

## Presidents Corner

I just learned today that, Necco Sweethearts Conservation Hearts, those little heart shaped candies with words on them are difficult to find this year. Necco the manufacture was sold in May of 2018 and the new owners have not been able to ramp up production to meet demand. I don't think that RACES will be activated so solve the communication problem that will exist on Valentine's Day without these candies. But it is worth mentioning that Ham radio could step in. Maybe this is an opportunity to attract youngsters to the hobby.

We do have a busy February ahead of us. Most important on the calendar is our Technician License training classes that start on February 7 2019 at 7pm in the Club House and run for the next eight weeks. Kris Backenstose N5HIT our Education Director has a lot of interesting plans and swag for the classes. If you know anyone interested in getting their license please advise them to show up. Additional information including the schedule can be found on the website at <http://w6sg.net/site/education/>

Because some of our board members have moved past using chalky candies to communicate the regularly scheduled board meeting has been moved from 14 February to 7 February. There is always an open invitation for members to attend board meetings however this meeting will be held in the shack as the meeting room in the Club House will be in use for the Technician Training so space will be at a premium.

At the last board meeting it was determined that the club will set up a lending library primarily for test equipment. You will have to be a Marin Amateur Radio Society member to borrow anything and you will essentially sign a contract to return the item by a certain date. In addition we intend to provide training on the use of the equipment which you will have to complete before you can borrow it. We are working on putting the mechanics of this in place and I will provide details when we are ready to start lending. In the mean time I will entertain your wish list for items that may be included. Email me at [WA6UDS@ARRL.NET](mailto:WA6UDS@ARRL.NET) February is a short month and so this is a short column.  
73 DE WA6UDS

ARRL News

Treasurers Report

What's Happening In Radio

ARRL News

North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass

Minutes

## From the Editor

**Ed Essick, K6ELE**

Jordan Sherer, KN4CRD, has developed a new digital mode based on FT8 that allows the operator to have a keyboard-to-keyboard exchanges that are not possible with FT8. This mode is called JS8Call and is still in the development stage by Jordan. It combines the best features of FT8 combined with a messaging and network protocol layer for weak signal communication on HF, VHF, and UHF, using keyboard-to-keyboard style interface. According to Jordan "It is not designed for any specific purpose other than connecting amateur radio operators who are operating under weak signal conditions". It does however provide the ability to have a limited QSO with another station, rather than just exchange call signs and grid squares.

Since JS8Call is in the development stage, each release is only good for 10 days and then the user must download a new version. So until Jordan releases version 1.0 users are participating in test versions of the software. Well, then so what, will anyone want to use another new digital mode? It appears so as there are already 9,503 members of the JS8Call groups.io users group involved with the software.

This was the activity on JS8 on a Saturday as tracked by the pskreporter program.



Now it does not match the activity on FT8 at the same time, 2685 users, as shown here. But I expect this will change after JS8Call comes out in version 1.



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## What's Happening in Radio

CQ WW RTTY WPX Contest, 0000Z, Feb 9 to 2359Z, Feb 10

ARRL School Club Roundup, 1300Z, Feb 11 to 2359Z, Feb 15

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, CW, 0000Z, Feb 16 to 2400Z, Feb 17

South Carolina QSO Party 1500Z, Feb 23 to 0159Z, Feb 24

North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Feb 23 to 0559Z, Feb 24

North Carolina QSO Party 1500Z, Feb 24 to 0059Z, Feb 25

## New Club Members

Welcome

Robert Klahn AD6I, San Rafael

James Saltzgaber KM6WWY, Fairfax

Michael Reichlich KA6TYW, San Rafael

Eric Ferguson KA6USJ, Concord

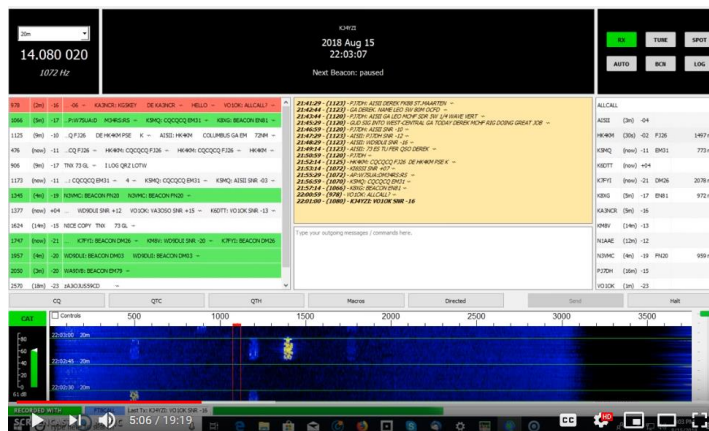
## North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass Meeting

At the January meeting, club members practiced programming our HT radios "on the fly" for a frequency + PL tone. They then split up into teams scattered around the Civic Center Lagoon and simulated a disaster, with teams receiving direction and reporting in what they observed to the command post. Before breaking up, they did a quick "hot wash" to evaluate the exercise and to emphasize radio protocol best practices.



## JS8Call

The following is a screen shot of JS8Call in action on 20 meters. It provides a waterfall of the band showing signals, and windows for received stations, CQing stations, and the QSO exchanges. Stay tuned as we will have more coverage of JS8Call next month in QSA5.



## ARRL News

### Court Rules Excessive Antenna Application Fees Violated Reasonable Accommodation

Long-pending Amateur Radio antenna litigation that ARRL helped to fund has finally borne fruit. The Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division: Second Judicial Department has ruled in the case of Myles Landstein, N2EH. The Town of LaGrange, New York, not only overstepped its state-granted authority by assessing excessive fees, but violated the limited federal preemption PRB-1 in the process. PRB-1 requires municipalities and states to "reasonably" accommodate Amateur Radio antennas and to apply the "minimum practicable regulation" in handling Amateur Radio antenna applications. The ruling is slated to be published as a case decision. Landstein, who lives in the Bronx, had wanted to erect a 70-foot antenna support structure for a multi-operator station in the Hamlet of Lagrangeville; the Town of LaGrange has a 35-foot height limit.

"This case, which goes back to 2013, was about applying PRB-1 to a situation in which a municipality attempted to thwart the installation and maintenance of ham radio antennas by imposing excessive permit application costs on the ham applicant," said communications attorney Chris Imlay, W3KD, who is familiar with the case. Imlay said the FCC has refused to clarify the cost-prohibition issue as it relates to PRB-1's "minimum practicable regulation" and reasonable accommodation provisions of PRB-1.

"The Town incurred more than \$17,000 in legal consulting fees in connection with [Landstein's] applications, and informed the petitioner that he was required to reimburse the Town for these fees before any determination would be made with respect to the applications," the court decision recounted. "The Town subsequently, as 'an accommodation to the petitioner,' reduced the

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## ARRL News

amount...to...\$5,874, but also required the petitioner to maintain a minimum advance continuing escrow balance of at least \$1,000 to cover the Town's future consulting costs..."

"We hold that, because the Town did not limit the consulting fees charged to the petitioner to those necessary to the decision-making function of the town's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, the town exceeded its state-granted authority by requiring payment of the consulting fees and, moreover, violated a rule promulgated by the [FCC]," the court concluded.

Given the significant delay, Imlay said both he and Landstein had lost hope that the case would ever be resolved in Landstein's favor -- and in the favor of radio amateurs in New York, generally -- much less be a case that would "create favorable precedent for Amateur Radio."

"ARRL originally was drawn to this case, because New York is the only state that, due to a very old case decision, has held that Amateur Radio antennas are not necessarily a 'normal accessory use' to residential real property," Imlay explained. "Because the issue in the case dealt with both that issue and the issue of cost prohibitions in the permitting process relative to the cost of the antenna installation, we decided to fund the case." Landstein lost at trial, and an appeal was filed in about 2015, for which ARRL provided memoranda of law about the cost-prohibition issue. "The antenna at issue and the support structure was to cost no more than \$1,000," Imlay said.

The court concluded that the town "may not use its land-use regulatory authority to construct 'hoop after hoop' for the petitioner to jump through in order to erect his radio antenna tower [and] cannot impose unreasonable expenses so as to create an insurmountable financial barrier to the pursuit of the project. In this context, not only must the consultant fees be reasonable..., but the underlying services must be necessarily related to those municipal regulatory functions which are not preempted by federal law."

*Reprinted with permission ARRL Letter 1/17/2019*

## Marin Amateur Radio Club

### BALANCE SHEET DETAIL

As of January 31, 2019

DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	SPLIT	DEBIT	CREDIT	AMOUNT	BALANCE
▼ ASSETS									
▼ B of A Building account									
	Beginning Balance								836.45
Total for B of A Building account									
▼ B of A General account									
	Beginning Balance								82,935.31
01/10/2019	Deposit				-Split-	\$2,535.00		2,535.00	85,470.31
Total for B of A General account									
								\$2,535.00	
▼ club house- 27 Shell Rd. MV									
	Beginning Balance								58,983.00
Total for club house- 27 Shell Rd. MV									
TOTAL ASSETS									
								\$2,535.00	\$145,289.76
▼ LIABILITIES AND EQUITY									
▼ Liabilities									
▼ Accounts Payable (A/P)									
	Beginning Balance								626.98
Total for Accounts Payable (A/P)									
Total Liabilities									
									\$626.98
▼ Equity									
▼ Opening Balance Net Assets									
	Beginning Balance								124,400.00
Total for Opening Balance Net Assets									
Retained Earnings									
								\$17,727.78	\$17,727.78
Net Income									
								\$2,535.00	\$2,535.00
Total Equity									
								\$20,262.78	\$144,662.78
Total Liabilities and Equity									
								\$20,262.78	\$145,289.76

## Donations

6/1/18 to 1/31/19

	Donation	+ Previous Balance
Building Fund	\$230	\$230
Club Station Fund	\$70	\$3,160
General Fund	\$636	\$636
Public Service Fund	\$160	\$2,164
Repeater Fund	\$290	\$2,380

## General Meeting Minutes

### Christmas Party December 12, 2018 Minutes

**5:30 PM** President Curtis Ardourel calls the meeting to order. Curtis promises to keep the meeting brief since those in attendance came for the party and not the meeting. Curtis declares “one of the perks of being President...” that he gets to give out awards. There are two awards tonight that come with plaques and gift certificates. Curtis has neither the plaques or gifts, but they will be forthcoming.

The first award is the Hy Roberts Award. Mr. Roberts obtained the Alto clubhouse for the MARS club. The award goes to the person who has provided exceptional service to the club. The award goes to Jerry Foster. Jerry is a guy who has done many things for the club “forever.” He is always willing to share his experience and to help someone else. He’s a stalwart club member. Thank you to Jerry Foster. People in the MARS club think highly of Jerry Foster.

The second award is the John Butler award for the person who is an exemplary Elmer. The award goes to Steve Toquinto. He always runs the Sunday morning VHF net, shows up for all of the functions, and is always willing to help someone out. He is great to help out other hams with digital technology. The MARS club thanks Steve Toquinto.

Since there is no agenda, then Curtis asks if anyone has something for the good of the order. The meeting is short, and Curtis will entertain comments prior to the dinner and festivities. Tom Soskin mentions his daughter who has provided the Christmas decorations. There is applause. Andrew wants to talk with Curtis about a possible speaker in February, 2019. Curtis has communicated with him and there are several possible dates. Michael Fischer mentions that there are early copies of the 2019 MARS public service calendar. Please take a copy. Steve Smith talks about a club building project for 2019 to follow the Antenna Analyzer project from 2018. Steve has a “ham clock” kit that has been assembled by two members, and others are welcome to come and see the models set up here tonight. Curtis responds that the club is excited about hosting a new project for 2019. Doug Slusher mentions that someone had mentioned donating a power supply. It is Don, and he will drop it off. It will be added as a door supply. Also, there is a silent auction in the back of the room. Please look at the radios and and make a bid if you wish. Dinner and door prizes will follow.

Curtis asks for a motion to adjourn the meeting portion of the Christmas Party. There is a motion, second, and then interruption. The Marin Century Race thanks MARS for the radio communication service. The representative from Marin Century presents a gift of gratitude. He has some T-Shirts in a box. Next year they hope to have a different start and finish to the race. The Marin Civic Center has logistical, access getting to and from the center, and high cost problems. The Marin Century is currently looking for the new start and finish locations-stay tuned. The race date in 2019 will be on Saturday August 3, 2019. Curtis pronounces the amount of the check-gift to be \$1,500.00.

There was no voice vote to conclude the meeting portion of the Christmas party but the food service began.

## Board Meeting Minutes

## Marin Amateur Radio Society January 4, 2019 Club Meeting Minutes

**7:30 PM** President Curtis Ardourel welcomes all in the room with a festive poem, and asks those in the room to introduce themselves. Members and guests introduce themselves. Curtis begins with his own introduction. Curtis identifies those who have already paid their dues for 2019. Building and Facilities Manager Doug Slusher mentions in the course of introductions that SK John Boyd's radio equipment may be made available to buy in the near future. He also mentions a MARS Technician class planned for February 2019.

Curtis has passed copies of the agenda around on the club room desks and asks for additions or amendments. There is a motion, second, and vote to adopt to meeting agenda. Curtis mentions previous board actions. Everybody who ran (4) got re-elected. Review the names and the vote totals. Curtis explains that he is "nominally" the president and explains the process with which the board selects the president and other executive positions are selected.

Curtis introduces 2 new club members: Adam Vasquez W6AVW from Larkspur (he joined in 2018), and the first new member for 2019 Robert Klahn AD6I of San Rafael.

Curtis opens the floor to any stories of fun or interest in ham radio by the members and guests. Mitch shares about SMA connectors. His SMA center connector on his Kenwood radio failed and caused his radio to heat up. He repaired the SMA connection with a good deal of hand work and ingenuity. His radio works now. Mitch explained further how the center pin failed and replacements would have been expensive. He refers to his antenna now as "Mitch's Ugly Stick." Rob mentions that the Dipsea Race management wants license their "sweeps" and have requested MARS to provide FCC license training. Rob and others discuss the upcoming Tech class, a 'ham cram,' or personal tutoring. Dipsea would like their sweeps to be able to listen and participate with the MARS radio race communications. Are their any VEs who know the status of the ULS system during the government shutdown. MARS has no VE sessions scheduled currently? Rob believes that there are 3 or 4 candidates from Dipsea for training.

No Secretary report. The Treasurer's report is in QSA-5.

Committee reports. As of this morning Curtis announces that MARS had 132 members at the end of 2018, and 55 are now current on dues. There is discussion about dues. Curtis says that people renew their membership everyday. He processes the memberships. Many have donated to MARS (the suggested donation is listed as \$20.00). Rob adds to the public service discussion. There are events looking for volunteers who make ask members and guests help out. Rob says to make sure that it is a legal event. Make sure that the events have proper repeater permission. Doug Slusher describes the various races, MARS policy to help non-profit races (with rare exceptions), and the many race vendors who would seek out MARS members. There are dangers of volunteer burnout. Doug talks about facilities and mentions the rain. The roof fixes are holding for the Alto MARS clubhouse. Final and complete roof repair is still pending the location of a roofing company. The last estimate for repair was \$37,000.00. Tom Soskin has led a fantastic cleanup of the clubhouse. There is a lot of old equipment that lingers in ham

radio clubhouses, not unlike ham's own garages. The repeaters are working. Vice-President and Education committee chairman Kris Backenstose announces a Technician training class in February 2019. There are still opportunities for volunteers to help with the class, i.e. elmers. Kris is proposing a small electronic kit to give to the students who attend the Tech class. Kris is pitching the information to local high schools. Kris describes the Morse Code training device that the last class received-it costs \$7.00. Rob counters with the suggestion of a \$12.00 SDR dongles which he says is much more appropriate to current ham radio. He says that the dongle would allow the students to explore the radio spectrum. Kris would like a project that features soldering for the practice. There is discussion following about various available dongles and maybe those could be made available to the students alongside the class. Please contact Kris at [education@w6sg.net](mailto:education@w6sg.net) if you want to help.

There is no old or new business. Curtis entertains a motion to adjourn the meeting. Is there anything for the good of the order. There is a motion, second and a vote.

**8:00 PM**The meeting is adjourned.

**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.

<p><b>Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:</b></p> <p><b>President</b> Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS</p> <p><b>Vice President</b> Kris Backenstose, KK6AYC</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> David Chaney, AA6AE</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Ed Essick, K6ELE</p> <p><b>Board Members</b> 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><b>Other Positions:</b></p> <p><b>Education Chair</b> Randy Jenkins Kris Backenstose Instruction Team Leader.</p> <p><b>VE Liaison</b> Randy Jenkins</p> <p><b>Building Manager</b> Doug Slusher</p> <p><b>Trustee for W6SG</b> Mitch Martin, WU1Q</p> <p><b>Trustee for K6GWE</b> Doug Slusher KF6AKU</p> <p><b>Sunday Emergency Nets</b> Mark Bruvry</p> <p><b>DX Representative of ARRL</b> Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</p>	<p><b>Public Service Event Coordinators</b> Michael Fischer, K6MKLF Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 Rob Rowlands, NZ6J, Michael Fischer, K6MLF</p> <p><b>Membership</b> Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS</p> <p><b>Editor of QSA-5</b> Ed Essick, K6ELE <a href="mailto:e.essick@comcast.net">e.essick@comcast.net</a></p> <p><b>ARRL San Francisco Section Manager</b> Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG</p> <p><b>WEBMASTER</b> Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS</p> <p><b>HF Sunday Net Control</b> Mark Bruvry, KF6VNT</p> <p><b>VHF Sunday Net Control</b> Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH</p>
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