
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

April 2015

Presidents Corner

“Tra la, it’s May, the lusty month of May
That lovely month when everyone goes blissfully astray
Tra la, it’s here, that shocking time of year
When tons of wicked little thoughts merrily appear”

- Lerner and Loewe

Ok. I know that lyrics from musical comedies have nothing to do with ham radio but they pop into my head none the less. We are now in the thick of the public service season. As I write this we have completed two of eight club sponsored events and four of the twelve events that are not club sponsored but members participate in. We still need volunteers for the remainder of events. Check out the event schedule and the events at http://w6sg.net/site/?page_id=33. We want to train you in structured way of handling traffic at the same time as you hang out in some of the more scenic parts of the bay area.

The month of May also brings us close to Field Day, the standout ham contest of the year. Once again this year we will partner with the Redwood Empire DX Association <http://www.redxa.com/>. This year Field day runs from Saturday 27 June through Sunday 28 June. The setup begins on Friday 26 June and the strike is on Sunday 28 June. We particularly need volunteers for the setup and strike.

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From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE
ARRL Field Day

Each year amateur radio clubs have the opportunity to participate in the most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations. Amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Our club along with the Redwood Empire DX Association has participated in Field Day from the Marin Rod and Gun Club. Again this year we will be there with radios, food, and enthusiasm to represent our two clubs. This year Marc Bruvry and myself are coordinating our clubs participation in Field Day. You can contact either Marc or me if you have any questions.

The objective is to work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. We usually setup 2-3 portable towers and operate 2-3 stations. Operation is both SSB and CW and possibly RTTY.

A Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) Station is setup to allow newly licensed operators and non-licensed operators to participate. The GOTA station may be operated by any person licensed since the previous year’s Field Day, regardless of license class. It may also be operated by a generally inactive licensee. Non-licensed persons can participate under the direct supervision of a club control operator. The generally inactive licensee category allows those club members without a home station who have been inactive to be part of Field Day.

Field Day is scored and we get points for visitation by elected officials and representatives of local agency’s (i.e fire, police). If you have any contacts with our elected officials or local agency’s please let us know.

Field Day is always the fourth full weekend of June, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and running through 2059 UTC Sunday. Field Day 2015 is June 27-28. Volunteers are always needed to setup, operate radios, and take down the antennas at the end of Field Day. Setup takes place on Friday and help is always needed. If you have participated in the past or would like to help out this year, mark your calendar for these dates and come on out for Field Day.

What’s Happening in Radio

On the Air

FCC News

USS Pampanito Report

Board Minutes

Meeting Minutes

2015 ARRL FIELD DAY

HAM RADIO)))

The two clubs bring an impressive amount of skill and equipment to the contest and we score in the top ten percent of the country. Our location at the Marin Rod and Gun Club also affords an excellent view of the bay. For more information you can contact Ed Essick K6ELE or Marc Bruvry KF6VNT who are our Field Day co-chairs.

No column from me in the first half of the year would be complete without my inveighing you to renew your membership. In June I will be purging the QSA-5 mailing list of people who have not renewed. I can't imagine why you would want to forego reading my column. That said, if you are intentionally not renewing for specific reasons, I would like to know why. Please let me know at WA6UDS@ARRL.NET

In the next few weeks, you will be receiving a link to a survey about the club adding a digital repeater. Please take a few minutes to respond. We will also be creating a second mailing list. Since you are reading this you are already on our QSA-5 mailing list. The new list will not be used to spam you but instead to notify you about club events. You can always opt out of the new list. So get out there and enjoy the time of year.

73 DE WA6UDS

On The Air

Contest Calendar

ARI International DX Contest, 1200Z, May 2 to 1159Z, May 3
7th Call Area QSO Party, 1600Z, May 2 to 0400Z, May 3
CQ-M International DX Contest, 1200Z, May 9 to 1159Z, May 10

His Maj. King of Spain Contest, CW1200Z, May 16 to 1200Z, May 17

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW 0000Z, May 30 to 2359Z, May 31

See complete list at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

FCC News

The FCC has assigned a new low frequency allocation for ham use from 135.7 to 137.8kHz. They have also proposed a new secondary 630 meter MF allocation at 472 to 479 kHz to Amateur Radio, implementing decisions made at WRC-12. Power would be limited to 5 W EIRP.

In addition, the FCC has raised the secondary Amateur Service allocation at 1900 to 2000 kHz to primary.

What's Happening in Radio?

Public Service

Dipsea Race

Sunday, June 14 marks the annual Dipsea Race, from Mill Valley to Stinson Beach. We are still a few operators short. Check the open positions at : http://w6sg.net/site/?page_id=243 . Contact Randy, KA6BQF or Michael, K6MLF to volunteer. This has been a tradition for hams for decades.

Items for Sale

For Sale: Yaesu FT-1000MP, Mark V, Field. Loaded, all options. Excellent condition. Serial #40000201, with manual. No microphone. W6FQS73@gmail.com. Pinky Picard, W6FQS. Pickup or will ship. 530-891-1649. \$1550 OBO.

Support Your Club at Amazon

Our club participates in the Amazon Smile program which donates .5% of your purchase to our club. When you shop at Amazon use this link in your browser.

<http://smile.amazon.com/ch/68-0010718>

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Public Service

The Ridge to Bridge (hike, run, mountain bike, horseback) event is sponsored by the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and follows the Ridge Trail (of course) from Samuel P. Taylor State Park in central Marin south to the Golden Gate Bridge.

These are the highlights of this year's event.



Presidio main post parade ground / net control



Cardiac Hill, Mt. Tam



Golden Gate Bridge

Hugh Cassidy, W6AUD (SK) **Rich Carbine, W6UDS**

I first met Cass almost 50 years ago. When I joined the Marin Amateur Radio Club Cass was President, (his day job was the Postmaster of Marin County). He always ran a good meeting. He had a gavel that he had carved out of an old axe handle and when he banged it down, he meant business.

He was writing the DX bulletin at that time but finally had to stop taking new subscribers because so many of the DX'ers wanted the paper and he just didn't have the time with his day job and the paper too. Don't know if you knew Cass was a beekeeper. Behind his house on the hill he had a bunch of hives. Every now and then I'd come home and find 4 or 5 jars of honey on the front porch plus the latest magazine he subscribed to from the UK. That gives you an idea of the kind of guy he was. I miss him a lot!

One more item: a few years ago he called me and asked if I could help him be the first contact for a brand new Ham Station forming in the Philippines. The station call sign was DX1S in honor of Cass and his paper. I wanted to make sure we wouldn't have a problem with conditions so I asked my good friend Al, K6RIM, (who has a station to kill for) if Cass could make the first QSO from his station with Cass's call. The sked worked perfect and Cass was all smiles.

Editor: Rich Carbine is a life member of MARS and NCDXC. Rich and his XYL, Marilyn always attend the International DX Convention in Visalia to catch up with fellow DXer's. Marilyn, N6VAW, is a life member of MARS and a former Vice President of the NCDXC.

DX Stories by Paul, VE1DX **Written in the style of my friend, Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD (SK)**

The stories below are based on the characters and writing style developed by Hugh Cassidy, WA6AUD (SK), the editor of the West Coast DX Bulletin from 1968 until 1979. I never met Hugh Cassidy in person, but we spoke many times on the telephone and exchanged numerous letters. In November 1996, Hugh Cassidy sent me his entire collection of WCDXB files, all original copies totalling about 550 issues. For that, I am eternally grateful and I thank WA6AUD for allowing me to be the custodian of over a decade of his contributions to DXing and amateur radio.

Hugh Cassidy, or "Cass" as he was commonly referred to, began the West Coast DX Bulletin 1968. It has been reported that he did this, in part, as an effort to explain Don Miller, W9WNV, to the DX community. While this may be partially true, Hugh told me "Our arrival on the scene was more coincident than an attempt to jump into the Don Miller dispute." Nonetheless, Hugh was a straight shooter on that topic. In the late sixties, the WCDXB reported the Miller saga in a neutral manner. Unlike other publications of the day, Hugh made no attempt to editorialize the issue or give it any spin. In later years, he did make his feelings known on W9WNV in true Cass style.

WA6AUD published the WCDXB for 11 years, every week, without missing one . . . and he and his XYL Virginia did it alone! That's right, a two person publishing team who used the cover "The Marin County DX Group." At its peak, the WCDXB had a circulation of 3200 . . . 2600 in the US, Canada and Mexico and 600 overseas. This was all done by hand by these two people! Their equipment in the shack consisted of a MULTILITH 1250 offset printing press, a big camera and a processor for making the paper printing plates.

The WCDXB had the usual DXpedition information and propagation forecasts, etc. However, what made it unique was Cass's editorial every week where he put a humorous spin on the DX events of the day. He did this by inventing a unique writing style, along with a number of fictitious characters that argued about DXing, DXpeditions and almost anything else that was controversial at the time. In the limelight were the Local QRPers. They were not QRP operators in the true sense . . . in fact many of them had respectable linears and a few even had monobanders to go with the extra power. They were deemed to be DXers with country totals somewhere between 100 and 150. They had enough experience to ask the right questions, but never really understanding the answers. The Locals had the interest, energy and motivation. They wanted to know everything about DXing, and they were the ones who were always seeking the true meaning of DX IS, trying to understand the Mysteries of the Ages, the Inevitable Truths and the Eternal Enigmas of DXing.

The Old Timer knew everything about DX and DXing. He had everything worked, and had grown up with amateur radio. It was rumored he was there when the first DXCC QSO was made in 1945. He never tired of DXing and was always ready for the next new one. The old Timer had all the answers, but it was difficult to get him to share them with the QRPers. The Old Timer was both patient and impatient at the same time, realizing that in many cases if you had to ask the question, you wouldn't understand the answer!

Sunspot Louie watched the solar flux and the Ap index. His cousin, Red-Eyed Louie, was forever spending long days and nights tuning the bands . . . he always knew where the DX was, when it was on, etc. His legendary red eyes came from scanning the dials looking for DX to report, and, more recently, from watching DX Cluster screens. There was the Legion of Handwringers, the malcontents who were forever finding something to worry and complain about. The Hero of Mafeking, a relative of Baden Powell, was always around prior to DXpeditions warning the Deserving DXers to “Be prepared!”

The Palos Verdes Sundancers were the ones who brought on the solar cycles . . . they first appeared near the bottom of Cycle 20 when QST was reporting the possibility of another Maunder Minimum. There was historical evidence that there was a time some hundreds of years ago when there were no sunspots for a period of about seventy years. This fact was discovered by someone named Maunder, hence the name. In order to prevent such a dire recurrence, the Palos Verdes Sundancers got out their grass skirts and the big bass bongo, Big DX, and danced up the sunspots every 11 years or so. The problem with the Sundancers was that after they got the flux up, they lost interest and stopped dancing. This plunged us into another cycle minimum and they had to be coaxed into doing it all over again.

Terms such as The Great Days of DXing, Only The Deserving, Be a Believer, and of course DX IS! all came from the wit and wisdom of Hugh Cassidy and the WCDXB. We still hear these phrases today being used by seasoned DXers and newcomers alike, some perhaps not even aware of their origin. Nevertheless, they have become part of the DX experience, jargon exchanged by true-blue DXers in their quest for just one more new one!

In 1979, Hugh Cassidy decided to cease publication of the WCDXB. In his own words, “In simple truth, the bulletin was taking all our time every day of the week. There were times when I would work until two or three in the morning on the bulletin and then go right back to work when we arose in the morning.” When Hugh ceased publication, there were other editors who claimed they were the successor to Cass. This is not entirely true. Again, in Hugh Cassidy’s own words: “On the WCDXB, I was the only editor. I ran its course and knocked it on the head when I got to the point where I had to end it. If some say they are the successor, it is not quite true. One group wanted to buy the mailing list, I sold that. I never did sell the bulletin.”

Finally, I will mention that, to my knowledge, WA6AUD is the only person ever elected to the CQ Magazine DX Hall of Fame who was not a DXpeditioner. He was so honored because of his literary contributions to DXing.

We miss the WCDXB. WA6AUD’s legacy lives on in the minds of the Deserving True-Blue DXers, who, for the most part, have come to understand the true meaning of DX IS! Cass made us laugh at ourselves. He made us think about DXers and DXing! He showed us our strengths and weaknesses, and most of all, he made us better DXers.

Reprinted with permission from VE1DX website

Editor: In honor of his contributions to DX, the annual Cass Award encourages DXpeditions to maximize the number of DXers worked with a \$1000 prize for the single-operator DXpedition that works the most unique call signs within a specified interval.

Jefferys B. Wiener, Jr, N6VCS, SK, April 6, 2015

Jeff was a past member of the club and was a WW II and Korean War radio operator. He served as a Docent on the National Liberty Ship Memorial’s SS Jeremiah O’Brien for 15 years and participated in the Marin County Office of Emergency Services for many years.

USS Pampanito Report

Our regularly scheduled Dedicated Day of Operation (DDO) for our station, NJ6VT, got underway on Saturday morning, April 11, 2015 aboard the USS Pampanito, SS-383. I was the RO for the morning with Guest RO, Doug McCaslin, KJ6OYJ, joining the boat for afternoon radio operations. Band conditions were poor on most of the bands in the morning hours. Very few signals could be heard on the 40 meter band and the same for 17 meters. Fair activity on the 20 meter band was heard.

We did receive Pampanito traffic for NJ6VT from the National Traffic Service (NTS) at 1100 hours using the K6GWE, Big Rock Repeater. Traffic was sent by Mike Pulley, WB4ZKA in Arizona to K7ASA, then to NJ6VT from Michael Fischer, K6MLF on 146.700, K6GWE, Big Rock Repeater. An actual message text sent to the USS Pampanito in April, 1945 was received from NTS as follows:

43 R HCXF 11 WB4ZKA
CAPT PAUL SUMMERS C/O
USS PAMPANITO SS 383 SAN FRANCISCO, CA 95665 415-516-5310
HISTORICAL RADIO EXERCISE LOG X
JOIN WOLFPACK APR 14 THROUGH 17
THEN DEPART AREA ENROUTE PEARL HARBOR

VADM LOCKWOOD COMSUBPAC

This message was received by the Pampanito and acknowledged to K6MLF. A few things need to be changed, like the zip code for the boat (94133 instead of 95665) and a note that my 415 cell phone number is inoperative when below decks. From now on, we will devote the time slot from 1100 hours to 1115 hours to monitoring the Big Rock Repeater, K6GWE (146.700 MHz) for NTS traffic on the second Saturday of the month before we give priority to HF operations. Use memory position #2 on the VHF rig for the Big Rock Repeater. Memory #2 with its stored PL seems to work better than memory #1 and its PL. Keep in mind that the goal of NTS is timely message delivery and accuracy!

I was joined by Doug McCaslin, KJ6OYJ, in the afternoon and we listened on 40, 20 and 17 meters. The 20 meter band was active and Doug was able to work a New Mexico station operating in the New Mexico QSO party. Other than that, not much else was going on. Doug and I had a discussion about operating PSK-31 on the boat and we will be getting ready for that soon. PSK-31 has been in operation before on the boat a number of years ago, thanks to long time P.A.R.C. member Dennis Franklin, K6DF. As I recall, our old lap top computer has a copy of DigiPan already loaded. With a few proper connectors, we should be up and running on PSK-31 soon.

A work party is being organized to clean antenna and ground connections for the HF long wire antenna and SGC remote antenna tuner. Also noted: our 2 meter, VHF vertical antenna was blown over from winds and is lying horizontal, pointing east at the moment. It should be a simple matter to right the VHF antenna mag-mount and enjoy improved VHF performance!

Our next scheduled DDO is set for May 9, 2015. Also keep in mind that the annual "Museums Ships on the Air Special Event" is coming in early June (June 6 & 7) and we will need volunteers. Let me know if you can help out for either the May 9th DDO or the Museum Ships Event. Thanks!

73,

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



Club Jackets Available

Like the new MARS logo? Need a toasty, spiffy jacket? Look at the photo of Steve, Jerry and Michael wearing theirs, and get one for yourself! You order them directly from Debbie Diaz of Catto's Graphics in Santa Cruz. Her telephone number is 888-722-7135 (0700-1530L) Base price is \$52 w/logo.

Add your name and call sign, tax and shipping, it's around \$80. Up to 6XL available. (Base price for XXL and up is \$58) Her email is debbie@cattosgraphics.com



Minutes for Board Meeting

Thursday, April 09, 2015

Board Members present: Curtis Ardourel, Dave Hodgson, Marc Bruvry, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, John Boyd, Cal Anber, Rita Brenden and Randy Jenkins.

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

The agenda was approved as amended (additions).

The minutes of the March 05, 2015 meeting were approved as published.

Randy reported no significant mail, under correspondence.

Treasurer: Dave submitted reports for March. The report showed \$2,941.00 income and \$1,676.25 expenses; and total cash assets of \$59,744.00. We are waiting for an insurance bill from the new carrier. There is still a high water bill. The toilet in the apartment was leaking. It has been repaired.

Committee reports:

Membership- We have 74 renewals for 2015. We are at 84% renewals. Dues were discussed.

Public Service – The Marin Century start/finish is moved for 2015. Randy will follow up. Our next event is on April 25. The Miwok assignments have been sent out. Curtis has a map fix for the website.

Technical- The problem with the GPS on Big Rock has been fixed.

Comm Truck- Still rusting.

VE Liaison – Randy reported that the next date is Sunday May 24. We need more people to sign up as VE's.

Speakers – Doug is looking for speakers. He has a couple of leads.

Building Committee – A leaking toilet in the apartment that has been fixed. Doug is scheduling a roofing contractor for an estimate.

Old Business

Parking Signs – No report.

Inventory of Equipment – Doug is almost finished.

Digital Repeater: Curtis will create a survey.

ARRL listing – Curtis reported that it was updated.

Logo Banners – John submitted pricing information. Banners and magnetic signs were discussed. John will report on producing a 2X6 or a 2X4 banner. There was a discussion of 'emergency communications.'

Bob Fajardo, SK – *QSA-5* mention.

New Business:

Honorary Memberships – Motion to make Steve Toquinto an honorary member for 2015. AKU/VMT/Pass

Rent Increase – There was a motion to increase the rent for the tenant to \$2250.00, effective August 1. TIA/AKU/Pass

Club Mailing List – There was a motion to create an auxiliary mailing list for non-members, to send them special club information. VMT/TIA/Pass

Auction - Doug proposed to hold a silent auction of surplus club equipment on July 11.

Cal Cars – There was a motion to have Cal relocate his vehicles out of the parking lot by the end of the month, or he will pay \$100.00 per car. AKU/TIA/Pass.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:32 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

Kris Backenstose, KK6AYC, made a presentation on his home-built radio.

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the Secretary's files as maintained at the Corporate Office.

Membership Meeting

April 3, 2015

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

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

The agenda was adopted as presented.

President Ardourel reported on the actions at the March 05 Board of Director's Meeting. We are considering a digital repeater

There were six reports under "Fun with Amateur Radio". There is a slow-speed code net Wednesdays at 19:00 on 7.1045 MHz.

The following new members were announced: Bill Hertan, KI6JOP; and Karen Stultz-Miller, KK6GJW.

Secretary Jenkins reported on correspondence. There were bills, 6 renewals, 2 donations, and a letter from the Marin Elections Department.

Treasurer Dave Hodgson was not present and submitted a written report showing \$59,744.00 assets.

Membership: 68 plus 6 for 2015. Members can renew and pay on the website.

Public Service: The 2015 events are filling in on the chalkboard, and on the website. We still need volunteers. There will be an on-the-air briefing before events. There has been a lot of work done on the public service webpages.

The Technical Committee: Doug reporting that the new GPS was installed on Big Rock, and the issue has been resolved .

Education: Nothing scheduled. There will be a General Class starting in Richmond this month.

VE: Next exam scheduled for Sunday, 5/24.

Old business: None

New Business: None.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 19:54 hrs.

There was a presentation on QRP radio by Kris, KK6AYC.

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the secretary's records on file at the corporate office.

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 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

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