

Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

Founded 1933

May 2020

Presidents Corner

It is the last day of May and last weekend was Memorial Day weekend so presumably it is summertime. This year we are living through a very different summer than any of us can remember. The season that comes more to mind right now is spring. We are seeing in the bay area tentative steps to reopen our lives being taken by government. Some of the organizations we support in their events are rescheduling those events or deciding to go ahead on the original dates. I am mostly working from home, but I do commute into San Francisco one or two days a week and each time I do there are more cars. On my last drive in they even turned on the metering lights on the bridge for the first time in two months.

In some ways it is like hearing the birds chirp and seeing buds on plants, and of course nature is waking up as well. Given how little we know about COVID-19 and the related but even more mysterious Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome in Children we can't take our eyes off the ball about being careful. The best current science suggests that outdoor activities where masks are worn, and physical distance is maintained are reasonably safe and with that in mind and no new regulations or event cancellations we may move forward with some events. The Public Service Committee will keep you up to date on events that will take place and on new procedures around keeping each other safe.

Although we are amateurs and volunteers helping out at these events the event organizers see us as professionals and many times you the amateur may have worked this particular event at this specific location many more times than anyone associated with the organizer has. The event participants don't distinguish who is helping out, we look to them like part of the organizer. Because of these intertwined relationships we need to model good behavior as we participate and in this particular time that includes wearing masks and giving people plenty of space. The mask is safety equipment just like the dayglo hats and vests, and right now it is part of the job.

As a group most of our membership falls into to one or more of the categories that place us at higher risk of suffering from an infection. As we are doing antibody testing, we are learning that lots more people have had COVID-19 than was initially thought. There are two pieces of good news in that. First the mortality rate seems to be much lower than it did at first. The second is that for many the symptoms are very mild. The bad news is that there are probably a lot more people without symptoms who can infect us.

From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

Meet Our Members

Most of us are still limited in our social interactions due to COVID, so this month I thought I would remind all members that we could use your member profile. It looks like we are limited to Zoom meetings for the foreseeable future and no public service events, or Sunday meetings at the club house. I have included the member profile of Michael Fischer, which I ran in QSA5 in December 2013. Some of you have joined the club since that time so you might have missed his profile unless you took the time to read it in the QSA5 archived issues.

We are a diverse club with respect to each other's interests in ham radio. For many of you, public service is a major interest, which for now is on hold. How about during this time each of you consider submitting a profile so other members can learn more about you and your ham interests?

To make it easy to submit a profile, you can just email me your rough draft and any photos and I will edit it for you. Please see my suggestions in this issue on what to include in your profile.

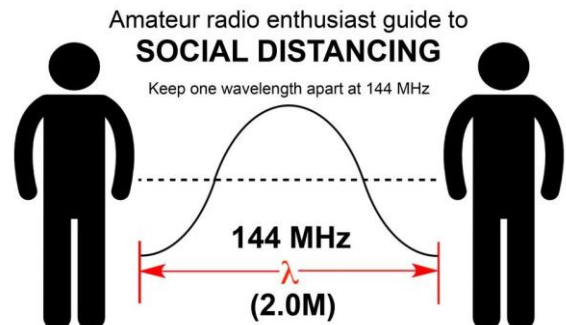
What's Happening in Radio

ARRL News

General Meeting 6/5 (Zoom)

Treasurer's Report

Minutes



Thanks to John Kristian, W6JMK

Continued on page 2

The same folks who are suggesting that outdoor activities are relatively safe are also suggesting that indoor activities with multiple people for prolonged periods are ideal for transmitting the virus. Given that regular meetings at the clubhouse will remain on hold. Our next regular meeting and board meeting will be on zoom. I will send out invites on Wednesday for Friday's meeting and the following Tuesday for the board meeting.

Stay well
WA6UDS

Clubhouse Lock System Changed

The key system for the clubhouse has been changed to digital fob entry. Keys will no longer work. Anyone who has a key will need to make a request to the board for fob access. Thanks to Doug and the others who worked on this upgrade to improve the security of our clubhouse.

General Meeting Friday 6/5

The meeting will be by Zoom again this month. Look for your email to attend.

Presentation General Meeting 6/5

Alan Bowker, WA6DNR will make a presentation on DMR, (Digital Mobile Radio.)

The information will include an overview of DMR and how it differs from traditional FM, how radios identify during transmission, the use of talkgroups that enable worldwide communications.

Additional topics include the user of high- and low-level repeaters as well as hotspots.

Alan will demonstrate several DMR / FM transceivers and discuss the concepts of programming the new digital parameters.

What's Happening in Radio

COVID-19 Radio Communication Event, 1000Z, Jun 6 to 0959Z, Jun 7

Kentucky QSO Party, 1400Z, June 6 to 0200Z, Jun 7

DRCG WW RTTY Contes, 0000Z-0759Z, Jun 13 and 1600Z-2359Z, Jun 13 and 0800Z-1559Z, Jun 14

ARRL June VHF Contest, 1800Z, Jun 13 to 0259Z, Jun 15

Ukrainian DX Classic RTTY Contest, 1200Z, Jun 20 to 1159Z, Jun 21

ARRL Field Day, 1800Z, Jun 27 to 2100Z, Jun 28

See complete contest calendar at:

<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>

ARRL News

Social Distancing Exam Sessions Demonstrate Pent-Up Demand for Testing

A recent in-person "social-distancing" amateur radio exam session in Indiana and a "drive-in" session in California are representative of those that are relieving some of the pent-up demand for testing. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, in-person exam sessions have begun to resume across the US and elsewhere in the world.

"With in-person sessions starting up again around the country, we are hearing the same story from volunteer examiner (VE) teams everywhere," said ARRL Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Maria Somma, AB1FM. "Large numbers of candidates who have been waiting to test are contacting teams and are thankful for the opportunity to sit for an exam. VE teams and candidates are following CDC and state guidelines for social distancing."

Anderson (IN) Repeater Club VE Team Liaison Steve Riley, WA9CWE, told ARRL earlier this month that his club has been conducting test sessions every month since 2011, typically serving four or five candidates each session, but the May 19 session attracted 14 individuals.

"We were unable to test in April, but were able to get back in for the May session," Riley said. "Several candidates were from Central Indiana, and we had a fellow drive down from Chicago, a couple from the Dayton, Ohio, area, and also from Fort Wayne, Indiana." The team limited participation until it could conduct the trial run.

VEs and examinees alike wore face masks, and the test room was configured to accommodate the necessary spacing between individuals. "We questioned everyone entering with the usual health questions," he added.

"Our VE paperwork became a serial flow for grading instead of our prior 'huddle' of the three VEs over the answer sheet," Riley recounted. "As a result, things were a bit slower than in the past. The tables, pencils, and pens were disinfected."

The result for the session was 11 new radio amateurs and three upgrades. "All went well, although we identified a couple improvements in paperwork flow for next month's test," Riley added.



"There is quite a pent-up demand for new amateur licenses and upgrades as a result of the number of test sessions that have been canceled," he continued. "I hope that as sessions resume, they have the success that we had." Riley said he's already been contacted by six people who plan to sit for the exam in June.

Temporary Rule Waivers for ARRL Field Day 2020

5/28/2020



With one month to go before 2020 [ARRL Field Day](#), June 27-28, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) has adopted two temporary rule waivers for the event:

1) For Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.

[Field Day rule 4.6](#) defines Class D stations as “Home stations,” including stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations ordinarily may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E, and F Field Day stations, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows Class D stations to count contacts with other Class D stations for QSO credit.

2) In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions).

Ordinarily, club names are only published in the results for Class A and Class F entries, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows participants from [any Class](#) to optionally include a single club name with their submitted results following Field Day.

For example, if Podunk Hollow Radio Club members Becky, W1BXY, and Hiram, W1AW, both participate in 2020 Field Day — Hiram from his Class D home station, and Becky from her Class C mobile station — both can include the radio club’s name when reporting their individual results. The published results listing will include individual scores for Hiram and Becky, plus a combined score for all entries identified as Podunk Hollow Radio Club.

The temporary rule waivers were adopted by the PSC on May 27, 2020.

ARRL Podcasts Schedule

The latest episode of the *On the Air* podcast (Episode 5) focuses on the various types of modulation and tips on go-kits. The *On the Air* podcast is a monthly companion to *On the Air* magazine, ARRL's magazine for beginner-to-intermediate ham radio operators.

The latest episode of the *Eclectic Tech* podcast (Episode 8) includes a discussion of 10-meter FM and an interview with Pascal Villeneuve, VA2PV, about "hotspots" for DMR, D-ST. The latest episode of the *Eclectic Tech* podcast (Episode 8) includes a discussion of 10-meter FM and an interview with Pascal Villeneuve, VA2PV, about "hotspots" for DMR, D-STAR, and Yaesu Fusion.

Both podcasts are available on iTunes (iOS) and Stitcher (Android) as well as on Blubrry.

Club Members

Each of you have a story to tell about your involvement in ham radio. I would like to put your story in the QSA5 “Meet Our Members” column.

So far, I have only asked members directly if they would write a profile. For those of you who do not attend our monthly meetings on a regular basis, the profile is a way for other members to learn about you and your radio interests. We may talk to each other over the repeater or on HF, but many of us have not met face to face. A profile with your picture is one way we can connect with each other.

Please consider writing your profile and email it along with your picture to me.

Below are some general questions to get you started on your profile. If it is easier for you to just answer the questions, I can take it from there and create the profile.

Hope to hear from you.

Ed Essick
K6ELE
e.essick@comcast.net

Please include the following in your Meet Our Members response:

1. What is your major interest in radio?
2. What bands/modes do you operate the most?
3. Who or what got you interested in ham radio?
5. How long have you been licensed?
6. Describe your station/radios and include your picture if possible.
7. What ham activities do you participate in; public service events, contesting, etc.?

New Repeater in Novato

The club now has a new repeater site to replace the ones we had to vacate on Big Rock and San Pedro ridge. With the cooperation of the North Marin Water District, we now have a repeater on Bahia Ridge in East Novato. It uses the same input as our old Big Rock repeater, 147.70.

The Board of Directors appointed a subcommittee, Doug Slusher and Milt Hyams, to research and locate a repeater site. Milt completed all the administrative tasks needed to secure the new site and Doug provided the technical support for its installation and testing.

Special thanks to the crew who spent all day on the water tank pulling three 94 foot runs of hardline coax through conduit to the top of the tank and installing the three antennas - Steve Fischer, Adam Mc Laughlin, and Dick Brinkerhoff. Also special thanks to Bob Magnani for donating the standoff clamp sets used on the water tower.



Meet Our Members

Editor's note: This member profile ran in the December 2013 QSA5, which many of our new members might not have seen. Since then Michael has added and expanded his list of activities for our club to include Public Service Event Coordinator, (now also shared with Rob Rowlands), and starting the North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass Sunday meetings.

Michael Fischer Profile For QSA-5 December 2013



When my brother learned, six years ago, that I had gotten a ham radio license, he said, “Michael always wanted to be a ham when he was a kid—I guess he’s reached his second childhood!”

He was right—probably on both counts. Growing up on the Mississippi Gulf Coast in the 40s, and then in San Antonio, Texas in the 50s, I was lucky enough to have ham radio operators in my neighborhood. I hung out with them in their shacks, watched the dancing waveforms on the oscilloscope, smelled the ozone, heard their faint contacts, both voice and Morse, and studied the QSL cards (all from exotic, faraway places) thumbtacked to their walls. I was entranced, mesmerized.

But, as with many amateur radio operators-to-be, life intervened. Jobs, studies, work, play, family...so I didn’t get my license. Other things crowded it out.

Then came the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. At the time, I was CEO of an environmental nonprofit with several hundred employees in a four-story brick building in San Francisco’s Civic Center area. Panic, screaming, walls cracking, bookcases toppling, pictures, thrown off the walls, splintering on the floor...we evacuated the building, found no injuries. But what to do next? Go back inside? Walk home? How to link up with family members? What if someone HAD been trapped or injured?

Within weeks, I had contacted the San Francisco Fire Department, and learned of a new program—they called it NERT (Neighborhood Emergency Response Team.) Here in Marin, it’s called, as you all know, CERT. So, ours became the first commercial building trained in triage, cribbing, fire suppression, first aid, and emergency communications. It didn’t take a wise man to know that preparedness at the office wasn’t the same as preparedness at home, so I got my CERT training and joined the Mill Valley team.

Mistakenly thinking that having a ham radio license would help me be a better-prepared CERT volunteer, I stumbled on HamCrams and, in early 2007 spent the day at the Flower Show building next to the Strybing Arboretum and left with my technician’s license. Dave, “Mr. ECHo ECHo ECHo,” told me to contact Mike Larnar, then K6RVL. Mike became my first Elmer, helped me get my first radio (a Yaesu VX-7R,) showed me how to program it and how to use repeaters, and he connected me with the Marin Amateur Radio Society, then with the Marin County RACES outfit.

Continued on page 6

Meet our Members

Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ then took me under his wing, urged me to take the General exam, and set me up with a spare RACES ICOM 735 to get me on the HF waves. Of course, he also got me into my first public service event, and I got hooked. Doug Slusher's KF6AKU patience in walking me through the basics of radio protocol was inspiring. Well, that was 6 years ago. Then, after several months of studying under Randy Jenkins' KA6BQF tutelage at a pace of one chapter each Sunday, I passed the Extra exam on the first try about a year ago. What a thoughtful, intelligent, and skillful teacher he is.

I learned early on that my CERT leadership role was enriched by the radio protocol that I use as a ham, but that my license is not necessary for that work. Working closely with the Fire and Police Departments, we use GMRS and commercial high-band radios in Mill Valley CERT, and there's only a very limited potential for RACES involvement in Mill Valley's emergency preparedness system.

But there are other uses to which I put my radio skills and my amateur radio license: I help Randy to organize a dozen community service projects each year for the Marin Amateur Radio Society, am a Volunteer Examiner, and am also an active member of the *USS Pampanito* SS383 amateur radio club. I've scored second place in Marin County in the California QSO Party, have taken the middle-of-the-night shift the past three years at our Field Day out at Point San Quentin, and am on several 80-meter traffic nets at least half the days of each month. Contesting, traffic nets, public service, emergency comms, and learning code (someday)--all of that is enjoyable to me.

I have learned a lot from Harold Wilkinson W0HJW on the Golden Bear Net and Bill McGowan W7FQQ in Centralia, WA, on the California Traffic Net. I've handled several hundred messages, in both directions, on those two nets. Great experience and great exposure to hams who might be able to help some day. There a lot of operators in Oregon whom I will probably never meet—but they know my voice and my callsign from frequent checkins to the Oregon Emergency Net. Just in case...

Particularly exciting is the fact that Christy, my daughter, is KI6TDG and son Steve is K6ETA. She lives in Carmel Valley Village and he lives in Petaluma. So the three of us stay in touch several times a week on the Loma Pioneers Repeater, located high above Los Gatos. Steve has amazed me by becoming so much more expert and knowledgeable than I about the technical aspects of radios—so he is my latest Elmer! He is also a constant source of envy: my QTH is in a small redwood-forested box canyon tucked tightly up against Blithedale Ridge, called “the worst location for a ham radio station I have ever seen” by Dean Straw N6BV, the former editor of ARRL's Antenna Handbook. But Steve, on low, flat ground in East Petaluma, using the same old Kenwood TS-850 that I have, has scored SSB contacts literally around the world, on every continent except (so far) Antarctica.

I find it especially rewarding to be a member of the Marin Amateur Radio Society—the collegiality, the friendships, the mentors, the shared interests and shared adventures are particularly enlivening for me. Thanks, friends!

North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass

We had an enjoyable (I thought) discussion of best communications practices, keying off Cooley's 6-minute video. Attached is a tip-sheet that records most of those points for you to print out as a reminder.

We got Doug's good news about a new North Marin input site for the simulcast system above Bahia in North Novato—indeed, Milt Hyams KM6ASI was driving to a meet with the North Marin Water District as we were gathered on Zoom. Hopefully, next month sometime will see that site up and operational.

Please pass the word about the monthly North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass: 3rd Sunday of each month, 10am. If we're meeting on Zoom, we'll most likely keep it to an hour or so, rather than our regular 10-noon slot. I sure find Zoom-fatigue setting in after an hour...

Hopefully, sometime this summer with cautions in place, we can resume our outdoors radio practice!

Warm regards to all, and please be safe.

Michael Fischer K6MLF

Best practices for MARS public service communications:

Listen to make sure you're not interrupting an exchange in progress

Listen to all the radio exchanges, just in case you can assist (or need to know) something affecting another station

Listen so you can learn "by intercept" of information "up the line" that will ultimately affect your station (like the numbers/times of the last participants.)

Listen so you can immediately respond to a call from net control

Think before you key up. Know what you are about to say before pushing PTT. No stream-of-consciousness, keep it succinct.

Think before you add levity or friendly greetings on the air. A little bit of chit-chat to add friendliness to a net is proper—but only a little, and not during busy times. When a friendly comment is sent your way, no need to take up air time by responding. You can smile to yourself; that's enough.

Pause for two or three seconds to avoid tailgating in order to provide frequent opportunities for other stations to break in. This is especially apt when there is a question-answer nature to the exchange. It's natural to immediately PTT to respond—fight that natural instinct!

Pause one second after key-up to give our simulcast system time to synchronize.

To take advantage of that **pause**, if there is an extended exchange with net control: break in with "net control, Whitegate with traffic." Net control will tell Whitegate to stand by, will conclude (or interrupt) the exchange-in-progress and then signal "Whitegate, go ahead with your traffic."

Do a proper **handshake**—wait to be recognized before passing traffic.

Do a proper **handshake**—call the station you are calling first, then your call

Do a proper **handshake—do not over-ID**. Once you are recognized by net control, no need to repeat either your or her/his tactical. In other words, it is best practice **not** to repeat your tacticals.

Use your **callsign ONLY at the end** of an exchange—it's the equivalent of "clear" or "out," and signals to other stations that the frequency is clear for them.

When you are told to "**stand by**" by net control: immediately keep your finger off the PTT until net control calls you back. In essence, it puts a temporary freeze on that exchange. Do not keep talking or offering additional information; net control is most likely dealing with more than one issue at a time or is consulting with the event organizer.

If a station needs to tell net control to **stand by** for information they requested, or if you have local traffic that interrupts you, get back quickly—like within 15 seconds. If it'll take longer, tell net control that you will call back with the information. That will enable net control to address other issues while waiting for you to get back.

If you hear net control to ask another station to **stand by**, you should not see that as an opportunity to break in to initiate another exchange—"stand by" is a "hold" on an exchange-in-progress, and does not indicate of completion of that exchange. You will know when that exchange is concluded when you hear net control's callsign.

March 7, 2020

Treasurer's Report

Marin Amateur Radio Club

BALANCE SHEET

As of May 31, 2020

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
B of A Building account - 8795	1,249.87
B of A General account - 4328	6,609.81
CD	25,000.00
Money Market	5,000.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$37,859.68
Total Current Assets	\$37,859.68
Fixed Assets	
club house- 27 Shell Rd. MV	58,983.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$58,983.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$96,842.68
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Opening Balance Net Assets	124,400.00
Retained Earnings	-10,052.02
Net Income	-17,505.30
Total Equity	\$96,842.68
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$96,842.68

Marin Amateur Radio Club

PROFIT AND LOSS BY MONTH

May 2020

	MAY 2020	TOTAL
Income		
Rent	2,450.00	\$2,450.00
Total Income	\$2,450.00	\$2,450.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$2,450.00	\$2,450.00
Expenses		
Garbage	43.94	\$43.94
Reimbursable Expenses	430.00	\$430.00
Telephone	80.97	\$80.97
Total Expenses	\$554.91	\$554.91
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$1,895.09	\$1,895.09
NET INCOME	\$1,895.09	\$1,895.09

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

MINUTES 5/1/20

Held on: Zoom online.

1. **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by Curtis Ardourel.

2. **Introductions:**

There were a total of 32 members and guests participating. Board members and officers present: Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS, President; Marc Bruvry KF6VNT, Vice President; Milt Hyams KM6ASI, Secretary; Anthony (Skip) Fedanzo, KJ6ARL; and K6GWE Trustee Doug Slusher, KF6AKU.

New member Paul Guisti, AM6AOD, participated and was introduced.

3. **Adopt Agenda:**

A hidden agenda was adopted as presented.

4. **Approve Minutes:**

Minutes of the General Meetings of March 6, 2020 and April 3, 2020, as published in QSA-5 were approved.

5. **Board Actions:**

Curtis reported that negotiations were continuing the possible Novato repeater site. The next MARS Board of Directors meeting will be held on Zoom. An announcement and Zoom invitation will be sent to all members by e-mail and the date with an invitation to seek the Zoom log in by e-mail from Curtis will be posted on the website.

6. **Fun with Ham Radio:**

Alan Bowker raised the possibility of installing a DMR repeater at one of the club's repeater sites. He discussed the capabilities of DMR and the advantages of this modern technology. Doug responded that we have higher priorities now, including getting a simulcast repeater installed in Novato, but we will definitely consider such an installation in the future. As a result of the discussion on DMR, Alan volunteered to make a presentation at the next General Meeting in June on DMR.

Andrew Musselman stated he had made purchases of a new desktop computer and screen camera. This inspired a discussion about old and new technology with Curtis and Alan waxing nostalgic about CPM.

7. **Secretary's Report—External Communications:**

No correspondence of any significance has been received since the last meeting.

8. **Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer's Reports were published in the latest QSA-5.

9. **Committee and other Reports:**

Membership: As of the close of business of May 1st, we now have 120 paid up members, 87% of the year-end membership for 2019.

Facilities: Doug reported that the door to the club house has been rekeyed, with proximity FOBs to be distributed to Board members and selected other members. The standard lock has been rekeyed to be a master key to be held by Doug, Milt and the fire department. Increased security has become necessary because of the disappearance of equipment over the past 6 months including the RF noise detector, an HF radio, pieces of test equipment and a set of satellite antennas. Those who may have borrowed one or more of these pieces of equipment should return them, no questions asked. Eventually cameras will be installed as well. The rain buckets

have been removed as the leak problems have been resolved by the new roof. The base for the antenna tower will be the next capital project.

Milt reported he has been following up on a possible agreement with the North Marin Water District for use of the Bahia Ridge water tank site for a repeater site. He enlisted the assistance of Tom Jordan, EOC Coordinator for the County of Marin, who is most interested in getting emergency communications reestablished in North Marin. Jordan had a conversation with Robert Clark, Facilities Manager of the Water District, concerning a recent communication from Milt to both of them concerning clearance to install the repeater. Jordan advised him that Clark has agreed to permit installation of a repeater at the site while the specific terms of a formal agreement are worked out. Doug will be ordering the remaining equipment needed to go ahead with the installation right away. If all goes well it should be in by the end of the month.

10. Old business: None.

11. New business:

Field Day 2020 is up in the air at this point. The Marin Rod and Gun Club, the tentative location for the event is currently closed for the novel Corona Virus pandemic. Also, ARRL is changing the format of the event proposing to permit hams to operate out of their homes while still accumulating club scores. Depending upon the final format of the event, we may opt out of the Rod and Gun Club site for this year.

12. Good of the order:

Bill Hillendahl, ARRL San Francisco Section Manager, reported that Ron Gove, AF6MO, a long time Sonoma County ham and stalwart of REDXA had passed away. Jerry Foster, WA6BXV, had helped him reinstall his ham shack which had been lost in the Santa Rosa fires two year ago. He will be missed.

13. Adjournment:

It was M/S/A that the meeting be adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Presentation: There was no presentation.

Respectfully submitted by

Milton Hyams, Secretary, on May 2, 2020.

MINUTES BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

May 14, 2020

Held at: On Zoom online.

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

Absent: W6SG Trustee Mitch Martin WU1Q member.

Other attendees: Michael Fischer, K6MLF, and Rob Rowlands, NZ6J, Co-Chairs Public Service Committee. Five other members observed the meeting on-line

9. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm by Curtis Ardourel.
The agenda was adopted as submitted without objection.

2. Approve minutes:

Minutes of the April 9, 2020, board meeting were approved without objection.

3. Treasurer's Report:

Ed Essick reported that the latest profit and loss statement is as published in the most recent QSA-5. He also reported that he transferred the dues receipts from Pay-Pal to the Club bank account.

4. Secretary's Report (External Communications):

Milt reported that no correspondence was received during the month of any significance worth reporting.

5. Membership Chair Report:

Curtis reported that as of May 14th, 121 members are current for this year, 88% of total paid membership at the end of last year.

6. Facilities:

Doug reported that the Clubhouse came through the winter with no leaks. He will be setting up a date with the contractor for the installation of the antenna base.

7. Field Day:

Ed reported that he met with REDXA and they intend to follow the ARRL lead of conducting Field Day 2020 from each member's home. No deposit was sent for the Marin Rod and Gun Club this year as it closed for the duration of the shelter-in-place until further notice.

8. Public Service:

a. Michael reported that several public service events have been cancelled and the others have taken a wait and see stance. There are no public service events that have committed for the year so far. A drill conducted in lieu of the cancelled Ridge to Bridge event had 15 participants that practiced a mock service event from home. The next practice drill will involve actual deployment to the field and will test coverage of the new repeater after it is installed.

b. Rob reported that Google Sheets will be used to track participants in events that require accounting for all participants during the event. Privacy issues raised by Curtis have been resolved, with minimum personal information being used on the spreadsheets.

c. Michael announced that Critical Mass training will be conducted this Sunday. He stated that with the death of Peter McElvrey, there have been no SF Critical Mass events. He will look into inviting the SF Critical Mass attendees to participate in Marin's sessions. A number of people have already requested to be added to Marin's attendee list. The training this weekend will be on Brian Cooley's training video and Rob will give a demonstration of EchoLink.

9. Old business:

COVID-19: Face to face meetings for MARS have been cancelled until further notice. In lieu, MARS will continue to have virtual meetings only, to be conducted on Zoom for the duration of the shelter-in-place order. Attendance at the last virtual general membership meeting on Zoom was excellent with 35 participants.

10. New business:

a. D & O Insurance Coverage: Milt reported that pursuant to Board direction he obtained a proposal for Director and Officer insurance coverage on our policy. One million dollars in coverage would cost \$708 per year. After discussion it was decided to obtain the coverage.

It was **M/S/A** that MARS obtain a D & O endorsement on its liability insurance policy in the amount of one million dollars and \$708 is appropriated for that expenditure.

b. New Repeater Site: Milt reported that Robert Clark of the North Marin Water District has authorized MARS to go ahead with the installation of a repeater site at its Crest (Bahia Ridge) Tank site in Novato while a formal agreement is finalized. This site has proved to be very effective in its coverage both to the north and to the west through Novato out to Hicks Valley. Milt said that he had responded in writing to all Board member on questions that had been raised on the draft Licensing Agreement provided by NMWD. He indicated that it was only a draft and that he would negotiate and draft a final agreement that was satisfactory to both sides and submit it to the Board for approval. He stated that he will seek more specificity in the final agreement to include definition the term "Joint Use Facilities" and for allocation of cost to licensees through a fixed annual licensing fee. He also reported that he obtained insurance coverage for the site and has furnished a Certificate of Insurance with NMWD listed as an "other-insured" to NMWD to permit installation to go forward. The Board gave Milt direction on what should be included in the final Licensing Agreement and directed him to negotiate a final agreement to be returned to the Board in June for approval.

Doug reported that the Technical Committee met on Zoom last Monday to work out details for installation of the repeater at the Crest site. He is happy with the crew that has been put together to do the installation. He has received the hard line coax for the site and has ordered the antennas and duplexer. There will be an on-site visit by Jerry Foster, Steve Wilson and Milt on next Tuesday to take measurements for the installation and prepare a final list of materials that will be required. The actual installation is tentatively scheduled for May 30th.

10. Good of the order:

Next General Membership Meeting will June 5, 2020.
Next Board of Directors Meeting will be June 11, 2020.

11. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Milton Hyams

Secretary, on May 15, 2020

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.

Marin Amateur Radio Society Officers and Board Members:	Public Service Event Coordinators
<p>President Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS</p> <p>Vice President Marc Bruvry, KF6VNT</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 Doug Slusher, KF6AKU</p> <p>Other Positions:</p> <p>Education Chair Jamie Taylor, KK6OLF</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>Michael Fischer, K6MKLF Rob Rowlands, NZ6J</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>