
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

August 2014

Presidents Corner

I started repairing radios and TVs when I was in the 6th grade. In junior high school I was mentored by Ted MacMillian W6QJA he ran a radio club, the Voice of Tiburon Amateur Radio at Del Mar school. I got my Novice ticket there WN6RIQ. My first QSO on my own rig was made using an R-27/ARC-5 and a T-22/ARC-5 on 40 meters CW. For those of you who aren't as old as I am these were World War II aircraft radios. They were readily available at surplus stores, and can be found on EBay. I had to build a power supply and repair both radios.

The madeleine that sent me into that remembrance was an email from Steve Reynolds K6SDR about the Greenbrae Mini Maker Faire. I was a geek from a very young age. Both my father and both of my grand fathers were tinkers. They made and repaired things and I followed in the family tradition. The way technology was manufactured prior to the Integrated Circuit revolution was by hand. Labor was expensive and skilled and so was that technology. Things were made to be repaired. You could even buy kits from a number of manufacturers. You were expected to maintain your own car.

People's interest in making and modifying things yourself has not gone away but it has changed. Now its goes by other names DIY (Do It Yourself), Open Source, Life Hacks. Make magazine <http://www.magazines.com/make-magazine/9957-MA,default,pd.html#q=make&start=1> (I admit to being a subscriber) produces Maker Faires all around the country. These

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Maker Faire

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From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Public Service with a Passion

During the month of August I participated in two public service events. The Marin Century, which includes the Double Century, on August 2nd and the Holstein 100 on August 16th.

For the Marin Century it was an early start for the riders from Vallecito School in Terra Linda. I was assigned to the rest stop in Point Reyes Station, which was on the 200 mile ride. Several hundred riders came through the rest stop and took advantage of the food, drinks, and facilities that were available. Some riders did not stop, but continued on the course. One volunteer had setup a bike repair station to change tires and make minor adjustments for those riders who needed them. Some of the riders that I talked with were from out of state. These riders were fit, prepared, and had bikes that were very capable of a 200 mile ride.

This made me think of how we ham radio operators also had prepared for our role in the event making sure we were ready. Just as cyclists have a passion for riding, we have a passion for radio. Radio frequencies were programmed, extra batteries or backup rigs were available, and additional antennas were up if needed. The net control was staffed by experienced operators that could efficiently handle radio traffic and keep needed support services flowing. Rest stop operators and SAG drivers (cars/motorcycle) all carried out their assignments and passed radio traffic as needed.



Marin Double Century start (L). Rest stop Pt. Reyes Station (R).



Holstein 100 rest stop Walker Creek

fares are like trade shows for geeks of all kinds. You will find artists, hackers, robot makers, steam punks. It is a very different crowd from what you find at a Ham swap meet. I attended the first Maker Faire in San Mateo in 2006 and I have been to several since then.

In 2010 I took a nine year old child, the son of woman who works for my girlfriend. He showed the same kind of excitement I felt when I was first taken to the surplus stores that once graced Market Street in San Francisco. I was pleased and surprised to find that the same spirit that got me into Ham radio was alive and well in the twenty first century. The full blown Maker Faire in San Mateo is a bit of a pull to drive to and a mile and a half walk from the parking but we are having a mini version right here in Marin on Saturday, September 13, 2015 at Bon Aire Center from 10:00 Am to 4:00 PM.

RACES will have a booth there. They are asking for people to work the booth and talk about ham radio. (See the article on page 4. ed.)

What's Happening in Radio?

California QSO Party (CQP)

Ed Essick, K6ELE

The CQP takes place first weekend in October. Stations outside of California work stations in California only. This is a chance to become the DX station from your home QTH. Stations from the US and DX will want work you and it's a chance to be on the receiving end of a pileup. Rules and more information is available at: <http://cqp.org/>

Last year I worked 255 stations in 3 hours of operating time and had lots of fun in the contest. For the first time I operated 80M SSB primarily, making 110 contacts. It is a way to improve your operating skills and learn more about your antennas and equipment.

Hope to hear you in the CQP this year.

On The Air

Contest Calendar

ARRL September VHF Contest 1800Z, Sep 13 to 0300Z, 9/15
Washington State Salmon Run 1600Z, 9/20 to 2400Z, 9/21
CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, 9/27 to 2400Z, 9/28
Texas QSO Party 1400Z, 9/27 to 2000Z, 9/28

See complete list at: <http://www.>

RACES-ACS at Maker Faire in Greenbrae

This September 13, Marin RACES-ACS has a booth at the Greenbrae mini-maker faire at the Bon Air center. Our purpose is to highlight some of the latest aspects of ham radio, enabled by the internet and low cost computing. We will also showcase recent emergency communications developments. The Maker Faire audiences are by nature technically disposed, and open to novel repurposing of everyday items. We are arranging a series of demos and audience participation activities. We need volunteer helpers for 2 hour stints at the booth. Please contact Rob Rowlands NZ6J at rowlands47@gmail.com or 415 225 917



ARRL Looks Back

Continuing through the 1970s, *QST* articles written by Lew McCoy, W1ICP, helped Novice licensees and other new hams by describing various transmitters, amplifiers, antennas, and station accessories, as well as coaching newcomers on general radio knowledge and techniques.

The first two-way Amateur Radio laser contact (at 475 THz) took place in 1971 between WA8WEJ and W4UDS, operating inside a building of the US Air Force Academy.

Over the years, many other radio services tried to take 220 MHz away from the Amateur Service. In 1971, the Electronic Industries Association petitioned the FCC to reallocate approximately one-half of the band to the Citizens Radio Service. The effort failed.

John Troster, W6ISQ, continued his fine humorous articles and spoofs in *QST* during the 1970s, amusing us greatly. His "fictional" tales often reminded us of real experiences we had along the same lines.



Slow-Scan TV on HF was gaining in popularity in the 1970s. [*The Radio Amateur's Handbook* 1974]

A May 1972 *QST* article introduced readers to a new device that was beginning to have a few practical applications -- the light-emitting diode (LED). As the Apollo space missions began, W4HHK and K2RIW developed receiving systems to listen in on the 2287.5 MHz signals from the program's spacecraft, as reported in June 1972 *QST*.

During the 1970s, interest continued in electronic keyers, and many articles on the topic appeared in *QST*.

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2014 W1AW/6 Schedule

W1AW comes to California on 10/1 to 10/7. The scheduled operators and times are shown in charts like the one below. To see all of the operating times go to: <http://www.w1srd.com/w1aw-schedule/index.php?date=2014-10-01>

Wed 10/1	UTC	0000-0200	0200-0400	0400-0600	0600-0800	0800-1000	1000-1200	1200-1400	1400-1600	1600-1800	1800-2000	2000-2200	2200-0000
Local	Tue 9:00 - 6 pm - 7 pm	Tue 9:00 - 7 pm - 8 pm	Tue 9:00 - 8 pm - 11 pm	Tue 9:00 - 11 pm - 1 am	Wed 10/1 - 1 am - 3 am	Wed 10/1 - 3 am - 5 am	Wed 10/1 - 5 am - 7 am	Wed 10/1 - 7 am - 9 am	Wed 10/1 - 9 am - 11 am	Wed 10/1 - 11 am - 1 pm	Wed 10/1 - 1 pm - 5 pm	Wed 10/1 - 3 pm - 6 pm	
160m	CW		KJLM										
	SSB												
	RTTY												
80m	CW		K0XX	KE1B	WRRC								
	SSB		N2GQ	AK4Y	W1SRD								
	RTTY		W4UAT	W0XX	N0ES								
40m	CW	K0MM	W5SX	W1TV	WRRC		N2GQ					K8SRZ	K8SRZ
	SSB		W1SRD	W1SRD	N2GQ			N2GQ	N2GQ				
	RTTY		K8ELE	W5SX									
30m	CW	W4UAT	K0MM	WRRC	W4UAT		W4UAT			N2GQ	N2GQ	N2GQ	
	RTTY		W0K0Z	W4UAT									
20m	CW	W0AT	N2GQ				W5SX	K0XX	N0X	KE1B	N0X	N2GQ	
	SSB	W1SRD	K0RF	N2GQ				K8SRZ	K0MM	K0MM	K0MM		
	RTTY	W5SX						W0SI	W4UAT	W4UAT	K8ELE		
	RTTY							N2GQ	N2GQ	W0AT			
17m	CW	KJLM								N2GQ	W0AT	KE1B	
	SSB	W5EE							WRRC	N2GQ	K0RF	KE1B	
	RTTY								W0SI	W0SI			
	CW	K0XX							K0XX	W5SX	K0XX	W5SX	

Your editor will be operating as W1AW/6 on the following days and I hope to work some club members.

- 10/1- 40M RTTY 1900-2100
- 10/2 - 20M SSB 1100-1300, 40M RTTY 2100-2300
- 10/3 - 20M RTTY 1100-1300
- 10/6 - 20M SSB 1500-1700
- 10/7 - 40M RTTY 2100-2300

New developments included automatic character and word spacing and solid-state memories for repeating often-used messages such as CQs and contest exchanges. In late 1973, after discussions that spanned many years, the ARRL Board of Directors voted to establish the ARRL Foundation.

The log-periodic dipole array and its great utility in amateur use were described by K4EWG in the November 1973 *QST*.



KINGMAN REEF
This remote reef is located 820 miles south of Hawaii. During the 30's it was an emergency landing station for the Pan American Clippers flying between the U.S. and New Zealand. KP6KR was the first amateur operation from this point -- 900 feet long and 6 feet high. The expedition was organized and operated by the Northern California DX Club and sponsored by the Northern California DX Foundation, Inc. During the 29 hour, 43 minute operating period, 5535 QSO's were made. Operation was on the 7, 14, 21 and 28 megahertz bands.

EQUIPMENT: TANK, 2FT104's, various VFO's, 1 PL3100B amplifier. Antennas were the Gain 144VQ and 184VQ.

OPERATORS: Bob Farnes, K6AHY, "Tom" Egan, W6SAT, Pete Strubbe, W6BGL, Jim Ruffolo, W4JCEB.

The back side of the KP6KR QSL card from the 1874 DXpedition to the Pacific atoll. [Tom Roscoe, K8CX, hamgallery.com collection]

Amateur DXpeditions increased in popularity during the 1970s. These ranged from casual "holiday" operation by businessmen or tourists to stand-out expeditions, such as the KP6KR Kingman Reef operation in 1974. That adventure included a two-day search to find the island, 5535 contacts in just under 30 hours of operation, and a white-knuckle departure during gale-force winds.

QST articles in the 1970s often reported on the progress of both amateur TV (ATV) on the UHF bands and slow-scan TV (SSTV) on the HF bands, as well as showing station equipment and setups.

Radio contesting started to become more automated during the 1970s. In the February 1975 *QST*, WA4HQW presented "The Contester," a semi-automatic contest station controller that sent CW, checked dupe sheets, recorded the time, filled in the log, and kept a running contact count. One of WA4HQW's observations has been overtaken by events: "There are things that no machine can do, such as copy two or three CW signals at once, which will leave the human operator king for a long time to come."

By 1974, *QST* was publishing reports of the League's preparations -- already in progress -- for the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) to address the allocation of the limited radio spectrum among radio amateurs and other users. WARC-1979 had a very positive outcome for the Amateur Service. -- *Al Brogdon, W1AB*

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USS Pampanito Report

Our regularly scheduled Dedicated Day of Operation (DDO) for August 9, 2014 got underway at NJ6VT around 1045 hours on the USS Pampanito. Our guest RO's were Wassim Nassif, WN6WJN, and Doug McCasland, KJ6OYJ. Wassim took the morning shift and Doug operated in the afternoon.

Band conditions on 40 meters were spotty, with short skip running to about 1130 hours. After that, the 40 meter band opened up somewhat to southern California and San Diego. One notable QSO was had with the USS Potomac, NE6JP, President Roosevelt's original yacht now operating in San Francisco Bay. The Potomac was heading back to Jack London Square in Oakland when Wassim, WN6WJN worked NE6JP.

Visitor traffic aboard the boat was good and there were times when it was actually quite heavy. We had two gals from England aboard that wanted to know everything about the Pampanito. They asked more questions about the boat than the last 100 visitors did! It's good to talk with visitors who are genuinely interested in the Pampanito! On the other hand, another visitor's only question was "How do I get out of here?" I directed him forward.

I want to thank both Wassim, WN6WJN, and Doug, KJ6OYJ, for stopping by the USS Pampanito to help out. Their help was much appreciated! Our next scheduled DDO is set for Saturday, September 13, 2014. Please let me know if you can help out.

73,

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



Minutes for Board Meeting

Thursday, August 14, 2014

Board Members present: Curtis Ardourel, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, Ed Essick, John Boyd, Rita Brenden, and Randy Jenkins.

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

The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the July 10, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted.

Randy reported on bills, a letter and a check from the Marin Elections Department, QSL cards, and ads. Curtis will respond to a letter offering a donation of 1920's radio books.

Treasurer: Dave submitted reports for July. The report showed \$2,550.00 income and \$1,428.25 expenses; and total cash assets stated as \$47,444.47.

Committee reports:

Membership- We have 74 members for 2014. There was a question about non-members running the net.

Public Service – The Marin Century was August 2. The Holstein 100 is Saturday, August 16. Hats and signs were discussed.

Technical- Doug reported that he is waiting on getting the duplexers for Tam West to the tech in September.

Comm Truck- No Change.

VE Liaison – 2014 dates are September 28, and November 23.

Education - A General Class is scheduled in Richmond starting in September. There was a question about an Extra Class.

Speakers – Doug reported that he is still working on Bill Hillendahl for September. Ed Fong is unavailable for the rest of the year.

Building - No Report.

Picnic - Doug reported that all dates in September were booked. He will look at October 12, 18 & 19. Pacificon is Oct 10-12.

Old Business:

Updated Club Logo – Doug will talk to Steve on Saturday.

Ham Shack Procedures – Doug is working on them.

The Sunday Nets – No issues

Parking Signs – Is Cal working on this?

Inventory of Club Assets – Doug is working on it.

Building Inspection – Ed got two bids. There was a motion to proceed with the \$730.00 bid. There will be a contract to review.

AKU/ORI/Pass.

New Business:

Computer trade with Mike Ransom. – Mike wants to trade for a radio and a keyer. Doug will clarify the equipment and is authorized to make the trade. BQF/ORI/Pass

Next meeting: September 11, 2014.

No minutes were taken at the August 01 General Membership Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:31 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.

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The Marin Amateur Radio Society is a club organized to promote Amateur Radio. The club was founded in 1933 with a club house in Mill Valley. The club has regular membership meetings on the first Friday of the month at 7:30 pm. Pizza and salad are served.

Marin Amateur Radio Society W6SG.NET, membership@w6sg.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. See the club website for signup instructions. The W6SG emergency HF net check-in is at 9 am on 3.915 Mh.

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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

Treasurer:

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

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