

QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

May 2014

Presidents Corner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Marin Amateur Radio Society launches new website

Moving our website into the 21st century.

Mill Valley, California 6 June 2014

Club president Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS announced today that the new club website is live and on the web. He went on to say that the new site not only has a new look but lots of new content. Mr. Ardourel went on to thank Craig Mirkin KG6VMT for all his hard work in the design and execution of the site.

The site has been built entirely using a content management tool that will allow easier updates to the site. The only holdouts are a few old data driven screens that remain to be updated to the new look. These updates will take place over the next few weeks. President Ardourel urged everyone to take a look at the new site.

When the site was previewed by the board, there was dancing in the aisles and bumpers of Champaign all round. Club member Larsen E. Rapp A1F said "This is the best thing since the introduction of the VFO. The site is the cat whisker's pajamas". At the end of the board meeting Mr Ardourel led the group in a round of huzzas.

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From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

W1AW/6

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party is a part of the ARRL Centennial celebration this year. The 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.

Some of you may have already worked a W1AW portable station. They are operating on CW, SSB, and RTTY on most of the HF bands. While conditions on the HF bands have been limited in the last month or so, it's relatively easy to work one of the W1AW portable stations. It is possible to work all states during the yearlong Centennial QSO Party and post your scores to LOTW if you have an account.

To see how many times you appear in the logs of W1AW portable stations, and to see how many points you have accumulated, log into the Centennial QSO Party Leader Board page with your LoTW account. These numbers are prepared automatically if you have submitted your logs to LoTW.

I had the opportunity to sign up for the W1AW/6 operation of the Centennial QSO Party in October of this year. With band conditions being uncertain, I selected 20M and 40M for my operating hours. I operate RTTY a lot, so I will be on both 20M and 40M RTTY as well as SSB. The W1AW/6 operation starts on October 1st at 0000 UTC and continues until October 7th at 0000 UTC. Hope I can work some of you during the operation.

This is what the leader board looks like for my effort so far.

Centennial Points Challenge Leader Board

Select Region for Leader Board:

All @DXCC K @WAZ 3 @State CA

4,702 to 4,726 of 25,017

K6ELE

Rank	Call Sign	Points	QSOs
4701	K6ELE	2141	372

W1AW Portable Stations Leader Board

Select Region for Leader Board:

All @DXCC K @WAZ 3 @State CA

8,282 to 8,306 of 117,690

K6ELE

Rank	Call Sign	QSOs
8187	K6ELE	28

The Marin Amateur Radio Society is a club organized to promote Amateur Radio. 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

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At one point in my life I had to write these, and at another point I had to read them. I wanted to announce the new website and for reasons unclear to me I could not stop myself from resorting to a nineteenth century technology to announce a twentieth century technology. It probably has something to do with a third harmonic convergence or the great wheeling of the universe. It would have looked better if I had printed it on my model 19 and then scanned it but time got away from me.

Since it is now June I will deliver my last harangue to renew your membership. It is easy and cheap and you can do it from our new website. I will be pruning the QSA-5 mailing list, so this is the last issue you will receive if you have not renewed. While I am hectoring, volunteer for one of our public service events, and please check out the new website and let us know what you think.

What's Happening in Radio

Two meter radio practice

Greetings 2 Meter Radio Practice Friends, Our next radio practice will be on Saturday, June 21, 2014, from 1000 hrs to 1200 hrs., again at Spreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park.

June 21st is the first day of summer, so bring a jacket or sweater.

Besides talking on our radios, let's talk about programming them. Programming is a scary word for putting in frequencies and other things to help us talk and be heard.

Bring your HT's operating manual, paper and pencil and be ready to learn some new things about your radio and to help others with their radios.

Please thumb thru your radio's operating manual and note some things you can talk about or things you have questions about. With a good turnout we should be able to answer most questions.

New Website



Welcome

What do you imagine when you hear the words "ham radio"? If you are like most people, you picture retired men sitting with surplus World War II radio equipment using morse code to discuss the weather, and their radio equipment. We'll, that's kinda true. But! There is a lot more that you likely haven't heard much about.

Amateur radio operators have always been on the leading edge of technology, and that is still true in today's high-tech world. Amateur radio operators worldwide continue to break new ground in the art & science of radio communications. From local 2-way radio voice communications, to communications through satellites, or communicating worldwide using any of a dozen different digital modes, ham radio has something for everyone. (How about bouncing a radio signal off the moon?)

It's not always about the technology. Amateur radio operators all over the world regularly volunteer to provide communications for special events like marathons, bike races, parades and other public service events. Amateur radio operators also function in an official capacity assisting Emergency Management agencies when called upon through Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service and Auxiliary Communications Service (RACES/ACS) organizations.

Whether you are already a licensed amateur, or would just like to learn more about ham radio, take a look around the website, click on a few links of interest on the [Resource](#) page, or [contact us](#) with questions.

Guests are welcome to all [meetings](#), so come on down to the [clubhouse](#) and say hello.

Latest News

- [Next Monthly Meeting Date](#)
- [Silent Key: George Klein WR6D](#)
- [Volunteer Operators Needed: Museum Ships Weekend](#)
- [Our New Website is Here!](#)
- [Exam Date: June 14, 2014](#)
- [Public Service Events](#)

The new website is up and running. Try it out and if you have any suggestions, please use the new Contact link on the home page to submit. <http://w6sg.net/site/> (ed.)

On The Air

Contest Calendar

10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest: 0000Z, Jun 7 to 2400Z, Jun 8

RSGB National Field Day: 1500Z, Jun 7 to 1500Z, Jun 8, CW

IARU Region 1 Field Day, CW: 1500Z, Jun 7 to 1459Z, Jun 8, CW

Alabama QSO Party: 1600Z, Jun 7 to 0400Z, Jun 8, CW, SSB

See complete list at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

ARRL Looks Back

Continuing our look at amateur SSB during its early years, there was one major human obstacle: Teaching phone operators how to operate their receivers for SSB reception. For AM reception, operators were in the habit of setting RF gain to maximum and adjusted the audio gain to control the speaker level. It was difficult to convince operators that, for SSB reception, they needed to turn up the audio gain and back off the RF gain, so the incoming SSB signal level would be at the level the receiver needed for the BFO to insert a "carrier" signal. Operators soon learned how to tune in SSB signals.

Also, back in those days of analog frequency control, receiver frequency drift was a problem, and the frequency (or the BFO frequency) would have to be tweaked occasionally to keep the SSB signal properly tuned. That problem disappeared, as the oscillators in newer receivers became more stable.

In July 1948, QST began publishing the monthly column, "On the Air with Single Sideband," by By Goodman, W1DX, which continued until March 1954. By the early 1950s, some AM operators still looked at "that Donald Duck talk" with disdain, but most hams realized the value of SSB, and the changeover to SSB proceeded. By April 1953, there were at least 300 active SSB stations in the US. The first SSB DXCC was awarded in 1955, and the first WAS and WAC awards were made in 1956.

One very interesting SSB-related happening took place 1956. Air Force General Curtis LeMay had been assigned in 1948 to head the Strategic Air Command in. LeMay was well known on the ham bands as Curt, W6EZV.



Gen Curtis LeMay, W6EZV (ex-K3JUY, K4RFA, and KOGRL).

By virtue of SAC's mission, extremely reliable, long-haul communication was necessary. Separate radio operators were being eliminated from bomber crews, and the first thought was that SAC would communicate using HF AM radios. Because of his Amateur Radio background, LeMay had become aware of the value of SSB. So, he had Amateur Radio SSB

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gear installed in a SAC test aircraft that made two flights from SAC HQ in Offutt AFB, Nebraska -- one to Greenland and one to Okinawa -- while making SSB contacts all along the way on the ham bands! In addition to LeMay as an operator, two civilian operators were on board -- Art Collins, W0CXX (Collins Radio), and Leo I. Myerson, W0GFQ (World Radio Labs). A lot of hams around the world received treasured QSL cards from contacts made with that rare aeronautical mobile.

Soon thereafter, SAC announced its decision to install HF SSB equipment on its bombers and other aircraft. As you can see, Amateur Radio lent a helping hand to SAC and our nation's defense posture, back in the day when the Cold War was getting very chilly.

(Reprinted with permission from The ARRL Letter for May 22, 2014)

Minutes for Board Meeting

Thursday, May 08, 2014

Board Members present: Curtis Ardourel, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, Phil Dunlap, Dave Hodgson, Ed Essick, Marc Bruvery, John Boyd, Rita Brenden and Randy Jenkins. Craig Mirkin, KG6VMT was also in attendance.

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

The agenda was approved as amended to add items under new business.

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

Randy reported on a notice from the Marin County Elections Department, that the clubhouse would be used as a polling place on June 3.

Treasurer: Dave submitted reports for April. The report showed \$2,440.00 income and \$5,538.55 expenses; and total cash assets stated as \$43,144.48

Committee reports:

Membership- We have 62 members for 2014. Reminders were sent out.

Public Service – Ridge to Bridge and the Miwok 100K are done. The next event is the Dipsea on June 8. Volunteers put in long days with three events falling on May 3. The webpages have been updated.

Technical- Doug reported that he was getting the duplexers for the 147.330 repeater tuned up.

Comm Truck- No Change.

VE Liaison – 2014 dates are June 14, September 28, November 23.

Education - Nothing scheduled.

Speakers – Doug reported that he was working to line up a program about noise in the shack, and was working to schedule the ARRL Section Manager.

Field Day – Doug reported that there would be a meeting Saturday, June 10.

Building - Doug reported that there had been another sewage back-up that had been taken care of. The Tenant also reports that the pedestrian gate was not working. A motion was made to allow Doug to pay for building expenses under \$500.00 out of the Building Fund Account. BQF/VNT/Pass

Old Business:

Updated Club Logo – No new report.

Ham Shack Procedures – No report.

The Sunday Nets – Marc reported that Pinky was having trouble hearing the HF Net.

Website Redesign – Craig, KG6VMT made a presentation on the new web site design. There was a motion to “go live” with the new design. AKU/BQF/Pass

Doug Slusher had to leave.

New Business:

There was a discussion of SCRA using the 146.700 repeater system in support of the Waves to Wine event on September 20, and 21.

There was a motion to approve. TCJ/PHD Pass.

There was a discussion of the contents included in the Board minutes.

Property inspection was discussed. Send any referrals to Curtis.

Discussion of the 2014 budget was tabled until the June meeting.

Next meeting: June 12, 2014.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:18 hours.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

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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 signup 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

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Treasure:

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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

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