should we allow only text or images, or multimedia? Technical considerations probably will keep us safe from scratch-and-sniff or perfume samples.

The second question is about club merchandise. In the past we have produced items like tee shirts, lapel pins, caps and the like with varying degrees of success. In the last few months the club has received a couple of requests to sell club related merchandise to members. We don't have a policy about this one way or another. The specific requests for various reasons did not come to fruition but the reasons were circumstantial and not from policy. The questions that come to mind might include: Should the club produce logo items to give to members for participating in events or contributing their time? Should we allow individuals to sell items bearing the club logo for profit? If we allow such sale for profit, should the club get a cut? Should we make items available through on demand production sites like zazzle.com.

This is just to get you thinking. In the near future I will be posting a survey on the web to get your feedback on these issues. Thanks for taking the time to give some thought to these questions.

73, Curtis WA6UDS

Board Meeting, 12 August 2010

President Curtis WA6UDS called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. Other board members present were Rich W6UDS, Norm WA6CLK, Phil K6PHD, Matt K6OHD, Jerry WA6BXV, Dave KG6TCJ, Doug KF6AKU and Augie KØCQL.

Tonight's agenda as well as last month's BOD minutes were approved.

Dave gave the Treasurer's report.

Randy KA6BQF gave an update on future Public Service events.

Doug talked about work being done on the new Big Rock repeater.

A new multi-function serpentine belt was installed on our Comm. truck after the original belt broke on the way to Valecito School to be part of the net control setup for the Century/Double Century bike ride event on 7 August.

Another Tech class will be held in Sept. and VE tests will follow on Nov. 13.

There will be a RACES meeting on Aug 12.

Field Day will be held at Marin Rod & Gun again in 2011. We'll use the REDXA call as we do in odd years. W6SG in even years. The R&G site is popular with all participants.

Jerry WA6BXV talked about future club speakers and other possible entertainment for the General meeting.

Because of Labor Day the board decided to cancel the General meeting for Sept. We still need to replace our fire extinguishers. Rich talked about updating of the club's antennas and feedlines. He obtained an antenna from the County of Marin that they couldn't use. There is nothing new on proposed online dues payment or obtaining internet access but they're coming. Also Doug is going to check into getting advertising for QSA-5.

The meeting was adjourned at 2003 hours.

Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

General Meeting, 6 August, 2010

President WA6UDS called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. After member introductions were made, the evening's agenda was approved as were last month's meeting minutes as appeared in QSA-5.

Our treasurer Dave KG6TCJ talked about our finances and said the club has approved the use of the clubhouse for upcoming County of Marin elections.

The club's annual picnic will be held at Sam Taylor park on Sept. 12. John Boyd gave an update on upcoming Public Service events and also on truck repairs and repeater site upkeep.

Rich W6UDS talked about kitchen and bathroom remodeling and the use of new grant money on future projects. He also received confirmation on the use of the facilities at the Rod and Gun Club for next year's Field Day.

There was no new business so the regular meeting was adjourned at 1940 hours.

Our guest speaker was Grant Pritchard KK6JJ who talked about RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services).

Submitted by Norm Baetz, secretary.

Wanna find out what other hams have to say about a particular piece of gear you're considering? Everything from antennas to weather stations. Tubes, even. Discover what others said about that rig you thought was a **POS**. Maybe that one was a lemon.

Listed by type and manufacturer. **77 categories!** As of 20 August, there were even 129 included reports on vintage ham transmitters and receivers.

<http://www.eham.net/reviews/>

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 +/-.

South Lake Union Trolley

In 2007, Seattle opened a new streetcar line connecting the South Lake Union neighborhood to the city's downtown. While the project was officially called the South Lake Union Streetcar, local residents began ribbing it as the South Lake Union Trolley, or SLUT. Although the city and the line's developers did what they could to dispel the notion that the line had a bawdy name, residents still refer to it as the SLUT; in 2007 the Seattle Post-Intelligencer (the P.I.) even reported that a coffeehouse was selling t-shirts that read, "Ride the S.L.U.T." Two or three colors. Your editor, the Half-Breed Swede from Seattle, has one which may be seen at the October General meeting.

Get one at: <http://www.ridetheslut.com/>

where you'll see Robin Williams wearing a "Ride The S.L.U.T." T shirt. \$15 plus \$5 shipping. **For \$2 more, get a size 4XL.**

THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #30

by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

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The early 1950's were not a time of peace and security in the United States. The Korean War was in full force, with the constant threat of Communist Chinese intervention. The Iron Curtain cut Eastern Europe off from the Free World. The Soviet Union developed their own atomic weapons. Communists, real and imagined, roamed the United States, with Senator Joseph McCarthy in hot pursuit. Writers, actors, and directors suffered under the Hollywood Blacklist. In other words, the "Fabulous Fifties" were still a couple of years away.

Amateurs were on the air, but many feared that the FCC would eventually suspend operations, as they had during WWII. Amazingly, despite what QST called a "national emergency", there was no Civil Defense program in place to utilize amateur radio operators in case of enemy attack or natural disasters. The previous Civil Defense program--the War Emergency Radio Service--W.E.R.S. for short--had been out of service since 1945. Even in its heyday, W.E.R.S. had many shortcomings. It wasn't established until June 1942--7 months after the war started. It was limited to the 2 1/2 & 1 1/4 meter amateur bands, with no HF frequencies. Finally, W.E.R.S. operations, other than on the air drills, were limited to actual enemy activity. There was no provision for W. E.R.S. to be used during natural disasters.

The ARRL, FCC, and Civil Defense leaders learned from the mistakes of W. E.R.S., and were determined to have a viable radio Civil Defense program in place before it was needed. Thus, on December 19, 1951, at the same time that CONELRAD was announced, the FCC released the proposed regulations for RACES--The Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service. On August 15, 1952, the final RACES regulations were put into effect. Amateur Radio operators now had a Civil Defense program in place that would utilize their communications skills.

Next page, Column one.

Before a RACES unit could be authorized, there were some requirements that had to be met. First, the local government needed a Civil Defense organization and a Communications Plan. The local Plan had to be approved at the State Civil Defense level. Next was the appointment of the RACES Radio Officer. The Radio Officer, or R.O. for short, had to hold a Conditional, General, Advanced, or Extra Class amateur license, or a first or second class commercial radiotelegraph or radiotelephone license. The potential Radio Officer submitted FCC Form 482 to receive certification--provided, of course, that they passed the loyalty investigation. Note that the Radio Officer did not need to be an amateur. The FCC and Civil Defense experts determined that about 25,000 amateurs might be available for RACES authorization. However, in a full scale national emergency, up to 200,000 radio operators would be needed.

Thus, provisions were incorporated for qualified commercial licensees to become part of the RACES program.

After the Communications Plan was approved and the Radio Officer was certified, station authorizations could be issued. Amateurs submitted FCC Form 481 to have their station license made valid for RACES operation. Novices and Technicians were not eligible for RACES authorizations. The FCC and the ARRL emphasized that membership in RACES was NOT an invitation to continue casual amateur radio activity in a war. RACES was strictly dedicated to public service, under the direction and control of the local C.D. unit.

The frequencies initially allocated to RACES were:

- 1800-2000 kc (subject to LORAN restrictions)
- 3500-3510 kc 3990-4000 kc
- 28.55-28.75 mc 29.45-29.65 mc
- 50.35-50.75 mc 53.35-53.75 mc
- 145.17-145.71 mc
- 146.79-147.33 mc
- 220-225 mc

In addition, 1750-1800 kc (which was outside of our 160 meter band) was allowed under Disaster Communications Service.

Note that the initial frequencies did not include the 40, 20 and 15 meter bands. The 15 meter band was not yet available to amateurs when RACES was first proposed. Later, 40, 20 and 15 were added, and the 75 meter phone segment was expanded.

Reaction to the RACES frequencies was mixed. Some were upset that they were insufficient, and were not exclusive to RACES. Others thought of it as a diabolical plot on the part of government agencies and commercial interests to grab parts of the amateur bands for non amateur use by non amateur personnel.

RACES was never used during an enemy attack. Over the years, however, it proved its value in countless natural disasters. Frequencies were expanded, and Novices and Technicians were brought into the fold.

One interesting fact about RACES--it was designed to be a TEMPORARY service. The initial regulations indicated that it would be discontinued after the termination of the national emergency. CONELRAD has been gone for 37 years, and the "Fallout Shelter" signs are rusting away on the walls of abandoned buildings. Why does RACES--a temporary service--still live? The answer is found in every natural disaster that hits the U.S.--every tornado, hurricane, flood, earthquake, blizzard and fire. Every time dedicated amateurs, working with their local C.D. Officials, provide effective emergency communications, they keep a "temporary" service alive.

In our next installment we will explore "Long Delayed Echoes". Is there a natural explanation? Or, were they truly something "out of this world?"

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Never Lose Your Grandson!

A heartwarming story.

My small grandson got lost at the mall. He approached a uniformed security guard and said, "I've lost my grandpa!"

The guard asked, "What's he like?"

The little tyke hesitated for a moment and then replied,

"Jack Daniel's and women with big boobs."

Some people lose their skepticism when they turn on their PC and that's one reason why the internet is a BS highway. Suspect everything and verify it before forwarding to prevent yourself from appearing to be a gullible fool. There are plenty of those.

Probably the best place for debunking internet BS is SNOPE.com. We've found that site to be reliable and that those who disagree with SNOPE are usually those who don't want to give up their faulty beliefs.

Still "successfully dying" after all these years.

From CQ mag
Ham Radio Still Alive

As of May 31, 2010, there were 691,982 active ham licenses in the FCC database.

As of June 18, 2010, nearly 17,000 new licenses have been issued, so far this year. This is 3,000 more than at the same point last year, and 600 more than the total of new licenses in all of 2005.

The author, Rich Moseeson, W2VU, reckons that if you assume that about 75% of licensed hams were really active in 1960 (the so-called Golden Age of ham radio), and only 50% are active today (by whatever definition of active you choose) that would give us 346,000 active hams now, versus 170,625 active in 1960, roughly double the number of active hams today, than in the so-called Golden Age.

So, it seems that ham radio is alive and well, after all.
Sent in by Stan Barbarich.

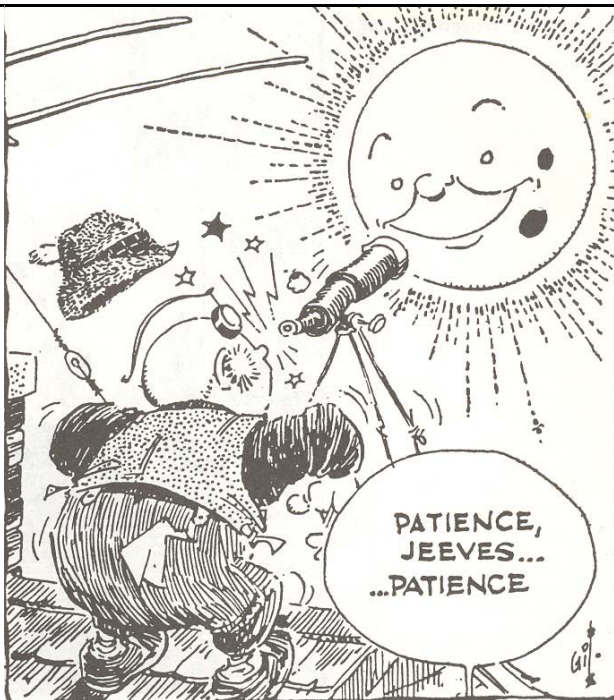
73, Stan NØPS

(Stan is a MARS member, living in Sausalito)

Come to the MARS picnic on Sunday 12 September at Sam Taylor Park.

MARS will supply the fire, tools, paper plates, plastic tools for face-stuffing, basic condiments and bellywash in limited flavors, some diet. Bring your own meat, buns, salads, desserts. Maybe something to share. Here's your chance to find out what's in the rear of your reefer, that you may not have seen for several months, and bring it to the picnic.

Show up sometime after 1100 hr. The fire should be ready around noon or a little later.



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Available Vanity Calls

A while back there was a site that listed thousands of unused and available ham calls, judging by the time it took to scroll them to the bottom of the display. Buckmaster Publishing? Apparently, maintaining the site took too much time and the feature was dropped and someone else picked it up. The site lists the unused 1X3 (W6xxx and K6xxx) calls in the 6th district. You'll also find the unused 2X2 calls for Advanced and Extra hams. We've wondered where all those strange 2X2s came from. Here's what they have to say:

"These call signs are not active, expired nor cancelled. (Maybe they should say 'not recently expired'.) These call signs are unused and have been **inactive for more than two years** and are available for **immediate issue**. Call signs shown in **RED** were recently included on an FCC application. Call signs shown in **BLUE(+)** are predicted to be granted."

<http://www.vanityhq.com/immediate/miss61x3d.html>

Change the 6 after /miss for other call districts.

Or change 1x3 to 2x2 to see thousands of those calls.

No luck with 1X2 or 2X1 calls. They get snapped up soon after they become available.

There is no chemical currently manufactured that can function as an indicator for urine in a swimming pool. So, don't just stand there with a guilty expression. Keep moving! (grin)



Hi All !

The Pampanito A.R.C. held its monthly Dedicated Day of Operation (DDO) on Saturday, August 14, 2010 aboard the USS Pampanito. The R/Os at NJ6VT were Bill Stewart, KF6RMK, and guest R/O Matt Schallock, K6OHD. Bill Stewart's DDO Report follows. Thanks go to Bill and Matt for a job well done! Our next scheduled DDO will be aboard the boat on September 11, 2010.

73,

Den Regan, K6ZJU

CO Pampanito A.R.S. NJ6VT

USS Pampanito, SS-383

Pier 45, Shed A

San Francisco

cc: Aaron Washington, Ships Manager

Diane Cooper, Museum Curator

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

William McCollum, R/O USS Pampanito

Summary of DDO Aug. 14, 2010

Operators: Matt Schallock K6OHD, Bill Stewart KF6RMK

We activated NJ6VT at 11:30 on 40 meters CW and our first contact was David, W6PBJ, in Grass Valley. Conditions were a little rough due to QRN at the time. Matt was able to access the QRZ site on his i phone in the radio shack. A great testament to his service provider. I still don't know how he was doing it. Did the boat put in Wi Fi or something? Anyway, a great tool for the quick call look ups.

We moved up to 20 meters SSB and soon Matt was elbow deep in a pile up. We logged calls from UT, WY, FL, MI, TX, MD, WA, as well as Nevada, Arizona, and CA. We had a quick exchange with the USS Midway NI6IW in San Diego and a special events station K3I in MD.

Matt has a great radio voice and a professional sounding style due to his past experience as a radio announcer for a small station. He was great at pulling in all the calls for the log.

We were delighted to get a visit from Denice Stoops, KI6BBR, chief R/O on the Jeremiah O'Brien, KXCH, who was showing several lovely new woman crew members the boat. It was a real treat to see Denice again and she truly looked sharp in her uniform.

It was a great day for visitors and tourists viewing the boat. It was busy all day long with a steady flow of traffic well into the late afternoon. We closed the station down around 5:30 and the boat was still full.

Bill Stewart, KF6RMK

Radio Op.

P.A.R.C NJ6VT. (NJVT in WW2)

USS Pampanito , SS 383 , San Francisco

From [Radio Officers, &c]

We were anchored outside the sebuoy at Singapore in International waters and it was Christmas and I wanted to work USA just to feel connected. So I got up early around 5 AM for 40 meters to W1 area (New England States of USA). I found a few East Coast stations calling CQ DX and they had good signals - so I tried calling them and signing N1EA/MM. They told me that I wasn't DX and refused to contact me. :-(Both of them. So this put me a bit down on the DXers who don't know that a contact near 9VG would have been their best DX but all they wanted was a point, a QSL card and just working a far away station. 73, DR (N1EA. Read his bio on QRZ. ed.)

For Sale. ICOM IC-208H dual band 144/440 55/50 watts. Never removed from the box. Prolly too hard to put it back in. MSRP was \$319.00. Best offer over \$150.00. Randy KA6BQF has a couple and your editor uses one in the pickup. Programmable from your PC. Will provide help with that so you won't have to buy the software. ed.

QSA-5 September 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.

Stamp

The Mailing
 Address
 Goes Here