

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Club Monthly Newsletter

January, 1997

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Our new Officers

President: Bob Laflamme, W1AJF
Vice Pres: John Boyd, KE6ORI
Secretary: Bill Smith, AB6MT
Treasurer: Elizabeth Nager, KE6FHD
Director: Chuck Deatrick, KD6ZYJ
Director: Shirley Parlan, KA6ELI
Director: Pete Wolford, N6IYU

Modesty and toe-stubbing Shucking were finally overcome on our December 12th meeting and the newly elected Board of Directors voted in the above Officers for 1997.

Note our very capable President's new call sign, W1AJF. Actually, he was able to obtain his original call from many years ago in Boston — a nice touch!

Special thanks to 1996 Officers

Bob W1AJF's performance was so good, we elected him for a second term.

Paul N6MQN, for an excellent selection of guest speakers.

John N6YNF, a really superb performance only one thing could have been better, to get the minutes thru E-mail.

Bob KO6EN, super Treasurer, who had to resign because of business commitments.

Liz KE6FHD, also did so well as Bob's successor, we elected her Treasurer for 1997.

Mike W6FCQ, as Director and Main Stay of MARC for many, many years of unselfish service.

Stu AC6GD, as Director and extremely competent, indefatigable, performer of any task given him. After all, he wasn't Ham of the Year in 1995 for just coming to meetings.

Ham of the year award

by Chet Rice WA6PAC

A lot of you may have wondered how Ham-of-the-Year is awarded. A long MARC tradition has established that a committee of past Ham-of-the-Year winners determines who shall be the new winner each year.

Past recipients of this prestigious award are:

Stu Dake AC6GD, 1995
Dick Waite W6MJO, 1994
Chet Rice WA6PAC, 1993
Dick Fay KC6JJI, 1992
Pete Wolford N6IYU, 1991
Roger Davidson WB6HZO, 1990
Bob Fajardo WB6HZO, 1989
Mike Edwards W6FCQ, 1988
Shirley Parlan KA6ELJ, 1987
Ron Baker KE6IT, SK, 1986
Jackie & Nels Lecklikner
N6LZC & N6AQY SK, 1985
Chet Rice WA6PAC, 1984
Bob Heim KS6V, 1982
Carolyn Wilson WB6TKD, 1981
Nels Lecklikner N6AQY SK, 1980
Jan Harvey WA6MGK, 1979
Len Spencer WA6CBQ, 19076
Mike Edwards W6FCQ, 1975
Woody Wilson WA6KVV, 1974
Jim Tucker WB6KEM SK, 1973
Al Brodnax W6HLD, 1972
June Moore WB6CIE SK, 1970
Gene Halm K6JGX, 1969
Joe Lydon WB6PQE SK, 1968
Steve Cerwin K6OJO SK, 1967
Gary Grant WB6IMO SK, 1966
Bus Burton W6CYO SK, 1965
Hugh Cassidy WA6AUD, 1964
Leo Bodian K6BAQ, 1963
Frank Turco K6OVV, 1962
Stu Macdonald W6IFO, 1961

This year there were several strong contenders, but I should remind everyone that officers of the club are ineligible. This is a reward to that selfless individual who helped make MARC a better club during the year.

SO for his attending to our so-called "Bible Class" arrangements each Sunday without fail, for arranging the furniture, providing hot coffee, postum and assorted bakery goods, then cleaning up afterward, thus allowing for an important informal weekly meeting of MARC members at the Red Cross Building, this year's winner is:



President's Message

For our January 3rd meeting, Bob Laflamme W1AJF, will give a short session on Building 549 (our clubhouse — remember it?)

He requests suggestions for topics for the 1997 general meetings.

We need a volunteer to coordinate Field Day activities.

He thanks ex-VP Paul N6MQN, for a great Christmas Dinner. AMEN, Paul you did us noble!

We may have some surplus wine that we wish to sell to members at our cost. John Larson should have the cost. It would help us out if members volunteered to buy a bottle each. (1.5 liter for \$5.35, Glen Ellen White Table Wine. First come, first served.)

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Minutes of Membership and Business Meetings

Due to change of club officers, as well as no quorums, we have no minutes to post and if, per chance, some pertinent news shows up, it will be published later.

Open letter

This is an open letter to the general membership of MARC in response to a rumor that every now and then circulates around the membership. Just what is the rumor, you must be wondering? It is that there is a clique, within the confines of our club, that runs the club.

Well, I want to tell you that in a way this is true. And just how did this clique get started and how does one get accepted within the walls of this organization, you might also be wondering? Here's the secret, but please don't tell anyone, as the clique may get too big. The secret is, the next time we need a net control station, someone to help with a public service event, maybe run for club office or just any time the club needs a helping hand....raise your hand. We would just love to have you in this very exclusive group.

As has been said many times before, this is your club and we need your help to run it. Remember also, the monthly board meetings are open to all and everyone is invited to participate. The only thing that non-board members can't do is vote, but your input is needed and welcomed. Remember, without membership input, we can only do our best.

So, I guess the rumor is right, there is indeed a group that runs MARC and we would love to have you join us. This is probably the easiest group in the world to join. Just take advantage of the dreaded "V" word, you all know the one I mean, **volunteer!**

...Plagered from Rick K6ZWB, of the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, Inc.

Code: A matter of attitude

by Fred Essex, W6TJO

The sides for and against the value and merits of CW have long since been drawn. Those holding an opinion are usually locked into their position so any thought, other than their own, immediately triggers a predictable rationale for their point of view — right or wrong. And therein lies the problem: It is not a question of right or wrong, old concepts vs. new concept, or whether a pragmatic definition labels it a buggywhip concept or a 21st century necessity.

It wasn't that many years ago when a minimum CW speed for a ham license was no less than 13 words per minute. The text sent was five minutes in length and the prospective ham had to copy one minute solid from within the text. There was no argument or discussion about the use of CW, it was just part of the license requirement.

Later, when applying for a ham license, I was lucky. I just had to copy 5 wpm from within the five minute text sent and then send a minimum of 5 wpm for a solid minute. Yes, the applicant had to prove his ability to send, even at that speed. And this was in front of a FCC examiner, too! No VEs, then.

A full three months passed before the Novice license was issued and then I had one full year to upgrade or lose my ticket. That was part of becoming a ham. The minimum speed had been cut to 5 wpm to help you get on the bands, but twelve months later you were either a General or an ex ham. You had a choice of using phone on two meters or CW on 80, 40 or 15.

So, I did as many other Novices. Starting with a straight key on 40, slowly nervously and hesitant at first, but little by little without realizing it, the speed increased and three months later I sat for the General exam and passed. No, I didn't listen to CW tapes, they can give a sense of false security. The pressure of getting on the bands and toughing it out rewards you with a sense of confidence.

During those three months I did not listen to the phone bands. Sure, it was tempting to see what was coming in, but it was to be my personal reward for upgrading.

It was not totally unexpected that many of the Novices who went immediately to 2 meters...intended to get to CW later...never upgraded and lost their calls. They were off the air.

The point of all this: We accepted the requirements set forth. We had to learn CW to become a ham. So we did it. I don't recall others complaining about the code, as such. The comments were more along the line of trying to determine the difference between the letter "H" and the number "5."

To me, the reasoning offered today for eliminating the code requirement reminds me of a youngster in school saying "I don't need to learn how to do math, I've got a calculator," or "Geography is a waste of time. The airline pilot knows where to go. Why do I have to know where Paris or Toronto are?"

When I was in grade school and raised the question about the math requirement, I was told that math is more than numbers; it helps the brain to think, reason and analyze. In my ignorance, which I thought was logic, I tried to find reasons not to do things but reluctantly I accepted their view and now am glad I did.

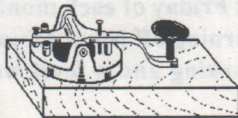
Have I used CW much? Not really, maybe 20% of air time, if that. But it was a requirement to enter the finest hobby and service in the world.

Because it's needed to earn that Extra ticket, once I retired I got out the paddle. Bit by bit the speed came back and even at retirement age I had that great overwhelming feeling of accomplishment that envelops you when you hear those beautiful words: You passed!

...from World Radio, December 1996

Membership

Joe Lydon, WB6PQE SK
1924 - 1996



New members from our last VE test:

Hank Guernsey, Fairfax
Winston Jones, Inverness
Juan La Chica, Corte Madcera
Gene McGregor, San Rafael
Jay C. Stovall KF6HWP, San Anselmo
Ms. Leo Stoval, San Anselmo
Alice Thomas KF6HWO, Kentfield

Actual Headlines that appeared

Arson Suspect is Held in Boston Fire.

New Vaccine May Contain Rabies.

Steals Clock, Faces Time

British Left waffles on Falkland Isles

Miners Refuse to Work After Death

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

War Dims Hope for Peace

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridge

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last a While

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

Man Struck by Lightning Faces Battery Charge

er...how's zat?

Totally Free E-mail anyone?

It's called JUNO and costs you zilch. It is supported by advertising which appears on the screen while you are waiting for connections—never invasive. Thru the efforts of Dick Sadler KD6RUP, he persuaded Juno into setting up a San Rafael phone number. Of course you need a modem, but that's it.

Either Dick or your Editor can give you further information and ask Juno to send you an installation disk.

This is the wave of the future, gang. It makes a wonderful adjunct to Ham Radio, setting-up distant QSOs comes first to mind.

Here is a list of known E-mail users in the club: Please advise us of any more club users:

Bob Laflamme W6AJF

rflaflamm@linex.com

Bob Mott KO6EN

rtmecon@linex.com

Paul Niederberger N6MQN

niederberger@juno.com

Shirley Parlan KA6ELJ

parlan@aol.com

Chet Rice WA6PAC

crice123@aol.com

Ed Russell KJ6XB

edrussell@aol.com

Dick Sadler KD6RUP

rsadler@juno.com

Bill Smith AB6MT

pending with Juno

Pete Wolford N6IYU

wolford1@juno.com

News items wanted

The staff of QSA-5 welcomes contributions to the newsletter. Send articles, tips, announcements or ads to E-Mail: wolford1@juno.com or Pete Wolford 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 at the Bible Class) **saved as Text**. We, editorially speaking, use Windows 95, MSPUB, MSWORKS, WINWORD.

Wanted:

Our new member Jay KF6HWP wants to buy a used 2-meter, dual bander Alinco or Kenwood
454-8013

Also, your Editor loaned someone a magmount 2-meter antenna and has forgotten who it was. This is a wonderful opportunity to acquire a free antenna but I sure could use it now!

Presidents Message

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Our License for Building 549 expired as of September 30th, as scheduled. However, we have not had to vacate the premises. As far as we know, the Navy is still in control, though the Building will be turned over to the Coast Guard at a date to be determined. Both the Navy and the coast guard have more important things with which to be concerned. However, a comment was made that the building has a poor appearance and is in somewhat bad shape. We might do well to 'spruce up' so that it appears to be a viable structure. It would be nice to have it for repeaters, etc. Thats all for now.
Happy New Year!

Bob, W6AJF

Members And Guests Are Welcome At All Meetings

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 456-9887

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Chuck Deatrack, KD6ZYJ, 897-7267

Director:

Shirley Parlan, KA6ELJ, 451-2213

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Pete Wolford, N6IYU, 924-1578

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:

Ben Sawtelle, N6PJZ, 479-1718
 Red Cross Bldg. S.R., 454-1305

Station Manager:

Stuart Dake, AC6GD, 382-8317

Sunday Emergency Nets:

Tammy Lehman, KF6EPO, 492-0867

Worked All States Local Rep:

Jackson Sauers, KB6JRI, 388-4094

DX Representative of ARRL:

Jerry Foster, WA6BXV, 892-3829

Marin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

P.O.Box 151231

San Rafael, CA 94915-1231

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

MARC VE Testing: All levels of licenses, ????. Test site Kaiser Bldg. 2. See above Club Meetings for location instructions.

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.). The fee is \$6.25 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.

