
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

June 2015

Presidents Corner



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Board Minutes

From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

The Dog Days of Summer

Dog Days were popularly believed to be an evil time "the Sea boiled, the Wine turned sour, Dogs grew mad, and all other creatures became languid; causing to man, among other diseases, burning fevers, hysterics, and phrensies." according to Brady's Clavis Calendaria, 1813.

July and August seem to be the slow months in ham radio. The HF bands are quiet for the most part and the sunspot cycle is not helping the propagation. Yet here in our area we have the opportunity to try a local contest on VHF.

The San Francisco Radio Club is sponsoring the 2015 San Francisco 2 Meter FM QSO Party. It is designed to give 2 meter operators a fun contest to work others via simplex. The QSO party takes place on Saturday August 29th, 2015 starting at 12 noon (1900 UTC), and runs for 6 hours. Contacts are limited to FM Simplex on the 2 meter band, and at least one end of the QSO must be within San Francisco. Participants are entered as either fixed or mobile. The exchange is call sign and zip code. If you are mobile your zip can change. Scoring is based on zip codes and a logging program is available for you at <http://sfsunset.com/logger/>. Complete contest details and rules are available at <http://www.sfar.org/timeline082915.htm>.

Should the HF bands cooperate in August, there are state QSO parties and the North American QSO Party. The NAQP could provide the opportunity to work many states and its limit of 100 watts makes it possible for even modest stations to join the fun.

Kudos to Doug, KF6AKU, and Randy, KA6BQF, for all of their work in organizing and running a successful club auction. Not only did the club bring in about \$2,200 from the auction, but some of the operational transceivers were bought by club members to use.

Radio Amateurs Join ISS Crew:

Two radio amateurs were among the three new International Space Station (ISS) crew members, who arrived on station on July 23 (UTC). Kjell Lindgren, KO5MOS; Oleg Kononenko, RN3DX, and Kimiya Yui traveled into space aboard a Russian *Soyuz* spacecraft that has docked with the ISS. Expedition 44 Commander Gennady Padalka, RN3DT, and Flight Engineers Scott Kelly and Mikhail Kornienko, RN3BF, were on hand to greet the trio. Lindgren, Kononenko, and Yui will stay on the ISS until late December. Kelly and Kornienko are a few months into a 1-year mission that ends next March. Padalka, who also has been aboard since March, returns to Earth in September.



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What is this?

Send me your answers and I will post the answer next month in QSA5. e.essick@comcast.net



What's Happening in Radio?

On The Air

Contest Calendar

10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB: 0001Z, Aug 1 to 2359Z, Aug 2

International Lighthouse-Lightship Weekend Contest: 0001Z, Aug 1 to 2359Z, Aug 2

ARRL August UHF Contest: 1800Z, Aug 1 to 1800Z, Aug 2

North American QSO Party, CW: 1800Z, Aug 1 to 0559Z, Aug 2

Hawaii QSO Party 0400Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 24

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

ARRL News

ARRL HF Band Plan

The ARRL Board adopted amendments to the ARRL HF Band Plan that were recommended by the HF Band Planning Committee, with one major change from the proposals as outlined in the April 2015 issue of *QST* and [summarized](#) on the ARRL website. That change was to set the upper RTTY/data limit for 20 meters at 14.125 MHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 band plan.

Rule Making Petition to FCC

The Board authorized the preparation of a rule making petition to the FCC, seeking changes in the 80 and 75 meter bands that are consistent with majority opinion among more than 1000 responses to an online membership survey. The petition would seek to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 to 3650 kHz. It also would restore privileges in the 3600-3650 kHz segment to Advanced, General, Technician, and Novice licensees.

In addition, the League will ask the FCC to shift the automatically controlled digital station (ACDS) band segment from 3585-3600 kHz to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and Region 2 band plans, and authorize Technician and Novice licensees to use RTTY/data emissions in their 15 and 80 meter band segments, the latter change contingent on expansion of the 80 meter band.

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FCC News

FCC to Close Field Offices

The FCC announced it will close field offices at or near Seattle, Anchorage, Buffalo, Detroit, Houston, Kansas City, Norfolk, Philadelphia, San Diego, San Juan (Puerto Rico), and Tampa.

Enforcement Bureau field offices in or near Atlanta, San Francisco, and Columbia (Maryland) will relocate to FCC-owned sites nearby or in the same metropolitan areas. Locations to remaining open in or near New York City, Miami, Dallas, Chicago, Boston, Denver, Honolulu, New Orleans, Portland (Oregon), and Los Angeles. Staff and equipment will be maintained at these locations.

The FCC still plans to implement rapid deployment teams from Columbia Maryland and Denver. These teams will support nationwide high-priority enforcement actions.

Pampanito Report

Our station NJ6VT was up and running around 1045 hours aboard the USS Pampanito on Saturday, June 11th for our regularly scheduled DDO. HF radio conditions were rather disappointing on the 40 meter band with the absence of short skip. Very few stations were heard and no QSO's were made early on. No other museum ships were heard. The Big Rock repeater on 146.700 was monitored from 1100 to 1115 hours for Pampanito traffic, but no traffic for the boat was received.

After lunch, the noise level rose substantially to solid S5 - S6 across the entire 40 meter band making communications all but impossible. A solar flare radiation disturbed the ionosphere and radio propagation was compromised for the rest of the day. Doug McCasland, KJ6OYJ, made a few QSO's on the 20 meter band and I tried to contact our friend Jose, KP3W, in Puerto Rico on a pre-arranged sked on the 17 meter CW band at 18.080 mc. Very few signals were heard on the 17 meter band at that time and many calls to KP3W went unanswered. I heard from Jose later by email that conditions were the same at his QTH. Maybe next time we will have better luck! Visitor traffic aboard the boat was light to moderate. Most visitors were from California this time around.

Our next DDO is set for Saturday, August 8, 2015 aboard the Pampanito. Let me know if you are interested in helping out.

73,

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



Public Service Signups Still Needed

The following MARS events still need volunteers. Please consider signing up to help out with these.

Marin County Bicycle Coalition's Dirt Fondo- Saturday 9/13
Dolphin Club Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon- Saturday 10/17

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 General Membership Meeting

No meeting in July.

Minutes for Board Meeting

Thursday, July 09, 2015

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

The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the June 11, 2015 meeting were approved as amended.

Randy reported on a renewal under Correspondence.

Treasurer: Dave submitted reports for May. The report showed \$2,260.00 income and \$373.10 expenses; and total cash assets of \$57,690.44.

Committee reports:

Membership- Curtis purged the mailing list. We have 85 members.

Public Service – The next event is the Marin Century on August 1. Randy announced that he may need replacement next year.

Technical- The 147.330 repeater is back on Mt. Tam Bldg. 402. It has great coverage. Doug has the replacement antennas, but has no plans to install them before our close of the public service season. Doug will submit a proposal about linking site 402 to the Simlulcast System.

Comm Truck- Still rusting.

Education – Nothing has been scheduled. There was a discussion of finding a replacement for Randy and Dave.

VE Liaison – Randy reported that the next date is Saturday August 23. We need more people to sign up as VE's.

Speakers – Doug had nothing to announce.

Field Day – Completed. Accounting phase. Good score.

Building Committee – Doug has not had time to schedule a roofing contractor for an estimate.

Christmas Dinner – Discussed. Looking at catering. Looking at Wednesday, 12/16.

Picnic – Looking at September 19.

Old Business:

Parking Signs – Here. Cal has the materials to make stands.

Auction – The Auction is scheduled for July 11. Talk it up.

Digital Repeater - Curtis will create a survey. SFRC is planning to install one, maybe two. Doug wants to see how those perform, before committing to install a similar machine on 443.250.

Logo Banners – John submitted two banners. Cost \$44.86

New Business:

“Digital” Format Net on 443.525 – Doug gave permission to run a net on Thursdays at 20:00 – 21:00. It is a fl-digi experiment. There has been an objection to using a digital mode on the voice channel. The Board discussed the objection. It was moved to send a response to the objector, that the experimental net will continue.

Children at Club Events – There was a message that raised objections to the presence of children at club events. It was discussed by the Board. Curtis will send a response, that we do not have a policy of excluding children at events.

Donation of Equipment – There was a message about transferring equipment to the club. It was voted to accept a donation of the equipment.

Space Station Museum – There was a message about participating in presenting ham radio to the public in Novato.

Cal's Limo – The Board authorized Doug to tell Cal to have move the limo by Aug.1 or it will towed away. ORI/WPN/Pass

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:48 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

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

<p>Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:</p> <p>President Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS 510-595-3494</p> <p>Vice President John Boyd KE6ORI 924-04419</p> <p>Secretary Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089</p> <p>Treasure: Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 707 978-2560</p> <p>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</p> <p>Other Positions:</p> <p>Education Chair Randy Jenkins</p> <p>VE Liaison Randy Jenkins</p> <p>Building Co-Managers Doug Slusher Dave Hodgson</p> <p>Trustee for W6SG Augie Koehler K0CQL</p> <p>Trustee for K6GWE Doug Slusher KF6AKU</p> <p>Sunday Emergency Nets Mark Bruvry and other volunteers</p> <p>DX Representative of ARRL Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</p>	<p>Public Service Event Coordinator Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089</p> <p>Membership</p> <p>Editor of QSA-5 Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715 e.essick@comcast.net</p> <p>ARRL San Francisco Section Manager Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG</p> <p>WEBMASTER Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET</p>
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