
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

February 2017

Presidents Corner

Ready, Set, Go!

The Public Service Season is upon us and, in case you missed it, we had a great luncheon to kick it off. As usual, there were good friends, food, awards, guest speakers, prizes and fun! Public Service is, without question, the most important thing our club does every year. Applying our craft to the benefit and safety of the public is not only a noble deed, but an invaluable learning experience as well. We benefit both individually and as a club by providing the public a great impression of our hobby.

I would like to say **thank you** to all our members (and associates) who take part, and extend my deepest gratitude to Randy, Rob, Michael and Doug for all they do. If you can, please check out this year's list of public service events under "*On The Air*", "*Public Service*" and "*Events*" on our website. Then sign up and come out and participate: we would love to get everyone involved! And last but not least, thank you Cal (our Entertainment Director) for your support of another successful event.

73

Tom Soskin, W6MTS

What's Happening in Radio

Guest Speaker List 2017

Membership Meeting Minutes

Board Minutes

Guest Speakers 2017

4/7/2017 - Rob Rowland, NZ6J – SDR Dongles basics

5/5/2017 - Leighton Hills - Internet connectivity via

fiber 6/02/2017 – Michelle Paquette - Antenna basic

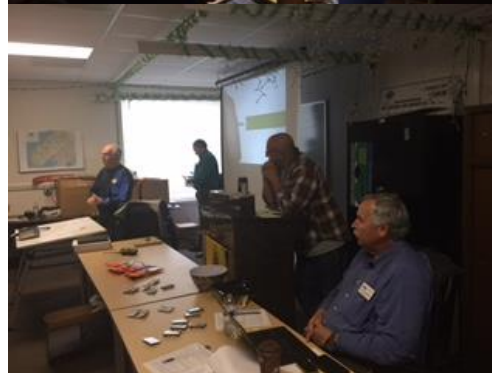
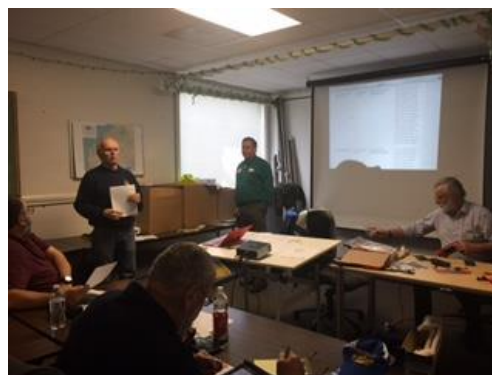
principles 8/4/2016 – Alan Bowker, WA6DNR, Working ham satellites

From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

This is a short version of QSA5 this month as the editor had a major hardware failure on his computer losing email and other files I need for QSA5. Hope to be back in full force next month.

The Public Service luncheon and meeting took place last Saturday at the club house. We had a great turnout for the event. Here are a few pictures I took of the event.



To: Members of Marin RACES and the Marin Amateur Radio Society:

Once again this year, we amateur radio operators are being offered large 100Ah batteries. They are three years old, and are being retired early sometime next month by a Sonoma County corporation. They are Deep-Cycle, AGM batteries--and they are large: 100Ah means, as you probably know, 100 POUNDS HEAVY. Their dimensions are approximately 12" high, 13" wide, and 7" deep. Because our demands on battery-power are relatively light, you can expect these batteries to last another five years or so. They will deliver approximately 8 hours of continuous 50W transmission or 3 days of normal 50W duty - perhaps a week of 20W normal duty and 2+ weeks of 5W duty. Add a solar panel and indefinite operation is possible.

Dale Westertep WB6TMS of the Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society <http://smrs.us/> is coordinating the availability of the batteries, and he is reaching out to his Marin County colleagues again this time (thanks, Dale.)

They will be available on a one-day, one-time basis at a date (probably in April) to be determined. Again, they are heavy--and assistance loading a battery in your vehicle will NOT be provided.

To be eligible for a battery, we need to know:

1. Your amateur callsign:
2. Your name:
3. Your telephone number:
4. The number of batteries you wish:
5. Your email:

Priority will be given to those who do not have a battery (or batteries) from the last distribution, and to those who wish only one battery. If you can use more than one, multiple batteries will be distributed only after those who wish to have one have been satisfied.


If you have one of the old ones that is no longer working, Dale would like that core to be returned to him for recycling.

For Marin amateurs, if we can find someone with a large truck, we will bring them down to the MARS clubhouse for distribution. We will hire some strong arms to help us load and unload the truck, and will ask for a small donation to offset that cost. Any volunteers with a truck? If not, each interested ham will need to drive to Sonoma County to pick up your battery(ies.) Again, you will need to bring your own strong arms. No loading/unloading assistance will be provided.

It is essential that any requests for these batteries be coordinated with and through Dale; do NOT communicate directly with the corporation!

If you're interested, please forward this email with the information requested to Michael K6MLF at fischer@igc.org; he will then forward your interest along to Dale.

QST, QST, QST...



Help Get Kids on the Air!!!

Weekly SBARA Youth Net
New Day and Time!

- For young people 18 and under
- Licensed youth or youth with a licensed control operator are welcome to check-in
- Check-in via EchoLink, if you are outside of the area
- Adults can check-in towards the end of the Net to answer questions and mentor the youth.

Please join our new, 13-year-old net control operator, Truman Lindsey, KM6AQS, and help us grow this important Net for young hams!

- SBARA Youth Net
- Every Tuesday evening, 6:30pm (1830), PACIFIC
- N6NFI repeater, Palo Alto, CA (145.230 MHz, -600 kHz, PL 100 Hz.)
- EchoLink Station: KR6DD-R

Steve Wilson KG6HJU
South Bay Amateur Radio Association
Fremont, CA
kg6hju@arrl.net

General Meeting Minutes February 3rd, 2017

- 7:32 PM Club President Tom Soskin calls the meeting to order, members make their introductions around the room.
- 7:36 PM The club agenda is adopted and past meeting minutes are approved: motion, second, and a vote of approval.
- 7:37 PM Discussion about the last MARS board meeting, which ran long with discussion including discussion about the proposed new by-laws. A correction is recommended with regards to the last QSA-5 MARS newsletter. Unfortunately, the name of Mitch Martin was not included as a new board member-this is a correction. The MARS members are encouraged by President Soskin to read and comment on the proposed by-laws changes and to email him personally with concerns or recommendations. Also, President Soskin encourages the members to attend the March General Meeting when the by-laws changes will be debated and discussed in-depth.
- 7:39 PM The segment of "Fun with Ham Radio," includes discussions about medical and emergency VHF communications. Mitch Martin tells the members about exciting new sporadic propagation on 6 meters for UHF and VHF Simplex. President Soskin is pleased that there are many people coming to the MARS club on Sunday mornings for fellowship, radio repair, morse code practice, and coffee.
- 7:45 PM The Secretary's report is an introduction of the new Secretary David Chaney.
- 7:45 PM There is no Treasurer's report.
- 7:45 PM COMMITTEE REPORT-Membership. Curtis is preparing membership renewal notices for all members.
- 7:46 PM COMMITTEE REPORT-Education. There is no report from Kris.
- 7:46 PM COMMITTEE REPORT-Club Station and Facilities. Doug has made repair inquires about roof repair to the rear of the meeting hall. Currently, the water is contained with buckets and the carpet has been dry vacuumed. Doug is working with Rob on repeater cavities. The Yaesu Fusion repeat device has been sent to the Yaesu factory for firmware updates and the upgrade time may be about 2 months. Doug discusses the digital "450" machine and dual-mode service with "analog-in/analog out; digital-in/digital-out." He mentions that the connecting tone for the VHF repeated at Tam West of 179.9 will change to 192.8 and there is an interim period when both tones will overlap and be useable. There is discussion with Doug about using and encode/decode protocol and reasons for the repeater changes. Finally Doug will help to present new VHF radio (for new hams) programming on February 25, 2017 at the Public Service orientation and debriefing. Come and get your Baofeng programmed!
- 7:53 PM COMMITTEE REPORT-Public Service. There is discussion about the February 25, 2017 Public Service Orientation and lunch. It runs from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM. There are many good things at the meeting including discussion of the past year's (2016) events, discussion of the new year schedule, food, radio-related gifts, and a "breakout" session for new members. Again, there is mention of helping the new members to program repeater codes into their new handy-talkies (HTs). Lasagne will be served and members may RSVP on the W6SG.net website.
- 7:56 PM COMMITTEE REPORT-VE. The next VE test session for Amateur Radio licensing at MARS Alto Clubhouse will be on March 5, 2017.
- 7:57 PM COMMITTEE REPORT-Field Day 2017. Doug discusses the field day for this year 2017. MARS and Redex will combine their efforts and rent the Monkey Ranch facility in the hills west of the 101 Freeway on the Marin and Sonoma County border. Last year's rental and experience there was exceptional with the ranch having a good layout with wide-open spaces, accessibility, and nice facilities. New hams may learn a lot participating with the Field Day radio transmissions,

equipment, and best practices. Old hams need to come and help the new hams and have a great time additionally. An additional note was made about the Ham Radio History column on the W6SG.net website created by VE and long-time member Randy Jenkins.

7:59 PM The meeting is adjourned.

8:00 PM There is a presentation about earthquake measurement, analysis, and prediction by Dr. Uhrhammer WA6VEX.

David Chaney
Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting 9 February 2017

7:30 PM Club President Tom Soskin calls the meeting to order at the Alto clubhouse.

7:32 PM Adoption of the Agenda by a motion, second, and vote.

7:33 PM A discussion ensues about the Treasurer's notes. Concerns are voiced about the Treasurer's personal health and well being. More discussion includes the question of transferring the job to another more physically able and if that is indeed necessary at all. Trustee Doug Slusher is a signature on the club's bank account.

7:40 PM The minutes of the previous General Meeting of February 3, 2017 are approved. There are corrections made to Board Member Cal Anbar title of "Senior Recreation Director" that was omitted in previous club correspondence.

7:43 PM President's Minute.

7:44 PM Secretary's Report. Bills received in the mail and a \$25 membership payment are discussed. The prior club secretary Randy Jenkins discusses the Amazon Smile club account and former problems with their communications to the club. A discussion about the QSA-5 e-magazine produced by Member Ed Essick followed. There are reports of not all members receiving the publication. Ed Essick has helped several members with the club web site password. There is a discussion about whether or not the Century Event Crew (public service) can use the Alto clubhouse. There are several who remind the meeting of past use of the clubhouse wherein the group left behind piles of trash. President Tom Soskin says that the use of the clubhouse and trash disposal can be addressed on a case-by-case basis with those who would use the building

7:53 PM The budget. President Tom Soskin has received the budget. Trustee Doug Slusher suggests emailing the budget to members. Member Randy Jenkins suggests tabling the issue until the March 2017 Board of Director's meeting

7:55 PM COMMITTEE REPORT-MEMBERSHIP. Trustee Doug Slusher has information from Curtis that 78 out of 110 members have paid their dues for 2017.

7:57 PM COMMITTEE REPORT-EDUCATION. Vice-President Kris Backenstose would like to run a class entitled "Radio 101" where he would brief students on VHF/UHF radios and how to program them at the public service luncheon on February 25, 2017. Member Mitch Martin asks Kris if that would be to members only or to all comers? Member Randy Jenkins reports that there are 26 RSVPs for the public service luncheon on February 25, 2017

8:04 PM COMMITTEE REPORTS-REPEATER AND CLUB STATION. Trustee Doug Slusher reports that he is waiting for the repeater unit to arrive back from the technician in Colorado. Doug reports also that repeater upgrades will require "getting on the roof" and he asks if it is possible to get [rent, borrow?] a bucket truck.

8:06 PM COMMITTEE REPORT-PUBLIC SERVICE. Randy Jenkins reminds the meeting about the public service luncheon at the Alto clubhouse on February 25, 2017. He also reports that the Double Dipsea race will begin earlier in the morning due to local permitting changes. Please check with Rob for details.

8:08 PM COMMITTEE REPORT-VE. The next VE test session at the Alto clubhouse is on March 5, 2017.

8:10PM COMMITTEE REPORT-FIELD DAY. The event will be held at the Monkey Ranch

- with the reservations and payment pending.
- 8:11 PM Old Business. Vice-President Kris Backenstose discusses a post-radio instruction class meeting or debriefing with the instructors. Kris will report back to the MARS Board with prospective dates. There is discussion about posting a “Speakers List” for the club meetings. The End of the Year Activity Report is pending with the Treasurer.
- 8:16 PM New Business. Member Randy Jenkins present a plan to prepare the communications truck. He has created a detailed parts and pieces list with costs.

Vice-President Kris Backenstose proposes that a “Keystone Jack” be included in the communications truck. The Board reviews the 1 lists of needed parts, and Member Mitch Martin asks the Board to give Member Randy Jenkins to add anything that he might think necessary in addition. Member Randy Jenkins agrees to think about additional purchases so that the communications truck is complete.

- 8:22 PM The MARS board authorizes \$1,300.00 to \$1,500.00 for Member Randy Jenkins to spend on the communications van.
- 8:22 PM New Business continues...President Tom Soskin proposes that the MARS club provide 1 lunch at the club house on Sundays twice a month. Board Member Cal Anbar offers to help prepare the lunches [costs are not discussed]. There is a discussion about reimbursing MARS Member Jan for the baked pies that he brings each Sunday for the RRS meeting and work. Board Member Marc Bruvary will talk to Jan about remuneration. President Tom Soskin introduces the discussion of the QSA-5 magazine and he wants to entertain proposals about how to increase access to the electronic magazine. President Soskin says that QSA-5 is highly valued by all of the club members for both the content and production values. Trustee Doug Slusher adds that QSA-5 is a great tool for advertising the activities of the MARS club. He says also that he receives comments from across the country praising the QSA-5. Finally Trustee Doug Slusher argues to make QSA-5 easily and freely obtainable by all and is rebutted by QSA-5 editor Ed Essick that this may cause a drop in membership due to people getting the electronic magazine for free. Various forms of distribution including paper and email are discussed. Trustee Doug Slusher argues for the QSA-5 to be featured on its own website. Vice-President Kris Backenstose suggests that the MARS club utilize the software program *Mailchimp* to allow people to opt-in to subscriptions and to create an “associates” list. Editor and Member Ed Essick suggests that those who write in email that they are interested should receive a free sample copy. Vice-President Kris Backenstose suggests alternate formatting plans for the QSA-5 saying “The newsletter is very valuable. We should enrich good content with better formatting.” He adds that the *Mailchimp* program would be very helpful in this effort. The QSA-5 discussion lasted 28 minutes and the discussion is table until a committee is formed to take up the issue further.
- 8:50 PM Tabled Items. VOIP; ATT, DSL, *Sonic Bonded Pair Teleconnect Fund*. Vice-President Kris Backenstose makes a VOIP proposal. He argues that the club internet is slow and that the club pays for minimal bandwidth-could the club call the company to price check other plans? Trustee Doug Slusher will check with the internet providers to discover the costs of other plans. Vice-President Kris Backenstose is still working on the IRS 990 reduced rate proposal [it would reduce costs by up to 50 %]. Member Mitch suggests “building” the internet costs into the rental package of the upstairs tenant. President Tom Soskin rebuts Member Martin reminding him that the suggestion was refused last year in 2016. Changes to the by-laws will be discussed at the March General club meeting. Dues changes are not discussed. The Boy Scout Jamboree-On-The-Air (JOTA) has been held previously at Pacificon. There is some discussion about MARS participation. The ARRL Kid’s Day in June 2017 would be a fun public service. Trustee Doug Slusher remembers that MARS previously set up a radio station at the Town Center Mall. There is no discussion about grant writing or a new Tech class. Member Randy Jenkins instructs the new MARS Secretary David Chaney to update the names of the new members of the MARS Board of Directors with the State of California for the 501 c(3). Member Mitch

Martin asks if there is room on the repeater tower for other antennas to which Trustee Doug Slusher answers “No,” and also that he would like to donate 3 or 4 Force 12 antennas to the MARS club. All of the tabled items were left tabled.
9:16 PM President Tom Soskin adjourns the meeting with a motion, second, and vote.

David Chaney
Secretary

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>Treasure: Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 707 978-2560</p> <p>Board Members Curtis Ardourel, W6UDS, 510-595-3494 Cal Anber N6TIA 209-275-5252 Marc Bruvry KF6VNT 492-9292 Howard Leistner, W2BBF Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715 Mitch Martin</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</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> <p>HF Sunday Net Control Mike Ransom, AI6II</p> <p>VHF Sunday Net Control Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH</p>
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