

Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

July 2019

Presidents Corner

The Marin Amateur Radio Society is in discussions with an organization called Marin VOAD. VOAD stands for Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster. A VOAD facilitates communication between organizations who have volunteers, supplies, and/or services and the emergency services incident command structure. They serve as a contact point for both.

In the event of a serious disaster in Marin because of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Marin Amateur Radio Society and RACES our repeaters are dedicated to RACES and of course our hams who are RACES members would have assignments through RACES. In the affected areas CERTs and NRGs would be activated as well. That would leave those of us who are not in those organizations or are in areas unaffected by the disaster with a willingness to help but no organization to tell us where. All the public service literature tells us not to just show up radio in hand and say I am here to help.

Because we want to help we are working with the Marin VOAD to set up a structure where they can provide requests to us and we can respond with hams who are willing and able and direct them to places where they are needed and expected. When we have this set up you will hear more from me about it.

During our work to create structure I was made aware of a series of Marin County Grand Jury reports about fire danger in Marin. As you might have observed we seem to be having more and worse fires in California than when we were all younger. In fact in the last couple of years there always seems to be a fire somewhere in California. The most recent report can be found at <https://www.marincounty.org/-/media/files/departments/gj/reports-responses/2018-19/wildfire-preparedness--a-new-approach.pdf?la=en> It is a 38 page document containing some very interesting findings but an over simplification would be to say that most of the cities are not prepared for fire. Comparisons are made with the destruction of the town of Paradise and they are chilling.

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What's Happening In Radio

New Members

ARRL News

Public Service

Treasurers Report

Minutes

From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Field Day 21019

Once again our club with the Redwood Empire DX Association completed a successful field day June 21-22 at the Marin Rod and Gun Club. We bested your last year's score with a total of 7,436 points (2018- 6,462 points). As usual setup occurs on Friday and operation starts Saturday at 10AM. We were well represented on both days.

Marilyn Bagshaw provided the Friday lunch for all of those working on the setup. Mitch Martin barbecued burgers and hotdogs on Saturday night for all of us. Thanks Marilyn and Mitch for keeping the crew well fed. I assisted Doug Slusher in setting up the computer network so all three stations could log to N1MM+ logging software and we were able to see our total score in real time.

For the first time this year an FT8 digital station was setup and run mostly by our young club member George. Due to only fair band conditions, FT8 was a winner providing the most contacts by mode.

The CW station suffered a radio failure Saturday afternoon, however a member of the other club made the trip to Penngrove for a replacement radio.

This year we had two public official's visit that gave us extra points. Marin County supervisor Damon Connolly visited and presented us with a Board of Supervisors proclamation citing the week as Amateur Radio Field Day. Quinn Gardner, San Rafael's Fire Department Emergency Services Coordinator paid us a visit also.

So if you missed Field Day this year, drop by or join us in participating in Field Day next year at the Marin Rod and Gun Club.

You can see all of the photos of Field Day taken by Marilyn Bagshaw at:

<https://marilynbagshaw.smugmug.com/Field-Day-Set-Up-2019/n-Mps27G/>

<https://marilynbagshaw.smugmug.com/2019-Field-Day-Saturday/n-Xb7mS6/>

Additional photos of Field Day by Stephen Sarhad are here. <https://stephensarhad.smugmug.com/Field-Day/Field-Day-2019/>

The Grand Jury report does not speak to the kind of support we can offer as hams in the aftermath of a fire but it does highlight the risks that we face. It also makes preplanning for a disaster seem a bit more urgent.

While we are on the topic of disasters, for our Friday 2 August general meeting will include a presentation by Alan Thompson W6WN about communications issues around the Camp Fire. He has spoken at the SFRC and other clubs around the area and I have heard that he makes a great presentation. I look forward to seeing you on Friday.

One last bit of business. By now you should have received your membership cards. If you have not let me know at WA6UDS@W6SG.NET. Those of you with eagle eyes will note that on the back of the cards is the new password for the website and some of you have probably tried it and found it not working. I wanted to get the cards out before updating the password. I intend to actually change the passwords on 3 August to match what is on the card.

73 de wa6uds

What's Happening in Radio

ARRL June VHF Contest, 1800Z, Jun 8 to 0259Z, Jun 10
All Asian DX Contest, CW, 0000Z, Jun 15 to 2400Z, Jun 16

Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest, 1200Z, Jun 15 to 1159Z, Jun 16

West Virginia QSO Party, 1600Z, Jun 15 to 0400Z, Jun 16
His Maj. King of Spain Contest, SSB 1200Z, Jun 22 to 1200Z, Jun 23

ARRL Field Day, 1800Z, Jun 22 to 2100Z, Jun 23

San Francisco Radio Club DMR Repeater

The SFRC now has a DMR repeater on UHF C4FM (444.225MHz +5KHz Offset) and it is connected to the BrandMeister Network.

[W6PW BrandMeister](http://W6PW.BrandMeister)

New Members

Welcome to our new member:

Chris Kay KN6BIE - Novato

Field Day Setup 2019

Photos: Marilyn Bagshaw and Stephen Sarhad



Tower setup



Mitch Martin and Rich Carbine



Beam 1 going up

Field Day 2019



Beam 2 going up



Setting the tower stakes



Field Day 2019



George and friend operating FT8 station



Ron, field day chairman, Ed Essick operating 20 meters SSB

ARRL News

No Consensus Reached for FCC on "Symbol Rate" Issues

ARRL-initiated efforts for rival parties to reach consensus on issues raised in the so-called "Symbol Rate" proceeding have ended. In April, the FCC granted ARRL's request for a 90-day hold in the proceeding, FCC Docket WT 16-239, to provide an opportunity for ARRL to lead an effort to determine whether consensus could be reached on some or all of the issues that commenters raised in the FCC's proceeding. The FCC already has issued a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) in WT 16-239, which stemmed from ARRL's rulemaking petition RM-11708.

Discussions were since widened to include issues raised in another *Petition for Rule Making*, [RM-11831](#), filed by Ron Kolarik, K0IDT, that seeks, "to ensure Amateur Radio digital modes remain openly decodable and available for monitoring" by the FCC and by other third parties, including other radio amateurs. His petition also aims to limit Automatically Controlled Digital Stations (ACDS) to identified subbands on HF, to reduce interference. Last month, ARRL filed an [interim report](#) with the FCC summarizing its efforts to bring all sides to the table, and on June 28, ARRL requested an additional 60-day pause to pursue promising talks.

"In seeking the delay, it was the ARRL's intent to facilitate discussions between the opposing parties in an effort to explore the possibility of an agreed resolution that would better protect users of the Amateur Radio spectrum from interference and would permit all members of the Amateur Radio service to continue to contribute to the advancement of the radio art," ARRL Washington Counsel David Siddall, K3ZJ, said, summarizing the situation in a July 15 letter to the FCC. "The end purpose, if a binding agreement between the opposing parties could not be reached, was to provide the strongest possible basis for the ARRL to file its recommendations on a fair and equitable resolution of the issues."

Siddall said that despite difficulties "partially attributable to the passions of the respective parties," ARRL was able to schedule meetings with both sides and, eventually, facilitate joint discussions among the respective parties.

Siddall said in his letter, "At the beginning of our meetings there emerged consensus on the issues to be discussed. By the end, the parties had reached consensus on some of the issues, but not all. Despite our best efforts, some of the parties did not agree to submit to the Commission any of the recommendations on which there had been an apparent consensus, having negotiated with an 'all or nothing' approach."

Despite the disappointing conclusion, Siddall expressed confidence that a better understanding of issues and positions of the various interests exists among all of the parties who participated in the in-person meetings and teleconferences, and that this will have an overall positive effect upon the outcome of the proceeding.

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Major *WSJT-X* Upgrade Boosts FT4 into "a Finished Protocol for HF Contesting"

The [WSJT Development Group](#) has announced the "general availability" release of *WSJT-X* version 2.1.0. This major upgrade formally introduces FT4 as "a finished protocol for HF contesting." Users have been advised to discontinue using any "release candidate" (beta) versions of the software that *WSJT-X* version 2.1.0 supplants. The latest edition of the popular digital software suite also includes improvements and bug fixes in several areas, including FT8. The list includes:

- FT8 waveform generated with GMSK and fully backward compatible
- User options for waterfall and spectrum display
- Contest logging
- Rig control
- User interface

The *WSJT-X* Development Group is providing a separate *WSJT-X* version 2.1.0 installation package for 64-bit Windows that offers significant improvements in decoding speed.

A detailed list of program changes since *WSJT-X* version 2.0.1 is included in the cumulative [release notes](#). Upgrading from earlier versions of *WSJT-X* should be seamless, with no need to uninstall a previous version or to move any files.

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General Meeting Speaker August 2nd

The Camp Fire - Phones, Fires and Failures

This is a presentation about the cell phone and Internet service vulnerabilities and emergency communications failures that placed people's lives at risk during the fire. One thing is clear: We must implement more resilient solutions to help ensure our communities get timely, life-saving information about fast-moving disasters like the Camp Fire, especially in light of our modern-day, unconscious, over-reliance on cell phone and Internet technologies for everything - technologies which, in turn, depend on billions of dollars of vulnerable infrastructure not to fail. The Talk also offers suggestions on how we might help to make our communities safer in the event of future disasters.

Outline:

- Time Line detailing events that unfolded on November 8, the first day of the fire
- Catastrophic points of failure that impacted emergency communications, alerts, and evacuations
- Our Team's role in restoring damaged cell phone services, and day-lighting the vulnerabilities that caused us to be there in the first place
- Suggestions for actions we can all take right now to help keep ourselves, our families, and our own, local communities safer in the event of similar disasters

About Alan Thompson:

Alan Thompson, W6WN, grew up and still lives in Placerville, California. He's the Owner and Chief Field Engineer for El Dorado Networks, providing commercial satellite communications system installations for businesses and governmental organizations including Facebook, Intelsat, Bank of America, Merrill Lynch, the Department of Defense, and the Federal Aviation Administration.

In 2018, Alan was part of a Disaster Recovery Team that installed several satellite Internet backup systems to help restore cell-phone service ten days after the 2018 Camp Fire rubbed out electronic communications in and around Paradise and Magalia. What he witnessed there, forced Alan into becoming an "Accidental Advocate" for community fire and communications safety. He now travels throughout Northern California and Nevada making presentations to Amateur Radio Clubs, Civic Groups, and Fire Safe Councils in an effort to alert others to the dangers we now face from an over reliance on vulnerable communications services in the event of disasters.

Public Service Tour de Malt

Thanks to all the volunteers from the Marin Radio Club and Sonoma Mountain Repeaters Club who collaborated with us for the Tour de MALT bike ride this past Saturday. It was our smoothest ride ever thanks to you all and your well-driven teams! I enjoyed our laughs and good fun that we were able to have during the day but especially appreciated the clear communication from the field and the excellent job David did on the road sweeping our event.

I hope we get the opportunity to work together on an event, this was our last Tour de MALT large bike ride, but it doesn't mean we won't do other significant events in the future and need your skills. Please stay in touch, especially if you are sitting on a fire lookout and need a ranch id on a map!

Warmest,

Denise Rocco-Zilber



Dear Ann, John, Skip, Milt, Brian, Jeff, James, Larry, David and Rob—

Smooth as silk, it was.

Denise had it organized to a “tee.” Of all the events we support, Denise is among the most well-organized, unflappable, and pleasant people we have the pleasure to work with. And that’s saying something, since we work with some pretty fine folks on all of our events.

The participants were all in good humor, and virtually all of them were in good enough shape to complete the course. There was a bit of drizzle on the coast, but the start-finish was in cool sunshine. What a contrast to the rest of the US!

The Japanese have a saying: “Buji kore konnichi,” which means “No occurrence means a good day.” Indeed.

Very little call on the SAGs—Dave Pearson did a terrific job of following the changing roster of caboose riders. Ann and John were a great team at net control. All three rest stop teams did a bang-up job. Sorry you guys missed the ice-cream truck.

The bike marshals accepted their APRS trackers without murmur, and didn’t even press to see their tracks on the screen—which was a relief, because only two of the six units gave us good readings. Thanks to Rob for his pre-event work to set up digipeaters across Tomales Bay and on Wilson Hill, and to install an iGate at the Barnabe lookout. We keep learning how best to deploy this technology and to get its performance up to a stage where we can depend on it.

A friction-free event, yay.

Many thanks, colleagues—it’s a distinct honor to work with you all.

Seven-three,

Michael K6MLF

Treasurer's Report

Collapse Sort Add notes

Marin Amateur Radio Club

BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY
As of July 31, 2019

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	92,233.49
Other Current Assets	1,004.45
Total Current Assets	\$93,237.94
Fixed Assets	58,983.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$152,220.94
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	626.98
Total Current Liabilities	\$626.98
Total Liabilities	\$626.98
Equity	151,593.96
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$152,220.94

Accrual basis Wednesday, July 31, 2019 02:56 PM GMT-07:00

Marin Amateur Radio Club

PROFIT AND LOSS
June - July, 2019

	TOTAL
Income	
Donations	5.22
Dues	30.00
Income from club activities	61.00
Rent	4,900.00
Total Income	\$4,996.22
GROSS PROFIT	\$4,996.22
Expenses	
DSL	53.82
Field day	548.50
Food	116.22
Garbage	42.73
Other Business Expenses	350.00
Reimbursable Expenses	126.98
Repairs & Maintenance	1,673.00
Telephone	140.01
Utilities	197.00
Water	66.47
Total Expenses	\$3,314.73
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$1,681.49
NET INCOME	\$1,681.49

Accrual basis Wednesday, July 31, 2019 02:59 PM GMT-07:00

MINUTES

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 7, 2019

Held at: Clubhouse, 27 Shell Ave., Mill Valley, CA

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm by Curtis Ardourel.

2. Introductions:

There were a total of 24 members and guests present. Board members and officers present: Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS, President, Ed Essick, K6ELE, Treasurer, Milt Hyams KM6ASI, Secretary, and Anthony (Skip) Fedanzo, KJ6ARL, member.

3. Adopt Agenda:

The agenda was adopted as amended to add a discussion about Field Day 2019.

4. Approve Minutes:

It was M/S/A that the minutes from the May 3, 2019, General Membership Meeting be approved.

5. Board Actions:

Curtis reported that the Board created a new Comm Truck Committee was formed to assume responsibility for the maintenance of the Comm Truck and its systems. Michael Fischer (K6MLF) was appointed Chair of the Committee.

Milt reported that the estate of Dan Dufficy KH8AF/SK turned over to the Club, at Dan's request, control of his personal repeater system and his repeater equipment. This system included UHF repeaters on San Pedro Ridge, Big Rock, Mt. Tam, Grizzly Peak in Berkeley, Ward Peak in Tahoe and Vaca Mountain. The club is in the process of assuming control of all of these repeaters with the exception of Vaca Mountain, which has been closed down due to potential interference with some Air Force systems. We are seeking to partner with MDARC on operating the Grizzly Peak repeater. Doug is applying to NARCC to transfer Dan's frequencies to MARS. He also reported that the service monitor received from the estate was returned because it was apparently loaned to Dan by Dave Sane who reclaimed it.

Curtis reported that the Board approved a plan to clean up the rear of the meeting room and establish a formal work area with benches and racks.

Kris Backenstose (N5HIT) has resigned from the Board of Directors and as Chair of the Education Committee due to work conflicts. Curtis expressed that this was a loss to both the Board and the club, but stated he understood the pressures of being an independent contractor.

Anthony (Skip) Fedanzo was appointed by the Board to fill Kris' remaining term on the Board.

6. Fun with Ham Radio:

Skip Fedanzo opened a discussion of options in the event of threatened PG & E power shut downs of 4 days or longer. There was a recommendation to maintain a stock of supplies of water and food as suggested by CERT. There was also a discussion about the installation of solar panels with power storage systems and inverters as alternative power supplies.

Member, Antonis Papatsaras (AA6PP), who is also President of the San Francisco Amateur Radio Club, announced that San Francisco has established a DMR repeater which is available for our use. He also stated that the ARRL June VHF Contest is this weekend and that band conditions have been especially good with contacts with Hawaii and Maine having been made on 6m.

Rich Cochran (AG6QR) reported that he had a QSO with a parachutist on his HT which was set up through MDARC.

7. Secretary Report on External Communication:

Nothing to report.

8. Treasurer's Report:

The latest Treasurer's Report is in the latest QSA-5.

9. Committee and other Reports:

Membership :

As of the close of business of June 7, MARS had 117 members are current for 2019, 98% of 2018 membership. Curtis has contacted three more potential members who are eligible for membership having passed the Technician exam after attending the MARS Technician License Course. Curtis announced that all members will receive a new membership card in the mail during the next month along with a questionnaire seeking volunteers for club activities. This card will also contain a new password for the protected areas of our website.

It was announced that Board member Marc Bruvry (KF6VNT) was hospitalized, having undergone serious back surgery. According to reports, his doctors considered the operation a success and he will be transferred to a VA Rehabilitation Center in Palo Alto for extensive physical therapy. All members are encouraged to send him best wishes for his speedy recovery.

Public Service:

The Dipsea will be held on Sunday, which will have significant support from the Club.

Facilities:

Doug reported that another contractor has inspected the clubhouse roof for replacement. This contractor said he could do both the rafter structural repairs as well as replace the roofing. A total of 3 more roofing companies have been asked to bid on the project.

Ed Essick and Mitch Martin (WU1Q) completed rebuilding a new front fence and gate to the clubhouse grounds.

The tenant had to call a plumber for problems with a hot water faucet in her unit. The repairs required replacement of some piping along with a faucet.

Education:

Curtis reported that a search is being conducted for a new Education Committee Chair. Grant Pritchard (KK6JJ) reported that the next VE sessions for the club will be on August 8 and November 3. He also announced that Marin RACES will conduct a drill and parking lot demonstration for first responders at the Sheriff's Office parking lot at the Marin Commons parking lot on Los Gatos in San Rafael on June 29th at 10am. All members are invited.

Field Day:

Field Day 2019 will be held on June 21 through June 23 at the Marin Rod and Gun Club. There will be both 3A and GOTA stations set up. Cal will cook dinner on Saturday night. Club members are requested to help set up on Friday morning and take down on Sunday. This is always a fun event in which we show what we can do and is an opportunity for members to work HF with good equipment and an excellent antenna field.

10. Old business:

None.

11. New business:

None.

12. Good of the order:

There will be no meeting in July since the next day for a meeting will be July 5, in the middle of the 4th of July weekend. The next meeting will be August 2nd and there will be a presentation after the business portion of that meeting.

13. Adjournment:

It was moved, seconded and approved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Presentation:

There was no presentation.

Respectfully submitted by

Milton Hyams, , Secretary, on June 8, 2019.

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 Mitch Martin, WU1Q</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 Skip Fedanzo, KJ6ARL, 415-924-0584 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 Rob Rowlands, NZ6J Larry Bradley KK6QPE</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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