

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

March 2011

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Pres' Msg.

I sat down this morning to read my email as I do every morning. The usual searches from EBAY, email magazines, something odd from Phil K6PHD and a post from the ARRL. The email got me to sit bolt upright, not unlike accidentally touching the B+ supply.

Our servants in Washington D.C. are once again trying to help us by legislating on technology that they have not taken to time to understand first. I am trying to avoid a rant here but in recent years our elected representatives have done little that we can be proud of when it comes to technology legislation. The ineptitude seems to be equally distributed across the political spectrum, and neither party seems to grasp the importance or the concepts around technology.

Today's misguided effort is brilliantly conceived to hit us where it hurts most, and to do it twice. The bill, H.R. 607 is called the "Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011" and in general is intended to grant additional RF spectrum for the use of first responders. Who could be opposed to that? Particularly when we as hams are active in public service and work directly with first responders in communications when an emergency occurs.

The devil of course is in the details. Part of the RF Spectrum to be re-assigned is 420-440 MHz. There it is, self interest. Whatever our elected representatives do is fine so long as my ox is not gored. Well our ox is being gored. The ARRL is recommending that we write our representatives and ask them to oppose the

Column two.

bill in its current form.

You can get additional information about the bill at <http://www.arrl.org/news/spectrum-management-bill-threatens-amateur-frequencies> you can read the actual text of the bill at <http://homeland.house.gov/document/hr-607> it is 12 pages of legalese but I believe in an informed electorate, or is it an informed electrolyte. The ARRL has written a form letter that you can use to express their opinion. The letter is available as a Word document at <http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters>. If you are inclined to send a letter you will need to personalize the letter with the name and address of your representative, which can be found at <http://www.house.gov> by entering your zip code.

The inspired New York representative who came up with this idea of course does not live in a place where PAVE PAWS is an issue and probably assumes that our band is unused, or maybe he is more clever than I thought. Of the twenty odd 70cm repeaters in his district none of them are in the band segment to be removed. Maybe I am too cynical.

Please give some thought to this issue and if you feel as I do that we need to defend our precious resource please let your elected official know how you feel. Sorry for the rant, I could not help myself.

de Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS

From column three.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:28 hrs. Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the Secretary's records on file at the corporate office.

General Membership Meeting

March 04, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 hrs by President Curtis Ardourel.

A round of introductions was the first order of business.

The business portion of the meeting was suspended at 19:32 for a presentation by Jack Troup, WA6JYU, on "Communications on the Microwave Bands".

At 20:12 the business meeting resumed.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the February 2011 general membership meeting were approved as published in 'QSA-5'.

President Curtis reported on actions at the February Board of Directors' Meeting. The club will produce an orientation program for new public service volunteers. The club will operate from the clubhouse in the California QSO Party in October. The board voted to increase the rent for the upstairs apartment.

President Curtis submitted the written finance committee report.

Phil K6PHD commented that we had about 100 members.

The recreation committee will make the reservation for the picnic as soon as State Parks will accept it.

Randy A6BQF and Michael K6MLF reported that the 2011 public service schedule was on the chalk board. Sign-ups are going well.

Randy reported that a dehumidifier was operating in the Comm. Truck.

He also reported that a Technician class was under way with two students.

Jenkins reported that the next VE session would be on Saturday, March 19. Also, July 23 and November 19.

Jerry WA6BXV reported that packet stations were being installed, thanks to a \$5,000.00 grant. There will be a drill on March 26. A 2m antenna has been installed at the Tomales Fire Station.

New business:

President Curtis commented on HR607, which has a provision that will adversely affect the 440 MHz band.

<<< Hang a left. There's a bit more in column two.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE
by Bill Continelli, W2XOY

Bad news. Installment #35 was apparently the last one available. We still have all 35 columns stored on the D: drive and can start over at #1 if we get enough requests. 'No' votes are OK, too.

Don't sit out there and expect someone else to do the voting, especially if you missed the earlier ones.

Non-responders may be denigrated in this publication.

Here's #1 from three years ago. We'll continue the series if we get some positive two-word responses. So that you won't have to write a note, use these:

"Print it" or "Stuff it". Your choice. No offense will be taken.

MARSQSA5@AOL.COM

THE WAYBACK MACHINE
ISSUE #1 by Bill Continelli, W2XOY
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I start this column in an attempt to research three major questions that have been asked: "When did ham radio start?"; "Who was the first ham?"; and "Where did the word 'ham' come from?". To answer these questions, let's set "The Wayback Machine" to Warp Factor 9, and head back 100 years.

Practical "wireless" had its start in 1896, when Marconi first sent a signal over a distance of two miles. By 1899, he succeeded in sending a wireless message across the English Channel, a distance of 32 miles. The year 1899 also marks the first construction project, which appeared in "American Electrician" magazine. In December, 1901, Marconi was able to bridge the Atlantic, a feat which caught the world's attention and fueled the imagination of thousands of potential amateurs, who took their first steps into wireless.

In the early days, everything was "spark". What exactly was spark? Well, sit down some summer night, listen to your AM or SW radio, and count the static crashes. Now turn on the vacuum cleaner, or an electric shaver, Column two.

and listen to your radio again. Hear that noise? In short, spark wireless was merely a form of "controlled static". A high voltage inside a spark coil would jump across a gap, which was coupled to an antenna. The spark was keyed on and off to transmit the code. The signal generated was extremely broad. A "state of the art" 1906 park transmitter operating on 400 meters (750 kHz) would actually generate a signal from about 250 meters (1200 kHz) to 550 meters (545 kHz). Receivers were no better. Before 1912, all systems were basically unamplified detectors. Tuners were primitive or nonexistent. As might be expected, by today's standards, the early wireless stations were terribly inefficient. Transmitting ranges varied from as little as 600 feet with a 1/2 inch coil to perhaps 100 miles from a kilowatt station and a 15 inch spark coil. Ships at sea with 5 KW transmitters might get as much as 500 miles maximum range.

It was into this world that the early amateurs ventured. Actually, if we were to concentrate on the years prior to 1908, it would be more appropriate to say "experimenters" rather than "amateurs". For in the first decade of wireless, there was little or no interest in personal communications with other stations; rather, the concentration was on technical development, either in the interest of pure science, or (more often than not) with an eye towards cashing in on this new medium. Experimenters were unorganized and, with the exception of those immediate stations with whom they ran tests, had no knowledge or interest in other pioneer stations. Any true "amateurs" prior to 1908 have been lost in pre-historic obscurity.

By 1908, however, the face of wireless began to change. Technical developments had reached their first plateau, and a number of major competitors had formed the first "wireless rust"--United Wireless. With a temporary truce in effect, equipment was now more readily available to the public. Along with this, new magazines, such as "Modern Electrics," were formed with wireless communication as the primary thrust. The circulation of "Modern Electrics" jumped from 2,000 to over 30,000 in just two years. The year 1908 also saw the first "handbook", "Wireless Telegraph Construction for Amateurs." It is difficult to know exactly how many amateur stations were on the air in this completely unregulated, laissez-faire era, but reliable estimates put the number of "major" stations Column three.

(i.e. those capable of communicating over 10 miles) at 600, while "minor" stations with a one or two mile range probably numbered 3000 or more. Thus, if a year had to be arbitrarily chosen as the start of amateur radio, it would probably be 1908.

As for the "first" amateur, that's a harder one. Without licensing, regulations, or a written record, there will never be a definitive answer to this question. However, "The Wayback Machine" has come up with the name W.E.D. Stokes, Jr. He was a founding member and the first President of the first amateur radio club--the Junior Wireless Club, Limited, of New York City. This organization was formed on January 2, 1909. Other founding members who might lay claim to the title "first amateur" were George Eltz, Frank King, and Fred Seymour. Later the same year, the Wireless Association of America, and the Radio Club of Salt Lake City were created.

By 1910, wireless clubs were springing up all over the country, and the first callbook -- "The Wireless Blue Book" --was published. Since there were no regulations in this period, the callsigns listed in the "Blue Book" were self assigned--which brings us to our third question--where did the word "ham" come from? Legend has it there was a phenomenal station on the air with a 5 KW transmitter, which could be heard at all hours of the day and night at distances of over 500 miles. The station operator used his initials for his callsign - H.A. M. I don't know if this is the real story, but I've always liked this explanation best.

Amateur radio continued to grow. By 1911, "Modern Electrics" had a circulation of 52,000, and there were 10,000 amateurs in the country. With thousands of stations on the air, both amateur and commercial, interference was becoming a serious problem, especially in marine communication. Ships, because of their restricted antenna length, were limited to frequencies between 450 and 600 meters (666 to 500 kHz). As we have seen, one spark station could take up this entire spectrum. Thus, it was imperative that all stations cooperate and stand by when the others were transmitting. Sadly, this often was not the case. In addition to interference between amateurs and commercial stations, there was more interference and sometimes deliberate jamming between commercial stations of different companies.

Top of page three.

Prodded by the Navy (which was using inefficient and outdated equipment and thus suffering from excessive interference), Congress was starting to take a serious look at wireless regulation. However, before they could take up proposed legislation, an incident happened that would quickly and dramatically alter the structure of the wireless spectrum.

On April 15, 1912, the R.M.S. Titanic struck an iceberg in the North Atlantic and sank. Thanks to wireless, and the first S.O.S. in history, 713 lives were saved. However, it has been argued that the number of survivors could have been doubled or even tripled, if there were stronger wireless regulations in effect. We are going to leave "The Wayback Machine" hovering over the year 1912, keeping a sharp eye on the Titanic, and on a 22 year old experimenter in Yonkers, NY, who would soon make some major contributions to radio.

So, until then, keep that spark gap adjusted and those raspy CQs coming. We'll catch you next time on board "The Wayback Machine."

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Here is the 2011 Public Service Schedule:

MARS Sponsored Events

Sat. April 30 Ridge to Bridge 5AM to 7PM 7 Volunteers needed

Sat. May 07 Miwok 100K 5AM to 11PM 12 Volunteers needed

Sun. June 12 The Dipsea Race 7AM to 1PM 15 Volunteers needed

Sat. June 25 Double Dipsea 8AM to 4PM 8 Volunteers needed

Sat. August 6 Marin Double Century 5AM to 11PM 25 Volunteers needed

Sat. August 20 Holstein 100 7AM to 7PM 20 Volunteers needed

Sat. September 17 ZBC Dipsea Lite 9AM to 12PM 6 Volunteers needed

Sat. September 17 MS Waves to Wine 7AM to 8PM 15 Volunteers needed **

Sat. October Escape from Alcatraz 9AM to 5PM 8 Volunteers needed

Sun. October 2 BCF Peak Hike 8AM to 5PM 8 Volunteers needed

Sat. 21 May Davis Double Century

Contact Michael, K6MLF or Randy, KA6BQF

** Tentative

Other Events:

Sat April 30 to Sun May 1 The Relay 3PM to 6AM 10 Volunteers needed Marin Contact Gary, KG6JHS or Jerry, WA6BXV

Sun May 1 Grizzly Peak Century 6AM to 7PM 20 Volunteers needed East Bay

Contact Randy KA6BQF

Sat May 14 Davis Double Century 4AM to 12AM 35 Volunteers Central Valley Contact Dave, KC6YFG

Sun. September 18 Waves to Wine (Day 2) 15 Volunteers needed Sonoma County

Contact: Somoma Coordinator TBD

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

ka6bqf@arrrl.net

510 526.4089

Secretary, East Bay Amateur Radio Club www.eastbayarc.org

Secretary, VE Liaison & Public Service Co-Coordinator, Marin Amateur Radio Society, www.w6sg.net

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San Rafael, CA 94903

Co-worker.

What happened to the dash in this word? Now we have coworker. Is this a new occupation, an orker of cows? How is this done? Is it legal or done out in the barn after dark? Does orking hurt the cow? Or maybe cause it to grin a lot? Does PETA know about this? Can we watch?

Try this.

If:
 2 + 3 = 10
 7 + 2 = 63
 6 + 5 = 66
 8 + 4 = 96
 Then:
 9 + 7 = ????

A lawyer boarded an airplane in New Orleans with a box of frozen crabs and asked a blonde stewardess to take care of them for him.

She took the box and promised to put it in the crew's refrigerator.

He advised her that he was holding her personally responsible for them staying frozen, mentioning in a very haughty manner that he was a lawyer and proceeded to rant at her about what would happen if she let them thaw out.

Needless to say, she was annoyed by his behavior.

Shortly before landing in New York , she used the intercom to announce to the entire cabin, "Would the lawyer who gave me the crabs in New Orleans please raise your hand?"

Not one hand went up ... so she took them home and ate them.

If you can't laugh at yourself, then there's something wrong with your mirror. Henry OZ30

Air Duct Cleaning: Another Crock of It. Don't get sucked in on this

Often duct-cleaning companies claim that dirty ducts are a health risk and caution about possible mold in the ducts.

The truth is that there is no proof that cleaning the ducts prevents health problems, according to the EPA. There aren't even studies that show that dirty ducts increase the level of airborne particles in your home.

What's more, there is little evidence that cleaning the ducts improves the efficiency of homes' cleaning, heating and cooling systems, the EPA says.

DIFFERENT LEVELS OF STRESS:

You pick up a hitchhiker, a beautiful girl. suddenly she faints inside your car and you take her to hospital.

Now that's stressful!

But at the hospital they say she is pregnant & congratulate you that you are going to be a father. You say that you are not the father, but the girl says you are.

This is getting very stressful!

So then..... you request a DNA test to prove that you are not the father. After the tests are completed, the doctor says that you are infertile, and probably have been since birth.

You are extremely stressed but relieved.

On your way back home, you think about your 3 kids at home.

NOW THAT'S STRESS!!

Survivor?

Due to the popularity of the "Survivor" shows, Texas is planning to do one entitled, Survivor, Texas Style!"

The 8 contestants will all start in Dallas, then drive to Waco, Austin, San Antonio, over to Houston and down to Brownsville. They will then proceed up to Del Rio, El Paso, Odessa, Midland, Lubbock, and Amarillo. From there they will go on to Abilene, Fort Worth and finally back to Dallas.

Each will be driving a pink Volvo with bumper stickers that read: "I'm a Democrat," "Amnesty for Illegals," "I love the Dixie Chicks," "Boycott Beef," "I Voted for Obama," "George Strait Sucks," "Hillary in 2012" and "I'm here to confiscate your guns."

The first one, if any, to make it back to Dallas alive wins.

**Really Old Stuff
1937-1956**

Bill Stern the Colgate Shave Cream man is on the air!

Bill Stern the Colgate Shave Cream man with stories rare!

Take his advice and you'll look nice,
 Your face will feel as cool as ice,
 With Colgate shaves you'll be a fan!

Fan? Apparently the writer couldn't come up with a last word to rhyme with air and rare. Bear? Nope. Over there? Steak, rare? Grow a pair? Guess not.

Any ideas?

Hi All !!

Here is the DDO Report for Saturday, March 12, 2011 aboard the USS Pampanito, SS-383. The radio operators at NJ6VT for the DDO were Michael Fischer, K6MLF and guest operator Jim Emrich, N6UHU. Thanks for your help Jim!
Our next DDO is scheduled for April 9, 2011 aboard the Pampanito. Let me know if you are interested in participating. Also, I have not heard from anyone (other than Michael) if any of you are interested in starting a net on 75 meter or 40 meter SSB. Any interest out there?
73, Den Regan, K6ZJU, CO Pampanito A.R.C. NJ6VT, USS Pampanito, SS-383
Pier 45, Shed A, Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco

--- On Sat, 3/12/11, Michael Fischer <fischer@igc.org> wrote:

Edited a bit to make it fit this page.

From: Michael Fischer <fischer@igc.org>

Dear Den,

Your operators for this month's ops day, Jim Emrich N6UHU and I, excited the boat's longwire from 1100 until 1600. Jim, a former US Coast Guard radioman, filled the control room and environs with the sounds of Morse Code for much of that time, and I handled LSB duty. We took no lunch break, having both brought sandwiches so we could spell each other when we got hungry.

We were joined aboard by the regular Saturday docent, Dwight, who told tall submarine stories (over and over again) to our visitors from Iran, China, Ireland, the UK, Germany, Canada, Mexico and all over the country. Marvin Wong was also on the boat to add a serious, real presence of those who actually served in the submarine fleet during WWII.

We were successful in replacing the paddle key with Jim's straight key, after searching for a while to find the key controls—aha! They are on the top, not the front, of the radio. Jim tried for hours, and spent a whale of a lot of energy and skill, to scare up a half-dozen contacts. Many were simply interested in Idaho stations (it's their QSO party weekend,) or they just didn't hear our CQ call.

The radio was really acting up on 40 meters LSB—while I received good signal reports from the 17 contacts I made, the received audio was garbled. Except for a handful of strong stations, most were distorted with a duck-like high-pitched gabble. Even the Noontime Net, usually a solid benchmark, was almost unintelligible. I twiddled and twisted dials and pushed button after button but was unable to clarify the signal quality. Toward the end of my shift, when we finally made contact with NB6GC and Ken's four boy scouts getting their radio merit badges, the signals were fully readable, but they were still distorted. The audio quality was shifted far to the treble and almost impossible to zero-beat; so we'll need, next time, an operator much more familiar with the Yaesu than this lame operator!

Most of our LSB contacts were California stations, with the exception of two from Oregon, one from Nevada, and one from Utah. There were more than a dozen extremely weak signals buried in the S5 noise that I couldn't pick out—so I spent a lot of time asking for repeats and then finally apologizing for the distortion in our receiver. But Jim ended our day with a good ragchew with a Florida operator who had a very clear, strong CW signal. As usual, we invited four or five young boys into the radiator room—several of them were able to work the USS Hornet scouts. Their parents were all thrilled; many flash photos were taken!

One of the day's visitors was Ed Morrell W6OSC, who lives in Roseville—in your neighborhood, Den. Ed is keen about the possibility of joining our small crew and commuting down from time to time to operate aboard.

So there you have it: another day well spent, and two fellas who spent so much energy in those few hours that we drove away pretty tired...The next scheduled DDO is April 9th, the weekend before the IRS deadline. Respectfully submitted, Michael Fischer K6MLF

Marin Amateur Radio Society, QSA-5 March 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 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>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
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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