

Presidents Corner

Part of the job of being the president of our club is reading through the email that comes in. Of course that includes Ads for knock off electronic parts and Pandora charms. Long texts in Russian. There is a Russian woman who works for me and she has translated a couple and they turn out to be much like Nigerian prince emails. There are also technical issues that I farm out to people wiser than I. One of the really great parts of the job are messages of thanks. Here is one we received from Tina Cuevas about the Ridge to bridge.

Hi All!

Apologies this is coming so late but I wanted to reach out and thank you all again for a wonderful event! Without you folks the event that started off rough would have not been able to turn around and be a success!

On behalf of the Ridge Trail Council, our members and myself I wanted to thank you again from the bottom of our hearts for helping with our annual Ridge to Bridge event.

Since it was my first Ridge to Bridge I was so thrilled to see how the radio communications would work and move throughout the day and was truly amazed at how calm and collected each one of you were as you handled communications. It helped us to resolve some situations that could have been much worse if you were not there helping to monitor and keep our folks safe.

Thanks to all of you nearly 300 participants were safe and accounted for at the end of the day, and they all seemed to be extremely happy as they completed the event! We are still tallying our income and expenses but we seem to be netting above last year's numbers and hopefully around \$40k which is great news!

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From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Field Day

Each year our club takes to the field to test our ability to communicate with portable equipment and power. This year we are back at the Marin Rod and Gun Club thanks to David Chaney and his work to get us back to this great Field Day location.

Field Day is the fourth full weekend in June with the setup is on Friday 6/22. Operation is for 24 hours starting at 10am (1800 UTC) Saturday 6/23. Our club cosponsors this event along with the Redwood Empire DX Club. Usually three complete stations are setup for operation. These stations operate CW, SSB, and digital modes.

Our two clubs have some great antennas and radios to operate. The bayside location makes our beam and dipole antennas more effective so come on out and operate one of the stations. Cal will be cooking again this year and we will provide lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast Sunday morning.

One of the stations is called a Get On The Air or GOTA station. The GOTA station may be operated by any person licensed since the previous year's Field Day, regardless of license class. It may also be operated by a generally inactive licensee. Non-licensed persons may participate under the direct supervision of an appropriate control operator. So if you are in one of these categories, we welcome you to operate the GOTA station this year. Experience operators are present and will help you out if needed in the station operation.



GOTA Station operation with Milt assisting the operator

Thank you for your reports and feedback of how the day went, I've been reading through all of them and ensuring to take good notes so that we can create an even better event next year.

We cannot wait to work with all of you again for next year's event which we are already working to make BETTER than ever!

Thank you so much truly,

Tina

Tina Cuevas

Volunteer and Events Coordinator
Bay Area Ridge Trail Council

We as individuals engage in public service for a variety of reasons. For many of us a big part of it not altruism but rather a desire to practice our craft. It is one part of that craft to hunt that rare country or grid square, to get to the bottom of that pile up. Another part may be getting our station set up just right, putting that rig we fantasized about on the air. It is a different part of our craft to set up an ad hoc station in the field and work through the night to achieve a common goal. That sounds a lot like Field Day, and with June fast arriving we preparing for the ham radio event of the year. This year we are back at the Marin Rod and Gun Club June 23rd through 24th. I urge you to come out.

What's Happening in Radio

10-10 Int. Open Season PSK Contest, 0000Z, Jun 2 to 2400Z, Jun 3

Kentucky QSO Party, 1400Z, June 2 to 0200Z, Jun 3

West Virginia QSO Party, 1600Z, Jun 16 to 0200Z, Jun 17

ARRL Kids Day 1800Z-2359Z, Jun 16

His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB 1200Z, Jun 23 to 1200Z, Jun 24

See the complete contest listings at:

<http://www.contestcalendar.com>

Guest Speaker

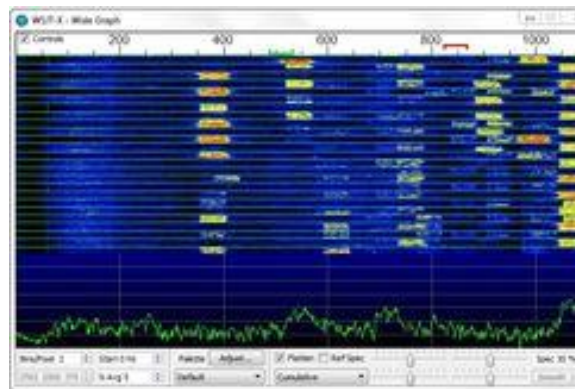
6/8 Kris Backenstose

Over the past few months Kris has built an APRS enabled mobile grooming salon. Kris will describe the engineering challenges and technical details of this effort.

ARRL News

FT8 Activity Bumping Up at Some Expense to Other Modes

Despite largely dismal HF conditions, there is no doubt that the recent FT8 digital protocol has hams on the air. The mode has caught on so quickly that co-developer Joe Taylor expressed surprise last fall at the rapid uptake of FT8 for making contacts on HF bands. Judging by Logbook of The World (LoTW) data, more than 2.3 million FT8 contacts were uploaded in 1 month -- a net gain of 1.2 million contacts on all modes over the same month last year, ARRL Radiosport Manager Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, said. Over the same period, activity in some of the other modes has declined. "Year-to-



date DXCC applications are up by 11% over the same period last year," Fusaro said. "So far, we have processed 898 Worked All States (WAS) applications -- a 72% increase over the same period last year. Of those applications, 347 -- or 39% -- were FT8 endorsements. Application for VUCC are also up by 33% over 2017."

Fusaro said that while some feel that FT8 is "taking over the world," subsuming all other modes, that's not the case. "Activity in the traditional modes of SSB and CW has decreased only slightly, by 10%," he said. "The *real* decrease is in RTTY and PSK activity and in the other *WSP-X* modes. I believe poor propagation would have cut into SSB and CW activity, regardless of the new mode." Anecdotal reports support Fusaro's hard numbers, with wall-to-wall signals surrounding the FT8 watering holes.

Joe Taylor has characterized SSB and CW as "general-purpose modes" that are good for ragchewing, DXing, contesting, disaster communication, and other purposes. On the other hand, he has said, FT8 and the other protocols in the *WSP-X* suite are "special-purpose modes," designed for making reliable, error-free contacts using signals that may be too weak to work using more traditional modes -- and sometimes even too far down in the noise even to hear.

Reprinted with permission from ARRL Letter 5/17/18

Field Day 2017 at Monkey Ranch



Ham Shack



Jerry Foster operating CW station



Lunch Time provided by Marilyn



Putting up the beam antenna

Field Day



Raising the 40 Meter monster beam



Relaxing between operating shifts



Figuring out why it's not working

Phil Dunlap, K6PHD, SK 2018

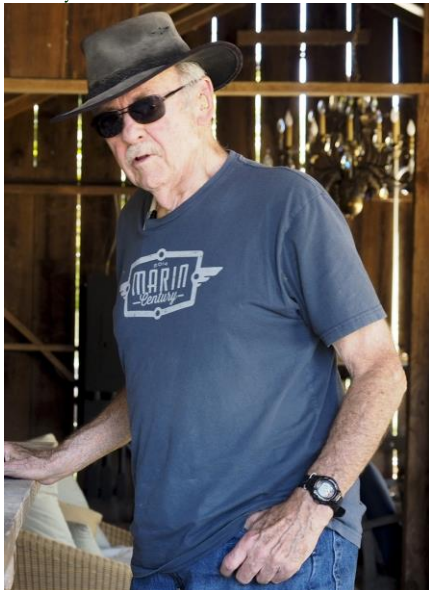
A longtime member of our club passed away recently following hip surgery. Phil was a club member that participated in most of the club activities. He always showed up for Field Day and brought his generator to power our club stations.

He was a regular at monthly club meetings and the Sunday morning informal gatherings at the club house. He participated frequently in our public service events as well.

When I first joined the club in 2014, Phil was the QSA5 Editor. He wrote the newsletter for over ten years and I followed him in that role.

Many of you probably knew Phil better than I did and it was rumored that he had a colorful way with words.

73 to you Phil



Public Service Report Miwok 100k

1. Nature of Activity: Special exercise, Public-Service Event
2. Activity Description: Provided emergency & routine communications for The Miwok 100k, which is a highly competitive trail footrace. Approximately 500 participants 150 volunteers were involved.
3. Places or areas involved: Trails in Mount Tamalpais-Marín Headlands hills of Southern & Central Marin County, California
4. Number of amateurs participating: 21
5. Event start date/time: May 06, 2017 04:00 hrs
6. Event end date/time May 06, 2017 21:00 hrs
7. Duration of event (hours): 17.0 hours
8. Total person-hours: 134
9. Number of repeaters used: 2
10. Estimated person-power cost (134x \$19): \$2,546.00
11. Estimated cost of equipment used: \$10,500.00
12. Total estimated cost of service (10+11): \$13,046.00
13. Nets and/or frequencies used: 147.330 K6GWE/R 443.250 K5GWE/R 439.875 S 144.390 APRS
14. Number of messages handled: est. 550
15. Names of agencies receiving communications support: Miwok 100K, California State Parks, Golden Gate National Recreation Area
16. Call signs of major participants: NZ6J, W6AVW, KM6EZX, WU1Q, K6ETA, KD6SWU, K6SHO, KG6RZQ, KJ6ARL, K6MLF, K6RGI, KK6QPE AI6NF, N6PWD, KF6AKU, KA6BQF, KG6WPN, KM6AOW, KM6LQZ, KM6BON, KG6ATH
17. Other comments: One incident occurred on this event, that required emergency responders.

Amateur Radio organizations providing service: Marin Amateur Radio Society, Sonoma County Radio Amateurs
Location: Marin County, CA
Submitted by:
Robert Randy Jenkins KA6BQF
Date: May 06, 2018

Kris Backenstose submitted this photo of the ultimate mobile VHF, UHF, and possibly moonbounce station.



Treasurer Reports

Marin Amateur Radio Club

BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

As of April 30, 2018

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	76,488.80
Total Current Assets	\$76,488.80
Fixed Assets	58,983.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$135,471.80
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	135,471.80
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$135,471.80

Marin Amateur Radio Club

PROFIT AND LOSS DETAIL

January - April, 2018

DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	SPLIT	AMOUNT	BALANCE
Ordinary Income/Expenses							
Income							
	Donations					\$4,000.00	
	Dues					\$3,266.29	
	Income from club activities					\$470.00	
	Rent					\$16,345.00	
Total for Income						\$24,081.29	
Expenses							
	Awards					\$1,274.06	
	Bank Charges & Fees					\$12.00	
	DSL					\$312.37	
	Food					\$2,459.16	
	Garbage					\$224.34	
	Insurance					\$2,595.76	
	PGE					\$699.00	
	Reimbursable Expenses					\$2,054.49	
	Repairs & Maintenance					\$230.00	
	Taxes & Licenses					\$325.00	
	Telephone					\$1,502.75	
	Utilities					\$426.00	
	Water					\$359.28	
Total for Expenses						\$12,474.21	
Net Income						\$11,607.08	

Note

** Rent includes last 3 months of 2017

REPEATER RESERVE	\$2,090.00
CLUB STATION RESERVE	\$3,090.00
PUBLIC SERVICE	\$2,004.00

** Note these are set aside amounts and they are reflected in the balance sheet totals.

General Meeting Minutes

May 4, 2018

Marin Amateur Radio Society Club Meeting Minutes May 4, 2018

- 7:34 PM President Curtis Ardourel gavels the meeting to order and commences with introductions of all present.
- 7:39 PM The introductions conclude with Curtis' request to the group for any additions or changes to the agenda. There are none and the agenda is adopted with a motion, second, and a vote.
- 7:40 PM The previous meeting minutes as available in QSA-5 were approved with a motion, second, and a vote.
- 7:40 PM Curtis summarizes past board actions most recent. He says that the last MARS board meeting was about technical items with finances, and a public service recap. He is going to change the previous President's "President's Minute" to "Board Actions." Curtis advertises for Antonius from the San Francisco ham club and his SOTA effort, which is "Summits on the Air." Antonius is assembling a number of hikes to Mt. Tam for ham radio operating. Member Jan Leja says that he plans to attend one of Antonius' hikes.
- 7:44 PM Fun with Ham Radio. The MARS RRS which is the Radio Repair Service continues to fix things on Sunday mornings at the Alto clubhouse. They repaired a 200-watt 2 meter amp most recently and encourage members to bring their broken radios to be fixed. John Boyd found an old Kenwood 900 mHz radio that he is using now. Jack Troupe had a table to sell items at the Sonoma Ham Radio market. He was selling boat anchor equipment. Secretary David Chaney discusses the upcoming field day on June 23, and 24 2018 with Redxa at the Marin Rod and Gun Club.
- 7:54 PM New Members. Curtis says that Eric Ferguson KA6USJ is a new member.
- 7:56 PM Secretary's minute. Marin County has written to the club saying that they will be using the Alto clubhouse as a polling location for primary elections on June 5, 2018. There are details about the set-up and take down.
- 7:57 PM Membership is at 109 members or 83% of the dues paying members of last year 2017. Curtis will 'prune' the rolls this weekend and remove former members who have not paid off of the roll. Curtis discusses some of his experience about those who leave the club. Some move away. Some don't find it interesting or that it meets their needs anymore. Curtis has not heard any specific and negative feedback from anyone who has left or from someone else hearing why somebody left. Curtis underscores that quality speakers are the key to robust club meeting turnout and in turn, membership.
- 8:04 PM There is no public service, facilities, education, VE, Old Business, or New Business. Many of the members are home sleeping in order to perform public service at the Miwok 100 race tomorrow morning.

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8:05 PM For the Good of the Order. John Boyd asks about the club repeaters. The digital Yaesu Fusion repeater installation is still on hold. The UHF tones have been changed on INPUT only to 192.8 to reduce interference from others. There is a discussion about the controller settings for the repeaters.

8:05 PM There is a motion, second, and vote by all present to adjourn the meeting.

There was no speaker due to the Miwok 100 race public service.

David Chaney
AA6AE

Board Meeting Minutes

7:36 PM President Curtis Ardourel gavels the meeting to order. He entertains discussion about any additions or corrections.

7:37 PM The meeting agenda is adopted with a motion, second, and vote-all approve.

7:37 PM The MARS board meeting minutes from April 12, 2018 are approved by a motion, second, and vote-all approve.

7:38 PM The President's Minute. Curtis talks about Phil K6PHD who has passed away and is now a silent key. Phil was a wonderful club member, who had spent his career working with newspaper printers. He was reliable at public service events and always gravitated to the race rest stops that had the best refreshments. He managed the generators for club events such as Field Day. He edited the QSA-5 for many years. He was a stickler for correct punctuation, and was referred to kindly as the 'Punctuation Policeman.' Curtis defined Phil as a "Complete Stand-up guy." Treasurer and Board Member Ed Essick will write an obituary for the QSA-5 and take input from club members.

7:44 PM Secretary's report. Mail review.

7:45 PM Treasurer's report. Treasurer Ed Essick reviews PGE costs for the Alto MARS clubhouse where he has documents going back one year and the Marin water district costs, likewise, with records going back ten years. He reports that all bills are now on auto-pay with the exception of the phone bill. A discussion of the rate includes long-distance costs. Board Member Tom Soskin, who works for ATT, discusses long-distance phone rates. The MARS tax return has been filed and Ed is in recent contact with the CPA. Ed would like to move the bank account to the Bank of America Business Advantage plan that eliminates fees if there is more than \$15,000.00 in the account. Ed discusses Gmail setup for the club. He proposes CD investments for the club's money. There is a discussion about the various kinds, time-length, and amounts of CD money investment. Ed will create a proposal for the next meeting, consulting with Curtis for the final breakdown of CD accounts.

7:59 PM There is a motion, second, and unanimous vote to give Treasurer Ed Essick the authority to create and implement a CD investment plan for the MARS clubs current funds.

8:00 PM Treasurer's report continues. Ed is getting comfortable with the Quicken accounting software. It generates good reports.

8:02 PM Membership. Curtis reports that there are 109 members currently and the largest chunk of non-renewals were with those who had taken the Tech license classes. Young hams-kids, have also dropped off from membership for unknown reasons.

8:04 PM Education. Vice-President and Education leader Kris Backenstose reports. Kris has done much work to clean out the back garage to create more room in the clubhouse. He has been in discussion with facilities and building manager Doug Slusher about quarterly classes to teach basic radio skills. He would like to have more communication with club and board members for ideas, and suggests creating a blog and he talks about collaboration software. Kris talks about the

difficulties that he is encountering in finding speakers for the Friday night club membership meetings.

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Tom supports Kris desire for collaboration on a blog but would like to limit comments to club members, and Curtis says that such a blog would require active moderation. Kris will forward the email addresses of past Tech students to Curtis. A long discussion about locating Friday night speakers ensues.

8:26 PM Facilities report. Doug Slusher. Doug has spoken with Jam construction 3 weeks ago, who worked on the inside plumbing repair and they still haven't sent him a bill. Doug is still waiting to hear from Maclaren Roofing about roof repairs and it might require another year before a contractor would be available. The roof is not difficult to repair despite its unusual construction and we won't need to move the tenant out. There are no changes to the repeaters. He is looking for the DMV renewal documents on the comm van.

8:32 PM Guest speaker MARS club member Michael Fischer. Michael recaps the last 2 public service events which went well but were long and hard. The Miwok race demonstrated that the communication van has mechanical problems with the steering and needs to be serviced. Board Member Cal Anbar will consult with a mechanical whom he knows. Michael would like to install a swiveling captains-type chair as the front passenger seat to create more working room in the comm van. He suggests that a replacement antenna for the top of the van could be had for \$100.00. MARS is over-subscribed for all Marin public service events.

8:35 PM VE. No report.

8:36 PM Old Business. The projects to make reward plaques for the clubhouse and winners need working. Curtis talks with Doug to finish this project.

8:37 PM Old Business. Video Recording. No report.

8:37 PM Old Business. Discussion of rent increase for the tenant at the Alto clubhouse upstairs. There is discussion about updating the 2012 lease language with a new document. Curtis can 'wordsmith' the existing lease document but puts it up for discussion on whether or not to consult a lawyer. There is much discussion about various lease language, stock forms, custom forms, legal requirement, past experiences with houses, apartments, HOAs, etc. and the way to create a new lease document for the MARS club and upstairs tenant.

8:46 PM Old Business. Membership cards. Curtis is still seeking design work for a new card.

8:47 PM Old Business. W6SG.net website navigation changes. Tom would like to know if photos could be maintained in a historical section on the site? How about a slideshow presentation of photos or a history of the best photos? Tom says that the homepage is too 'wordy.' The homepage is too cluttered. Curtis tells Tom to create some written recommendations. Michael says that the redesign needs to have current public service information for

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volunteers. Tom would like the website to make public service much more prominent. He would like pictures of the public service leaders so that newcomers will know who is in charge and who to go to at an event. Curtis and Tom agree to work on website

changes on Sunday mornings at the clubhouse.

9:08 PM Public service discussion about signs and safety equipment. Doug has obtained prices for safety vests = 10x at \$10.00 or \$100.00 total; Vista Print made MARS signs of 2 ½ x 4 feet = 10 x at \$40.00 each or \$400.00 total. Michael interjects that the safety vests are paramount for the volunteers. Doug says that the MARS signs (above) have better magnets to hold them up.

9:13 PM There is a motion, second, and vote by all to approve the purchase of safety vests and MARS signs.

9:14 PM Club Member and Public Service leader Rob Rowlands requests a new antenna for the comm van because the existing antenna is broken.

He requests \$100.00. Doug says that a new antenna should be a ¼ wave 2 -Meter antenna in order to hit the repeater.

9:18 PM There is a motion, second, and vote-all approve to spend \$100.00 on a new antenna.

9:19 PM New Business. Secretary David Chaney discusses an upcoming Field Day meeting with Redxa representatives.

9:23 PM New Business. By-Laws. No discussion.

9:23 PM New Business. A discussion about RFI problems. Members are encouraged to contact MARS member Steve 'SDY' who has done much research and practice into RFI mitigation.

9:30 PM For the Good of the Order. David asks for help cleaning up the Alto clubhouse prior to its use as a polling station for the June elections on June 5, 2018. Michael and Rob volunteer to help on Sunday. Michael and Doug have been discussing a regular meeting to help hams with their handheld radios (HT) on the 4th Sunday morning of the months, and to call it 2-Meter Critical Mass. This would be another MARS public service. It would be helpful since most new hams struggle with their new handheld radio channel programming.

9:33 PM There is a motion, second, and vote to adjourn the meeting. All approve.

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.

Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:

President

Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS 510-595-3494

Vice President

Kris Backenstose, KK6AYC

Secretary

David Chaney, AA6AE

Treasurer:

Ed Essick, K6ELE 456-1715

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Marc Bruvry KF6VNT 492-9292

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Tom Soskin, W6MTS

Education Chair

Randy Jenkins

Kris Backenstose Instruction Team Leader.

VE Liaison

Randy Jenkins

Building Manager

Doug Slusher

Trustee for W6SG

Mitch Martin WU1Q

Trustee for K6GWE

Doug Slusher KF6AKU

Sunday Emergency Nets

Mark Bruvry

DX Representative of ARRL

Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829

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Rob Rowlands, NZ6J

Michael Fischer, K6MLF

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HF Sunday Net Control

Mike Ransom, AI6II

VHF Sunday Net Control

Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH