

Presidents Corner

“When that I was and a little tiny boy, With hey, ho, the wind and the rain, A foolish thing was but a toy. For the rain it raineth every day.” – Feste Twelfth Night Act V Scene I. I guess the weather has been on my mind from white knuckle drives over the bay bridge watching cars pushed from lane to lane by the wind to the rain fall in Marin: 54.12 inches to date while the average for this date is 39.32 inches and last year to date was only 19.98 inches. Maybe “Water. Water ever where, Nor any drop to drink” – Coleridge. I guess faced with the majesty of nature, I seek refuge in the most artificial place I can find... poetry.

Enough rambling. I had never heard of an atmospheric river before last year although the term was coined in the 1990s now we are faced with them and the damage all that water does. This serves as a great reminder that we need to be prepared for exigent circumstances and as hams public service events are a perfect way to hone your skills as an operator get your go kit in shape. This weekend is the kick off of the public service season with the annual luncheon. When we started the Public Service Luncheon we intended it as a thank you to the people who gave up their weekends to volunteer and a post mortem of the events. It was much more successful than we could ever have imagined. We have made many changes in the way we manage our participation based on feedback from you.

Over the years the nature of the luncheon has changed as well. It still serves its original function but now it has a much more prospective focus including reviewing best practices, hearing from some of the organizations we serve, checking out some really cool go kits and as an orientation to new volunteers. My point here being that if you are at all interested in volunteering for a public service event you should join us on Saturday 2 February at 11:00 at the club house. It will be both fun and informative and how often do those two qualities show up at the same time and place?

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

More on JS8Call

Last month I discussed JS8Call, the new digital mode based on FT8. This new mode is still in a prerelease version with Version 1 scheduled for release on March 11th. Jordan Sherer, KN4CRD, had as his goal in developing JS8Call to:

1. Create a network of manned and automated stations communicating over FT8 mode
2. Offer intuitive and short commands for passing messages within the network
3. Use efficient message packing to send vital information over the airwaves in a minimal amount of time
4. Allow keyboard to keyboard chat between stations with minimal overhead
5. Optionally allow reliable transmission of messages with automatic retransmission of failed message frames.

JS8Call uses the same 15 second transmission/receive cycle as FT8. It can however string together these 15 second cycles to create messages. The effective transmission rate is about 15-20 words per minute, depending on the actual characters in the message. For example, you can send “TU UR 599 CA” (20 WPM) in one 15 second cycle or you could send the special characters “{” in one cycle. Each transmission cycle can pack a maximum of 69 character bits, which is about 16 words per minute.

You can send out a call to see who can hear you using the Heart Beat function. When you start the HB function and you first receive a HB from a station, your station will try to send a HEARTBEAT ACK reply to signal to the other operator that you can hear them. If they receive your response, an indicator will be displayed next to your call sign in their heard list. This helps you find, at a glance, other operators that are confirmed to be able to hear you. You should be at your station when you use this function to comply with the FCC rules about station control.

There is controversy about these new digital modes, but they do allow us to make contacts when signals are below the noise floor of our equipment. At the bottom of the sunspot cycle these modes are accounting for more than 50% of band activity.

Lots of contests on the air this month. Here is the chance to work some stations and possibly some DX stations.

What's Happening in Radio

ARRL Inter. DX Contest, SSB, 0000Z, Mar 2 to ,400Z, Mar 3

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship, 1800Z-2059Z, Mar 2 (Low Band) and 2100Z-2359Z, Mar 2 (Low Band) and

0800Z-1059Z, Mar 3 (High Band) and 1100Z-1359Z, Mar 3 (High Band)

Oklahoma QSO Party, 1500Z, Mar 9 to 0200Z, Mar 10 and 1400Z-2100Z, Mar 10

Wisconsin QSO Party, 1800Z, Mar 10 to 0100Z, Mar 11

BARTG HF RTTY Contest, 0200Z, Mar 16 to 0200Z, Mar 18

Russian DX Contest, 1200Z, Mar 16 to 1200Z, Mar 17

Virginia QSO Party, 1400Z, Mar 16 to 0400Z, Mar 17 and 1200Z-2400Z, Mar 17

Louisiana QSO Party, 1400Z, Mar 16 to 0200Z, Mar 17

CQ WW WPX Contest, SSB, 0000Z, Mar 30 to 2359Z, Mar 31

VE Session at UC Berkley

There were 88 students who took 126 exams for the session. The tests were administered by 16+ VE's.



Wires-X Gateway

Mark Hindman, KM6PDW, has setup a Wires-X Gateway system set up at his house in Novato on 445.5 simplex, C4FM only.

ARRL News

US Amateur Radio Population Grows Slightly in 2018

The number of hams grew by about 1% to 755,430 in 2018 or by about 7,300 new licensees. There were 31,576 new licenses issued in 2018. Expired and SK licenses made the net gain of 7,300 new licenses. Of this total 384,145 hold the Technician license, 175,949 hold the General license, and 147,369 hold the Extra license. The Advanced, 39,607 and Novice, 8,360 license holders continue to decline as these licenses are no longer issued.

FCC Invites Comments on Amateur Radio-Related Petition for Rule Making

The FCC has invited public comments on a *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11826](#)) from an Ohio radio amateur seeking to amend the Part 97 station identification rules to better accommodate and simplify station identification during an emergency net, drill, or activation. ARRL member Robert A. Dukish, KK8DX, filed the petition in December, and the FCC put it on public notice this week. Dukish seeks a change to Section 97.119(a) of the rules, which requires an amateur station to transmit its "assigned call sign on its transmitting channel at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication."

He noted that during emergency networks, requiring participating stations -- often portable -- to use their assigned call signs during each transmission could prove "burdensome and can hinder the flow of emergency traffic on the channel."

Specifically, he is suggesting that a simple approach would be to permit the net control station or other designated participant to announce from a single point the call signs of every station taking part in the net or exercise, when tactical call signs often are in use, at 10-minute intervals, using automatic CW identification.

Dukish suggested amending Section 97.119(a) to add, "except during a local emergency network activation or drill," and providing that in such situations, a net control or designations station would be "authorized to announce all participating stations' assigned call signs at no more than 10-minute intervals while the net is in progress." The amendment would provide that participating stations "be within a 50-mile distance of the identifying station, and each individual station must self-identify by transmitting its assigned call sign at least once per hour." CW transmission could be no faster than 25 WPM if sent automatically to satisfy the suggested amendment.

Interested parties may comment via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing Service ([ECFS](#)).

Reprinted with permission ARRL Letter 2/14/19

JS8Call Operation

Ed Essick

This is a JS8Call contact I made on 20M to test JS8Call. W8ASL was calling CQ at Snowbird Field day. His signal was being received at my location at a -09dB, which was below the noise floor of my Icom 7610 and I could not hear him. You can see that he gave me a -08dB SNR at his location.

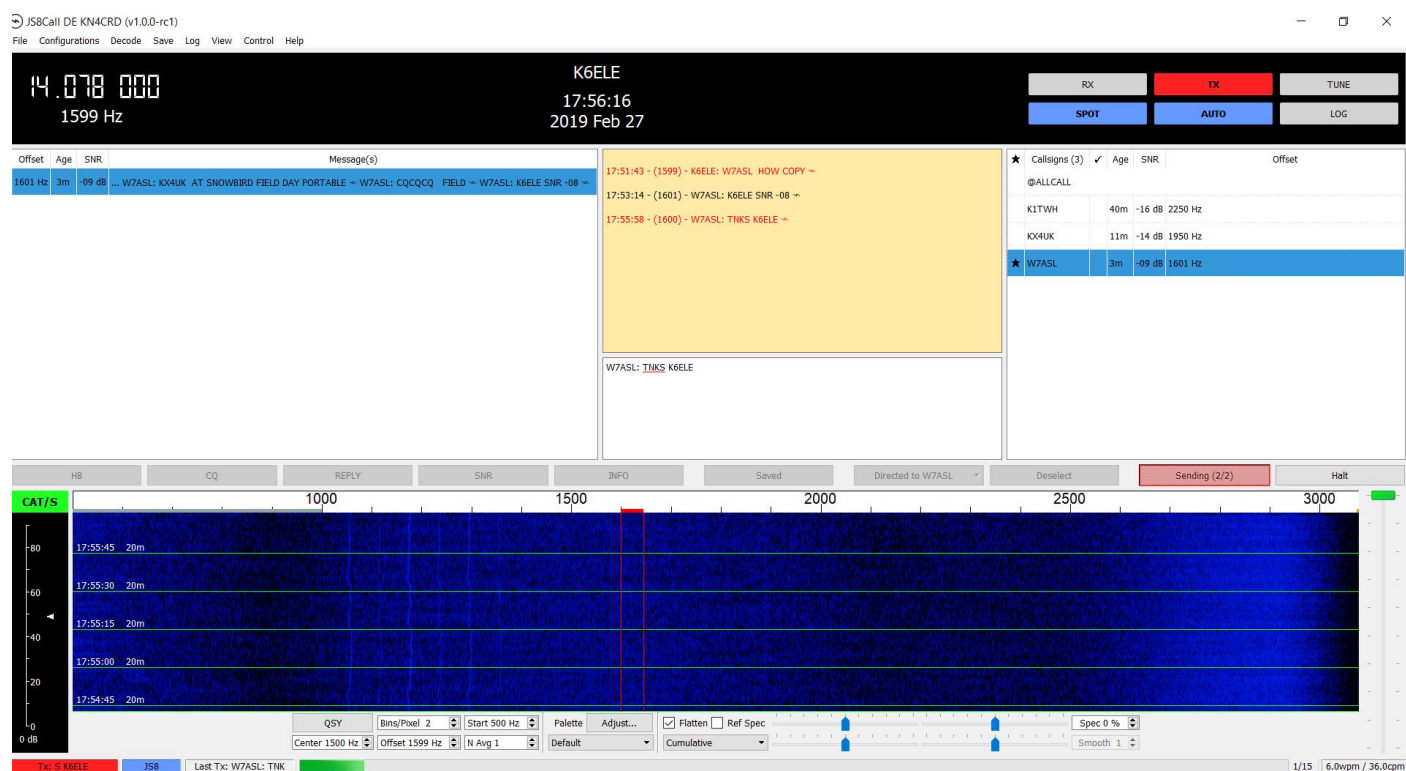
My reception of his call. ★ W7ASL 3m -09 dB 1601 Hz

My Call to him. 17:51:43 - (1599) - K6ELE: W7ASL HOW COPY ~

His response to me. 17:53:14 - (1601) - W7ASL: K6ELE SNR -08 ~

My response to him. 17:55:58 - (1600) - W7ASL: TNKS K6ELE ~

This is the complete screen of the JS8Call sequence above.



Sending a Heart Beat (HB) Transmission

After completing the call above, I started a HB transmission. The HB transmission took my call and grid square from my setup of JS8Call and inserted it. The lightning bolt at the end of the line signals the end of transmission.

18:40:54 - (600) - K6ELE: HB AUTO RELAY SPOT CM87 ~

Here you can see that VA3BG/W4 responded that my SNR was -09dB. He was -10dB at my station. I was using 20 watts to my triband beam at 30 feet for the contact. Using Heart Beat allows you to see who can copy your signal.

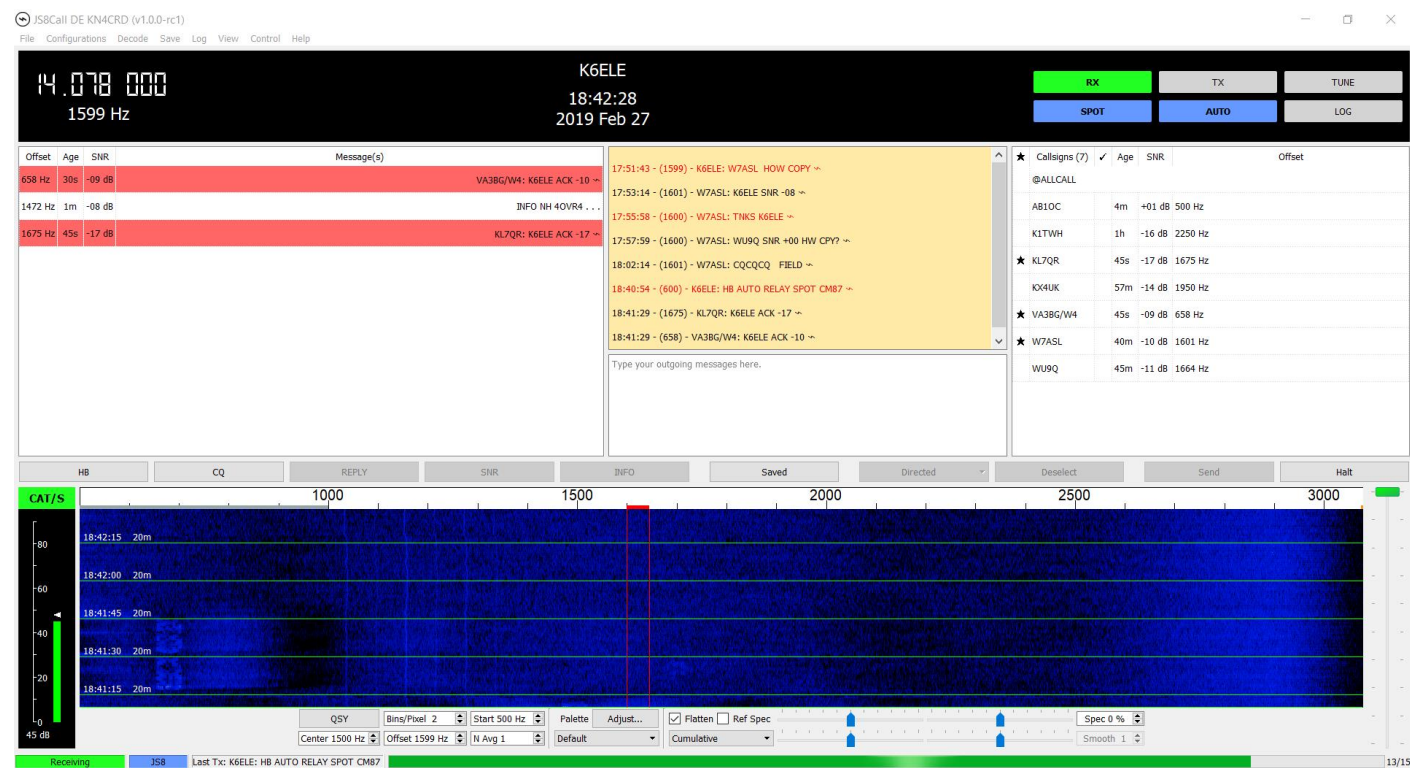
658 Hz 30s -09 dB VA3BG/W4: K6ELE ACK -10 ~

JS8Call Operation

Next KL7QR, in Arizona, responded that my SNR was -17dB. He was off the side of my beam that was pointed NE. Using Heart Beat allows you to see who can copy your signal.

1675 Hz 45s -17 dB KL7QR: K6ELE ACK -17

This is the complete screen of the JS8Call sequence above.



JS8Call is fairly easy to setup and there a lot of YouTube videos that can help you out if you are interested. I think this new digital mode will be as popular as FT8 once it's released in a stable version. In fact it may be more popular judging from the number of hams who have joined the JS8Call group, 9,926 members, at Groups.io.

North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass Meeting

Hey, we had a good time on a clear, crisp, kinda chilly day—

It was neat to see Sunita, Rebecca, Ann, Dircq, Mark, Brian, James, Charlie, Milt, Rob, and (of course) our master, Doug. Thanks to all of you for pitching in.

Everyone successfully reprogrammed our radios on-the-fly to a simplex freq with a PL tone. Great. Brian was the net control, and what a good radio voice he has! Phonetic alphabet practice—the more we use it, the more familiar and automatic it becomes.

We checked into the Marin Amateur Radio Society's Sunday net—thanks to Steve KB6HOH for giving us priority.

We learned from Milt's terrific new multi-band go-kit: all bands, all modes, wow. We got a quick lesson from Rob on battery management with solar panels.

Then we passed some written traffic using Yogi Berra aphorisms (thanks to Peter AA6SF from the “mother ship,” the San Francisco 2-meter Critical Mass.) In doing so, we used phonetic spelling and learned about tempo, delivery, and PROWORDS.

Continued on page 5

Speaking of which, attached is a copy (from Wikipedia) of the PROWORDS to be used when passing written traffic. Print it out and bring it next time.

For those of you who were otherwise engaged—hey, we even had doughnuts!

See you on March 2nd at the MARS public service event kickoff, and looking forward to the March NB2MCM on the 17. **If you plan to attend on March 2nd: PLEASE RSVP, USING THIS LINK:**

<https://goo.gl/forms/9Y1qhAAbyXTswTPU2>

Cordially,

Michael K6MLF



Treasurer's Report

Marin Amateur Radio Club

PROFIT AND LOSS January - February, 2019

	TOTAL
▼ Income	
Donations	698.00
Dues	412.00
Rent	7,350.00
Total Income	\$8,460.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$8,460.00
▼ Expenses	
Awards	440.93
DSL	105.66
Food	188.50
Garbage	727.03
Legal & Professional Services	325.00
Telephone	534.71
Uncategorized Expense	114.75
Utilities	202.14
Water	74.43
Total Expenses	\$2,713.15
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$5,746.85
NET INCOME	\$5,746.85

Marin Amateur Radio Club

BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

As of February 27, 2019

	TOTAL
▼ ASSETS	
▼ Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	87,664.66
Other Current Assets	326.95
Total Current Assets	\$87,991.61
Fixed Assets	58,983.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$146,974.61
▼ LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
▼ Liabilities	
▼ Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	626.98
Total Current Liabilities	\$626.98
Total Liabilities	\$626.98
Equity	146,347.63
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$146,974.61

Accrual basis Wednesday, February 27, 2019 01:07 PM GMT-08:00

Donations (All amounts included in General Account)

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

Board Meeting Minutes February 7, 2019

Held at: Clubhouse (Radio Room), 27 Shell Ave., Mill Valley, CA

Board members present: Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS, President, Mitch Martin WU1Q, Vice President, Ed Essick K6ELE, Treasurer, Milt Hyams KM6ASI, , Kris Backentose N5HIT, Marc Bruvry KF6VNT.

Abesnt: Tom Soskin W6MTS

Other attendees: Trustee Doug Slusher KF6AKU; Michael Fischer K6MLF and Rob Rowlands NZ6J (Public Service Co-Chairs)

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:36 pm by Curtis Ardourel.

2. Adopt Agenda:

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Election of Officers:

Secretary: The election of Secretary, having been tabled since the last Board meeting, was held. After a difficult campaign in which Milt Hyams ran for election as Secretary on the platform to “write all wrongs” against absolutely no one but himself, was elected unanimously.

4. Approve minutes:

Minutes of the 8 November board meeting approved without objection.

Secretary Milt Hyams reported minutes from the January 4 General Meeting and the January 11 Board Meeting have been circulated to the Board members in a new format. No action was taken with respect to those minutes.

5. Treasurer’s Report:

Ed reported that he is seeking assistance from an expert bookkeeper with experience in managing Quickbooks. He is requesting to hire a bookkeeper at \$40 per hour for this purpose. It was M/S/A (Ed Essick abstaining) to approve not to exceed \$1000 for this purpose.

Ed also requested the sum of \$325 for preparation and submission of income tax returns for 2018. It was M/S/A (Ed Essick abstaining) to approve not to exceed \$400 for this purpose.

He also stated that he obtain and deliver the key to the Association’s post office box at the San Rafael (Terra Linda) post office box to Milt Hyams.

6. Membership Chair Report:

Curtis reported that 81 members are current for 2019, 63% of 2018 membership. Dues will be past due after 3/31/19. Past due notices will be sent immediately thereafter to those members on roster from last year that have not paid and the QSA-5 mailing list will be changed accordingly effective April 2019.

7. Education Chair:

Kris Backentose reported that the keyer chips for Technician Class License class were wrong and that they will be distributing SDR dongles at a cost of \$14.39 a piece for a total of 10 dongles instead. It was M/S/A to approve this expenditure plus reimburse Doug a total of \$550 for the purchase of course books for the Technical class training.

8. Facilities Chair:

Doug reported that the leak in the roof in rear of the Clubhouse has slowed down.

ATT service to the clubhouse has been upgraded to fiber which is significantly cheaper, resulting in much better service and faster internet. We will need to monitor the billing to make sure the change- in-rates are reflected.

Doug and Milt went to the San Pedro Ridge repeater site today. They added 1 minute to the repeater time-out setting to 2 minutes total for the simulcast system. Also the call sign code was changed to W6SG because the renewal of the K6GWE call is still pending with the FCC.

Doug requests the club purchase a TKR 850 UHF repeater for installation at the Spencer Avenue, Sausalito Fire Station proposed repeater site at a cost of approximately \$850 including antenna. It was M/S/A to authorize the expenditure of not to exceed \$900 for this purpose.

Doug is to get bids to repair the fence in the front of the clubhouse and replace the front gate.

9. Public Service:

Michael Fischer and Rob Rowlands, Public Service Co-Chairs, appeared to present the Public Service report. They presented the 2019 MARS Public Service Schedule (v1.8), a copy of which is attached. They explained that they had to double up events on September 28th (the MCBC Jensie Gran Fondo and the ZBC Dipsea Hike), but because the ZBC Hike has light requirements, this was deemed to not be a problem. However, they had to reject requests from the Arthritis Fund and the Sonoma Amateur Radio Club for support for their events because of conflicts and over commitment. It was M/S/A to adopt the Public Service Schedule (v1.8) for 2019.

Michael requested support cleaning up and posting detailed event information on the MARS Website. Kris Backentose volunteered to provide the support requested.

Per the request of the Chairs, it was M/S/A to approve \$1200 for the Public Service Recognition Lunch on March 2.

10. Old business:

a. VE: Grant Pritchard has agreed to succeed Randy Jenkins as VE coordinator. He and Randy have been communicating and Grant should administer the next VE license testing and coordinate the dates with ARRL.

b. Education Coordinator: Kris stated that he would like to continue as the club Education Coordinator which was eagerly endorsed by the President. He also reported that the new Technical class licensing class has started tonight in the main meeting room of the clubhouse. He is disappointed with the attendance but hopes for new students for the following classes.

c. Food for meetings. Doug volunteered to order pizza and Milt will pick up salad for the next General Membership meeting.

Continued on page 8

11. New business:

- a. Board Meeting Location: The next Board meeting will again be held in the Radio Room as this should be the last conflict date with the VE training in the main meeting room.
- b. Young People: Attracting young people into amateur radio has continued to be a challenge. Kris reported that he has gone to a number of high schools where he has been enthusiastically received, but there have been few young attendees from high schools at our license classes. Ann Shores is working on getting Girl Scouts to participate and Doug is ordering Radio Merit Badges to support this effort.
- c. Watt Meter/Dummy Load Project: Member Steve Smith has requested that the Board consider a new construction/training project of a watt meter/dummy load for 150 watts. It should be a relatively easy project and inexpensive. It was observed that there was broad support for such a project from both the Board and a number of members. The Board referred the matter back to Steve Smith to develop a budget for the project for submission to the Board and for approval.

12. Good of the order:

None.

13. Executive Session:

None.

14. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Milton Hyams,

Secretary,

on February 8, 2019.

General Meeting Minutes

No minutes submitted

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 Milt Hyams, KM6ASI</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 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 Grant Pritchard</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 QSA5 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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