

QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

February-March 2012

Page 1

From our Prez.

It was a dark and stormy night. I have always wanted to start an essay with that line. It actually **was** a dark and stormy night on 20 January 2012 when Doug Slusher KF6AKU, Michael Fischer K6MLF and I attended a meeting of the San Francisco Amateur Radio Club at the invitation of their President, Tony Dowler K6BV.

The reason we went was to look into further cooperation between Bay Area clubs. We already join with the Redwood Empire DX Association on Field Day and a few of us are members of the East Bay Amateur Radio Club. Specifically, the project we went to learn about is the coming celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge.

Memorial Day weekend, 26-27 May, will include an official celebration around the bridge and the bay. At 9:30pm PDT there will be fireworks. The San Francisco Amateur Radio Club and California Historical Society will also be celebrating the event operating with a special call sign **W6G**. They intend to work as many stations as possible and send a special event QSL card.

Operation will be from 26 May at 2000 UTC (1300 PDT) until 27 May at 2200 UTC (1500 PDT) on SSB and CW on 3.750, 7.175, 14.275, 18.125, 21.275, 24.975, and 28.375. They are looking for operators and would like us to join in at their station.

This is another opportunity for those of us who are not experienced in HF and contesting to log some radio time with experienced operators around to help out. Moreover it is the chance to meet some of our brother and sister hams. Column two.

You don't need me to remind you that we are tied to the Golden Gate Bridge. It figures prominently in our logo and many of us commuted across it regularly. Let's jump on the chance to join our fellow Bay Area hams.

On a more personal note, I would like to thank those of you who voted for me to be on your board for a second term. I would also like to thank my fellow board members for electing me president again, I think. I feel it is an honor to serve all of you, the members who make up this diverse club. In the next year we intend to upgrade our repeater hardware, participate in our usual public service events, get more involved in HF and contesting as a club, conduct license classes followed by volunteer examinations, set up nets and in general advance the hobby of amateur radio.

Let us all hope that 2012, as well as being a day longer than 2011, will be a better year. Think of how much more time you will have to devote to amateur radio, avoiding the drum beat of political commercials that will fill the broadcast bands in the latter part of the year.

de Curtis WA6UDS

Index of famous hams

<http://users.tellurian.com/gjurrens/WA6FAH.html>

This issue of QSA-5 later than usual due partly to PC problem and a bit of poor scheduling.

Board of Directors Meeting, 9 Feb.

Members present: Curtis Ardourel, Matt Schallock, John Boyd, Dave Hodgson, Rita Brenden, Phil Dunlap, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, and Randy Jenkins.

The meeting was called to order at 19:30 hrs by President Curtis WA6UDS. The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the January 12 meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer: Dave presented the January

Treasurer's report. The checking account balance was reported as \$39,692.66 and the building account balance was reported as \$1,206.90. Dave also presented the 2011 Profit and Loss statement, and a 2012 Budget proposal. There was a motion to accept the Profit and Loss statement as presented. ORI/AKU, Pass.

Committee reports:

Membership- Phil K6PHD reported that renewals were coming in. The on-line application forms need to be redirected.

Public Service - The first events are April 28 and May 5.

Technical: MMWD has referred Doug to GGRNA to get access to Tam West. However, the noise on that input has stopped.

Comm Truck- Doug reported that it is tarped. John Boyd will pursue a lead with the College of Marin auto program about repairs.

VE Liaison - Randy reported scheduled dates: April 14, June 30, and November 10.

Building Manager - Matt reported that he and Rich had started doing electrical work. Contractor repairs except final painting were completed. Matt patched cracks in the stucco. There is a leak into the garage space. Matt has a solution for the gutters on the garage. Matt reports that the tenant has been having work done upstairs. Matt and Rich will discuss a light fixture on the stairs. Extra painting by the contractor will be paid from the contingency funds.

Speakers - Suggestions were Sausalito Radio, or the Dipsea. Eric from Elecraft was mentioned.

Old Business: Personal property removal - Moved outside and covered with tarp.

Donation Policy: An auction of equipment in April or May was discussed
HF Rig Issues: On hold.

Next page, column one.

Website – The committee had a productive meeting and will meet again on 2/21 at 6:30.

Elecraft peaker – Pending

Marin Cyclists Donation – Proposals to be submitted to Curtis and Dave for discussion at next meeting.

Golden Gate Bridge Anniversary cooperation with San Francisco Radio Club was discussed.

New Business:

Painting and Gutters – Discussed with Budget

Board Meeting Time Change – There was a motion to move the start time of the Board Meetings to 7:00 PM, on a trial basis, starting in March 2012 - TCJ/ OHD / Pass

The 2102 budget was accepted as a pro forma document, and consideration was tabled until the March Meeting.

There was a motion to accept the 2011 Profit and Loss Statement as the Annual Report. BQF/WPN/Pass

Discussion of an incremental rent increase was tabled until the March meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:43 hours.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

There comes a time when a woman just has to trust her husband... for example:

A wife comes home late at night and quietly opens the door to her bedroom. Under the blanket she sees four legs instead of two. She reaches for a baseball bat and starts hitting the blanket as hard as she can. After all sound and movement under the blanket has ceased, she goes to the kitchen to have a drink.

As she enters, she sees her husband there, reading a magazine. "Hi Darling", he says, "Your parents have come to visit us, so I let them stay in our bedroom. Did you say hello?"

HF operators needed, May 26-27

This year is the 75th Anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge, and instead of gobs of humans flattening the bridge's cathedral angle, there will be a Special Event station: W6G. The entire world will be listening!

The San Francisco Amateur Radio Club has asked for our assistance in staffing a two-position station in their ham shack on the top floor of the Veteran's Administration Hospital at Fort Miley (on Clement Street, just West of Lincoln Park.)

It'll be in operation for 30 hours, so they'll be looking for operators to staff 4-hour shifts, including thru the wee hours. They'll be flogging it to increase contacts, and will be sending out special event QSL cards.

**Here's their website:
<http://www.qrz.com/db/W6G>
and
<http://www.sfar.org/timeline05262712.htm>**

Interested? Contact Doug KF6AKU or Michael K6MLF.

See last page for contact info.

THE WAYBACK MACHINE Issue #11 by William Continelli Printed with permission.

In our last installment, we saw how the FCC shifted from an initial VHF/UHF bandplan that was radically different from today's allocations, to a proposal which closely parallels the frequencies we have today. Amateurs were happier with the January 1945 plan over the November 1944 one, as it restored our ten meter band back where it belonged, and gave us a full 4 Mc at six meters.

One person who was not happy with the January 1945 plan was Edwin Armstrong, inventor of the Regenerative, Superregenerative and Superheterodyne receivers, and the Father of FM. He wanted the FM Broadcast band to stay in the 42-50 Mc area: instead, he suddenly saw it transferred up to 84-102 Mc., which would make every FM station and receiver obsolete. He knew that David Sarnoff of RCA was behind this, as RCA wanted television in the frequencies now occupied by FM. Sarnoff and the RCA engineers had an interesting argument, FM they said, should be moved higher in frequency to avoid the Sporadic E skip.

Armstrong fought back. He pointed out that FM, due to its capture effect, was less susceptible to skip interference than television, which used AM for the video carrier. He ran tests and submitted data showing that the skip interference to FM would be far less than imagined, and certainly a fraction of what TV would endure. The ARRL, by the way, was in favor of moving FM up to the 84-102 Mc area. To counteract the arguments that FM receivers would become obsolete by the move, QST in the May 1945 issue ran the schematic of a 1 tube converter, which Hallicrafters said they could build for \$5.60.

In late May, 1945, the FCC announced the three alternatives that were being considered for the disputed 44-108 Mc region. They were:

Next page, column one

ALTERNATIVE #1 --
 44-48 Mc--Amateur (We would have a 7 meter band under this proposal)
 48-50 Mc--Facsimile Broadcasting
 50-54 Mc--Educational FM Broadcasting
 54-68 Mc--Commercial FM Broadcasting
 68-74 Mc--TV Channel 1
 74-78 Mc--Aeronautical fixed and mobile
 78-108 Mc--TV Channels 2-6

ALTERNATIVE #2 --
 44-56 Mc--TV Channels 1 & 2
 56-60 Mc--Amateur 5 Meter Band
 60-66 Mc--TV Channel 3
 66-68 Mc--Facsimile Broadcasting
 68-72 Mc--Educational FM Broadcasting
 72-86 Mc--Commercial FM Broadcasting
 86-104 Mc--TV Channels 4-6
 104-108 Mc--Non-Government fixed and mobile.

ALTERNATIVE #3 --
 44-50 Mc--TV Channel 1
 50-54 Mc--Amateur 6 Meter band
 54-84 Mc--TV Channels 2-6
 84-88 Mc--Educational FM Broadcasting
 88-102 Mc--Commercial FM Broadcasting
 102-104 Mc--Facsimile Broadcasting
 104-108 Mc--Non-Government fixed and mobile.

Except for the 44-108 Mc region, which was still up in the air, the 25-44 and 108 Mc and higher frequencies were fairly well established at today's allocations. The only major exception was the 470-480 Mc band, which was still allocated to Facsimile Broadcasting. The FCC indicated that tests would be run through the summer months to determine which Alternative was the best.

Reaction was quick to the proposals. Except for the ARRL, almost none of the major players liked Alternative 2, so the choice lay between 1 and 3.

The ARRL found #2 acceptable because it preserved our 5 meter band. Of the other two alternatives, the ARRL was strongly opposed to #1. A 44-48 Mc seven meter band would have too much skip, was too close to our ten meter band, and too far from two meters. In the end, the ARRL came out in favor of Alternative #3 because, it was believed that the FM band should be as far as possible from our ham bands in order to avoid IF interference to FM receivers.

Naturally, Major Armstrong was in favor of Alternative #1. He continued to make extensive tests and bombarded the FCC with the results. However, Armstrong never realized that the political clout of General Sarnoff and RCA could overcome any test results. The Major thought he had the summer to complete his tests. Instead, on June 27, 1945, the FCC decided on Alternative #3, with a few minor changes to bring the allocations in line with what we have today. FM was definitely at 88-108 Mc, and amateurs had a six meter band at 50-54 Mc, nestled snug between TV Channels 1 and 2.

Armstrong was stunned, but he didn't give up. As late as 1947, he was still submitting data to the FCC in regards to the effect of skip on FM Broadcasts. But it was too late. For a period of time, there were two FM Broadcast bands, as stations in the new 88-108 Mc allocation coexisted with the older ones between 42-50 Mc, but by 1947, the old FM band was a memory, and sat waiting for TV Channel 1 to take over.

However, a new controversy was brewing. With thousands of amateurs on our new six meter band, and thousands of TV's pouring out of (mostly RCA) factories, a new concept was entering the amateur language -- TVI. In our next installment, we will look at the TV wars of the 1940's and why the ARRL wanted channel 2, instead of channel 1, eliminated.

So, until then, I hope your six meter QSOs aren't causing interference to the "Texaco Star Theatre."

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General Membership Meeting February 03, 2012

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

A round of introductions was the first order of business. Fifteen members or guests were present.

There will be a presentation after the meeting.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

The minutes of the January 06, 2012 general membership meeting were approved as published in 'QSA-5'.

A report on actions at the January Board of Director's Meeting was made by President Ardourel. The Board elected 2012 officers: Curtis Ardourel, President, John Boyd, Vice-president; Randy Jenkins, Secretary; Dave Hodgson, Treasurer. Requests for 2012 budget items should be sent to Curtis for consideration by the Board. Curtis reported on a visit to the San Francisco Radio Club, and a possible joint operating activity for the 75th anniversary of the Golden Gate Bridge.

A new agenda item was announced: "Fun with Amateur Radio". Jerry Foster reported on trying to find an abandoned digipeater, Doug Slusher reported on the new 220/908MHz radio from Alinco, Mike Ransom reported on a new antenna, Bill Smith reported on the QRP Freeze Your Butt Off event, Randy Jenkins reported on an antenna party in the East Bay, Marilyn Bagshaw reported on the Pampanito Radio Club net held the first Wednesday of the month at 20:00 on the 147.330 machine.

Membership: Phil reported about 116 members. Renewal notices for 2012 are being sent out.

Next page, column one.

Gen'l Meeting 3 Feb. cont.

Recreation: Marilyn is working on a site and date for the picnic. Matt will head up the Christmas party.

Public Service: Randy Jenkins reported that the 2012 dates were on the chalkboard. The first event will be April 28.

Technical Committee: Doug reported that he and Dan Dufficy were at Tam West to retrieve another repeater, but were unable to access the building where our equipment was housed. Doug is still seeking access.

Comm Truck: Doug reported that the tarp to cover the truck was installed.

Education: Randy reported that Extra study sessions were running on Sundays; no session 2/05.

VE Liaison: Randy reported April 14, June 30 and November 10 were scheduled.

RACES: Rich has running the RACES net from home. Tom Jordan and Chris Riley are now working at EOC. There will be an exercise on May 10. RACES is conducting an equipment inventory.

Building: Rich reported that contractor work almost completed. Additional projects will be pending.

Field Day: Planning is perking along. Rich has sent Rod & Gun a written confirmation about the site.

A visitor, Ed Essick, K6ELE was introduced.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:12 hrs.

Phil K6PHD had a video about historical commuter rail lines in Northern California.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

An engineer dies and reports to the Pearly Gates. Saint Peter checks his dossier and, not seeing his name there, accidentally sends him to Hell.

It doesn't take long before the engineer becomes rather dissatisfied with the level of comfort in Hell. He soon begins to design and build improvements.

Shortly thereafter, Hell has air conditioning, flush toilets and escalators. Needless to say, the engineer is a pretty popular guy.

One day, God calls Satan and says with a sneer: So, how are things in Hell?

Satan replies: Hey, things are going great. We've got air conditioning, flush toilets, and escalators. And there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next.

"What!" God exclaims: You've got an engineer? That's a mistake, he should never have been sent to Hell. Send him to me.

Not a chance, Satan replies: I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him!

God insists: Send him back or I'll sue! Satan laughs uproariously and answers: Yeah, right. And where are you going to get a lawyer?

An old man walks into the barber-shop for a shave and a haircut, but he tells the old barber he can't get all his whiskers off because his cheeks are wrinkled from age.

The barber gets a little wooden ball from a cup on the shelf and tells him to put it inside his cheek to spread out the skin.

When he's finished, the old man tells the barber that was the cleanest shave he's had in years.

But he wanted to know what would have happened if he had swallowed that little ball.

Just bring it back tomorrow like everyone else does.

The Irish Funeral

A man was leaving a convenience store with his morning coffee when he noticed a most unusual funeral procession approaching the nearby cemetery. A black hearse was followed by a second black hearse about 50 feet behind the first one. Behind the second hearse was a solitary man walking a dog on a leash. Behind him, a short distance back, were about 200 men walking single file. The man was curious and respectfully approached the man walking the dog and said:

"I am so sorry for your loss, and this may be a bad time to disturb you, but I've never seen a funeral like this. Whose funeral is it?"

"My wife's."

"What happened to her?"

"She yelled at me and my dog attacked and killed her." He inquired further, "But who is in the second hearse?"

The man answered, "My mother-in-law. She was trying to help my wife when the dog turned on her."

A very poignant and touching moment of brotherhood and silence passed between the two men.

"Can I borrow the dog?"

The man replied, "Get in line."

Pinky W6FQS finally took down his WAW certificate from his shack wall. It's Worked All Wallpaper from the shop of Ed Olmstead (SK) formerly K6LCF. Ed had his ceiling covered with pics of bare-assed babes many years ago, CorteMadera.

New Rules for 5 MHz (60 Meters) To Go Into Effect March 5

02/03/2012

On November 18, the FCC **released** a Report and Order (**R&O**), defining new rules for the 60 meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a Petition for Rulemaking (**PRM**) filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (**NPRM**). In the **February 3** edition of the [Federal Register](#), the FCC **announced** that these new rules will go into effect on March 5, 2012.

In summarizing the new rules, the FCC explained that the new rules amend the current rules to facilitate more efficient and effective use by the Amateur Radio Service of five channels in the 5330.5-5406.4 kHz band (the 60 meter band): "Specifically, and consistent with our proposals in the *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in this proceeding, the Commission replaces one of the channels with a less encumbered one, increases the maximum authorized power amateur stations may transmit in this band and authorizes amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators. The Commission also adopts an additional operational rule that prohibits the use of automatically controlled digital stations and makes editorial revisions to the relevant portions of the Table of Frequency Allocations and our service rules."

The Amateur Radio Service in the United States has a secondary allocation on 60 meters. Only those amateurs who hold General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses may operate on this band. Amateur stations must not cause harmful interference to -- and must accept interference from -- stations authorized by any administration in the fixed service, as well as mobile (except aeronautical mobile) stations authorized by the administrations of other countries.

Ole's car was hit by a truck in an accident. In court, the trucking company's lawyer was questioning Ole.

'Didn't you say, sir, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine?'' asked the lawyer.

Ole responded, 'Vell, I'll tell you vat happened. I had yust loaded my favorite mule, Bessie, into da.....'

'I didn't ask for any details', the lawyer interrupted. 'Just answer the question. Did you not say, at the scene of the accident, 'I'm fine?''

Ole said, 'Vell, I had yust got Bessie into da trailer and I vas driving down da road..... The lawyer interrupted again and said, 'Judge, I am trying to establish the fact that, at the scene of the accident, this man told the Highway Patrolman on the scene that he was just fine. Now several weeks after the accident he is trying to sue my client. I believe he is a fraud. Please tell him to simply answer the question.'

By this time, the Judge was fairly interested in Ole's answer and said to the lawyer, 'I'd like to hear what he has to say about his favorite mule, Bessie'.

Ole thanked the Judge and proceeded. 'Vell, as I vas saying, I had yust loaded Bessie, my favorite mule, into da trailer and vas driving her down da highway ven dis huge semi-truck and trailer ran da stop sign and smacked my truck right in da side. I vas trown into one ditch and Bessie vas trown into da other. I vas hurting real bad and didn't vant to move. However, I could hear Bessie moaning and groaning. I knew she was in terrible shape yust by her groans'. 'Shortly after da accident da Highway Patrolman, he came to da scene. He could hear Bessie moaning and groaning so he vent over to her'. 'After he looked at her and saw her fatal condition he took out his gun and shot her right 'tween da eyes. Den da Patrolman, he came across da road, gun still smoking, looked at me and said, 'How are you feeling?''

'Now vat da hell vould YOU say?'

Try this one: <http://jimspages.com:80/States.htm>

And for history buffs: <http://www.pdxhistory.com/html/playland.html>

FCC Directed to Study Amateur Radio Tower Restrictions

The Amateur Radio community and ARRL took notice when President Obama signed the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 into law on February 22. Included in that Act were the provisions that the ARRL has championed the past few years to have a study undertaken to assess how private land use regulations

impact how the Amateur Service interfaces and supports emergency and disaster communications. These provisions, contained in Section 6414 of the Act, achieve what the ARRL had been proposing and incorporated

H.R. 81 and S. 191 that the League had been supporting in the current Congress.

“The next six-months will be busy and important in this arena,” says ARRL Regulatory Information Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND. “The passage of the act into law started a 180-day clock for the FCC to conduct their study and report the findings back to Congress. We expect the FCC to issue a public notice and open a forty-five

day comment period for the public by the end of March. The public comments will be part of the record on which the FCC bases its report. ARRL members are encouraged to make thoughtful, direct and concise comments to the FCC once that process opens.”

The act directs that the FCC evaluate how to enhance Amateur Radio’s role in working with emergency and disaster relief agencies. It also directs that the Commission identify “impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio Service communications, such as the effects of unreasonable or unnecessary private land use restrictions on residential antenna installations” and to make “recommendations regarding the removal of such impediments.” It is important to note that this act does not overturn existing private land use regulations, commonly known as covenants, conditions and restrictions (CC&Rs).

The ARRL leadership has discussing its plan of action, focusing on how to provide the most accurate and best information to the Commission for its consideration. They are also discussing the best approach on how to mobilize the ARRL membership, so OUR voices will be heard on this topic. You will find a specific call to action in this newsletter. Please help by taking the actions requested.

Time is of the essence on this topic! The legislation requires the FCC to report its findings back to Congress within 180-days. The window for public comments to the FCC will only be open for 45-days. When asked to provide your input, please do so quickly.

If you had previously written your US Congress member or Senator asking them to support either H.R. 81 or S. 191, now is the time to follow up that request with a letter of thanks. Showing our appreciation now may help keep the door open the next time Amateur Radio needs their support!

<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20120213/articles/120219823>

Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit officials intend to buy a used drawbridge in Galveston, Texas, to replace the 109-year-old swing bridge over the Petaluma River.

Rather than launch a \$20 million rehab of the aging structure at Haystack Landing, and then perhaps spending \$30 million to replace it in 20 years, SMART says that for \$20 million it can buy and install the used bridge and have it last 75 to 80 years.

“I was looking for a different solution than retrofitting it,” said Farhad Mansourian, SMART’s general manager. SMART says it will have daily commute rail service on the line within four years.

The Texas bridge is on the BSFN Railway line linking the Texas mainland to Galveston Island. It was built in 1985 and is being replaced by a new vertical lift bridge to increase the channel width.

“It is a really solid bridge,” said Bill Gamlen, SMART chief engineer. “We will have to do some mechanical upgrades, but it is a very stout bridge. The BNSF doesn’t want to get rid of it, but the Coast Guard is driving the replacement.”

It is called a bascule drawbridge, meaning it uses a counterweight to lift the “leaf,” or rail bed, into an almost vertical position. It is on the historic vehicle causeway that was converted to a rail line. Gamlen said the new bridge would open or close in about 90 seconds, instead of the 2½ to 3 minutes needed for the swing bridge. It also is long enough to allow the Petaluma River channel to be widened from 56 feet to 87 feet, and allow SMART trains to cross at higher speeds.

The bridge over the Petaluma River was built in 1903. It uses a 5-horsepower electric motor, fabric belts and bevel gears to pivot slowly on a turntable that is 10 feet in diameter.

“One of the problems with the swing bridge is the reliability,” Gamlen said. “I have been out there and have seen it take three or four tries to get it closed.”

SMART’s long-range plan was to rebuild the bridge knowing it would need to be replaced within 20 years.

The 26-year-old bridge in Galveston can be purchased for \$4.2 million and shipped to Petaluma by rail, then refurbished and reassembled on new supports for an additional \$14 million to \$16 million.

That would create a crossing good for about 80 years, district officials said.

Parts of old swing could be used in other areas on the SMART line, primarily at creek crossings and to replace existing wooden trestles.

“We have a consultant looking at where it might fit and what opportunities we might have,” Gamlen said. “We would hate to spend money to dispose of it, and it is a historic element, we would like to keep it in the corridor.”

Mansourian said SMART needs to move quickly because the Galveston bridge is being dismantled this week.

The SMART board is being asked to waive the competitive bidding process to buy the bridge, and then seek bids from BSNF Railway Co. and Union Pacific Railroad to transport it by rail to Petaluma.

The board is meeting at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday at San Rafael City Hall.

You can reach Staff Writer Bob Norberg at 521-5206 or bob.norberg@pressdemocrat.com.

Senator James Inhofe (R-Oklahoma) sponsored the original legislation in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009, and sponsored the amendment that Congress has now passed which clarifies the legislation and brings all three sections of the U.S. Code together to say the same thing — **that veterans are now permitted to render a hand salute when the U.S. flag is raised and lowered, passes in review, during the Pledge of Allegiance, and during the playing of the National Anthem.**

The National Anthem could be quite a while to hold a hand salute, depending on the tempo of the band and/or the prima donna forgetting the words while singing at some sporting events.

Woman goes to the doctor all black and blue. Doctor: "What happened?" Woman: "Doctor, I don't know what to do. Every time my husband comes home drunk on Bud Light he beats me up." Doctor: "I have a real good medicine for that. When your husband comes home drunk on Bud Light, just take a glass of sweet tea and start swishing it in your mouth but don't swallow. Just keep swishing and swishing until he goes to bed in his Bud Light stupor." Two weeks later the woman comes back to the doctor looking fresh and reborn. Woman: "Doctor that was a brilliant idea. Every time my husband came home drunk on Bud Light, I swished with sweet tea. I swished and swished, and he didn't touch me!"
Doctor: "You see how much keeping your mouth shut helps?"

On Mar 20, 2012, at 7:26 AM, **Dave KG6TCJ** wrote:

Hi all. Had an idea. How about we ask our members to send us their QSL cards so we can post them on the club wall. Just a thought to add a little art to the drab white walls plus it would be fun to see how artistic and imaginative our members are.
A note in QSA5 could get the ball rolling.

Dave H.

FOR SALE

GAP Challenger DX VIII vertical antenna has worked well for me since I installed it 16 months ago. It is in perfect working order, the metal is shiny as new, with a few marks that were made when I took it apart for selling. Covers 80m - 10m (and reportedly 6m and 2m as well, but I never tried.) Great for a small lot. 31 feet tall and can be ground mounted. Asking \$175. Mike ai6ii@att.net 415-721-7697.

Thanks,

mike AI6II

One day my Grandma was out, and my Grandpa was in charge of me.

I was maybe 2 1/2 years old. Someone had given me a little 'tea set' as a gift, and it was one of my favorite toys.

Grandpa was in the living room engrossed in the evening news when I brought him a little cup of 'tea', which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my Grandma came home.

My Grandpa made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea, because it was 'just the cutest thing!'

Grandma waited, and sure enough, here I came down the hall with a cup of tea for Grandpa, and she watched him drink it up.

Then she said, (as only a grandma would know), "'Did it ever occur to you that the only place she can reach to get water is the toilet?'"

(No worries. Tests have shown that the toilet bowl, when kept free of 'unsightly deposits', has less harmful bacteria than the average wash bowl.)

Hello, colleagues-

Thank you again for your assistance last year in one or more of the public service events. The 2012 schedule is below; our first event is the Ridge-to-Bridge hike/ride on April 28th, a little more than 2 months away.

Our season will end, ten events later, in October with the Breast Cancer Fund's Peak Hike. In addition to those events formally sponsored by MARS, we have listed other opportunities for your engagement-we are committed to collaborate with our colleague radio clubs in San Francisco, Sonoma County, and the East Bay, and we hope to see some of you at those events, as well.

We urge your participation, because not only do we help to support a number of worthwhile causes, but we also get real-world, real-time practice in emergency communications. We maintain and improve our skills in operating in a controlled net, we maintain our cool when emergency situations arise, and we employ imaginative resilience when unexpected events transpire, or when equipment fails. We get to build our community of experienced radio operators. And we get to have great outdoor adventures in a pretty magnificent landscape.

Please take a look at the entire schedule, and let one of us know which events you will be able to participate in. Randy Jenkins KA6BQF is at ka6bqf@arrl.net, and I, Michael Fischer, am at fischer@igc.org

2012 MARS Public Service Dates:

Saturday, April 28, 2012 Ridge to Bridge (Route change this year)

Saturday, May 05, 2012 Miwok 100K (Route change this year)

Sunday, June 10, 2012 The Dipsea Race

Saturday, June 23, 2012 Double Dipsea

TBD July Summer Sun Day Hike

Saturday, August 04, 2012 Marin Century / Double Century

Saturday, August 18, 2012 Holstein 100

Saturday, September 23, 2012 ZBC Dipsea Lite Hike

Saturday, September 23, 2012 Dolphin Escape From Alcatraz

Sunday, October 14, 2012 BCF Peak Hike

Other Planned Events:

May 26 & 27 75th Anniversary Golden Gate Bridge Event (Joint Special Event W6G with the SF Amateur Radio Club)

June 2-3 Annual Museum Ships on the air weekend aboard the USS Pampanito

June 22-24 Field Day 2012

October 6-7 California QSO Party HF DX contest

Non-MARS Events on following page.

Non-MARS Events:

The Relay May 05 -06. Contact: WA6BXV or KG6JHS

Grizzly Peak Century Ride May 06, 2012 - East Bay Amateur Radio Club
Contact: KA6BQF

San Francisco Marathon July 29, 2012 - San Francisco Radio Club

MS Waves to Wine September 22 & 23 - Sonoma County Radio Amateurs Contact:
K6XLT

It's going to be another great season, and we look forward to working with you.

I apologize for the fact that some of you will receive more than one of these announcements-we will be using a variety of email lists in order to spread the word. So we beg your pardon in advance.

Thanks, and seven-three,

Michael Fischer K6MLF 131 Bolsa Avenue, Mill Valley, CA 94941-1101 415 383 5855 415 519 2201 cell

A few Sundays ago San Francisco Chronicle, pink section, Datebook, I just had time to read the Cover Story thoroughly, "Radio over the air isn't really over."

In case you didn't see it, **Radio Sausalito** is one of the featured stations. We are fortunate to have heard MARS member Jonathan Westerling's program.

Here is the link:

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2012/03/11/PK5R1NEIIQ.DTL>

Thanks, Jonathan!

73

Marilyn, N6VAW

Working people frequently ask retired people what they do to make their days interesting. Well, for example, the other day, Bev my wife and I went into town and visited a shop. When we came out, there was a cop writing out a parking ticket.

We went up to him and I said, 'Come on, man, how about giving a senior citizen a break?'

He ignored us and continued writing the ticket.

I called him an a--hole . He glared at me and started writing another ticket for having worn-out tires.

So Bev called him a s--t head. He finished the second ticket and put it on the windshield with the first. Then he started writing more tickets. This went on for about 20 minutes. The more we abused him, the more tickets he wrote.

Just then our bus arrived, and we got on it and went home.

We try to have a little fun each day now that we're retired.

It's important at our age.

SENIOR MOMENT

Sitting on the side of the road waiting to catch speeding drivers, a Massachusetts state trooper sees a car pattering along at 24 mph. He thinks to himself, "This driver is as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over.

Approaching the car, he notices that there are five elderly ladies - two in the front seat, and three in the back, wide-eyed and white as ghosts.

The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand. I was going the exact speed limit. What seems to be the problem?"

The trooper, trying to contain a chuckle, explains to her that "24" was the Route number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before you go, Ma'am, I have to ask, "is everyone in this car OK? These women seem awfully shaken."

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute, officer. We just got off Route 128."

What we now call picofarads were once known as micky-mikes for micro micro farads. Even pico farads was abbreviated by some, when spoken aloud, as 'puff', specifically WA6YOB who called himself Ye Olde (pronounced Oldy) Beerdrinker. Like many who were licensed for a time in the 1960s, he disappeared from the CallBook.

This space could have been used for input from members. Maybe pix of your dog doing something cute or really embarrassing in front of witnesses. If you have pix of family members doing something really embarrassing, better keep those to yourself. Remember what happened to Lauren Bowden?

Here're a couple examples of safe pix.



Inbred Cat

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes Thursday, March 08, 2012

Members present: Curtis Ardourel, Matt Schallock, Rich Carbine, Dave Hodgson, Rita Brenden, Phil Dunlap, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, and Randy Jenkins. The meeting was called to order at 19:00 hrs by President Curtis.

The agenda was approved as distributed. Additional items for April were suggested.

The minutes of the February 09 meeting were approved as published.

Correspondence consisted of bills and the new insurance policy from Marin-Pacific.

Treasurer: Dave presented the February Treasurer's report. The checking account balance was reported as \$41,692.59 and the building account balance was reported as \$1,206.90. Dave will certify the 2011 Profit and Loss Statement presented last month, and the report will be published in QSA-5.

Committee reports:

Membership- Phil Dunlap reported that renewals were trickling in. There is one new member to report.

Recreation - No new report.

Public Service - The first events are April 28 and May 5. Lots of events on the chalkboard.

Technical: The repeaters seem to be working. Doug reported on correspondence from Peter Liddell from the Red Cross requesting permission to use the 146.70 repeater on May 20 for support to the Nike Women's Marathon. There was also a request from K6LJU for permission to hold an "Outdoors Net" Saturdays at 19:00 on the 146.70 repeater.

Comm Truck- No change.

Field Day Committee – Operation on six meters was discussed. Rich will serve as the liaison between the clubs. We will need an antenna for 75/80 meters. Doug Slusher will be the MARS Field Day chairman. There was a motion to allocate \$100.00 toward the purchase of an antenna for 75/80 meter operation at Field Day. OHD/AKU/Pass. The food budget was discussed.

VE Liaison – Randy reported scheduled dates: April 14, June 30, and November 10.

RACES – There will be a drill on May 10 focused on a tsunami event. RACES has new grant money.

Building Manager – Matt reported that the painting work was completed for a cost of \$1,745.00. Matt reported that the tenant had requested that a light be installed on the stairs. There was a motion to allocate not to exceed \$300.00 for Matt to hire an electrician to complete that work. OHD/AKU/ Pass. Matt requested to install landscaping at the building. He was given permission, but no budget.

Education: The Extra classes continue. There was a request for some individual tutoring for someone studying for the Technician license.

Speakers – Doug is working on a speaker for April.

Old Business:

The proscriptive easement sign – Doug has a redrafted letter.

On-Line Dues – Not Yet

Personal property – No change.

Donation Policy: An auction of equipment in April or May was discussed

HF Rig Issues: Purchased. Approved by unanimous consent.

Website – The team is moving forward, and looking at architecture.

Elecraft Speaker – Tabled

Budget - There was a line by line review and discussion.

GG Bridge Anniversary. - Michael Fischer is working on it

Board Meeting time – Motion to hold April meeting at 7:00 PM and revisit the issue. BQF/VAW/Pass.

New Business:

Regular rent increases – After discussion, a motion was offered to place a permanent agenda item on the Board's calendar for the July meeting to consider an apartment rent increase annually (two months prior to the anniversary of the last increase). BQF/AKU/Pass.

Tenant modifications to apartment – After discussion, there was a motion to draft a letter to the tenant about modifications to the property, and require prior notice and right of inspection. BQF/UDS/Pass

Tenant status – Tabled until April meeting

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:32 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

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

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

February 11 Dedicated Day of Ops aboard the Pampanito at pier 45.

A work party consisting of Jerry Foster, WA6BXV, Jan Leja, WB6SPX and I came aboard the boat at 1050 this morning, and secured at 1530.

Our purpose was to loosen, clean, and re-tighten all of the antenna and ground connections for the Yaesu FT-890 high-frequency radio in the radio room. That purpose was accomplished. In doing so, we found only moderate corrosion, but we did find loose connections, especially between the antenna tuner on the bridge and the port-side end-fed antenna. We encountered a problem in removing the protective steel box enclosing the antenna tuner, but finally solved that by finding, with Jan's advice, a piece of wood which Jerry placed at the bottom face of the box and two sharp blows upward with a small sledge hammer loosened it so it could be lifted up and off. After tightening the loose connections, all now appears to be well at that location. The two bolts securing the bottom of the steel box were missing; Jerry plans to bring replacements on a future trip. Jan cleaned off much of the corrosion at the top lip of the box that had frozen it to the bulkhead; a bit of Vaseline or other corrosion-proofer at that seam would be helpful in avoiding the problem in future. Den here: I called Dennis, K6DF, who had removed the SGC Antenna Tuner cover before. He was not at home, but returned my call Sunday morning. The procedure followed by Jerry and Michael was the correct one - it can take some "persuading" to force the cover up and away for the SGC tuner! A good suggestion Dennis offered was to use a threading tap of the proper thread pitch and size to clean out "thread corrosion" that forms over time, preventing a good electrical connection from being established with the grounding bolt. I recommend that we obtain the proper size tap and use it to clean the corroded bolt hole threads as soon as possible. This applies to other grounding bolt hole threads as well.

-- O --

While topside, we noticed that the 2-meter whip antenna was dangling down in a horizontal position, hanging by its coax. The magnetic mount is, essentially, a fistful of rust. Jerry climbed the periscope shear above the lookout stands to re-mount the antenna; it should be good for only several more weeks before replacement will be essential. We have begun the process to find the most weather-ready replacement antenna. The barrel-connector with which to attach a new antenna to the coaxial lead is readily accessible from the bridge; it will require weatherproofing sealant.

Den here: We have enough money in the P.A.R.C. "kitty" to cover this "repair." Any donations would be welcome to keep the P.A.R.C. fund above water.

-- O --

In the radio room, we found corrosion at the end of the ground strap that connects the HF radio to the hull. Jerry made the antenna strap fast to a second grounded bolt. In a future trip, he intends to bring additional ground straps to add several ground-point connections for the radio.

After those ground and antenna connections were made, Den, K6ZJU, communicated with the radio room on both voice and CW and found that the signal transmission was much improved. This will enable us to operate the radio at its full 100 watts, instead of backing off to only 80 watts as we have done for the past several years. [Jan reports, though](#), that the CW portion of the FT-890 is no longer break-in. A switch has to be pushed to change from transmit to receive; an item not acceptable to a purist.

Den here: Something is not set right - the FT-890 has always worked in the "break-in" or "semi-break-in" mode on CW. We will check it out the next time we are aboard the boat.

-- O -

It was also pleasant and helpful to have Bill Stewart, KF6RMK, kibitz with us on the VHF radios during mid-day.

Den here: Also from your CO from my QTH in Pine Grove, Grid CM98, on both HF (7260 KHz) and VHF (147.330 MHz). Good signals on SSB and CW heard here. A nice T9 note on CW from the Yaesu, FT-890 at the 100 watt power level! Sorry I could not be aboard the boat, but I have been "below decks" with a cold - flu virus for several weeks and felt I better stay put rather than risk a relapse.

-- O --

While we were working below, of course, we had the opportunity to interact with many visitors, even though it was a relatively light visitation day. We chatted with visitors from Portugal, Spain, Mexico, India, the East Coast and Midwest—as well as California. One of the guests was a former engine-room wiper who served aboard the boat during its Reserve Fleet days, and another was a ham operator from Sacramento. After re-assembling the radio, Jerry was able to make a few QSOs.

All in all, it was a productive and somewhat tiring day for the three of us, what with scrambling up and down to-and-from the bridge several times, climbing to the lookout stands, checking connections down through the conning tower, and reaching deep into dark and awkward cabinets.

Our next DDO will be the fourth Saturday, 25 February. Operators scheduled to be aboard are Rem Donnelly, K6BBQ, and the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Fischer K6MLF

P.S. We want to thank P.A.R.C. Plank Owner, Dennis Franklin, K6DF, for several good suggestions for insuring that NJ6VT has good ground connections!

Edited to fit available space. ed.

March Dedicated Day of Ops aboard the Pampanito at pier 45.

Hi All!!

Our regularly scheduled Saturday, March 10 th DDO got under way at NJ6VT aboard the USS Pampanito around 11 am. We had Guest RO, Jan Leja, WB6SPX, and myself aboard.

The radio propagation conditions were horrible with the arrival of a burst of charged particles from a solar flare. The 40 meter band was completely dead - nothing heard but some local interference from the DC lines that power the trolley cars. Even the 10 mc and 20 mc WWV stations were wiped out, although we were able to pick up a signal from WWV on 15 mc.

Only one signal heard on the 10 meter band - an XE beacon station from Mexico. A few signals heard on the 20 meter and 17 meter bands. I have not heard the bands as dead as they were this last Saturday since 1958, when Project "Argus" and Project "Hardtack Teak" launched H-Bombs high up in the ionosphere using missiles from off the South African coast and also Johnson Island in the Pacific, wiping out HF radio communications for two weeks or more! In spite of the very poor radio propagation conditions, Jan managed to work a few stateside stations on 20 meter CW and a had a QSO on SSB with LU5FC in Argentina under tough conditions. The visitor traffic aboard the boat was sporadic throughout the day.

We had nice "eyeball" QSO's with Ted Berg, KJ6UOG, from Oakland and Chris Ehemann, KJ6TIZ from Danville. Both expressed interest in becoming Guest RO's aboard the USS Pampanito. We look forward to bringing Ted and Chris aboard the boat! NJ6VT was secured around 1630 hours.

Our next DDO is scheduled for Saturday, March 24th (the 4th Saturday DDO). Our regularly scheduled "2nd Saturday," DDO is scheduled for April 14th aboard the boat.

Jan and I had a great time aboard the boat this last Saturday and I look forward to operating with him again soon! Jan is a great CW operator and of all the commercial ship - board CW ops, he really shines through when he is running the key at NJ6VT.

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; Museum Curator

Guest RO's

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</p> <p>Additional Board Members: Marilyn Bagshaw N6VAW 479-3704 John Boyd KE6ORI 924-4419 Rita Brenden KG6WPN 707-557-5521 Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 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</p> <p>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</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 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

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