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# QSA-5

## The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

June 2015

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### Presidents Corner

June will very soon be a memory and Field Day is all over but the counting. Take a look at Marilyn Bagshaw's excellent photos, links are on the Field Day page on our website [http://w6sg.net/site/?page\\_id=296](http://w6sg.net/site/?page_id=296). I also want to thank everyone who helped out with the setup, operating, cooking, and strike of our site.

We are half way through the public service calendar and from what I hear our events are running smoothly. Particularly we have been hearing how well the new repeater Mt Tam works in West Marin. We have a new event this year called the Marin County Bicycle Coalition's Dirt Fondo. I know I sometimes annoy my readers by sending them to the dictionary. Well Fondo sent me to the dictionary. A web search on "Dirt Fondo" got me about four hundred thousand hits but the first three pages mostly point to the event we are working on.

A little more research takes me to Gran Fondo originally a race in Italy in 1970. A Gran Fondo now seems to be a bicycle race on a closed road course with RFid timing. That seems really specific but people who write dictionary definitions are usually purists so I would expect that kind of definition. So to translate from the dictionary to reality, I have to guess that a Dirt Fondo is a bike race on unpaved trails. So you have made it through didactics this month.

*Continued on page 2*

#### What's Happening in Radio

On the Air

Field Day 2015

FCC News

Public Service

Pampanito Report

Board Minutes

### From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

#### ARRL Field Day

Field Day this year began with the setup on Friday June 27<sup>th</sup>. Members from both the Redwood Empire DX Association (REXDA) and MARS put up three 50 foot towers, a Steppir vertical, and a Butternut vertical. Several dipoles were hung from the towers. We had three stations, one for SSB, one for CW, and the GOTA station.

Operation started at 11am on Saturday and continued thru to Sunday at 10am. Our GOTA station had three young operators who worked hard to make contacts.

Thanks to all of those who helped out for this event. Thanks also to the club members that came out to show your support for the station operators and Field Day. It takes a team effort and planning to pull this off each year.

Special thanks to these folks:

Marilyn, N6VAW, brought lunch for the Friday construction crew and took the pictures of the event.

Cal, N6TIA, did a great job providing operators and guests with barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs for dinner Saturday night as well as his secret peach cake dessert. His Sunday breakfast included pancakes, bacon, and scrambled eggs.

Ron, N6IE, REDXA, was overall event coordinator who made sure all of the stations were up and running with N1MM+ logging software. His planning and experience with Field Day made it easy for the operators.

Doug, KF6AKU, brought the laptops and setup the Wi-Fi and Internet so the computers could use N1MM+ logging software.

Phil, K6PHD, for providing the Honda generator that made portable operation possible.

Rich, W6UDS for the coordination with the Marin Rod and Gun Club.

Overall I think everyone had a great time. I enjoyed meeting and talking with club members as well as operating the SSB station on Saturday and Sunday. Several people camped at the site.

So if you did not make it out for Field Day this year, mark your calendars for the last weekend in June next year and come on out and enjoy either operating or just socializing with other club members.

Still on the nominal topic of public service we are still looking for volunteers for the remaining events. Please check out the calendar and see if you can find an event to support.

As a reminder to all of you the July membership meeting has been cancelled since it is the day before the Fourth of July. I look forward to seeing you at the 7 August meeting.

Our new repeater on Mt Tam has received rave reviews and there is a chance that it will get even better coverage. The board voted to fund two new antennas for our Mt Tam UHF repeaters.

I urge you all to get out there and "do something fun with amateur radio" so you will have stories to tell at the next meeting.

73 de WA6UDS

## New Repeater West Mt. Tam

Many of you know that the new repeater is located on the West Peak of Mt. Tam. Thanks to the efforts of Doug, Randy, and John the new 147.33 repeater fills in the previous null spots we have experienced in public service events.



## What's Happening in Radio?

### On The Air

#### Contest Calendar

DL-DX RTTY Contest 1100Z, 7/4 to 1059Z, 7/5  
WAB 144 MHz Low Power Phone 1000Z-1400Z, 7/5  
North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, 7/18 to 0559Z, 7/19  
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest 1800Z, 7/18 to 2100Z, 7/19

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

#### FCC News

#### FCC Chairman, Lawmakers Agree to Scale Back Field Office Shutdowns

Leaders of the US House Energy and Commerce Committee have reached agreement with FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler to amend the Commission's plans -- announced in March -- to close a number of FCC field offices. Under the revised plan, the FCC will keep 15 of its 24 field offices open. According to a Committee media release, the plan would "ensure better rapid response capabilities for the West, provide a mechanism for escalating interference complaints, improve enforcement of the FCC's rules against pirate radio operators, and prevent the Commission from transferring field office jobs to FCC Headquarters." The FCC had been under pressure from lawmakers and others to step back from its plan to shutter the field offices.

"We found a good solution that makes sense. These changes will keep field offices open in strategic locations and help ensure that the commission can fulfill its responsibilities to the public and public safety communities," said Communications and Technology Subcommittee Chairman Greg Walden, W7EQI. "This agreement strikes a balance between the important work of FCC field agents and streamlining field operations to ensure the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. Positive outcomes often result from collaborative work. This agreement represents just such an effort."

As a result of the announced agreement, a June 11 hearing of Walden's subcommittee to address the proposed closings was cancelled. ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, was among those prepared to testify at the session.

The closure plans were revealed earlier this year via an apparently leaked internal FCC Enforcement Bureau (EB) memorandum that indicated the Bureau planned to ask the full Commission to cut two-thirds of its field

*Continued on page 3*

## OJOB on Market Reef Logs Hundreds of 2 Meter Moonbounce, Meteor Scatter Contacts

The recent Market Reef OJOB expedition resulted in 462 contacts via 2 meter Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) and meteor scatter activity with stations on all continents. The activity this month was a somewhat belated 50th anniversary celebration of the historic first 2 meter EME contact in 1964. More than 50 hams from the US and Canada were among those that worked OJOB on 2 meter EME. The OJOB activity shut down on June 15 after making more than 8200 contacts on all bands and modes.



Project leaders dedicated the activity to VHF pioneer Lenna Suominen, OH1NL (SK), who had experimented with EME in the 1960s and made the first-ever 2 meter EME contact, as well as the first transatlantic (Europe-US) on any band above 50 MHz, with Bill Conkel, W6DNG, in 1964. OJOB used JT65B mode, developed by Joe Taylor, K1JT. Former ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, was one of the lucky US stations to work OJOB, and Harrison served as one of the pilots for the activity.

All contacts have been uploaded to [ClubLog](#) and OQRS.

Suominen, an early VHF pioneer, was deeply involved in the science of VHF communication and strongly believed that 2 meter EME contacts



Next to the Market Reef EME array: (L-R) OH6ZZ, OH2BH, OH8MSM, OH6KZP, OH2TA, and OH2GEK.  
[Photo courtesy of Martti Laine, OH2BH]

-- dismissed by experts as being out of reach for radio amateurs -- were indeed possible. His 2 meter EME contact with W6DNG in California proved the skeptics wrong, scoring more than one VHF "first."

Market Reef (JP90nh) is located between Finland and Sweden. The Finnish Lighthouse Society has been restoring the Market Reef Lighthouse there, which is now fully automated. Dedicated quarters on the reef are available for Amateur Radio operation, with power from generators and solar arrays. -- *Thanks to Martti Laine, OH2BH, and Jarmo Jaakola, OH2BN*

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offices and eliminate nearly one-half of its field agents. At the same time, the Bureau would develop a so-called "Tiger Team" of field agents as a flexible strike force it could deploy as needed.

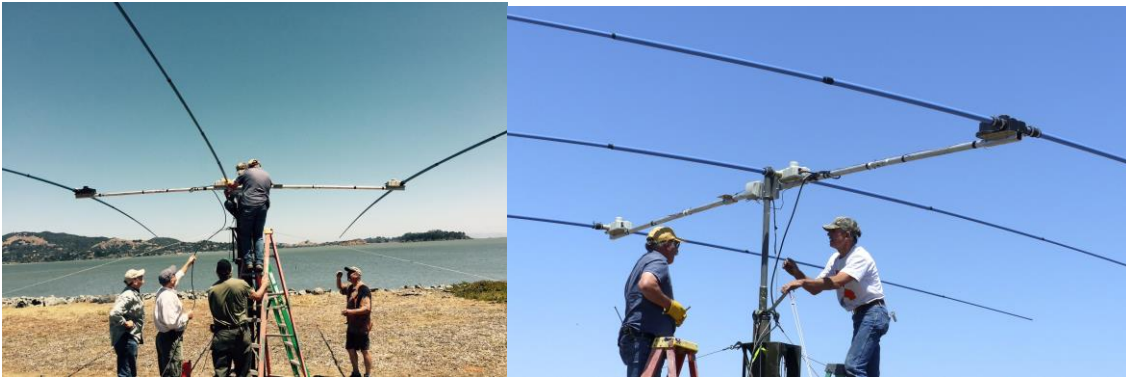
After the League learned of the field office closure plans, ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, expressed dismay at the proposals, coming, he said, "at a time when the Field staff is facing ever-increasing challenges." Sumner also had expressed concern "that there is already no sense of urgency in the FCC's enforcement activities targeting spectrum polluters, such as utilities with noisy power lines, or the few violators in our own ranks." The League has been working behind the scenes at the FCC and on Capitol Hill to make a case that more enforcement leads to better compliance in all services.

Under the proposals, initiated last fall, the field office geographic footprint would have been reduced from 24 sites to 8 sites, with the EB set to "pre-position" equipment in several other strategic locations. Offices already slated to remain open are New York City; Columbia, Maryland -- the site of the Bureau's HF Direction-Finding Center; Chicago; Atlanta; Miami; Dallas; Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The other offices the FCC plans to keep open have not yet been announced.

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## Field Day 2015

### Setup on Friday



The team sets up the beams

**Field Day 2105  
Friday Setup**



**Ready to operate**

**Field Day  
Saturday Operating**



**George operating GOTA station**



**Phyllis at the GOTA station**



Jerry operating the CW station



Marilyn and Jim with the GOTA operator



Ron and Ed operating the SSB station



Cal preparing Saturday night dinner



Saturday dinner



**Field Day  
Saturday Operating**



**Sun sets Saturday night on the 40M beam**

## Field Day Sunday



## San Rafael Fire Department Visits

## Field Day Sunday station break down



Thanks to our professional photographer, Marilyn Bagshaw, K6VAW, for providing these photos of Field Day 2015.

## Public Service

### Double Dipsea

These are the highlights from the race



Net Control Stinson Beach



Old Mill Park half way point

## Pampanito Report

The June 6 - 7, 2015 "Museum Ship's on the Air Special Event" weekend got under way aboard the USS Pampanito on Saturday morning around 0900 DST and continues on Sunday. Radio propagation conditions were only fair, but much better than last year! There were times when the 20, 15 and 17 meter bands were quite good, but deep QSB was ever-present, wiping out the weaker signals.

There were a number of stations that we normally have worked in past museum ship events on the 40 meter band in the morning hours that were conspicuous by their absence: The RMS Queen Mary, W6RO, the Star of India, NS6OI and others, like the USS Midway. I believe poor short skip conditions from the Bay Area to LA and San Diego were largely responsible for the lack of activity in the on the 40 meter band. Not hearing the USS Midway on the 40 meter band, we struggled to work the Midway on the 20 meter band, which we eventually did.

We had quite a number of participants this year. Here is the list of the Pampanito A.R.C members who operated our station, NJ6VT during the museum ship's event:

Den Regan, K6ZJU Jerry Foster, WA6BXV Michael Fisher, K6MLF Bill Stewart, KF6RMK

I want to thank Jerry, Michael and Bill for the maintenance work carried out on the boat and for operating NJ6VT during the museum ship's weekend.

In addition to P.A.R.C. members, we had quite a number of Guest RO's help out this year and here they are:

Doug McCasland, KJ6OYJ Wassim Nassif, WN6WNJ Steve Reynolds, K6SDR Lawrence Lin, AB2PS  
Jeff Curry, KK6JJZ Tom Soskin, W6MTS Jose Rodriguez, KP3W

Jose, KP3W, was visiting the boat on his trip to San Francisco from San Juan, Puerto Rico! Thanks to Jose, we were able to work the minimum number of museum ship's this year to qualify for the second certificate, the 15th ship worked being the submarine USS Batfish, WW2SUB, in Muskogee, OK. Way to go Jose!

Below is the list of the 15 museum ships worked and logged by NJ6VT during Saturday and Sunday's operations aboard the USS Pampanito:

USS Hornet, Aircraft Carrier, NB6GC	USS LST-325, LST, WW2LST
USS Lexington, Aircraft Carrier, W5LEX	USS Lucid, Minesweeper, W6MSO
USS Midway, Aircraft Carrier, NI6IW	PBR, River Patrol Boat, W5PBR
USS Potomac, Pres. Yacht, NE6JP	Tall Ship Elisa, Sailing Barque, N5E
USS Stewart, Destroyer, KK5W	USS Batfish, Submarine, WW2SUB
SS Edmond Fitzgerald, K8S	USS Cavalla, Submarine, KK5W
USCGC Mackinaw, Icebreaker, W8AGB	USS Blueback, Submarine, W7SUB
SS Red Oak Victory, Victory Ship, K6YVM	

On behalf of the Pampanito A.R.C., I want to thank our Guest RO's for taking the time to come to the boat and volunteer their services! Very much appreciated!!

By the way, all museum ship QSO's were made on SSB on the 40, 20, 17 and 15 meter bands. We did listen on 10 meters, but heard no museum ships there. After the event, I heard that there was at least one museum ship operating on the 12 meter band. We should give that band a listen as well next time around!

A total of 106 QSO's were logged during the museum ships event this last weekend, not quite as many in previous years when radio propagation conditions were much better. It should be pointed out that we cannot operate the full number of museum ship event hours because the hours of visitation on the boat are limited. If we had access to the boat for the entire allotted time for the museum ship's event, I am sure we would have logged more museum ships and more QSO's overall.

There is room for improvement in the museum ship event operations aboard the boat that involve better crew allocation and better logging techniques, that would result in more QSO's for a given amount of time and effort. More will be said about this in future communications prior to next year's museum ships event.

Well, that's it for this year's museum ship's event. I will be sending the museum ship's log book pages in to HQ, the Battleship New Jersey, NJ2BB, shortly. As usual, it will take HQ quite a while to digest all the hundreds (thousand's ?) of logs sent in by others before our certificates will arrive, so be patient! Again, my thanks to all those who helped make this year's museum ship's event a success!

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 Century/Mt. Tam DC Ride – Saturday 8/1  
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](mailto:debbie@cattosgraphics.com)



## Minutes for General Membership Meeting

Friday, June 05, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 19:31 hrs by Vice-President John Boyd.

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

The agenda was adopted as presented.

The minutes of the May 01 General Membership Meeting were approved as submitted.

Vice-President Boyd reported on the actions at the May 14 Board of Director's Meeting. The Friday, July 03 General Membership Meeting has been cancelled. The Board is considering the purchase of banners for public service events.

Secretary Jenkins reported on correspondence. There were bills.

Treasurer Dave Hodgson was not present and submitted a written report for May showing \$2,482.76 income, \$5,683.63 expenses, and total assets of \$55,803.54.

Membership: 74 for 2015, 83% renewals from 2014. Members can renew and pay on the website. Dues become delinquent on June 30.

The Technical Committee: Doug reporting that he has the new duplexer for the 147.330 repeater on Mt. Tam, and installation was scheduled for Saturday & Sunday.

Field Day: Doug Slusher reported that set-up would begin at 11:00 on Friday, June 26, at the Marin Rod & Gun Club.

Public Service: The 2015 events were updated on the chalkboard, and on the website. Our next events are the Dipsea on June 14 and the Double Dipsea on June 20. We still need volunteers.

Education: Nothing scheduled.

VE: Next exam scheduled for Saturday, 8/29.

Old business: The Auction of Surplus Club Equipment is scheduled for July 11.

New Business: None.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:08 hrs.

There was no presentation.

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.

## Minutes for Board Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2015

Board Members present: Curtis Ardourel, Phil Dunlap, Ed Essick, 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 presented.

The minutes of the May 14, 2015 meeting were approved as amended.

Randy reported bills, an insurance refund check, and a notice from our accountant, under correspondence.

Treasurer: Dave submitted reports for May. The report showed \$2,482.76 income and \$5,683.63 expenses; and total cash assets of \$55,803.54.

Committee reports:

Membership- We have 74 renewals plus two new members for 2015. Dues were discussed. 2015 Dues are delinquent on June 30.

Public Service – The Dipsea Race is on 6/14, Double Dipsea 6/20. Many changes to both rosters.

Technical- The 147.330 repeater is back on Mt. Tam Bldg. 402. It seems to work well, but it times out. Doug has an idea. There was a motion to allocate NTE \$600.00 to purchase two new antennas for Mt. Tam. ORI/ELE Pass There were questions about the phone line to San Pedro, and on installing back-up batteries.

Comm Truck- Still rusting. There was a question about registering it as non-operating.

Education – Nothing has been scheduled. Discussion.

VE Liaison – Randy reported that the next date is Saturday August 29. We need more people to sign up as VE's.

Speakers – Doug had nothing to announce.

Field Day – Ed reported that the combined clubs will operate 2A. Set-up begins Friday, sign up with N6IE, operations will be from 11:00AM Saturday to 11:00 AM Sunday. N1MM+ logging software will be used. Doug is working on getting the checkbook from Dave. Cal will cooking.

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

Old Business

Parking Signs – Here. Cal will make stands.

Inventory of Equipment – Doug is finished. The auction of surplus equipment is scheduled for July 11. Other clubs will get invitations.

Digital Repeater: Curtis will create a survey. SFRC is planning to install one, maybe two.

Logo Banners – John submitted pricing information. There was a motion to authorize John to purchase a sample, NTE \$50.00.

AKU/WPN/Pass

Awards Page – The Awards page will go 'live' with the information we have. We will solicit more.

New Business:

There was a proposal to eliminate 'hard copies' of QSA-5. No action was taken on this item.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:50 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 signup instructions. The W6SG emergency HF net check-in is at 9 am on 3.915 Mh.

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