
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

May 2015

Presidents Corner

Ah... June. I have finally gotten used to writing 2015 on checks. OK I am so backward that I still use checks. But June... The Summer Solstice will take place on 21 June this year. We call this the first day of summer but I prefer the title Midsummer eve a time of madness and revelry. Above 60° 34' North the sunlight will be visible to nearly midnight. Here the light will be gone by about 9:30 pm, and then of course the days begin to get shorter again.

That also means Field Day is upon us. This year we start setup on Friday 26 June as usual at the Marin Rod and Gun Club. We will partner this year with the Redwood Empire DX Association. This is a major event for both of our clubs. If you are inclined to action please come out to help set up on Friday and/or strike on Sunday. Field Day also serves as a place to meet other members in an interesting a scenic venue. If you know someone who may be interested in the hobby, Field Day is a much more exciting experience than one of our meetings in spite of, or because of the fact you won't have to listen to me drone on and on.

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From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

ARRL Field Day



I hope to see a lot club members at Field Day this year. Come on out and operate, help out with setup, or just to enjoy the activity.

What's Happening in Radio

On the Air

FCC News

Public Service

Field Day 2014

APRS in Public Service Events

Board Minutes

While I am talking about activities, this weekend is the Museum Ships Weekend. We are still looking for hams to work on the U.S.S. Pampanito, check out our web page at http://w6sg.net/site/?page_id=294. Going inside a submarine is pretty cool. If you are just looking for an outing the weekend offers a chance to see some cool ships and meet other hams around the bay area including the U.S.S Pampanito in San Francisco, the U.S.S. Hornet in Alameda, the U.S.S Potomac in Oakland, the U.S.S. Red Oak Victory in Richmond, or the U.S.S Lucid in Stockton. Perhaps you will meet a muse. A muse is someone who inspires another to action or creativity. More classically the muses are the nine daughters Zeus and Mnemosyne. Calliope for epic poetry, Clio for history, Euterpe for song and elegiac poetry, Erato for lyric poetry, Melpomene for tragedy, Polyhymnia for hymns, Terpsichore for dance, Thalia for comedy, and Uraia for Astronomy.

We still have spots open for operators for a number of our public service events. Even if you have never worked an event in the past I encourage you to come out. If you are new to public service you will be paired with an experienced operator and you will get to work at some interesting location in our scenic Bay Area.

At all events get out and do something interesting this weekend.

73 de WA6UDS

What's Happening in Radio?

Public Service

There are a number of events that need volunteers. Please consider signing up for one or more of them. See the listing on page five of the events that still need volunteers.

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>

Welcome to
amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Marin Amateur Radio Club** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.
You can select a different charitable organization after signing in.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
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On The Air

Contest Calendar

10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest: 0000Z, 6/6 to 2400Z, 6/7 2400Z

Portugal Day Contest: 1200Z, Jun 13 to 1200Z, Jun 14

All Asian DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Jun 20 to 2400Z, Jun 21

ARRL Field Day 1800Z, Jun 27 to 2100Z, Jun 28

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

FCC News

The FCC will drop the regulatory fee charged for vanity call sign applications. The commission said it was not economical to continue as the cost of processing and issuing refunds exceed the fees collected. The current vanity call sign regulatory fee is \$21.40, the highest in several years. The FCC reported there were 11,500 "payment units" in FY 2014 and estimated that it would collect nearly \$246,100.

Public Service

Miwok 100 2015

These are the highlights from Muir Beach.



Public Service Signups Still Needed

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

- Museum Ships Weekend aboard the USS Pampanito- Saturday 6/6
- Field Day, Marin Rod and Gun Club –Friday, Saturday, Sunday 6/26-6/28
- 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

Summary of 1/17 Meeting Notes from Public Service Luncheon

(editor Note: these are the suggestions that relate to operating as a volunteer)

1. Establish a priority system for traffic between Net Control and stations;
2. Publish a card with examples of what kind of calls should receive which priority (need more watermelon at the lowest, and rider down at the highest);
3. Net control should routinely sign off with "accepting priority 1 and 2 calls only." or "accepting any traffic";
4. Net control, especially in busy times, should give out a call every now and then to establish a queue of stations with traffic;
5. Consider adopting the "traffic cards" as at 2014 Marin Century;
6. Schedule a separate "computer staffer" at each net control to enable use of APRS, packet, text-messaging, cellphone, or other means of comms;
7. Each operator bring a pair of FRS radios for comms with rest stop captain;
8. Each operator bring an HT to use as a "receive only" radio to enable walking around, with a quick return to the base station for transmitting;
9. If more than one frequency is being utilized, operators should have two HTs (or scanning) to know when net control is busy on the other frequency;
10. Make sure net control is insulated from noise and event-organizer's chaos;
11. Schedule a special briefing for all the operators of an event—either in person before the date, or on-air at the beginning of the event, perhaps repeated if there are shift changes;
12. That briefing, including an email with briefing summary, should include a list of minimal equipment needed to operate, and whatever station-specific problems to be expected (e.g., Walker Creek, Pantoll, Muir Beach)

CQ Names 2015 Hall of Fame Inductees

The CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame honors individuals, licensed or not, who have made significant contributions to Amateur Radio, to their professions, or "to some other aspect of life on our planet," *CQ* said.

CQ Amateur Radio Hall of Fame

- Tim Allen, KK6OTD -- Actor and star of the ABC comedy "Last Man Standing," on which he portrays a ham, Mike Baxter, KA0XTT.
- Charles Apgar, ex-2MN (SK) -- Uncovered German spy transmissions from Telefunken shore station WSL in New York during World War I, before the US became involved in the hostilities.
- Dr. Dan Benishek, KB8TOW -- Member of Congress from Michigan, medical doctor, and advocate for veterans.
- Olof Lundberg, G0CKV -- Leader of the communications satellite industry for a quarter-century.
- Bre Pettis, W2BRE -- 3D printing pioneer and founder of MakerBot.
- Alvino Rey, W6UK (SK) -- A leading musician of the swing era, Rey combined his love for music with his love of radio to transform the music world.
- Bob Twiggs, KE6QMD -- Co-inventor of the CubeSat design model.
- Greg Walden, W7EQI -- Member of Congress from Oregon and chairman of the House Communications and Technology Subcommittee.
- Joko "Jokowi" Widodo, YD2JKW -- President of Indonesia.

The CQ DX and Contest Halls of Fame honor those amateurs who not only excel in personal performance in these major areas of Amateur Radio but who also give back to the hobby in outstanding ways.

CQ DX Hall of Fame

- Yasuo "Zorro" Miyazawa, JH1AJT -- A DXer, DXpeditioner, educator, and philanthropist, Zorro Miyazawa is the founder and CEO of the Seisa Group, which operates schools in several countries, and is founder/CEO of the Foundation for Global Children.
- Michael Wells, G7VJR -- Founder of ClubLog, an online DXpedition log-hosting tool that has changed the face of DXpedition operating.

CQ Contest Hall of Fame

- Doug Grant, K1DG -- President of the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) Board and a world-class contester, Grant has shared his knowledge and skills with others. He has competed in five WRTC events, medaling three times.
- Ward Silver, N0AX -- A contester for more than 4 decades, he helped to found the WRTC competitions in 1990 and is president of the Yasme Foundation.

Field Day 2014

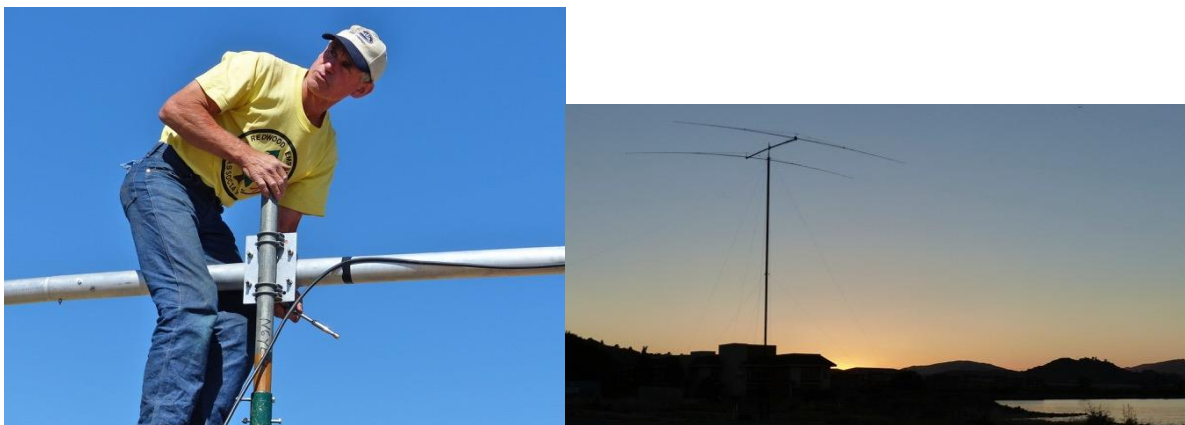
The following is a summary of Field Day 2014 in photos thanks to Marilyn Bagshaw, N6VAW. Come on out for Field Day 2015 and share the experience.



Setup begins with the arrival of the antennas and towers, and then the towers are setup.



The coax is laid and the beams are assembled.



Finishing the installation of the beams and the 40M beam ready for action after sunset.



Operation begins.



Breakfast is served and the chef is happy.

APRS in Public Service Events

Rob Rowlands, NZ6J

“Several Club members have been looking into using APRS on public service events again. In the past the Club had reportedly deployed APRS trackers with limited success due to lack of APRS (or any other!) infrastructure in the places we operate. Now that Raspberry Pi computers and other development for APRS have come along, its possible for that missing infrastructure to be deployed temporarily for events and disasters. Not only will APRS provide position reporting of moving operators, but the messaging capabilities have been enhanced of late with gateways to email, Twitter etc, allowing messaging akin to wireless text messaging. Steve K6ETA, Steve KB6HOH, Steve K6SDR, Rob NZ6J and others have been experimenting with various options for APRS servers, i.e. i-Gates and Digipeaters, and also for mobile APRS clients. The lowest entry level for a mobile is a \$50 drugstore Android phone running a \$4.95 application named "APRS droid", coupled acoustically to your favorite HT! See QST Hints and Kinks, September 2014. Direct audio connection and VOX are the next step as are APRS specific HTs like the VX-8, TH-D72 and mobiles like the Kenwood TM-710A.

“Rob NZ6J has put together a battery powered I-Gate using a Raspberry Pi with TNC-PI running Xastir connected to a Wouxon UV-8D HT. If the Dipsea communications organizers are in agreement he hopes to deploy it at Cardiac Hill during the forthcoming Dipsea race (June 14) as an overlay to the traditional voice operation. (*Editor Note: Use of the APRS system Rob describes here will not be used in the Dipsea event although its potential for future events should be considered*). Those operators, mobile and stationary, so inclined may like to have APRS clients at hand, and be versed in their messaging capabilities. If you are not directly involved you can access the APRS network through www.aprs.fi, listening to 144.390 MHz or using any number of APRS programs that access your internet connection to connect to APRS-IS to allow tracking and messaging without RF access”

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, May 14, 2015

Board Members present: Curtis Ardourel, Dave Hodgson, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, John Boyd, Ed Essick

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

The agenda was approved (J, D)

The minutes of the March 05, 2015 meeting were approved as published. (J, D)

Dave reported no mail, under correspondence.

Treasurer: Dave submitted reports for April. The report showed \$2,451.00 income and \$3,191.05 expenses; and total cash assets of \$59,004.95. There was confusion as to which insurance bill was to be paid the wrong one to Travelers thought to be our new carrier was paid in error. The correct carrier was paid and Doug would be contacting Dan Dufficy for a refund.

Committee reports:

Membership: We have 75 renewals for 2015. Past Due ends June, 1 no more QSA 5

Public Service: The next event will be The Dipsea June 6th

Technical: Mt Tam North needs new 6 Can Duplexers at a cost of \$2,000.00 to be paid out of Public Service reserve. (Ed, J, Abstain D)

Comm Truck: Still rusting.

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

Speakers: Doug is looking for speakers.

Building Committee: Another leak in the ADA toilet has been fixed. MMWD checked meter showing no leaks. Doug will apply to MMWD for refund.

Field Day: Ed and Mark meet with the folks from REDXA this year will be their call sign. We will operate 2A plus Gota. Phil is donating a trailer for the generator and will transport to FD. Set is Friday the 26th. Cal will be advanced \$200.00 for food. Doug will supply laptops and network.

Old Business:

Parking Signs: No report.

Inventory of Equipment: Doug is almost finished.

Digital Repeater: Curtis will create a survey. SFAC looking at same system.

Logo Banners: John had a presentation on colors the Board talked about size which is to be 18" X 6". The Board also talked about magnetic door signs for PS events to have the club logo and be ordered through the Club.

New Business:

Girl Scout Thinking Day: FYI for Board.

Marin Headlands Ride: Club will pass on supporting event Curtis will contact.

Sonoma Back Road Challenge: ?

Awards Page: Randy is working on.

Lodi Arc: Requested we link to their web site for vhf contesting. Board approved.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:45 hours. (D, J)

Respectfully submitted for;

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

By;

Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ

Treasurer, 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.

<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 332-1864</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 Curtis Ardourel 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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