

# QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

August 2011

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## [Picnic info on page 4.](#)

### Speaker for Oct. Meeting.

Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, our ARRL SF Region Manager says, "The program I have in mind is one on a brief overview of what ARRL does for members and Amateur Radio and answers to questions I have received from various sources."

Bill is an affable fellow who is not usually known to rush into the audience to pound on a heckler.

Guaranteed to keep you awake, too.

Last meeting we attended the quality of the pizza had improved. Plenty of bellywash to ease it right on down.

### 9 AM Sunday HF Check-in?

The earlier hour HFer checkin seems to be working and some are checking in at 0900 and at 10 AM.

This may continue for some time or until the 10 AM bunch gets weaned off of the later hour. No, they will not be known as weanees.

People are resistant to change, especially when it comes to having to get up earlier or having to pay more for something. As our members age, they will prolly go to bed earlier and, maybe, get up earlier. One belief holds that Elderfahrten don't require as much sleep as they used to.

### September Speaker.

Our speaker at the September meeting will be Dr. Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ. Alan grew up in Mill Valley and was first licensed as KN6SRZ in 1956 age 12. He drifted away from the hobby during his college years and didn't return to the air until 1996, when a chance meeting over dinner with a friend inspired him to get back into ham radio. During the 34 year hiatus he got married, started a family, and began a career as a physician. Since returning to the air he has made the DXCC Honor Roll (346 entities) and logged 143 entities on 160 M. He holds the SF Section record for CW Sweepstakes and the Trinity and Sonoma County records for the California QSO Party.

The skill set of medicine plus CW has got him invited on several DXpeditions, including T33C (Banaba), K7C (Kure) and N8S (Swains Island). The ZK2A (Niue) expedition was his first that did not involve landing in a small boat and sleeping on a cot. His fellow expeditioners were IK1PMR, PA3LEO, LA9SN, and N6TQS.

The ZK2A presentation will open with a bonus video of the joint MARS-REDXA 2011 Field Day operation from the Marin Rod and Gun Club.

See more info on Alan at QRZ / K6SRZ, including a pic.

### Bd. of Directors Meeting, 11 August.

Members present: Curtis Ardourel, John Boyd, Rita Brenden, Rich Carbine, Marilyn Bagshaw, Augie Koehler, Doug Slusher, and Randy Jenkins. Phil Dunlap was also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 hrs by President Curtis WA6UDS. The agenda was approved as amended. The minutes of the July 14 meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: Doug KF6AKU reported \$2,385.00 income and \$1,155.76 expenses for July. Bank balances of \$10,056.90 in the Building Account, and \$35,180.00 in the General Account were reported.

Committee reports:  
Membership- Phil K6PHD reported that we still have around 100 members. Peter Cooke renewed.

Recreation- Marilyn N6VAW reported that she was looking at Miwok Meadows at China Camp State Park for September 25. Approved.

Public Service – Randy KA6BQF commented on the Marin Double Century, August 6; and on The Holstein 100 coming up on August 20. There is one more event in September and two events the first weekend of October.

Technical Committee – Doug reported on a conversation with Dan Dufficy about the additional insurance coverage for Big Rock Ridge.

Comm Truck – Doug reported that it was ready for our next event.

Field Day Committee – Rich W6UDS reported that the combined effort yielded about 10,000 points.

VE Liaison – Randy reported that the next session was Saturday, November 19.

RACES – Grant Prichard has resigned as Chief Officer. There will be a leadership meeting. Next page, col. One.

Building Manager – Rich commented on trying to contact a new contractor about the deck repairs.

Education: Randy and Dave KG6CJ will schedule a Technician class mid-September.

Speakers – September – Dr Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ on the Niue Expedition. October – Bill Hillendahl from ARRL.

Old Business:

The prescriptive easement sign – still in Doug's car.

Apartment Repairs – Deck next.

Personal property – Working on it. Need to get the backroom cleaned up.

Tree Letter – Doug and Matt K6OHD will talk to neighbor.

Donation Policy: Doug is working on a second part of the policy.

New Business:

It was proposed to make a one-time thank you gift, jointly with RedX, of \$50.00 per club to Josh who prepared the food for Field Day. ORI/UDS/Pass.

Closed Session – The Board went into closed session to discuss a policy matter. No actions were taken in closed session.

It was proposed to create a special award to be titled "The Hi Roberts Award" for meritorious service to the club. Potential recipients of this award would be recommended for consideration to the President of the Club, who may determine that, in recognition of special efforts on behalf of the club or its purposes, the award is to be presented to such an individual, at the annual meeting. AKU/ORI/Pass.

2012 Board Nominating Committee – This was placed as an agenda item for September.

There was a proposal to re-activate the "Ham-of-the-Year" Award. This award is made on recommendation to the Board from a committee of past recipients of the award. BQF/UDS/Pass.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:32 hours. Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF  
Secretary

## THE WAYBACK MACHINE

Issue #6 by William Continelli  
Reprinted by permission.

The Radio Act of 1912 was hopelessly obsolete by the early 1920's. Conceived in an era of long and medium wave spark telegraphy, the Act was totally inadequate when it came to broadcasting and the shortwaves. The Department of Commerce gamely tried to stretch the Act to meet new requirements; the 1922 and 1924 "regulations" that banned broadcasting by amateurs, set up the broadcast band, and carved out the 160, 80, 40, 20, and 5 meter bands, were really nothing more than "gentlemen's agreements", valid as long as they weren't challenged.

For a time, they worked. Amateurs enthusiastically settled in on their new bands and began working the world, while the number of broadcasters in the new 550 to 1500 kc region jumped from 30 to almost 600 in just 3 years. Technical advances had not kept up with this growth, however, and there were problems. Crystal control of transmitters was still a couple of years away, and the unstable broadcasting stations drifted from their assigned frequencies, sometimes to the point of interfering with adjacent channels. Even stations off frequency by 400-600 cycles could cause ear splitting heterodynes. Most receivers of the 1920's were either regenerative or TRF (Tuned Radio Frequency), good on sensitivity, poor on selectivity. As a result, the 1920's broadcast band was saturated with only 600 stations. (Compare that to today's medium wave where tight frequency control of 20 Hz, coupled with directional antennas and selective superheterodyne receivers, allows over 4000 stations to occupy the AM broadcast band without undue interference).

The Department of Commerce, therefore, issued regulations mandating such solutions as time sharing (where two or more stations occupied the same frequency at different times of the day), and daytime only operations. Stations were constantly moved to another frequency, or told to decrease power,

in order to minimize interference. The Department also went after stations whose transmitters drifted onto adjacent channels. An interesting example of this was the Los Angeles station of "Sister" Aimee Semple McPherson, an evangelist who was the leader of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel. Her station was notorious for drifting up and down the broadcast band. When the Federal Radio Inspectors tried to keep her on frequency, she imperiously wrote to Secretary Hoover, demanding that his "Minions of Satan" stay away from her transmitter. The Almighty would choose her Wavelength, she wrote, not the Department of Commerce.

Many of the stations that had been moved, told to reduce power, or share their frequency, did what any patriotic American would do--hire a lawyer. Once the legal bloodhounds began digging, certain things came to light.

Article I, Section 8, of the Constitution allows the Federal Government to regulate INTERSTATE commerce. Furthermore, it is an accepted fact that a Federal Agency cannot issue any regulations, unless it was given the power to do so by Congress. Thus, the lawyers for the disgruntled stations challenged the Secretary's "regulations" on two fronts, first, that the Radio Act of 1912 gave the Department no authority to regulate broadcasting stations, and second, that since many stations could not be heard across state lines, there was no "interstate commerce" and therefore no Federal jurisdiction. (This is the argument used by "Radio Free Berkeley" and other low power pirate stations).

The Day of Reckoning arrived in 1926 when an Illinois District Court held that there was no Federal Law to permit the Secretary of Commerce to assign broadcasting licenses or frequencies. The Attorney-General admitted that the Federal Government had no control over radio, except what was specifically authorized in the 1912 Act.

Pandemonium broke out. Stations, liberated from all Federal control, upped their power, jumped frequency, and/or began full time operations on daytime or time shared frequencies. Smaller stations were jammed off the air. Unlicensed transmitters appeared out of nowhere, dropped down on any convenient (or inconvenient) frequency, and began broadcasting. Anarchy was King. Amateurs, of course, could have legally joined in this RF orgy. There was nothing preventing them from going back to broadcasting, moving to new frequencies, exceeding the one kW limit, or anything else they desired. To their credit, they did nothing of the sort. One reason was the immense respect they felt for Secretary Hoover, a man who over and over publicly supported amateur radio in any way possible. They would abide by their "gentleman's agreement" with him. The other reason was common sense. They knew that Congress would soon rectify the problem by passing appropriate legislation. The broadcasters were "big boys" with a lot of money, powerful corporate backers, and 6 million listeners; they could afford to violate the spirit of the law and get away with it. Amateurs did not have this luxury. They realized that any violations of the 1922 and 1924 agreements, even if they were legally unenforceable, would cost them dearly in political support. So, while the 550 to 1500 kc segment was a free for all, the amateur bands were disciplined and orderly, as hams mastered the art of crystal control, and improved their operating skills.

Incidentally, one area in which those skills were honed was expeditions. From the Arctic to the Antarctic, from MacMillan to Byrd, amateurs provided the necessary communications of almost every major explorer. Also, in the area of emergencies, amateurs provided communications during snow and ice storms, hurricanes, earthquakes, and floods.

The Federal Government quickly moved to end the chaotic mess on the

broadcast band. The Radio Act of 1927 was approved on February 23. This law defined "amateur radio" for the first time in a Federal statute, and created the Federal Radio Commission, which was given the power to classify and regulate all aspects of all radio stations for "the public interest, convenience or necessity". Criminal penalties were written into the 1927 Act for violations of the Act, or any regulation thereunder.

The Commission immediately went to work. "Minions of Satan" got Sister Aimee's station back on frequency, and shut down the transmitter of KFKB, the station of "Dr." John Brinkley, graduate of the Eclectic Medical School and proponent of prostate operations and (get this) goat gland transplants to cure all medical ills. Patients by the thousands listened to KFKB's broadcasts, and flocked to Kansas to have the operations, picking out their goat from the pens next to the hospital as they went in. (Do you think I could make this up?) Unfortunately, after the Commission shut him down, "Dr." Brinkley went to Mexico by the Texas border, set up a 150,000 watt station, and continued his fraudulent operations.

In regards to amateur radio, the Commission, in effect, kept the status quo for the 15,000 hams. All agreements and regulations enacted by the Department of Commerce were maintained and incorporated into current regulations. The only change that hams noticed was the addition of a prefix on their calls, thus 1AW became W1AW, 1JS became W1JS, etc.

However, the existence of a sympathetic Commission and friendly regulations wasn't enough. Radio was truly international and, as a result, an International Radiotelegraph Conference was scheduled in Washington, D.C., for October 4, 1927. Word was filtering out of Europe and the Far East that many governments were anti-amateur radio.

How would our hobby fare at this conference? Join us next time as "The Wayback Machine" shows us the answers.

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Minutes General Membership Meeting, Aug. 5, 2011

President Curtis Ardourel called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as was tonight's agenda. The Board has moved the time of the Sunday morning 75 m net from 10 am back to 9 am, but will still do the 10 am for the time being. The 2m net stays the same. The Treasurer's report was given and plans for the upcoming club picnic was discussed. It will be held on Sept 11 but the location is still to be determined. Nothing new from the Tech committee. President Ardourel said there is a good chance that the Marin IJ will donate a Honda generator to the club. The power supply for the tower in the Comm truck has been repaired. There will be a Tech class in Sept. and a VE test in Nov. It was announced that RACES president Grant Prichard has resigned, no new replacement as yet. Rich Carbine said he will get in contact with a contractor for upstairs deck repair. He also has put in a request for the use of the site for next year's Field Day at the Marin Rod and Gun Club. The club's generator we use for FD will need bit of work. The business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 1945 hours. Jerry Foster gave a very interesting report on the on-going DX expedition to the South Sudan. He followed this up by giving out some hints to find rare DX stations. The meeting was over at 2045 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, WA6CLK

Annual MARS Picnic. Sunday 25 September. 11 AM.

**This is an RSVP event. No entrance fee. It's prepaid.** Please email or call Marilyn, N6VAW, marilyn@mediatunnel.com, 415.479.3704

**RSVP by Sept. 21.**

Due to the uncertainty of availability of our State Parks, we had been unable to find a group site until recently. We have reserved **Miwok Meadows at China Camp** for Sunday, September 25, 2011. It's a sunnier location than Sam Taylor Park, which can be cool, but there's plenty of shade under the trees.

Start time is 11:00 AM, but you can come earlier to hike around and look for stuff, maybe bones of missing hikers.

FRIENDLY DOGS ON LEASH ONLY are OK. Bikes, hiking boots, games, etc. Kites were suggested for those not afflicted with the Charlie Brown syndrome. Folding chaise lounges for Elderfahrten naps.

Bring an entree (BYOMeat) of your choice to grill and maybe a side dish to share: snacks, salads, desserts. Drinks and a charcoal fire or two and burger flipping tools will be provided by the club as well as paper plates, plastic cups and a few condiments: mustard, ketchup, salt & pepper. Like last year, whatever we can find in the clubhouse reefer that hasn't turned green/gray with a fuzzy indistinct outline.

Weather is changeable near the Bay, so dress in layers. If you have any questions, please email or call Marilyn, N6VAW, marilyn@mediatunnel.com, 415.479.3704.

### **Directions to Miwok Meadows, China Camp**

**Take hwy 101, north or south, to the Civic Center turnoffs. Follow the signs. That'll put you on N San Pedro Rd. Stay on it for about three miles to the Miwok Meadows sign on the right. The gate will be open. Drive right in and go to the large parking area by the picnic tables.**

**The more adventurous can take the curvy San Pedro Rd. out of San Rafael and get there, too. However, with the probability of Sunday drivers on that route, you may be putting your vehicle's appearance at risk. Watch out for the inept drivers who can't stay on their own side of the center line wherever the road curves left.**

There is no official talk-in freq but someone on site or on the way should be monitoring Big Rock or Mt. Tam repeaters.

You could bring along a spare 706 or reasonable facsimile, a 12 volt battery, string up a dipole and work a little HF. That didn't work well from Sam Taylor Park but Miwok Meadows is open to the East, at least. Maybe you have a mobile HF rig?

Hi All!!

A good time was had by all who attended this last Saturday's Dedicated Day of Operation (DDO) aboard the USS Pampanito, SS-383. In attendance for Saturday's DDO were Michael Fischer, K6MLF, our Yeoman, Hal Strunk, WA6JNZ, Guest Radio Operator, Larry Bernard, KG6VOM, and myself.

Larry did most of the operating at NJ6VT on Saturday, working about a dozen West Coast stations ranging from Vancouver, WA, to San Diego and into Arizona on the 40 meter band, while Hal was acting Docent in the Control Room taking with many visitors. Later in the afternoon, I managed to work both Japan and Korea on the 17 meter band using old fashioned CW before securing NJ6VT.

We were privileged to have a visit from our long lost friend, Denice Stoops, KI6BBR, who just returned from an eight month voyage on the USNS Wally Schirra, T-AKE 8, with the Military Sealift Command (MSC). The USNS Wally Schirra is a fairly new, "dry cargo ship" that carries food, medical supplies, ammo etc and services ships in our 5th Fleet and anywhere else that supplies may be needed.

Denice joined us for a very nice lunch at the wharf after a long, 20 hour flight from Somalia! In eight months, Denice has been in just about every port of call you can imagine in the Pacific and Middle East. A voyage south of the equator has made Denice a "Shell Back" and she showed us a very impressive certificate attesting to that fact! Congratulations to Denice! Well done!

Denice will be returning to duty as part of the West Coast MSC operations in about 30 days. Hopefully, we will see her at least one more time before she heads out to sea on another MSC ship!

Our next scheduled DDO is set for Saturday, September 10, 2011. We will need operators for NJ6VT. Please consider helping out our station, NJ6VT if you possibly can. Special thanks to Larry Bernard, KG6VOM, for a fine job as Guest RO on the USS Pampanito!

73,

Den Regan, K6ZJU

CO Pampanito A.R.C. NJ6VT

USS Pampanito, SS-383

Pier 45, Shed "A"

San Francisco

cc: Aaron Washington, Ship's Manager

Diane Cooper, Curator, SF Maritime Museum

Denice Stoops, KI6BBR, MSC USNS Wally Schirra T-AKE 8

William McCollum, RO, USS Pampanito, SS-383 WW-II

Guest Ops.

## Bears at Tahoe



This one is a regular and seems to have little fear of humans. Stay extra clear of this type. Auto-camera.



Attracted by the smell of overflowed oil from a turkey cooking in the back yard earlier. Auto-camera.



Wiley in the front yard. Bears don't like Pine-Sol. Used in auto-feed cat waterers.

Career Name: *Wally Schirra*

Namesake: Wally Schirra

Builder: National Steel & Shipbuilding

Laid down: 14 April 2008

Launched: 08 March 2009

Sponsored by: Josephine Schirra

Christened: 08 March 2009

Acquired: 1 September 2009

[\*Lewis and Clark-class cargo ship\*](#)

Displacement: 23,852 tons light,  
40,298 tons full,

Length: 210 m (689 ft) overall,

Beam: 32.3 m (106 ft) extreme,

Draft: 9.1 m (30 ft) maximum,

Propulsion: Integrated propulsion and ship service electrical system, with generation at 6.6 kV by FM/MAN B&W diesel generators; one fixed pitch propeller; bow thruster

Speed: 20 knots (37 km/h)

Range: 14,000 nautical miles at 20 kt

Capacity: •

Max dry cargo weight:

5,910 long tons (6,005 t)

• Max dry cargo volume:

783,000 cubic feet (22,000 m<sup>3</sup>)

• Max cargo fuel weight:

2,350 long tons (2,390 t)

• Cargo fuel volume:

18,000 barrels (2,900 m<sup>3</sup>)

Complement: 49 military, 123 civilian

Electronic warfare and decoys: Nulka decoy launchers

Armament: 2–6 × 12.7 mm machine guns  
or 7.62 mm medium machine guns

Aircraft carried:

two helicopters, either Sikorsky MH-60S Knighthawk  
or Aerospatiale Super Puma.

See next page for pictures.



**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. From hwy 101, head west toward Mill Valley on E. Blithedale. Turn right at the first stop light a block off the highway. Angle right at next stop sign, then turn left at next corner, Shell Road. We are in a two story building, second from the corner 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 and 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.

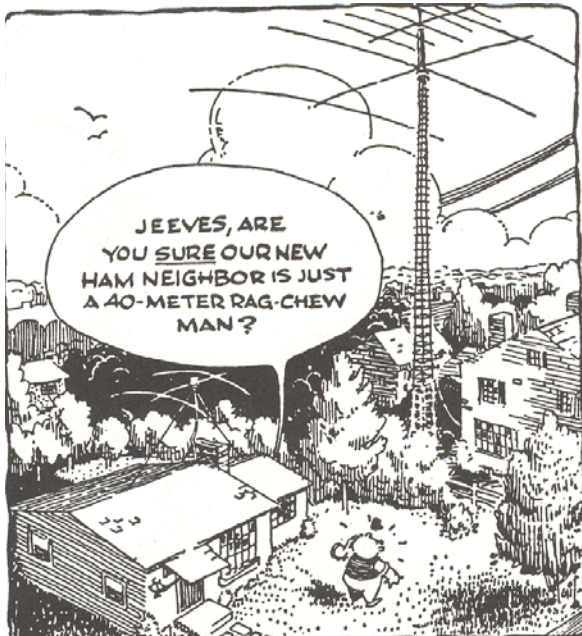
**The Sunday Emergency nets.** Come on down and watch Matt K6OHD do the nets. You could try it yourself, while Matt stands by, and get rid of any mike fright you might have. If at any time you feel a panic attack coming on, Matt will get you thru it.

<p><b>Marin Amateur Radio Society</b>  <b>President:</b> Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS                      510-595-3494  <b>Vice President:</b>                      Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829  <b>Secretary:</b>                      Randy Jenkins KA6BQF  <b>Treasurer:</b>                      Doug Slusher KF6AKU</p> <p><b>Additional Board Members:</b>                      Marilyn Bagshaw N6VAW 479-3704                      John Boyd KE6ORI 924-4419                      Rita Brenden KG6WPN 707-557-5521                      Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136                      Horst Dannecker KA6BHZ 459-6163                      Matt Schallock K6OHD 531-2676</p>	<p><b>Education Chair:</b>                      Randy?                      491-0318  <b>VE Liaison:</b>                      Randy Jenkins KA6BQF                      510-526-4089  <b>Building Co-Managers</b>                      Matt Schallock K6OHD 531-2676                      Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136</p> <p><b>Trustee for W6SG:</b>                      Augie Koehler KØCQL  <b>Trustee for K6GWE:</b>                      Doug Slusher KF6AKU  <b>Sunday Emergency Nets:</b>                      Matt Schallock K6OHD  <b>Assistant to the Treasurer:</b>                      Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864</p>	<p><b>DX Representative of ARRL:</b>                      Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829  <b>WEBMASTER</b>                      Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948                      N1ZKW@ARRL.NET  <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  <b>Membership:</b>                      Phil Dunlap K6PHD</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