
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

August 2016

Presidents Corner

Balance

We should all strive for balance in our lives, though recently I have not followed this advice. A wise Ham once wrote about this in 1928 in the Radio Amateur's Code, it states: "The Radio Amateur is: BALANCED... Radio is a hobby, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community." This, of course, was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA. Now, we have all heard this before, but usually it is a guideline to prevent Hams from allowing amateur radio to preclude the other aspects of their lives. In my case, it is work that has taken up too much of my life, to the exclusion of my hobbies, including Amateur Radio. Most of us experience this at some point in our lives and we become unbalanced.

Now, onto a few things about amateur radio that I would like to share. As you know from my past messages that I like to get my Ham radio fix by listening to Podcasts. Recently, one of my all-time favorites, the Practical Amateur Radio Podcast by Jerry Taylor, KD0BIK, returned after about a year of inactivity. It was like hearing from an old friend.

Another Podcast I mentioned in a previous Presidents Message, Ham Radio 360, a bi-weekly post has now come out with an additional bi-weekly podcast called Ham Radio 360 Workbench. They are starting out with an introduction on setting up a workbench with all that is needed and will progress into building projects. For anyone hanging out with the guys on Sundays fixing radios this might be of interest.

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From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Meeting MARS members

Our club has 80+ members. How many have you met or talked to on the radio? Our club has many activities and events during the year that give us the opportunity to meet club members. Most of you know that the club is very active in supporting public service events. Each event requires a number of radio operators to staff the waypoints for the event.

I had the opportunity to participate in the Marin Century public service event in August. I was paired with our club vice-president, Kris Backenstose, KK6AYC at the Nicasio School station. I know Kris from club meetings, however this was the first time I had spent an extended amount of time with him outside of club meetings. Kris is very knowledgeable about kit building, having completed several that required expert soldering skills. I also learned that he is primarily a mobile operator on both HF and VHF. Working on public service events is one way to meet club members.

Another way to become more engaged with club members is the Sunday clubhouse "Bible" meeting. Mike Ransom, Marc Bruvry, and other club members meet at this time to work on vintage radios and also upgrade the club radio room for a vintage station. Mike Ransom also started a CW class that meets on Wednesday nights at 7pm and on Sunday at the clubhouse.

Club social events like the MARS picnic (Saturday September 10th) and the Christmas dinner is another way to meet club members. The first year I joined to club I attended both of these events and I got to know several club members this way.

Every Sunday our club has two radio nets. The first one is the HF net at 9AM on 3.915 kHz. The second one is on our VHF repeater net at 10:15AM on 146.70 VHF. Each of these nets have a number of members who check in each week. While this is not the same as meeting the person at other club events, it is another way to make contact with club members. I printed out the club roster with call signs so when I hear a call on the repeater, I can see the members name if I don't recognize the call.

So whatever your interest is in being a club member, try some of these activities to meet other club members.

And finally, in case anyone has not heard, the ARRL has also added another Podcast called "The Doctor Is In". This is produced twice monthly by Editor in Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and answers technical questions about Amateur Radio. So if you have some spare time in your "balanced" life, check them out.

73
Tom Soskin, W6MTS

Guest Speakers 2016

9/2/16- Broadband Hamnet (BBHN) Joe Fisher, K5EJL, will present the history and some deployments of BBHN. Some equipment for 902 MHz, 2.4 GHz and 5.8 GHz will be demonstrated.

Public Service

Dirt Fondo

Once again, to all of you, a very special thanks for a job well done! The 2016 MCBC Dirt Fondo went off smoothly, with no untoward incidents, thank heavens.

Doug KF6AKU remarked, late in the day, how impressed he was with the crisp professionalism all stations exhibited. So far as I am concerned, Doug is our Gold Standard--so if he thinks we did well, we can all feel good about the day.

Special thanks go to Rob Rowlands NZ6J for setting out not two, but three digipeaters in the days before the event. One of the locations didn't work as well as we'd hoped, so he scouted the terrain and replaced it on a knoll above Coyote Ridge trail near the Miwok Trail. Then, as several of the photos above show, he joined Michael Sexton as a radio-biker! Not only that, as soon as he was done with the Dirt Fondo he drove with some of his Kiwi friends to Tuolumne Meadows; he was contacting me from the High Sierra with his new K-2 QRP radio this afternoon!

Special thanks also to Michael Sexton for once again riding the route, patrolling for problems, and reporting in occasionally; I predict he'll remember this one.

Also thanks to Rich and Larry for pulling double-shifts. Rich was there with us before dawn setting up NC and he was there late, helping us shut down. Rich tracked all three sweep-riders on the APRS screen all day--that system performed almost as well as we could've hoped. (Almost means we can do better next time.) Larry jumped in to sub for Peter AA6SF who had the afternoon Tennessee Valley shift, but was called to the ER in San Francisco when his wife fell ill.

This was our first event to use the new commun truck, recently donated to MARS by KGO-TV (a deal brokered by our Alan Proctor WA6DNR.) It performed wonderfully--and it's hydraulic.

What's Happening in Radio

Turlock Amateur Radio Club

Saturday October, 29th at Crossroads Church, Turlock California. This is a collection of superbly restored amateur and commercial radio equipment with enormous quantity of parts, test equipment and tools. See the website www.w6bxn.org for items.

W6PW replacement Repeater, ready for use!

The San Francisco Radio Club has activated their new VHF Twin Peaks replacement repeater. This is the second Yaesu "System Fusion" repeater the club has deployed this Centennial year that supports both FM (analogue) and C4FM (digital) communications. The first one is our VA UHF repeater on 444.225 PL114.8. This new VHF repeater is located at Sutro Tower. Frequency:45.150, DCS code: 664



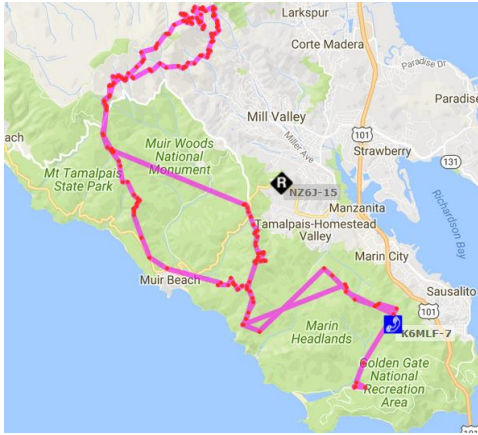
New communications truck in use for Dirt Fodo



Riders starting the Dirt Fodo



Digipeater on Coyote Ridge Dirt Fodo



APRS tracker K6ML-7 route Dirt Fodo

Marin Century

On August 6th the Marin Century bike event took place. MARS provided support for the large number of riders in the event.



David, AA6AE, logging net control operations with the latest technology. Doug, KF6AKU, at net control station.

ARRL NEWS

Growth in New Amateur Radio Licensees Ahead of Last Year's

The ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) reports that 20,447 new US Amateur Radio licenses have been issued since January 1. That's nearly 1500 ahead of the number that had been issued by this time last year. At the present pace, the US is on track to exceed 30,000 new radio amateurs for the third straight year by the end of the year.

"While I am thrilled with this prospect, I'm also keenly aware that without some mentoring, these new hams' initial curiosity and enchantment may fade if they don't get on the air right away," said ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM.

"Let's show these new hams what the magic is all about," she urged. In addition, the ARRL VEC reports that upgrades are on track to reach nearly 11,000 by year's end.

Reprinted with permission ARRL Letter 8/25/16

Member Reports

Phone Patch History

Pinky Picard, W6FQS

Many of today's amateurs probably don't know how a phone patch was used, and don't have one in their shack. They were legal, and I believe still are, if the person requesting a patch has no access to a landline telephone, cellphone or computer, and want's to speak with someone. A patch could be easily constructed with Radio Shack parts, or the parts inside an old telephone. The Heathkit was a common one sold. I still have one in the shack, but it's so seldom used these days, it's on the shelf. I think mine dates back to the 1950's. It was illegal to use the patch solely for the purpose of avoiding MaBell charges.

I remember using mine when I heard a ham repeatedly calling CQ-San Jose. He didn't receive any responses. I called him and asked if I could help. Turned out, that he was a pilot on a United Airlines flight out in the Pacific enroute from Hawaii, who was scheduled to land in San Jose. His flight was diverted to Sacramento. His wife was to meet him there. He gave me his home phone number, I patched him to his wife so he could tell her to, meet him at the Sacramento airport. On another occasion, I patched an amateur operator who was on a moving train and had traffic to pass. Both were legal uses of a phone patch. Patches were legal on vhf/uhf and HF. These days, there is seldom any need for patches. Some ham repeaters still provide access to a landline phone, but don't believe many do now.

HEATHKIT HYBRID PHONE PATCH MODEL HD-19



September Meeting Guest Speaker

Broadband Hamnet (BBHN) Joe Fisher, K5EJL, will present the history and some deployments of BBHN. Some equipment for 902 MHz, 2.4 GHz and 5.8 GHz will be demonstrated.

MARS Annual Picnic



SEPTEMBER 10TH
2016
MARS CLUB
PICNIC

Picnic at Piper Park

252 Doherty Dr, Larkspur, CA 94939

11:00 a.m.-3 p.m

Piper Park in Larkspur

ALL AMATEURS ARE WELCOME

FREE FOOD ! Club Will Provide Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Beverages, and Charcoal.

Please Bring a Salad or Dessert to Share

RSVP is NOT Required, but Always Appreciated

RSVP to rsvp@w6sg

Contest Calendar

Russian RTTY WW Contest, 0000Z-2359Z, 9/3

All Asian DX Contest, Phone, 0000Z, Sep 3 to 2400Z, 9/4

Colorado QSO Party, 1300Z, 9/3 to 0400Z, 9/4

WAE DX Contest, SSB, 0000Z, 9/10 to 2359Z, 9/11

ARRL September VHF Contest, 1800Z, 9/10 to 0300Z, 9/12

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, RTTY 0000Z, 9/24 to 2400Z, 9/25

Texas QSO Party 1400Z, 9/24 to 0200Z, 9/25 and 1400Z-2000Z, 9/25

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.

Pampanito Report

Our regularly scheduled DDO (Dedicated Day of Operation) aboard the USS Pampanito kicked off about 0930 hours. NJ6VT became operational around 1000 hours on the 40 meter band. Radio propagation conditions were not the best, but several QSO's were made on CW to W7WOE in Seattle and also an early morning check in to the Noontime Net on 7268.5 mc.

At 1100 hours contact was made with Ray, W6RAR, on the Big Rock Repeater, K6GWE, for traffic to the boat. Several messages were waiting for the boat, but I only had time to copy one message. The traffic received for the Pampanito from WB4ZKA via W6RAR follows:

18 ROUTINE HANDING CF 12 WB4ZKA 25
PEARL HARBOR AUG 16
PAUL SUMMERS C/O USS PAMPANITO SS383 SF CA 94133
415-516-5310

OP NOTE DELIVER VIA 146.700 K6GWE 1100 HOURS SATURDAY

TXT HISTORICAL RADIO EXERCISE 1944 LOG

COMPLETE TRAINING EXERCISE AND LOADING X ACS READY BY 15 AUGUST X EXECUTE COMTASK FOUR
ORDER 272 - 44 MIDWAY ISLAND

VADM LOCKWOOD COMSUBPAC

Thanks to Mike, WB4ZKA and Ray, W6RAR for their work researching and transmitting this traffic to the USS Pampanito!!

With poor conditions on the 40 meter band, I changed to the 17 meter band and worked OH6UA, Op. Juha, in Finland on CW. NJ6VT received a good signal report. Later in the afternoon, Doug, KJ6OYJ, set up a PSK-31 operation and worked several stations on the PSK portion of the 20 meter band (around 14.070 mc). XE2KHS in Saltillo, Mexico was worked as well as several other stations stateside. Many thanks to Doug for taking the time to come to the boat and set up the PSK-31 operation!!

Visitor traffic aboard the boat was moderate at times with several tour groups filing by the radio shack door. With the good weather, visitor traffic increased as the day went on. The station was secured around 1615 hours.

As most of you know, the Pampanito was supposed to head for dry-docking last April. That date was cancelled and has been re-scheduled for this coming September. I'll keep you informed on the dry docking schedule and see if we will be able to operate NJ6VT on September 10th as scheduled.

73,

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



General Membership Meeting

Friday, August 05, 2016

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

A round of introductions was the first order of business. Twenty-one members or guests were present.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

The minutes of the June 03 General Membership Meeting were approved as published.

President Soskin reported on the actions at the July 07 Board of Director's Meeting.

There were two reports under "Fun with Ham Radio". One member asked for help putting up an antenna.

KM6DLX and KM6ASI were reported as a new members.

Secretary – Randy reported that the title for the new comm van was received in the mail. John Boyd asked for re-imbusement for his expenses in getting the van registered and smogged.

Treasurer – Dave submitted a report that showed \$2,645.00 income and \$2,654.70 expenses. Total assets are reported as \$79,867.84.

Standing Committee Reports:

Club Station and Facilities: No Report

Membership: No Report. Maybe about 80.

Education: Instruction Team Leader Kris Backenstose reported on the Technician class starting on September 07. Kris had a flyer available, and asked for volunteers to help with the class.

Technical / Repeaters: No Report.

Public Service – Randy reported on upcoming events. We have the Marin Century tomorrow, August 06 and the MCBC Dirt Fondo on August 28.

VE - We have exam session scheduled on Saturday, August 13 at 9:00 AM.

Field Day – Field Day at Monkey Ranch south of Petaluma went well.

Old business: None

New Business: The new comm van has been registered and smogged.

Good of the Order: No Report

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

David Messerschmitt, KK6KFQ, presented a program on Communications at Interstellar Distances.

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.

Next General Meeting: September 02, 2016

Next Board of Directors Meeting: August 11, 2016

Randy Jenkins
KA6BQF

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 11, 2016

Board Members present: Tom Soskin, Rita Brenden, August Koehler, Cal Anber, Doug Slusher, Marc Bruvry, Ed Essick, and Randy Jenkins. Members Curtis Ardourel and John Boyd were also in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by President Tom Soskin at 19:33 hours.

The agenda was approved as amended.

The minutes of the July 14 Board of Director's Meeting were approved as published.

President Soskin did not have a report.

Communications: Randy reported on bills and a title for the new comm van.

Treasurer: Dave was not present, and submitted his report. The report showed \$2,645.00 income, \$2,654.70, expenses, and total assets of \$79,873.14.

Education: Tom reported that Kris had 12 persons had signed up for the class, and 4 people had volunteered as instructors. There was a motion made to have Randy purchase 20 Student Books and 8 Instructor Books for the class. WPN/AKU/Pass We need to schedule a meeting with instructors to decide who will teach which classes.

Club Station & Facilities: Doug reported that he seeking a new cleaning quote. The Equipment Repair program is meeting on Sundays.

Membership: Curtis reported that we have 84 members. Membership renewal notices have been sent out, and has changed the passwords, and cleaned up the website.

Technical / Repeaters: Doug had no new report. The RACES drill rescheduled from 9/24 to 9/10.

Public Service: Upcoming events are the Dirt Fondo in August, two events in September, and one event in October.

VE Liasion: The next exam date is Saturday, August 13 at 9:00AM. We have two people signed for the November 02 evening session.

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

Special Events: The Picnic date is scheduled for September 10. Reserving the park cost us \$205.00

Old Business:

Awards: Tom will work on awards.

Rent Increase Letter: Sent by Tom. Will effective October 01, 2016.

New Business:

Condition of the Clubhouse After Use: Was discussed.

Implied Resignation of Director: Secretary Jenkins pointed out that Howard Leistner, W2BBF, has missed four consecutive Board of Directors Meetings. The Board voted to accept his implied resignation from the Board, in accordance with Article 3, Section 17 of the By-Laws as amended in 2014. The Board will invite David Chaney, AA6AE, to serve out the vacant position.

Good of the Order: John Boyd had bills related to getting the new van registered; and Marc Bruvry had bills related to buying tools for the clubhouse for the repair group.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 20:56 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:

President

Tom Soskin, W6MTS
tomsoskin@gmail.com

Vice President

Kris Bakenstose, KK6AYC

Secretary

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089

Treasurer:

Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 707 978-2560

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

Other Positions:

Education Chair

Randy Jenkins
Kris Backenstose Instruction Team Leader.

VE Liaison

Randy Jenkins

Building Co-Managers

Doug Slusher
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 Coordinators

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089
Rob Rowlands, NZ6J, Michael Fischer, K6MLF

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Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS

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