

# QSA-5

## The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

September 2014

### Presidents Corner

Over the last year we have been revamping the public face of the Marin Amateur Radio Society. The most visible evidence of this is our new website designed and executed by Craig Mirkin KG6VMT. At our last board meeting we adopted a new club logo designed by Steve Fischer K6ETA.



Creating a logo is never an easy process. To get to this logo we worked in much the same way as a major corporation would. Steve gave us a list of questions about the club and what we wanted the logo to do for us. Information about the club was pretty easy, who we are and what we do are spelled out in the bylaws. What we wanted the logo to do for us was a more difficult question to answer.

Of course a logo in its simplest form goes on club documents to make the page look more official and interesting. Our old logo did that but its style was looking dated without being retro. In a broader sense a logo should tell anyone who looks at it something about the organization it stands for. It should

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### From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

#### California QSO Party

It's that time of year again. The California QSO Party takes place October 4<sup>th</sup> 1600 UTC to 2200 UTC October 5<sup>th</sup>. Operators from all over the country and DX stations will be calling us for contacts. This is our opportunity to be the DX and run a frequency for contacts. I ran a frequency for the first time in last year's contest. In most of my operating I just search and pounce to make a contact. In the CQP I was able to stay on a band and hold a frequency until conditions changed and that band went dead for me.

Working any contest is a combination of patience, using your computer, and staying in the chair. For CQP I use N1MM contest software. I just started using it last year and it takes a while to get familiar with all of its capabilities. The logging screen shown here records the contact and scores the points. Here I have simulated a contact with AI6II and the program scored the contact and entered the serial number. So give it a try and make some contacts.



W1AW/6 ARRL Centennial QSO Party K6ELE Schedule  
Look for me on 7.080 or 7.090 and 14.275. Give me a call.

UTC Date	UTC Time	Local Time	Band	Mode
Wed 10/1	0200-0400	Tue 9/30 - 7 pm - 9 pm	40m	RTTY
Thu 10/2	0400-0600	Wed 10/1 - 9 pm - 11 pm	40m	RTTY
Thu 10/2	1800-2000	Thu 10/2 - 11 am - 1 pm	20m	SSB
Fri 10/3	0400-0600	Thu 10/2 - 9 pm - 11 pm	40m	RTTY
Fri 10/3	1800-2000	Fri 10/3 - 11 am - 1 pm	20m	RTTY
Tue 10/7	0400-0600	Mon 10/6 - 9 pm - 11 pm	40m	RTTY

communicate this to people who don't know our club. It should be easy to recognize and associate with us. I should be something that we are proud to show the world.

One of the main activities of our club is supporting public service events for a variety of organizations. All of these organizations have a web presence and feature the logos of other organizations that support their events. Our logo should be included in their marketing.

Steve took all this information and presented a number of designs. As a board we discussed the various ideas he presented and returned a detailed response describing what worked, what did not work and of course what we liked. Steve then provided us with six finalists. We chose the best elements of those and finally concluded with the logo you see here. Steve did all of this for free. I want to thank Steve for all the very good work he did for all of us. I think he has done a great job creating a logo we can all be proud of and that represents our club.

The autumnal equinox has passed. Fall is upon us and ignoring the rain that woke me up this morning we still have a little of what we think of a summer left. It is time for the club picnic. This year the picnic will be on October 18th at Piper Park in Larkspur starting at 11:30 pacific time. The club will provide burgers, dogs, condiments and soft drinks. You are encouraged to bring other picnic foods to share. There is no charge for the picnic.

73 de WA6UDS

## California QSO Party



**49th Running Of The CQP!**  
1600 UTC October 4, 2014 to 2200 UTC October 5, 2014  
3:21:23:41

## What's Happening in Radio?

The ARRL Centennial QSO Party comes back to California for the second and final round starting today, 9/30, at 1700 local.

For the next week, 40 stations across California will be on the air all modes and all bands for over one thousand hours of planned operation. At times over 10 stations will be on the air concurrently covering multiple bands and modes!

Special events planned during the week:

### PSK Operation

The Hollywood Hills QRP Contest Club will operate from W6AQ exclusively in PSK starting Thursday, 10/2, local to Sunday, 10/5, local. Look for them primarily on 20 and 40. Thanks to K6YR for coordinating this operation.

### VHF Operation

The W6TV VHF Contest Club will activate W1AW/6 on 10 meters and above the evening of 10/2 from 0000z to 0400z (10/1 1700 to 2100 local time). The team will travel to DM06 at 3,000 feet elevation, about 45 miles east of Fresno, California. Look for them all modes on 6m, 2m, 220, 432, 446.00 FM, 902, and 1.2g. Standard simplex frequencies will be used, except for 146.52. LOS satellite contacts are a possibility, more information available as passes are determined. To facilitate long distance contacts from DM06, the team will listen North on the hour and South on the half hour. Don't hesitate to ask for band moves! Thanks to KM6I for coordinating this major effort.

To view the operating schedule, visit <http://www.w1srd.com/w1aw-schedule> Support W1AW/6 and please get on the air and work the stations.

## On The Air

### Contest Calendar

TARA PSK Rumble Contest: 0000Z-2400Z, Oct 4  
Oceania DX Contest, Phone: 0800Z, Oct 4 to 0800Z, Oct 5  
Russian WW Digital Contest: 1200Z, Oct 4 to 1159Z, Oct 5  
California QSO Party: 1600Z, Oct 4 to 2200Z, Oct 5  
See complete list at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

### Member Reports

Old Time Radio  
Pinky, W6FQS

I doubt that few of today's amateurs under 70 years of age have an appreciation of what we had to do to get on the air in the 1940's and earlier.

A few talented amateurs built their own receivers. I built my own simple CW transmitters but opted to purchase a receiver. My first was a National NC-173. Aside from the facts that it drifted in frequency for a long time after it was turned on and the dial accuracy was terrible, the worst problem was in its instability. When tuned to a CW signal, one had to be careful not to set a cup of coffee down on the operating table too hard, or bump the receiver to avoid causing the CW note to wobble.

I solved this problem to a great extent by turning the receiver on its side. After removing the bottom plate, I took a small wooden stick and gently touched the circuitry around the local oscillator. When I touched a component and the note wobbled, I put a few drops of glue on the wire or component so it wouldn't vibrate under physical movement. This really helped a lot.

That didn't help with the frequency drift problem but that was easily solved because most receivers in that era had a standby switch that kept the tube filaments powered but the B+ voltage was not present. I simply left the filaments on all the time.

The dial calibration left so much to be desired that most of us had to have an external 10 kHz oscillator to mark the band edges to assure we stayed within the band.

I gradually upgraded but it wasn't until I acquired a Collins 75A2 that didn't need any modifications to work reasonably well.

We didn't have coaxial switches so most simply used a toggle switch or knife switch to change the antenna from receive to transmit. We didn't have dummy loads so we put a 100 watt light bulb inside a two pound coffee can. Soldered a wire on the cans outside and grounded it. That helped avoid some interference

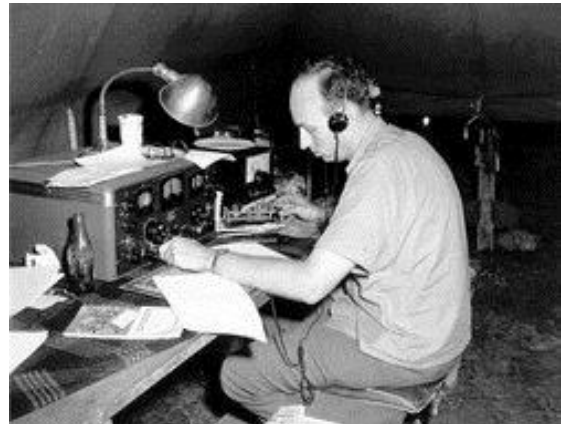
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## ARRL Looks Back

In February 1973, the FCC proposed a new Amateur Radio license class that would not require Morse code testing, and invited comments. At the time, the ARRL opposed the proposal.

From 1965 to 1985, the FCC, ARRL, and US hams took note of what was called the "JA Phenomenon." The number of Japanese hams grew from 70,000 in 1965 to 499,000 in 1975, and then to more than 1 million by 1985! A new Japanese codeless license class helped spur that growth.

On June 16, 1983, the second attempt to launch a Phase III Amateur Radio satellite (AMSAT-OSCAR 10) was successful. Articles in *QST* kept hams up to date on its progress. OSCAR 10 was, by far, the most capable amateur satellite to date.



Then-future ARRL President Vic Clark, W4KFC, at the 1950 PVRC Field Day site in Fort Meade, Maryland. [Photo courtesy of PVRC]

Also in 1983, Amateur Radio in the US reached a new level of formal governmental recognition of Amateur Radio's emergency communication capabilities, when ARRL President Vic Clark, W4KFC, signed a *Memorandum of Understanding* with National Communication System Deputy Manager John Grimes.

Articles began appearing in *QST* during 1983 explaining what personal computers could do and how they might be put to use in the ham shack.

In October 1983, the US military invaded Grenada. Mark Baretella, KA2ORK (now N2MD), then a medical student at St George's University School of Medicine on Grenada, became the only non-military source of information from the island, as he relayed

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when we tuned up, but I remember working San Rafael to Larkspur on 10 meters with such a dummy load. W6TLC, Ted , I think was his call. We called him the Larkspur fisherman.

I built my first two or three transmitters. The first couple were simply a single tube oscillator. My first contact at about 11 watts on 40 CW was with KH6RX who called himself, 'The prescription station.' Hawaii was not yet a state. I ran around the house like an idiot telling my parents about my great accomplishment.

Later I upgraded to an 807 tube. It was found that if you mounted the tube upside down in a coffee can filled with oil, you could squeeze more than 100 watts output without destroying the tube.

The power supply for the transmitter was usually built separately and used mercury vapor tubes which glowed a pretty blue when the transmitter was keyed. It was usually placed on the floor.

The foregoing was motivated by my reading the current QST and marveling at the magnificent choices of transceivers we can purchase these days. Just plug them in, connect an antenna and communicate worldwide with relative ease.

messages between other Americans on Grenada and their families in the US. This resulted in excellent media coverage for Amateur Radio.



Astronaut Owen Garriott, W5LFL, was the first to use Amateur Radio from the space shuttle. [NASA photo]

Amateurs throughout the world were saddened to learn of the unexpected death of ARRL President Vic Clark, W4KFC, in November 1983. A well-known ham as early as his teenage years, Clark won the first Hiram Percy Maxim Award in 1936. He also served the ARRL in various roles and offices and was considered a first-rate operator. He was truly one of the giants of Amateur Radio.

In November 1983, Owen Garriott, W5LFL, became the first ham to make contacts from aboard the Shuttle Columbia. His first contact was with WA1JXN. W5LFL operated his 2 meter FM transceiver during his non-duty hours during the mission's 10 days in orbit.

In September 1984, phone privileges on 75, 15, and 10 meters were expanded. In addition, US stations in Alaska and in the Pacific had their 40 meter phone privileges expanded, so they could avoid the high-power international broadcast stations. --  
*Al Brogdon, W1AB*

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## USS Pampanito Report

Our DDO for Saturday, September 13, 2014 got underway at 1030 hours aboard the USS Pampanito, SS-383. RO's at NJ6VT were Yeoman, Hal Strunk, WA6JNZ, myself and later in the day Wassim Nassif, WN6WJN. Radio propagation was spotty with a CME grazing planet Earth and disrupting HF radio communications. No short skip on the 40 meter band in the morning hours. We did work into Idaho, so we knew we were getting out. Managed to work W1AW/5 in the afternoon on 20 meter CW, but that was about it for the day. No DX was heard on 20 and 17 meters. Hopefully, radio propagation will be better next time around.

The visitor traffic aboard the boat was heavy at times and kept both Hal and I busy. Lots of events going on in the city this last weekend and with the nice weather the boat was crowded. Have not seen so many visitors aboard the Pampanito in a long time! Denice Stoops, KI6BBR, from the Jeremiah O'Brien dropped by for lunch at the wharf. Hal, Denice and I had a great time enjoying good food, conversation and the nice weather!

Our next scheduled DDO is scheduled for Saturday, October 11, 2014, coinciding with Fleet Week. Know that traffic will be heavy on the weekend of the 13th. If any of you want to change the date for the DDO to avoid the traffic let me know.

I want to thank Hal Strunk, WA6JNZ, and Wassim Nassif, WN6WJN, for helping out with last Saturday's DDO!

73,

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



## Minutes for Board Meeting

Marin Amateur Radio Society  
Board of Director's Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 11, 2014

Board Members present: Curtis Ardourel, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, Phil Dunlap, Dave Hodgson, John Boyd, Cal Anber.  
Discussed whether we had a quorum, President Ardourel verified that a quorum was present.  
The meeting was called to order by Curtis Ardourel at 19:35 hours.  
The agenda was approved as submitted. (CA) (JB)

The minutes of the June 12, 2014 meeting were approved as submitted. (JB) (CA)

**Communications** – Dave Hodgson reported that there were no communications of importance. He added that our accountant has elected to only handle non-profits from now on. This should have no effect on us.

**Treasurer**- Dave submitted reports for July+ The report showed \$2,300.00 income and \$595.56 expenses; and total cash assets stated as \$46,517.72

**Committee reports:**

**Membership**- we have 77 current members. Discussed that new members paying after 10/1 would get a 2015 membership and the remainder of 2014 for free.

**Public Service** – This weekend the Zero Breast Cancer Dipsea Lite Hike, 9/27 the Dolphin Club Escape from Alcatraz.

**Technical**- Oscillator shift heard once for about 30 seconds on simulcast system. Need to go to Sunnyvale to get duplexers

**Comm Truck**- Discussed creating a budget for needed repairs, and covering the truck with tarps before winter Cal to pick-up tarps.

**VE Liaison** – Next VE Session September 28 2:30 PM,

**Education** - Nothing scheduled.

**Speakers** – Doug is still working on Bill Hillendahl.

**Picnic** – Confirmed 10/18 start at 11:30 at Piper Park

**Building** - Contacted building inspector and tenant. Contacted handyman about repair of window.

**Old Business:**

**New Logo** - Discussed updated designs submitted by Steve Fischer. Determined final round of changes and to adopt logo. (CA) (JB) /Pass

**Ham Shack Procedures** – No change

**Sunday morning nets** – Curtis to fix glitches.

**Parking Signs** – No Change

**Inventory of Club Assets** – No change

**Building Inspection** – Discussed under Building Committee above

**New Business:**

**Antenna Analyzer** – Determined to have Doug purchase an antenna analyzer from HRO not to exceed \$400.00 (CA) (JB) Pass – Dave abstained

Adjourn 8:15 pm

Next Meeting 9 October 2014

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:15 hours.

Respectfully submitted by,

David Hodgson KG6TCJ

On Behalf of Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

**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

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