
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

April 2017

Presidents Corner

Difficult Times

Please forgive me; this month's message is not about Amateur radio at all, but it was important for me to share a few thoughts with you.

As most of you know, August Koehler (Augie) K0CQL became a Silent Key this last month. Most of you have known Augie for many years and I have been lucky to benefit from his wisdom and guidance since joining our club. He was always around and was a true friend to many of us: we thank you Augie, may you rest in peace.

April has been particularly difficult for me, having also lost my father and my cousin's son (due to a motorcycle accident). I have just returned from a two-week vacation in Florida: a trip that I had been planning for over a year. It was supposed to be a big family reunion, and while it was good to reconnect with family that I had not seen in a few years, it was a bitter sweet moment in my life.

It's always hard to say goodbye to a friend and everyone who has lost someone - and we all have - always gives the following advice: don't let life slip away, live it to its fullest. Spend time with family and friends who are important to you and if you have a relationship to mend, don't wait. We never know what the future may hold for us.

73

Tom Soskin, W6MTS

What's Happening in Radio

Guest Speaker List 2017

On The Air

Membership Meeting Minutes

Board Minutes

From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Hamvention

Until this year hams made the trip to Dayton Ohio to attend what many consider the largest and best ham gathering in the country. This year, Dayton, as its been referred to by many hams, is moving to the new location outside Dayton Ohio. The previous location, according to those who had attended, had suffered from a lack of maintenance and finally financial failure. So, this year the Dayton Hamvention will take place at the county fairgrounds about 15 miles outside of Dayton.

This ham event has something for everyone who has an interest in our hobby. Here are some of the presentation topics and events this year.

- Introduction to RTL-SDR Ultra cheap software defined radio
- APRS via amateur satellites using SDR dongle and Raspberry pi
- Antenna fundamentals and testing
- Developing the best operating techniques for working DX
- Digital Mobile Radio
- Drake Equipment trouble shooting and fixes
- RRY Contesting
- MESH networks
- Contesting
- Remote station operating
- Exhibits by hundreds of equipment vendors

The operating conditions on HF have not been great recently. This month there are a number of state QSO parties that can give you a chance to work some states on HF with a modest station. Additionally, there are several international DX contests that might produce some DX contacts if you try. Remember you can't work them if you are not on the air, so give it a try this month.

Dayton
Hamvention[®]
Sponsored by
Dayton Amateur Radio Association Since 1952



Guest Speakers 2017

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

Guest Speaker for May 5th Meeting

Leighton Hills developed a system using Mt. Tam to beam high speed wireless connections for Internet service to Marshall and Muir Beach starting in 2011. His experiences and how he did it will be discussed at this Friday night's meeting.

On the Air

10-10 Int. Spring Contest, CW: 0001Z, May 6 to 2359Z, May 7

SBMS 2.3 GHz and Up Contest and Club Challenge: 0600 local, May 6 to 2359 local, May 7

ARI International DX Contest 1200Z, May 6 to 1159Z, May 7

7th Call Area QSO Party 1300Z, May 6 to 0700Z, May 7

Indiana QSO Party 1500Z, May 6 to 0300Z, May 7

Delaware QSO Party 1700Z, May 6 to 2359Z, May 7

New England QSO Party, 2000Z, May 6 to 0500Z, May 7 and 1300Z-2400Z, May 7

CQ-M International DX Contest 1200Z, May 13 to 1159Z, May 14

CQ WW WPX Contest, CW, 0000Z, May 27 to 2359Z, May 28

What's Happening in Radio

DeAnza Electronics Flea Market

The Northern California DX Club will be occupying 4-5 selling areas of the DeAnza Electronics Flea Market on Saturday May 13th starting at 6am. Club members will be selling their Amateur Radio gear and other electronics. Here is the perfect opportunity to find some bargains on terrific equipment for your shack. Details and directions can be found at <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

Annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test

The Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard are sponsoring the annual military/amateur radio communications tests in celebration of the 66th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day (AFD). The AFD Military/Amateur Crossband Communications Test is conducted 13 May 2017.

The annual celebration is a unique opportunity to test two way communications between Amateurs and military communicators authorized in 47 CFR 97.111, and features traditional military to amateur cross band SSB voice, Morse Code, practice using legacy interoperability waveforms, as well as an opportunity for Amateurs to utilize more modern military communications modes such as MIL-STD Serial PSK and Automatic Link Establishment (ALE).

These tests give Amateur Radio operators and Short Wave Listeners (SWL) an opportunity and a challenge to demonstrate their individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station for their proven expertise. QSL cards will be provided to those stations making contact with the military stations.

Reprinted courtesy of US Army MARS

General Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes from 7 April 2017

- 7:31 PM President Tom Soskin calls the meeting to order. There is a period of time for the Directors to read and review the agenda. During this interim period President Soskin tells that he will add a sewer update to New Business which will be item #4. Member Randy Jenkins states that a new MARS trustee will be required for the club radio station to replace former trustee and Silent Key Augustine Kohler who passed away. Trustee Doug Slusher says that Board Member Mitch Martin had been previously considered as a Trustee replacement.
- 7:38 PM The meeting agenda is approved with a motion, second, and vote.
- 7:39 PM The previous minutes are approved.
- 7:40 PM The President's Minute. President Tom Soskin remembers Augustine Kohler the former trustee for MARS who has passed away. There is a discussion about his friends, interests, family, and contributions to the club. Trustee Doug Slusher knew Augustine for 30 years, having met him when working as an electronic repairman. Augustine was a seaplane pilot and was patient and thorough in teaching Doug to fly small airplanes. Augustine was remembered as "low key." His plans had been to move to assisted living after his recent hospitalization, but he passed away suddenly. Member Curtis Ardourel will update the W6SG.net website to reflect Augustine Kohler as a Silent Key. All present agreed that he would be deeply missed. Member Randy Jenkins stated that he would help to prepare the paperwork to transfer the trusteeship of the MARS club from Augustine Kohler to Mitch Martin with the ARRL. Some of his belongings remain in the radio room and will be given to his friend or family. Vice-President Kris Backenstose inquires about the status of Augustine's van which remains parked in the club parking lot. Trustee Doug Slusher mentions Augustine's friend who is currently in Eureka. This man will come down soon to resolve the problem-he has the keys to the van. The President's Minute concludes.
- 7:53 PM The Secretary's Report. There is a review of 2 bills and the monthly publication from the Palo Alto radio club.
- 7:55 PM Treasurer's Report. Dave Hodgson presents a discussion of the printed report. He has solved the mystery of a \$200.00 check received by MARS. MARS is current on the building insurance and he requests of the Board to pay the entire bill (about \$3,000.00 in its entirety, which is granted. Trustee Doug Slusher is working with his brother who is a retired CPA on the project to move the written finances of the MARS club to Quick Books-a computer program with online and cloud features. Doug presents a concise briefing of the features of the Quick Books program and underscores the primary feature of allowing access by anybody (versus a set of books at someone's home). Another prime feature is the utilization of "Double-Entry" accounting best practices. Quick Books would make easy work of writing financial reports for Board **MARS Board of Directors meeting minutes page 2** and General Membership review. The Quick Books discussion ends with Treasurer Dave Hodgson's note that he is working to institute automatic withdrawal payments for all of the MARS

club's bills online.

8:03 PM Membership. Curtis Ardourel proclaims that the club has 91 members currently. Francis Strohmeier is now a member listed and receiving the QSA-5. While a very active participant in the past, he was not actually a member, and the problem of him not receiving the electronic copy of QSA-5 is resolved.

8:05 PM Education. Kris Backenstose discusses the updated calendar for the next Tech class. It has been moved one day on the calendar since last year and essentially the same dates. He is contacting old Elmers (instructors) for discussion and sign-ups. Kris responds to the discussions of different and intriguing ideas for education provided to the community, which include ham radio with the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and GOTA (Get-On-The-Air) stations. He suggests that the MARS club utilize the "mass movement" at the club house on Sundays when many members are physically present for doughnuts, coffee, conversation, radio repair, and morse code practice. Scheduling educational group projects on Sundays therefore would enhance attendance, enthusiasm, and success. There is a related discussion about the structured program of Boy Scout merit badges for ham radio. Boy Scouts can receive credit for a ham radio project by way of the Merit Badge program which are run strictly by Merit Badge Counselors in the Boy Scout organization. Thus the Boy Scouts have their own curriculum material which the MARS club could use as the foundation for the project. Trustee Doug Slusher has had previous discussions with local Troop 101 and would have the knowledge on how to join the two organizations for a ham radio learning project. Kris suggests that the Board provide more structure for Sundays at the club house in order to support and integrate the technical and social happenings. This would give more support to those who teach (CW, radio repair), volunteer (cooking, sweeping), and those who bring nice things to eat (doughnuts, hot buns, etc.). This is all being done currently on an ad hoc basis, but could be sold and marketed to the membership and in the future, associates with more structure. Secretary David Chaney offers to organize a CW class on Sundays to correspond on the calendar to the Tech training class in the Fall 2017. Member and Volunteer Examiner Randy Jenkins offers to provide a VE amateur radio license test for the students at the end of the Fall 2017 Tech class.

8:43 PM Club Station. Trustee Doug Slusher updates the Board members on the clubhouse plumbing project. Doug has done many, many hours of calling on the telephone to plumbing companies for the 3 estimates to fix the "lateral line" and the break with the main water district line under the middle of Shell Drive. Doug describes the estimate by Nute Engineering which includes the digging, pipe-laying for the 65 foot run from the clubhouse to the street and all necessary permits: \$15,500.00. As in previous Board discussions there is the question of whether or not the required Shell Drive street re-paving cost could be shared with P&GE that **MARS Board of Directors meeting minutes page 3** has dug other holes and breeches into Shell Drive nearby. There is a following discussion of utilizing the company Trenches Titan Sewer repair for the project. Doug asks for and receives the Board's approval to spend the approximate \$15,500.00 on the repair project. There are more questions about a possible street collapse due to the void (pre-sinkhole) being created by the breach and when it could happen. Doug will call tomorrow

to schedule work beginning in May 2017 and will update the Board and Membership once finalized.

8:54 PM Repeater. No report.

8:54 PM Public Service. No report.

8:54 PM VE. Member Randy Jenkins will schedule another VE amateur radio test session in the near future.

8:56 PM Field Day. Trustee Doug Slusher mentions that there have been early discussions with Marilyn Bagshaw of the Redex club. There is a discussion of food catering for the event.

8:57 PM End-Of-the-Year Activity Report. Treasurer Dave Hodgson is creating this financial report for the membership and for tax purposes.

8:57 PM Member Randy Jenkins reveals that he has found an error in the proposed by-laws changes. He has posted the change on the club website W6SG.net. Trustee Doug Slusher suggests incentives for members to show up for the June MARS club meeting in order to get the 25% of membership quorum for the vote on the by-laws changes. The speaker's name is Michelle. Doug suggests raffling off surplus items in the MARS club's possession.

9:00 PM There is a discussion of creating a marketplace for ham radio gear on the W6SG.net website by Vice-President Kris Backenstose. Doug and Curtis respond that the club used to do that. Also, there is mention of contacting Member Steve Toquinto "HOH" for mention of the sale of gear on the well-attended MARS 2-Meter net.

9:02 PM New Business. A discussion of changing the club membership meeting day is tabled.

9:02 PM The Entertainment Director Cal Anbar discusses the attendant costs of having a water dispenser in the clubhouse. He is instructed by the board to get a written quote from a provider such as Alhambra that includes water, the dispenser, the jugs, etc. and bring the written quote to the Board for a vote.

9:03 PM The discussion about the Boy Scout project is tabled. The sewer update was presented previously.

9:04 PM President Tom Soskin adjourns the meeting with a motion, second, and a vote.

David Chaney
Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting

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David Chaney
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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 signup 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 Backenstose, KK6AYC

Secretary

David Chaney, AA6AE

Treasurer:

Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 707 978-2560

Board Members

Curtis Ardourel, W6UDS, 510-595-3494

Cal Anber N6TIA 209-275-5252

Marc Bruvry KF6VNT 492-9292

Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715

Mitch Martin, WU1Q

Other Positions:

Education Chair

Randy Jenkins
Kris Backenstose Instruction Team Leader.

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

DX Representative of ARRL

Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829

Public Service Event Coordinators

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089

Rob Rowlands, NZ6J, Michael Fischer, K6MLF

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HF Sunday Net Control

Mike Ransom, AI6II

VHF Sunday Net Control

Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH