

## Presidents Corner

I will start by apologizing to you for a bit of a rant. I have been known to trot out a seventy five cent word when a five cent word would do. The word that has been kicking around in my head a lot lately is epistemology from episteme the Greek word for knowledge and ology the root meaning study of. It is the branch of philosophy that studies knowledge including how we know what we know. When I was young there were only a few sources of information, three TV stations, a few radio stations, news magazines, and newspapers. Although these outlets did not always agree their content was moderated by gate keepers who were almost entirely college educated white men who had studied journalism.

There was plenty of conflict, the war in Viet Nam, Watergate, race protests, hippies, weathermen, etc. We were politically divided, and we interpreted the news differently based on our particular world view, we did generally agree on what we knew. I am not suggesting that as I view that era through the rosy glasses of age that we were living in a golden age of accurate information, far from it. Many uncomfortable subjects were simply not covered, and some of the news we received was just plain untrue. Now we have a twenty-four-hour news cycle, cable news networks, blogs, vlogs, social media as well as 21<sup>st</sup> century versions of the media we had in my youth. On the plus side you can find sources of information tailored to your personal interests. Just look at the content available about our hobby now when once we had 73 and QST and that was about it. Many suggest that the mainstream media has become more biased, although if you go back and look at the print media of the day you will find it was pretty biased then as well.

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What's Happening In Radio

New Members

ARRL News

Public Service

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Minutes

## From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

### How our club overcame the repeater problem

Late last year the club was informed that we would have to vacate the Big Rock and San Pedro Ridge locations for our repeaters. The board appointed a technical subcommittee to research potential repeater sites and develop the technical plan for any new site that we could secure.

This technical committee consisted of Jerry Foster, Doug Slusher, Steve Wilson, Skip Fedanzo, Rob Rowlands, Steve Fischer and Rob Ireson. The Bahia Ridge repeater site is now completed with the installation of lightning arrestors and final cabling by Jerry Foster, Adam McLaughlin, Doug Slusher, and Milt Hyams

According to Milt Hyams, "The most valuable player in this project was Adam who had a very skilled hand in every part of the project which couldn't have been done without him." Additionally, the club would like to thank Bob Magnani, K6QXY, who donated the expensive Heliac coax cable and connectors for the project.

Thanks to the entire team who got the new repeater site up and running during the current covid crisis.



**Bahia Ridge Repeater Room**

What is really different not is that there is material that looks like information about the world coming at us from all angles at once. It is sort of like being that station in a pile up that everyone wants to contact. Except that it is every day, and all our waking hours. We encounter outrageous claims that get us all riled up and we feel the need to respond. If we respond by reposting the original claim or offering another claim to prove that the claim we encountered is nothing but lies we are creating a positive feedback loop and we end up with noise.

I am not advocating against your right to respond. I am not advocating for some kind of grand arbiter of truth because that means you only get one perspective and by definition it will be incomplete and no institution is free from the biases of its leaders. There are a couple of things I am advocating for. The first goes back to epistemology. How do you know something is true? Take a little time to see if multiple sources are reporting the same thing. Do the sources you find share your world view? What are people who don't share your world view saying? Has other information from this source proved reliable? Does the content merely say my beliefs are right and anyone who does not agree is an idiot or worse? If what is claimed is true, how can I verify it? In short examine the claims and why you believe or don't believe a particular claim.

The second thing I am advocating is make an effort to spend less time on social media. Remember that the social media sites generally make their money selling advertising and the more clicks they get the more they can charge for ads next to that content. Their software is set up to promote content that gets a lot of clicks and content that gets us riled up gets more clicks. Less time in front of the fire hose will make you less stressed in these stressful times.

73 de wa6uds

## What's Happening in Radio

WAE DX Contest, CW 0000Z, Aug 8 to 2359Z, Aug 9

Worldwide Sideband Activity Contest, 0100Z-0159Z, Aug 11

VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, 1700Z-2000Z, Aug 12

ARRL Rookie Roundup, RTTY, 1800Z-2359Z, Aug 16

SARTG WW RTTY Contest, 0000Z-0800Z, Aug 15 and 1600Z-2400Z, Aug 15 and 0800Z-1600Z, Aug 16

Hawaii QSO Party, 0400Z, Aug 22 to 0400Z, Aug 24

World Wide Digi DX Contest, 1200Z, Aug 29 to 1200Z, Aug 30

See complete contest lineup at  
<https://www.contestcalendar.com/>

## Radio Amateurs Help Air Ambulance

Peru's Radio Club Peruano (RCP) reports that Guillermo Guerra, OA4DTU/XQ3SA, and the Peruvian Relief Net MHz assisted an air ambulance en route to Easter Island on July 9 after its satellite communication equipment failed. The aircraft was about 1,000 nautical miles from the continent, so the pilot tuned to the Peruvian Relief Net on 7100 kHz.

Net control station OA4DTU and Giancarlo Passalacqua, OA4DSN, were still on frequency, and communication was established with the aircraft. The pilot detailed its tenuous connection and requested support to communicate via telephone with Ocean Air Control, a service of the Directorate General of Aeronautics of Chile, which watches over 32 million square kilometers of air space off the Chilean coast in the Pacific. Authorities were already on alert for the aircraft because of the communication loss, plus the HF at the Easter Island tower was inoperative.

About 10 phone calls were made to point out the aircraft's position and route schedule, as well as any additional information needed. Other hams in Peru were listening in and standing by. Guerra remained in contact with the aircraft until he was sure that it would reach its destination. At approximately 2330 UTC, the pilot reported making VHF contact with the Easter Island control tower for landing instructions.

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## Propagation as a Matter of Life or Death

On May 25, 1928, the airship *Dirigible Italia* crashed on pack ice northeast of the Svalbard Islands on the return leg of a trip to survey the North Pole with 16 passengers and crew on board. At impact, one person was killed, and the cabin carrying nine people separated from the hydrogen-filled airframe. Six crew members on the dirigible structure were never seen again, after the airship again became airborne. The survivors on the icepack turned to their 5 W wireless set, a one-tube Hartley oscillator, to put out



a call for help, but it was only after 9 days of trying that they were able to get the attention of a radio amateur 1,900 kilometers (1,178 miles) away.

The recently published [article](#), "The Shipwreck of the Airship *Dirigibile Italia* in the 1928 Polar Venture: A Retrospective Analysis of the Ionospheric and Geomagnetic Conditions," provides the gripping historical context and tries to explain why it was so difficult to establish communication for a rescue.

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## New Members

Tom Jordan, KG6TCM - Novato

## Ward Peak Repeater

The Ward Peak repeater, at the top of Alpine Meadows, 8600ft elevation, contains a UHF repeater which the club inherited from the late Dan Dufficy (KH8AF/SK).

Milt Hyams and Rob Rowlands removed the repeater from the site for repair. It is expected that the repeater will be returned to the site before the first winter snowstorms that make the site inaccessible. From the site Milt was able to work our simulcast system from his jeep mobile rig.



## Public Service Schedule in Doubt

Michael Fisher reported that another public service event, the Jensie scheduled for 9/27 was cancelled. There four remaining events that have not determined if they are going to occur. Michael expects that the remaining events on the schedule will cancel or change to virtual status.

## ARRL News

Continued from page 2

Drawing from sources of geophysical data collected at the time, and using modern theories of propagation -- including [some directly derived](#) from amateur radio observations -- the authors present data including sunspot count, magnetic flux, and F2 layer height, and take the reader through an analysis of the sky-wave and ground-wave paths.

Ultimately, the authors suggest, ground-wave path losses likely exceeded 100 dB, leaving only skywave as a potential link. In the first few days after the crash, the ionospheric path was impossible at the frequencies being used -- 9.1 and 9.4 MHz -- due to disturbed conditions. It was only after conditions had settled that communication became possible, and it only became reliable when a lower frequency was chosen.

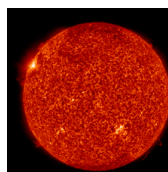
Even after communication was established, 15 rescuers were lost in the search and recovery operations, including Roald Amundsen, Norway's famed polar explorer. Finally, on July 12, 1928, 48 days after the initial crash, a Russian icebreaker was able to reach and rescue the survivors. -- *Thanks to The ARRL Contest Update*

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## The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, Seattle, reports: Sunspots finally have returned! Currently, two sunspots are visible, both from new Solar Cycle 25. The daily sunspot number was 11 on July 21 - 27 and is currently 22. We've noticed an improvement in propagation recently, due to seasonal sporadic-E activity.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) "What the Numbers Mean...", and [check out](#) K9LA's Propagation Page.



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## Critical Mass

Another successful Critical Mass gathering was held on Zoom on July 19<sup>th</sup>—22 members participated for the full hour-and-a-half. Good stuff, as K6RGI says.

Special thanks to Ann, Cooley, Rob Ireson and Skip for all the effort they put into a very good presentation about how radio comms for Neighborhood Response Groups will be working—and how licensed amateurs can best participate with them.

Put it on your calendar: every third Sunday, right after the MAARS Sunday morning net: 10:30 'til noon or shortly before. On Zoom for the foreseeable—to get the link, send Michael K6MLF an email at [fischer@igc.org](mailto:fischer@igc.org).



## Treasurers Report

### Marin Amateur Radio Club

#### BALANCE SHEET SUMMARY

As of July 31, 2020

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	38,902.59
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$38,902.59</b>
Fixed Assets	58,983.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$97,885.59</b>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	
Equity	97,885.59
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$97,885.59</b>

### Marin Amateur Radio Club

#### PROFIT AND LOSS

July 2020

	TOTAL
Income	
Rent	2,450.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$2,450.00</b>
GROSS PROFIT	<b>\$2,450.00</b>
Expenses	
Car & Truck	1,313.48
Garbage	43.94
Repeater	3,587.41
Telephone	80.97
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$5,025.80</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	<b>\$ -2,575.80</b>
NET INCOME	<b>\$ -2,575.80</b>

# MINUTES

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 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 and W6SG Trustee Mitch Martin WU1Q, members.

**Absent:** , None.

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

### 1. **Call to Order:**

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

The agenda was adopted, as amended, to add items for repair of the Comm Van and Budget, without objection.

### 2. **Approve minutes:**

Minutes of the June 11, 2020, board meeting were approved without objection.

### 3. **Treasurer's Report:**

Ed reported that the details on the Treasurer's Report are as published in the latest QSA-5.

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

Milt reported that he has been receiving billings from our insurance company reflecting some issues with respect to either our bills or the mail. We have twice received delinquency notices on bills we received after the notice. He will follow up with Ed to seek a resolution to the problem via an alternative payment method.

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

Curtis reported that as of July 9th, we have 125 paid members, (91% of last year), reflecting the loss of one member with the untimely and unfortunate passing, during the past month, of Grant Pritchard, K6JJ. A number of comments were made in fond memory of Grant. He will be missed.

### 6. **Facilities:**

Doug reported that he visited the Clubhouse in the past week, which remains shut down due to the Corona virus pandemic. He found it in good order and the tenant is happy.

Doug reported that he heard back from Fred Connor, our General Contractor, who indicated he can start on the HF antenna tower footing soon.

He also reported that he, Rob Rowlands and Steve Wilson will be going to the Mt Tam repeater site on Monday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, to resolve the continuing desense issues once and for all. Discussion of a number of technical issues followed.

### 7. **Field Day:**

Some members participated in the 2020 Field Day under the special COVID isolation format. Although some contacts were reported, they appeared to be much less participation than in past years.

#### **8. Public Service:**

a. Michael Fischer and Rob Rowlands reported that there will be a drill on August 1 simulating a public service event for training and to test the COVID protocol. It will be conducted from home and/or MCBC rest stops. If possible there will also be a test of the range of the new repeater for exercise purposes. We need a new coverage map with the coverage for the revised system. These drills will provide the opportunity to test coverage for development of such a new map.

b. The first official event still on the schedule is the MCBC Dirt Fondo scheduled for August 15. Radio communication is critical to coordinating this event as there is no cell at start/finish at Ft Cronkhite Stables or on most of the rest stops. Also, the Adventure Revival is still on subject to final governmental approvals. However, it is equally likely that there will be no Jensei event this year, but a couple of other small events will likely go forward.

#### **9. MARS Club Picnic**

The club picnic for 2020 is officially cancelled, as there is no possibility for getting a permit for such an event at any public park.

#### **10. Old business:**

a. MARS Situation Awareness: Curtis will call a meeting over Zoom with Skip, who is MARS' VOAD liaison, and such other Board members who wish to participate.

b. Curtis has yet to talk with MARS tenant Sharon Miller about the proposed rent increase. When he does so, the matter will be returned to the Board agenda.

#### **12. New business:**

a. Michael Fischer has drafted a protocol for field operations under the COVID current pandemic conditions. The Protocol is now in its 9<sup>th</sup> version and will be tested during the August 1<sup>st</sup> drill. It should then be ready for final approval.

It was **M/S/A** that version 9 of the Exercise COVID Protocol be placed in effect for the August 1<sup>st</sup> Public Service Drill and that the revised recommended final version of the Protocol be returned to the Board for approval at its next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The Protocol in effect shall be binding on all members participating in all MARS sponsored activities until further notice.

b. With the passing of Grant Pritchard, KK6JJ, the Club has lost its VE Coordinator. Steve Fischer, K6ETA, has volunteered to act as temporary coordinator for VE examinations until a permanent replacement is found. Curtis will talk to Steve about the VE examination process under COVID and putting together a test schedule.

c. As reported in the Facilities report, the contractor is ready to install the antenna tower base. It is now necessary to put together a committee to oversee the project.

It was **M/S/A** that Ed Essick, Marc Bruvry and Mitch Martin be appointed as the Antenna Tower Installation Committee with responsibility for the installation and outfitting of the HF radio tower at the Clubhouse. They will coordinate with Doug and Milt concerning the placement of the base, prior to giving instructions to the contractor, to make sure there are no conflicts with the fences or existing structures when the antenna tower is lowered.

d. Rob Rowlands reported that he visited the Ward Peak Repeater UHF Site which the Club inherited with the passing of Dan Dufficy. He coordinated with the Placer County Communications Department and the Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows Chief of Mountain Operations for access. He was able to get access to the site with keys and combinations furnished by Placer County. He did not have a key for access to the cabinet where the equipment was located. He and Milt will return to the site in a few weeks to attempt to reactivate the repeater. Doug stated that when the site is activated he does not want it to be a part of the K6GWE system and that it should be licensed under Dan's old call sign or a separate license.

e. Rob Rowlands presented an estimate for replacement of the radiator on the Comm Van which has developed leaks. The estimate from A & C Auto Air/Radiator is for \$1083.58. There was also discussion about the need for routine service on the vehicle and replacement of a cracked windshield.

It was **M/S/A** that \$1500 be authorized to the Public Service Committee for repair of the radiator and service of the Comm Van. An estimate for a new windshield shall be obtained and brought back to the Board for separate authorization for repair.

f. There was a discussion about the need for a formal budget for the Club considering the considerable expenditures that have been incurred over the past year and anticipated expenditures in the year to come and the reduction in income due to the elimination of most public service contributions. The Public Service Committee has already provided its input for a proposed budget for 2021.

It was **M/S/A** that a Budget Committee be established to develop a formal budget for FY 2021 for submission to the Board at its October meeting. The initial Board shall consist of Curtis Ardourel, Ed Essick and Milt Hyams. A meeting shall be scheduled at the call of the President. Doug Slusher shall submit a budget for operation of facilities for incorporation into the full Club budget.

**13. Good of the order:**

Next General Membership Meeting will August 7, 2020.  
Next Board of Directors Meeting will be August 13 2020.

**14. Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 pm

Respectfully submitted by

**Milton Hyams**

**Secretary**, on July 10, 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 0 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:****President**

Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS

**Vice President**

Mitch Martin, WU1Q

**Secretary**

Milt Hyams, KM6ASI

**Treasurer:**

Ed Essick, K6ELE

**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

**Other Positions:****Education Chair****VE Liaison**

Steve Fischer, K6ETA

**Building Manager**

Doug Slusher

**Trustee for W6SG**

Mitch Martin, WU1Q

**Trustee for K6GWE**

Doug Slusher KF6AKU

**Sunday Emergency Nets**

Mark Bruvry

**DX Representative of ARRL**

Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829

**Public Service Event Coordinators**

Michael Fischer, K6MKLF

Rob Rowlands, NZ6J

**Membership**

Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS

**Editor of QSA5**

Ed Essick, K6ELE

e.essick@comcast.net

**ARRL San Francisco Section Manager**

Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG

**WEBMASTER**

Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS

**HF Sunday Net Control**

Mark Bruvry, KF6VNT

**VHF Sunday Net Control**

Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH