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# QSA-5

## The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

June 2017

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### Presidents Corner

#### Field Day and our fifteen minutes of fame.

I hope everyone was able to participate in field day this year. I was only available Sunday morning and got to listen to our youngest member operate for a while. I have to say I was impressed by his ability and the maturity in which he presented himself as a representative of our club. He is quite the young man. Then it was onto listening to some CW contacts made by Jerry Foster, WA6BXV, who makes it all look so easy. Then it was time to break down and load everything up until next year. I would like to thank everyone who stuck around to help out. I know that this is probably everyone's least favorite part, but I have to say the crew we had made quick work of it and we had fun in the process. Thank you Mark, David, Mitch, Jerry, Rich. My thanks also goes out to all who assisted with set up this year. And of course a big thank you to all the members of the Redwood Empire DX Association for another great Field Day event. Also, a thank you to Marilyn, N6VAW for taking pictures of the event, it's always nice to have pictures for family and friends.

Oh, and in case anyone missed it, try to pick up a copy of Marin magazine. In it is an article about ham radio operators in Marin County. The article, "Live Transmission" by Kasia Pawlowska is listed under "Subcultures", yes folks, we are a subculture. It almost makes us sound cool and not so nerdy. The feature focuses on KPH and Marin Amateur Radio Society and some of our activities. So if you have a moment, check it out. There is also a web version available if you can't find the magazine.

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What's Happening in Radio

Guest Speaker List 2017

On The Air

New Members

Board Minutes

US Pampanito Report

### From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

#### What Makes Up a Club?

Well my answer to that is club members staying involved in club activities. Summer is here and a number of our club members have been busy with the activities of the club. The month of June started off with a very interesting presentation on antennas at our monthly meeting.

June Michelle Paquette, AA6MP, was our guest speaker and she discussed Antenna Theory. I expected a very technical presentation complete with extensive math and engineering concepts.

My background is in education and I can appreciate when a technical topic such as this can be presented in a way that it appeals to new hams and those with lots of experience.

As they say a "picture is worth a thousand words" and Michelle presented in graphic detail how a Yagi antenna works to focus a transmitted signal in one direction by using an actual 2M Yagi antenna. She had a 2ft x 2ft board to which she had attached copper strips by Velcro and laid out as a Yagi beam antenna. She attached this antenna to her 2M handy talkie and transmitted a signal to a signal strength type meter several feet away. She then rearranged the copper strips around varying the distance between them. As she proceeded to move these strips and then transmit from the 2M rig, you could visually see how element placement on the antenna increased or decreased the signal strength on the meter. By rotating the "beam board" in her hand from side to side she showed the effect of pointing the antenna toward or away from the signal strength meter.

She also demonstrated the vertical and horizontal polarization of the beam on signal strength. She also used some Power Point slides to explain the theory behind some of the Yagi principles.

Finding speakers for our club meetings is led this year by Kris Backenstose, KK6AYC, who is our Education Team Leader. So if you have not made it to a monthly meeting for a while, stop by in August to hear on next speaker Alan Bowker, WA6DNR, who will discuss working ham satellites.

June was also a busy month for club members with public service events and Field Day. Check out the photos later in this issue that highlight these events.

Here is a bit.ly link to the article:  
[bit.ly/LiveTransmissionMarin](http://bit.ly/LiveTransmissionMarin)

Here is a link to the digital article:  
[http://digital.marinmagazine.com/marinmagazine/july\\_2017/?pg=48&pm=2&u1=friend](http://digital.marinmagazine.com/marinmagazine/july_2017/?pg=48&pm=2&u1=friend)

And another link:  
<http://www.marinmagazine.com/July-2017/Live-Transmission/>

Best Regards,  
Tom Soskin, W6MTS

## Guest Speakers 2017

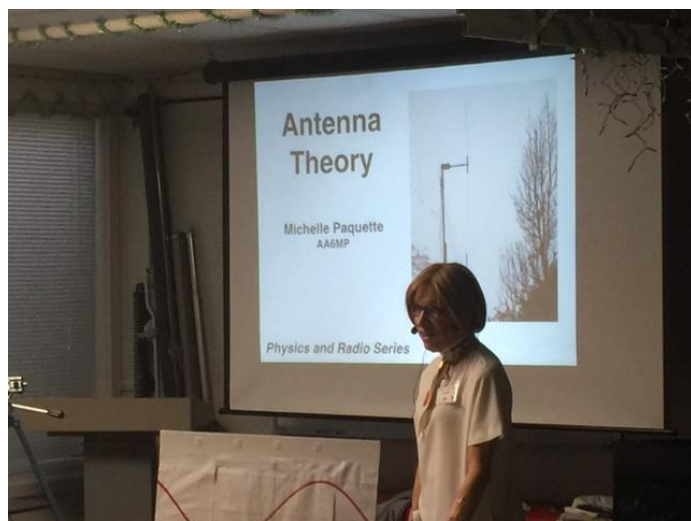
8/4/2016 – Alan Bowker, WA6DNR, Working ham satellites

## On The Air

10-10 Int. Spirit of 76 QSO Party, 0001Z, Jul 3 to 2400Z, Jul 9  
IARU HF World Championship, 1200Z, Jul 8 to 1200Z, Jul 9  
North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Jul 15 to 0559Z, Jul 16  
CQ Worldwide VHF Contest, 1800Z, Jul 15 to 2100Z, Jul 16

## New Members

Welcome to Ann Shores, KM6EVK, Corte Madera



General Meeting June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Michelle Paquette presentation on Antenna Theory



## What's Happening in Radio

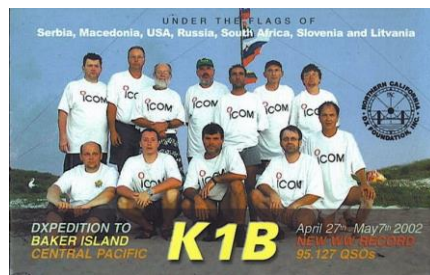
### Hamvention Marks Second-Largest Attendance Ever

The largest national convention of hams occurs each year in Ohio. The venue changed this year to Xenia, Ohio and 29,296 hams attended. This attendance was topped once in 1993 with 33,669 attending.

US Fish and Wildlife Service Okays Baker Island DXpeditions, with Strict Conditions

### Baker and Howland Is. DXpedition Approved

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has agreed that a DXpedition to Baker and Howland Islands (KH1) -- the fourth most-wanted DXCC entity -- would be an acceptable use, but has detailed strict conditions under which it would issue a special use permit (SUP). The FWS recently completed a compatibility determination for Amateur Radio operation on Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge, and two dozen [comments](#) showed "strong support" for Amateur Radio operation on the ecologically sensitive island refuge, the FWS said. Baker Island is 1,830 nautical miles southwest of Honolulu -- an 8-day voyage.



The last DXpedition to Baker Island was in April and May of 2002.

*Reprinted with permission from ARRL Letter 6/22/17*

### FCC Chairman to Appoint New Enforcement Bureau Chief:

The FCC Chairman intends to appoint Rosemary C. Harold to serve as chief of the Enforcement Bureau. Harold is an attorney with experience within the FCC agency and in private practice; she's also a former journalist. The Enforcement Bureau is responsible for enforcing the Communications Act, FCC rules, and various licensing terms and conditions. It also investigates instances of possible unlawful conduct involving the regulated RF spectrum including all ham bands.

### 2MCM Radio Practice Friends,

The next 2 meter radio practice is Saturday, July 8, 2017, from 1000 hours to 1200 hours, at Spreckels Lake in Golden Gate Park. Beginners and experienced operators welcome.

Field Day 2017 Setup Friday June 23rd



Photos courtesy of Marilyn Bagshaw



Field Day Operation Saturday and Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>



Photos courtesy of Marilyn Bagshaw

Field Day 2017 Equipment Break Down Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup>



Photos courtesy of Marilyn Bagshaw

## Public Service

### Dipsea Race



Club net control communications from Marin County Sheriff's mobile command center Stinson Beach

### Double Dipsea Race



Club net control communications from club communications van and finish line at Stinson Beach

## USS Pampanito Report

The "Museum Ships on the Air" event got underway Saturday, June 3, 2017 aboard the USS Pampanito. Shortly after 0900 hours, our station NJ6VT, was on the air working under some rather poor radio propagation conditions. Radio operations began on the 40 meter band and our first QSO was with the aircraft carrier, USS Midway, NI6IW, in San Diego. I was joined by Milt Hyams, KM6ASI, later in the morning and we found that the 20 meter band was far more active than 40 meters. We were able to work several museum ships and a number of QSO's with other hams under trying conditions of severe QSB. Thanks to Milt, KM6ASI, for helping out on Saturday! By the way, we listened on 80, 40, 20 17, 15 and 10 meters for any activity and found the 20 meter band to provide the best opportunity for QSO's under poor radio propagation conditions.

On Sunday, we had more RO's to share the duty, including our XO, Jerry Foster, WA6BXV; and guest operators Doug McCaslin, KJ6OYJ; Wassim Nassif, WN6WJN; Tom Soskin, W6MTS and two visitors - the Laduke twins: Terry Laduke, W7RNF, from Mesa, AZ and Linden Laduke, N1IUA, from Corvallis, OR. Both Terry and Linden had served in the military, Terry serving on the submarine USS Gudgeon, SS-567. Both Terry and Linden made quite a number of QSO's for the boat! Doug, KJ6OYI, set up a PSK-31 operation on the 20 meter band (14.070 mc) and worked a few stations Sunday afternoon.

All in all, the USS Pampanito made 78 contacts including the following 11 museum ships:

USS Midway Aircraft Carrier, San Diego; NI6IW  
USS Hornet Aircraft Carrier, Alameda; NB6GC  
USS Iowa, Battle Ship, San Pedro, CA; NI6BB  
ST- 695, Angels Gate Tug Boat, San Pedro; K6AA  
SS Col. James Schoomaker, Bulk Carrier, Toledo, OH; K8E  
USS Potomac, Presidential Yacht; NE6JP  
USS Turner Joy, Destroyer, Bremerton, WA; NS7DD  
USS Batfish, Submarine, Muskogee, OK; WW2SUB  
USS Dolphin, Submarine, San Diego, CA; NS6OI  
SS Red Oak Victory, Victory Ship; Richmond, CA; K6YVM  
SS Jeremiah O'Brien, San Francisco; K6JOB

We fell short of the required 15 museum ships to get that certificate, but we will receive our certificate for being a participating museum ship, which all RO's will eventually receive when our log is reviewed by museum ship HQ at NJ2BB, Battle Ship New Jersey. It takes time for the logs to be reviewed, so be patient.

I want to thank all those you volunteered for duty aboard the USS Pampanito for the Museum Ships on the Air Special Event. I wish radio propagation conditions had been better for the event. If so, we would have doubled are QSO's and worked at least 15 museum ships. Our next DDO will be on Saturday, July 8, 2017. Let me know if you are interested in participating.

73,

Den Regan, K6ZJU  
CO Pampanito A.R.C. NJ6VT  
USS Pampanito, SS-383  
Pier 45, Shed "A"  
San Francisco



## General Membership Meeting Minutes

June 2, 2017

- 7:35 PM The meeting is brought to order by President Tom Soskin.
- 7:35 PM Introductions are made around the room.
- 7:39 PM The agenda is adopted by the MARS membership.
- 7:40 PM The President's Minute and new members. President Soskin states that it appears that there are enough members present for a meeting quorum and thus a raftle may proceed. President Soskin encourages the members to read the QSA-5 electronic newsletter to find out what is new and interesting with the club. President Soskin asks if the previously added newest members are present for introduction? They are not.
- 7:44 PM Lewis Byington introduces himself as the newest member: KM6KUL. He received his Technician license grant from the FCC today! The membership committee processed his membership application today also, so he is actually the newest of new members. He stood up to tell the club about his interest past and present in military and amateur radio. He is a retired-30 year US Navy Officer interested in humanitarian and disaster relief, SOTA, and QRP. He plans to take his General exam in 2 weeks. Much of Lewis' interest in radio was piqued by the radiomen and women aboard Navy ships. He has made friends with MARS club member Michael Fisher and has learned about the MARS public service opportunities. Club members encourage him to join the club at the upcoming Field Day 2017.
- 7:50 PM Field Day. Trustee Doug Slusher reports that preparations are afoot for the joint Field Day 2017 exercise between the MARS and Redex amateur radio clubs at the Monkey Ranch. Doug explains one of the rules that if the club(s) set up early, and hour is lost and the end of the QSO contest. Also, the identifiers for W6XB (the callsign for the site this Field Day) are **3A SF** for three stations within a 1000' diameter with complete portable power in the San Francisco ARRL district. This is used in the CQ calling exchange of the contesters, i.e. "CQ field day de W6XB...3A SF...TU." Member Andrew Musselman asks if he can work VHF. Doug tells him that he can do that at home but NOT at the site due to the already established "3A" ARRL designation for the Monkey Ranch site. Vice-President Kris Backenstose hopes to work CW on 11 meters. Doug reminds the members to bring sunscreen, gloves, and a hat.
- 7:54 PM New Business. By-Laws. Member Milt Hyams explains the changes to the MARS club by-laws. He gives a personal introduction. He says that since 1990 the club has made 6 revisions to the by-laws and in that process, the numbering of statutes and declarations had become become convoluted, redundant, and unclear. With his former work experience as an attorney working with non-profit agencies he cleaned up the language and formatting to the MARS club's by-laws. He used new language to replace old language where appropriate, re-ordered footnotes, and at all times tried to convey the intended and original meaning of the by-laws. The MARS board will shrink from 11 to 9 to 7 board members by removing 2 board members through phases in 2 years. Also, the trustees will get to vote only on station issues. The goal is to have the board reflect 10% of the MARS club membership. The quorum for a board meeting is reduced from 5 to 4. 3 unexcused absences by board members in a year become a constructive resignation. The goal of the by-laws changes is primarily to bring the MARS club "into the 21st century" and to ensure quorums for votes on club issues. A change therefore is to include electronic voting. With this effort the period of payment of club dues is reduced to 90 days to avoid the problem of members NOT-in good-standing for lack of dues payment within overlapping periods from year-to-year. The board may waive dues payment for good cause in the new revision. Member Andrew Musselman asks if a quorum will be required with the electronic voting and the answer is yes. The actual number may vary due to club size. Finally, Milt tells the membership that the MARS board has recommended this by-laws vote to the membership unanimously.
- 8:00 PM Member Steve Smith WA1TOV makes a motion to vote for acceptance of the changes to the MARS club by-laws. Tony "Skip" Fedanzo KJ6ARL makes a second. A vote by the MARS club membership with 28 members present is unanimous for change and acceptance. The changes to the MARS by-laws are passed.



8:02 PM Raffle. Lewis, the newest member picks the first ticket out of the bowl.  
8:10 PM The raffle concludes. There is nothing else for the good of the order.  
8:10 PM There is a motion, second, and vote to adjourn the meeting.

David Chaney  
Secretary

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

June 8, 2017

7:36 PM President Tom Soskin calls the meeting to order.  
7:37 PM There is a motion, second, and vote to adopt the agenda.  
7:38 PM President's Minute. President Soskin explains the new format for the agenda.  
7:39 PM Secretary's Report. Secretary David Chaney discusses two pieces of mail that have been received including the waste and phone bills.  
7:40 PM Treasurer's Report. The finances of the MARS club are on the back of the agenda form to read. Treasurer Dave Hodgson is absent with permission.  
7:40 PM Membership Report. Curtis Ardourel declares that there are 104 members in the MARS club. He leads a discussion about what interests new members have, and what draws people to the club.  
7:42 PM A discussion follows the membership report about having surveys of new members to study and confirm what they like and hope to get from membership in the Marin Amateur Radio Society.  
7:48 PM Education Report. Vice-President Kris Backenstose who heads education would like to have a class or session at the MARS club about the preparation and soldering of antenna and coaxial cable connectors to cable. President Soskin, likewise, would wish to have such a class at the club for his own interest! Trustee Doug Slusher is consulted about such a class because he is skilled in assembling cable connectors. Board Member Mitch Martin concurs that classes about radio technology fundamentals are highly for the MARS club and he would be glad to help. Trustee Slusher recalls the problems of a radio enthusiast named Dan Mendez who was trying to install a mobile radio unit in a car. He had problems with the SMA connectors and the coaxial cable. This story was an example of the need for basic connector assembly training. Member Martin talks about "apocalyptic" cables, meaning cable and connectors that could withstand severe abuse and still function well. Trustee Slusher would like to see four classes presented and marketed each year on radio technology basics given on weeknights. On a different subject Vice-President Backenstose has run out of speakers for the Friday night MARS club meetings. Could it be possible to advertise asking for speakers? Trustee Slusher and Member Martin will work with Vice-President Backenstose to create these classes. Trustee Slusher suggests investigation the materials and classes that MDARC has.  
8:07 PM Club and Station Report. We have received the bill for repair of the sewer line to the street. The MARS club still needs to pave the area that Marin County marked off and designated wanting the new pavement to be "feathered in." Despite having the final bill for the project, Trustee Slusher will not pay the bill until the Alto Water District is satisfied in writing of the repairs. The exact costs therefore are unknown, but close to the original estimate of \$15,500.00. Trustee Slusher was unable to make any 'deals' to reduce the cost of the paving. He is also looking to work with McClaren roofers to begin estimates for roof repair of the water leaks. He is also securing 3 estimates for painting of the Alto clubhouse building. There is no progress with the new Yaesu digital repeater unit because there is yet another firmware update due. Trustee Slusher would like to get the PL tone changed on the repeater, and also to install a satellite receiver at the West Tam repeater antenna site. Member Martin encourages the club to get the new digital service up and running post haste.  
8:16 PM Public Service. The Dipsea race is on Sunday. Trustee Slusher will be there. MARS Member Randy Jenkins will be there. John Boyd will not be able

to attend and serve. Trustee Slusher will be the Net Control operator cannot drive the communications van for that and suggests that the MARS club locate in the County Sheriff's communication truck. The MARS communication van is a good advertisement for the MARS club.

- 8:20 PM VE. Randy Jenkins states that there are no exams for the next 2 months. There be an exam at the Alto clubhouse in August 2017. There is a special VE exam in Richmond on June 21, 2017 where there will be 3 VEs present.
- 8:21PM Field Day. The MARS club is providing manpower mostly to the joint project with the Redxa club. Set up at the Monkey Ranch site will begin on Friday morning June 23, 2017. We don't need to bring a generator. Trustee Slusher will bring 3 laptops for data entry and contact logging. The station will be designated "3A" with a GOTA station. There will be a need for road signs at the Monkey Ranch site. People can park no longer on the grass by the barn as instructed by the owners. Last year the signs were blown down by the wind. There are problems with the smaller generators and there is a question of how much current will be generated for all of the stations.
- 8:28 PM Old Business. There is a discussion about whether or not to print many more copies of the new by-laws. No, there will be a link to a .pdf in the QSA-5 electronic magazine. Trustee Doug Slusher will double check the quorum that was present at the vote for the by-laws changes at the June 2017 MARS membership meeting.
- 8:31 PM Tabled Items. President Tom Soskin brings the increase of club dues to \$30.00 effective next year in January 2018 to a vote. There is a motion, a second, a unanimous vote to raise the dues to \$30.00.
- 8:32 PM Trustee Doug Slusher will investigate the various offerings of faster internet access for the Alto clubhouse. Various plans from ATT, Comcast and business class rates are discussed. The options are complicated to compare, but it may be possible for the current service to be increased for a reasonable fee. President Soskin will call Sonic about internet service. This was a tabled item.
- 8:35 PM Board Member and QSA-5 Editor Ed Essick asks if the water leak contributing to the increased water bills has been discovered? No, not yet. Trustee Doug Slusher will investigate the current water costs. This was a tabled item.
- 8:38 PM There is a motion, a second, and a vote to allow Trustee Slusher to investigate the water costs and to pay more if he can secure a good price.
- 8:39 PM The QSA-5 electronic magazine will be made available without a delay on the website, and Member Curtis Ardourel will write the HTML code to make the change on the W6SG.net website. This was a tabled item.
- 8:43 PM Trustee Doug Slusher is still talking with the Boy Scouts of America representative about the JOTA "Jamboree-On-The-Air" project but no progress has been made for a joint effort. This was a tabled item.
- 8:45 PM There is no remaining interest in buying a water cooler as originally suggested by Board Member Cal Anbar. This was a tabled item.
- 8:46 PM Can ham radio sales be a part of the QSA-5? Editor Ed Essick says send them to him and he will put them in. The answer is yes. President Soskin revisits the question about QSA-5 availability to "associates" and non-members. Member Curtis Ardourel will assist Editor Ed Essick in creating a QSA-5 marketplace.
- 8:53 PM The is a motion, a second, and a vote to adjourn the meeting.

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><b>Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:</b></p> <p><b>President</b> Tom Soskin, W6MTS tomsoskin@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Vice President</b> Kris Backenstose, KK6AYC</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> David Chaney, AA6AE</p> <p><b>Treasure:</b> Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 707 978-2560</p> <p><b>Board Members</b> 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</p> <p><b>Other Positions:</b></p> <p><b>Education Chair</b> Randy Jenkins Kris Backenstose Instruction Team Leader.</p> <p><b>VE Liaison</b> Randy Jenkins</p> <p><b>Building Co-Managers</b> Doug Slusher Dave Hodgson</p> <p><b>Trustee for W6SG</b> Mitch Martin WU1Q</p> <p><b>Trustee for K6GWE</b> Doug Slusher KF6AKU</p> <p><b>Sunday Emergency Nets</b> Mark Bruvry</p> <p><b>DX Representative of ARRL</b> Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</p>	<p><b>Public Service Event Coordinators</b> Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 Rob Rowlands, NZ6J, Michael Fischer, K6MLF</p> <p><b>Membership</b> Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS</p> <p><b>Editor of QSA-5</b> Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715 e.essick@comcast.net</p> <p><b>ARRL San Francisco Section Manager</b> Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG</p> <p><b>WEBMASTER</b> Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET</p> <p><b>HF Sunday Net Control</b> Mike Ransom, AI6II</p> <p><b>VHF Sunday Net Control</b> Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH</p>
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