
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

June 2016

Presidents Corner

The many paths of your journey

As most of you know we are planning on offering a class for the Technician license coming up in September. I took this class from our club in preparation for taking the exam and I feel it was a great way to study for the test. At the same time, I also studied for the General Class license, but because there was not a class for the General license offered by our club, I had to look around for other options. This was also true for when I studied for the Extra class license. I know there is a lot of controversy over the process of earning your license class weather it's the Tech, General or Extra.

For instance, our club in general (though not completely) are adamant over not offering the "Exam Crams" as an alternative to class, while other clubs use it routinely. These are not the only alternatives to preparing for a license exam. There are many paths to obtain these goals and many people use a combination of them, as I did. Everyone's path is their own and while we all have our opinions what everyone should do to "earn" their license, it still comes down to the FCC license test and the individual taking it. As alternatives to a formal class, bible study and your friendly local Elmer, I found a wealth of information on the internet and even apps for my iPhone, and yes I still "crammed" before the test to maximize my chance of passing. There are many alternate test study guides and I found online "Elmers" like Dave Casler, KE0OG and test preps like HamTestOnline™, and there is even HamRadioSchool.com. These, and many others like them, were invaluable resources on my path to getting

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From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Club Member Activities

June was a busy month for many of our club members who participated in a number of ham activities. Public Service started with the Dipsea race on June 12th, followed by the Double Dipsea on June 18th.

The "Museum Ships on the Air Special Event" took place on June 4-5. RACES members participated in the "Marin RACES/ACS Exercise Plan – HF Launch" on June 11th.

Our last club event of the month was Field Day June 25-26, held this year at Monkey Ranch. Field Day gives us the chance as hams to test our equipment in the field and operate in less than ideal conditions. You can read about all of these events in issue of QSA5.

I would like to thank all of the club members who came out to participate in these events and especially those who worked to setup equipment and Elmer new members at the Field Day event.

Field Day 2016



my licenses and I would encourage anyone that would like to get their Technician license or upgrade to the next class, be it General or Extra, to check them out and use them in conjunction with, or even as alternatives to, taking a traditional class. Some say that just because you can pass a test it doesn't make you a Tech (or General or Extra) and they are sometimes all too quick to point it out. But I believe that whatever path you choose for passing the test and getting your license, it is just the beginning of your journey.

73,
Tom Soskin, W6MTS

Study Guides:

Technician Class 2014-18 FCC Element 2 Radio License Preparation 8th Edition by [Gordon West](#) (also offers General and Extra Class Preps)

HamRadioSchool.com Technician & General License Course by Stu Turner

The Ham Whisperer's Technician Class License Course Second Edition 2nd Edition by [Andy Vellenga](#)

No-Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide by [Dan Romanchik KB6NU](#)

Ham Radio For Dummies 2nd Edition by [H. Ward Silver](#)

Online Resources:

HamTestOnline™ <https://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com>

Dave Casler, KE0OG <http://dcasler.com/ham-radio/>

Ham Radio School <http://www.hamradioschool.com>

Guest Speakers 2016

8/5/2016 - David Messerschmitt - Interstellar Communication

Club Member News

The Sunday morning radio repair group could use the following items. They are improving the HF radio setup for the TS-850, IC-756Pro, and vintage station. If you have any of these items and would like to donate them please contact Mike, AI6II or Marc, KF6VNT.

NEEDED ITEMS:

2 Coax switches 2 -1X3 and 2 -1x2 or 2x3

RG-8X ORRG-58 short patch cables – 2 to 3 ft. long

Coax connectors- barrel, right angle, UHF to BNC, BNC to RCA

Small portable frequency meter, like MFJ-886B.

What's Happening in Radio

FCC Says "No" to Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

The FCC has denied the petition of an Arizona radio amateur, who had petitioned for lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Krotz wanted the FCC to revise §97.25 of its rules to indicate that Amateur Radio licenses are granted for the holder's lifetime, instead of for the current 10-year term. Hundreds of radio amateurs commented on the petition, but the FCC was not swayed by those favoring the idea.

"Based on our review of the record, we are not persuaded that the petition discloses sufficient grounds for the requested rule change," the FCC said in a June 21 *Order*. "Krotz's primary argument is that extending the term of amateur licenses to the lifetime of the holder would reduce the Commission's administrative and personnel costs, but it is not clear to us that the proposal actually would enhance administrative efficiency." That's because the vast majority of license renewals are submitted online and processed automatically by the Universal Licensing System (ULS), "with minimal staff involvement," the *Order* said.

The FCC said it had further reduced its overhead by no longer routinely mailing paper licenses. "[I]f license terms were extended to the holder's lifetime, we likely would receive more cancellations on account of the licensee's death, which are labor-intensive, because staff must carefully verify the deceased's identity and licenses in order to guard against erroneous cancellations," the FCC said in its *Order*, signed by Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Deputy Mobility Division Chief Scot Stone.

Krotz argued that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GRO) already is issued on a lifetime basis, but the FCC said that's not a comparable situation, because an Amateur Radio license is both an operator's license and a station license, "and there is no Commission precedent for issuing a lifetime station license."

Confirmed Tornado in Maryland Downs Tower at W3LPL Contest Station

A confirmed Fujita scale EF-0 tornado touched down for up to 20 minutes in Howard County, Maryland, on the first full day of summer, taking down a tall AB-105 tower at the contest superstation of Frank Donovan, W3LPL.

The tornado was just part of a spate of strong storms to hit the region, dumping heavy rain that caused flooding, and high winds that toppled trees and utility poles.

Continued on page 3

Public Service

Double Dipsea Race

Approximately 650 runners participated in the Double Dipsea Race on June 18th. Runners started in Stinson Beach and made the turn around to run back from Old Mill Park in Mill Valley. *See the report net control made for this event later in this issue.*



Old Mill Park



RACES Drill

A number of our club members participated in a RACES drill on June 11th including Michael Fischer, Jerry Foster, Robert Rowlands, and Steve Toquinto.



Setup at Woodacre fire department

Donovan's station is one of the premier multi-multi contest sites in the US. He told ARRL that his location was "Ground Zero" for the twister.



The downed 200-foot tower at W3LPL. [Courtesy of Frank Donovan, W3LPL]

"The storm was extreme," Donovan said in a post to the Potomac Valley Radio Club (PVRC) reflector. "I've never experienced anything like it before. Essentially all of the trees in the front of the house and along the driveway are gone. Several power poles on Hobbs Road snapped. The 200-foot tower adjacent to the house collapsed; everything on it was destroyed."

Donovan said he will have to do "a tremendous amount of testing and inspection" to determine what other damage may have occurred.

The tornado, which hit just after 1 PM in western Howard County, had top winds of 80 MPH -- at the high end of the EF-0 range.

The felled tower at W3LPL supported antennas for 80, 10, and 6 meters. Donovan told ARRL that plans "are well under way" to install a 200-foot heavy-duty AB-105 replacement tower in August

Reprinted with permission ARRL Letter 6/23/16

Contest Calendar

NRAU 10m Activity Contest, 1700Z-1800Z, Jul 7 (CW) and 1800Z-1900Z, Jul 7 (SSB), 1900Z-2000Z, Jul 7 (FM), 2000Z-2100Z, Jul 7 (Dig)
IARU HF World Championship, 1200Z, Jul 9 to 1200Z, Jul 10
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest, 1800Z, Jul 16 to 2100Z, Jul 17
North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Jul 16 to 0559Z, Jul 17
RSGB IOTA Contest, 1200Z, Jul 30 to 1200Z, Jul 31
See complete list at:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

Field Day Report from Mt Vision

N1DDS and K6ETA ran their 4th FD station from the summit of Mt Vision, operating with zero noise on barefoot battery power. Mt Vision looks out over the Pacific high above Pt Reyes and has an ideal location for portable operation. Additionally, the location qualifies for National Parks on the Air as it is within the Point Reyes National Seashore.

Each year N1DDS and K6ETA have run a 2B designation, meaning two transmitters on battery power.

This year they worked primarily on 40M and 20M SSB, and additionally using the PSK31 digital mode on these bands as well as 80M. The bands were not in very good shape, so contacts were limited in comparison with previous events. In past events South America and the entire Pacific were open, but that was not in the cards this time – but they still managed to contact 133 stations across North America, Hawaii and the Caribbean.

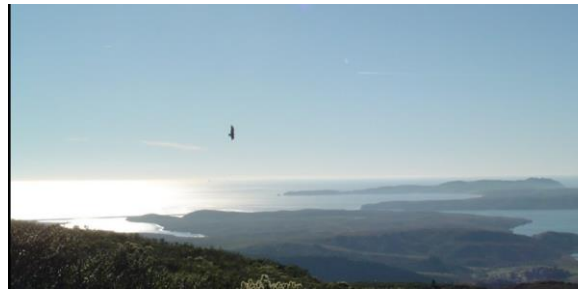
This year the Mt Vision station had several visiting operators: KB6HOH, WU1Q, KC6ZKO and KK6AYC.

Running with zero noise is both exhilarating and sometimes frustrating! You can hear many more stations than you can reach back – but several stations were worked that didn't even register on the S-Meter. Mt. Vision has not only low noise, but lower temperatures to offer. All in all, it's an excellent location for Field Day!

Steve K6ETA and Tony N1DDS



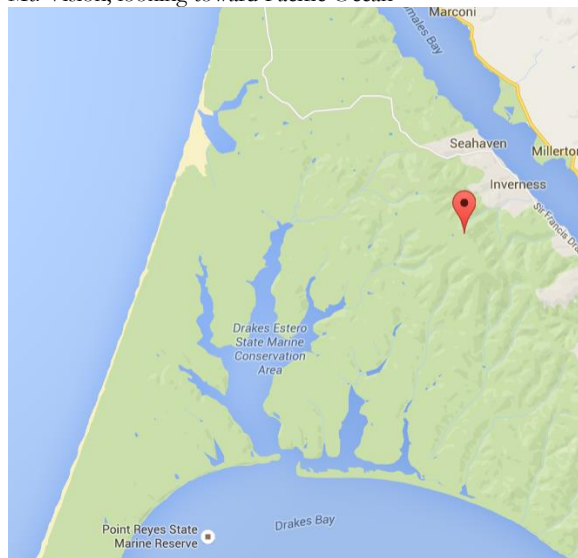
Steve, K6ETA, Mt. Vision, Field Day



Mt. Vision, looking toward Pacific Ocean



Tony, N1DDS, Mt. Vision Field Day



Field Day Monkey Ranch

Field day this year was at a new location on the Marin/Sonoma county border. Band conditions were poor this year, however 30 club members from MARS and REDXA showed up to make a total of 2630 contacts. SSB was the most productive with 1668 contacts the most on 20M, followed by 40M. Four youth showed up to operate the GOTA (Get On The Air) station. Field Day is scored with points given for youth participation, public official visit, operation with portable power, etc. The total score for the event was 7184 points.

Setup on Friday June 24th



Setup completed



Field Day Monkey Ranch

Operating



Marc, KF6VNT



Ron, N6IE



Ed, K6ELE

GOTA (Get on The Air) station for new hams



Lunch



Cal, N6TIA prepares secret dessert



Rich, W6UDS and Marilyn, N6VAW



Taking a break

DOUBLE DIPSEA REPORT OF EVENT

- >1. Nature of Activity: Special exercise, Public-Service Event
- > 2. Activity Description: Provided emergency & routine communications for The Double Dipsea, an annual 14 mile trail running event, from Stinson Beach over Mt. Tamalpais to Mill Valley and back, Marin County, California. About 650 runners and around 300 volunteers were involved. The event is run by and benefits The South End Running and Rowing Club, Walt Stack Double Dipsea Committee.
- > 3. Places or areas involved: Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Mt. Tamalpais State Park, Muir Woods National Park, and Mill Valley, Marin County, California. >
- > 4. Number of amateurs participating: 15
- >5. Event start date/time: June 18, 2016 06:30 hrs
- > 6. Event end date/time: June 18, 2016 15:30 hrs
- > 7. Duration of event (hours): 9.0 hours
- > 8. Total person-hours: 74.5
- > 9. Number of repeaters used: 1
- > 10. Estimated person-power cost (74.5 x \$19): \$1,415.50
- > 11. Estimated cost of equipment used: \$3,500.00
- > 12. Total estimated cost of service (10+11): \$4,915.50
- > 13. Nets and/or frequencies used: 147.330 K6GWE, 147.520 S, 147.555 S, 144.390 APRS
- > 14. Number of messages handled: est. 450
- > 15. Names of agencies receiving communications support: Walt Stack Double Dipsea Committee, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Stinson Beach Fire Department, California State Parks, Muir Woods National Park, City of Mill Valley, Marin County Fire Department.
- > 16. Call signs of major participants: KA6BQF, KG6WPN, WA6SPX, KJ6ARL, K6RGI, KC6YYP, KK6QPE, K6BPS, N1DDS, KK6FBI, K6ELE, KF6AKU, NZ6J, KG6RZQ, N6ABR
- > 17. Other comments: No serious incidents occurred on this event.
- >Amateur Radio organizations providing service: Marin Amateur Radio Society, East Bay Amateur Radio Club, San Francisco Radio Club
- > Location: Marin County, CA
- > Submitted by:
- > Robert Randy Jenkins KA6BQF

USS Pampanito

The "Museum Ships on the Air Special Event" was held this last weekend of June 4 - 5, 2016. The USS Pampanito, SS-383. Our station, NJ6VT, participated in this event on both days. Radio operators (RO's) present on Saturday to operate NJ6VT were:

Jerry Foster, XO, WA6BXV, PARC
Ed Essick, K6ELE
Wassim Nassif, WN6WJN
Den Regan, CO, K6ZJU, PARC

and on Sunday

Michael Fischer, K6MLF, PARC
Tom Soskins, W6MTS
Den Regan, CO, K6ZJU, PARC.

This year's museum ships event was plagued by poor HF radio propagation on the west coast.

Many museum ships that we have worked in the past were operating, as attested to others calling them, but we could not hear the ships! For example, we heard our friend and former visitor / RO to the Pampanito Jose Rodriguez, KP3W, in Puerto Rico, calling K6AA, the tug boat Angels Gate in San Pedro on 14.038 MHz, but could not hear K6AA !! The 40 meter band might have been a better band to work short skip if we had been able to hear K6AA on that band. Just working the USS Midway, NI6IW, in San Diego was difficult. The two bands used for the museum ship's event was the 40 meter and 20 meter bands, both CW and SSB. We tried the 17 meter band and found that band "dead." Same for 80 meters.

In spite of poor HF propagation conditions, we were able to work the following 11 museum ships on SSB, a few on CW:

NB6GC, USS Hornet, Aircraft Carrier, Alameda, CA
K6JOB, Jeremiah O'Brien, Liberty Ship, SF
NI6BB, USS Iowa, Battleship, San Pedro, CA
NI6IW, USS Midway, Aircraft Carrier, San Diego, CA
NE6JP, USS Potomac, Presidential Yacht, Oakland, CA
NY6CI, SS Red Oak Victory, Victory Ship, Richmond, CA
W6RO, RMS Queen Mary, Passenger Ship, Long Beach, CA
WW2SUB, USS Batfish, Submarine, Muskogee, OK
WW2OK, USS Oklahoma Mast Memorial, Muskogee, OK
W8C, SS Cedarville, Ore Freighter, Rogers City, MI
NS7DD, USS Turner Joy, Destroyer, Bremerton, WA

Eleven museum ships total - four short of the required 15 ships to get a second certificate. However, all who participated in the museum ships event will receive (eventually!) a nice certificate as a participating NJ6VT radio operator! The number of total QSO's was lower this year as well - only 41 QSO's logged - the lowest number of QSO's we have ever logged for the museum ship's event. With solar activity waning, it is most likely that poor HF conditions will prevail over the next five years or so. I guess we will have to get used to it until the next solar cycle starts up!

I want to thank XO, Jerry, WA6BXV; Ed, K6ELE; Michael, K6MLF; Wassim, WN6WJN and Tom, W6MTS for helping out this year. Could not have done it without you! I will now work on the report and log to be sent to the Battleship New Jersey, NI2BB, in Camden NJ - headquarters for the museum ship's event.

We have a scheduled DDO set for this coming Saturday, June 11th. I cannot make it to the boat this time around, so if any PARC member would like to take the DDO, go for it!

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



General Membership Meeting

Friday, May 6, 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.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

The minutes of the April 1 General Membership Meeting were approved as published in QSA-5.

President Soskin reported on the actions at the April 7th Board of Director's Meeting.

Three items were relayed. Annual change of website password for members only pages to begin in July. Club Merchandise page now live. And Marin Cyclists to use clubhouse.

There were several reports under "Fun with Ham Radio".

Two new members were announced.

No Secretary Report presented.

Treasurers Report for April 2016 was presented in print form.

Committee Reports presented.

VE session announced, Sunday May 15th, 2pm

No old business discussed.

No new business presented.

Request for any business Good of the Order.

Next meeting June 3, 2016

There being no further business meeting was adjourned approximately 20:30 hours.

Minutes respectfully submitted,

Tom Soskin, W6MTS

President, Marin Amateur Radio Society

June 3, 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. Thirty members or guests were present.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

The minutes of the May 06 General Membership Meeting were approved as presented.

Vice-President Backenstose reported on the actions at the May 12 Board of Director's Meeting. We discussed the phone system and additions to the website. The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 09. All are welcome.

There were four reports under "Fun with Ham Radio".

KM6DCM, KK6WII and KM6ASI were reported as a new members.

Secretary - There was a letter from the Marin Elections Department. The clubhouse will be used as a polling place next week.

Treasurer – Dave submitted a report that showed \$2,301.20 income and \$776.64 expenses. Total assets are reported as \$78,863.98.

Standing Committee Reports:

Club Station and Facilities: No Report

Membership: No Report. Maybe about 80.

Education: Instruction Team Leader Kris Backenstose reported on the meeting on May 22. The committee commented and gave guidance on fliers to Kris.

Technical / Repeaters: Doug Slusher reported he has the equipment and guidance to install the link receiver at 402. The Yaesu Digital Fusion repeater is ready to install on Mt. Tamalpais. Proposed schedule is mid to late August.

Public Service – Michael reported on upcoming events and passed around a sign-up list.

Public Service – We have scheduled a training session for new public service volunteers for Saturday, April 02. Our first event is Ridge to Bridge on April 30.

VE - We have exam session scheduled on Saturday, August 13.

Field Day – Doug reported that the site this year would be at Monkey Ranch south of Petaluma. There is a news story on the webpage, also under Operating Events.

Old business: None

New Business: None

Good of the Order: No Report

Edison Fong, WB6IQN, presented a program on his design for a tri-band antenna, 2M, 220 MHz, 70Cm.

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: August 05, 2016

Randy Jenkins
KA6BQF

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 09, 2016

Board Members present: Tom Soskin, Kris Backenstose, Rita Brenden, August Koehler, Marc Bruvry, Ed Essick, Doug Slusher, Dave Hodgson, and Randy Jenkins. Members Curtis Ardourel, Phil Dunlap, John Boyd, and Margaret Paez were also in attendance.

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

The agenda was approved as presented.

The minutes of the May 12 Board of Director's Meeting were approved as published.

President Soskin was sorry to have missed the May Board Meeting.

Communications: Randy reported on notices from the Planning Department about 26 Shell Rd.

Treasurer: Dave was present, and presented his report. The report showed \$2,301.20 income, \$1,351.64 expenses, and total assets of \$78,288.98.

Club Station & Facilities: Doug reported he waiting for the roof report.

Membership: Curtis reported that we have 81 members. He will prune the email list at the end of June and change the passwords.

Education: Kris reported that the Mail Chimp account for the Education Committee is set up. There would an Education Meeting on July 10. In the mean time, Kris and Tom, would hold an 'ad hoc' meeting. There was mention of the Girl Scouts' Communication Badge.

Technical / Repeaters: Doug needs to tune up the cavities for the remote receiver at 402. He expects to have the repeater work by the end on August, including the Fusion Repeater.

Public Service: The Dipsea is June 12 and the Double Dipsea is June 18.

Field Day: Doug reported that he needing help to load the generator to go to the shop. There was a motion to allocate NTE \$1000.00 for Field Day supplies / food. AKU/VMT/Pass.

Old Business:

Awards: Doug will re-send the list to Tom.

Building Security: Randy has installed a motion sensor light.

Website: There is some content missing. Report any missing content to Curtis.

Change Management Policy: Kris will make a proposal.

VOIP: Kris will make a proposal.

Curtis Ardourel introduced Margaret Paez, who will get suggestion for writing grant proposals.

New Business:

The First Aid Cabinet was discussed. Doug will get the building an updated kit.

Good of the Order:

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 14, 2016

Agenda Items: VOIP, Change Management Policy, First Aid Kit

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:05 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

Secretary, 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 sign-up 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 Tom Soskin, W6MTS tomsoskin@gmail.com</p> <p>Vice President Kris Bakenstose, KK6AYC</p> <p>Secretary Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089</p> <p>Treasurer: 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>Public Service Event Coordinators 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>
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