

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Club Monthly Newsletter

August, 1996

August Program

by Director Mike Edwards W6FCQ

A place for you in M*A*R*S

Any HAM can find a place in MARS. Pick your service, Air Force, Army, or Navy-Marine Corps, you are probably qualified.

Beside holding a valid Ham License (technician or higher class), what are the requirements? What can I do after I am a full member? How much time must I put in each month to maintain my membership? How long is the training period? What are some of the activities of MARS Nets?

Answers to these and other questions at the August membership meeting, 7:30 PM Friday Aug 2nd. KAISER Medical Office Bldg 2, Conference rooms 3&4. Hope to see you there!!

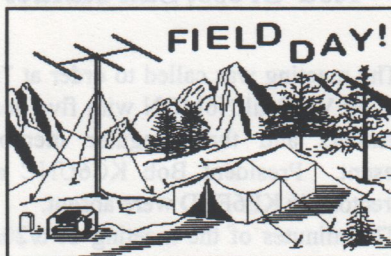


Solar cycle nears bottom

Despite reports that the sunspot cycle has bottomed, conditions may not improve for another year—depending on which data you believe. Solar prognosticator Tad Cook KT7H reports “we are close to the solar minimum.” The latest projections show 10.7-cm solar flux—a measurement of solar energy at that radio wavelength—reaching minimum in the winter or spring of 1997. Solar flux correlates with ionization in the ionosphere and, consequently, HF propagation.

But telescopic sunspot observations show sunspot number to have reached minimum in the spring of 1996, with an

continued on page 3



Stu Dake AC6GD did a first class job for Field Day this year!

There was great potential to have a wonderful time at the Field Day site Saturday and Sunday, June 22nd and 23rd. It was GREAT for all concerned.

We had operating positions available for 4 bands. The county sent its RACES trailer out. Packet was available, and of course Lola N6GLI came with her RV and set up her station as an addition to the club installations.

We had more CW contacts than I have ever seen listed for MARC. Between Lola and Tim, we have over 600 CW contacts to report for the 24 hour period. It was GREAT.

To make it even better, we had a great barbecue dinner Saturday night hosted by Ed N6BNJ. (Many of us may feel that the drawing was rigged?). Hungry Hams amounted to 40 for that one, including yours truly.

I got up too late to make the traditional Sunday Morning breakfast, cooked by the inimitable Chet Rice WA6PAC but I understand that the cholesterol level was up to par. YOU DO WELL AT THAT CHET!!

Points??? According to my last phone call with UNC, Greg was still getting the whole thing together, and it should be in the mail to the ARRL this week-end. (July 20, 1996)

Next year, even more points??? And if we stay with the "Paddle" system, not so many "dupes" to get sorted out.

73! Mike, W6FCQ

Burn Out?

by Chet Rice WA6PAC

Is there any *burn out* in MARC. You are darned right there is and there shouldn't be. It has been a common joke among the club volunteers that, when you get a club job, you can't quit.

Of course that is not true because circumstances always come up that prevent individuals from spending that extra amount of time on club activities. However, what would be helpful to the Directors and Officers, is to have a recommendation or an actual replacement who, hopefully, has been groomed for the job.

This was well covered in two articles written by me for the April and May 1994 issues of QSA-5. One was called *The Buddy System* and the other, *MARC Jobs are Fun*,

If you feel you've been on the job too long, such as two or more years, or you are getting discouraged with MARC, bring in an assistant, hopefully from among our new, younger members. Teach him/her your tricks and, when the time is right, turn your job over, notifying the Directors of your action. In that way, it causes the least amount of trouble for the proper running of the club and brings in new enthusiasm and new ideas. That is what makes MARC continue being a friendly and GREAT Radio Club.

Packet friends

by Tracy Chaput, N9YMF (age 12)

Ten months ago, I met a friend on packet. Well, not really met, but you know what I mean. Her name is Sarah and her callsign is KC5KMA. She is 16 years old and her grandfather is AG9N. She told me about her family, from Packet, page 1

Minutes of Membership and Business Meetings

Membership Meeting

7/12/96

Kaiser Hospital, San Rafael

Meeting called to order at 1945 hours by President Bob LaFlamme KC6UNC. Our speaker went, in error, to the old Clubhouse and Bob waited for his arrival before opening the meeting. Three board members: VP Paul Niederberger N6MQN, Directors Elizabeth Nager KE6FHD and Director Mike Edwards W6FCQ were present. Both our Secretary John and our Treasurer Bob were absent.

Pres. Bob reported on the status of the Hamilton Clubhouse and our date for vacating the premises has been postponed.

Leo K6BAQ, announced that some antenna equipment was for sale. See page 3 of August QSA-5

There was no official business.

Former member Stan Jacox KM6XZ, our speaker for the evening, spoke about *Common Sense Approaches to Radio Equipment Repair*. One subject he talked about is that we are dealing with two systems, analog & digital, mostly controlled by microprocessors. He gave examples of looking at the state of the blown fuse for diagnosis. A black fuse means a massive short so don't try another fuse. A missing fuse has evaporated which indicates a very small overload suddenly went to high overload. Fuse wilted -- got too hot over a long period of time.

Stan is an extremely knowledgeable radio engineer and technician. He does a lot of studio work and has donated much time to our clubs problems. Thank you Stan for a very good talk.

Meeting adjourned about 2100 hrs. Respectfully submitted Pete Wolford N6IYU, temporary secretary.

Howzat?

"Very funny, Scotty, now beam down my clothes!"

Board Meeting

7/18/96

Red Cross, San Rafael

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by VP Paul N6MQN with five board members and three regular members present. President Bob KC6UNC and Director Liz KE6FHD were absent.

The minutes of the meeting of 6/20/96 were approved with the following correction: Paragraph 7, line 3, \$196 should read \$96.

Treasurer's Report: Bob KO6EN reported that our balance prior to this meeting was \$4804.28 and he had now just written checks in the amount of \$101.30 bringing our balance to \$4702.98.

Clubhouse Report: Dick KB6JJI reported that *NO ONE* turned out for the clean-up call at Hamilton on 7/13 but this was probably due to the Red Flag Day seminar held at the same time. Dick will call for another clean-up party on Aug. 10 with an announcement in QSA-5 requesting that volunteers bring weed whackers, etc. Clean-up will begin at 9:00 AM.

Mike W6FCQ will write up a request for members to come forward for taking over the "Library" at Hamilton.

Field Day Report: Mike W6FCQ reported that Pres. Bob was compiling the report and would submit it to ARRL. There were about 40 dinners served on Field Day and Ed N6BNJ deserves the kudos for serving up a fine meal. It was MSP to send \$50.00 to the Marin Rod and Gun Club with a letter of thanks for the use of their facilities during Field Day.

Education Report: Carl KE6OIB reported that there were 3 members for the next Novice/Tech Class which would start in August and have the examination on September 7th.

VP Paul N6MQN reported that he would be away intermittently during August and requested someone to locate a picnic ground for the September meeting on 9/7/96. Secretary Larson will attempt

to locate a convenient picnic ground.

Paul also reported that the Christmas Party is set for 12/15 at the Marin Art and Garden Center, commencing with no-host cocktails at 6:30 PM and dinner at 7:00 PM.

At the request of Pres. Bob, the subject of installing Voice Mail on our phone at Hamilton was discussed and it was decided that there were other alternatives available at a much lower cost to the club.

Director Mike W6FCQ reported that Red Hall WB6AJM had offered to donate a PK-232 and vertical antenna to the club. It was MSP to accept this generous offer and install the packet station at the Red Cross building.

The subject of printing the amended By-Laws of the club for distribution to all members was brought up and the matter was put over to a future meeting.

Treasurer Bob KO6EN advised the Board that he would have to submit his resignation as Treasurer of the Club in August because of extensive work commitments out of the country. He suggested that the Board consider appointing Carl Sealock KE6OIB to to fill his remaining term.

In compliance with the clubs by-laws, a nominating committee for next year's Board of Directors was named; they are: Carl Sealock KE6OIB Chairman, Dick Waite W6MJO and John Larson N6YNF.

The subject of installing a 1200 MHz repeater at Hamilton was brought up and, following discussion, it was decided that Dick Fay KB6JJI would secure prices for the necessary equipment and report back.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, John Larson
N6YNF, Secretary.

Weed Whackers Wanted for Hamilton Clubhouse Cleanup

August 10 at 9:00 AM
Call Dick KB6JJI - 892-2769

from Solar, page 1

increase expected in late 1997. Astronomers derive sunspot numbers by counting the spots and factoring in their area. Last summer, astronomers observed what they believe are the first spots of the new cycle—near the sun's poles. Tad Coon explains that sunspots flip their magnetic polarity from each cycle to the next. That makes it possible to differentiate "new" spots from "old."

In any case, the astronomers often don't determine when a new cycle begins until long after the event. (like the weather or the stock market. — AF6S from the July/August 1996 ARNS

and I think that only she and her dad are hams. She lives in Arkansas, which is cool.

I met her because my dad knows her grandfather. One day he said to my dad, "You know, I have a granddaughter who uses packet. Don't you have a daughter on packet?" And my dad said, "Yes, I do."

That night, he told me what AG9N had said, and I started writing to her. We have written 15 to 20 letters since. I enjoy it. You should try it.

(Tracy Chaput, N9YFM, is a seventh-grade student in Deerfield, Illinois. She is active on the KA9REN 224.24 voice repeater and on packet via the WB9HMD BBS. If you would like to contact her, send her a packet message: N9YFM@WB9HMD.IL.USA.NA)

His first DX QSO

by Sandy Sanford WA6BXH/7JIAP1

I recently received a phone call from an Australian ham who said he had spent the last two years trying to find me, just to say thanks for taking the time to give him his first CW QSO. He asked if I remembered our QSO and I replied, "My God, you must be VK2GPN." That QSO with him was one of the most memorable of my 32 year ham career.

I had been living in Japan for several

years. Around midnight in November of '91, I was looking for DX on the low end of 20 meters. I knew right away the station calling CQ on 14020 was a fish out of water. He was sending at about four wpm but I called him and, over the next ninety minutes, as Tony overcame his nervousness, his code went from erratic to fairly smooth and his speed increased to 12 wpm—despite heavy QRN and QRM that challenged his concentration.

Although Tony had made SSB QSOs, this was his first CW QSO and his first DX QSO. He copied my Tokyo address, no mean feat and he sent me a letter and photo. I replied with my own letter and one of those nifty "First QSO" certificates available from the ARRL. Not long thereafter, I moved back to California and then to Portland, Oregon.

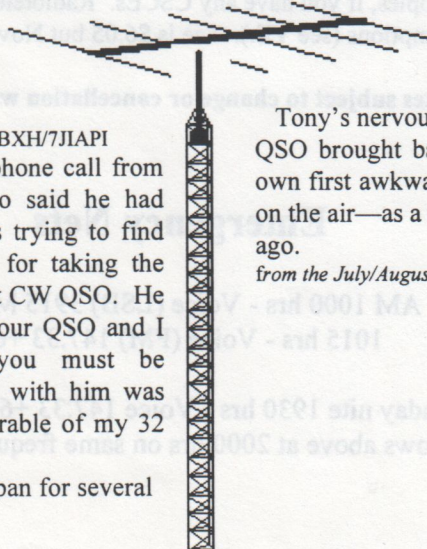
So, when Tony telephoned me, it was quite a surprise. He mentioned that he had tried telephoning several places in Japan and in the USA. He said he had almost given up on ham radio, because most hams only want to exchange name, QTH and signal reports. Our QSO had been his first chance to have a real rag chew—and on CW, at that.

Tony is now VK2MS. He lives near Sydney and hopes to get back on the air soon. I'd love to talk to him again, because that long QSO back in '91 has often reminded me how magical ham radio can be. The saying, "A stranger is just a friend you haven't met," is never more true than in Amateur Radio. It's

one of the things that make me proud of our hobby.

Tony's nervousness during our first QSO brought back memories of my own first awkward, but excited, steps on the air—as a novice so many years ago.

from the July/August 1996 ARNS



News items wanted

The staff of QSA-5 welcomes contributions to the newsletter. Send articles, tips, announcements or ads to Pete Woldford N6IYU, Editor, 11 Ardmore Rd., Larkspur, CA 94939 To bask in the undying gratitude of your Editor, send it on any size floppy (which will be returned) saved as **Text**. We, editorially speaking, use Windows95, MSWorks, WINWORD and, currently, MSPUB.

Membership

Our good member Stan Weiss W6KHH has moved to 108 Panorama Dr., Novato, CA 94949 - 883-6583.

Also, a loyal attendee of the Bible Class, Joe Knowles K6KEW, has moved to 45356 Oakview Dr. N, Oakhurst, CA 95644-6739 - no phone yet.

For Sale

T33 Rotary with self supporting 35' tower. rotor & control - \$200.00
Hy-Gain Tri-Bander antenna, only \$45.00
Hugh Turner W6SCV - 892-2555

Wanted Several Good Hams

to serve on MARC's Board of Directors. Here's your chance to make those changes about which you have been thinking.

Contact Nominating Committee Chairman

Carl Sealock KE6OIB
897-6142

Do It Now

The new Extra Class Question Pool takes effect July 1st. Just in case you haven't heard. That goes for Novice/Tech too!

Members And Guests Are Welcome At All Meetings

Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O.Box 151231

San Rafael, CA 94915-1231

President:

Bob Laflamme, KC6UNC, 472-4219

Vice President:

Paul Niederberger, N6MQN, 454-9602

Secretary:

John Larson, N6YNF, 388-5292

Treasurer:

Bob Mott, KO6EN, 435-1569

Director:

Elizabeth Nager, KE6FHD, 453-3743

Director:

Stuart Dake, AC6GD, 382-8317

Director:

Mike Edwards, W6FCQ, 472-0460

Editor QSA-5:

Pete Wolford, N6IYU, 924-1578

11 Ardmore Rd. Larkspur, CA 94939

QSA-5 GOFER:

Dick Waite, W6MJO, 456-9887

Education Chairman:

Chet Rice, WA6PAC, 461-0657

Membership Chairman:

Pete Wolford, N6IYU, 924-1578

11 Ardmore Rd., Larkspur, CA 94939

VE Liaison:

Tom Miller, WE6N, 707-778-8504

MARS Chairman:

Greg Stacey, N6ZVZ, 457-7944

R.A.C.E.S. Chairman:

Bob Fajardo, WA6VOI, 892-2441

Clubhouse Building 549:

Hamilton Field, 883-9789

Clubhouse Manager:

Dick Fay, KB6JJI, 892-2769

Station Manager & Trustee:

Mike Edwards, W6FCQ, 472-0460

Red Cross Sunday AM meeting:

Red Cross Bldg. S.R., 454-1305

Station Manager:

Stuart Dake, AC6GD, 382-8317

Sunday Emergency Nets:

Stuart Dake, AC6GD, 382-8317

Worked All States Local Rep;

Jackson Sauers, KB6JRI, 388-4094

DX Representative of ARRL:

Jerry Foster, WA6BXV, 892-3829

Club Meetings

General Membership Meeting is held on the first Friday of each month at Kaiser Hospital Building 2, first building on left after turning off Nova Albion Way into Monticello Road; starts at 7:30 PM. Ample parking and a level walk to your seat.

Business Meeting meets at the Red Cross Building in San Rafael on the **third Thursday and starts at 1930 hrs.** and usually lasts an hour. Members may attend.

Sunday morning informal meeting, smilingly called The Bible Class, meets every Sunday morning at the Red Cross Bldg., 5th Street slightly east of Lincoln Ave. in San Rafael starting at roughly 0800 hours and closes down about 1100 hrs.

Dues structure is: \$20.00 per year for Students and Retired persons; \$25.00 for Regular membership; \$30.00 for Family membership and no dues for Life or Honorary members.

Coming Events

Work Party - Hamilton Clubhouse, Bring weed whackers, August 10, 0900 hours.

Christmas Party - Dec 15, Marin Art & Garden Center, 1800 hrs; dinner at 1900 hrs.

MARC VE Testing: All level of licenses, Sep 7 & Dec 7. Test site changed to Kaiser Bldg. 2. See above **Club Meetings** for location instructions.

VOMARC VE Aug 10, Nov 16, Sonoma Development Center.

More: Send a SASE to: Radio Exams, PO Box 176, Petaluma, CA 94953-0176

Candidate Requirements: A photo identification or two non-photo IDs. The Original and a photocopy of your current license, if licensed. Any original valid CSCEs and photocopies, if you have any CSCEs. Radiotelegraph license if held (see VE.). Medical exemptions (see VE.). Fee is \$6.05 but Novice Test is free.

Warning! Test dates subject to change or cancellation without notice.

Emergency Nets

W6SG Sunday AM 1000 hrs - Voice (LSB) 3915 MHz
1015 hrs - Voice (FM) 147.33 +600 PL 203.5

RACES - Monday nite 1930 hrs - Voice 147.33 +600 PL 203.5
ACS - Follows above at 2000 hrs on same frequency.