

# Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

November 2018

## Presidents Corner

It's cold and dark and raining on this December first. Winter like I remember it growing up around here (put down your Fowlers or ALA, I know it should be "as" I remember but in this context "like" feels right) is in a way very comforting. We have had too many disasters both man-made and natural in the last twelve months. The time feels right for a good old fashioned holiday season. The time for the warm and heady brew of family, friends, football (ok, maybe not if you root for local clubs), food, looking to the future, and lest we forget the eggnog is upon us.

To contribute to the holiday atmosphere don't forget the Marin Amateur Radio Society Christmas dinner that is coming up on Wednesday 12 December. We have a lot in store for you. Naturally there will be Turkey and of course Ham and all the regular fixins.

The dinner will also be the December membership meeting which I promise to keep brief. There will also be the usual raffle and a silent auction of some choice ham gear that has been donated to the club. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Please let us know by sending an email to [rsvp@w6sg.net](mailto:rsvp@w6sg.net) or just go the web site and prepay at [http://w6sg.net/christmas\\_dinner.php](http://w6sg.net/christmas_dinner.php) I need to let the caterer know how many we are expecting. The cost is \$25 per person if you prepay or rsvp and \$30 at the door. There are also a few "scholarships" available if cost is an issue, particularly, if you want to bring a potential ham. Apply to me if you need a "scholarship" at [wa6uds@w6sg.net](mailto:wa6uds@w6sg.net). From past experience I expect an enjoyable evening.

*ntinued on page 2*

ARRL News

Treasurers Report

What's Happening In Radio

Christmas Dinner

## From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

We lost two of our club members this month. John Boyd, KE6ORI and Mike Ransom, AI6II. Mike passed away on November 17<sup>th</sup> after fighting a seven year battle with Multiple Myeloma. Right until the end Mike had a very positive attitude and he continued to run our club Sunday HF net as net control operator.

Those of you who new Mike will remember an avid CW operator, CW teacher, DX chaser, and regular at the Sunday club house radio repair group.

Mike was awarded ham of the year by the club for his leadership in teaching the CW class, starting up the Sunday radio repair group, and establishing the "boat anchor" (antique radio) station in the club radio room.

Mike was a close personal friend of mine as well as colleague for over 35 years. We both shared a passion for ham radio and DXing. We had a friendly contest over who could work the most countries, which I lost as he had over 300 worked to my 225.

73's to Mike



As of the last day of 2018 we have 131 members, up from 128 in 2017, 110 in 2016 and 93 in 2015. A trend that is going in the right direction. A forward looking 7 people have already paid for 2019. You will soon be receiving your voting email for the board election and the renewal reminder email though I don't suspect you will print either and hang them on the venetian blinds.

I do need to pass along some sad tidings, John Boyd KE6ORI became a silent key this week. John was a stalwart member of the club serving on the board many terms and as club president. He was one of those people who once he took on a task you knew it would be taken care of and done well. Someone we old timers called a stand-up guy. His contributions to the club go way back and are extensive. His point of view was always unique. I for one will miss him.

### What's Happening in Radio

ARRL 10-Meter Contest, 0000Z, Dec 8 to 2400Z, Dec 9  
OK DX RTTY Contest, 0000Z-2400Z, Dec 15  
ARRL Rookie Roundup, CW1800Z-2359Z, Dec 16  
DARC Christmas Contest, 0830Z-1059Z, Dec 26

### Free Antenna

Hy-Tower HF Vertical Antennas AV-18HT. Antenna is down and located in Fremont. Condition unknown.  
Contact Joy 510-894-6658 for details.

### North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass Group

The group will meet on Sunday December 16th to practice programming radios for repeaters and PLs "on the fly." On display will be a wide variety of antenna and coax connectors and adaptors for radios. Michael Fischer will bring a "go-box:" a radio, battery, solar charger and antenna system for setting up a 2-meter portable system out in the field. Meetings are held at the Marin Civic Center. Contact Michael at 415 519 2201 cell for more information.

## ARRL News

### Camp Fire

The Camp Fire a call up of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES®) members for communication support.. As multiple shelters opened to assist evacuees, five Sacramento Valley ARES groups were called out to support communication between the Red Cross Disaster Operations Center (DOC) and the shelters.



**Sacramento Valley ARES volunteer Neil Bossard, N6CNY, is among those active in Northern California. [Photo courtesy of Greg Kruckewitt, KG6SJT]**

Utilizing mutual assistance, more than 20 ARES members from five ARES groups are supporting the shelters. ARES members have also been tasked by Red Cross to shadow Red Cross delivery vehicles to provide communication in the mountain areas to the shelters.

ARES communication at the shelters has been carried out using voice, *Winlink*, and email to pass shelter counts, and tactical messages between the shelter and the Red Cross Disaster Operations Center and Cal Office of Emergency Services.

The Red Cross supported ARES at the shelters with hot spots and backup radios.

Working 12-hour shifts, Sacramento Valley Section District Emergency Coordinator 3 Michael Joseph, KK6ZGB, has been staffing the Red Cross radio station as net control for the DOC, passing messages and tracking ARES personnel. Sacramento ARES members have been pitching in as needed. Joseph also has been coordinating ARES deployments as needed.

*Reprinted with permission ARRL letter 11/15/18*

## Christmas Dinner and Party 2017



## New Release of FT8 for Contesting

The popular FT8 digital mode is being improved to support more meaningful exchanges and contests. The new version uses 77 bits per message to allow:

1. NA VHF Contest operation with full and transparent support of grid locators and "/R" (Rover) callsigns.
  2. EU VHF Contest operation with the exchange of 6-digit locators, QSO serial numbers, and "/P" (portable) callsigns.
  3. ARRL Field Day operation with standard Field Day exchanges such as "6A SNJ".
  4. ARRL RTTY Roundup operation with standard contest exchanges such as "579 NJ" or "559 0071".
  5. Compound and nonstandard callsigns (up to 11 characters); no need for distinctions about "Type 1" or "Type 2" prefixes/suffixes.
  6. A special "telemetry" message format for exchange of arbitrary information up to 71 bits.
  7. All features of FT8 DXpedition mode, as in WSJT-X v1.9.1.
7. Color highlighting of decoded messages provides worked-before status for callsigns, grid locators, and DXCC entities on a "by band" basis. Color highlighting can also identify stations that have (or have not) uploaded their logs to "Logbook of the World" (LoTW) within the past year.

Enhancements to the FT8 decoder ensure that in most situations decoding sensitivity is slightly better than for the previous versions. Symbol rates and occupied bandwidths are the same as before, and false-decode rates are significantly lower.

*Adapted from WSJT-X2.0 New Features*

## Bouvet Island DXpedition

A new team of hams, the Rebel DX Group, is assembling in Cape Town South Africa to launch another attempt at activating one of the world's most remote and inhospitable islands. Currently the team is going through cold water rescue training, Zodiac launch drills, shelter construction, etc.



The exact departure date for the team of 8 hams is not set at this time. The team will encounter 24-50 MPH winds and freezing temps of -3F to 24F if they launch in the month of December.



## Christmas Dinner and Party Wednesday December 12<sup>th</sup>

Be sure to sign up for our annual Christmas dinner and party. Rervations are going fast! You can pay online on the website or at the door. Please RSVP if you plan to pay at the door so we can get an accurate attendance count.

# MARIN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY

RAFFLE PRIZES  
SILENT AUCTION  
GOOD FOOD



## DECEMBER 12TH, 2018

LOCATION: 27 SHELL RD. MILL VALLEY

FUN STARTS @ 5:30PM - DINNER @ 6:30PM

Save money if you RSVP by 11/30  
\$25 per person RSVP or \$30 at the door

EMAIL [rsvp@w6sg.net](mailto:rsvp@w6sg.net)

YOU CAN PAY ONLINE BY VISITING  
[W6SG.NET/CHRISTMAS\\_DINNER.PHP](http://W6SG.NET/CHRISTMAS_DINNER.PHP)

# Marin Amateur Radio Club

## PROFIT AND LOSS BY MONTH

November 1 - December 1, 2018

	NOV 2018	DEC 1, 2018	TOTAL
▼ Income			
Donations	0.00		\$0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
GROSS PROFIT	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
▼ Expenses			
Car & Truck	39.49		\$39.49
DSL	52.83		\$52.83
Food	1,484.76		\$1,484.76
Garbage	42.73		\$42.73
Other Business Expenses	3,264.75		\$3,264.75
Telephone	324.89		\$324.89
Utilities	158.00		\$158.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,367.45</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$5,367.45</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$ -5,367.45</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$ -5,367.45</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$ -5,367.45</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$ -5,367.45</b>

**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**

### **November, 2018**

No minutes submitted.

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

### **November, 2018**

No minutes submitted.

**Marin Amateur Radio Society W6SG.NET, [membership@w6sg.net](mailto: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 signup 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

**Board Members**

Curtis Ardourel, W6UDS, 510-290-6069

Cal Anber N6TIA 209-275-5252

Kris Backenstose, KK6AYC

Marc Bruvry KF6VNT 492-9292

David Chaney, AA6AE

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Mitch Martin, WU1Q, 415-456-

0200, [m4bandit@icloud.com](mailto:m4bandit@icloud.com)

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

**Public Service Co-ordinators**

Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089

Rob Rowlands, NZ6J

Michael Fischer, K6MLF

**Membership**

Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS

**Editor of QSA-5**

Ed Essick K6ELE 456-1715

[e.essick@comcast.net](mailto:e.essick@comcast.net)

**ARRL San Francisco Section Manager**

Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG

**WEBMASTER**

Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS 510-595-3494

**HF Sunday Net Control**

Mike Ransom, AI6II

**VHF Sunday Net Control**

Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH