

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

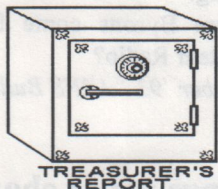
The Marin Amateur Radio Club Monthly Newsletter

September, 1996

Ed N6BNJ on Repeaters

September Program

Ed Boddington N6BNJ, will tell us all about Repeater technology; how they are built and how they work. This promises to be a fascinating lecture.



I must regretfully tender my resignation as Treasurer due to the press of business commitments. It has been a pleasure for me to have served you.

Bob Mott KO6EN

Ed's note....Bob has done a magnificent job as Treasurer and we all owe him a debt of gratitude. Thank you Bob!

Fortunately, our Director Elizabeth Nager KE6FHD, was willing to step in and serve as treasurer for the remainder of this year. Thank you, Liz!

Bldg. 549 work party

by Dick Fay KB6JJI

Seven faithfuls showed up 8/10/96 to clean up the inside and outside of the clubhouse. These were: Hi Roberts KO6LS, Roger Davidson WB6HZO, Mike Edwards W6FCQ, Stu Dake AC6GD, Charles Deatrack KD6ZVJ, Derek Van Loan WB6VXS and Dick Fay KB6JJI.

Due to our reprieve from the new owners—the Coast Guard—we do not have to vacate the clubhouse, so maintenance

Help Needed

by Mike Edwards W6FCQ

The Board of directors is looking for a few good Hams! We need members now to take over one or more of the following:

- Candidates for 1997 Bd of Directors.
- Station manager at Red Cross.
- Red Cross Liaison.
- Field day Chairman for 1997.

If you can help in any way, please contact Bob KC6UNC, or any member of the nominating committee and put your name in the Hat.

We need your help now!!!



There will be NO picnic this year! Things have become too complicated. Sorry about that.

Bldg 549 continued....
was necessary.

Weeds were cut, the stairs cleaned up, classroom organized, a tree trimmed and the metal MARS sign repaired and the pole painted.

Charlie KD6ZVJ, went beyond the call of duty (and the premises) and whacked the weeds all the way down to the main road. Hi KO6LS, burried himself indoors with the task of getting the classroom organized. Many, many thanx guys!

An Appology

by Mike Edwards W6FCQ

In the August issue of QSA-5, I wrote the following in my quick report on the MARC Field Day.

"To make it even better, we had a great barbecue dinner Saturday nite, 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 do not feel that the "drawing was rigged." My attempt to be funny failed, and I appologize to any and all who thought that I truly believed otherwise!

Looking Ahead

by Your Board of Directors

In April 1998, W6SG will need a new Trustee. Mike's Ten year service as trustee will end at that time. He has already stated that he will not take another term.

If the club decides to maintain its MARS affiliation and to occupy space at Hamilton, then the new Trustee must be a MARS member in good standing. Nobody warned Mike of this in 1988 and he was in *very hot* water with the Navy and the Feds until he became a full member of Navy MARS.

The trustee has traditionally been an Extra Class licensee. If the trustee has a lower category of license, the club privileges are restricted accordingly.

PLEASE, think about this now. We are sure that there will be someone in this club that can and will qualify to take over as station trustee before the present license runs out.

Minutes of Membership and Business Meetings



Secretary's Report

Membership Meeting 8/2/96

The Meeting was called to order by President Bob LaFlamme KC6UNC, at Kaiser Hospital Bldg. B, at 7:40 PM with twenty two members and one guest present. Board members Paul N6MQN and Bob KO6EN were absent.

- Our President announced that our landlord at Hamilton is now the U.S. Coast Guard and we will be able to continue the use of building 549.
- Clean-up day at 549 has been scheduled for August 10th.
- Bill Smith AB6MT, announced that he was interested in communicating on 160 Meters and requested that anyone having 160 Meter capability please call him.
- QSA-5 Editor Pete N6IYU, announced that the deadline for contributions to our Newsletter is the third Thursday (Board Meeting.)
- President Bob then turned the meeting over to Mike W6FCQ, who then told us about MARS—*Military Amateur Radio Systems*.
- Mike gave some of the history of MARS; the requirements for serving and for maintaining MARS certification, etc. Mike explained that it was through the club's affiliation with MARS that we were able to acquire the Hamilton site.
- Mike advised that his license as Trustee for W6SG expires in 1998 and he would probably not renew as Trustee and we should be thinking of providing a replacement.
- Everyone thanked Mike for his interesting and informative presentation and the meeting was turned back to President Bob.
- There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted, John S. Larson,
Secretary

Minutes for the August Board of Director's meeting will appear in next month's QSA-5

Hamming can help literacy

by David M. Barton AF6S

The article "HF Radio Data Communication" in the spring '92 Communications Quarterly notes how we've gone full circle from digital communication (CW) to analog (AM, SSB and FM) and back to digital, with RTTY, AMTOR, packet and the newest, CLOVER.

Besides giving a fine tutorial on the new modes, the authors discuss the bandwidth and the data integrity advantages of digital communications.

But another advantage occurred to me. All the new modes require spelling out what is sent—just as with CW—putting the operator's literacy or lack thereof, right out where everyone can see it.

At one time, the only way to communicate with someone too far away to shout at was by mail. And in those days, a letter with poor spelling or grammar reflected unfavorably on its author.

Sure, the nobles had scribes to write their epistles—presumably in bureaucratic dialects of the day. But ordinary folks wrote their own letters and most cared how they came across. So the public had clear cause to treasure schooling and they sought an education for their offspring that stressed language skills first and foremost.

Today a young person's world is mostly verbal and visual. As the schools tend away from stressing literacy, they only reflect the general public's disinterest in "readin' and writin'." The kids pick up these attitudes, which may be why they think using language well isn't "cool."

Yet literacy remains essential in the professions, where concise, accurate

professions, where concise, accurate communication is essential. And businesses today are hard pressed to find the new employees they need to stay competitive.

You see this every time you try to decipher a notice from your bank, the instructions for a hedge trimmer, or even a stock-brokers' report.

Amateur Radio can provide one answer. A young person who becomes a ham will discover the digital modes and begin 'writing' to others. As with the letter writers of old, some will want to master language skills. Motivation is the key, it's all a young person needs to accomplish nearly anything.

Could future Byrons come from the ranks of Amateur Radio?

from the October '93 "ARNS Bulletin"

Some things never change

In the days when politicians rode the trains and spoke to audiences from the exposed portions of the observation cars, a politician, probably President Truman, speaking to Indians at a southwest reservation, was overjoyed at the responses to his speech.

He was serenaded time and again, after making various promises, by shouts of, "oompah, oompah!"

As the train was to be delayed for an hour, the Chief invited President Truman to look over the tribe's stable of horses which was near at hand.

While walking over to the the horses, the Chief suddenly grabbed the President's arm and said, "Careful here, don't step in the oompah.!"

Ham Radio's Future

From the ARRL Newsletter

Technician class operators and mainly code free Technician class Hams now account for a little over 41% of all radio amateurs licensed by the FCC and that figure is growing. The startling year-end statistics released by the government indicate that, as of December 1st, 1995, the number of Techs has risen to 289,483 of which 148,745 hold no-code tickets.

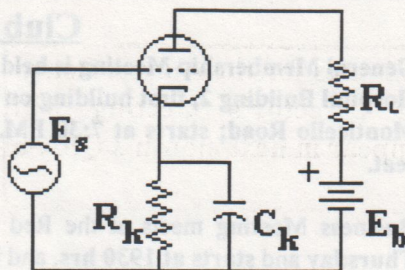
Even more shocking are these numbers: From December of 1994 to December of 1995, some 41,244 people joined the ranks of radio amateurs, with the majority—30,195—being no-code Techs.

And a very few of the newcomers are bothering to upgrade. There were about 129,500 Technician class Hams who passed a code test in the FCC's records in 1991 when the code free Technician was introduced. Now, almost five years later, there are only about 132,000 coded Techs.

In other words, in the five years since no-code licensing was introduced, only 10,000 or so no-coders have bothered to upgrade. The rest, about 150,000 no-code Techs appear to be very content to live out their ham radio lives on a local repeater using what the amateur radio supply industry has come to call "A 2 meter ham station on a belt clip."

The latest FCC database shows a total of about 706,000 licensed Hams and an annual growth rate of about 8%. Even if you factor in a 2% dropout rate, by this time next year close to half the nation's Ham population will be Technician class operators. And, if the trend continues, the majority of them will be code-free Hams who will probably remain codeless Tech's for their entire ham radio career."

Name this circuit contest



Who will be the first? Results will be published in the next issue...Ed

For sale

HiGain, HiTower 45' steel antenna plus 10' mast, 10 thru 80 meters located in Greenbrae.

Contact J. Donovan Jacobs WA6FFP, 35 Ben Mar Lane, Alamo, CA 94507, 510-944-0837. Take it away & make a donation to the Club.

Membership

We welcome Bill Smith AB6MT, back in our midst. He's a good man to know, he recently repaired a MFJ keyer with the hicups for one of our members. Did you read our Page 1 notice about Help Needed, Bill? And we don't mean mechanical help!

How to get rid of calories

- Beating around the bush — 65
- Jumping to conclusions — 100
- Crawling the walls — 150
- Passing the buck — 35
- Dragging your heels — 100
- Pushing your luck — 250
- Adding fuel to the fire — 150
- Wading thru paperwork — 300
- Bending over backwards — 75
- Jumping on the bandwagon — 250
- Running around in circles — 350
- Tooting you own horn — 25
- Opening a can of worms — 50
- Throwing you weight around (depending on your weight) — 50-300

Silent Keys

SK WA6MXF 1901 - 1996

Herschel Howard
obit pending.

SK N6DQN 1924 - 1996

Peter M. Sutter

The well known sailor and sailmaker in Sausalito, passed from the scene on July 31, 1996.

After serving as a radioman during WW2, he served his apprenticeship in sailmaking with White & Holcomb in San Francisco. Later, he and William Larson formed a partnership and moved to Sausalito in 1954.

Pete was also a deep water yachtsman and participated in races to Mexico, Honolulu, Bermuda and cruises to the South Pacific, New Zealand, Australia, Guam, Saipan and Japan.

He was also interested in navigation, amateur radio, electronics, computers and weather.

Among MARC hams who attended the Memorial Service August 10 were: Joe Knowles K6KEW, Mark Shafer KE6FGL and Chet Rice WA6PAC.

Joe was Pete's *Elmer* and Pete, in turn, was *Elmer* for quite a few other hams, many of whom attended his memorial. Pete taught code when he was down in New Zealand and was himself an enthusiastic CW operator.

What better way to promote safety at sea thru Amateur Radio and to while away the long hours.

Pete's ashes will be scattered at sea.



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:

Elizabeth Nager, KE6FHD, 453-3743

Director:

Bob Mott, KO6EN, 435-1569

Director:

Stuart Dake, AC6GD, 382-8317

Director:

Mike Edwards, W6FCQ, 472-0460

Editor QSA-5 & Membership:

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Education Chairman:

Chet Rice, WA6PAC, 461-0657

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. Parking galore 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

Special Event Station, Sat. Sept. 21-22, Santa Cruz Co. ARC K6BJ - 1800 to 0200 UTC. 146.52, 7.275, 14,075, and 28.465 MHz. For QSL card, send SSAE to Santa Cruz County Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 238, Santa Cruz, CA 95061

PACIFICON 96, Oct. 18-20, PO Box 272613 Concord, CA 95927, 510-932-6125

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.

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

VOMARC VE Nov 16, Sonoma Development Center.

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 1930 hrs - Voice 147.33 +600 PL 203.5

ACS - Follows above at 2000 hrs on same frequency.