
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

December 2016

Presidents Corner

Tom Soskin, W6MTS

Welcoming the New Year!

As we bring in the New Year we can look forward to many new experiences, new friends, and new challenges. But first, SAFETY ALERT!!! Please take a moment to complete a few simple tasks. Most of us have a least some sort of "Go Bag" that may need a quick check to replace any used or outdated items, recharge batteries, replace broken items, and maybe, just maybe, if you were a good boy or girl, add in any new toys you may have received for Christmas. Now, remember that fire/smoke detector that was beeping for most of the year? Well guess what, it didn't stop beeping because it fixed itself, the battery is just completely dead, so take a few minutes and replace the battery, and it might just save your life. Of course it would be nice to complete some of those other tasks around your house that you've been putting off too, but let's not get carried away. Now, back to our regularly scheduled program.

I hope that everyone enjoyed their Christmas and New Years and got lots of cool new amateur radio gear! Remember to share at the meeting this month. The New Year brings new opportunities (or challenges, depending on your perspective). For our club to grow and thrive it will be up to us. On an individual level, be a good

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From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

New Year's Ham Resolutions

This year I decided my resolutions would include some that were ham related. So here is what I came up with, what are yours?

1. Spend more time operating and making contacts both on VHF repeater and HF.
2. Operate in more HF contests.
3. Get FLDIGI working for digital use.
4. Take the Butternut HF vertical down, clean it, and get the SWR back in range.
5. Build the 6 meter beam I planned and bought the aluminum for last year.
6. Submit my QSL cards to ARRL for checking.
7. Update my ARRL log book of the world account for DXCC awards.
8. Take down the beam and cleanup the connections.
9. Figure out how to program my Wouxun handheld without using my computer.
10. Get my SDR based panadapter working with my Icom 7600 radio.

Well, as with all New Year's resolutions, some get done, others are postponed, and some are forgotten. I stopped my list at 10 as I know it's likely that only a few will be accomplished, but it's the many activities of ham radio that keeps the hobby interesting. So create your list and stay involved in the hobby. Happy New Year and good health to all.



ambassador for amateur radio, be kind to those who are new to our hobby, but also to those who have been in it for a while, they too might be struggling with something and are embarrassed to let people know. I can't tell you how many times I've heard a statements like "you should know this (or, don't you know this), you're a Technician / General / Extra class". Fortunately I have thick skin, if I want to know or learn something, I don't care if people are aware of my ignorance and point it out, I don't pretend to know everything and I won't let it stop me from trying. But, think about the people that DO care, even if the statement is not directed at them it could be a deterrence to them asking for help or even coming at all, for them, the hobby dies. On a club level, I hope that we can continue the Technician License class and again ask for everyone's support in this endeavor.

Also, I would like to ask that this year everyone take advantage of your club. That's right, this is YOUR club and EVERYONE is welcome to participate. With such a wide variety of ways to be involved, from public service, to radio repair, there is always something for everyone. We have what I consider to be a fairly diverse club, but what really makes it special are the members. We have some really great members who are always willing to help you if you have an issue to solve, or something you would like to learn. If there is an area that you are interested in and it's not already covered, bring it up at a meeting (or send me an email, and I will bring it up) there may be more people interested in the same thing you are. Your ideas and input are always welcome.

So here's to a new year, may this be our best one yet!

73
Tom Soskin, W6MTS

FCC News

FCC Affirms Penalty for Unlicensed Amateur Operation, Making False Distress Call

The FCC has affirmed a \$23,000 penalty against Daniel Delise of Astoria, New York, for operating without an Amateur Radio license on 147.96 MHz and for transmitting a false officer-in-distress call on a New York City Police Department (NYPD) radio channel.

Delise, who could have been fined more than \$140,000, has 30 days to pay the fine. He's now in prison as a result of the false police call and guilty pleas to other charges.

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Removal of Gain Limit for Amplifiers Denied

The FCC has denied a request by Expert Linears America LLC to waive Part 97.317(a)(2) of the Amateur Service rules limiting amplifier gain. Expert, of Magnolia, Texas, distributes linears manufactured by SPE in Italy. Its waiver request, filed in June, would have allowed Expert to import an amplifier capable of exceeding the current 15 dB gain limitation as it awaits FCC action on its April petition (RM-11767) to revise the same Amateur Service rules. That petition remains pending. Expert has asserted that there should be no gain limitation on amplifiers sold or used in the Amateur Service.

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MARS Board of Director Election

Every club member was sent an email for the online election of board members for 2017. If you have not voted, check your email and please vote.



ARRL NEWS

National Parks on the Air Contact Tally Tops One Million!

Participants in ARRL's National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) program have completed more than 1 million contacts! Activators operating from National Park Service units across the US and Chasers around the world pushed the contact tally over its goal this week. ARRL sponsored NPOTA to help the National Park Service celebrate its centennial.

"National Parks on the Air has become one of the most popular events in the history of the League," NPOTA Administrator Sean Kutzko, KX9X, said. "It's been fun seeing so many hams take part."

Those taking part in NPOTA made nearly 20,000 visits to 460 of the 489 NPS units eligible for NPOTA credit, including portions of the National Trails System and the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Nearly 150 Chasers completed contacts with more than 400 of the 489 NPOTA units this year, while one Activator transmitted from more than 250 different NPS units in 2016. Kutzko said the activations effectively transported those National Park Service units via radio to all 50 states and more than 100 countries during 2016



Anthony Wiese, KG6LHW, operates from John Day Fossil Beds National Monument in Oregon, accompanied by his wife, Aleda Cloud

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The Doctor Will See You Now!

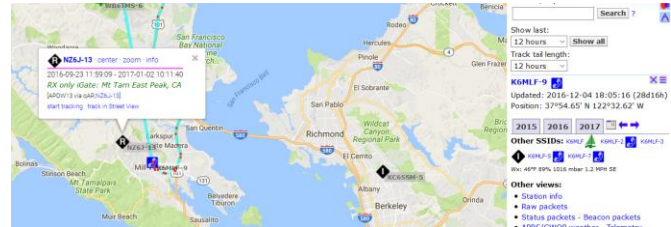
"Antenna System Troubleshooting" is the topic of the latest (December 15) episode of the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast. The December 29th episode discusses "Restoring Old Radios."

Every 2 weeks, your host, QST Editor-in-Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can also e-mail your questions to doctor@arrl.org, and the Doctor may answer them in a future podcast. Podcasts are available on Apple iTunes, the Stitcher app for Kindle and Android devices.

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Club Member News

Michael Fischer, K6MLF, and Rob Rowlands, NZ6J, have been working with APRS to help improve the clubs participation in public service events. The APRS beacons are placed along routes on public service events and tracked with software. In December Michael and Rob visited the Gardner Lookout on Mt. Tam and here are some of the results.



Beacons picked up by Gardner Lookout 12/4



Rob, NZ6J Gardner Lookout, Mt. Tam



Gardner Lookout, Mt. Tam

Christmas Party 2016





December 15, 2016

Dear Amateur Radio & DX Enthusiast,

Are you waiting to see how Dayton does in its new home, but still want to meet and mingle with all your DX friends? Are you saving money for yet another tower, rig or amp? Then Join us next year for a fun event: The 68th International DX Convention in Visalia, CA., April 21 – 23, 2017!

IDXC 2017 is sponsored by the Northern California DX Club at the beautiful Visalia Convention Center in downtown Visalia, CA. IDXC is the premier DX Convention in the United States, and is attended by hundreds of serious DXers and Contesters looking to improve their skills, upgrade their stations and spend some quality hands-on time with the vendors' latest equipment offerings. If you're interested in getting involved in DXing, this a great place to start!

Convention Highlights:

- We've added a day!
- Onsite Registration begins on Thursday afternoon, April 20, 2017 at 3:00 PM local time
- Convention is now a full 2.5 Days: Friday (April 21); Saturday (April 22); 1/2 day Sunday (April 23)
- 15-20 DX & Technical Seminars now on both Friday & Saturday
- Excellent Keynote Speakers
- 35-40 Exhibitors in large Exhibit Hall offering all the latest gear Friday and Saturday
- ARRL QSL Card Checking
- Great Raffle Prizes
- Open DX Forum; Contest Forum; ARRL Forum; YL Forum
- Optional training on Friday : Contest Academy - Basic & Advanced Contesting Techniques
- Eyeball QSOs with your DXing friends, or make some new ones!
- Optional Friday Dinners: Top Band Banquet or IOTA Banquet or Contest Banquet
- Optional Saturday Visalia Tour
- IDXC Registration is now open!
- For more information and to register, visit our website at: dxconvention.org

IDXC 2017 will be the biggest and the best International DX Convention yet, and we hope you'll be able to join us to enjoy it all!

73,

John Miller, K6MM
Rich Seifert, KE1B
Kevin Rowett, K6TD
IDXC 2017 Co-Chairmen



Combined General Membership and Board of Director's Meeting Minutes and Christmas Party

Thursday, December 08, 2016

Board Members present: Tom Soskin, Cal Anber, David Chaney, Rita Brenden, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, Ed Essick, and Randy Jenkins. 33 members and guests were also in attendance. Total attendance: 41 people.

The business meeting was called to order by President Tom Soskin at 19:45 hours.

The first order of business was a round of introductions

The minutes of the November 04 General Membership Meeting were approved as published.

President Soskin thanked all had helped with Public Service events. Tom presented an MFJ keyer to the club.

Public Service: Don Magdanz, KI6MZX, presented the club a check from the Marin Cyclists for \$1,500.00.

Treasurer: Dave was not present, and submitted no report.

Club Station & Facilities: Doug commented that the Fusion repeater had to back to Yaesu for a firmware update, before it was installed on the hill.

Awards: Tom announced the 2016 Club Awards, and presented HRO gift certificates to the awardees: Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF – Hi Roberts Award Kris Backenstose, KK6AYC – John Butler 'Elmer' Award

Mike Ransom, AI6II – Ham-of-the-Year

Election for 2017 Board of Director's: Doug announced the election should go out to the membership next week.

Honorary Membership: It was affirmed by the membership to continue Honorary Membership for Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH, for 2017.

Good of the Order: Tom proposed that Randy Jenkins be granted Life Membership. Affirmed by the assembled members.

Next General Membership Meeting: Friday, 06, 2017.

Next Board of Director's Meeting: Thursday, January 12, 2017.

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:12 hours.

Raffle: Steve Smith, WA1TOV, won the grand prize, a Yaesu FTM-100 radio.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF
Secretary

Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:

President

Tom Soskin, W6MTS
tomsoskin@gmail.com

Vice President

Kris Backenstose, 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
David Chaney, AA6AE
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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