
QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

July 2017

Presidents Corner

Ideas, Decisions and the Process

This month I would like to address some of the conversations I have had at club events. Members often express to me their ideas, concerns, and yes criticisms. I don't mind, it is after all, part of the job. Recently I had an epiphany, the reason for members venting this way is due to them being disconnected from the process. This is understandable and as president, I am in part responsible for this. Part of my job is to convey to all our members how the club is run and how they as members can effect change. This club after all, belongs to its members and we all have a part in running it.

About two years ago I was in the same position. As a member I had no idea about how the club was run or how decisions were made. I attended a couple of board meetings which unfortunately was not very enlightening as I still did not understand the process. So I ran for a position on the Board and somehow ended up president (the Gods must be crazy). What an awakening that was. To be honest, I was terrible. But with the remarkable patience and guidance of the other members, I stumbled along, and what I did learn, was how the process works.

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On The Air

Public Service

From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Public Service

Participation in public service events by our members is one of the strengths of our club. Each year a lot of the work necessary to get these events scheduled, organized, and staffed is performed by a small number of dedicated club members who do this work year after year.

These club members insure we as a club provide the best service possible for these events. Michael Fischer, K6LMF, Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Doug Slusher, KF6AKU, Rob Ireson, K6RGI, and Rob Rowland, NZ6J do much of the work to setup and maintain our radio equipment, insure operators are scheduled for each event location, coordinate event operations with event sponsors, and test out new event support such as APRS.

When I look at the event rosters each year I see many of the same club members volunteering their time to staff our public service events. It's not unusual for club members to operate an event location for 4, 6, 8, or even 10 hours in some cases.

Take a look at the reports by Randy Jenkins to the ARRL later in this issue describing our support for events. This dedication to providing service year after year I think is commendable.

A number of these same club members help serve the club in our education program, VE testing, club social events, and as club officers. So whether you are a new member or have been in the club for some time, if you have not been active volunteering, consider supporting the club by participating in one of these service rolls.

August is the start of the contest season and it gives us an opportunity to get back on the radio and make some contacts. This month the North American QSO Party on August 23 is sure to liven up the bands as US amateur's take to radio for this fun event. So give it a try if you have a HF rig as there will be plenty of opportunities to work someone with even a modest radio setup. There are also a number of opportunities to work stations in the VHF/UHF contests this month. See the On The Air section later in this issue for contest details.

We have a great speaker for the club meeting this Friday. Alan Bowker will give a talk on working satellites, so join us for this interesting presentation.

What's Happening in Radio

Everyone has a voice in our club and there is an effective way to get your voice heard. If any member would like to present an idea, request, concern etc., it all starts with an email (txt etc.) to myself or any one of the Board members. Or if you prefer, go to the MARS website <http://w6sg.net> and click on the "Contact" tab and fill out the contact form. Either method will assure that your request will be presented to the board. Items received are then discussed and if necessary, get placed on the Agenda for the next appropriate Board meeting. I make up the Agenda for all board meetings and requests for Agenda items may be made by any Board member any time before the Agenda is adopted. Once an item is placed on the Agenda it is then discussed and an action is decided and recorded in the minutes. If a vote is needed then each Board member present is polled as to their vote and all votes counted, with the outcome being noted. Each Board member is given one vote. No item is decided on by an individual no matter what their position on the Board. The minutes are then published in QSA-5. This is a transparent process and all items are published with the exception of those of a personal nature, as members privacy is of utmost importance.

All members are invited to attend Board meetings and may request to speak on any Agenda item that they are concerned with. There is a proper way to do this; At all Board meetings we follow the Roberts Rules of Order. If any member attending a Board meeting would like to speak, they make the request by addressing the person running the meeting, usually me, as this is a function of the president, and at the appropriate time, I will give you the floor to speak to the Board. It is that simple. I have frequently invited members to attend board meetings and it is an open invitation, most Board meetings are open to all members.

So please, if you have an issue that you think is important and needs to be expressed it is your right and possibly, responsibility, to bring it to the board. Remember we are here to serve you, the members of the club.

Tom Soskin, W6MTS

On The Air

ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest, 1800Z, Aug 5 to 1800Z, Aug 6

ARRL 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest, 1800Z, Aug 5 to 1800Z, Aug 6

North American QSO Party, CW, 1800Z, Aug 5 to 0559Z, Aug 6

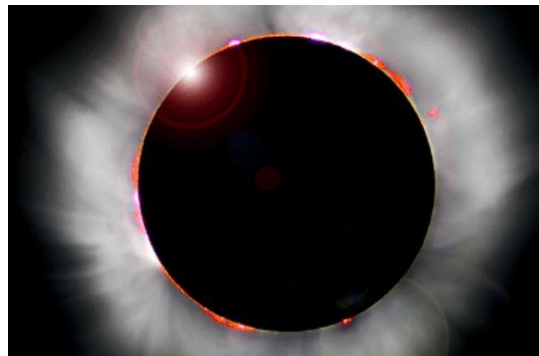
Maryland-DC QSO Party, 1600Z, Aug 12 to 0400Z, Aug 13 and 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 13

SARTG WW RTTY Contest, 0000Z-0800Z, Aug 19 and 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 19 and 0800Z-1600Z, Aug 20

North American QSO Party, SSB, 1800Z, Aug 19 to 0559Z, Aug 20

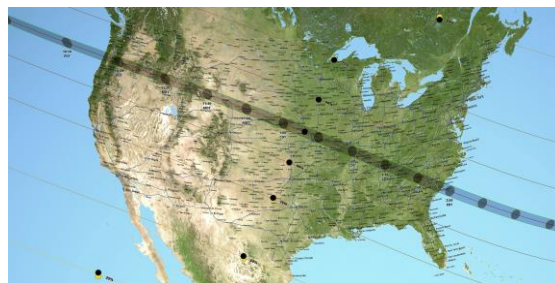
See WA7BNM Contest Calendar for full schedule:
<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

Solar Eclipse QSO Party



The Solar Eclipse QSO Party ([SEQP](#)), sponsored by [HamSCI](#), will take place on August 21, 1400 to 2200 UTC.

As the August 2017 *QST* article "[The Solar Eclipse QSO Party -- Are You Ready?](#)" explains, "The objective...is to flood the airwaves with contacts, all measured by the automated receiver networks of the Reverse Beacon Network, PSKReporter, and WSPRNet. When those observations are combined with the logs from individual stations, the result will be one of the largest ionospheric experiments ever performed."



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New 222 MHz and Up Contest Debuts August 5-6 Weekend:

ARRL's new 222 MHz and Up Distance Contest will debut on August 5 at 1800 UTC and continue until the next day. This 24-hour contest offers a wide range of entry categories, from FM, CW, and SSB to digital modes. The object is to work as many stations as possible on the 222 MHz through 241 GHz bands, using any allowable mode. A station in a specific grid locator may be contacted from the same location only once on each band, regardless of mode. Contacts on higher frequencies earn more points, so expect plenty of activity from locations that offer a height advantage. Check the rules update for club and team competitions, and requirements to register teams *before the contest*.

2 MCM Radio Practice Friends

The August 12, 2017 Radio Practice will be held at The Presidio of San Francisco Main Parade Ground.

Guest Speakers 2017

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

Alan has been a ham since 1966 and his interests include, in addition to satellites; APRS, (Automated Positioning Radio System) where he keeps a beacon active while mobile, DMR radio, and digital HF using JT-65 / 9 on 20 and 40 meters.



Public Service

Report to ARRL of Public Service Events

1. Nature of Activity: Special exercise, Public-Service Event
 2. Activity Description: Provided emergency & routine communications for The Tour De MALT, a 53 mile road bike event, benefiting the Marin Agricultural Land Trust.
Approximately 300 participants 50 volunteers were involved
 3. Places or areas involved: Roads in Western Marin County, California
 4. Number of amateurs participating: 22
 5. Event start date/time: May 09, 2016 06:30 hrs
 6. Event end date/time May 09, 2016 16:30 hrs
 7. Duration of event (hours): 10 hours
 8. Total person-hours: 130.5
 9. Number of repeaters used: 4
 10. Estimated person-power cost (Line 8 x \$19): \$2,479.50
 11. Estimated cost of equipment used: \$15,000.00
 12. Total estimated cost of service (10+11): \$17,479.50
 13. Nets and/or frequencies used: 146.700 K6GWE, 147.330 K6GWE, 146.910 WBTMS, 146.865 KI6SUD
 14. Number of messages handled: est. 250
 15. Names of agencies receiving communications support: The Marin Agricultural Land Trust
 16. Call signs of major participants: NZ6J, KM6GML, KG6VMT, K6ETA, KM6KUL, KK6QPE, N6SED, WB6SPX, K6RGI, KJ6ARL, KM6ASI, KM6Y, KM6AOW, KG6RZQ, Ki6 SZF, k0OLK, K6BPS, KI6MZX, KG6ATH, KK6ZOE, KM6DVH, K6MLF.
 17. Other comments: No incidents occurred on this event.
- Amateur Radio organizations providing service: Marin Amateur Radio Society
- Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF
ka6bqf@arrl.net
VE Liaison & Public Service Co-Coordinator
Marin Amateur Radio Society
www.w6sg.net
Date: July 22, 2017

1. Nature of Activity: Special exercise, Public-Service Event
2. Activity Description: Provided emergency & routine communications for The 106th Dipsea Race, an annual 7.1 mile trail run over Mt. Tamalpais from Mill Valley to Stinson Beach.
Approximately 1500 participants and 300 volunteers were involved.
3. Places or areas involved: Mill Valley, Muir Woods National Park, Mt Tamalpais State Park, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, & Stinson Beach, Marin County, California.
4. Number of amateurs participating: 21
5. Event start date/time: June 11, 2017 06:30 hrs
6. Event end date/time June 11, 2017 13:30 hrs
7. Duration of event (hours): 7.0 hours
8. Total person-hours: 88
9. Number of repeaters used: 1
10. Estimated person-power cost (88 x \$19): \$1,672.00
11. Estimated cost of equipment used: \$4,000.00
12. Total estimated cost of service (10+11): \$5,672.00
13. Nets and/or frequencies used: 147.330 K6GWE, 147.520S, 147.555 S, 144.390 APRS
14. Number of messages handled: est. 250
15. Names of agencies receiving communications support: The Dipsea Committee, Mill Valley Police Department, California State Parks, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Marin County Fire Department, Stinson Beach Fire Department, Muir Woods National Park, Marin County Sheriff's Department Search & Rescue
16. Call signs of major participants: KA6BQF, KG6WPN, KF6AKU, WA6BXV, KG6TCJ, K6RGI, AA6AE, KK6DPW, K6BPS, KK6ZOE, NZ6J, KG6RZQ, KD6SWU, NB6F, KG6ATH, N6ABR, KC6YYP, KJ6NKW, K6MLF, KI6MPE, KI6MZX
17. Other comments: Four evacuations by ambulance occurred on this event. The Marin County Sheriff's Department Command Vehicle was deployed for this event.

Amateur Radio organizations providing service: Marin Amateur Radio Society,

Location: Marin County, CA

Submitted by:

Robert Randy Jenkins KA6BQF

912 Jones Street, Berkeley, CA 94710

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Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

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Secretary, VE Liaison & Public Service Coordinator

Marin Amateur Radio Society

www.w6sg.net

Date: July 22, 2017

1. Nature of Activity: Special exercise, Public-Service Event
2. Activity Description: Provided emergency & routine communications for The Double Dipsea, an annual 14 mile trail running event, from Stinson Beach over Mt. Tamalpais to Mill Valley and back, Marin County, California. About 650 runners and around 300 volunteers were involved. The event is run by and benefits The South End Running and Rowing Club, Walt Stack Double Dipsea Committee.
3. Places or areas involved: Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Mt. Tamalpais State Park, Muir Woods National Park, and Mill Valley, Marin County, California.

4. Number of amateurs participating: 16
5. Event start date/time: June 18, 2016 05:30 hrs
6. Event end date/time: June 18, 2016 14:30 hrs
7. Duration of event (hours): 9.0 hours
8. Total person-hours: 72
9. Number of repeaters used: 1
10. Estimated person-power cost (72 x \$19): \$1,368.00
11. Estimated cost of equipment used: \$4,000.00
12. Total estimated cost of service (10+11): \$5,368.00
13. Nets and/or frequencies used: 147.330 K6GWE, 147.520 S, 147.555 S, 144.390 APRS
14. Number of messages handled: est. 450
15. Names of agencies receiving communications support: Walt Stack Double Dipsea Committee, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Stinson Beach Fire Department, California State Parks, Muir Woods National Park, City of Mill Valley, Marin County Fire Department.

16. Call signs of major participants: KA6BQF, KG6WPN, W9FOG, K6MLF, KM6EVK, K6RGI, KK6QPE, K6BPS, KG6RZQ, KM6Y, K6ELE, KF6AKU, NZ6J, KG6ATH, KI6MPE, AA6AE

17. Other comments: No serious incidents occurred on this event.

Amateur Radio organizations providing service: Marin Amateur Radio Society, East Bay Amateur Radio Club, San Francisco Radio Club

Location: Marin County, CA

Submitted by:

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF

ka6bqf@arrl.net

Secretary, VE Liaison & Public Service Coordinator

Marin Amateur Radio Society

www.w6sg.net

Date: July 22, 2017

Public Service Tour De Malt



Net Control Station



Steve Fischer, SAG driver



APRS Setup at Net Control



Rest Stop



Net Control, taking a quick break

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