
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

November 2016

Presidents Corner

Tom Soskin, W6MTS

A Good Year

As 2016 comes to a close, I look back and think of all that was accomplished by the club and its members. We had a remarkable year and one, that I think, we can all be proud of. It was a great year of public service, interesting speakers, field Day, a new COM van, we put together and ran a very successful Technician Class, had ongoing CW education, created a radio repair group, and have had, what I feel, is more participation than what I have seen in the years that I have been a member of MARS. There is, of course, much more but these are a few of the highlights. This was a year that I was happy to be part of and as your president, was better able to appreciate the dedication and hard work by so many of our members. There are so many of you that deserve credit for all we accomplished and I hope that you understand how important you all are. Our club can only be as good as the members are willing to make it and together we have had a banner year.

When I ran for the board last December, I really just wanted to see how things work, how decisions are made and how the club is run from behind the scenes. I did not expect that I would be elected president or even what that would entail. And while I am honored at the support that I have received I am also humbled by the knowledge, expertise and graciousness of all the members of the club who have helped me fumble my way through this year. I have learned that as a board member, our jobs are to enable and support the members of the club so that they can accomplish the tasks and goals that we put before ourselves, so that together, we are able to accomplish far more than any individual.

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What's Happening in Radio

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Board Minutes

From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Club Participation

This is my fourth year as your newsletter editor. During this time our club membership has grown and as pointed out by our club president, member participation in club activities this year is the highest in recent history.

There are a number of ways you can participate in club activities; whether your interest is public service, attending meetings with our great speakers, radio repair, operating our club station, helping develop new hams thru our education program, or field day. I have learned a lot from the very knowledgeable club members who have helped me with public service and operating on field day. So if you are a new club member or one who has not be active in club events recently, try out some of our club activities and have some fun with ham radio.

Remember that our Christmas dinner is a good way to meet members and share about the hobby we all enjoy.



As president, I have learned that my job is to assist the board members in delegating responsibilities effectively and empowering members with the ability to accomplish those tasks. I actually don't *do* anything, everyone else does the doing, I just try to make sure they can. My greatest strength comes from those members around me who know how to accomplish this and have guided me along the way. So thank you Doug, Curtis, Randy, Ed, Marc, Dave, Kris, Cal, Mike and all the others that have shared your time and knowledge with me. And to everyone in our club, thank you. I have enjoyed being your president. I hope that I have served and represented you well and that you feel as I do, that it was, a good year.

73

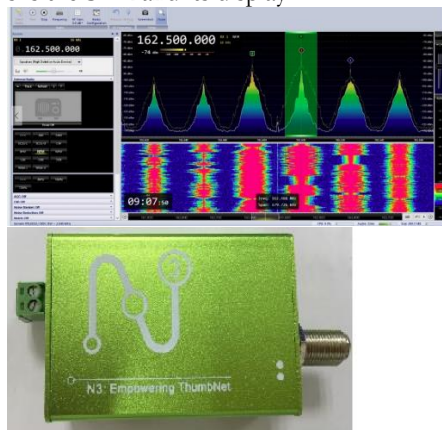
Tom, W6MTS

Software Defined Radio

A nonprofit, ThumbNet, has produced an SDR that is available to club members for about \$30. Here is what ThumbNet says about their SDR. ThumbNet was born to encourage students around the world to look up at the stars and to give them a chance to feel that they are part of something larger. The hardware to track and monitor radio signals from satellites in orbit is donated to the schools by ThumbNet.

"ThumbNet's N3 SDR receiver is unique in its design and it is competitive in cost with the majority of the SDR dongles on Amazon or eBay. We design and produce updates of the receiver to meet the needs of the ThumbNet network, (This is the 3rd generation.) but due to minimum order quantities from the manufacturer, we end up with several hundred more than we need each time we do so. In order to not have thousands of SDR radios laying around, I try to offer them to others that share our education efforts (like Girl Scouts) or simply may have an interest in working with them (like HAM clubs). The small proceeds that remain go right back into the project to support its continued outreach and growth.

This is the SDR and its display.



You can find out more about this SDR on their website <http://www.thumbnet.com/thumbnet-radios>.

What's Happening in Radio

NCVEC Question Pool Committee Seeks Comments on the Technician Question Pool

The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) is reviewing the 2014-2018 Technician question pool for revisions and updates. The QPC will accept comments and suggestions from the Amateur Radio community [via e-mail](#) through March 31, 2017. The NCVEC QPC will take all comments and suggestions into consideration as it updates the Technician question pool for 2018-2022. Input from the Amateur Radio community may include suggestions for new questions, changes to the topic areas, or changes to existing questions in *any* of the current Amateur Radio examination question pools.

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The Doctor Will See You Now!

"Yagi Antennas" is the topic of the latest (December 1) episode of the "ARRL The Doctor is In" podcast. Listen...and learn!



Sponsored by DX Engineering, "ARRL The Doctor is In" is an informative discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet, or smartphone -- whenever and wherever you like!

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.

Enjoy "ARRL The Doctor is In" on [Apple iTunes](#), or by using your iPhone or iPad podcast app (just search for "ARRL The Doctor is In"). You can also listen online at [Blubrry](#), or at [Stitcher](#) (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices.

If you've never listened to a podcast before, download our [beginner's guide](#).

Reprinted with permission ARRL Letter 12/1/16

ARRL NEWS

FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith Says Amateur Enforcement Will Be Aggressive

FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith told a standing-room-only audience at the ARRL Pacific Division Convention (Pacificon) in October that, despite FCC cutbacks, Amateur Radio enforcement will not be compromised. Smith spoke for nearly an hour and a half on a variety of FCC issues related to Amateur Radio, and the [entire presentation](#) is available on YouTube, thanks to Bob Miller, WB6KWT, and his son Robert, KA7JKP, who recorded the forum. Smith said that with the FCC set to shut down 11 field offices across the country in January, the Enforcement Bureau has reorganized into three US regions, and she does not anticipate any significant issues for the Amateur Service as a result.



FCC Special Counsel Laura Smith at Pacificon. [Courtesy of HamRadioNow]

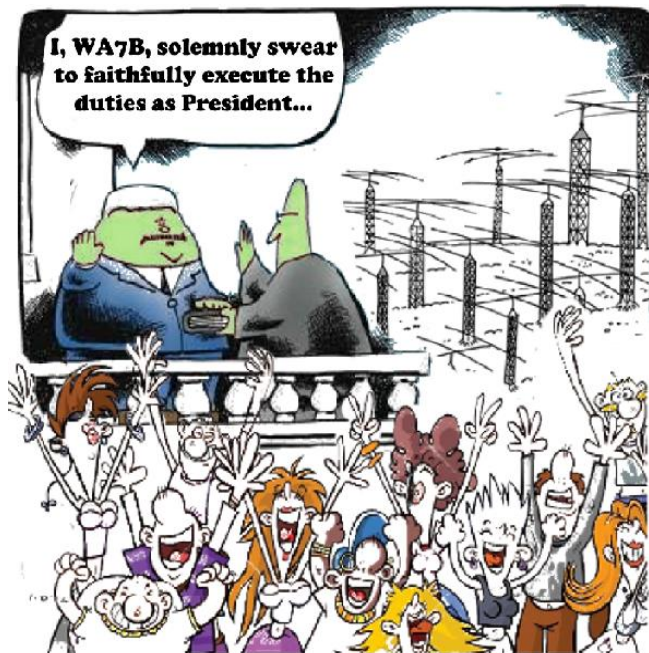
"The amateur community will go forward," she said, noting that amateurs have "an incredible ability to self-police." In light of the field office closings, she has been working with ARRL to revamp the Official Observer ([OO](#)) program.

"We are going to redo the entire program," she told the Pacificon forum. Given that the field office cutbacks have left the FCC short staffed, the OO program will step into the gap, with OOs serving as the first line of defense in Amateur Radio enforcement, she explained. Working more closely with the OOs, Smith said, will get information on problems to the field staff more quickly, so they can follow up.

Smith praised the OOs for contributing their time and effort to monitor the bands and to alert licensees both to problematic and positive behavior on the air.

She also said the FCC is more aggressively policing the Amateur Radio bands.

Reprinted with permission ARRL Letter 12/1/16



Kris Backenstose [KK6AYC](#)
Vice President & Educational Team Leader

Club Education Program

So many wonderful things have happened with our club activities this year. I am so proud to say that of the 18 students we had appear at our intro to ham radio class with Jamie Taylor [KK6OLF](#), we have added 11 new hams to our community.

The remaining students continued through to the end of the semester and had either scheduling conflicts or illness and I expect to see them complete their exam in the coming year. With the combined efforts of our discussion leaders and elmers among our club we have equipped them with the spirit and institutional knowledge to be "hams".

This semester has been a celebration of the diversity of our club members and expertise. In true ham fashion, we saw a task and collectively concurred it. High fives to all those involved!

Kris Backenstose, [KK6AYC](#)
Educational Team Leader

Field Day 2016 Results

Our club and the Redwood Empire DX Club, operating on field day from the new location near the Sonoma county line, placed 8th out of more than 300 entries in our 2A class. We also placed first in our section and near the top in California. Great operation by 30 club members from a new location. If you missed field day, mark your calendar for the last weekend in June 2017 and participate.

2016 MARS CHRISTMAS PARTY



2009 Christmas Party

Planned Menu:

Salad, Turkey, Ham, Whipped Potatoes, Green Beans, Bread, Deserts, Appetizers, Soft Beverages



PLEASE JOIN US!

\$25.00 Per Person (Payable on our webpage at:
http://w6sg.net/christmas_dinner.php)

RSVP by 11/30 to:
rsvp@w6sg.net to reserve your space.

\$30.00 per person pay-at-the-door, if you did not RSVP by 11/30.

Arrive at 5:30 PM for visiting.

Dinner around 6:30 PM.

Door Prizes Grand Prize:
Fusion Digital Radio

Volunteers appreciated for decorating and / or clean-up.

Contact: Cal Anbar at:
angrycal@live.com to volunteer.

December 8, 2016 17:30 (5:30 PM) - MARS Clubhouse, 27 Shell Rd, Mill Valley, CA 94941

General Membership Meeting

Friday, October 7, 2016

The meeting was called to order at **1931 hours** by President Tom Soskin.

President Soskin skipped the customary introductions.

The agenda was adopted with a motion, second, and a vote.

The minutes from the September 2, General membership meeting were approved as published.

President Soskin reported on Board Actions. He instructed the members present to review the latest edition of *QSA-5*. He notes that the Girl Scouts leaders will use the clubhouse on October 18, 2016. He reminded those present about the Board meeting next week on October 13, 2016. The primary discussion at that meeting will be an increase in the amount for dues payment. If anyone has questions, then he or she is directed to email President Soskin.

Fun with Ham Radio Reports. There was one report.

New Members. There are no new members present.

Secretary's Report. There is no report. Board Member David Chaney is substituting for Member Randy Jenkins.

Treasurer's Report. It is available on the back of the General Membership Meeting Bulletin. Total club funds are \$82,035.15

Committee Reports:

Technology and Repeaters Report: Board Trustee Doug Slusher reports that there is nothing new with the Club station and repeaters units. He spent \$300.00 for Dual Isolators to address interference problems at one of repeater sites. Doug presented a technical explanation of the isolators.

Education: President Soskin applauds Board Member and Education Coordinator Kris Backenstose for a well-run and thoughtful Amateur Radio Technician class that is running currently on Wednesday evenings. Thanks to Kris.

Public Service: Trustee Doug Slusher reminds the club members that the Dipsea Lite hiking event is the last public service for MARS in 2016. Net Control will be at Old Mill Park beginning at 7:30 AM until 4 PM on Saturday, October 8, 2016.

VE: The next VE Amateur Radio licensing test session will be held at the Alto Clubhouse on November 2, 2016 at 7 PM.

This date was chosen to accommodate the students in the Technician class.

President Soskin reminds the club members that the Christmas Party will be on December 8, 2016 from 5 to 10 PM. The party will be held at the Alto clubhouse.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

A motion is made to adjourn, with a second. President Soskin concludes the meeting at **1948 hours**. The elapsed meeting time was 17 minutes.

A subsequent presentation on microwave amateur radio technology and the use of the higher bands was presented by Club Member Jack Troupe, WA6JYU. Mr. Troupe's presentation ran from 1950 hours to 2029 hours. The elapsed time for the presentation was 39 minutes.

Mr. Troupe's presentation featured the presentation of an actual 10 GHz transceiver, lecture about the electronics of the radio and the physics of the transmission. Mr. Troupe presented component and material concerns for operating at such high frequencies and the experiences of line-of-sight communication and tropospheric ducting in the high amateur bands. Many questions were asked, much discussion followed, and the presentation was warmly received.

Recorded by David Chaney AA6AE

General Membership Meeting

Friday, November 04, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 19:32 hrs by President Tom Soskin.

A round of introductions was the first order of business. Twenty-eight members or guests were present. Three more arrive when the meeting was in progress.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

The approval of the minutes of the October 07 General Membership Meeting were tabled until December.

President Soskin reported that the next Board of Director's Meeting will be on November 10.

There were three reports under “Fun with Ham Radio”. Pacificon & a VE Session at Cal.

There were WA1TOV and KM6BJD reported as new members.

Secretary – Randy reported there was a letter from the Elections Department about 2017 dates and bills that were reported to the Treasurer.

Treasurer – Dave submitted no report.

Standing Committee Reports:

Club Station and Facilities: Nothing has changed.

Membership: No Report.

Education: Instruction Team Leader Kris Backenstose reported the Technician class has concluded. There was a discussion about a follow-up “Get on the Air” class and a follow-up meeting for the Education Team.

Technical / Repeaters: Doug reported that nothing has changed.

Public Service: No report.

VE - We have exam session scheduled on Wednesday, November 19 at 9AM.

Christmas Party – Is scheduled for Thursday, December 08 at the clubhouse. Cal has set up with Red Robin Catering. Please RSVP.

Old Business: None

New Business: Discussed the Technician class.

Good of the Order: No Report

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:06.

Jim Colletto, N6TQ made a presentation on the Heard Island DXpedition.

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: Christmas Party December 08, 2016

Next Board of Directors Meeting: November 10, 2016

Randy Jenkins
KA6BQF

Board of Director’s Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 10, 2016

Board Members present: Tom Soskin, Dave Hodgson, David Chaney, Kris Backenstose, August Koehler, Doug Slusher, Ed Essick, and Randy Jenkins. Member Curtis Ardourel was 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 October 13 Board of Director’s Meeting were approved as amended.

President Soskin has an antenna that he won at Pacificon, that needs a new home. Contact Tom.

Communications: Randy reported that he mailed the response to the Marin Elections Department. There were bills for the Treasurer.

Treasurer: Dave was present, and submitted his report. The report showed \$2,480.00 income, \$623.49 expenses, and total assets of \$84,487.18.

Club Station & Facilities: Doug reported that nothing has changed.

Membership: Curtis reported 95 members. There was discussion on the cost of renewing through PayPal, \$0.86 per renewal.

Education: Kris reported we had concluded our first class.

Technical / Repeaters: Doug reported that nothing has changed.

Public Service: Upcoming events this year are two events in September, and one event in October. Randy reported that we have received a request for a new event in April 2017, that the Public Service Committee was not able to endorse. The event was not adopted by the Board of Director's. Randy will send a response to the e-mailed request.

VE Liasion: The next exam date is Wednesday, November 02 at 7PM. We have three people signed for the November 02 evening session, plus the class members.

Grant Writing: No new report.

Special Events: There was a motion, to approve Christmas Party price at \$25.00 per person; \$30.00 after 11/30. AKU/MTS/Passed
There was a motion to purchase a Yaesu Digital Radio as the grand prize at the Christmas Party in addition to the \$400.00 already approved as prize costs. AKU/BQF/Passed.

Old Business

Dues for 2018: There was a motion to recommend that a dues increase to \$30.00 for members, and \$ 35.00 for families. AKU / Tabled until 2017. The dues rates for 2017 will remain unchanged.

Ham-of- the-Year: Past winners recommended Mike Ransome, AI6II.

Club Awards: Tom Soskin recommended Kris Backenstose, KK6AYC for the "John Butler" award; and Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF for the "Hi Roberts" award.

Doug reported that he was short one candidate for the 2017 Board of Directors election. Doug will get the election going in short order.

The Board of Directors approved continuing Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH as an Honorary Member in 2017. AKU/BQF/Passed.

Discussion of the proposed By-Laws changes were tabled until February 2017. Randy will work additional changes suggested.

Internet: Tom has rewired the phone lines. There was a discussion on changing Internet providers. Doug will consult with Tom.

Education: There was a discussion about radios for students in our class. Kris will survey discussion leaders for an appropriate debrief meeting date. Michael Fischer was asked when he was planning to the training for new public service volunteers. There was discussion about Peter McElmury's class in San Francisco.

New Business

Use by EBARC on November 18 was approved.

Reimburse REDEX for Field Day expenses: Dave reported that the check was cashed.

MDARC Lauren Info on Van: Doug will talk with Alan. Randy knows Lauren, if Doug says OK, Randy will correspond with Lauren.

The next Board Meeting will be held at the Christmas Party on December 08.

Kid's Day: The January 07 date is too soon, Kris expressed interest in June 18. The consensus was to focus on JOTA in October.

Donation to the Club: Ed Essick reported he was in contact with a former member that wanted to rejoin and had a radio to donate. Doug will send Ed the Donation Form. The radio may need to be serviced, some costs may be borne by the club.

Good of the Order: Tom proposed that Randy Jenkins be granted Life Membership. MTS/AYC/Passed.

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 08, 2016.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:28 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF
Secretary, Marin Amateur Radio Society

<p>Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:</p> <p>President Tom Soskin, W6MTS tomsoskin@gmail.com</p> <p>Vice President Kris Backenstose, 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 David Chaney, AA6AE 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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