

continued from page 1

on duty until all the event's participants have made it in. This is even more impressive when you consider that he lives in the east bay.

The second award is the Hi Roberts Award which recognizes service to the club above and beyond the call of duty in a particular year. The club president selects the recipient with the advice of the board of directors. This year the award was given to Daniel Dufficy KH8AF. Daniel and Doug Slusher KF6AKU together designed and installed our now simulcast repeater system. Daniel sourced most of the hardware and spent many hours up on mountain tops getting everything to work. We all owe him a debt of gratitude for his expertise, time and effort.

The solstice marks the end of one year as well as the beginning of a new year. Of course I am compelled to give you the obligatory reminder to renew your membership. You can renew online with PayPal or a major credit card from our website, just go to the Renew Your Membership link on the home page. You can also donate to our club funds. Your deduction is tax deductible. If you shop on Amazon.com you can also have Amazon.com donate half a percent of your purchase amount to the club by using the AmazonSmile program. Just follow the link on our homepage to amazon.com.

Enough hectoring, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you all.

Curtis Ardourel

What's Happening in Radio

Force 12 Antenna's Sold

InnovAntennas of Grand Junction Co has purchased the Force 12 Antenna company. InnovaAntennas Ltd of England, the parent company, is manufacturing Force 12 products in the UK for the European market.

Tokyo High Power Files for Bankruptcy

The popular amplifier provider has stopped operations. HRO is the US distributor for its solid state amplifiers. HRO said it would sell the remaining stock of its THP products with no warrantee, but would work with the current US service facility for THP to help those who have purchased THP products.

CQ Publications Reorganizes

CQ has been plagued with the late delivery of its print publications in the past year. In an apparent attempt to improve its operations and reduce costs, several of its publications will now cease print publication and become digital editions only.

FCC Actions

ARRL Files Comments on Symbol Rate Petition

The ARRL has filed comments with the FCC on its own Petition for Rule Making RM-11708 the so-called "symbol rate" petition. Although the League rarely files formal comments on its own petitions, ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, citing the high level of interest in the proceeding, said that this is clearly an exceptional circumstance.

ARRL sponsored RM-11708 proposes to drop the symbol rate limit as outlined in Part 97.307(f) of the FCC Amateur Service rules and substituting a maximum occupied bandwidth of 2.8 kHz for High Frequency data emissions. And in its newly filed comments the League noted the large number of comments that have been filed thus far indicate that the issue of data communications is an important one in the Amateur Radio Service.

In general, the ARRL says that its petition would have no effect on the High Frequency subbands where phone and image emissions are already permitted. It noted that the petition would not permit digital voice transmissions in the data and RTTY sub-bands because digital voice is defined in the Commission's rules as voice not data. Also the petition would have no effect on CW operation in the High Frequency bands either, and restrictions on automatically controlled digital stations would remain as they are now.

Meet our Members

Michael Fischer, K6LMF



When my brother learned, six years ago, that I had gotten a ham radio license, he said, “Michael always wanted to be a ham when he was a kid—I guess he’s reached his second childhood!”

He was right—probably on both counts. Growing up on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the 40s, and then in San Antonio, Texas in the 50s, I was lucky enough to have ham radio operators in my neighborhood. I hung out with them in their shacks, watched the dancing waveforms on the oscilloscope, smelled the ozone, heard their faint contacts, both voice and Morse, and studied the QSL cards (all from exotic, faraway places) thumbtacked to their walls. I was entranced, mesmerized.

But, as with many amateur radio operators-to-be, life intervened. Jobs, studies, work, play, family...so I didn’t get my license. Other things crowded it out.

Then came the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. At the time, I was CEO of an environmental nonprofit with several hundred employees in a four-story brick building in San Francisco’s Civic Center area. Panic, screaming, walls cracking, bookcases toppling, pictures, thrown off the walls, splintering on the floor...we evacuated the building, found no injuries. But what to do next? Go back inside? Walk home? How to link up with family members? What if someone HAD been trapped or injured?

Within weeks, I had contacted the San Francisco Fire Department, and learned of a new program—they called it NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team.) Here in Marin, it’s called, as you all know, CERT. So ours became the first commercial building trained in triage, cribbing, fire suppression, first aid, and emergency communications. It didn’t take a wise man to know that preparedness at the office wasn’t the same as preparedness at home, so I got my CERT training and joined the Mill Valley team.

Mistakenly thinking that having a ham radio license would help me be a better-prepared CERT volunteer, I stumbled on HamCrams and, in early 2007 spent the day at the Flower Show building next to the Strybing Arboretum and left with my technician’s license. Dave, “Mr. ECHO ECHO ECHO,” told me to contact Mike Lerner, then K6RVL.

Mike became my first Elmer, helped me get my first radio (a Yaesu VX-7R,) showed me how to program it and how to use repeaters, and he connected me with the Marin Amateur Radio Society, then with the Marin County RACES outfit.

Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ then took me under his wing, urged me to take the General exam, and set me up with a spare RACES ICOM 735 to get me on the HF waves. Of course, he also got me into my first public service event, and I got hooked. Doug Slusher’s KF6AKU patience in walking me through the basics of radio protocol was inspiring. Well, that was 6 years ago. Then, after several months of studying under Randy Jenkins’ KA6BQF tutelage at a pace of one chapter each Sunday, I passed the Extra exam on the first try about a year ago. What a thoughtful, intelligent, and skillful teacher he is.

I learned early on that my CERT leadership role was enriched by the radio protocol that I use as a ham, but that my license is not necessary for that work. Working closely with the Fire and Police Departments, we use GMRS and commercial high-band radios in Mill Valley CERT, and there’s only a very limited potential for RACES involvement in Mill Valley’s emergency preparedness system.

But there are other uses to which I put my radio skills and my amateur radio license: I help Randy to organize a dozen community service projects each year for the Marin Amateur Radio Society, am a Volunteer Examiner, and am also an active member of the USS Pampanito SS383 amateur radio club. I’ve scored second place in Marin County in the California QSO Party, have taken the middle-of-the-night shift the past three years at our Field Day out at Point San Quentin, and am on several 80-meter traffic nets at least half the days of each month. Contesting, traffic nets, public service, emergency comms, and learning code (someday)—all of that is enjoyable to me.

QSA-5
The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

I have learned a lot from Harold Wilkinson W0HJW on the Golden Bear Net and Bill McGowan W7FQQ in Centralia, WA, on the California Traffic Net. I've handled several hundred messages, in both directions, on those two nets. Great experience and great exposure to hams who might be able to help some day. There a lot of operators in Oregon whom I will probably never meet—but they know my voice and my call sign from frequent checkins to the Oregon Emergency Net. Just in case...

Particularly exciting is the fact that Christy, my daughter, is KI6TDG and son Steve is K6ETA. She lives in Carmel Valley Village and he lives in Petaluma. So the three of us stay in touch several times a week on the Loma Pioneers Repeater, located high above Los Gatos. Steve has amazed me by becoming so much more expert and knowledgeable than I about the technical aspects of radios—so he is my latest Elmer! He is also a constant source of envy: my QTH is in a small redwood-forested box canyon tucked tightly up against Blithedale Ridge, called “the worst location for a ham radio station I have ever seen” by Dean Straw N6BV, the former editor of ARRL’s Antenna Handbook. But Steve, on low, flat ground in East Petaluma, using the same old Kenwood TS-850 that I have, has scored SSB contacts literally around the world, on every continent except (so far) Antarctica.

I find it especially rewarding to be a member of the Marin Amateur Radio Society—the collegiality, the friendships, the mentors, the shared interests and shared adventures are particularly enlivening for me. Thanks, friends!

USS Pampanito Report

Our regularly scheduled Dedicated Day of Operation (DDO) took place aboard the USS Pampanito this last Saturday, December 14th. The RO's were our Yeoman, Hal Strunk, WA6JNZ, Michael Fischer, K6MLF, and myself. Radio op's got underway at NJ6VT around 1030 hours.

Initially, there was little activity aboard the boat and on the 40 meter band as well. Our first QSO was a scheduled QSO with Ed, W6WRL on 7260 kc. Little activity elsewhere on the band, so QSO's were in short supply on both CW and SSB. The 40 meter band never seemed to open up and little was heard most of the day, with the exception of the Noon Time Net on 7268.5 kc.

We did work a few more stations on 40 meters, but the 40 meter band never did open up. So, we went to the 17 meter band and did work Hiro, JG3UVM, in Shiga, Japan with a good signal reports both ways. We seem to reach out well into the Pacific on the 17 meter band!

This was certainly the quietest DDO we have experienced in a long time. Very few visitors aboard the boat. Maybe everyone was out shopping for Christmas? A few visitor groups did come aboard the boat, but very few indeed. I hope the visitor traffic picks up for the Pampanito soon!

Our next scheduled DDO is set for Saturday, January 11, 2014. Let me know if you can help out. Season's Greetings to all and a Happy New Year!

73,

Den Regan, K6ZJU
CO Pampanito A.R.C. NJ6VT
USS Pampanito, SS-383
Pier 45, Shed "A"
San Francisco



MUSEUM SHIPS WEEKEND 2013
June 1 - 2, 2013
USS Pampanito NJ6VT

The operators listed have demonstrated their skills in the art of radio communications.

Den K6ZJU	Alan KJ6MDI
Michael K6MLF	Art KJ6ANT
Steve K6SDR	Craig KG6VMT

From the Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station, we thank you for your participation in the 2013 International Museum Ships Weekend.



Congratulations to our club members who have been recognized for their contribution to the Museums Ships Weekend 2013.

Minutes for General Meeting

Saturday December 14, 2013
Annual Christmas Dinner

On the Air

Contest Calendar

These are some of the contests this December. See link for full list. <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

ARRL RTTY Roundup, 1800Z, Jan 4 to 2400Z, Jan 5

North American QSO Party, CW: 1800Z, Jan 11 to 0559Z, Jan 12

CQ 160-Meter Contest, CW 2200Z, Jan 24 to 2159Z, Jan 26

Amsterdam Island DXpedition

In DX up front, Ralph Fedor, K0IR reports that all the equipment the long awaited Amsterdam Island DXpedition that had been shipped to New Zealand is now aboard the ship MV Braveheart. Also that all of the documentation is in order that that inspections have been completed.

According to Fedor, the vessel was to be fueled for its voyage to Australia on December 23rd and scheduled to depart on December 26th for Fremantle, Australia. Meantime the FT5ZM team members will begin arriving in Fremantle on January 9th. They will board the Braveheart on January 14th, configure our maritime mobile station, and sail for Amsterdam Island on January 15th. Landing operations will commence as soon as the sea conditions and weather allow. Once the team is ashore, they will have 18 days to set up, conduct the DXpedition, and tear down for departure.

Fedor says that there will likely be at least one more press release before they depart. In the meantime you can get updates at the DXpeditions website at www.amsterdamdx.org or by following the planning at [facebook.com/FT5ZM](https://www.facebook.com/FT5ZM). And we will have more DX news for you later on in this week's newscast. (Various DX News Sources)

Proposed Changes to Bylaws – to be voted on at a future meeting. (Included here for member review-ed.)

Be it resolved that the following changes to the bylaws of the Marin Amateur Radio Society are approved by vote of the membership:

SECTION 4. TERMS OF OFFICE

- a) Each director shall hold office for a term of two (2) years until the next annual meeting for election of the Board of Directors as specified in these Bylaws, and until his or her successor is elected and qualifies. No board member may serve more than three (3) consecutive terms. ~~except for the Trustee of License who shall serve until he or she is removed by the Board of Directors.~~ <Amended 03/31/2000>
- b) ~~The Trustee(s) of License shall be appointed by the Board of Directors, to be confirmed by a vote of the general membership, with a majority of the ballots cast, every two years, and may serve until his / her resignation, death, or removal by the Board of Directors. (Trustee of W6SG to be confirmed in even numbered years, Trustee of K6GWE to be confirmed in odd numbered years.)~~ <Amended2013>

SECTION 17. VACANCIES

Vacancies on the Board of Directors shall exist (1) on the death, resignation, or removal of any director, and (2) whenever the number of directors is increased.

The Board of Directors may declare vacant the office of a director who has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of court, or convicted of a felony, or been found by a final order or judgment of any court to have breached any duty under Section 5230 and following of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law.

If the corporation has less than fifty (50) members, directors may be removed without cause by a majority of all members, or, if the corporation has fifty (50) or more members, by vote of a majority of the votes represented at a membership meeting at which a quorum (Art. 13 Section 5) is present.

Any director may resign effective upon giving written notice to the president, the secretary, or the Board of Directors, unless the notice specifies a later time for the effectiveness of such resignation. No director may resign if the corporation would then be left without a duly elected director or directors in charge of its affairs, except upon notice to the Attorney General.

Vacancies created by the resignation or death of a director may be filled by the Board of Directors. ~~A person named to fill a vacancy as provided by this section shall hold office for the remaining term of the former director, or until his or her death, resignation, or removal from office.~~ <Amended 03/31/2000> <Amended 2013>

A director failing to ~~participate in Club Activities for a period of 90 days or failing to~~ attend three (3) consecutive Board meetings, ~~without requesting a leave of absence,~~ will be considered as having resigned. ~~The Board of Directors, at the next scheduled or special meeting held, shall accept such implied resignation.~~ A replacement shall be named as provided elsewhere in these bylaws. <added 11/16/02> <Amended 2013>

Vacancies created by the removal of a director may be filled only by the approval of the members. The members of this corporation may elect a director at any time to fill any vacancy not filled by the directors. ~~A person elected to fill a vacancy as provided by this section shall hold office until the next annual election of the Board of Directors or until his or her death, resignation, or removal from office.~~

The Board of Directors may grant any director a leave of absence from the Board, for such period as the Board determines is appropriate, without creating a vacancy, provided (1) that such absence shall be determined to be not detrimental to best interests of the Corporation, and (2) that any director who is also an officer of the corporation shall relinquish such office prior to being granted such leave. Should a director, who has been granted leave, fail to return at the expiration of the time granted, the director shall be considered as having resigned, and a replacement shall be named as provided elsewhere in these bylaws. (Amended 01/09/2007).

SECTION 4. FEES, DUES, AND ASSESSMENTS

- (a) The following fee shall be charged for making application for membership in the corporation: None.

Proposed Bylaw Revisions (Changes in Red) – To be voted upon at future meeting (Included here for your review)

(b) The Board of Directors of Marin Amateur Radio Club shall establish dues for each type of membership subject to the approval of the majority vote of the members present at a regular general membership meeting. Dues for the various membership types shall be published in the club's monthly publication, the QSA-5. **Dues shall be due and payable on the first day of the fiscal year as specified in ARTICLE 8, and shall be considered delinquent 180 days following that date.** <Amended 2013>

(c) Memberships shall be nonassessable.

(d) There shall be five (5) types of memberships as follows:

1. Individual membership. Members who submit individual applications and pay annual dues for one member.
2. Family membership. Limited to members who submit their entire family, regardless of number, on one application form and pay annual membership dues. **"Families" shall be defined as persons desiring membership who reside at the same mailing address.** <Amended2013>
3. Senior/Student membership. Senior membership is available to members who are fully retired. A student who is enrolled in a recognized school or college may enroll at the same dues as senior members.
4. Life membership. Life membership may be conferred as an honor on any member who has served the Marin Amateur Radio **Society** in an exemplary fashion. A majority vote of the membership at an annual meeting at which a quorum is present can confer this honor on any regular member. Life members shall be entitled to vote and/or hold office and are exempt from paying dues.
4. Honorary membership. Awarded to nonmembers who have rendered distinguished service to Marin Amateur Radio **Society**. Honorary membership shall be offered and continued at the discretion of the Board of Directors and be approved by the majority of the voting members present at a regular board meeting. Honorary members shall not be entitled to vote or hold office.

SECTION 2. ANNUAL AND OTHER REGULAR MEETINGS

Regular meetings of the membership of this club shall be held on the first Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. or at such alternate time and date as approved by a majority vote of the Board of Directors. <Amended 03/31/2000>

Regular meetings of the membership may be cancelled from time to time as need and necessity determine with the approval of the Board of Directors. <Amended 03/31/2000>

The membership regular meeting scheduled for the month of November of each year shall be designated as the annual meeting, for the purposes of presentation of candidates for election to the Board of Directors, and transacting other business as may come before the meeting. Voting for the election of directors shall be by **either** mail ballot **or electronic balloting** of the membership, and the vote tabulation shall be published in the club publication and announced at the December membership meeting. The November meeting of members for these stated purposes shall be deemed a regular meeting, and any reference in these Bylaws to regular meetings of members shall also refer to this annual meeting. <Amended2013>

If the day fixed for the annual meeting or other regular meetings falls on or near a legal holiday, such meeting shall be held at the same hour and place on a day as determined by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4. NOTICE OF MEETINGS

- (a) Time of notice. A written notice of all meetings shall be given by the corporation not less than five (5) nor more than ninety (90) days before the date of the meeting to each member who, on the record date for the notice of the meeting, is entitled to vote thereat, provided, however, that if notice is given by mail, and the notice is not mailed by first-class, registered, or certified mail, that notice shall be given ten (10) days before the meeting.

(b) Manner of giving notice. Notice of a members' meeting or any report shall be given either by mail or other means of written communication, **including publication in the organization's newsletter, delivered electronically**, addressed to the member at the address of such member appearing on the books of the corporation. Notice shall be deemed to have been given at the time when delivered personally or deposited in the mail.

(c) Contents of notice. Notice of a membership meeting shall state the place, date, and time of the meeting and (1) in the case of a special meeting, the general nature of the business to be transacted, and no other business may be transacted, or (2) in the case of an annual meeting, those matters which the board, at the time notice is given, intends to present for action by the members. Subject to any provision to the contrary contained in these Bylaws, however, any proper matter may be presented at a regular meeting for such action. The notice of any meeting of members at which directors are to be elected shall include the names of all those who are nominees at the time notice is given to members.

(d) Notice of meetings called by members. If a special meeting is called by members as authorized in these Bylaws, the request for the meeting shall be submitted in writing, specifying the general nature of the business proposed to be transacted and shall be delivered personally or sent by mail to the chairperson of the board, president, vice president, or secretary of the corporation. The officer receiving the request shall promptly cause notice to be given to the members entitled to vote that a meeting will be held, stating the date of the meeting. The date for such meeting shall be fixed by the board and shall not be less than thirty-five (35) nor more than ninety (90) days after the receipt of the request for the meeting by the officer. If the notice is not given within twenty (20) days after the receipt of the request, persons calling the meeting may give the notice themselves.

(e) Waiver of notice of meetings. The transaction of any meeting of members, however called and noticed, and wherever held, shall be as valid as though taken at a meeting duly held after regular call and notice, if a quorum is present and if, either before or after the meeting, each of the persons entitled to vote, not present in person, signs a written waiver of notice or a consent to the holding of the meeting or an approval of the minutes thereof. All such waivers, consents, and approvals shall be filed with the corporate records or made a part of the minutes of the meeting. Waiver of notices or consents need not specify either the business to be transacted or the purpose of any regular or special meeting of members, except that, if action is taken or proposed to be taken for approval of any of the matters specified in subparagraph (f) of this section, the waiver of notice or consent shall state the general nature of the proposal.

(f) Special notice rules for approving certain proposals. If action is proposed to be taken or is taken with respect to the following proposals, such action shall be invalid unless approved by a two-thirds majority of those entitled to vote or unless the general nature of the proposal is stated in the notice of meeting or in any written waiver of notice:

1. Removal of directors without cause
2. Filling of vacancies on the board by members
3. Amending the Articles of Incorporation
4. An election to voluntarily wind up and dissolve the corporation

SECTION 5. QUORUM FOR MEETINGS

A quorum shall consist of twenty-five **percent (25%)** of the voting members of the corporation. The members present at a duly called and held meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to do business, notwithstanding the loss of a quorum at the meeting due to a withdrawal of members from the meeting, provided that any action taken after the loss of a quorum must be approved by at least a majority of the members required to constitute a quorum. **<Amended2013>**

In the absence of a quorum, any meeting of the members may be adjourned by the vote of a majority of the votes represented in person at the meeting. No business shall be transacted at such meeting.

SECTION 7. VOTING RIGHTS

Each dues-paying member is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote by the members. Voting at duly held meetings shall be by voice vote. Election of directors, however, shall be by **either mail or electronic ballot**. **<Amended2013>**

SECTION 11. NOMINATION AND ELECTION PROCEDURES

All directors of the corporation shall be elected ~~at the annual meeting of members~~ as described in paragraphs 1 through 3 below, and shall hold office until their respective successors are elected and installed.

1. A NOMINATING COMMITTEE of not less than three (3) nor more than five (5) members of the corporation shall be appointed by the Board of Directors not less than 60 days nor more than 90 days prior to the annual meeting. This committee shall prepare a list at least sufficient to fill all vacancies on the Board of Directors and to report the names to the Board of Directors not later than the directors' meeting preceding the annual meeting. Persons so nominated shall have been contacted by the committee to determine their willingness to serve. The members of the corporation shall be notified in writing, including publication in the organization's newsletter, delivered electronically, of the names of the persons so nominated not less than 15 days prior to the annual meeting of the membership.
2. NOMINATIONS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP: Any member in good standing may nominate in writing any other member in good standing for the office of director. Any such additional nominees shall be seconded, in writing, by at least one other member in good standing, and the nominee must submit a written statement that he or she would serve if elected.
3. ELECTION: The election of directors will be by secret ballot provided by either mailed or electronic balloting. A majority vote shall not be required for election, and the nominees receiving the highest number of votes will be deemed elected to fill the vacancies. In the event of a tie for the last of such vacancies, a further election shall be immediately held in which the nominees tied for such vacancy shall be voted upon and the nominee receiving the highest vote shall be declared elected.

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 highway 101, head west toward Mill Valley on E. Blithedale. Turn right at the first stop light. Stay 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.

Sunday morning informal meeting (aka bible class) meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting around 8am and runs to about 11am. Sometimes we even talk about radio.

The Sunday Emergency nets. The K6GWE emergency VHF net check-in is at 10:15 am on 147.700 (-pl 203.5). This is a directed net and the net control station may operate at the club house or at a member location. Members on the net check-in list that do not check in for three consecutive weeks are removed from the list until they reestablish check-in. Any member can sign up to act as the net control station. The process to become the VHF net control station will be posted on the website in the near future. The W6SG emergency HF net check-in is at 9 am on 3.915 Mh.

Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:

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Vice President

John Boyd KE6ORI 924-04419

Secretary

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089

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Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864

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Rita Brenden KG6WPN 707-557-5521

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Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318

Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715

Other Positions:

Education Chair

Randy Jenkins

VE Liaison

Randy Jenkins

Building Co-Managers

Curtis Ardourel

Dave Hodgson

Trustee for W6SG

Augie Koehler K0CQL

Trustee for K6GWE

Doug Slusher KF6AKU

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