
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

September 2013

Presidents Corner

Curtis Ardourel

It continues to amaze me how quickly how quickly a year goes by. As a child of course a year represented a much larger proportion of my life than it does now. Thinking about that, it only seems natural that as we age, years get shorter. When you consider that the earth orbits the sun at a mean velocity of 67,062 miles per hour maybe a year looks longer, I am not sure.

What I can say with more certainty is that we are over halfway through September. That means it is time to think about electing board members again. Just to remind you, we elect board members every year. Each board member serves a two year term, so in principle half of the board members should come up for election each year. This year four seats come up for election.

The process works like this. At the September board meeting we convened a nominating committee charged with presenting a group of candidates to fill the seats that become vacant. Since there are four seats coming open, they need to come up with four names. At the November 1st members meeting, we will announce the list of names that the nominating committee has produced. At that time, we will also open nominations to the floor so you can nominate people directly. Shortly after the November 7th board meeting ballots will be mailed out to all members.

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Club Events

What's Happening in Radio

Meet Our members

USS Pompanito Report

Member Reports

Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting and General Meeting

On the Air

From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

The California QSO party on October 5-6 marks the start of the fall contest season. Whether you like to contest or not, this is a great time to get on the air and see how that rig and antenna are working. I guess I am a casual contester, since I rarely work the full period of any contest and only work those that interest me. Spending a couple of hours working the club station at the last Field Day renewed my completive spirit to see how many stations I could work in my one hour at the microphone. No, I did not set any club record and the other operators all made more contacts than myself. So what is it that makes this enjoyable and exciting? Well, for one, I used a rig that was totally new to me and I had to learn how to use it as I operated. Second, in my ham shack it's only me, or occasionally my wife peaks in to ask if I am having fun. But for Field Day, there are lots of others coming by and watching you operate. Third, I got to run a frequency for part of my operating time. Being able to hold a frequency and have others calling you, one right after the other, just ads to the fun. I have read about and worked some of the "big gun" stations that take control of a frequency and run it for an entire contest, but I was running 100 watts and actually running a frequency.

So what do I do besides contesting? Well, the last week of August I worked D44AC in Cape Verde on 20M SSB. This was just as exciting for me as contesting, as I had to get through a pileup to make the contact. He was S5, and since my hearing is not the best anymore, I had to work hard at making the contact. Not long after that I had a nice casual contact with an Iowa station on 17M that lasted about 15 minutes. He and I had a common interest in fishing. He was a former commercial salmon fisherman in California, and I spent a summer commercial salmon fishing, so we had lots to talk about.

A few years ago I decided I wanted to try RTTY and PSK31. I had to learn how to configure new software and hook up a digital interface to my rig and computer. Then I had to learn how to use macros in MixW. All of these activities have kept me interested in ham radio and on the air.

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

continued from page 1

Before you start thinking: "I can nominate old K6QRM, he never shows up at meetings." people can only be nominated if they are willing to serve. The nominating committee has to ask each potential candidate. Some of us don't like to be pointed out in a meeting and that may cause a person who would otherwise make a great board member shy away when being asked in front of everyone. So there is a more private way. You can nominate yourself. The easiest way to do this is to send me an email at WA6UDS@arrl.net. I will pass the information on to the nominating committee.

I urge you to consider serving on the board. We have just significantly upgraded our repeater system, we have moved to improve communications with people who serve our public service events, we are working to redesign our web site, we are changing the way we manage our nets, we have a new editor for QSA-5 who is reshaping our newsletter, and we are cooperating more with other bay area clubs. In short it is a very interesting time to serve on the board. Moreover we need your insights and opinions to make the Marin Amateur Radio Society a better club.

Board members are limited to three consecutive terms, in the hope that we get new blood on the board. If you don't step up and volunteer to serve, we get the same "good ole boys" every year. The board is not a boys only club either and we could really use more women on the board.

73 de WA6UDS.

Club Events

Annual Christmas Party

Our annual Christmas party will be on December 14th at the Club House. We will serve turkey and all of the fixings. As usual there will be raffle prizes and good cheer. Save the date.



OK, so now you are thinking this is just another HF guy. Well I started in VHF and still enjoy working it. From my base station I have had some interesting conversations not only on our repeater, but on others in the San Francisco Bay Area. I like to check into our VHF net on Sundays as well. By the time you read this I will have also completed my first public service event for the club. I am looking forward to doing something on ham radio that I've never done before, using my VHF mobile rig for public service.

What's the point of all of this? It's to encourage you get on the air and use your ham radio in whatever mode or frequency you like to use. As hams, we need to be active on the air. After all, we're communicators.

What's Happening in Radio

California QSO Party

1600Z, Oct 5 to 2159Z, Oct 6, 2013

California stations are the DX. Great time to sharpen your operating skills.

PACIFICON 2013- October 11-13, 2013

Marriott Santa Clara Hotel
2700 Mission College Blvd.
Santa Clara, California

- 75 Technical forums
- Large vendor show
- Antenna forum
- Meet Gordon West
- Swap meet

FCC Actions

FCC dismisses Petition for Rulemaking by Massachusetts ham who wanted to amend Part 97 Amateur Service rules to allow encryption of amateur communications during emergency operations. He asserted that the privacy of individuals should be protected by encryption when needed during emergency communications. Such encryption would be used to meet medical privacy requirements and protect information sensitive to logistical emergency needs. The FCC considered more than 300 comments and stated that "the record does not support the assertions that the prohibition on encrypted amateur communications is impairing the ability of the Amateur Radio community to provide effective support to public safety agencies during emergencies."

Meet our Members



Mike Ransom AI6II

I got interested in ham radio in San Diego when my cousin Brad – then WA6LJT brought down a shortwave receiver during a weekend visit in 1962. Later that year I got my Novice ticket, WN6CIO and then my General, WB6KMH (I missed the deadline to upgrade and keep the CIO call) about a year and a half later. My first station was a Knightkit T-150 transmitter that I built a Hallicrafters SX-111 receiver and a trap vertical atop the garage. I upgraded to Advanced when the FCC started taking away privileges.

In college I operated WA6DOT, the first ham club at UCSD and occasionally participated in college nets. I moved to the Bay Area after college and my license lapsed. In the early 80's I got back into ham radio and quickly upgraded through a number of calls including KA6ZZU (novice), N6ITK (general) and KF6MV (advanced), operating mostly from sailboats.

As 1992 spilled into 1993, I spent a month operating on Pohnpe, Micronesia as V63MV. I upgraded to Amateur Extra class in 1994 as AB6ZP and then changed to the vanity call sign NZ6P in 1998 to get a shorter call. In January 2011, I grabbed the AI6II call which is less prone to being miscopied in weak signal CW contacts. It also seems more easily spotted in a CW pile up because of the melodic dit-dit dit-dit!

I spend most of my time chasing DX on the HF bands and probably 95% of the time I operate CW. Current DXCCC count is 219, but there are still a lot of unworked entities out there, so the hunt continues! My VHF activities are focused on the local repeaters when I am mobile with an occasional spot helping out on public service events for MARC. I regularly check into the Sunday K6GWE nets, 75 meters and VHF as well as the 40 meter PARG CW net which meets every morning on 7.034 MHz.

I am running an Elecraft K-line shack (K3 - P3 - KPA500 - KAT500) with an Alpha Delta 80/40 meter dipole and am currently working on getting a two element tribander up on a 35 foot mast. I am a bit addicted to keys and paddles and have several that I have collected over time. My main key is a fantastic ZN-SLR brass paddle made by Tony Baleno. I use a Begali Spark Straight for SKCC (Straight Key Century Club) contacts. I recently bought a used KX3 that doubles as my mobile rig when I go 4-wheeling and camping and my second receiver in my shack. It is an SDR (Software Defined Radio) so I interface it with CW Skimmer to spot CW stations in a 96 KHz bandwidth using my own antenna. Unlike using a DX Cluster for spotting, I see only stations that my antenna can pick up.

I am a member of MARC, REDEXA, FISTS, SKCC, PARG and ARRL.

I have a second HF station in my shack that takes me back to the 1970's. It is a complete Drake-line tube setup featuring the Drake 4B twins, a L4B linear, matching speaker, manual tuner, and watt meter. I use a J. H. Bunnell Navy Fireproof key nicely mounted on ceramic base and just got a nice Electro Voice 638 mic so I can try running SSB. It is totally old school with this setup including hand logging.

The latest development in the shack is RemoteHamRadio giving me an East Coast presence using RemoteRig's K3 Twins control box and an Internet connection. The K3 in my shack talks to the remote K3 in New York, and vola! instant vacation travelling to the East Coast without leaving the comfort of my own QTH. With so much ham radio to do it is a good thing I finally retired from 33 years of teaching at the College of Marin last year!

USS Pampanito Report

Our September 14th Dedicated Day of Operation (DDO) got under way on a cool, somewhat foggy Saturday morning aboard the USS Pampanito, SS-383. The RO's at NJ6VT were Bill Stewart, KF6RMK and I. Bill had NJ6VT up and running shortly after 1030 hours. The short skip on 40 meters was quite good for a change at mid-morning and several QSO's were made including a few QSO's with my buddies in Pine Grove - Ed, W6WRL, and Howard, KK6OB. Both reported S9 signals from NJ6VT. There was a Rte. 66 QSO party going on and Bill worked one of the stations, W6C, near San Bernardino. Later, we worked another Rte. 66 station, W6E, in Barstow. The RO there was our buddy Roger, KA9UDA, who has given the boat many QSO's over the years both on CW and SSB. With poor conditions for longer skip distances at the time, Bill managed to work the USS Midway, NI6IW, in San Diego with the help of a timely relay from K6WWL. Bill also worked K6KPH in Bolinas on CW. For the most part the entire 40 meter band was fairly quiet with only 13 QSO's being made for the day.

Traffic aboard the boat was pretty light with several competing events taking place nearby. There was the America's Cup race and the Ghirardelli Chocolate Festival just up the road near Aquatic Park. Visitors came aboard in bunches along with periods of little or no traffic.

Around 1300 hours, Bill and I went top side to catch the America's Cup race. The weather had cleared and the winds were up! The U.S. boat, Oracle, won the first race beating the NZ by a considerable margin after the NZ boat nearly capsized. The second race had to be cancelled because the wind speed maximum had been exceeded.

After the races were over for the day, more visitors came aboard the Pampanito. One of the visitors that came aboard was Sergey Nikiforov, RX3DUX, from Moscow, Russia, who now resides in Mt. View and holds an Amateur Extra class ticket, NS6W. Sergey expressed interest in being a guest RO on the Pampanito. I will be in touch with him and look forward to having Sergey operate NJ6VT.

Our next DDO will be Saturday, September 28, 2013 - the forth Saturday of the month operation. Michael Fischer, K6MLF, will take that DDO along with a Guest RO. Our regularly scheduled 2nd Saturday of the month DDO will be on October 12th. Let Michael, K6MLF, or me know if you would like to participate. I want to thank Bill Stewart, KF6RMK for helping out with this DDO.

73,

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



USS Pampanito

Member Reports

A Different View of Message Handling for Emergency Communications

Pinky Picard, W6FQS

I agree with most of Michael's commentary about traffic handling nets being good practice. Good practice for routine traffic handling sitting at home with your radio. It would also provide practice learning the standard phonetics. Nationwide listings of HF, UHF/VHF traffic nets and many other interests are provided in the ARRL Net Directory.

Where I would differ with Michael is in the use of the standard ARRL message format. Many nets do not use the format. In the event of a major emergency, especially in a foreign country, the ARRL advises all amateurs of the frequencies being used and requests that we do not transmit on the frequency unless there is traffic you can handle for your area.

If you tried to send a message in the ARRL format you would very likely be asked to clear the frequency for emergency traffic. Allow me to cite an example. There was a major earthquake in Mexico City. All phone lines except a very few in parts of the city were inoperative. Many Latino residents here in Chico had family members living there and were naturally concerned about their welfare. They were calling the Chico Police and were given my phone number. I received many calls. I simply asked the callers for their phone number, the name of the person or persons they were worried about and their Mexico City address and phone number. The amateur operator in Mexico City was operating on emergency power, had been at the mike for many hours and was obviously exhausted. He had runners available to check out addresses in areas where no phones were working. I knew from monitoring what the situation was and what information was wanted. I sent a number of inquiries, several of which were answered hours later.

As a member of the Butte County Sheriff's Communications Reserve, I assisted in providing communications for firemen working a forest fire in a remote canyon. I had been called upon to provide communication from firemen down in the canyon back to the base camp where an amateur station was setup. The fireman in the canyon could not contact the base camp. We relayed requests for drip torches, bulldozers etc. These are the realities of genuine emergency communications which are far different from formal net traffic handling.

Minutes for Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, September 12, 2013

Board Members present: Curtis Ardourel, Dave Hodgson, Phil Dunlap, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, John Boyd, Cal Anber, Ed Essick, and Randy Jenkins.

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

The agenda was approved as amended. Ed Essick, K6ELE was welcomed to the Board.

The minutes of the August 08, 2013 meeting were approved as published.

Randy reported on a notice from Marin Public Works, under correspondence.

Treasurer: Dave submitted reports for August. The report showed \$2,290.00 income and \$1,671.56 expenses; and total cash assets of \$39,759.51.

Committee reports:

Membership- We have added two renewals by PayPal.

Recreation – The picnic date will be this Sunday, September 15; at Piper Park. Randy will make the Costco run.

Public Service – The ZBC Dipsea Hike is completed. The Escape from Alcatraz and BCF Peak Hike are coming up.

Technical- Installation of equipment at the Tam West site was planned. The upgrades at Barnabe are pending rack space. There was a question about the Tam Middle Peak site de-sense issue. The antenna does not appear to be the problem.

Comm Truck- No Report.

VE Liaison – Randy reported that there would be a session on Saturday, November 23.

RACES – No report.

Education: Working on scheduling a class for October.

Speakers – Working on it.

Old Business:

Website Redesign – No update.

Ham Shack Procedures – No report.

Minutes for General Meeting

Friday, September 06, 2013

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

The meeting was suspended for 30 minutes to eat.

When the meeting resumed at 20:00, a round of introductions was the first order of business. Thirteen members or guests were present.

There will no presentation after the business meeting.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

There were no minutes of the August 02, 2013 general membership meeting.

President Ardourel reported on the actions at the August 08 Board of Director's Meeting. The Board welcomed Ed Essick, K6ELE, as a new Board member. Ed also agreed to become the Editor of QSA-5.

There were three reports under "Fun with Amateur Radio."

President Ardourel announced Jonathan Grose, KJ6TGX, as a returning member.

Secretary Jenkins reported that communications were the garbage bill and ads.

Treasurer Dave Hodgson was not present and submitted no report.

Membership: No report.

Recreation: The 2013 picnic will return to Piper Park on Sunday, 9/15; please RSVP to KF6AKU. The Christmas party was scheduled for December 14.

The Technical Committee: Doug reported on the simulcast system. The new system was working. There will be some upgrades to the transmitter on Barnabe. Tam West will become a stand-alone repeater on 147.330, PL 179.9. The San Pedro back-up repeater on 147.330 is currently on the air.

Comm Truck: No change.

Education: Randy needs to talk with Dave. We have two potential students from Marin Cyclists.

VE Liaison: Randy reported that the next session would be November 23.

RACES: There will be a quarterly meeting 9/21.

Old business: None

New Business:

A nominating committee for the 2014 Board will be appointed. Candidates are being sought.

Curtis gave an explanation of the recommended changes to the By-Laws.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:51 hrs.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

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

On the Air

Contest Calendar

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

Oceania DX Contest, SSB, 0800Z, Oct 5 to 0800Z, Oct 6

California QSO Party, 1600Z, Oct 5 to 2159Z, Oct 6

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB, 0000Z, Oct 26 to 2400Z, Oct 27

Emergency Communications Provided by Colorado Hams during Floods

More than 50 ARES volunteers provided needed emergency communications in the recent Colorado floods. They manned communication stations for Red Cross shelters as well as state and local emergency operation centers. In some communities the only means of communication was via ham radio.

Over the past year Boulder County ARES volunteers created the Mountain Emergency Radio Network (MERN) consisting of two repeaters that had backup generators powered by propane. These repeaters were the only communications facilities that were in operation after the floods and they provided emergency communication for the towns of Estes Park, Lyons, and Jamestown. The ARRL Colorado Section Manager said that these repeaters provided critical communication between these towns and emergency evacuation centers and shelters.

Ham radio instrumental in the develop of Vonage Internet phone service

Jeff Pulver, the co-founder Vonage, in a recent presentation at a communications conference in San Francisco, discussed how ham radio influenced his interest in and development of VoIP technology. Vonage is a popular implementation of Internet based phone service. Pulver worked with the FCC to develop the VoIP standards implemented by the FCC. He was licensed at age 12 and created his own software for station logging. He became interested in ham radio when he listened as his uncle talked to people all over the world on the radio. Pulver found ham radio as the way to satisfy the loneliness of a 12 old kid in Long Island. When he found out that an Israeli company had developed the first Internet phone service in 1995, he was amazed that software would allow him to talk to people just like ham radio. He went on to develop one of the first free VoIP services. His current focus is on a Twilio-based iOS and Android app called Zula, created to enable better communication among teams.

Wayne Green, W2NSD, SK

A major force in ham radio for over 50 years died on September 13th at 91. Green founded 73 Magazine in 1959 and was colorful editor, also known as El Supremo, to say the least. He was an early supporter for the modes we take for granted today such as RTTY, FM, and repeaters. His editorials in the 73 Magazine left little doubt that he had a great mind and was interested in all aspects of ham radio and technology. He traveled the world promoting ham radio and his impact in the developing nations helped many hams to get started in our great hobby. 73 and good DX in the beyond for you Wayne.

Help Wanted!

Please send me your articles, comments, or suggestions for the newsletter. e.essick at comcast dot net

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:

President

Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS 510-595-3494

Vice President

John Boyd KE6ORI 924-04419

Secretary

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089

Treasure:

Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864

Board Members

Cal Anber N6TIA 209-275-5252

Rita Brenden KG6WPN 707-557-5521

Marc Bruvry KF6VNT 492-9292

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

Sunday Emergency Nets

Mark Bruvry and other volunteers

DX Representative of ARRL

Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829

Public Service Event Coordinator

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089

Membership

Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318

Editor of QSA-5

Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715

e.essick@comcast.net

ARRL San Francisco Section Manager

Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG

WEBMASTER

Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948

N1ZKW@ARRL.NET