

# Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

January 2020

## Presidents Corner

Last month I was pretty flippant about vocabulary mainly because I don't much like reading much less writing the Year-in-Review columns that are expected in December. Since then I have come to a place where I feel the need to reflect on the recent past.

In 2019 we reached 137 members, the most we have had since I have been on the board which only seems like forever. This speaks well for all of you who continue to support MARS and particularly for those new to the club. I want to thank you all.

No particular data point stands alone and in contrast to our growing membership in the last two years we have added six hams to the Silent Key Roll Call. John Boyd KE6ORI, a fellow board member; Mike Ransom AA6II, teacher, and Elmer; Phil Dunlap K6PHD, fellow board member and my predecessor as Membership Chair; Dan Dufficy KH8AF who's contributions to the club could fill an entire column; Peter McElmury AA6SF Elmer and organizer; Howard Leistner W2BBF fellow board member.

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New Members

ARRL News

Public Service

Member Reports

Treasurers Report

Minutes

## Welcome to our new members

Jeffery Young, KM6Y - Santa Rosa  
Phillippe Jolival, KJ6QEL - Ross

## Speakers Wanted

We are always looking for speakers for the monthly meetings. If you have a topic you would like to present or know someone who might be interested in presenting, please contact the club president or any board member.

## From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

## Changes in the Club

I have been a member of the club since 2013 and during that time I have seen a number of changes in our membership and the participation in club activities. We have grown as a club both in numbers and in what we offer to our members.

Our Public Service program stands out as a good example of how club members and other hams work together to support the events that take place in Marin County. Michael Fischer and Rob Rowlands have worked very hard to create a first-rate Public Service program. They have brought a level of professionalism to program that is recognized by the organizations we serve.

Our education program has graduated a number of new hams, perhaps you are among these, who are participating in club activities. Kris Backenstose, our former education chair, led our education program and made it possible for over 30 people to become licensed hams. Our new education chair, Jamie Taylor, is taking over from Kris and we will see some changes in the program this year.

We are fortunate to have club members who step forward and provide the leadership needed to make the club grow and improve its operation. Curtis Ardourel has served as our president several times as well as currently. He does so much more than you might expect for a president. He developed our software for online memberships, works on the website, and generally maintains our software so everything works. Doug Slusher keeps our repeaters running, is often net control for public service events, and also serves as the building manager. When a pipe breaks or a drain plugs up in our rental, Doug gets the call and takes care of it. Steve Toquinto keeps the Sunday VHF net active as net control and Marc Bruvry does the same for the HF net. A number of other members always show up to help with club projects; Milt Hyams, Mitch Martin, Cal Anber, and Jerry Foster to name a few.

This is the start of a new decade and I hope we can continue expanding our club membership, participation, and club activities.

I have been updating the Silent Key Roll Call since 2010 and although it is always a sad task it was always a remove for me because I didn't know the person I was adding. I knew all of these men and the loss of each hit me harder than I realized at the time. At this point I also need to mention two other hams who are alive, well, and club members but have moved away from the area. David Chaney AA6AE who was a fellow board member and Tom Soskin W6MTS who was also a fellow board member. Their contributions to the club will be missed as we wish them the best in their new communities.

We went of a spending spree in 2019. We replaced the roof of the club house and parts of the apartment that were causing leaks into the club house. To date we have paid out \$43,487.40 and there is still more work to be done. This was no mere replacing of the shingles but a reworking of the entire structure as there was significant damage to the eaves and trusses. Of course none of us can see the roof but I am hoping that we will be able to remove the buckets that are around the door to the shack because we won't need them to catch the water dripping in.

No review of 2019 would be complete without a mention the Public Service Power Shutoff and how that affected all of us. It has made it clear to me that we need better plans on how to respond to an exigent situation. We are working that and I won't blather on about it here.

Saving the elephant in the shack for last, the loss of Big Rock and San Pedro Ridge repeater sites. This was a blow that has hit us all pretty hard. As you probably know we still have Mt Tam and Mt Barnaby nodes working in the Simulcast system but it leaves large parts of Marin in the shadows for us. I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to help out with or plans to recover from this and a fuller narrative of what was done and what will be done will be provided to you later.

I am left pleased and impressed by how we can pull together in tough times. I start 2020 proud of the Marin Amateur Radio Society and as that is all of you, I am proud of all of you.

Curtis Ardourel  
WA6UDS

## Articles Wanted

Do you have a topic you can contribute for an article? Help make QSA5 better for 2020 and write an article.

## ARRL News

### ARRL *On the Air* Podcast

ARRL's new *On the Air* podcast for those just getting started on their amateur radio journey started Thursday, January 16, with a new episode posted each month. The podcast is a companion to the new bimonthly *On the Air* magazine, which is already on its way to member subscribers. *On the Air* magazine's Editorial Director Becky Schoenfeld, W1BXY, will be the host of the new podcast. Both the podcast and the magazine are aimed at offering new and beginner-to-intermediate-level radio amateurs a fresh approach to exploring radio communication.

Listeners can find the *On the Air* podcast at [Blubrry](#), [Apple iTunes](#) (or by using your iPhone or iPad podcast app -- search for *On the Air*), and [Stitcher](#) (or through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices). [Episodes](#) will be archived on the ARRL website.

Each *On the Air* podcast will take a deeper dive into the articles and issues raised in the magazine, including advice and insight on topics covering the range of amateur radio interests and activities: radio technology, operating, equipment, project building, and emergency communication.

Supplementing *On the Air* will be a new [Facebook page](#) for those who share a love of radio communication and are looking to learn and explore more about their interests.

The biweekly *Eclectic Tech* podcast for experienced radio amateurs will launch on February 13. Hosted by *QST* Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, *Eclectic Tech* will highlight topics involving amateur and non-amateur technology, offer brief interviews with individuals involved in projects of interest to amateurs, and include practical information of immediate benefit to today's hams. *Eclectic Tech* will be available via [iTunes](#) and [Stitcher](#).

The ARRL Mags apps including *QST* and *On the Air* are now live on Apple iTunes and Google Play. The [digital edition](#) of *On the Air* magazine is also live and linked from the *On the Air* page on the ARRL website.

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## ARRL Expands Its Roster of Online Discussion Groups

Three new online discussion forums as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance and improve communication between ARRL leadership and members or prospective members. The ARRL has launched three new forums, which focus on antenna law, regulatory issues, and support for new amateur radio licensees. Attorney Fred Hopengarten, K1VR, will moderate the [Antenna Law and Policy Forum](#). Hopengarten is the author of *Antenna Zoning for the Radio Amateur*.

ARRL Regulatory Affairs Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, will moderate the [Regulatory Affairs](#) forum. *QST* Editor and ARRL Publications Manager Steve Ford, WB8IMY, will moderate the [New Hams](#) forum.

## Public Service

Hello, radio colleagues—

It's that time again. **Please RSVP**, one way or the other. See below.

On **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>** at 1100, we'll have our sixth annual public service meeting. It's a **debrief** on how things went last year, and what improvements we can make. It's an **awards** ceremony, with those who worked at least 3 events getting their Gold Stars. It's a **pre-brief**, with an outline of what to expect in 2020, with a **signup list** for you to reserve your space on the events you want to work. It's a **training session**, with tips on radio protocol, battery management, antenna setups, and solar-panel arrangements. Of course, we will get the latest **update on our repeater system**, now that we have lost the Big Rock site.

We will unveil the new **user-friendly public service section of the MARS website**—Dale Komai KK6ZOE, Larry Bradley KK6QPE and Curtis WA6UDS have devoted many hours to its development.

We will also view the **professional-level video** on best radio practices that is being crafted by our own TV personality, Brian Cooley K6EZX.

As usual, we will have valuable **give-aways** for all comers. We'll have a **raffle** for two Yaesu VX-4R radios and two of the spiffy MARS club jackets with reflective stripes—and a few other inventive, smaller prizes.

A **free lunch**?! How can you miss it?

**Please RSVP** to [RSVP@w6sg.net](mailto:RSVP@w6sg.net) we'll need to know how much food to buy, and how many rolls of raffle tickets we'll use up!

We're looking forward to work with you all again,

Michael Fischer K6MLF and Rob Rowlands NZ6J, public service co-coordinators

## Peter McElmury, Silent Key

One rainy Saturday morning seven years ago, I saw a bedraggled group of ham radio operators shoreside at the West end of Spreckels Lake over next to Heartbreak Harbor. I was alone in the San Francisco Model Yacht Club's Boathouse working on my ODOM and, being a ham myself (K6MLF,) invited them in out of the rain. We wheeled out the orange chairs, and they held their radio-training meeting (Called the 2-Meter Critical Mass) indoors without developing head colds.

From that first meeting, the organizer Peter McElmury AA6SF and I became pretty darn' good friends. Indeed, the beginning of the Victoria fleet sprang from that early friendship. Peter and I were the co-founders of the Victoria fleet, and Peter pulled his oar with fine, strong strokes.

Building our first Victorias together on my deck in Mill Valley? Peter was there. Go race in Monterey with the Monterey Peninsula (big boat) Yacht Club Victoria fleet? Peter was there. Co-host the annual Golden Gate Challenge regatta for 5 years? Peter was there. Playing many roles to make sure that our Victoria National Championship Regatta was fun for everyone? Peter was there. Making good on our crazy promise to be on the lake with our little Victorias every Wednesday, "rain or shine?" Peter was there. Welcoming newcomers with his calm, friendly personality? Peter was there, embodying the very best of the Corinthian Spirit. Oh, yes: the "SF" in his radio callsign? Not San Francisco, but Semper Fi. You get the picture: solid, dependable, steady, quiet.

Because we were both active in our respective ham radio clubs, Peter and I spent many days together providing public service radio support to the San Francisco Marathon, the Dipsea, Miwok, Tour de MALT and literally dozens of other events over the past half-dozen years. We liked each other; we emulated each other; we just quietly enjoyed being in each other's company. Two years ago, I started the North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass radio practice, figuratively standing on Peter's shoulders. And, of course, he was there to help. Again and yet again.

For more than ten years, Peter was the net control organizer for the San Francisco Siren Net—every Tuesday at noon, the City tested its 114 sirens "This is a test, this is only a test..." And every Tuesday, one to two dozen hams around town would report in about how well the sirens were working. Once every other month for more than five years, I was one of Peter's net controls—even from Mill Valley! San Francisco recently shut down its siren-warning system to install upgrades. Fittingly, Peter was net control on the last day before the sirens went silent.

Every year, the Mayor of San Francisco recognizes neighborhood leaders with "NEN Awards"—The Neighborhood Empowerment Network. In late January 2020, Peter was recognized with a NEN Award for his NERT leadership—specifically, for encouraging NERT volunteers to become licensed radio operators, and then training them in the basics of radio protocol. Unfortunately, he won't be there to receive his recognition—but some of us will be there, for sure.

Peter had a big heart, an instinct to be helpful and friendly, and was a truly good man. As his long-time friend Jan Leja WB6SPX put it: "our gentle friend Peter, week after week, and year after year left footprints for all of us to follow."

He loved his wife Pat, his son & daughter-in-law, and their granddaughter—and it showed: brightly, but quietly, shining forth. It was a pair of strokes that brought him down, just days before Christmas. We'll all miss him, but we'll be grateful for the time we were able to be together. We'll remember Peter with a quiet smile.

Michael Fischer K6MLF





## New Enclosure for Comm Truck is Finished

Thanks to Rob Rowlands, Milt Hyamms, Mitch Martin, and Jim Saltzgaber.



## Treasurer's Report

### Marin Amateur Radio Club

#### BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31, 2019

	TOTAL
▼ ASSETS	
▼ Current Assets	
▼ Bank Accounts	
B of A Building account - 8795	835.49
B of A General account - 4328	3,743.49
CD	25,000.00
Money Market	25,000.00
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$54,578.98</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$54,578.98</b>
▼ Fixed Assets	
club house- 27 Shell Rd. MV	58,983.00
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>\$58,983.00</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$113,561.98</b>
▼ LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	
▼ Equity	
Opening Balance Net Assets	124,400.00
Retained Earnings	16,827.76
Net Income	-27,665.78
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$113,561.98</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$113,561.98</b>

Accrual basis Thursday, January 30, 2020 01:41 PM GMT-08:00

# Marin Amateur Radio Club

## PROFIT AND LOSS January - December 2019

	TOTAL
- Income	
Donations	1,858.72
Dues	7,618.92
Income from club activities	171.00
Rent	29,400.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$39,048.64</b>
GROSS PROFIT	\$39,048.64
- Expenses	
Advertising/Promotional	494.20
Awards	1,381.86
Car & Truck	1,651.72
Contractors	227.50
DSL	429.57
Education	210.85
Equipment < \$2,500	3,004.45
Field day	537.50
Food	2,421.93
Garbage	1,161.59
Insurance	2,940.76
Legal & Professional Services	650.00
Other Business Expenses	350.00
Reimbursable Expenses	4,511.78
Rent & Lease	140.00
Repair & Maintenance	35,656.18
Repairs & Maintenance	1,747.69
Taxes & Licenses	4,199.56
Telephone	1,844.39
Uncategorized Expense	264.75
Utilities	2,454.25
Water	433.89
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$66,714.42</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -27,665.78
NET INCOME	\$ -27,665.78

Accrual basis Thursday, January 30, 2020 01:49 PM GMT-08:00

# MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

January 9, 2020

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

**Board members present:** Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS, President; Ed Essick K6ELE, Treasurer; Milt Hyams KM6ASI, Secretary; Anthony (Skip) Fedanzo KJ6ARL; K6GWE Trustee Doug Slusher, KF6AKU and Marc Bruvry KF6VNT, members.

**Absent:** Mitch Martin WU1Q, Vice President.

**Other attendees:** Michael Fischer, K6MLF, Public Service Committee Co-Chair and Jay Hubert, K0OLK, Chief Radio Officer, Marin RACES, member.

## 1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Curtis Ardourel.  
The agenda, as amended and reordered to allow for available time, was adopted.

## 2. Approve minutes:

Minutes of the November 14, 2019, board meeting were approved without objection.

## 3. Treasurer's Report:

Ed Essick reported that the cash available in the bank checking account is down to about \$8000 and a withdrawal from the club CD account will need to be made to meet obligations which will exceed that amount over the next month

a. We received the invoice for the Xmas party from the caterer in the amount of \$1064. Curtis requested authorization to add a 20% gratuity bringing the total to \$1276.

It was **M/S/A** to authorize payment of \$1276 to SimpLee Delicious per the invoice for the Xmas Party catering plus a 20% gratuity.

b. Michael Fischer requested approval of a \$1700 budget on behalf of the Public Service Committee for the Public Service Luncheon to be held on March 7, 2020.

It was **M/S/A** to approve appropriation of \$1700 for the 2020 Public Service Luncheon for food, equipment to be issued and door prizes.

c. Tom Soskin has submitted a request for reimbursement for \$750 of the \$1050 he paid out of pocket to decorate the club house for the Xmas Party. He wanted to donate the difference between that requested and his total expenses. It was agreed that given the work that he put into the event he should be reimbursed more than that requested.

It was **M/S/A** to reimburse Tom Soskin \$900 for out of pocket expenses he advanced for decorations for the Xmas Party, and to extend the Board's thanks for the fine work he did to make the party a success.

## 4. Secretary's Report (External Communications):

Milt reported that two pieces of correspondence were received on Friday night, January 3, 2020, that were of critical significance to MARS operations for the near future. The first, from Nationwide Insurance Company, notified us that our insurance policy will not be renewed when it expires on March 3, 2020, because, among other things, the emergency services we provide, our repeater network, the nature and location of our clubhouse are not consistent with the radio amateur social club that they contracted to insure. Of even more immediate importance, the second letter was from C&C Equipment Company, our landlord for the San Pedro Ridge and Big Rock repeater sites, terminating our lease agreements for those sites effective January 30, 2020.

While we don't have one of the simulcast repeaters at the San Pedro Ridge site, it serves as the hub controlling all of the simulcast repeaters and as host of the 147.330 and 443.525 repeaters. The Big Rock repeater is, of course, the key repeater in our simulcast system, and the link to Novato and north Marin.



Since receiving that correspondence, Milt and Doug Slusher have been working on attempting to mitigate the effects of these developments.

Doug checked with our insurance broker who advised that it appeared that our insurance carrier, Nationwide, wanted to get out of covering amateur radio club operations such as ours. They would try to find a replacement insurance company that covers non-profit organizations such as ours. He also attempted to contact Walt Corbin, owner of C&C and author of the letter we received, only to have his call returned by Pete Gruchawka, the site manager for C&C for northern California. Gruchawka indicated to Doug that our eviction from the repeater sites was irreversible and our only recourse would be to reapply at some point in the future when we could meet all of their new insurance and other requirements.

Since we were losing our insurance, at this point we have no recourse on the repeater sites. Milt began the search for new insurance. Beside Marin Pacific, our existing broker, Milt contacted ARRL's repeater site insurance carrier, Hanover. They declined to cover our repeater sites under ARRL's group insurance program because we own our building. He was referred to Hanover's Regional office in San Francisco who further referred him to Hanover's local broker, George Peterson and Associates. He contacted the Peterson firm and has been dealing with an agent there, Christian Mello, for a proposal for covering all liability insurance including the building, our operations and repeater sites. He also contacted a former associate in a Lake Tahoe homeowners association that was an insurance broker handling non-profit organizations. He was referred to Mike Taylor of InterWest Insurance services of Walnut Creek. He has also provided requested information to Taylor for a proposal for a similar comprehensive insurance policy. On referral by member Larry Bradley, who is also president of MDARC, he talked to Jim Siemons who manages insurance coverage for MDARC. Siemons said Marin Pacific wrote their insurance and made a number of other suggestions with respect to insurance coverage as well as possible alternative repeater sites to locate our hub. Milt will follow up on those suggestions.

A group discussion then followed to address next steps. Besides following up on obtaining a new insurance policy, which Milt has agreed to do, a new technical committee will need to be formed to address dismantling our San Pedro Ridge and Big Rock repeater sites and establishing replacement locations. It was agreed that the first order of business was to relocate the simulcast network hub to keep our repeater system on the air. The new committee would have three primary responsibilities: Engineering to handle geographical studies for locating the new repeaters and design of the revised network; Removal and Installation to deal with removal of equipment from our existing sites and installing the equipment in new sites; and Site Planning to not only site the short term hub relocation but also to address long term solutions as well. This latter function will include identification of potential sites, coordination and negotiation with the owners of potential sites and to engage in obtaining support for acquiring the sites for our use, with particular emphasis to serving north Marin.

Nominations were solicited from the group for potential members of the new Technical Committee. The committee will be chaired by Doug Slusher who will be assisted by Milt. The nominations for the committee were as follows: Jerry Foster, Steve Wilson; Skip Fedanzo, Rob Rowlands, Steve Fischer and Rob Ireson. A first meeting of the committee was tentatively set for next Thursday evening, January 16<sup>th</sup>. Doug will contact the nominated committee members to determine their interest and availability in participating. All were asked to identify nominate potential members for the committee who would be valuable in assisting in the mission of the committee. The timeline goal for removal and reinstallation of the temporary hub is the week of January 19<sup>th</sup>.

Curtis will advise the membership of the above developments and will contact ARRL SF Section Manager Bill Hillendahl for assistance.

## **5. Membership Chair Report:**

Curtis reported that 71 members have renewed so far for this year, putting us at 51% of paid membership at the end of last year.

## **6. Old business:**

a. There has been no further feedback received from the Alto-Sutton Neighborhood Response Group on their request to use of the clubhouse as their headquarters and mobilization point. Michael Fischer and Skip Fedanzo will be meeting with them this week for more information on their requirements.

## **7. New business:**

a. Curtis nominated Steve Toquinto KB6HOH for a Life Membership in MARS in recognition of his tireless service as net control of the clubs various nets and as an Elmer for new hams.

It was **M/S/A** that Steve Toquinto be awarded a Life Membership in the Marin Amateur Radio Society.

b. Michael Fischer requested approval of the Public Service events scheduled for this year. The events submitted for approval are:

1. Ridge to Bridge: Saturday, April 18, 5am-3pm 15 needed  
(Michael/East Fort Baker (New Start-finish location)/CommT)

2. Miwok 100: Saturday, May 2, 5am-10pm 20 needed (same day as The Golden Gate Relay) (Rob/Stinson/CommT)

3. Dipsea: Sunday, June 14, 7am-2pm 20 needed (Rob & Doug/Stinson)

4. Double Dipsea: Saturday, June 20, 6:30am-1:30pm 15 needed (Michael/Stinson/CommTruck)

Field Day: June 26-28

5. Marin Century: Saturday, August 1, 4:30 am-11pm 25 needed (Rob/Terra Linda High School??/CommTruck)

6. MCBC Dirt Fondo: Saturday, August 15. 6am - 3pm 20 needed (Michael/Fort Cronkhite/CommT)

7. MCBC Adventure Revival. Saturday, September 12, 7:30am-3pm. 15 needed. (Michael/Fairfax Pavilion/CommTruck)

8. Jense Gran Fondo: Sunday, September 27, 0600 – 1800, 20 needed (Michael/Stafford Lake/CommTruck)

9. Dolphin Club Escape from Alcatraz: Saturday, October ????, 10am-6pm, 12needed (Rob/Old Mill) (same day as Waves to Wine)

10. ZBC Dipsea Hike: Saturday, September ????, 7am-2pm, 10 needed (Rob/Old Mill)

11. Harbor Rotary Club End Polio Now bike ride: Early October??, 8am -1pm, 8 needed (Michael/Bear Valley/Comm Truck)

12 .Breast Cancer Prevention Partners (formerly Breast Cancer Fund) Peak Hike: Sunday, October ????. 6 needed (Rob/Santos Meadow/CommT)

It was **M/S/A** that the above Public Service events' schedule proposed by the Public Service Committee be adopted.

c. The following Board Members were nominated to serve as officers of the Board for the year 2020: President, Curtis Ardourel; Vice President, Marc Bruvry; Secretary, Milt Hyams; Treasurer, Ed Essick.

It was **M/S/A** that the slate of officers nominated above be elected as officers of the Marin Amateur Society for 2020.

**8. Good of the order:**

Nothing raised.

**9. Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm

Respectfully submitted by

**Milton Hyams**

**Secretary**, on January 10, 2020

# MINUTES GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

January 3, 2020

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

## 1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 pm by Curtis Ardourel.

## 2. Introductions:

There were a total of 26 members and guests present. Board members and officers present: Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS, President; Ed Essick, K6ELE, Treasurer; Milt Hyams KM6ASI, Secretary; Anthony (Skip) Fedanzo KJ6ARL, member; and K6GWE Trustee Doug Slusher KF6AKU. Bill Hillendahl, ARRL, San Francisco Section Manager was also present.

New members were introduced: Jess Ghannam KG6AHV, San Francisco  
Stefan Bauer KN6FOH, Novato  
Michael Grummell, Santa Rosa

## 3. Adopt Agenda:

The agenda was adopted as presented.

## 4. Report from ARRL Section Manager:

Bill Hillendahl reported on the latest news from ARRL:

The FCC has enacted new RF exposure regulations that eliminate the Safe Harbor exemptions for amateur radio. Starting this year all radio amateurs will have to do the RF exposure calculations for their stations and keep them on file.

A new ARRL magazine called On the Air, which targets the new and intermediate operator, will become available starting this year. It may be received in print form in lieu of QST or will be available to all members on line as will OEX. The "Doctor is In" podcast series has ended, but old programs will continue to be available in archive on the website.

The Amateur Radio Parity Act bill has been dropped. In its place will be a new bill which will focus on the safety implications of amateur radio and be introduced as a rider bill which should minimize focused opposition. The new bill will mirror the old TART rules that provided for the erection of TV antennas notwithstanding of HOA rules to the contrary.

In response to a question from Rob Rowlands NZ6J as to why ARRL does not use Amazon for distribution of their publications at no shipping cost, Bill stated that such a decision was "well above his pay grade" but that he would pass the suggestion on.

It was pointed out that ARRL will make a full library of all of their publications available to schools for \$200 and that the club should look into sponsoring such a contribution to local high schools.

## 5. Approve Minutes:

It was **MSA** that the minutes of the November 1, 2019 and December 11, 2019 General Meetings be approved.

## 6. Board Actions:

No significant Board actions have been taken since the last General Meeting. Officers for 2020 will be elected at the next Board meeting.

## 7. Fun with Ham Radio:

Rich Cochran reported that he ran radio operations on the Liberty Ship, Jeremiah O'Brien, during Fleet Week and it was quite an experience.

Michael Fischer K6MLF announced that the Critical Mass training session held on the third Sunday of each month will continue for 2020 at the Marin Civic Center Juror's Parking Lot with the next session scheduled for January 19, 2020 at 10 AM.

## 8. Secretary's Report—External Communications:

Milt deferred to Michael Fischer who reported that the club had received a donation of \$1000 from Marin Cyclists.

## 9. Treasurer's Report:

Ed reported that the latest Treasurer's Report is in the latest QSA-5. He also reported that the contractor's invoice has been paid for the roof work.

## 10. Committee and other Reports:

Membership: As of the close of business of December 31, the club had 137 paid members, 114% of 2018 year end membership.

Facilities: Doug reported that the roof and gutters have been installed and the door to the tenant's deck had been replaced. The deck off the tenant's apartment, which requires creation of a drainage slope to stop leaks, is the next phase of the roof repair

project. The garage for the comm truck is in the process of being erected. The antenna tower, which is on hand, will be erected last with a Stepp-IR antenna mounted on it.

Education: Jamie Taylor, the Training Committee Chair, has ordered training materials for use in the coming year.

Public Service: Michael Fisher made the Public Service Committee Report. The annual Public Service Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM at the clubhouse to recognize participation in public service activities in 2019 and for signup for 2020 activities. The 2020 Public Service calendar will be finalized by the luncheon. There were 55 public service participants last year. A training video for public service net operations is being produced and will hopefully be available for the luncheon. The Public Service section of the MARS website has been redone by Dale Komai. Rob Rowlands will be providing internet access in the field for some of the public service events this year.

- 11. **Old business:** None.
- 12. **New business:** None.
- 13. **Good of the order:** None.
- 14. **Adjournment:**

It was moved, seconded and approved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:11 pm.

**Presentation:** Rob Rowlands made an excellent presentation on testing handheld transceivers for compliance. He demonstrated severe harmonics problems with Baofeng HTs which are likely attributable to deficient or non-existent filtering.

Respectfully submitted by

**Milton Hyams**, , Secretary, on January 8, 2020.

**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> Marc Bruvry, KF6VNT</p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Milt Hyams, KM6ASI</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 Skip Fedanzo, KJ6ARL, 415-924-0584 Marc Bruvry, KF6VNT 492-9292 Ed Essick, K6ELE, 415-456-1715 Mitch Martin, WU1Q Doug Slusher, KF6AKU</p> <p><b>Other Positions:</b></p> <p><b>Education Chair</b> Jamie Taylor, KK6OLF</p> <p><b>VE Liaison</b> Grant Pritchard</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 Rob Rowlands, NZ6J</p> <p><b>Membership</b> Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS</p> <p><b>Editor of QSA5</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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