

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

January 2011

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Pres' Msg.
He's on temporary leave.

**2011 MARS Board
Elected and/or coerced.**

**Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS
President**

**Jerry Foster WA6BXV
Vice-President**

**Doug Slusher KF6AKU
Treasurer, Trustee K6GWE**

**Randy Jenkins KA6BQF
Secretary, VE Liason**

**August Koehler KØCQL
Trustee W6SG**

**Matt Schallock K6OHD
Director, Building Com.**

**Rich Carbine W6UDS
Director, Building Com.**

**Marilyn Bagshaw N6VAW
Director, Recreation Com.**

**John Boyd KE6ORI
Director, CommTruck Com.**

**Horst Dannecker KA6BHZ
Director**

**Rita Brenden KG6WPN
Director**

**Non-Director Positions:
Phil Dunlap K6PHD
QSA-5 Editor, Membership**

**Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ
Assistant Treasurer**

**2011 VE Dates:
Saturday March 19, Saturday July 23,
Saturday November 19; 9:00AM at
27 Shell Road, Mill Valley.**

We have a speaker lined up for the February 4, 2011 meeting.

David Haycock, KI6AWR will speak on batteries: selection, care & feeding.

Interpol was looking for an escaped convict in Denmark, and sent pictures of the man to the Danish police. The pictures were taken from both sides and the front. After a few days the Danes replied: "We caught the guys on the left and the right but the one in the middle got away".

December was a light month.

Board Meeting, 9 December 2010

President Curtis WA6UDS called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. Other board members present were Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Rich Carbine W6UDS, Augie Koehler KØCQL, Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ, Jerry Foster WA6BXV, Matt Schallock K6OHD and John Boyd KE6ORI. The agenda was approved with additions. The Treasurer's report was also approved. Phil said the club's membership was about 110 members. Membership renewals and ballots for 2011's Board members are being mailed out soon.

Nothing new on upcoming recreation events. New public service events will be posted.

Doug reported that the repeaters are working well.

The license fees for the comm. truck are paid. Still needs a smog certificate.

New tech classes possibly to be held in the Spring. The General class question pool will be upgraded.

There will be a RACES meeting on Dec. 11. Rich Carbine said a final bill has been received from our contractor concerning his work in our clubhouse. Future remodeling projects will be discussed at upcoming meetings.

Jerry BXV is looking for guest speakers for 2011's General meetings.

Randy Jenkins received some prices on new fire extinguishers. Doug talked about an ARRL leadership meeting he and Curtis attended.

A new club budget for 2011 will be discussed at the next meeting. Rich discussed the plaque displaying the calls of all our past presidents.

The use of Facebook as a club promotion will be given a two month trial. The meeting was adjourned at 2027 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

General meeting was the Christmas Dinner Party.

Virginia State trooper pulled a car over on I-64 about 2 miles south of the Virginia / West Virginia State line.

When the trooper asked the driver why he was speeding, the driver said he was a Magician and Juggler and was on his way to Beckley, WV, to do a show at the Shrine Circus. He didn't want to be late.

The trooper told the driver he was fascinated by juggling and said if the driver would do a little juggling for him then he wouldn't give him a ticket.

He told the trooper he had sent his equipment ahead and didn't have anything to juggle.

The trooper said he had some flares in the trunk and asked if he could juggle them.

The juggler said he could, so the trooper got 5 flares, ignited them and handed them to him.

While the man was juggling, a car pulled in behind the patrol car. A drunken good old boy from West Virginia got out, watched the performance briefly, then went over to the patrol car, opened the rear door and got in.

The trooper observed him and went over to the patrol car and opened the door asking the drunk what he thought he was doing.

The drunk replied, 'You might as well take my ass to jail, cause there ain't no way I can pass that test.

Stuff

Wonder why some people are afraid of pressure cookers. Their operating pressure, 15 psi, is half of that in your car's tires. There is no better way to cook artichokes. They don't turn really dark and get waterlogged like boiled ones can.

**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 +/-.

From a ham in Denmark:

Band condx are lousy, QRN often S9 and when there is activity its a rubber stamp quickie or everyone piles up to catch some DX -- so this hobby is going down hill.

Not many shortwave broadcast stations -- mostly Chinese in English, but VOA has good programs on the higher bands -- BBC used to have great programs.

What's the point of building super gear if there aren't patient rag chew hams around anymore? It's turned into one big bunch of certificate collectors. Can picture some wiseass saying to the Great Reaper, "Not yet Champ, I need one more for my DXCC!"

Got your pepper spray, stun gun, Taser? Here's one source:
<http://www.ddsp.com/pepper-spray.htm>

**THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #34
by Bill Continelli, W2XOY
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NEW BANDS AT GENEVA!!!

Those were the good words at the beginning of 1980. WARC-79 was over and amateur radio came out ahead. We kept all of our major HF, VHF and UHF bands and received three new HF allocations: a 50 kHz shared band at 10 Mhz, and two new exclusive 100 kHz segments at 18 and 24 Mhz. These were the first new HF bands since 1947, when we received the 15 meter band. The only down side was the time element: it would take about two years to actually receive 10 Mhz, and up to nine years for 18 and 24 Mhz. Amateurs, however, had waited until 1952 to get 15 meters, we would gladly wait again--especially for 200 kHz of worldwide HF spectrum.

Other legal and regulatory news dominated the Amateur world at the beginning of 1980. The FCC proposed a new SSB only CB Band from 27.410 Mhz (just above CB channel 40) to 27.54 Mhz. For this new CB allocation, the FCC proposed removing the 155 mile contact limit (thus allowing DX contacts), as well as permitting VFO's. A non-technical test would be required for access to the CB-SSB band. Reaction, as you might guess, was strong and divided. HF "outbanders" (who worked the "10 1/2" meter band) were in favor--unlike the 220 Mhz "Class E CB" proposal a few years back, they could work skip on this new band. Or, should we say it would legitimize their present operations? The ARRL and the Amateur community were strongly opposed. Many letters in QST pointed out the intrusion of the illegal operators on the "10 1/2" meter band into the bottom part of our 10 meter band. In the end, the proposal was abandoned. The "Freebanders" and "Outbanders" continue to operate the 27.41 to 28 Mhz segment to this day.

In January, 1980, the FCC approved ASCII, which, at the time, was described as "an encoding system for digital transmissions that is

compatible with most personal computers". Packet Radio had received the Official Government Blessing. Wayne Green, W2NSD/1, in a 73 magazine editorial, called the FCC action "asinine", because it only allowed 300 BAUD. Wayne pointed out that 1200 BAUD was the norm in telephone operations, and speeds as fast as 9600 BAUD would soon be possible.

Novices and Technicians got good news in 1980--they could now operate in Canada. In the past, they were not allowed to operate north of the border, because Canada had no equivalent license. Since Canada now had a VHF license, they opened the RF door to all Novices and Technicians--no reciprocal permit required.

Congress is considering a Bill to allow 10 year licenses, and the authorization of Volunteer Examiners. The ARRL is watching this Bill closely, and will keep the Amateur community informed.

Hams had been looking forward to the launch of AMSAT-OSCAR Phase 3. Unfortunately, on May 23, 1980, the launch vehicle failed and dumped it into the ocean.

In 1980, the start of the "Wayback" articles was 16 years in the future. What was a history starved ham to do? Don't worry--just pick up 73 magazine. Eric Shalkhauser, W9CI, was writing the "History of Ham Radio" as a series in 73 magazine. Also, in 73 magazine, the "CB to 10 meter" series was still going strong, showing how to convert those obsolete 23 channel CB rigs to 10 meters and, in some cases, 10 meter FM.

In 1980, what rigs were on the market? In the field of 2 meter handhelds, the Tempo S-1 (the first synthesized HT) was facing some stiff competition. Kenwood introduced the TR-2400, and Yaesu brought out the FT-207R. Both were priced at "just" \$395. ICOM unveiled the IC-2A and the IC-2AT. Prices started at just \$200 (no nicads or TTP) to \$270 fully equipped. In response, Tempo dropped the price of the S-1 to \$260. If you can't afford

a synthesized HT, buy a discontinued crystal controlled rig. The HY-GAIN 1 watt, 6 channel HT is just \$88. The Yaesu FT-202R, a 1 watt 6 channel unit (which looks just like the FT-207R) is only \$125. PACE is leaving the ham market and has its remaining 2 meter handhelds on closeout for less than \$120. Inflation has increased prices 250% since 1980, figure out the prices of these radios in today's dollars.

Finally, in 1980, did you get "Bashed"? Did you buy "The Final Exam"? Would you EVER admit to it? What's the controversy?

In 1980, Dick Bash, KL7IHP, published a series of books entitled "The Final Exam" and nicknamed the "Bash books". The actual test questions and multiple-choice answers were reproduced verbatim as they appeared on the FCC Technician/General, Advanced, and Amateur Extra exams. Remember, in 1980, the FCC exam question pool was not published. The FCC had a general "syllabus" of rules, regulations, and technical data covered on each exam. The ARRL License Manual discussed these topics in detail. But no one had published the actual questions and answers until Dick Bash came along. How did he get the questions? Simple--he would go down to the FCC examination site, stand outside the door, and question the applicants as they came out. Cooperative hams (or would be hams) gave him the questions and multiple choice answers that appeared on their exams. Later, as the books began to sell in numbers, applicants would mail him the questions and answers that were on the tests. The books were popular--selling at the rate of 1,000 per month in 1980.

Dick Bash claimed his operation was 100% legal. He said that since the questions were available via a FOIA request, they weren't classified and could be published. He further stated that he was justified in publishing "The Final Exam" because the syllabus and License Manuals out there did not adequately prepare applicants for the exams. Indeed, FCC records showed that the fail-

ure rate was 69%--less than 1 out of 3 passed. This was before the Volunteer Exam program. FCC exams were given at the 20 field offices nationwide, and at quarterly, semi-annual, and annual examination sites. If you failed, it might be 3 months or more before you could retake the test.

The ARRL and the FCC fought back. QST refused to run ads for "The Final Exam". The FCC began rewording and changing the questions on the exams to thwart those who had memorized the earlier questions. Dick Bash claimed that the FCC used coercion to pressure magazines and distributors not to advertise or sell "The Final Exam". This battle went on until 1984, when the Volunteer Examiner program was instituted, and the FCC released the question pool to the public. Dick Bash ceased his operation. Did he win in principle? You decide.

In our next installment, we are going to stay in 1980, and look at four unique public service activities in which Amateur Radio played an important role. Sadly, in one event, two hams lost their lives.

So, until then, turn on your TRS-80 and copy all those new packet signals.

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The wife and I were at home watching TV.

I had the remote and was switching back and forth between a fishing channel and the porn channel.

She became more and more annoyed and finally said:

"For God's sake! Leave it on the porn channel! You already know how to fish!"

A Danish airplane was getting ready to land in Stockholm's airport. The control tower contacted the pilot and asked for his position. The Danish pilot was surprised and didn't do anything. Again the control tower contacted the pilot. "Please tell us your position." Then the pilot understood and answered: "Here I am in the front seat, as always..."

Pampanito ARC

Happy New Year to All!

Our first DDO for the New Year kicked off last Saturday, January 8, 2011 in the NJ6VT radio shack on the USS Pampanito, SS-383. Radio operations were underway before noon as scheduled. The RO's were myself and Michael Fischer, K6MLF.

It was a cold, windy and very foggy day on San Francisco Bay with temperatures in the 40's. In spite of the lousy weather, there were quite a number of visitors aboard the boat, including several from our neighboring state, Nevada, for the football championship between UNV and Boston. To say that the radio shack was rather cool is an understatement.

Contacts were made both on the 40 and 17 meter bands. Michael made 15 QSOs with several states including IL, TX, CO, CA, and NV - most on 17 meters. I made a few QSO's with Canada and Japan on 17 meter CW. We also had a QSO with the USS Hornet, NB6GC, CV-12, across the bay on 40 meter SSB earlier in the day.

By late afternoon, Michael and I found ourselves assuming the temperature of San Francisco Bay and decided to secure NJ6VT a little early at 1530 hours. All and all it was a good day aboard the boat even if we were a little cold at times.

We have another DDO scheduled for Saturday, February 12, 2011. Please let me know if you can help out. We do need more club participation with our Dedicated Day of Operation event.
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 RO KXCH, SS Jeremiah O'Brien

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

A The Danish man had a problem. His wife was coming home on the train but he could not remember if she was coming at 8:40 or 4:80.

1: Do you know how to find a lost Dane?

2: No

1: Good!

Submitted by Roland Kylfält

Marin Amateur Radio Society, QSA-5 January 2011

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 street, 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>Marin Amateur Radio Society President: Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS 510-595-3494</p> <p>Vice President: Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</p> <p>Secretary: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF</p> <p>Treasurer: Doug Slusher KF6AKU</p> <p>Additional Board Members: Marilyn Bagshaw N6VAW 479-3136 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>Education Chair: Randy? 491-0318</p> <p>VE Liaison: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089</p> <p>Building Co-Managers Matt Schallock K6OHD 531-2676 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>Assistant to the Treasurer: Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864</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> <p>Membership: 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
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