
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

October 2014

Presidents Corner

In Hong Kong people are protesting on the street, In Libya and Syria they are shooting at each other not to mention The Ukraine. All these fights are about people choosing their own destiny. At a very basic level the question is: Who gets to tell me what I can and cannot do? For 238 years we have used some kind of representative election to answer this question. Sir Winston Churchill suggested that “democracy is the worst form of government except all the others”. With non-stop political ads one the TV, in the mail box and for that matter even You Tube. It is probably worth remembering that quotation.

Election day this year is the 4 November, though I suspect most of you vote by mail. As they taught me when I was in grade school in Chicago: “Vote early and often.” I expect to be voting there years after I have died. I know it is an off year but I urge you to vote. Many people around the world cannot.

While I am on the topic of politics I do want to extend an invitation to all of you to consider running for the board of directors of the Marin Amateur Radio Society. I hear from time to time that the club is run by an old-boys-network which to some extent is probably true. I for one am an old boy. We do elect board members every year. In my experience serving over many years on various boards better decisions come from boards that are diverse rather than ones where everyone thinks the same way.

You don't have to campaign, or make speeches, it does not cost anything, really you only have to be willing to show up at meetings and put your two cents in. If you read our bylaws

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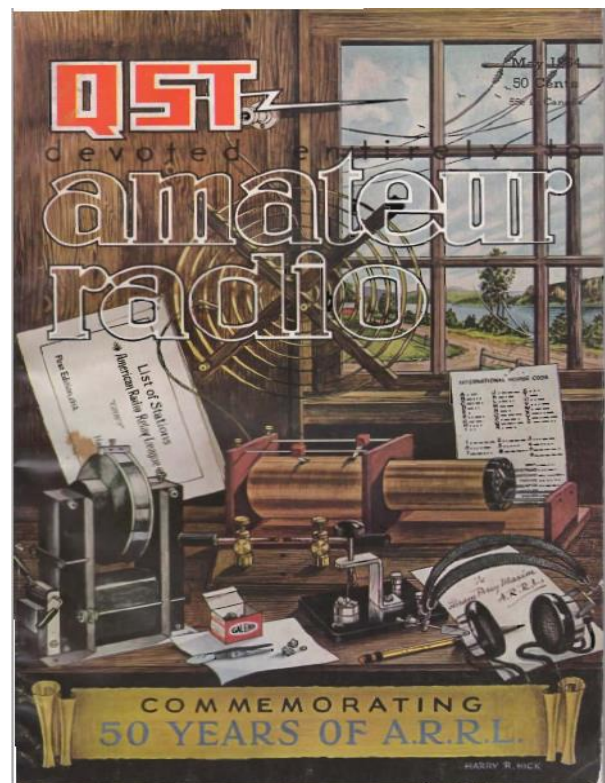
From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Ham Radio Looks Back in Marin

All this year the ARRL has highlighted the 100 years of ham radio and the ARRL. When the ARRL was commemorating 50 years of ham radio, our club was highlighted in 1964 by the local radio station KTIM. Some of you will remember that station and others of you have never heard of it. It was a different era in Marin in those days. It was before we were known for hot tubs, peacock feathers, and the Grateful Dead.

The May 1964 QST magazine reported that radio station KTIM monitored our mobile stations during the rush hours and broadcast any travel hazards or accidents to listeners that we reported. Were you mobile in Marin in 1964 and using the club repeaters? If so I would like to hear from you. Even if you started using our repeaters at another time let me know. I would like to put together some of our history and share it with the members thru QSA5. So send me an email at e.essick@comcast.net and let me know when you started using our repeaters and any stories you care to share.





there are complicated procedures for nomination, most of this boiler plate is to deal with lots more people running than there are seats available. In real life if you are willing to serve, you can simply let me know and your name can be placed on the ballot. If you are inclined to shape the way the club is run send me an email at wa6uds@arrl.net

Whew! I have gotten to the end of the politics stuff; I apologize for preaching at you. I know it is only October but it is time to remind you about the Christmas Party. This year it is on 17 December 2014 which is coming up soon. Please save the date. More details will be coming soon.

For the last couple of years we have held a lunch meeting for the people who have participated in our public service events. We have two reasons for this, first we want to thank you for your service and doing what this club does. Secondly we ask questions about your experience on our events. As a result of this feedback we have made many improvements in our practice. This year we cannot get our Public Service committee members together before the end of the year. Therefore we will schedule the lunch early next year. I mention this so you will know we have not given up on the lunch meeting. More details to come.

73 DE WA6UDS



What's Happening in Radio?

ARRL November Sweepstakes: Another Chance at a "Clean Sweep" is Coming Up!

In a few short days, operators across all 83 ARRL and Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) sections will take to the airwaves to compete in the first of two ARRL November Sweepstakes events. Always a fall favorite "Sweeps" is the longest-running "domestic" contest. The CW event is November 1-3, while the SSB event is November 15-17. The action on both weekends gets underway at 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday (Sunday evening in continental US time zones).

As veteran Sweeps hands already know, the exchange for this operating event is a bit more involved than it is for most other contests. Strange terms such as "precedence" and "check" -- while very familiar to old timers and traffic operators -- may seem confusing at first to newcomers. The exchange goes like this: Call sign of the station worked, consecutive serial number (NR) starting with 001, precedence (PREC) -- a letter that indicates your operating category; see the rules), your call sign, check (CK) -- the last two numerals of the year you were first licensed, and the two or three-letter abbreviation of your ARRL or RAC section (SEC).

In your log, for example, if WW1ME works W1MSW, the log entry might look like this:
Station NR CK My Call CK SEC
W1MSW 015 A WW1ME 65 ME

All popular logging programs include a template for ARRL November Sweepstakes. Be sure to use the latest version of your logger.

It may seem difficult and complicated at first, but once you get into the swing of Sweeps, it will start coming naturally. That's also where it starts being fun.

The 2014 ARRL November Sweepstakes Operating Guide contains a collection of Sweepstakes information and links to help both newbies and old timers to understand the rules, operating techniques, and log-submission guidelines. Be sure to read the rules for all ARRL contests, too.

The holy grail of Sweepstakes is to earn a "Clean Sweep" by working at least one station in all 83 sections. Attain this elite level and you qualify to purchase a highly desired Clean Sweep mug for your accomplishment! Also, the Sweepstakes certificate of every op making a Sweep will include a "Clean Sweep" sticker.

(Reprinted with permission from The ARRL Letter for October 23, 2014)

On The Air

Contest Calendar

WAE DX Contest, RTTY: 0000Z, Nov 8 to 2359Z, Nov 9
ARRL EME Contest: 0000Z, Nov 8 to 2359Z, Nov 9
10-10 Int. Fall Contest, Digital: 0001Z, Nov 8 to 2359Z, Nov 9
See complete list at:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

2014 MARS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Planned Menu:

Salad, Soup, Turkey, Ham, Pot Roast, Dressing, Whipped Potatoes, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Bean Casserole, Deserts, Appetizers

PLEASE JOIN US!

\$25.00 per Person (Payable at the Door)
RSVP at rsvp@w6sg.net to reserve your space.
Arrive at 5:30 PM for visiting.
Dinner around 6:30 PM.

Door Prizes

Volunteers appreciated for decorating and / or clean-up.

Contact Rita:

rab9600@aol.com

December 17, 2014 17:30 (5:30 PM) - MARS Clubhouse, 27 Shell Rd, Mill Valley, CA 94941



Christmas Party 2009

ARRL Looks Back

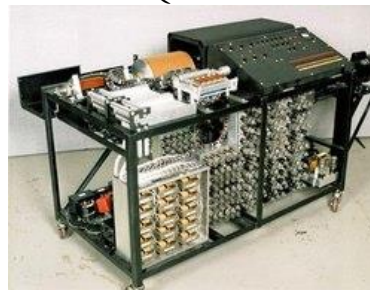
A first took place on Space Shuttle mission STS-37. SAREX (Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment) provided live communication from the shuttle into many school classrooms to teach the students about space exploration and Amateur Radio.

In July 1991, N6CA and KH6HME set a new record on 3456 MHz between California and Hawaii. Each was running 5 W to a 4-foot dish.

In 1992, after 8 years as ARRL President, Larry Price, W4RA, declined to run for re-election. The League's Board of Directors subsequently chose him as the next International Affairs Vice President, which provides liaison with the IARU, which Price served as Secretary. George Wilson, W4OYI, succeeded Price as ARRL President.

N7FKI and W7ZOI reported in the March 1992 QST that they had built a one-transistor 10 meter CW transmitter and made contacts with it using lemon power -- essentially a cell made by inserting appropriate electrodes into a lemon. If life gives you lemons, make contacts!

During the early 1990s, interest in digital communication grew, and QST published many articles on the subject that helped fan the flames. Also, hams became interested in the old concept of direct-conversion receivers. KK7B presented one of the best in the August 1992 issue of QST. Another old receiver circuit was also revived -- the regenerative receiver. WJ1Z described one for 40 meters in the September 1992 issue of QST.



By the early 1990s, digital signal processing (DSP) had made its appearance, and had begun to be used by both homebrewing hams and equipment manufacturers. A September 1992 QST article, "ABC: The First Electronic Digital Computer," recounted the fascinating tale of the first real computer, the Atanasoff-Berry computer -- a vacuum tube device -- designed in 1939 and 1940 by university professor John Atanasoff and built by electrical engineering student Clifford Berry, W9TIJ. -- Al Brogdon, W1AB (Reprinted with permission from The ARRL Letter for October 23, 2014)

Minutes for Board Meeting

Marin Amateur Radio Society
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 09, 2014

Board Members present: Cal Anber, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, Ed Essick, John Boyd, Rita Brenden, and Randy Jenkins.
The meeting was called to order by John Boyd at 19:30 hours.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the September 11, 2014 meeting were approved as corrected (dates).

Randy reported on bills, a letter from the Marin Elections Department, bills, and ads.

Treasurer: Dave submitted reports for September. The report showed \$2,430.00 income and \$547.49 expenses; and total cash assets stated as \$51,269.73.

Committee reports:

Membership- We have 79 members for 2014.

Public Service – The Peak Hike is Saturday, October 11. We still have to schedule the after-action meeting.

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

Comm Truck- No Change.

VE Liaison – Randy reported on the September 28 VE session. The 2014 date remaining is November 23.

Education – Nothing scheduled.

Election – Discussed. Scheduled for election: Ed Essick, Cal Anber, Rita Brenden, Randy Jenkins, Marc Bruvry. Ed, Cal, Rita, and Randy have agreed to run again. Doug Slusher will be up for confirmation as Trustee of K6GWE.

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

Picnic - Doug reported that the picnic is October 18, 11:30am at Piper Park in San Anselmo. Doug will contact people with needs.

Building - We have a report. It was discussed. Doug will send it to the Board. We will have some issues to deal with.

Old Business:

Updated Club Logo – Done. Discussing signs.

Ham Shack Procedures – No change.

The Sunday Nets – Curtis is working on the web page. Ed reported that Pinky requested that the HF net be held at 08:00.

Antenna analyzer – Doug is working on it. HRO is out of stock on the MFJ. There was a motion to allocate NTE \$700.00 to upgrade to a Rig Expert. WPN/ELE/Pass

Parking Signs – Cal is working on this?

Inventory of Club Assets – Doug is working on it.

New Business:

Christmas Party Date: Wednesday, December 17th, 6:30PM proposed. AKU/ELE/Pass. Rita will head the Christmas Party Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:49 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

General Membership Meeting

Friday, October 10, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 19:32 hrs by President Curtis Ardourel.

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

The agenda was adopted as presented.

The minutes of the September 11, 2014 general membership meeting were approved.

President Ardourel reported on the actions at the September Board of Director's Meeting. The Board adopted a new logo for the club, and agreed to purchase an antenna analyzer for club use.

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

The following new members were announced: Jamie Taylor, KK6OLF.

Secretary Jenkins reported on communications were bills, a notice from the Marin Elections Department, and junk.

Treasurer Dave Hodgson was not present and submitted no written report.
Membership: 79. Curtis reminded us that in the 1970's we had nearly 200.
Public Service: Peak Hike on Saturday, 10/11.

The Technical Committee: Doug is still working on the Tam West repeater. The duplexers need need to be re-tuned. He is planning a trip to the repeater sites before the rains start.

Comm Truck: No change.

VE Liaison: Randy reported on the September 28 VE session The remaining date is November 23.

Education: Nothing scheduled.

Picnic: Set for Saturday, October 18, 11:30 AM at Piper Park in San Anselmo. The club will supply burgers, hot dogs, buns, condiments, beverages, and charcoal. Members should bring a salad or desert to share.

Old business: None

New Business: There was a mention from one of the visiting neighbors about using the clubhouse for a community meeting.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:29 hrs.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

John Boyd made a presentation on digital communications.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF
Secretary

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.

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