



QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

October 2017

Presidents Corner

Participation

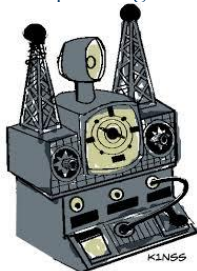
Kris Backenstose N5HIT Vice President

Unfortunately Tom cannot be here with us this month as we enjoyed another delightful speaker at our monthly membership meeting. Mel Hendrickson gathered all the hams around for an intriguing story telling session. Thank you Randy for bringing your cousin to our club.

Also thank our Educational Discussion Leaders and Elmer's that participated in this year's Technician Class:

KK6OLF - Jamie Taylor
KJ6ARL - "Skip" Fedanzo
AG6QR - Rich Cochran
K6ELE - Ed Essick
WU1Q - Mitch Martin
NZ6J - Rob Rowlands

See Jamie Taylor speak about hackRF, next year at one of our upcoming monthly membership meetings.



From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Club Education Program

Our club finished the education program for this year with the completion of the Technician eight week class in October. Thirteen enrolled in the class and five students passed the Technician exam and one passed the Extra exam. Our Education Chair, Randy Jenkins and Kris Backenstose, our Instruction Team Leader, put in a lot of time and effort to make this a successful class.

I had the opportunity to lead one of the eight class sessions, covering antennas and propagation. It was a lively class with lots of questions from the students. Rob Rowlands helped me out in the class as an Elmer.

Modeling, building, and working with my antennas over the years is a part of ham radio that I have enjoyed and it was fun to share my knowledge of antennas with the class. I signed up with ARRL as an instructor, which gave me access to lesson plans, power point slides, and other instructor materials. This support by the ARRL made it easy for me to prepare for my class presentation.

Next year our club will have another class and I would encourage club members to consider participating either as a session leader or Elmer.

Don't forget we have our annual Christmas dinner on Wednesday, December 6th. 5:30 at the club house. Last year we had a great turn out, let's do that again this year.



Christmas Dinner 2016

Club Member News

Christmas Party

Board Election

New Technicians

Public Service Report

Christmas Party

Membership Meeting Minutes

Board Minutes

Club Member News

Editors note: Steve Fischer filed this report and his participation in the support by Sonoma Auxiliary Communications ACS during the Santa Rosa fires.

The Sonoma Auxiliary Communications ACS, which is made up of amateur radio operators, has been continuously supporting evacuation shelters in Petaluma since Monday morning.

We have a presence in the Petaluma Op Area EOC as well as the main shelters. In the first days we were also staffing other EOCs in the area as well as the Sonoma County Op Area EOC.

I'm part of a team of hams assisting where we can - mostly in the logistics of shelter support. Our efforts helped coordinate the delivery of over 500 cots, breakfasts from the Redwood Empire Food Bank and many donation and volunteer offers that the public have brought forward.

In our role as logistics support we helped coordinate delivery of diabetic medical supplies for those in urgent need and delivery of FRS radios for a shelter medical team - W1EJ also provided training on the radios.

Some of the public donations we coordinated were overflow livestock facilities offered by a local farm, refrigeration trucks for perishables and pallets of fresh fruit. The Executive Director of the Redwood Empire Food Bank, David W9FOG, is also a ham, and we have worked directly with him over the local repeaters to assist as much as we can in their amazing efforts.

We have also helped bridge Salvation Army traffic to and from the logistics team. In the early stages of the activation, situational awareness was difficult and we helped verify which shelters were opening, what their capacities were, and what their initial needs were. There were many different fires, and the SCRA club (another local amateur radio resource) was instrumental in bringing hams up to speed in the early stages. Their members were reporting news, spotting fires and relaying evacuation announcements over the air. So by the time ACS was involved at the EOCs, we were already up to speed.

As emergency management personnel came on board with their primary comms intact, we swiftly moved to a gap-filling capacity and provided secondary support. Our colleagues at Marin RACES offered mutual aid and we worked with them as overflow evacuees were routed South into Marin County. My personal experience was 42 hours of volunteer time (mostly at the Petaluma Op Area EOC, 8 hours at the Santa Rosa Fairgrounds). I was activated early Monday and worked 10 hours on, 6 hours off, including an all-nighter on Tuesday. Our family was nearly evacuated twice, and we had our cars packed and gassed up all week. After about Wednesday ACS started to wind down as the Red Cross has taken over the shelter logistics. So I'm currently on standby. One interesting take-away from all this is that even though primary comms were operational for the most part, ACS still was able to fill in several crucial gaps and our efforts made a positive impact on the shelters.

Steve Fischer
K6ETA

Board Election

At the November General Membership meeting two Board of Directors candidates were nominated in addition to slate presented by the nomination committee. The amended By-Laws result in three positions open. The candidates are:

Kris Backensotse, N5HIT, incumbent
John Boyd, KE6ORI
David Chaney, AA6AE, incumbent
Steve Smith, WA1TOV
Tom Soskin, W6MTS, incumbent
Edwin Jamie Taylor, KK6OLF

New Members

Welcome to Rodrigo Santamarina KM6NHM,
Petaluma

Radio Equipment for Sale

I am moving to a condo and would like to sell some ham gear. I live in Ukiah 100 miles north. If any of your members may be interested I have a Kenwood TS2000. Palstar AT2K. Ameritron ALS 600 with the switching power supply. Price is any reasonable offer. I have some more stuff too.

Thanks
Jack Barr
N6BBB

New Technicians

Congratulations Class of 2017!

And welcome to the Marin Amateur Radio Society!

Edward J Ahtner - Technician
Anne-Marie M Cowsill - Technician
Peter E Gilmore - Technician
Steve C Ira - Technician
Teodorico S Ira - Technician
Jeremy M Shaw - Amateur Extra

Guest Speakers 2018

January 5th 2018 - Richard Dillman

Our next guest speaker is Station Operator at KWMR and the historical KPH site in Point Reyes National Seashore. Please come for FREE PIZZA and learn about Richard's collection of historic **RADIO SPY GEAR**.

Public Service Report

In October, we had an event that was cancelled due to the smoke from the Northern California wildfires, the BCPP Peak Hike.

>1. Nature of Activity: Special exercise, Public-Service Event

> 2. Activity Description: Provided emergency & routine communications for The Jensei Gran Fondo of Marin, a bike event, that is run by and benefits the Marin County Bicycle Coalition.

Approximately 350 participants 100 volunteers were involved >

> 3. Places or areas involved: Roads in Marin County, California, and roads in southern Sonoma County.>

> 4. Number of amateurs participating: 21

5. Event start date/time: October 07, 2017 05:00 hrs

> 6. Event end date/time: October 07, 2017 17:30 hrs

> 7. Duration of event (hours): 12.5 hours

> 8. Total person-hours: 153

> 9. Number of repeaters used: 6

> 10. Estimated person-power cost (153 x \$19): \$2,907.00

> 11. Estimated cost of equipment used: \$20,000.00

> 12. Total estimated cost of service (10+11): \$22,907.00

> 13. Nets and/or frequencies used: 146.700 K6GWE, 147.330 K6GWE, 443.250 K6GWE, 146.910 WB6TMS, 146.865 KI6SUD, 147.555 S.

> 14. Number of messages handled: est. 200

> 15. Names of agencies receiving communications support: Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, California State Parks, California Highway Patrol.

> 16. Call signs of major participants: K6MLF,AG6QR, KF6AKU, KD6SWU, K6BPS, WB6SPX, KM6DVH, KJ6ARL, N6ABR, KM6AOW, KM6EVK, KG6RZQ, KM6ASI, KI6MPE, KM6Y, AI6NF, N6PWD, KK6DPW, K6PHD, KG6ATH, K6GPD

> > 17. Other comments: Several significant incidents occurred on this event. Amateur Radio organizations providing service: Marin Amateur Radio Society, Sonoma Mountain Repeater Society, Sonoma County Radio Amateurs.

Submitted by:

> Robert Randy Jenkins KA6BQF

Christmas Party

Wednesday, December 06, 2017.

Membership in MARS is not required to attend this event. You may be encouraged to join. Reserve your space at: RSVP@W6SG.NET.

Join us! Cost: \$25.00 per person; \$30.00 at-the-door. All are welcome!

Reserve your space at: RSVP@W6SG.NET. Please RSVP to: rsvp@w6sg.net All reservations to made by 11/30! (We need to update the caterer to have enough food.)

Pay Online (PayPal) at: [Christmas Dinner](http://w6sg.net/christmas_dinner.php) : http://w6sg.net/christmas_dinner.php On the PayPal page click on the add-to-cart button. (1 works, 2 does not) You may edit the number of attendees in the cart.



Christmas Party 2016



Raffle Prizes Christmas Party 2016

Local RFI – Taming Neighborhood Noise

John Fallows VE6EY

Editor Note: John has written a series on noise and RFI reduction that will appear here over the next several issues.



Every ham or shortwave listener struggles with local RFI. This article kicks off a new series on how to use noise cancelers and get your spectrum back.

You turn on your radio and tune the bands. Usually, you hear some signals. But often, those signals are drowned out or hurt by local radio frequency interference. Especially, if you live in an urban neighborhood. Even with a really good antenna on a tower, local RFI is troublesome. I hear about lots of folks being tempted to just give up. My message is “not yet”. Every ham or shortwave listener should at least try using a noise canceler before packing it in. They can work surprisingly well.

More than a century ago, radio operators adopted a series of Brevity or Q Codes, shorthand ways of saying complicated things quickly in Morse Code. They are still in use. Two of the original Q Codes still in use are QRN and QRM. QRN means I am experiencing atmospheric or static interference. QRM means I am experiencing signal interference. Perhaps today we need a new code, QRFI, which means I can't hear you through all of the local RFI.

Many Sources of Local RFI

If you want to see and hear the most frequent sources of local RFI, take a look at [Sounds of RFI](#) at the ARRL web site. For advice on how to identify and locate sources of radio frequency interference, check my video [Adventures with RFI](#).

There is a lot you can do to clean up sources of local RFI in your own home. Most of your problems will come from switching power supplies, either AC/DC or the so called “electronic transformers” which provide AC/AC for low power lighting. Any switching power supply is essentially a free running oscillator. Often you can kill or reduce the RFI by winding ferrite chokes on the power cables. Same with birdies or radio tones coming out of your computer or network gear. But my most complex in-house RFI comes from my front-loading washer and treadmill and defies easy filtering. Fortunately, these appliances are used only occasionally.

General Meeting Minutes October 6th, 2017

- 7:30 PM. President Tom Soskin gavels the meeting to order.
- 7:31 PM. Guests Curt and Mary Jo visit from International Falls MN. Introductions
- 7:36 PM. Adopt the agenda. Change in the presentation.
- 7:37 PM. Motion, second, and vote. Adopted
- 7:37 PM. President's minute. JOTA
- 7:38 PM. Secretary's report. None.
- 7:39 PM. Treasurer's report. None. Dave Hodgson's written financial report is on the back of the evening's agenda.
- 7:39 PM. Membership. Over 110.
- 7:40 PM. Education. Kris recaps the progress of the Technician Class on Wednesdays.
- 7:41 PM. Club station. Trustee Doug Slusher is not here. The roof needs to be rebuilt. major repair will begin next spring.
- 7:42 PM. Public Service. Read QSA-5
- 7:42 PM. VE. Next VE ham exam at the Alto MARS clubhouse on November 1, 2017.
- 7:43 PM. JOTA report. President Soskin just studied to become a merit badge counselor in the Boy Scouts of America. There is a practice session on Sunday October 8, 2017 at the Unitarian Lutheran Church in San Rafael. All are welcome to come.
- 7:44 PM. Christmas party. \$25 per person.
- 7:45 PM. New Business. Board nominations are open. Email President Soskin with names of nominees please.
- 7:47 PM. Good of the order. Talk about fun in ham radio. Jan Lena was checking a radio. He was replacing a rectifier. He used an oscilloscope to check the Rectifier. He got a Sharp spike that went to zero. It was a Zener ha ha. Jan talks about Puerto Rico aid from the ARRL. Jan tells a story about medical staff hijacking radios from hams who went to help. Kris notes that hams are using PACTOR for aid and communication in Puerto Rico. The Baud rate has been lifted for 2 months to aid with radio traffic. There is more talk and further discussion about Puerto Rico aid. Jack Troupe meters heard South Africa on the 40 meter band the other night and then the signal suddenly disappeared. The band was lost in one minute bad propagation. Has anybody else experienced this propagation? Ed Essick talks about California QSO party This weekend. Jerry Foster talks about finding a pipe made from copper that he tuned at his condo down the coast. He used a KX2 radio. Jerry made CW contacts with Japan using the copper water pipe. An antenna tuner helped him to load load the pipe! According to Jerry the Elecraft kit KX3 is awesome. Jack Troupe has an announcement. On October 26-29, 2017 there's A microwave convention at the Biltmore hotel in Santa Clara. Check the website for 50mhzandup.org for details. There is a swap meet. Come if you are interested. Kris Backenstose checks the site and there is a \$150 registration.
- 8:00 PM. Meeting adjourned with motion, second, and vote.
- 8:00 PM. Coast Guard radio. Jim N6UHU gave a presentation about station NRV-Guam. His slide show presented the station as it was back in 1966.

Board of Directors Meeting

October 12, 2017

- 7:30 PM President Tom Soskin calls the meeting to order.
- 7:41 PM There are only 4 MARS Board members present. There is not a quorum.
- 7:43 PM President's minute. President Soskin discusses an email he received about changing the night of the MARS club meeting. Board Member Curtis Ardourel suggests bringing up date and time changes at the next MARS board meeting since there is no quorum and NO votes may be taken. President Soskin states that the email raises a legitimate concern and should be discussed further.
- 7:46 PM There is a budget discussion. Treasurer Dave Hodgson is not at the meeting but his written budget of expenditures is on the back of the meeting agenda.
- 7:53 PM Board Member Ardourel states that there are now 120 members in the MARS club! This is good news. He states also that the MARS club website now lists the \$30.00 individual and family rates for club membership. The renewal software on the website heretofore has had a default that Curtis has now programmed to read \$20.00. President Soskin suggests raising the family membership rate to \$35.00 to resolve the compaction of rates. Club Member Randy Jenkins and Member Ardourel discuss Randy's former contributions to the website's functionality. Member Ardourel asks the group about club membership fee auto-reminders that could be sent to existing members by email. He could write the software code to do that. Member Randy Jenkins offers to help the improvement of membership and club fee tracking by getting members license dates off of the FCC website.
- 8:04 PM Vice-President Kris Backenstose is not at the meeting to discuss the current Technician preparation class. The current attendees appear to be studying hard for the November 1, 2017 VE exam.
- 8:05 PM President Soskin discusses briefly the high costs of Alto MARS roof repair anticipated in 2018. He tells the story of a club member who called him, ostensibly about mysterious voices on the MARS VHF repeater, which turned out to be Chinese language "low battery" voice warnings coming from his Baofeng HT radio. President Soskin was able to resolve the problem with the grateful (and embarrassed) member.
- 8:09 PM The Public Service event is cancelled this coming weekend due to the fires.
- 8:11 PM The next VE examinations at the Alto clubhouse presented by MARS are on November 1, 2017.
- 8:13 PM Discussion about the MARS club Christmas party.
- 8:14 PM President Tom Soskin and Trustee Doug Slusher have surveyed and worked with the Trinity Lutheran Church in San Rafael for the JOTA Boy Scout event planned on October 21, 2017. The location is 333 Woodland Avenue in San Rafael during Pacificon.
- 8:17 PM Member John Boyd has completed the prototypes of the Communications
- MARS Board Meeting Minutes October 12, 2017 page 2**

Van graphics.

- 8:21 PM A discussion about MARS Board nominations. Secretary David Chaney has nominated Member Steve Smith currently.
- 8:30 PM President Tom Soskin and Member Randy Jenkins will email all involved about the MARS club Christmas party.
- 8:31 PM Member John Boyd registered the Communications Van with the CA DMV for \$450.00.
- 8:35 PM President Soskin closes the meeting for the Good of the Order. There was not a quorum of board members present at this meeting and NO votes were taken.

David Chaney, Secretary

AA6AE

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.

<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 Augie Koehler K0CQL</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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