

QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

February 2016

Presidents Corner

As the new president of MARS, one of the most important items I would like to address is that of education. Education takes place in many forms, but one of the most basic is the education and training of new Hams in order to open the door to the world of Amateur Radio. Since the last class in the fall of 2013 we have not offered another technician license class. As a club, and ambassadors of Ham Radio, we should all work together to rectify this. After all, in our By Laws the very first of the primary objectives and purposes is "To educate". You often hear Hams stating how there are so few new people entering the hobby of Amateur Radio and the answers seem so elusive that I think most people give up trying. Let's not give up! Your newly elected board is working on some answers that will help but it will take some effort and cooperation from our members.

We have many members with a vast knowledge base with the potential to serve as a resource to our club as Elmers, educators and mentors. We started this year with a new education committee led by our new Vice President, Kristofor Backenstose KK6AYC. This is a big undertaking and we should all consider what we can do to help, even if we only play a small part.

We are trying to accomplish this task by asking only a little from many members rather than asking a lot from only a few. So please, when asked to help out consider giving a helping hand to your fellow club members and ultimately to the people we hope to encourage and support on their path to becoming Hams and hopefully new club members.

Thank you all for your support,
Tom Soskin, W6MTS
tomsoskin@gmail.com

From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Contest Awards

I had a pleasant surprise in my mail box earlier this month. I participated in the 2015 California QSO Party (CQP) operating as K6V. Stations in the contest whose call sign suffix spelled out Gold Rush (K6G, K6O, K6L, etc.) and if worked qualified the contestee for a special challenge coin. I applied for a special call just for fun and was assigned K6V. I worked all of the stations suffixes that spelled out **Gold Rush** and received my coin in the mail. I ended up placing first in Marin County and twelfth in California in the contest.

OK, so what's the point? Contesting for me is about having fun with Ham Radio. I have a modest station, so I know I won't set any real records compared to the "big gun" stations. I don't operate the full contest periods, usually 12-30 hours, as this is way too much chair time for me. Instead I operate some of the contest time and enjoy being on the air. I have learned a lot about my equipment, antennas, and operating while contesting. Contesting, Public Service, and making casual contacts are parts of the hobby that keeps me interested. Along the way in this particular contest I managed to set a new county record, got an award coin, and had a lot of fun.



What's Happening in Radio

On the Air

ARRL News

Club Member News

Public Service

Guest Speaker List 2016

Pampanito Report

All Time California Records				
Marin				
Category	Callsign	Operators	Score	Year
S/O HP	K6RIM	K6RIM	267,699	2003
S/O LP	N6ZFO	N6ZFO	149,597	2001
S/O A HP	K6V	K6ELE	41,704	2016
M/S HP	K6YA	K6MA, N6IU, W6BROM, W6BLJ, W6GTKV, N6GAL, W6SVUL	59,292	1988
M/S LP	K6MO/MM	K6MO, N6RG	52,185	1990
MM HP	K6YA	N6BPA, N6EAF, K6MPPK, W6GLJ, K6MA, K6BFRY, K6LTI, N6BZA	83,581	1981

Guest Speakers 2016

3/4/2016 - Antonis Papatsaras AA6PP - SF club digital Fusion repeater
4/1/2016 - Richard Dillman - Marconi / KPH history
5/6/2016 - Kenneth Finnegan W6KWF - Wildflower Triathlon
6/3/2016 - Edison Fong - Tri-band J-pole
8/5/2016 - David Messerschmitt - Interstellar Communication

Club Member News

Rich Cochran, AG6QR, had his operation in the ARRL Straight Key Night highlighted on the ARRL website.
<http://www.arrl.org/soapbox/view/9305>

I'm a bit new to CW, and enjoyed my first SKN! I had a party to attend with friends and family, but I stole away for a while and set up a portable station with KX3, Hardrock Amp, Buddipole antenna, and Nye Viking Speed-X straight key on my host's backyard deck. I demonstrated the "wireless telegraph apparatus" for my nieces and their college-age friends, and they were impressed. They heard me make a nice Coast-to-coast QSO from my California location to Carl, KJ4WD, in North Carolina, and though the kids couldn't understand it, they could tell he was coming in loud and clear. Great fun!



AG6QR operating portable in Moraga, CA, in QSO with KJ4WD in North Carolina.

New Call Sign

David Chaney, ex-KK6AZR, is now AA6AE. David is one of our club members developing his CW skills with the help of Mike, AI6II, at the Sunday club "Bible Class

On The Air

Contest Calendar

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB, 0000Z, Mar 5 to 2400Z, Mar 6
South America 10 Meter Contest, 1200Z, Mar 12 to 1200Z, Mar 13
BARTG HF RTTY Contest, 0200Z, Mar 19 to 0200Z, Mar 21
Russian DX Contest, 1200Z, Mar 19 to 1200Z, Mar 20
AGCW VHF/UHF Contest, 1400Z-1700Z, Mar 19 (144) and 1700Z-1800Z, Mar 19 (432)
CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB, 0000Z, Mar 26 to 2359Z, Mar 27
See complete list at:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>

ARRL News

FCC Invites Comments on ARRL Petition That Seeks 80/75 Meter Adjustments

The FCC has put the ARRL's January *Petition for Rule Making (RM 11759)* on public notice and invited interested parties to comment on what the League has called "minimal but necessary changes" to 80 and 75 meters. The ARRL petitioned the FCC to fix a "shortfall in available RTTY/data spectrum" that the Commission created when it reapportioned 80 and 75 meters 10 years ago. The League's petition asked the FCC to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 kHz to 3650 kHz. The proposed change received strong support from ARRL members, and the ARRL Board of Directors adopted it as policy at its July 2015 meeting. At that time the Board also agreed to seek RTTY and data privileges for Novice and Technician licensees within their current 15 meter CW subband, and to do the same on 80 meters, depending on the outcome of the 80/75 meter subband revision.

The petition asks the FCC to make the following changes to the Part 97 Amateur Radio Service rules, with respect to 80/75 meters:

1. Modify the RTTY/data subband, so that it extends from 3500 kHz to 3650 kHz.
 - a. Modify the phone/image subband, so that it extends from 3650 kHz to 4000 kHz.
2. Make 3600-3650 kHz available for General and Advanced Class licensees, as was the case prior to 2006.
3. Make 3600-3650 kHz available to Novice and Technician licensees for telegraphy -- consistent with existing rules permitting Novices and Technicians to operate CW in the 80, 40, and 15 meter General and Advanced RTTY/data subbands.

Continued on page 3

National Parks on the Air Update

Since the creation of the Manhattan Project National Historic Site by the National Park Service (NPS) in mid-November 2015, activating one of the three sites comprising this unit has been impossible, in large part because gaining access to active Department of Energy sites is exceptionally difficult. The only site of the three with any hope of regular public access is Oak Ridge, Tennessee. On February 24, NPOTA administrators decided that any location within the boundaries of the Oak Ridge Reservation, as outlined on the [NPS Manhattan Project](#) website, will count for NPOTA credit. Activators must be sure not to transmit from private property without prior approval.

There are 35 activations on the NPOTA Activations Calendar between February 25 and March 2, including Petroglyph National Monument in New Mexico, and Moore's Creek National Battlefield in North Carolina -- as part of the 240th anniversary celebration of the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge during the Revolutionary War.



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89 years ago, President Calvin Coolidge signed a bill creating the FCC, which was in 1927 called, "The Federal Radio Commission. *Ed. Thanks to Pinky, W6FQS for this.*

4. Modify the rules governing automatically controlled digital stations (ACDS), to shift the ACDS segment from 3585-3600 kHz to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and 2 band plans.

According to the ARRL, the FCC *Report and Order* in Docket 04-140 released in 2006 departed substantially and without justification from the rules proposed in the FCC's so-called "Omnibus" *Notice of Proposed Rule Making* (NPRM), with respect to 75 and 80 meters. Among other actions, the resulting changes expanded voice privileges on additional frequencies in various bands, including 75 meters. The FCC shifted the phone/image subband from 3750-4000 kHz to 3600-4000 kHz, trimming the 80 meter RTTY/data subband from 3500-3750 kHz to 3500-3600 kHz and substantially changing "the entire dynamic of this band," the League said.

Although the Omnibus R&O had indicated that incumbent licensees would not lose any operating privileges, some clearly did, the ARRL has pointed out. The most substantial adverse effect of the "unexpected and vast expansion" of the 75 meter phone/image subband, the League said, was the elimination of access to 3620-3635 kHz by ACDS

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FCC Seeks Comments on Petition to Grant Lifetime Amateur Radio Licenses

The FCC is seeking comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM 11760](#)) that asks the FCC to grant lifetime Amateur Radio licenses. Mark F. Krotz, N7MK, of Mesa, Arizona, filed his request with the FCC last November. He wants 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. Krotz noted that the General Radiotelephone Operator License (GROL) already is issued on a lifetime basis, and he maintained that not having to renew licenses would lighten the FCC's workload.

"It would be mutually beneficial for the FCC and Amateur Radio operators to update Part 97 to grant operator licenses for lifetime," Krotz said in his filing. "The FCC would benefit by reducing administrative costs."

In 2014, the FCC granted lifetime credit for examination elements 3 and 4, but applicants seeking relicensing under that provision still must pass examination element 2. Individuals may submit comments via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

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USS Pampanito

In the afternoon hours, we operated on the 20 meter CW band and made a good QSO with Mika, OH6NVC, in Finland. We received a decent 559 report and our 90 watts and long wire antenna did a good job! NJ6VT was secured at 1600 hours.

Our next scheduled DDO is set for Saturday, March 12, 2016. Let me know if you would like to participate aboard the USS Pampanito. Thanks again to Hal and Jan for making this DDO successful!

73,

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



Club Jackets Available

Like the new MARS logo? Need a toasty, spiffy jacket? Look at the photo of Steve, Jerry and Michael wearing theirs, and get one for yourself! You order them directly from Debbie Diaz of Catto's Graphics in Santa Cruz. Her telephone number is 888-722-7135 (0700-1530L) Base price is \$52 w/logo.

Add your name and call sign, tax and shipping, it's around \$80. Up to 6XL available. (Base price for XXL and up is \$58) Her email is debbie@cattosgraphics.com



General Membership Meeting

Friday, February 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. Seventeen members or guests were present.

The agenda was adopted as presented.

The minutes of the January 08 General Membership Meeting were approved as published.

President Soskin reported on the actions at the January 14 Board of Director's Meeting. The Board Election Results were published in *QSA-5*. 2016 Officers were selected, also published in *QSA-5*. We selected a new speakers committee, Kris Backenstose and Cal Anber. They report that we will have speakers scheduled through September. The Board approved the 2016 public service schedule as submitted.

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

There were now members reported.

Secretary Jenkins reported on correspondence. The Marin Elections Department will not need the clubhouse as a polling place in April. We received a communications request from MALT for an event on July 23.

Treasurer Dave Hodgson was not present, and submitted a report for January that reflected \$3,122.00 income and \$1683.21 expenses. Total cash assets were reported as \$67,755.47.

Membership: 44 renewals for 2016. Curtis will send out a reminder to renew.

Public Service – Randy reported that 2016 schedule was on the chalk board, so far. We held a Public Service Thank-You lunch on January 16.

The Technical Committee: The Yaesu Fusion repeater has arrived. Doug reported that the simulcast system was working well.

Education: We held a meeting with the persons interested in taking over teaching on January 31. We also invited John Primus, the Instruction Team Leader from Mt. Diablo ARC, to join us. We decided to begin teaching license classes again, at Kris Backenstose volunteered to be our Instruction Team Leader. We will recruit discussion leaders and elmers.

VE: We have exam session on Sunday, March 06 at 2PM.

Old business: None.

New Business: None

There being no further business, the business meeting was adjourned at 20:19 hrs.

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.

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

ka6bqf@arrl.net

510 526.4089 or 707 557.5521

Board of Director's Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 11, 2016

Board Members present: Rita Brenden, Tom Soskin, Kris Backenstose, August Koehler, Dave Hodgson, Marc Bruvry, and Randy Jenkins; plus members Phil Dunlap, John Boyd and Curtis Ardourel.

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

The agenda was approved as amended.

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

Communications: Randy reported on a thank you card and a check received from the Dolphin Club and a notice from the Marin Planning Department.

Treasurer: Dave submitted reports for January. The report showed \$3,122.00 income and \$1,683.21 expenses; and total cash assets of \$67,755.47.

Committee reports:

Membership- We had 91 paid members in 2015. We have 34 paid members so far in 2016. Dues were due January 01 and are delinquent June 30. Curtis will send out reminders.

Public Service – We held a thank-you lunch on January 16. The schedule is posted on the chalk board and on the website.

Technical- The new Yeasu Fusion repeater is here and we will install it later. A price has been requested for the remote receiver at Building 402, which was discussed.

Comm Truck- It is still rusting.

Education – We held a meeting on January 31. The MDARC Instruction Team Leader was invited. We will be recruiting Discussion Leaders and Elmers. We will begin with a Technician Class. A follow-up meeting is scheduled for February, 28 at 11:00.

VE Liaison - The next date is scheduled for Sunday, March 6 at 2:00PM.

Speakers – Kris and Cal have speakers scheduled through September.

The July 1 General Membership Meeting was rescheduled to coincide with the August General Membership Meeting.

Building Committee - The roofing estimate was deferred.

Old Business:

Parking Signs – Done.

Digital Repeater – Here.

Transmitter Hunts – No report. Waiting on information.

Condition of Clubhouse – Tabled.

Booth at County Fair – No Interest.

New Business:

Tour de MALT – The Board accepted the Tour de MALT as an event, with reservations. Our 2016 Public Service Calendar is closed to new events. AKU/VNT/PASS

Allocation of Donations – Randy suggested that the \$4,000.00 donation by the Marin Cyclists be allocated to the Repeater Reserve Fund; and suggested that the \$300.00 donation by the Dolphin Club and the \$100.00 Donation by Tia Bodington be allocated to the Public Service Fund. A motion to that effect was made. AKU/BQF/PASS

There was a discussion of paper copies of the Agenda for the General Membership Meetings. We will provide one copy of the agenda per table.

There will be a discussion of the Budget and the Radio Room at the March Board Meeting

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 10, 2016

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 21:00 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 sign-up 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

Treasure:

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

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 Coordinator

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089

Public Service Co-Coordinators

Rob Rowlands, NZ6J and Michael Fischer,
K6MLF

Membership

Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS

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