

Presidents Corner

In a couple of days a new year will dawn. We can hope the world as a whole will be easier to deal with in 2019 than it was in 2018. Most of that is out of our control. As far as the club is concerned, we are in pretty good shape.

Our membership reached 132 which is the highest number since I have been membership chair. We had a very successful public service season and the new public service committee seems to be doing a great job. The public service committee has also started a monthly critical mass event at the civic center to help members gain new skills before they venture into public service.

Our club social events the picnic and Christmas dinner were both well received and enjoyable. Our repeater systems are working well and we are poised to bring up a fusion hybrid, digital and analog, UHF repeater system in 2019. Our election was a success and we are set to have a very good board of directors who will have to put up with me one way or another.

The world, like many a contester, never sleeps and activities are coming up fast. Friday the fourth of January is our next meeting and we are looking forward to a new speaker Marcel Stieber AI6MS who will talk about Solar powered stations. The Public Service Debrief luncheon is on track for March 2 although this is not a formal announcement. Currently we have 11 MARS Public Services events on the calendar. We are looking at a new system for emailing QSA-5 when I align the mailing list with current members. We are hoping to upgrade the club station in 2019 as well. All and all 2019 promises to be busy and interesting year for our club.

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ARRL News

Treasurers Report

What's Happening In Radio

Christmas Party 2018

North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass

From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

What our Club is All About

We end the year with a record number of club members. We have a great club that offers something for everyone who is interested in ham radio.

In my six years in the club most of those club members who show up for the events and volunteer to assist are often the same group of familiar faces. In this New Year I would encourage those of you who have not participated much in club activities to do so. It's a great way to support the club and meet club members.

Club activities include our public service program, education program, Field Day, monthly club meetings, board meetings, North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass radio training, annual picnic, and Sunday clubhouse informal meetings.

We also need volunteers to help with club events and club house maintenance. So if you are new to the club or one of our "silent members", think about participating in some way. I know this is how I met so many great people in the club, learned a lot about our hobby, and developed friendships based on our common interest in radio.

I would like to personally thank those club members who always show up to participate and help when needed.

Cal Anber for cooking at Field Day and this year taking over the Christmas party gift purchases and dinner help.

Milt Hyams Sr. for his work in reviewing on our club bylaws and rental agreements.

David Chaney for his work with the Marin Rod and Gun club to secure our Field Day location and continuing to produce our meeting minutes from his new QTH in the central valley.

Kris Backenstose for coordinating/developing our education program and license classes.

Tom Soskin for always showing up to help maintain the club house.

Mitch Martin for working to get our club station updated.

Marc Bruvry and **Jan Leja** for leading the Sunday repair group.

Steve Smith for developing, sourcing, putting together 10 kits for the Sunday construction projects and leading us through the construction process and troubleshooting our kits.

On a less rosy note 2018 has been a year that has seen the departure of a number of longtime friends. Phil Dunlap K6PHD long time editor of QSA-5, The generator guy at numerous Field Days, the self-styled purveyor of Bellywash, and a man with a dry and a bit salty wit. He schooled me that 73 means Best Wishes and therefore should not be followed by an s.

Mike Ransom AI6II, a hams ham, a great teacher and mentor, a man who raised the quality of our bible classes to the level we now expect. He set an example most of us can only aspire to.

John Boyd KE6ORI. I think his aspiration was to have as many antennas on his truck as there are on the Mt Tam repeater site. John was a stand up guy who you could ask to do something and know that it would be done and done well. His last bit of work was getting the club logo and information on the comm truck. As a former fire fighter he was always on us about compliance, though we had to remind him we did not have a Lucasfilm budget.

Daniel Dufficy KH8AF a man with a whole collection of hats. He was the club's insurance agent. Dan and Doug engineered and built the simulcast repeater system. Dan was also available for advice both technical and organizational. I will miss these fellows and to misquote Isaac Newton "If we have seen further it is by standing on the shoulders of Giants"

What's Happening in Radio

ARRL Kids Day, 1800Z-2359Z, Jan 5

ARRL RTTY Roundup: 1800Z, Jan 5 to 2400Z, Jan 6

North American QSO Party, CW, 1800Z, Jan 12 to 0559Z, Jan 13

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

ARRL January VHF Contest, 1900Z, Jan 19 to 0359Z, Jan 21

Winter Field Day 1900Z, Jan 26 to 1900Z, Jan 27

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.

New Club Members

Welcome Adam Vasquez, WA6AVW, Larkspur

Steve Toquinto for running the Sunday VHF net.

Doug Slusher for keeping our repeaters maintained and on the air and being a mentor for all those who want to be net control operators.

Curtis Ardourel for leading our club, maintaining the club databases, keeping our website updated, and all of the other things he does that no one else wants to do.

ARRL News

ARRL's Logbook of The World Tops 1 Billion QSO Records

As of December 19, more than 1 billion contact records have been entered into ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW) system. And, while 1 billion QSO records represents a significant milestone, a more important statistic may be the nearly 187 million contacts confirmed via LoTW over its 15-year history.

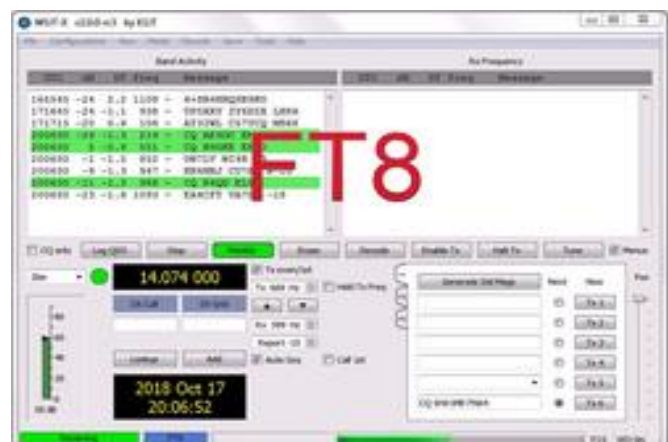
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First FT8 Roundup is a Huge Hit

The first FT8 Roundup over the December 1 - 2 weekend [attracted](#) some 1,300 logs from those taking advantage of the ever-more-popular digital protocol. This, despite its having been announced on fairly short notice and with other events such as the ARRL 160-Meter Contest on the same weekend. More than 400 of the logs were from US radio amateurs in the 48 contiguous states, plus the District of Columbia. Overall, some 131,200 contacts were recorded. Participants from 91 countries submitted logs, testifying to the fact that FT8 is not just a US phenomenon.

"The FT8 Roundup was the last shakedown for the *WSJT-X* 2.0-rc5 beta software," said well-known RTTY contesting enthusiast and expert Don Hill, AA5AU, an FT8 cosponsor with Ed Muns, W0YK. "It performed with no major complications." The general availability release of *WSJT-X* 2.0 is now out, and it's not backward compatible with *WSJT-X* 1.9 or earlier versions. Developer Joe Taylor, K1JT, has urged users to upgrade by January 1 to what now is the new world standard.

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Christmas Dinner and Party 2018



The Christmas party was well attended and the caterer provided a great dinner.

Annual Awards

Jerry Foster, Hi Roberts Award
Steve Toquinto, John Butler Award

North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass

On rainy and windy December 16th, thirteen of us gathered under the arch of the Civic Center to demonstrate several go-box radio setups (thanks to Rich, Milt and Michael,) check out several antenna arrangements, and learn about different coax cables. Doug KF6AKU demonstrated the different coax connectors: SMA (both genders), BNC, SO239/PL259, N-type, barrels, and right-angles.

Doug promised a box of coax connectors to one of the lucky hams who returns next month for our January 20th North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass.

At our January meeting, we will (finally) practice programming our HT radios “on the fly” for a frequency + PL tone. We will then split up into teams scattered around the Civic Center Lagoon and simulate a disaster, with teams receiving direction and reporting in what they observe to the command post. Before breaking up, we will do a quick “hot wash” to evaluate the exercise and to emphasize radio protocol best practices.



Marin Amateur Radio Club

BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

As of December 31, 2018

	TOTAL
▼ ASSETS	
▼ Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	76,775.58
Total Current Assets	\$76,775.58
Fixed Assets	58,983.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$135,758.58
▼ LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
▼ Liabilities	
▼ Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	626.98
Total Current Liabilities	\$626.98
Total Liabilities	\$626.98
Equity	135,131.60
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$135,758.58

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

December, 2018

No minutes submitted.

Board Meeting Minutes

November, 2018

Marin Amateur Radio Society Board Meeting Minutes November 8, 2018

7:30 PM President Curtis Ardourel calls the meeting to order. He will entertain any additions to the meeting agenda. A member wants to talk about LED versus florescent lights at the clubhouse. Curtis will add that discussion about replacing the ceiling florescent lights. The agenda is adopted by a motion, second, and unanimous votes. The minutes of the October 11, 2018 MARS board meeting are adopted by a motion, second, and a vote.

No secretary's report. Ed Essick talks about October 9, 2018 about mail. Cleaning the drainage. Did anybody come? No one knows. The Marin County Elections commission would like to use the Alto clubhouse on March 5, June 4, and November 5, 2019. Doug Slusher Building and Facilities manager says that they are always welcome to use the facility and have done so in the past. Cal asks if anyone emptied the food money jar, thinking that maybe the elections people may have taken it. No one knows. Ed Essick, who is the treasurer, will return the form to the elections commission via Doug. Doug has a working relationship with the elections setup committee who use a moving truck routinely. Ed has paid the PO box fee and the post office is generating another key for the PO box. Doug says that then MARS will have 3 because he has contacted Jennifer Dunlap, who has the old key from SK Phil Dunlap. She will return the key to Doug, who in turn, will give it to Ed or the secretary. Doug adds that the club got all of Phil's ham gear. Doug mentions changing the secretary name the Secretary of State listening for the the MARS club.

Treasurer's report. Ed Essick reports that Mike Ransom is in hospice care at his home with not long to live. Mike is a long term club member and Elmer at MARS. Ed requests that board members write cards which he will deliver to Mike at his home. Ed is helping with Mike's care. Ed put the copy in QSA-5 but here is another copy. Curtis had an expenditure of \$300.00 for website hosting. The first page shows the "P and L" details. Ed recaps the entries on the report and is grateful that the tenant now makes rent payments by electronic transfer. Doug Slusher says that the tenant is happy with the current and new rental arrangements. Doug asks Ed about the payment of the property taxes for the MARS club. Ed paid the first half of the amount. Doug says that the past MARS practice has been to pay the whole amount of tax at one time, and Ed will therefore pay the other half too. Cal asks about Dan's plumbing. Ed asks Doug about the rafters. Doug says that repair might not begin until the end of 2019. Doug spoke to Ann Shore who recommended Demelo Roofing. Doug will ask them for an estimate. The estimate will require the consultation with a structural engineer. McClaren roofing has not been forthcoming

with analysis and estimates. The group asks Ed about the CD investment and agrees that he should continue on the six-month plan. The investment may mitigate a bit of the cost of roof repair. Doug mentions that the donation from the Marin Century Bike group will help towards roof repair.

Membership. Curtis says that the number of members is now at 130 which is very respectable.

Education. Kris is absent. MARS Member Andrew has found a possible speaker for the MARS Friday night club meeting. Curtis provides a CV for the man. Is there interest for his presentations? There are links on the document to show his presentations. This would be for meetings in 2019.

Facilities. Doug says that the estimate he has for roof repair is \$37,000.00. MARS still hasn't received a previous bill from this contractor-the one who gave the estimate. The club repair is small cost-that may explain the lack of a bill. Doug says that Yaesu has the money for the digital repeater upgrade. Work is still pending however and thus frustrating. There are problems between the Fusion Model 1 and 2 repeaters-this is slowing the upgrade time. Doug has SK Phil's equipment at his house and has made an inventory for the club. There is discussion about possible repairs to his equipment. Doug wants to push the board in 2019 to devolve and sell excess equipment at the Alto clubhouse. Doug and Curtis talk about the sales and work involved of getting rid of the excess equipment.

Public Service. The Thank You luncheon is proposed on March 23, 2019 by Michael Fischer. Curtis asks if that is OK?

VE. No report.

Christmas Party. There is discussion between Cal and Curtis about the preparations for the chef Esther. The club must clean out the room adjacent to the kitchen. The club has bought a bunch of ice cream. Cal says that there were 52 people at the party last year. Curtis thinks that there may be 60 people at the party this year. There is a discussion about leftover food. Curtis thinks that the next board meeting should be held on 13th of December, which is the day following the Christmas Party. There will be much discussion about elections of board members and new people assigned to specific board positions.

Old Business. Plaques. No progress to report by Curtis. Rent increase and the new lease-this has been completed. Doug makes an aside on the previous note that he needs a list of the people getting plaques. Cal asks about the lease. The rent was raised slightly to \$2,450.00 per month as of January 1, 2019. This includes the dog clause, and the requirement for renter's insurance. The negotiation of the new lease went well with the tenant. The tenant had a question about guests. The tenant requests a fix on the thermostat on the stove, or new stove. There is group discussion about stoves. More Old Business continues...Curtis has no progress to report on membership cards. Curtis asks Board Members Tom Soskin about website navigation. There is no progress.

Curtis talks about the nominating committee. Doug will put out a notice next week. Curtis received a note from Election Buddy and asks about that email. There are four people on the slate. These are all incumbents running for board positions. Curtis brings up the G-Suite computer software. There have been questions about T-Shirts. Michael Fischer said that logo T-shirts were probably not a good idea, but rather logo polo shirts, and Curtis asked Michael to get a price on said shirts. Michael got prices of \$20 to \$26. Curtis asks about how the club would like to proceed with SWAG shirts. The club would have to propose an amount of money, to buy shirts for the people who did the service, and also generally available to club members. There is a discussion following about who gets what shirt? The shirt are a promotional effort. Cal asks about the previous note about Google G-Suite. Curtis says that the club could use the software to collaborate with each other. The software is free for a non-profit. Curtis and Ed agree that the club does

not generate enough project traffic for this project. Tom says that the MARS club members like face-to-face meeting. Doug says that the small size of the club argues against. He is willing to look at it however. Kris will give a presentation for further discussion. Curtis takes the Old Business discussion back to public service logo shirts. The consensus is that the polo logo shirts are a good idea. He describes the stage of development now as "testing the waters."

New Business...Curtis says that he recently received an email from Randy Jenkins. Randy says that he will be unavailable next year in 2019 to purchase and bring the pizzas to the Friday night MARS club meetings. Doug Slusher has been carpooling with Randy for the last few meetings and the pizzas have included both Costco and Little Ceasar's pizzas. Randy has been a great support to the club bringing pizzas. Cal suggests that it could be a shared responsibility and Curtis agrees. There is discussion about who would do it and which Costco to buy the pizzas at. here are two months to resolve the pizza problem-the January 2019 club meeting. Curtis suggests using Taskrabbit or Scoop and have them deliver the pizzas to the Alto clubhouse. Curtis says that the problem is finding a person who could reliably bring pizzas for the meetings. Doug suggests Mountain Mike's. Curtis suggests that it not be limited to one person and that the monthly MARS club meeting have a system that is reliable. There have been occasions when the pizza person was not able to deliver at the last moment. Old Business continued...Secretary David Chaney resigned. Milt Hyams has volunteered to take the Secretary place. That will be decided at the December 2018 board meeting when positions are apportioned. Milt Hyams has volunteered to take the place of David Chaney in the interim pending MARS board appointment. The appointment of Milt would be for one remaining Milt. There is a motion, second, and unanimous vote to have Milt Hyams fill the Secretary position on the MARS club board. More New Business...Cal brings up the

suggestion of new ceiling lights. He talks about LED lights which have 4 bulbs per fixture and they are on sale for \$15.00 to 20.00. These are 2-pin light rods with LEDs instead of the florescent paint and gas. Ed Essick says that any electrical work needs to be professional with the safety of the upstairs tenant in mind. Curtis asks the board about bringing in a contractor to replace the lights. Doug suggests replacing the bulbs as the florescent ones die. The club does not use that much electricity in lighting. Curtis tells Cal to get a box and the club will test them in an existing light fixture. Curtis tells Cal to get bulbs with lower light temperature for a better ambience. The conversation drifts to Christmas gifts at the MARS club Christmas party. Curtis wants someone to make a budget for gifts and make a trip to Ham Radio Outlet in Oakland. Curtis asks about having a Grand Prize versus a number of smaller prizes. Some prizes are not ham radio related for family members who are not radio operators. Ed Essick suggests raising the cost of attendance to \$35.00 because the costs for food and gifts is rising. Ed performs a quick calculation that the MARS club would be more than \$1,000.00 "out-of-pocket," for the 2018 Christmas dinner celebration. There is much discussion about the amount to charge. The question is raised about club members and guests who would not be able to afford attending the dinner. Curtis and the board members agree that the club would always assist those who could not pay for the meal. Ed suggests "scholarships" for those who would apply. Ed suggests 10 scholarships and an email to tell people to apply if they wish. There is discussion about how to advertise the offer and Curtis would like something to go out this following weekend. People could respond to the RSVP@w6sg.net. Tom Soskin says that club members under 18 should get in free. Tom is interested in incentives for kids to join the club. There is more discussion about marketing the Christmas dinner to young people and how to identify the available young people. Tom's interest is in getting young people to come who would be the children of club members and to also draw the young people into club membership. Curtis steers the discussion back to the details of getting gifts for the Christmas dinner. Doug discusses used radio equipment from the club for Christmas party gifts. The discussion moves to a silent auction for the equipment of SK Phil to be included at the Christmas party. Tom brings up the brands of radios to buy for gifts. There is a consensus on mobile radio units for less than \$100.00 each. A budget of \$800.00 for all gifts is offered to start. That budget number is increased to \$1,000.00. This is the budget for raffle gifts at the 2018 at the MARS Christmas party. The budget increases to \$1,300.00 to Cal Anbar to spend on gifts, and food service items-plates, cutlery, etc. There is a motion, second, and vote to spend the amount of \$1,300.00. The vote is unanimous.

9:16 PM Good of the Order. There is a motion, second, and vote to adjourn the meeting.

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 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 Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS</p> <p>Vice President Kris Backenstose, KK6AYC</p> <p>Secretary David Chaney, AA6AE</p> <p>Treasurer: Ed Essick, K6ELE</p> <p>Board Members Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS, 510-290-6069 Milt Hyams, KM6ASI, 415453-3867 Kris Backenstose, KK6AYC Marc Bruvry, KF6VNT 492-9292 David Chaney, AA6AE 818-332-6029 Ed Essick, K6ELE, 415-456-1715 Mitch Martin, WU1Q Tom Soskin, W6MTS, 415-342-2372</p> <p>Other Positions:</p> <p>Education Chair Randy Jenkins Kris Backenstose Instruction Team Leader.</p> <p>VE Liaison Randy Jenkins</p> <p>Building Manager Doug Slusher</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 Michael Fischer, K6MKLF 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 e.essick@comcast.net</p> <p>ARRL San Francisco Section Manager Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG</p> <p>WEBMASTER Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS</p> <p>HF Sunday Net Control Mark Bruvry, KF6VNT</p> <p>VHF Sunday Net Control Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH</p>
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