

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

May 2011

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So You Want to Be a LID?

A.J. "Buddy" Massa, W5VSR.

Lid...a term used in amateur radio to denote a poor operator; one who is inept at the practice of the art.

A monumental problem facing amateur radio today is the alarming amount of poor operators filling the air waves. It is the opinion of many that one of the reasons for this is the fact that many of the new operators really have not been advised about proper operating procedures. Too many of the "amateur radio classes" produced today spend very little, if any, time correcting operating procedures. Their major thrust is to (formerly) teach the code, cram the theory, and fill out a 610 form!

It is easy to be a lid, it must be, there are so many of them. If you are already a lid, read on. You may find some new "lid-isms." If you are not yet a full-fledged lid, you may learn some new material for your next transmissions.

Probably the most popular is "QRZ the frequency." Nobody can be quite sure what the exact meaning of this is. The ARRL Handbook lists QRZ as a CW "shorthand" signal meaning "Who is calling me?" On phone it may mean something else, although I can't imagine a frequency calling someone! I even heard a W5 utter "QRZ the channel!" Now this guy is a chief lid. The frequency was silent for a while (Probably as most good operators were in a state of shock) and then a signal from afar responded, "This is the channel and I wasn't calling you!"

I think "QRZ the channel" and "QRZ the frequency" are real winners. Use them a lot. Column two.

You'll chase the good, experienced hams out of their gourds.

Actually, the use of "Q" signals on phone is in itself a true "lid-ism." The "Q" signals were devised by high speed CW operators as a form of "shorthand" in order to speed up their transmissions. What use they have on phone is questionable, as in many cases you can say the actual meaning just as fast. In many cases they cause more confusion than if you would have said the actual meaning. Then you get the real lid who comes off with "QRM-Mary or QRN-Nancy?" Good heavens, why didn't he just say he had interference?

Now, you must be ready with this one at a moment's notice: "HI." Never, ever, laugh if you find something funny. Say "HI" or even better "HI-HI."

It doesn't really take the place of laughter, but it tells the other operators that you know how to laugh on CW.

Another one. Always give your call sign phonetically when operating on phone, especially when conditions are good and signals are clear. It's another small way to take up valuable air time without really adding any intelligence to a conversation. To cut a fine line, it is not legal to identify your station by saying "Whiskey Five Victor Sierra Romeo." If your call is issued W5VSR, the identification is "This is W5VSR." If copy is difficult and for clarification, then, "This is W5VSR. Whiskey Five Victor Sierra Romeo." So continue your lid-ism and show how clever you can be with ridiculous phonetics. A good friend of mine is W5BS; he has a lot of self-restraint!!

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Board Meeting May 12, 2011

Members present: Curtis Ardourel, Jerry Foster, Horst Dannecker, John Boyd, Rita Brenden, Rich Carbine, Marilyn Bagshaw, Matt Schallock, August 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 April 14 meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: \$2,185.00 income and \$430.85 expenses were reported for April. Bank balances of \$10,056.90 in the Building Account, and \$35,203.43 in the General Account were reported.

Committee reports:

Membership- Phil K6PHD reported that we have two new members.

Recreation- Possible locations for the picnic were discussed. Options included Knox-Miller Park in Richmond, with the 4Cs club and member John's KE6DDA site. Sam Taylor State Park may be unavailable. Activities like a T-hunt were discussed.

Public Service - Randy KA6BQF commented on the Dipsea and Double Dipsea.

Technical Committee - Doug KF6AKU reported on trips to Barnabe input site. Doug is planning a trip to Big Rock. Doug also reported on a repeater in Morgan Hill on 147.330MHz, K7DDA, which is applying for coordination. Doug reports hearing no co-channel interference. The Board will take the matter of agreement with coordination in June. Members are encouraged to listen for the repeater ID on 147.333.

Comm. Truck -Doug reported that the generator mechanic was out sick, and we will reschedule. Doug has an idea about the generator.

K6GWE Trustee – Doug reported on the NARCC meeting May 7. The previous decision to reallocate simplex spectrum to digital modes was rescinded. Reallocation will come up in another forum. There will be changes in the NARCC Board of Directors.

Field Day Committee – There will be a meeting on May 19 at Moylan’s.

VE Liaison – Randy reported that the next session was July 23.

RACES – An HF antenna was sent to Pt. Reyes. Jerry reported that John Collins KE6DDA was setting up a station at Gness Field.

Building Manager – Matt Schallock reported on a problem in the southwest corner of the building. There will be a further investigation. There is a firm bid on replacing the kitchen floor in the tenant apartment. A motion was made to have demolition done by the contractor. Total price NTE \$2,500.00. Work is to be done ASAP. Comments were made on funds for the corner repair.

Education: Maybe a class in the fall.

Speakers – Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV will be available.

The Board voted to cancel the Friday, July 1 membership meeting due to the July 4 holiday weekend.

Old Business:

Removal of personal property from the clubhouse – Working on it. Need to get the backroom cleaned out.

Tree Letter – Curtis will draft the letter to our neighbor about his trees overhanging our building.

Apartment Rent Increase: A motion was made to reconsider the February decision to increase the apartment rent which was determined to be unactionable as passed. That motion passed and new discussions were held. A motion was made and passed to increase the rent 5% (\$105.00), to be effective September 1.

Consideration of holding breakfasts at the clubhouse was discussed. A motion was made to hold a club breakfast on Saturday, July 9, in lieu of July membership meeting. A budget of \$150.00 was approved. Hours 9-12.

New Business:

The subject of a certificate of insurance, should we choose to use John Collins’ property for the picnic, had no objection.

Adoption of a July 24 public service event for at the Crossroads, “Summer Sun Day”, was tentatively approved.

Curtis will draft a letter in opposition to HR 607. A donation of \$100.00 to the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund was approved

A request from Red Cross for permission to use the 146.70 repeater for Bay to Breakers was approved

There was a discussion of a policy for donations and distribution of surplus radio equipment was discussed. Doug was already working on that and will have a recommendation for the June meeting.

Matt made some comments about ‘The Relay’. There was a motion to clearly differentiate between MARS sponsored events, and non-club sponsored events when listing them and when recruiting members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:18 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF
Secretary.

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the Secretary’s files as maintained at the Corporate Office.

**General Membership Meeting
May 06, 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 program will be after the business meeting.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the April 2011 general membership meeting were approved as published in ‘QSA-5’.

President Curtis reported on actions at the April Board of Director’s Meeting. Curtis reported on the club’s Facebook page.

Column three.

Treasurer Doug KF6AKU reported \$2,185.00 in income and \$430.85 in expenses. Combined bank balances were \$45,260.33.

One membership renewal was reported.

The picnic is scheduled on September 11. The recreation committee reported that State Parks is not accepting reservations at this time. Due to scheduled construction, the availability of SPT? is in question. Alternative sites were discussed.

Randy and Michael K6MLG reported on the 2011 public service schedule. The Miwok 100 was next Saturday, followed by The Dipsea and Double Dipsea.

The technical committee: Doug reported on two trips to Barnabe. An antenna problem and a problem in the link were resolved. The replacement of the Big Rock equipment will probably happen after the Dipsea.

Doug reported an appointment to have the generator in the Comm. Truck looked at next week.

Education: Randy reported that a Technician class had concluded. A General class may be planned for the fall. He reported that the next VE session will be in July.

Races: Rich W6UDS and Jerry WA6BXV commented on changes in the RACES organization.

Building: Matt Schallock reported that he had a price for the apartment kitchen floor. Matt thanked Stanton and Randy for installing the new door on the apartment.

Field Day: Rich reported that there is a planning lunch scheduled for May 19. A RTTY station was planned, and the operation will be class 3A. Field Day is June 25-26 with set-up on June 24.

New business:

John Reed reported that he had a satellite dish available.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 19:49 hrs.

Matt Schallock had a slide show on the Mt. Barnabe site trip. Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE -- ISSUE #3
by Bill Continelli, W2XOY
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Amateurs entered the summer of 1912 with a new Radio Act in place. Thanks to the Titanic disaster and the fear that commercial interests would try to monopolize the radio spectrum, the government stepped in and set up a licensing structure administered by the Secretary of Commerce. In the new law, amateurs (actually "private stations") were limited to a wavelength of 200 meters and a maximum power of 1 kW. Since the known usable spectrum at that time ran from about 300 to 3000 meters (1000 kHz to 100 kHz), it was widely believed that amateur radio would fade away, without expensive government enforcement.

At first, it appeared that the bureaucrats were correct. Before the Radio Act, there were an estimated 10,000 stations. Now, there were only 1200 licenses issued by the end of 1912. Amateurs were finding it difficult to get their spark stations going on 200 meters, and, when they did, they discovered their maximum range was 25-50 miles, instead of the 250-500 mile range they had on the longer wavelengths. Amateur radio was slowly heading for oblivion.

The big stumbling block to effective communications on 200 meters (or indeed any wavelength) was the spark transmitter and unamplified detector, both of which were extremely inefficient. On the transmitting end, no method, other than spark, was known. As for the receiver, there had been two developments in the vacuum tube area. J.A. Fleming had developed the diode detector in 1904. It cost a lot of money, provided no amplification, and used expensive batteries. It was not practical at the time, but it was covered by a patent. In 1906, Lee de Forest took Fleming's valve, added a third element, called a grid, and named the result the Audion. In the right circuit, the Audion could amplify by a factor of 5x. Still, because of the cost, the battery

requirement, and the ever popular patent fights of the time, it went unnoticed and unused until 1912, when a 22 year old amateur made an important discovery.

Edwin H. Armstrong was an experimenter and almost militant individualist. He had obtained an Audion for use in his station. Dissatisfied with the poor amplification, he tried different circuits. At one point, he "fed back" a portion of the output back to the input to be re-amplified. Instead of just a 5x amplification, the output was now 100x stronger than the input. He also discovered that if too much feedback was used, the tube began to oscillate. This regenerative circuit was the most important discovery in radio in years. One tube could amplify more than 100x, two tubes in series could give a gain of 2000+. In addition, an alternative to spark was now available. Instead of a raspy, broad, inefficient signal that took up hundreds of kHz, the Audion could be made to oscillate a stable, pure signal on one frequency. In fact, that's where the abbreviation "CW" comes from, (a Continuous Wave on one frequency rather than a broad, intermittent wave on many). Although it would take 10+ years to develop the stability in transmitters and receivers to fully utilize CW, King Spark was doomed.

Realizing the importance of his regenerative design in both transmitting and receiving, but lacking the money to develop it, in January 1913 Armstrong had the diagrams of his circuit notarized. This was only the first of many spectacular inventions Armstrong would come up with. Within 10 years, he would also develop the superheterodyne (now used in ALL receivers), and the superregenerative (the basis of all VHF and UHF receivers from the 20's to the 50's, and still used today in children's walkie-talkies). Even his first design, the regenerative circuit, is used by Ten-Tec and MFJ in their receiver kits. The crowning achievement in Armstrong's career came in the 30's, when he developed Frequency Modulation. With all due respect for those who flock to

Loomis, Tesla, or Marconi as the father of radio, my vote goes to Armstrong, for without him, wireless would be stuck at the 1912 level. Armstrong had a tempestuous life, full of public and private battles, advancements, setbacks, and lawsuits, before his tragic death in 1954. The final legal battles didn't end until 1967. ("The Wayback Machine" will devote an entire column to Armstrong in a future edition.)

Meanwhile, back in 1913, word of the regenerative circuit spread quickly throughout the amateur world. Experimenters who added the Audion to their receivers discovered that distances of up to 350 miles were now possible on 200 meters. The Audion, already scarce and expensive, became even more so under the laws of supply and demand. The search for an Audion to the amateur was like the Quest for the Holy Grail. In fact, it was this search which led to the second pivotal event in amateur radio history.

Hiram Percy Maxim was a 44 year old engineer and inventor who had a 1kW amateur station in Hartford, Connecticut. He wanted an Audion for his receiver and was unable to locate one. Finally, he heard of an amateur in Springfield, MA, who had one for sale. Hartford was (and still is) only 30 miles from Springfield, yet Maxim's station could not cover the distance. He found a station midway between the two cities that was willing to relay his purchase offer. Maxim thought about this and eventually realized that a national organization was needed to coordinate and standardize message relay procedures, as well as act as a national lobby for amateur radio interests. On April 6, 1914, Maxim proposed the formation of the American Radio Relay League. With the backing of the Radio Club of Hartford, who appropriated \$50, and some volunteers, Maxim developed an application form explaining the purpose of the ARRL and inviting membership. These were sent out to every known major station in the country.

Maxim, like Armstrong, was a prolific inventor. Unlike Armstrong, however, Maxim was also an expert in publicity and public relations. By July, national magazines such as Popular Mechanics were writing favorable reports about the ARRL. Maxim also traveled to Washington, DC, to explain the ARRL to the Department of Commerce and the Commissioner of Navigation.

The P.R. blitz paid off. By September, 1914, there were 237 relay stations appointed, and traffic routes were established from Maine to Minneapolis and Seattle to Idaho. Realizing that long distances on 200 meters were not possible at that time, even with a regenerative receiver, Maxim got the Department of Commerce to authorize special operations on 425 meters (706 kHz) for relay stations in remote areas.

Boosted by the publicity, the number of amateur stations, as well as the relay stations in the ARRL, continued to grow. By 1916, there were 6000 amateur licenses, (of which 1000 were ARRL relay stations) and 150,000 receivers in use. The emphasis in the ARRL was on the word RELAY; ARRL stations were expected to handle traffic on the 6 Main Trunk Lines (3 North/South and 3 East/West) that served more than 150 cities. And there was traffic. The general population (to whom phones were a luxury, long distance an exotic concept, and telegrams expensive) flocked to the idea of coast to coast free messages. As a P.R. exercise to test the system nationwide, on Washington's Birthday, 1916, a test message was sent to the Governors of every State, and President Woodrow Wilson in Washington, DC. The message was delivered to 34 States and the President within 60 minutes. By 1917, the system was so refined that a message sent from New York to California took only 45 minutes. To deal with the increasing number of relay stations, the ARRL started a little magazine, which they called QST.

Column two.

Other amateur activities in this period brought favorable publicity to the hobby. In March 1913, a severe wind-storm had knocked out power, telegraph and telephone lines in the Midwest. Battery powered amateur stations handled routine and emergency traffic until regular service was restored. This was the first documented emergency communications in amateur radio history. In 1915, amateur station 2MN determined that the powerful Telefunken station (see August 1996 issue of "Popular Communications" magazine) at Sayville, Long Island, was sending information concerning Allied and neutral shipping to submarines at sea. Thanks to the work of this amateur, the government took over the station.

However, the war in Europe was getting closer. In April, 1917, based on continued violations of our neutrality and unrestricted submarine activity, Congress declared war against Germany. With the US now in World War I, a message went out from the Secretary of Commerce to all private stations. By order of the Chief Radio Inspector, all transmitting AND RECEIVING stations were to be closed AND DISASSEMBLED, and all antennas taken down. Complete radio silence was to remain until the war ended and the order was revoked. Amateurs by the thousands packed away their stations and marched off to war. The 200 meter band was silent. In September 1917, with no radio activity permitted and 80% of the amateurs at war, QST ceased publication.

Would amateur radio survive the war? Join us next time as "The Wayback Machine" waits for Johnny ham to come marching home again.

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SPECIAL EVENT

Don't forget to mark your calendars.

As you may already know, it is a sin for a Muslim male to see any woman other than his wife naked, and if he does, he must commit suicide. So, next Saturday at 1 PM Eastern Time, all American women are asked to walk out of their house completely naked to help weed out any neighborhood terrorists. Circling your block for one hour is recommended for this anti-terrorist effort.

All patriotic men are to position themselves in lawn chairs in front of their houses to demonstrate their support for the women and to prove that they are not Muslim terrorist sympathizers. Since Islam also does not approve of alcohol, a cold 6-pack at your side is further proof of your patriotism.

The American government appreciates your efforts to root out terrorists and applauds your participation in this anti-terrorist activity.

God Bless America !!

I was in a restaurant yesterday when I suddenly realized I desperately needed to fart. The music was really, really loud, so I timed my farts with the beat of the music.

After a couple of songs, I started to feel better. I finished my coffee, then I noticed that everybody was staring at me.

Then I suddenly remembered that I was listening to my iPod.

Are you interested in DX? Put these on your DX lid list, "CQ Dog X-Ray." jazz it up a little by saying, impressively "CQ Dog X-Ray, beaming Asia." Not only does that improve your antenna's directionality, but it lets everyone hearing you think you have a beam, whether you do or not.

The number one, all time lid award of the century goes to those great DX operators who listen down on one frequency in the foreign part of the band and transmit up in the American phone band without ever listening on the transmitting frequency to see if it was clear. Of course, you must use two processors, in tandem, mike gain wide open, and drive your three 8877 final tubes with an SB-220 while bellowing forth, "CQ Dog X-Ray" for five continuous minutes, before listening. This is the way to attract lots of attention. Lots of it!

Next on the list is the subject of "Break." I do believe that we inherited that one from the CBers. Just find a comfortable roundtable in progress, and say "Break" or better "Break-Break" or best "Breaker-Breaker."

Don't give any calls; neither the station you hear nor your own. Don't listen for a few minutes first to find out if you can hear all of the stations in the roundtable. Just break in and disrupt everything. If that doesn't work, start tuning up your rig on that frequency. After all, aren't the frequencies there for all to enjoy?

Here are some quickies: Say "Go" or "Come back" or "C'mon, Good Buddy," instead of "Over" if you think you must say anything at all to let the other operator know you are ready to listen to him. Don't forget the all time Broderick Crawford "10-4" or better "That's a big 10-4."

It is a shame the F.C.C. no longer requires us to indicate portable operation. They have taken away another opportunity for lid-ism--

This is Whiskey Five Very Strong Radio, Port Five." I just typed this on my port typewriter!

RESULTS GUARANTEED!! Did you ever hear a phone operator who sounds like he's operating from a dungeon? Maybe he is, but even without a dungeon you can get the same effect by turning up your mike gain and holding your Golden Eagle D-104 at least one foot, better at two, from your face. Never close talk a mike. Disc Jockeys never do and they are "cool." When you are on the air, you are "cool" too, so you do the same. Communications microphones are designed to be close talked. Keep that mike gain at a minimum level. That way you won't be transmitting the voices of your wife and kids screaming five rooms away. Of course, to be a super lid in the audio department, do use a "power mike" driving a processor. Everybody knows that the engineers who designed your transmitter purposely made it short on mike gain.

Lastly, when giving your name, refer to it as your Handle." It's folksy. And be sure to say, "The handle here is Beaver." That's liddier than just plain, "My name is Beaver." It also helps to punctuate your remarks with "By golly" whenever possible and remember whenever in a large roundtable, especially on a VHF repeater, give each and every call sign in the group complete with phonetics when IDing. Also don't forget to add "For ID" after your callsign.

There are many other ways to be a lid, but I feel confident that if more operators were to take a look at this disaster from the lighter side, perhaps we'll all see just how ridiculous most of the phone operation on the ham bands is today. Phone conversation should really not take on a much different atmosphere from talking to your friends on the telephone. Do you say "Over" or "Break" or the worst "Come back" when you are on the telephone? Well then, why do so many do it on the amateur bands? All of that is ever so redundant on a repeater system where most have "End-of-transmission" beep tones; and of course, there is usually a squelch burst ahead of that, so you actually ended up with a fellow ending his sentence with "Come back".... followed by a squelch burst followed by the repeater's beep and in many cases the repeater carrier dropping. You have just four indications that it's your turn! QSL?

Let's all pay more attention to this problem and see if we can help "Clean up" our operations and put amateur radio operations back up to the more professional nature that it enjoyed before many poor habits of the CB band crept up on us.

This article appeared in the September, 1978, Ham Radio Horizons, entitled "So You Want To Be a Lid!," by A.J. "Buddy" Massa, W5VSR.

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Nowadays, the telegraphy have its dedicated place in communication museums, being evidenced for been used particularly in the past. Despite its effectiveness in terms of reliability, radiotelegraphy has been overtaken by digital communication modes, which allow the transmission of at least the same amount of information, but which are in addition more successful dealing with weaker signals in terms of SNR.

Even in situations of traffic congestion, and thanks to a slender bandwidth of a few Hz per second, telegraphy achieve true digital prowess.

Unfortunately however, the human ear cannot be as sensitive as needed to handle with a band thickness as narrow as the modern digital systems make use of.

Nevertheless, a too narrow bandwidth means very slow transmission speed, not always appropriate for certain purposes, such as rescue and emergency communications.

Such technological advances, along with the evolution of electronics and software, have led to the rejection of communications in Morse code by the official services. By ending with wireless telegraphy, they were simultaneously discarding one of the most important communication elements for over a century... the singular figure of the Morse telegraphy operators or telegraphers.

It is precisely about telegraphers and Morse code telegraphy compared to modern communication resources, that I wish to address you a few words.

My memory flees back to those old times when men and women, serving anonymously, become interfaces between two points needing some kind of communication link.

Often, such communications have saved lives and property, without anyone ever met the face of the "strongest connection" between "rescuer" and "rescued".

For nearly 200 years, these Morse code operators, either by wire or wireless telegraphy, made the world evolves and progress. They have carried good and bad news to the four corners of the world, launching distress calls but frequently bringing the good news and a cry of joy via telegraphy. This was all made in the name of assistance.... on behalf of others. They were merely single links of the chain.

Today, only Ham radio operators pay a daily tribute to them, maintaining fully functioning radiotelegraphy emissions, with the effectiveness of old times, and always prepared to assert the telegraphers unsurpassed values.

Commercial services managers, unfamiliar with the technical aspects and reliability of telegraphic communications, particularly for emergency response, had in mind other standards like exonerating expenses with employees and often trusting only on the reports of so-called experts, who were frequently sailing in a sea of monetary interests. Advised to urgently swing to "digital", unconsciously embarking on a "spiral" of "modernity" such executives forget, more and more often, the real value of the human worth.

In the name of efficiency, Morse code telegraphy systems proved to be too unsophisticated for their own survival. In addition, real skilled operators in telegraphy are needed in order to ensure an efficient and successful service.

Younger engineers, with a more modernist vision of the world, and who never has been familiar with the true virtues of telegraphy, tried to implement, at all levels, increasingly complex and automatic systems, to gradually put aside the interfering capacity of the human being as a key element of decision in many components of the communication system.

They have put together quite dependable webs, but completely unintelligible to a single operator and highly reliant on everything or everyone, on an increasingly complex arrangement. This option leads to the inevitable loss of control over the entire system.

Additionally, the chance of communication failing or even breakdown, in modern systems, is infinitely higher than in simple radiotelegraphic method used in the past. This happens because the links are no longer point to point and since the key element it is not anymore the human factor.

Nowadays, a sequence of communications between two single points, even if within walking distance, implies an enormous asset of technical arrangements, including equipment and software. It is not rare that, to establish reliable communication within one or two kilometers, through modern systems, information has to travel hundreds or more, because the management of traffic is done by means of a remote server installed at an impressive distance away, nobody knows where precisely. Repeatedly in order to cover such huge distance, the signal travels through a variety of circuits and resources such as copper wire, hertzian beams, optical fiber, etc.

Such number of technical resources in-between two communication terminals end up being points where potentially failure can arise and as each one of it becomes a "nexus" of the communication chain. This means that a single failing can become a disaster and communication breaks down.

The process of such complex systems needs skilled operators with some level of expertise and know-how, so any incorrect action, somewhere on the sequence, can seriously compromise the effectiveness of communications within these modern technologies.

Besides what have been written above, a natural disaster, or other calamity event, endangers the operation of at least some parts in the communication chain, so there is a latent high risk on being dependent of modern communications systems for the potential failure they represent under these collapse circumstances.

On the other hand, the modern communication systems, providing high-speed information are able to serve tens if not hundreds of Mbps. However, this aspect it is only interesting on the commercial point of view, where bandwidth versus amount of information is what progress the business.

The response of such system is only viable in predetermined situations, where events are all planned and predictable.

On the other side of this equation, there are a number of situations in which a large amount of information has no interest and is not even desirable.

Thinking specifically about emergency communications, rescue operations and similar situations, the messages exchange must be effective and highly reliable. This kind of information should only be essential to enable rapid decision making and unequivocal response, in order to react promptly to the seriousness of the event.

It should consist on a unambiguous and precise communication, with no delays or latencies on the interconnections, supported by single and simple structure that allows effective communication between participants in an autonomous way, without depending on intermediate systems and preferably completely controllable by human involvement.

At this particular point the radiotelegraphy with its simplest transmitters and capable radio operators (as many of us amateurs) can be a paradigm. We continue in fact showing to the world and to the "devotees of the digital age", that the Morse code and the wireless telegraphy in particular, can be a valuable resource of communication. This is in fact a uncomplicated, reliable, effective and significant communication expertise that will never disappear, no matter as much as someone try to justify the millions spent on high technology. Morse code will probably be always a part of the communications panorama, regarded as the most simple, fast, economical, reliable and effective way to communicate, even in the harshest conditions.

Yet the timeless virtues of radiotelegraphy could never become factual without the vast capacity of human brain, which is adaptable to many different listening environments, often populated by all sorts of noise, where only the experienced and attentive telegrapher can discriminate a particular very vital signal, transmitted from a far distant place, where someone needs to be heard.

These words are my reverence to all Morse code telegraphy operators, who are still operative or who were in the past, for your ability to communicate in a way as simple as effective way, but essentially for being able to use your audition and skills in order to share messages among men, for transforming the tip of your fingers in to clear signals of simple and accurate information, for the odd place you occupy in the history of communications... and for all the lives saved thanks to your transmitted signals, for the joys and sorrows you have remitted, for your selfless and anonymous work over nearly 200 years. For all of that I express my admiration and tribute as a world's mere citizen.

**73 from
Carlos Mourato CT4RK Sines - Portugal**

Love Story for Golfers

An elderly couple was having dinner one evening when the husband reached across the table, took his wife's hand in his and said, "Martha, soon we will be married 50 years, and there's something I have to know. In all of these 50 years, have you ever been unfaithful to me?"

Martha replied, "Well Henry, I have to be honest with you. Yes, I've been unfaithful to you three times during these 50 years, but always for a good reason."

Henry was obviously hurt by his wife's confession, but said, "I never suspected. Can you tell me what you mean by 'good reasons?'"

Martha said, "The first time was shortly after we were married, and we were about to lose our little house because we couldn't pay the mortgage. Do you remember that one evening I went to see the banker and the next day he notified you that the loan would be extended?"

Henry recalled the visit to the banker and said, "I can forgive you for that. You saved our home, but what about the second time?"

Martha asked, "And do you remember when you were so sick, but we didn't have the money to pay for the heart surgery you needed? Well, I went to see your doctor one night and, if you recall, he did the surgery at no charge."

"I recall that," said Henry. "And you did it to save my life, so of course I can forgive you for that. Now tell me about the third time."

"All right," Martha said. "So do you remember when you ran for president of your golf club, and you needed 73 more votes?"

Hi All

Our regularly scheduled Dedicated Day of Operation (DDO) took place on Saturday, May 14, 2011 aboard the USS Pampanito, SS-383. The operators were XO, Jerry Foster, WA6BXV, and your CO.

Before I had left for the Bay Area, I had made an announcement on the CARS and WestCARS nets on 7248 kc about our upcoming DDO. So when Jerry and I fired up NJ6VT, we already had a few fellow hams looking for the boat on 7260 kc SSB. Waiting for us on 7260 kc were WA6DVK, Lou, in Lake Arrowhead, who runs the CARS net, WA6JCL, Rich in Montclair, W6WRL, Ed, in Pine Grove and N6VHD, "Pine Grove Eddy," also in Pine Grove. Jerry also made a few contacts with a few fellow QRP'ers on 40 m CW including K6PJV, NG6Y and our own KF6RMK, Bill Stewart!

In the afternoon, we moved to the 17 meter band and found some DX on this band to several areas: Jerry worked UA6IDZ in Asiatic Russia and I worked SM3EVR in Sweden, both QSO's with good signal reports for NJ6VT on CW.

The visitor traffic was variable with periods of high activity followed by little traffic. The crowds were coming into the city for the Bay to Breakers race and there were competing activities in the Ft. Mason area. All and all Jerry and I had a great time on the boat! Too bad more of you could not have been there with us!

Our next major event is the 2011, Museum Ships on the Air Special Event that takes place from 0000Z on June 4th to 2359Z, June 5th. The USS Pampanito, SS-383, is now listed for this event on the Battleship New Jersey's, NJ2BB's website. We will need operators for this event, so please let me know if you can participate in the Museum Ships on the Air Special Event.

73,

Den Regan, K6ZJU

CO Pampanito A.R.C. NJ6VT

USS Pampanito, SS-383

San Francisco

P.S. We still have not received our Museum Ships certificate from last years event. I have written to Margaret Burgess at the Battleship New Jersey, NJ2BB, (for the second time) to see why this is so. Hopefully, we will get our long overdue certificate soon!

cc: Aaron Washington, Ship's Manager

Denice Stoops, USNS Wally Schirra, AKE-8 *

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

* [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USNS_Wally_Schirra_\(T-AKE-8\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USNS_Wally_Schirra_(T-AKE-8))

Page 9	ODDS & ENDS	QSA-5
<p>Many believe that the suicide rate of financial men after the 1929 crash, for example jumping out of windows, increased. It's BS. The suicide rate stayed the same.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Why I'm Divorced</p> <p>Last week was my birthday and I didn't feel very well waking up on that morning. I went downstairs for breakfast hoping my husband would be pleasant and say, 'Happy Birthday!', and possibly have a small present for me.</p> <p>As it turned out, he barely said good morning, let alone 'Happy Birthday.'</p> <p>I thought....well, that's marriage for you, but the kids.... they will remember.</p> <p>My kids came bouncing down stairs to breakfast and didn't say a word. So when I left for the office I felt pretty low and somewhat despondent.</p> <p>As I walked into my office, my handsome boss Rick, said, 'Good morning, lady, and by the way Happy Birthday!' It felt a little better that at least someone had remembered.</p> <p>I worked until one o'clock, when Rick knocked on my door and said, 'You know, It's such a beautiful day outside, and it is your birthday, what do you say we go out to lunch, just you and me.'</p> <p>I said, 'Thanks, Rick, that's the greatest thing I've heard all day. Let's go!'</p> <p>We went to lunch. But we didn't go where we normally would go. He chose instead a quiet bistro with a private table. We had two martinis each and I enjoyed the meal tremendously.</p> <p>On the way back to the office, Rick said, 'You know, It's such a beautiful day...we don't need to go straight back to the office, do we?'</p> <p>I responded, 'I guess not. What do you have in mind?'</p> <p>He said, 'Let's drop by my place, it's just around the corner.'</p> <p>After arriving at his house, Rick turned to me and said, 'If you don't mind, I'm going to step into the bedroom for just a moment. I'll be right back.'</p> <p>'Ok.' I nervously replied.</p> <p>He went into the bedroom and, after a couple of minutes, he came out carrying a huge birthday cake, followed by my husband, my kids, and dozens of my friends and co-workers, all singing 'Happy Birthday' and I just sat there....on the couch....naked.</p>	<p>Sirloin has nothing to do with a piece of meat being knighted. Original spelling was 'surloin'. Sur, above, and loigne, loin.</p>
<p>The Stutz Bearcat was no big deal in the 1920s. It came out in 1914, weighed almost 2½ tons with a 60 hp engine. Zero to sixty while you take a nap.</p>		<p>The Magna Carta was not signed. However, it was sealed.</p>
<p>Stonehenge built by the Druids? Nope. It was built in the second millennium BC. The Druids didn't make it to Britain until mid-third century BC.</p>		<p>Sideburns were originally 'burnsides' after Civil War general Ambrose Burnside.</p>
<p>No specific star in our flag stands for, nor has never stood for, any particular state.</p>		<p>In none of Arthur Conan Doyle's writing does Sherlock Holmes say, "Elementary, my dear Watson."</p>
<p>Spanish moss is not a moss and not a parasite living off the tree it may be inhabiting. It can grow on a dipole and does best in a humid climate.</p>		<p>Scapegoat, actually escape goat, was innocent and set free with the sins of the people symbolically loaded onto it. The second goat was sacrificed. So you can see how things get turned around, mainly through ignorance.</p>
<p>The word 'smog' goes back to 1905 and was simply made up from SMOke and FOG.</p>		<p>St. Andrews is a public golf course.</p>
<p>No high-rise building bends more than a few inches in strong wind. The Empire State Building may deflect 2½ inches from vertical. So forget the stories about 'swaying' eight feet. In fact, forget the word 'sway'. Doesn't happen.</p> <p>The first building to be called a 'sky scraper' was in Chicago, 1889. In 1890 New York built a taller one.</p>		<p>It's possible for a wind-propelled ice boat to travel four times the speed of the wind.</p>
<p>Wyatt Earp maintained that shooting from the hip or 'fanning' the hammer were certain paths to an early grave or defeat. Earp died at 80 in 1929 and is buried in Colma.</p>		<p>Teddy Roosevelt did organize the Rough Riders but they were commanded by Leonard Wood (Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri) who had military experience. The horses had to be left in Florida so the Rough Riders fought mainly on foot.</p>
		<p>Richard the Lion-Hearted was not a kind-hearted fellow but just about the worst king that England ever got stuck with. He was a cruel bastard and bled England to pay for his wars. He didn't propose a single thing of benefit to the country. A great fighter, though.</p>
		<p>Chicago isn't called "The Windy City" because of the weather. New York is windier. It was the politicians.</p>

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.

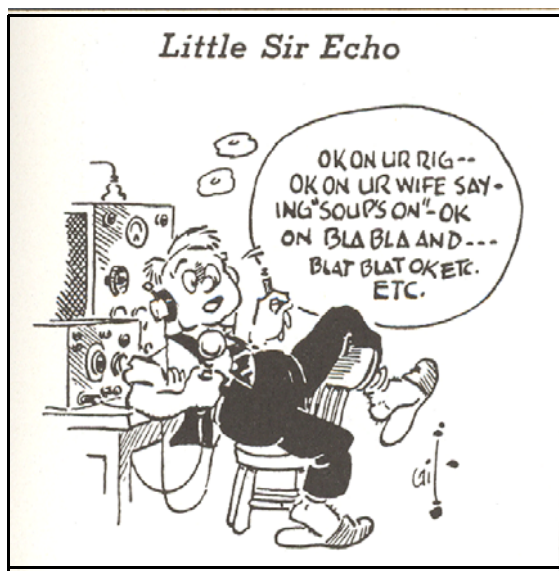
The Sunday Emergency nets. Come on down and watch Matt K6OHD do the nets. You could try it yourself, while Matt stands by, and get rid of any mike fright you might have. If at any time you feel a panic attack coming on, Matt will get you thru it.

<p>Marin Amateur Radio Society President: Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS 510-595-3494 Vice President: Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829 Secretary: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF Treasurer: Doug Slusher KF6AKU 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 VE Liaison: Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 Building Co-Managers Matt Schallock K6OHD 531-2676 Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Trustee for W6SG: Augie Koehler KØCQL Trustee for K6GWE: Doug Slusher KF6AKU Sunday Emergency Nets: Matt Schallock K6OHD Assistant to the Treasurer: Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864</p>	<p>DX Representative of ARRL: Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829 WEBMASTER Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET Public Service Event Coordinator Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 ARRL San Francisco Section Mgr. Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG Editor of QSA-5 and Procurer of The Bellywash Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET 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.

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