



QSA-5

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

June 2018

Presidents Corner

It is July already... How did that happen? Field Day is behind us and by all reports a success. We were back at the Marin Rod and Gun Club under slightly different rules. I want to thank everyone who participated and a special thank you to David Chaney AA6EE who has taken on the role of chairman of the Field Day Committee.

We are half way through our Public Service calendar and I want to consider what we as individuals and as a club do in these events. There is a simple answer of course, that we practice our craft as communicators in an extraordinary situation. That simple answer is true and on the face of it is a good enough reason for us to participate but there are other reasons as well.

The groups that organize the events we support generally have a few reasons in common. Raising funds for a group or cause, making their group or cause more visible to the public, and doing so in a way that is really cool, getting outside in beautiful countryside and doing something physical. Creating an experience for their supporters. Because we are there we are a part of that experience.

When we are participating in an event we are representing the organizers of the event, we are representing our club, and we are representing ourselves as part of a group experience. We are not the stars of the show, we are not even the extras we are the grips and props people and as such we are expected to be professional in the way we provide our services and interact with event organizers and participants.

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ARRL News

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Field Day

Treasurer Report

General Meeting Minutes

Board Minutes

From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

What's it like to go on a DXpedition?

This month a hardy group of DXer's have landed on Baker Island in the South Pacific to activate this remote island for hams to contact. This uninhabited island (atoll) is about half way between Hawaii and Australia. It is a small atoll of less than one square mile, very flat and sandy. It is tropical, hot, windy, and very sunny. It is a territory of the U.S. and a wildlife refuge, which requires the permission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to visit.

So why would fourteen hams volunteer to activate this remote spot? There are a large number of hams who enjoy the excitement of contacting these remotely located operators. Over 10,000 contacts were made by the operators on the island in the first 24 hours of operation. And the hams on the DXpedition share that excitement in working all of those hams in the world who want the contact.

A popular web site, Clublog lists Baker Island as the 5th most wanted contact in the world. This is on a list of 340 possible entities that a ham can work. By the way North Korea is the number 1 most wanted contact, but that's not likely to have DXpedition anytime soon.

So just like adventure minded people want to climb Mt. Everest, adventure minded hams want to go where it is difficult to install and operate a ham radio station and make contacts to the rest of the world. Thanks to these adventurers we can sit at home in a comfy chair and hopefully make a contact with them to add another new one to our DX list.

Professional is a charged word when used in regards to Amateur Radio since being an amateur is the antithesis of being a professional. Merriam-Webster defines Professional as:

1. *a: of, relating to, or characteristic of a profession b: engaged in one of the learned professions c(1); characterized by or conforming to the technical or ethical standards of a profession. c(2) exhibiting a courteous, conscientious, and generally businesslike manner in the workplace.*
2. *a: participating for gain or livelihood in an activity for gain or livelihood in an activity or field of endeavor often engaged in by amateurs.*

The definition goes on from there, but it is the second sense of the word where the pecuniary appears. Except for part b of sense one that is a pretty good definition for how we should behave when participating in our public service events. As the Marin Amateur Radio Society is listed as a sponsor of these events and as our volunteers are integral contributors to the experience the organizers are creating for their participants we feel that guidance about expectations for behavior of our volunteers is worth stating. The Public Service Committee and the board are developing a Job Description and Code of Conduct for our volunteers.

My natural reaction to that is "We have too damn many rules already!" but then I breath and think that in serving as part of someone else's event, its not our show, its there show and everyone will have a better time if we all keep that in mind. In the near future the texts of these to documents will be finalized. I expect to get, and I encourage your feedback.

73 de WA6UDS

What's Happening in Radio

DL-DX RTTY Contest, 1100Z, Jul 7 to 1059Z, Jul 8
IARU HF World Championship, 1200Z, Jul 14 to 1200Z, Jul 1

DMC RTTY Contest, 1200Z, Jul 21 to 1200Z, Jul 22
CQC Great Colorado Gold Rush, 2000Z-2159Z, Jul 22
RSGB IOTA Contest, 1200Z, Jul 28 to 1200Z, Jul 29

See the complete contest listings at:

<http://www.contestcalendar.com>

New Members

John Kristian, KM6LQZ, Los Altos
Philip Erdberg, N6EAW, Greenbrae
Bill Aldrich, KM6THY, Novato
Stephen Grenholm, KM6TTH, San Francisco

ARRL News

Experiments Look to Leverage Low-Latency HF to Shave Microseconds off Trade Times

Experimental operations now under way on HF appear aimed at leveraging low-latency HF propagation to shave microseconds from futures market trades and gain a competitive edge in a field where millionths of a second can mean winning or losing. On June 18, *Bloomberg* reported on a secretive antenna facility near Maple Park, in Kane County, Illinois, and speculated that futures traders might be looking to take advantage of lower-latency HF propagation over state-of-the-art microwave links and undersea cables, where even the slightest path delay could compromise a transaction. The facility is not far from a major futures data center.

As the *Bloomberg* article explained, "Rapidly sending data from there to other important market centers can help the speediest traders profit from price differences for related assets. Those money-making opportunities often last only tiny fractions of a second."

Radio amateur Bob Van Valzah, KE9YQ, said in a May blog post that he recently stumbled onto the first evidence of HF radio futures trading at a site in West Chicago, Illinois. There, he spotted HF log-period dipole arrays on a pole, and a microwave dish he determined was aimed at a Chicago Mercantile Exchange (CME) data center. Additional research led him to the antenna facility in Maple Park, which also sported a microwave dish apparently aimed at the CME data center. Two approximately 170-foot towers on the site support a directional wire array for HF. Van Valzah is a performance engineer on leave from the high-frequency -- no pun intended -- trading field.

Bloomberg said the company behind the Kane County project is New Line Networks, LLC, a joint venture of Chicago-based Jump Trading, LLC, and New York-based Virtu Financial, Inc.

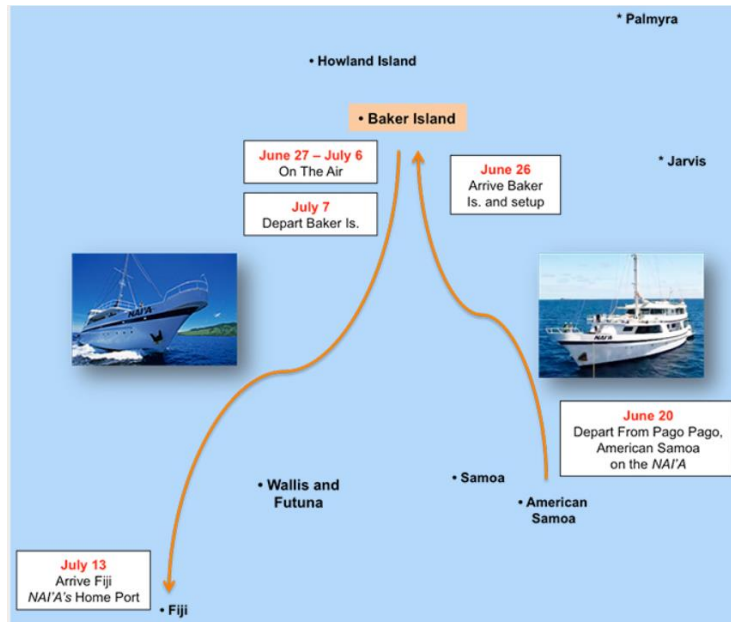
Sites listed on the license are Aurora and Chicago, Illinois, in addition to Homer, Alaska, and Secaucus, New Jersey -- home to several financial firms and right across the Hudson River from many more in New York City.

The Experimental-licensed systems use a variety of frequency shift-keying modes, including FSK, AFSK, QPSK, and 8-PSK, on frequencies ranging from about 6 MHz to 24 MHz and power levels from 20 kW ERP to nearly 50 kW ERP, depending on the Experimental license in question. Van Valzah pointed out in his blog post that, while HF is low bandwidth, unreliable, and expensive, "you can't beat it for [low] latency."

DXpedition Team Sets Sail for Baker Island

The KH1/KH7Z Baker Island DXpedition team is on its way to Baker Island. The DXpedition commemorates the 81st anniversary of aviator Amelia Earhart's disappearance on July 2, 1937, near Baker and Howland islands, as well as "the commitment and sacrifices" of the Hui Panalā'au (loosely translates to "society of colonists") -- young high school graduates from Hawaii who were sent to colonize Baker, Howland, and Jarvis islands from 1935 until 1942, and who began construction of a runway for Earhart to land in 1937. The islands were bombed the day after Pearl Harbor, killing two, and the colonists were removed by the US Coast Guard in 1942.

The KH1/KH7Z Team departs for Baker Island.



As reported, KH1/KH7X will employ FT8 digital mode to find openings that might not be obvious and to serve as a beacon. "When we find an opening, we will put as many radios/modes/ops on as we can," the team said. The KH1/KH7X group helped to develop the *WSJT-X* software version that incorporates an FT8 "DXpedition Mode" (version 1.9.0). The DXpedition said using FT8 DXpedition mode may allow the operators to "expand" the bands they are able to use at this point in the solar cycle. The DXpedition's band plan page includes a guide to using FT8 DXpedition Mode.

The Dateline DX Association (DDXA) is sponsoring the DXpedition to Baker Island. The Pacific Islands Refuges and Monuments Office of the US Fish and Wildlife Service granted the DDXA permission to land and operate on the uninhabited island.



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Baker Island Update

"Baker is brutal!" That was the initial assessment from the Baker Island KH1/KH7Z DXpedition team, which arrived at the uninhabited South Pacific atoll on June 26 at local sunrise, following a 4-day sea voyage. The KH1/KH7Z team started up early on June 27, initially with four stations on the air, with additional stations and modes, including FT8, joining the fray by June 28.

"Island conditions are extremely hot and difficult. Long work periods in the sun are challenging," a June 27 DXpedition news update reported. The team reported that the landing "was not too bad, but the island is an oven," with the temperature well above 100 °F by mid-morning. Despite challenging tides, the crew of the *Nai'a* was able to offload all tents, generators, and emergency supplies. After the initial landing team left "totally exhausted," a fresh crew arrived to put up the tents for sleeping and move radios, antennas, and generators to the storage and operating tents.

"They say it never rains on Baker," the DXpedition noted in its June 28 update. "At midnight, giant squalls came through, knocking out one of our three antennas that we worked so hard to get up. We worked through the morning and [now] have 6 stations available."

Public Service Report - Dispea Race

Our communications between net control and your stations went without a hitch—thanks both to the marvelous Tam West repeater and also to your skills, your thoughtfulness, your excellent radio-voices, and your aplomb.

- Barry Spitz, the fabled finish-line announcer, got the information on early leaders thru each station he needed to keep the pre-race crowd excited and informed.
- The organizers got the information about scratches and drops that they needed to keep track of each runner.
- Emergency-responders got the information they needed to address the accident/injury/exhaustion/illness situations as they developed.
- The coordination between the Incident Commander and his team in the front of the Sheriff's comm-van and our net control team in the back of the van went smoothly, with mutual respect in evidence throughout the day. Marin County Battalion Chief McTigue gave us sincere appreciation.

Thanks to you, one of our premier events of the season is now behind us. Thanks especially to Brian, Milt and John, for hiking out to their respective stations last week to suss out their assignments—an investment that paid off. Also thanks to Robin, who worked her first-ever ham radio event; she was tossed into the chaos of net control, and impressed all of us with her calm, quick-study performance. And to the two hikers: Dale and Michael—their reports were essential to the command-post's knowledge of situations in the field.

As always, there are improvements that we can make—I have already started a list. Please send us your own suggestions, your after-action reports, and your photos.

But, whew! All went well because of you. And you. And you. Thanks again.

Oh, before I sign off: the last runner on the course, number 341 (or was it 431?) was OK. As I passed by Pantoll, he was being released from the ambulance and was getting (pale and shaky, to be sure) into his family's car to be driven home. No word yet on the status of the person who was helicoptered out from the beach (one of our net control-team's duties was to help clear the landing zone, a first.)

We look forward to your suggestions and your photos. AND, of course, we look forward to work with you all again in future events.

Cordially,

Michael K6MLF



Net Control inside Sheriff Command Van

Field Day 2018 at Marin Rod and Gun Club



How does this thing go together?



Setting up the beam



Where are we going with this now that's its assembled?



Looks like it's going here

Well now it's on the mast



Time to get the generator working



It's a big beam



Finally the beam is ready to use



How high is that?



Let's make some contacts



Chef Kal says let's eat



We are ready for breakfast

2MCM Radio Practice Friends

Please join me Saturday, July 14, 2018, from 1000 hours to 1200 hours, at Spreckels Lake, 36th Ave. & Fulton St. for our next radio practice. Mark your calendars now.

Bring a clipboard, paper, pencil/pen, your radio's operating manual and your radio with battery fully charged. Everyone will use their radio, ask questions and help each other. Dress for the unpredictable San Francisco weather – bring two layers, hat and sunscreen.

73 (Best regards),

Peter McElmury AA6SF

Treasurer Reports

Marin Amateur Radio Club

PROFIT AND LOSS

June 2018

	TOTAL
▼ Income	
Rent	7,125.00
Total Income	\$7,125.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$7,125.00
▼ Expenses	
DSL	52.83
Food	176.48
Garbage	37.39
Telephone	400.60
Utilities	386.00
Total Expenses	\$1,053.30
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$6,071.70
NET INCOME	\$6,071.70

Marin Amateur Radio Club

BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

As of June 30, 2018

	TOTAL
▼ ASSETS	
▼ Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	82,446.76
Total Current Assets	\$82,446.76
Fixed Assets	58,983.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$141,429.76
▼ LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
▼ Liabilities	
▼ Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	626.98
Total Current Liabilities	\$626.98
Total Liabilities	\$626.98
Equity	140,802.78
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$141,429.76

Building Account

Balance 781.66 – no changes from May

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.

Marin Amateur Radio Club

BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

As of June 30, 2018

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	82,446.76
Total Current Assets	\$82,446.76
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$141,429.76
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	626.98
Total Current Liabilities	\$626.98
Total Liabilities	\$626.98
Equity	140,802.78
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$141,429.76

Accrual basis Monday, July 2, 2018 01:33 PM GMT-07:00

General Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2018

Marin Amateur Radio Society Club Meeting Minutes June 1, 2018

- 7:37 PM Board Member Tom Soskin gavels the club meeting to order in the absence of President Curtis Ardourel per the instructions of Vice-President Kris Backenstose. Tom leads introductions around the room. Jan Leja uses his honorary Call Sign WB6SPX/C4 from Santiago, Chile and he talks about his amateur radio exploits in Chile.
- 7:41 PM The former minutes are adopted with a motion, second, and vote.
- 7:41 PM The President's Minute. Tom invites members and guests to come to the Pampanito submarine in San Francisco Bay for a CW morse code event held this Saturday and Sunday. Kris mentions the passing of friend and silent key Phil Dunlap. Tom mentions that Phil was the first person that he met in the club, and often was the first person at the clubhouse on Sunday mornings. Phil always used the identifier "SAG 22" at public service events. Kris mentions the MDARC Field Day event at the Heather Farm in Vacaville. It is at the Nut Tree Airport.
- 7:47 PM Fun with Ham Radio. Tom leads a discussion wherein members and guests talk about the fun they have had with their equipment in the last month. Steve Smith talks about and shows a network Arduino analyzer that he built from plans. It uses a \$25 signal generator available from Hong Kong on the internet. He explains its construction and use. He recommends that anyone who orders from Hong Kong select "E-Packet" shipping in order to track the shipment. The device is called an "SNA Jr." The total cost for the project was \$80. One may use the device to test resonant circuits and he has his kit connected to a small inductor and capacitor for demonstration. Building and Facilities manager Doug Slusher worked with the Davis Double Century race in communications. The race spanned from Davis to Lake Berryessa and upper and lower Clearlake. He finished at 1 AM. The race used a digipeater on a circling airplane for APRS. Larry Bradley, who is the club president of MDARC explained the humorous story of interference to the MDARC repeater wherein sleuths and fox hunters from his own club deciphered the code in the QRM and discovered his own call sign. His cross-band radio was transmitting in error. The problem is fixed. Tom and club member Jan Leja shared Baofeng radio stories. Tom ordered them for his ATT worker's crew. Jan was on a cruise ship where the workers used Baofengs. Kris shared about his testing of an ATAS-25 antenna that had an insufferable SWR of 1/12! He is still puzzling about the problem. Club member Jack Troupe says that 6-meters has been open and Kris asks him about the best modes for that band. The Fun with Ham Radio discussion lasted until 8:11 PM.

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8:12 PM New Member Eric who is also with MDARC was introduced and tells
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his hobby pathway. He received a Novice License in 1982, but left the hobby until 4 years ago due to career and family. He forgot a lot of his morse code CW skills but was nudged by an elmer to come back to the hobby and he has upgraded now from Technician to General now. He hopes to work for his Amateur Extra license. He worked for 27 years for the telephone company, rebuilding BART cars, and also for Enterprise Rent-A-Car. He brings considerable troubleshooting electronic skills back to the hobby.

8:21 PM There is no secretary's report or treasurer's report. The education report from Kris is that there is an available 3D laser cutter and printer at the clubhouse for use.

8:22 PM Clubhouse, Facilities, and Public Service. Doug talks about some clean up at the clubhouse noting that Marin County will use the Alto clubhouse for the June 5, 2018 primary elections as a polling station. The upcoming Dipsea and Double Dipsea races are fully staffed. Field Day is upcoming on June 23 and 24 at the Marin Rod and Gun Club.

8:23 PM VE. The next test session at the Alto clubhouse by Volunteer Examiners is on Saturday morning August 11, 2018.

8:23 PM Old and New Business. None.

8:24 PM For the Good of the Order. There is a discussion about Field Day,

8:25 PM The meeting is adjourned with a motion, second, and vote.

Board Meeting Minutes June 14, 2018

There was a not quorum, so no business was voted on. Board Members present are Cal Anber, Curtis Ardrouel, Ed Essick, and Mitch Martin. Also, present members Michael Fischer, Andrew Musselman, Doug Slusher, and Randy Jenkins.

Discussions were held proposed Volunteer Radio Operator Standards and a Volunteer Code of Conduct, with everybody contributing.

Everyone went home about 08:32.

Respectfully Submitted,
Randy Jenkins, Acting Secretary KA6BQF

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 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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Tom Soskin, W6MTS

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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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Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS 510-595-3494

HF Sunday Net Control

Mike Ransom, AI6II

VHF Sunday Net Control

Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH