

# QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

January 2014

## Presidents Corner

**Curtis Ardourel**

Here it is almost the end of January. I have finally gotten used to writing 2014. Since this is a newsletter I will begin with some news. All the votes have been counted and there were no hanging chads. All the candidates running for the board were reelected. That includes me. If the board elects me president again you will have to sit through another year of my ramblings in this column. Well I guess it could be worse. Moreover the amendment to the by-laws passed. The box scores should appear elsewhere in the newsletter.

Since it is February your membership renewal was due January 1. The deadline for renewal is May 31, 2014. I hope you will consider renewing if you haven't. To put this in perspective, the QSA-5 mailing list has 67 members but so far we only have 40 current members. So get out there and renew! You will continue to receive QSA-5 until May 31. There I am done being the hall monitor. Kinda ironic since I was often the one cutting class when I was in school.

Those of you who check into the Sunday morning net know that we have had a number of people volunteering to be net control. I want to thank Tom Soskin W6MTS, Marc Bruvry KF6VNT, Rich Cochran AG6QR, Steve Toquinto KB6HOH, Sean Leite KK6FBI, Tony Leite KK6FEO, Janielle Nathan KK6NKV and anyone who I left out for being net control.

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## From the Editor

**Ed Essick, K6ELE**

Where is the rain? As I set here in late January writing this I realize that those projects I usually do in the spring after the rain could be done now. Some of the projects include trouble shooting the high SWR on my Butternut vertical, extending my antenna mast another 10 feet, and repairing the radials for the vertical that the dog has discovered. Are there ham projects you need to accomplish?

Curtis, our president, has once again done a great job on our website in setting up the Sunday Net Control operator signup procedure. If you want to operate either the VHF or HF as net control operator, click on the Club Nets link on the home page. The Club Nets page has a link (Sign Up) that lets you sign up for Net Control operator. You will get an email the Saturday before you are to operate reminding you that you signed up.

You should have received an email from me by the time you read this. I am again requesting that each of you consider providing me your ham profile for the Meet Our Members column in QSA5. I try to attend every monthly meeting and for the most part I see the same club members each month. Many more of you have attended our annual picnic, at least the two I have attended since joining the club, so I know you are out there. It would be great if we could "meet you" through your QSA5 profile. All you have to do is email me and provide some answers to the question list I sent in my email to you and include your picture. I will be happy to compose the profile from the questions if you like or publish it as you have sent it.

### IN THIS ISSUE

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In order for people to improve their operating skills we want to encourage this. To that end we have developed an online tool for running the net. This tool is intended to help out in a number of ways. First you can sign up in advance so we know someone is intending to run the net on a particular day.

We want you to sign up four weeks in advance so as I write this on the 25th of January the first open signup is February 16<sup>th</sup>. When you sign up your email address will show up in the list. On the Saturday before the net you will receive an email reminder with a link that will take you to the online tool. The tool includes a script for running the net. The club QST for the week, and of course the roll call. We also want to track where people are checking in from, although this is not required.

You can use the tool in a couple of ways. You can use the web page to record people's check in and location. Alternately you can print out the most recent roll call and fill it in with a pen. Later you can enter the roll on the web. We will be putting a computer in the shack at the club house. I will demonstrate the application at the February 7th membership meeting. I urge you to visit our web site and check out the new and revised Club Nets page.

I apologize for the rather dull content of the column. I will try to do better next month.

73 de WA6UDS

## Silent Keys

Mark Nowell (WI7YN) Manager of HRO Oakland passed away from a heart attack recently. I dealt with him a number of times shopping at Oakland HRO over the years. (ed.)

## What's Happening in Radio

### SouthWest Ohio DX Association trademarks DX terms

The club has trademarked "DX Dinner" and "DXpedition of the Year" preventing other clubs from using these terms. Many hams have responded to this on message boards and blogs stating their opposition to such a practice.

### Propagation Forecast

Solar activity weakened during the first part of January. The solar flux dropped to a low of 112 for the January 21-23 period. Toward the end of this month it is forecast to rise and peak in February at 180.

### Alpha Amplifiers Maintains Support for older models

After announcing they were dropping repair of their older amplifiers, Alpha Amplifiers has reversed course for some models. "We'll continue to fix our amplifiers as long as we can. We will continue to offer repairs on the Alpha 91b, 99, 89 and 87A amplifiers - as long as we can get the parts.

### FCC News

The number of ham radio operators continues to grow in the US. As of 12/31/13 the FCC database had 717,201 licenses, which are up from 709,575 at the end of 2012. A breakdown by license class shows Technicians as the largest group, at 349,163, followed by Generals at 167,257, Amateur Extras at 133,391, and Advanced licensees at 54,293. Slightly more than 13,000 Novice licensees remain on record too. The FCC no longer issues the Novice or Advanced class license. Technician numbers have grown by 8.2 percent over the past decade, with an impressive comeback since 2007 after the population had plummeted from a peak of 338,334 in March 2000. The General class population has risen by slightly more than 18 percent over the past 10 years. But the Amateur Extra class has shown the most remarkable growth over the past decade, climbing by slightly more than 27 percent. FCC-issued club station licenses are also at an all-time high in the FCC database at 11,363.

## Meet our Members

We need your profile.



**WE WANT YOU!**

## USS Pampanito Report

The DDO for Saturday, January 11, 2014 took place aboard the USS Pampanito starting around 1045 hours. It was a single operator effort this time. I was able to make a number of QSO's on the 40 and 17 meter bands. The best DX of the day was on 17 meter CW with K3Y/KH6 in Hawaii and JH2X/2in Japan. Radio conditions on the 40 meter band were poor with an S7 noise level and a troublesome "squeegee" parked right on 7260 kc. I think a good part of the interference that we pick up on the boat is associated with the nearby SF trolley system. In spite of the S7 noise level, several QSO's were made on 40 meter SSB. No other museum ships were heard on or around 7260 kc this time around.

All in all it was a fairly quite day aboard the boat. The only real excitement was provided by a gal who dropped her iPad through a space between one of the engines and a floor plate. The iPad landed below on the second deck and had to be fetched by one of the Docents from the Watch Shack. In general, the visitor traffic was light with relatively few groups of visitors. I secured NJ6VT a little after 1500 hours. Your CO was getting cold!

I wish we had more participation aboard the boat for these DDO's. Single handed operations aboard the boat are not the best way to go and a second RO is really needed. The radio club needs your help, so please consider volunteering some time to help out. Our next scheduled DDO is set for Saturday, February 8, 2014. 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, January 09, 2014

Board Members present: Curtis Ardourel, Dave Hodgson, Phil Dunlap, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, John Boyd, Ed Essick, Cal Anber, Rita Brenden, Marc Bruvry and Randy Jenkins. Members present: Michael Fischer, Steve Fischer.

The meeting was called to order by Curtis Ardourel at 19:31 hours.

The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the December 12, 2013 meeting were approved as published.

Curtis reported a letter expressing interest in the building, and a postcard from the Marin Volunteer Center, under correspondence.

Randy reported that the remaining items were junk mail.

Treasurer: Dave submitted reports for December. The report showed \$2,447.00 income and \$1,551.11 expenses; and total cash assets of \$43,686.22.

Committee reports:

Membership- We have about 25 renewals.

Recreation – No report, tabled until April.

Public Service – The web page is being updated with 2014 dates.

Technical- Doug is planning a trip to Tam West.

Comm Truck- No Change. It will be tarped.

VE Liaison – 2014 dates are not yet set,

RACES – Quarterly meeting dates are posted on their webpage.

Education: No report.

Speakers – Discussed

QSA-5 – Ed needs profiles of the members.

Old Business:

Updated Club Logo – Preliminary designs by Steve Fischer were discussed. Steve has more direction.

Board Election – A motion was made to have the Nominating Committee tabulate the ballots, and report the results to the Board by e-mail. BQF/VNT/Pass.

Website Redesign – No report, tabled until February meeting.

Ham Shack Procedures – No report.

The Sunday Nets - Curtis made a presentation on the new web page, which is available.

New Business:

Parking Augie's Van – A motion was made that the Board does not care if it is parked outside overnight. TIA/BQF/Pass.

Next meeting: February 13, 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:07 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

## Minutes for General Meeting

**Saturday, December 14, 2013**

The annual Christmas Party was held in lieu of the monthly membership meeting.

President Ardourel called the assembly to order at 18:40 hrs.

The minutes of the November 01, 2013 general membership meeting were approved as published in QSA-5. No correspondence was reported.

President Ardourel announced actions taken at the December 12 Board of Directors meeting: Renewals will be e-mailed to current and past members. 2014 election ballots will be mailed out. By-laws proposed changes were in November's QSA-5, and are available on the website.

New members were announced, KK6IKA and KK6IKB, students from our fall Technician class. Both students passed their Technician and General tests.

Old Business: 2013 is the club's 80th anniversary year.

New Business: President Ardourel announced the 2013 awards. Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU was named as "Ham-of-the Year".

Daniel Dufficy, KH8AF was named as the "Hi Roberts Award" winner.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 18:53 hrs, and the party continued.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

**Friday, January 03, 2014**

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

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

There will be presentation after the business meeting, by Steve Fischer, K6ETA.

The agenda was adopted as amended.

The minutes of the December 2013 general membership meeting were tabled.

President Ardourel reported on the actions at the December Board of Director's Meeting. There is now a link on the website to the Amazon "Smile" program, which will make a 0.5% donation to the club for purchases made through the program.

There were two reports under "Fun with Amateur Radio.

Secretary Jenkins reported that communications were junk mail.

Treasurer Dave Hodgson was not present and submitted no written report.

Membership: One new member reported a call-sign change. Renewals will go out by e-mail.

Recreation: Hibernating

Public Service: No report.

The Technical Committee: Doug is hoping to get up to the West Tam site.

Comm Truck: No change.

Education: Randy reported the Technician class was completed

VE Liaison: Randy reported that we need more VE's.

RACES: No report.

QSA-5: Editor Ed Essick was soliciting profiles of members for publication in QSA-5.

Old business: Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU was acknowledged, as "Ham-of-the Year."

New Business: None

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

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

Steve Fischer, K6ETA, made a presentation on a USB software defined receiver, and associated software.

## On the Air

### Contest Calendar

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

10-10 Int. Winter Contest, SSB: 0001Z, Feb 1 to 2359Z, Feb 2

Mexico RTTY International Contest: 1800Z, Feb 1 to 1759Z, Feb 2

Vermont QSO Party: 0000Z, Feb 1 to 2400Z, Feb 2

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest: 0000Z, Feb 8 to 2400Z, Feb 9, 2014

ARRL Inter. DX Contest CW: 0000Z, Feb 15 to 2400Z, Feb 16

North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 22 to 0559Z, Feb 23

### Amsterdam Island DXpedition

The long awaited DXpedition to Amsterdam Island, located in the South Indian Ocean is in operation. Amsterdam is high on the list of those who chase DX as a needed contact. The team had to travel 1900+ miles, 9 days at sea, from Fremantle Australia through the rough "roaring 40s" of the southern hemisphere to reach the Island. More information is available on the FT5ZM website <http://www.amsterdamdx.org/about-dxpedition/>.



### ARRL Centennial QSO Party

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party is a year-long operating event that celebrates hams making contacts. In the end you will have accumulated points, worked new stations and made new friends all over the world.

The Centennial QSO Party is made-up of two main activities: (1) W1AW operating portable in each state and most territories; and (2) The Centennial Points Challenge which is the accumulation of points from qualifying contacts made throughout 2014. To have a score listed online in the Points Challenge competition, logs must be submitted through the Logbook of the World (LoTW) system.

W1AW will be on the air from every state and most territories, and it will be easy to work WAS working only W1AW portable operations. This is the first ARRL-sponsored operating event where every member is worth at least one point, so work as many points as you can during 2014! Earn awards based upon points, working all states or working W1AW portable in every state and territory.

## Would you like to serve as a Volunteer Examiner?

Some of us remember when we had to travel to an FCC field office, in order to test to upgrade your license. There was an office in San Francisco, it was open on certain weekdays, and candidates could only test, one time in a month.

The adoption of the Volunteer Examiner program made it simpler and more convenient for people to obtain or upgrade their license. Licensed amateurs who hold a General Class or higher can be accredited by a Volunteer Exam Coordinator to be a Volunteer Examiner. You have to apply, and must pass an open-book test. Our team has members who are accredited by the ARRL-VEC. We usually hold exams three to four times a year, at the clubhouse. There is a link to more information on our website: [w6sg.net/blog/?page\\_id=752](http://w6sg.net/blog/?page_id=752).

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF  
VE Liaison [ka6bqf@arrl.net](mailto:ka6bqf@arrl.net)

## Election Results

Total Votes Cast (29)

John Boyd KE6ORI (26)  
Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS (29)  
Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ (25)  
Phil Dunlap K6PHD (26)  
Write In KE6RMK (1)

Bylaws  
Yes (25)  
No (2)

Election Committee  
- Douglas Slusher, KF6AKU  
- Leonard A Koehler, K0CQL  
- Khaled Anber, N6TIA

QSA-5  
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**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 sign-up instructions. 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**

**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