
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

July 2016

Presidents Corner

Short and Sweet

With Field Day behind us and our public service season in full swing, this month's message is going to be a little different, instead, I'm going to make a request for your help. The education committee under the direction of Kris Backenstose has been asking our club members to step up and help out with the upcoming Tech class, and at the risk of seeming repetitive, I want to ask once again.

As you all know, next month our club will be offering a Technician license class. All of us have something to offer, either as a Discussion Lead, an Elmer or both. For this class, the time (and effort) involved is minimal. You can choose to be the Discussion Lead (or Elmer) for as little as a single class. That's only one evening of your time.

The last class we offered was in 2013 and due to the efforts of only a few individuals it went very well, but we would like more people to become involved. This not only helps to keep just a few people from bearing the entire load, but it will add an interesting dynamic to the class for both the students and us.

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From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

End of summer

August signals the end of summer fun and the start of school for many parents. As a Grandparent I have enjoyed the summer activities with my grandkids. Trips to Carson City, Tahoe, and San Diego gave me many opportunities to take my HT with me. Carson City gave me the chance to be railroad mobile on the Virginia and Truckee Railroad, although I did not make any contacts. I had better luck at Tahoe while on a lake cruise to make a couple of local contacts. While on Mission Bay in San Diego I also worked several stations.

Have you noticed all of the excitement about the Pokémon Go mobile game? People walking around with their cell phones looking for the Pokémon. Kids excited about finding a Pokémon and catching it.

I know my grandkids have taken to the game with excitement and enjoy running around the outdoors looking for the elusive Pokémon. It has increased my walking with them and sharing the excitement when they land the big one. As I take my HT with me on these Pokémon adventures, I also get to make some contacts with the HT and practice my radio skills.

We all can benefit from getting outdoors with our HT's and getting some exercise while possibly making contacts with our radios. There is still time to get out and enjoy the summer with family and friends and practice with your HT.

What's Happening in Radio

ARRL News

Club Member News

Guest Speaker List 2016

Membership Meeting Minutes

Board Minutes



Just think, by getting our members who excel in specific areas to instruct and mentor in those areas, we will be giving the students the best our club has to offer. For those of you who do decide to take part and share your knowledge, you will be developing new hams and starting them off on their way to sharing our wonderful hobby, and maybe, even as new members of our club. So please, step up and join us in presenting the best we have to offer to these new hams.

Thank you,
Tom Soskin, W6MTS

Guest Speakers 2016

8/5/2016 - David Messerschmitt - Interstellar Communication

Club Member News

Rig Repair Sunday (RRS) group

Mike Ransom, AI6II

In addition to helping members fix ailing radios and other ham equipment (with a special emphasis on vintage gear), the Rig Repair Sunday (RRS) group has been improving the club's radio control room. These rigs are available for club members to use and currently include an all mode VHF and three HF transceivers.

The first operating position is for the Icom VHF station and is often used for the Sunday morning VHF net. Two of the HF rigs share the middle operating position, a Kenwood TS-850 and an Icom 756pro. The third operating position is for the club's vintage station featuring a Swan 500C originally donated to the club many years ago and recently made operational by the RRS group. It requires a bit more knowledge to tune and operate but provides a whole lot of fun for those willing to learn how.



Marc, KF6VNT, foreground, and Francis, WA6TFP operating the club station

What's Happening in Radio

Amateur Electronic Supply Closing after 59 Years in Business

Amateur Electronic Supply (AES) will close its doors at the end of July after 59 years in business. No reason has been given for the decision to close the business. AES has been a premier player among Amateur Radio equipment retailers for decades, as well as a major presence at Dayton Hamvention® and other events.

No reason was given for the closure. AES had stores in Wisconsin, Ohio, Nevada, and Florida.

Comstock Memorial Station, W7RN, Nevada

This contest station is undergoing an update of its antenna farm and getting an 80 meter beam with 91-foot elements on a 75 foot boom and weighs 600 pounds. The previous 80M beam sustained wind damage. Over a two week period in June, 15 antennas on 8 towers were taken down, new antennas installed, and replaced.

Here is a picture of a 200 ft. crane positioning the installation of the 80M beam



. Photo courtesy of Tom Taomina, K5RC

2MCM Radio Practice Friends

The next radio practice will be **Saturday August 13, 2016**, at Spreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park, from 1000 hrs. to 1200 hrs.

New hams and those who are interested in practicing with their HT's simulating net control, nets, and operating procedures for events will find these sessions useful.

Dayton Hamvention Headed to New Venue in 2017

The Hamvention will relocate to the Greene County Fairground's for 2017. The Hara Arena has experienced financial problems and lack of maintenance for some time. This ends a 52 year run of the Hamvention at the Hara Arena.

There are three HF antennas switchable to any of the three transceivers through the use of coax switches. It is important to make sure the proper antenna is routed to the transceiver in use.

The antennas include a vertical - Antenna (1) - which can be used on 80, 40, 20 and 15 meters with the help of an internal (in the case of the Icom 756pro) autotuner, or external tuners attached to the Kenwood TS-850 and Swan 500C. Using an external tuner is not difficult and soon we will have some additional information posted at each position to help the operator zero in on the sweet spot for the given antenna and frequency.

The other two HF antennas are both dipoles: Antenna (2) is mounted on top of the clubhouse and is good for 80, 40, 20 and 10 meters, and Antenna (3) is located at the front of the clubhouse and resonant only on 80 meters. Antenna (3) is good for running the Sunday morning HF net.

Quite honestly the clubhouse is not in a great location for HF and the overhead power lines limit the height the dipole antennas can be mounted. But when propagation is good you can 'work the world' from the Marin Amateur Radio Society radio room. Give it a try...Mikey says 'You'll like it!'

73,
Mike Ai6II

More Activity at the Sunday Repair Group



Jerry, WA6BXV and Jan, WB6SPX fixing K6MLF's blown power supply

Club Receives Donation of New Communications Truck

KGO TV donated a TV communications truck to the club. Alan Bower was instrumental in securing the donation. Here is his story.

My name is Alan Bowker, WA6DNR and I have lived in San Anselmo, Marin County for 41 years. I am active on ham radio satellite making daily contacts on FO-29, Northern California DMR, (Digital Mobile Radio), JT 56/9 digital modes on HF, APRS in both the car and at home.

I retired from full time employment at KGO-TV two years ago but still do contract IT and Engineering support at the station at 900 Front Street.

On a periodic basis the station updates their mobile units and donates the used ones. When Mobile 10 became available I requested the unit for the Marin Amateur Radio Society. The KGO-TV Finance Manager David Rosati was happy to donate the vehicle at no charge as the club engages in worthwhile public service events.

On Friday, July 8 Doug Slusher, John Boyd and I took possession of the Ford van from Michel Camus who is the ENG, (Electronic News Gathering) Manager for KGO-TV.

The unit has a 40 foot mast, a generator, a 19" rack, an HP network printer, Bearcat scanner and work counter area. The tires are in new condition.



August Meeting Guest Speaker

Radio Communication at Interstellar Distances



David Messerschmitt, KK6KFQ
Emeritus Professor
UC Berkeley

Based on recent progress in locating exoplanets outside our solar system, it is estimated that about 20% of those stars similar to our sun harbor planets in the habitable zone, meaning they could conceivably harbor Earth-like life. That adds up to an estimated 20 billion such planets in the Milky Way galaxy, and it is possible that a small fraction of those (but still an impressive number) harbor intelligent civilizations possessing advanced radio technology. It is appropriate to begin pondering how we might communicate information by radio with any extraterrestrial civilizations that might exist out there, and also with spacecraft (called starships) that we might launch toward nearby stars. In this talk we discuss the major technical obstacles to such radio communication, such as great distances, the cosmic microwave background, an ionized interstellar medium, and (for starships) relativistic speeds. We will also predict the character of digital modes appropriate for interstellar communication. Come and pay attention, because this topic may appear in future ham licensing exams!

FCC News

Change to HF bandwidth for Data Emission's

FCC invites comments on the ARRL proposal to change the symbol rate. The ARRL has asked that the Part 97 rules be changed to eliminate the symbol rate limit and replace it with maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.

While tentatively concluding that a specific bandwidth limitation for RTTY and data was not necessary, the FCC nonetheless invited comments on whether it should set emission bandwidth standards for Amateur Service MF/HF RTTY and data emissions.

Under the current rules, "specified digital codes" in Part 97 may be used with a symbol rate that does not exceed 300 baud for frequencies below 28 MHz, with the exception of 60 meters, and 1200 baud in the 10 meter band. The baud rate limits were adopted in 1980, when the FCC amended Part 97 to specify ASCII as a permissible digital code.

Comments in the proceeding will be due 60 days after the date that the NPRM appears in the Federal Register.

Contest Calendar

10-10 Int. Summer Contest, SSB, 0001Z, Aug 6 to 2359Z, Aug 7

North American QSO Party, CW, 1800Z, Aug 6 to 0559Z, Aug 7

SARTG WW RTTY Contest, 0000Z-0800Z, Aug 20 and 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 20 and 0800Z-1600Z, Aug 21

North American QSO Party, SSB, 1800Z, Aug 20 to 0559Z, Aug 21

ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY, 1800Z-2359Z, Aug 21

Hawaii QSO Party, 0400Z, Aug 27 to 0400Z, Aug 29

See complete list at:

<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

MARS Website Password Update

All members were sent an email on 7/24 with the new password for the website. If any member needs the update, contact any of the club officers for information.

General Membership Meeting

The July 01 General Membership meeting was canceled due to the proximity to the Independence Day Holiday (July 04).

Respectfully submitted, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary.

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 14, 2016

Board Members present: Tom Soskin, Rita Brenden, August Koehler, Cal Anber, Doug Slusher, Dave Hodgson, and Randy Jenkins. Members Curtis Ardourel, Phil Dunlap, and John Boyd were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Soskin at 19:30 hours.

The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the June 09 Board of Director's Meeting were approved as published.

President Soskin did not have a report.

Communications: Randy reported on bills given to Dave.

Treasurer: Dave was present, and presented his report. The report showed \$2,307.00 income, \$732.84 expenses, and total assets of \$79,863.14.

Education: Tom reported that Kris had 8 persons had signed up for the class.

Club Station & Facilities: Doug reported that he seeking a new cleaning quote. There had been a plumbing issue in the kitchen sink upstairs. Marc is working on the radio room.

Membership: Curtis reported that we have 86 members, including 14 new members for 2016. Membership renewal notices have been sent out, and he will change the passwords.

Technical / Repeaters: Doug needs to tune up the cavities for the remote receiver at 402. He expects to complete the link before moving on to the Fusion Repeater.

Public Service: The Arthritis bike ride went well, and upcoming events are the Tour de MALT on July 23, and the Marin Century on August 06. Randy and Rita will miss the next general membership meeting. There is a "Rosie the Riveter" event in Richmond on August 13.

VE Liasion: The next exam date is Saturday, August 13 at 9:00AM.

Field Day: Doug reported that went well.

Old Business:

Ist Aid Kit: Doug talked to the proposer. Doug will accept a donation.

Grant Writing: We need a wish list and a history of the building.

Awards: Randy provided addresses to Tom.

New Business:

New Comm Truck: Doug and John Boyd picked up a donated communications van from KGO-TV, which was arranged by Alan Bowker. We will work on removing radios from the old truck, and the committee will propose any equipment to add. The new van has been added to the insurance policy, and the old truck removed. John Boyd presented a signage proposal for the new van. John will get pricing if directed.

Rent Increase: There was a motion made to increase the rent for the apartment upstairs \$75.00 per month, effective September 01, due to an expected increase in the sewer assessment. The motion was amended to be effective October 01. AKU/BQF/Pass. Tom will draft a letter to the tenant.

Picnic Date: Doug will see if Piper Park is available on September 17. Back-up dates approved were September 10 and October 01.

Good of the Order: None

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 11, 2016

Agenda Items: VOIP, Change Management Policy

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:02 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.

Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:	Public Service Event Coordinators
<p>President Tom Soskin, W6MTS tomsoskin@gmail.com</p> <p>Vice President Kris Bakenstose, KK6AYC</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 Howard Leistner, W2BBF Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715</p> <p>Other Positions:</p> <p>Education Chair Randy Jenkins Kris Backenstose Instruction Team Leader.</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>Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 Rob Rowlands, NZ6J, Michael Fischer, K6MLF</p> <p>Membership Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS</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>