

Presidents Corner

You are reading this because we share a hobby. We also share an ethos. We experiment, we figure things out, we learn, and we improvise. I want to celebrate the work of a couple of our members and in this case members of a family in the strict sense of the word as well as members of our family.

Steve Fischer K6ETA just took over our VE program in July and on September 13 led our first exam session using COVID-19 protocols. This was not Steve's first pandemic VE exam, but it was for our team. This being 2020 there was also a pall of smoke over the area and we had made the decision to hold the exam outside. Not only did Steve orchestrate the mechanics of how the exam would work and be proctored but how we would deal with the air quality. What AQI would be the cutoff? What if some of his examiners felt that some lower number would be the cutoff for them? Would all the extra supplies, traffic cones, tables, tents, masks, hand sanitizer, etc. be where they needed to be when they needed to be there. They all did arrive at the right time and the exam session was a success with 19 new licenses earned. Thank you, Steve and your team, for figuring it out and making it work.

Michael Fischer K6MLF, Steve's father and Rob Rowlands NZ6J also innovated on September 27 on what would have been the Jensie Gran Fondo. As our public service events have been cancelled one by one, the public service team decided that getting out in the world and setting up our stations was a perishable skill and we should use at least a couple of the event dates to practice our craft even without the event participants. In accordance with Marin County Public Health guidelines a protocol was developed for providing communications under pandemic conditions. Since this would be a field event and since we have had to change the location of one of our repeater sites, the event could be used to get empirical information about the coverage of our new Bahia Ridge site.

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From the Editor

Ed Essick, K6ELE

It's that time of year again. The California QSO Party (CQP) takes place on October 3rd starting at 1600 UTC (9AM) to 2200Z (3PM) on October 4th. This is a fun contest where California stations are the "DX" and it's possible to have a pile-up trying to work your station.

This is the 55th running of the CQP that is sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC). So, look for the following operators from Marin; K6BBQ, K6CTA, K6ELE, K6RIM, KC6AWZ, KI6YYT/M, N6TQ, and WB6BET/M.

This year the Sequoia Challenge is included. Work seven of the special call signs to spell out SEQUOIA. Look for special 1x1 call signs ending in the letters S, E, Q, U, O, I, and A. There will be three of each on the air, for a total of 21 call signs so there will be many ways to win.

The exchange for California stations is the QSO number and four-digit county abbreviations, for Marin its MARN. Stations outside of California send a two-letter state or Canadian abbreviation and QSO number. Give it a try next weekend.

In addition to CQP this month, Nevada, Arizona, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, New York, and Illinois have QSO parties scheduled this month. So, this month we have lots of opportunities to get on the air and make some contacts.

California QSO Party



What's Happening In Radio

New Members

ARRL News

Member Reports

Public Service

Treasurers Report

Minutes

They are still at it reading after action reports and listening to a recording to track stations locations and Circuit Merit Scores. Another improvised event that achieved its goals and allowed our public service team to hone their skills in a pandemic world learn a few new ones.

It makes me very proud of our club, we face a sea of troubles and by opposing end them. A bunch of literally amateurs accept a challenge, plan, revise, challenge, revise again and then get the job done. Thank you to all of you who contributed to these two events, and to our club as a whole.

73 de WA6UDS

What's Happening in Radio

California QSO Party, 1600Z, Oct 3 to 2200Z, Oct 4

VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest, 1700Z-2000Z, Oct 7

ARRL EME Contest, 0000Z, Oct 10 to 2359Z, Oct 11

Nevada QSO Party, 0300Z, Oct 10 to 2100Z, Oct 11

Arizona QSO Party, 1500Z, Oct 10 to 0500Z, Oct 11

Pennsylvania QSO Party, 1600Z, Oct 10 to 0500Z, Oct 11 and 1300Z-2200Z, Oct 11

South Dakota QSO Party, 1800Z, Oct 10 to 1800Z, Oct 11

JARTS WW RTTY Contest, 0000Z, Oct 17 to 2400Z, Oct 18

New York QSO Party, 1400Z, Oct 17 to 0200Z, Oct 18

Illinois QSO Party 1700Z, Oct 18 to 0100Z, Oct 19

ARRL School Club Roundup, 1300Z, Oct 19 to 2359Z, Oct 23

CQ Worldwide DX Contest, SSB, 0000Z, Oct 24 to 2359Z, Oct 25

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

ARRL News

ARRL to Seek Changes in FCC Draft Decision on Amateur 9-Centimeter Band

ARRL efforts are under way to preserve amateur radio access to the 3.3 - 3.5 GHz (9-centimeter) band. The FCC announced its intention to delete the 3.3 - 3.5 GHz amateur secondary allocation, subject to a phased withdrawal tied to its licensing of new primary users. According to the FCC, the 3.450 - 3.550 GHz spectrum will be put up for auction as early as December 2021. Incumbent users will be permitted to continue operating in the band until licensing to commercial interests -- presumably 5G -- begins. That's estimated to be about 3 months after the spectrum auction concludes, or around mid-2022. No alternative spectrum was proposed to replace the 9-centimeter spectrum for amateur radio operations

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ARRL Podcasts Schedule

The latest episode of the *On the Air* podcast (Episode 9) features a discussion on how to tune HF signals and use transceiver tools to enhance reception. 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 *Eclectic Tech* podcast (Episode 17) features a discussion of how RSID is used to identify HF digital modes, and a chat with Bob Allison, WB1GCM, about mysterious Long Delayed Echoes.

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New Members

Tom Jordan KG6TCM - Novato

PIGS SAVED BY HAM

A day in the life of a NapaCART Volunteer

By Larry Loomer, KI6LNB – August 18, 2020

Due to the Covid Pandemic, Hams who are volunteers at community events have had few (if any) opportunities to use their talents in this manner. However, I have kept busy volunteering my service as a ham in other ways.

In response to the Napa, California, area wildfires, local ranchers formed the Napa Community Animal Rescue Team (NapaCART). As the name implies, NapaCART rescues and evacuates farm animals endangered by wildfires. The NapaCART team utilizes pickup trucks and horse trailers to move animals from their pastures to the NapaCART ranch, where multiple stalls are available to receive the animals.

By August 18th (the day I volunteered with NapaCART) the Napa fires had been put out. Local ranchers were starting the process of returning livestock to their ranches and getting help to the animals that had been left behind. NapaCART received a call from a concerned rancher who had been unable to evacuate 5 pigs from his ranch when he left. The pigs had been alone for a week and he was concerned. We took on the mission.

We were allowed to go beyond the Highway Patrol fire roadblock lines, since we were with NapaCART; otherwise the roads were closed to general traffic. Due to the extensive damage to local utilities, phone service in burned out areas was unpredictable. Hams were invited to participate as communicators with the teams of animal handlers.

The fire was completely out in the area we accessed. The pig owner's ranch house was demolished from the fire, but the pigs' pen had miraculously survived. I used my radio to communicate with net control that we had found the pigs.

The pigs were desperately looking for water. Since pigs cannot sweat, they must cool themselves by immersing in cool water or wet mud. As the temperatures soared, the poor pigs attempted to cool off in their water trough, tipping it over. In this manner they lost any water available to drink. They were critically dry when we arrived at their farm. Only one pig had sunburn on his back; and fortunately, there were no fire burns on any of them. One poor animal had a limp which was looked at.

We spent the latter part of that afternoon watering and feeding the 5 pigs. We took two water tanks, one tank on each of two trucks, and two large bags of pig feed on a third truck. A neighbor came by while we were there and brought another bag of feed.

Providing sustainable drinking water for the pigs required creativity. We found some plastic cylinders on the property, 18 inches deep and 12 inches in diameter, resembling the bottom half of five-gallon water jugs. We buried two of these cylinders into the ground so that the pigs could not tip them over. The cylinders were filled with water from the tanks on the two pickup trucks. Additional water was put into their mud wallow area so that they could cool themselves. I used my radio to communicate with net control that the pigs had been given the water and the feed that we had brought for them.

The pen fencing was strengthened and fortified so that the pigs would stay on the ranch and not wander off. Four 5-gallon bottles of water were left for whomever came by next to care for the pigs. We saved the lives of 5 pigs and this was a successful mission. I communicated with net control that we were finished with this assignment and were returning to base camp.

The firefighters had done a great job of putting out the fire. There were no smoking embers anywhere. We saw numerous white lines going down the blackened hillsides. These turned out to be tree trunks that were left by the firefighters to burn themselves out, and they had turned to white ash. They presented a stark contrast to the black hills.

On our way out, I noticed numerous homes which had been spared the wrath of the fire. There were burned trees around them, and charred grass near them, but the houses, themselves were unscathed by the flames. The firefighters had done an outstanding job of preserving most of the houses which lay in the path of the fire.

Travelling out of the area provided its own challenges. Reconstruction had already begun, and this meant large vehicles were coming into the area. We met a truck with a long bed trailer hauling replacement utility poles. The driver was masterfully negotiating the sharp curves on the two-lane road. Our lead truck got jammed in between the trailer and the dirt wall next to the road. He had to back out of the jam, so that the truck and trailer could proceed. The rest of us in the caravan parked off the road to allow the truck and trailer to pass.

My last communication was to net control informing him that our team had returned to the CART compound, thus ending a rewarding and novel experience. In these strange times we are living through, there are still opportunities to make a significant contribution as a ham radio operator.

Mt Tam Antenna Replacement Thursday 27 August 2020

Steve Wilson W6SDY
Dan Healy K6NQZ
Doug Slusher KF6AKU
Rob Rowlands NZ6J

After several postponements due to smoke we went to the repeater on 27 August to reroute the 2m repeater to a completely different antenna. Dan Dufficy (SK) had a 440 sleeve antenna mounted on an aluminum mast on the north side of the vault. This has been unused for some time, so we repurposed the mast and the antenna's feedline to install a new Comet GP-6 multiband collinear antenna.



The first task was to determine we had correctly identified the feedline and measure its performance. The following is a TDR sweep from the site of the unused UHF repeater with a 50ohm termination in place of the antenna. The 50ohm termination behaves as an infinite length of coax.

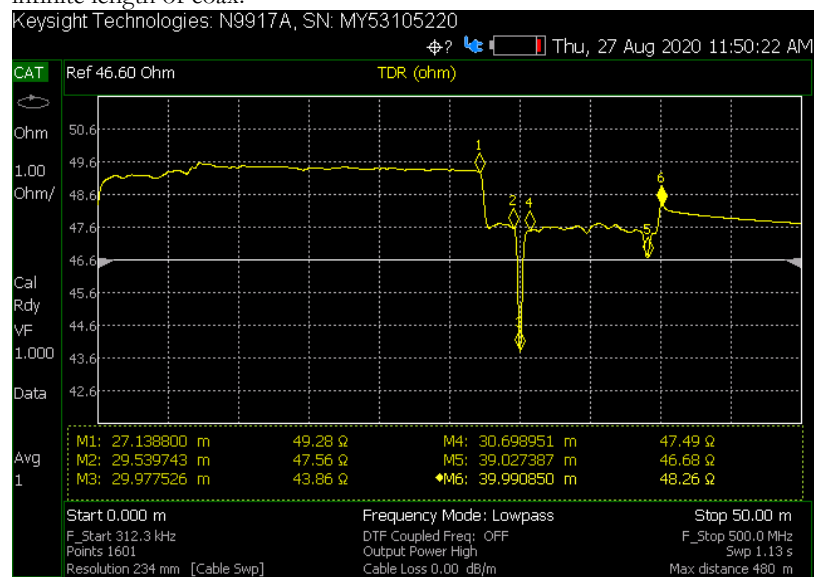


Figure 1 TDR of feedline to legacy 440 antenna

The TDR shows termination at about 40m though the velocity factor and attenuation were not entered, so the distances are not accurate. The impedance discontinuities are presumably cable transitions buried in the vault somewhere. The largest one at about 30m could be of concern, but ultimately the proof of the pudding is in the SWR of the system after antenna installation.



The antenna needed to be assembled as it is 10 feet long. Steve did major waterproofing before reattaching to the mast

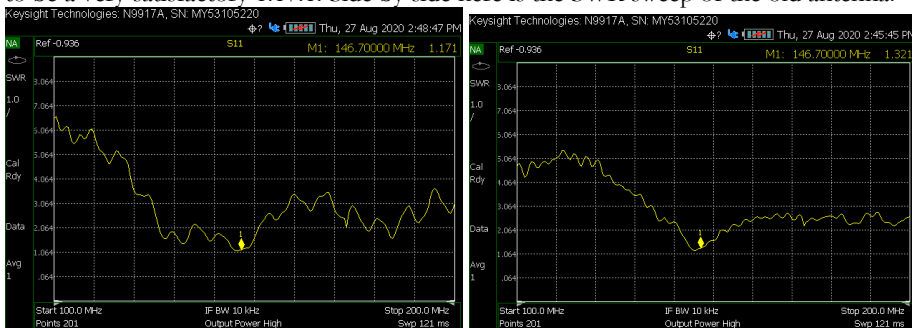


Figure 2 One of several collinear stubs inside the antenna





After the antenna was erected and a number of hurdles were surmounted, we were able to sweep the antenna SWR, which turned out to be a very satisfactory 1.17:1. Side by side here is the SWR sweep of the old antenna.



As the old UHF repeater was some distance from the VHF repeater, we ran an 18ft heliax jumper over the runway to the VHF repeater. The total insertion loss of the new feedline was measured at 2.85dB, which seems high. The single ended measurement method is not, however, very accurate and we decided to skip over this for now.

The final measurement was to measure the power being transmitted to the new antenna. With a Bird Wattmeter we measured 11 watts of forward power. We could not measure any reflected power, consistent with the excellent SWR measured with the network analyzer. I do feel the questionable insertion loss of the feedline, together with the discontinuities observed on the TDR, means the SWR measured may be better than we would observe with a clean low loss feedline.

Overnight observation of receiver noise

We reinserted the resistive splitter on the repeater receive input to investigate, with the spectrum analyzer, the transmit correlated broadband noise that has been plaguing the repeater for many months. At the time of measurement we could not observe any broadband noise, so we left the analyzer overnight with max hold to catch any rise in noise level. Here's the traces with the new and old antennas: (note frequency axes are different)

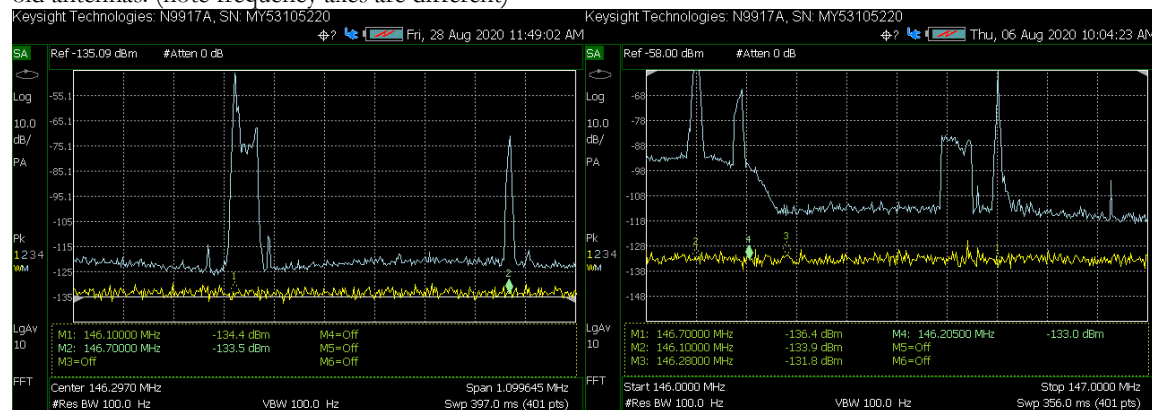


Figure 4 Overnight receiver trace with new antenna

Figure 5 Overnight receiver trace with old antenna

Conclusion

At this writing the new antenna seems to have better sensitivity, particularly for those of us in Southern Marin. The absence of the broadband noise seems to indicate the old antenna to be the problem, though it may also be it's siting amongst multiple other antennas. There is a new artifact, however, for signals incoming to Tam using 179.9Hz PL. A low frequency buzz is present at low level. It could be 60Hz or perhaps a mixing product of PL tones? While not objectionable it is giving us a new challenge.

Rob Rowlands NZ6J
(415) 849 5667

Public Service Mock Jensie Gran Fondo

This month the public service team had a practice drill that followed the Jensie Gran Fondo format.

Net control Stafford lake



Member Report Public Service Mock Jensie Skip Ferdanzo, KJ6ARL

I arrived at White Gate trail head parking area (dirt & gravel) on the south side of Panoramic Hwy at 0820 on 09/27/2020. The weather was clear, sunny and nearly windless. Air temperature was 66°F and had no aroma of smoke. There was a reddish-brown smoke cloud formation due north which seemed to be moving southwest and did not impact radio operations. Events at White Gate were as follows:

0820 – arrived and setup FT7900 mobile radio and connected a mag-mount antenna on my car roof. Transceiver was set at 10W throughout my shift.
0830 – noted a coyote wandering through the parking area (this was not a drill).
0840 – made radio check with Net Control Station (NCS), circuit merit (CM) 5 both ways.
0900 – made CM 5 simplex contact with KK6QPE at Stinson Beach on 147.555. We also did radio checks on primary repeater frequency with similar results on Barnabe input.
0904 – responded to NCS rollcall CM 5
0909 – Laguna School station reports smoke evident at ground level, no AQI report at this time
0913 – NCS requests I try Tam West repeater input to see if it works from White Gate. NCS unable to copy my transmission, QSY back to Barnabe.
0928 – reported I could hear several coyotes howling from about 100 yards south-southwest of White Gate (this was not a drill).
0935 – SAG 3 arrived (KJ6LDJ).
0940 – Both KJ6LDJ and I saw coyotes crossing Panoramic Hwy about 50 feet south where the highway turned north. KJ6LDJ reported sighting to NCS (this was not a drill).
1009 – AI6TT stopped by to say he was in the area.
1020 – reported to NCS ambulance with lights and siren headed east on Panoramic Hwy just passed by White Gate (this was not a drill).
1029 – advised NCS that AI6TT was relieving me at White Gate. NCS confirmed.
1031 – AI6TT not able to reach Barnabe on either of his mobile radios.
1057 – I remained on frequency until AI6TT resolved his equipment issue(s) and made contact with NCS a bit before 1100. I advised him to continue monitoring 147.555 simplex with KK6QPE in Stinson Beach.
1058 – contacted Stinson Beach on simplex and told KK6QPE I was closing down and AI6TT would monitor 147.555.
1101 – AI6TT establish communications several times with NCS.
1102 – I requested permission to secure from NCS says okay to close down.
1105 – departed White Gate for home.

All in all, this was a good event with no significant problems or injuries during my 0900-1030 shift at White Gate. Radio discipline to avoid tail-gating seemed better than usual during an event.

Treasurers Report

Marin Amateur Radio Club

BALANCE SHEET As of October 2, 2020

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
B of A Building account - 8795	1,249.87
B of A General account - 4328	12,068.07
CD	25,000.00
Money Market	5,000.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$43,317.94
Total Current Assets	\$43,317.94
Fixed Assets	
club house- 27 Shell Rd. MV	58,983.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$58,983.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$102,300.94
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Opening Balance Net Assets	124,400.00
Retained Earnings	-10,052.02
Net Income	-12,047.04
Total Equity	\$102,300.94
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$102,300.94

Marin Amateur Radio Club

PROFIT AND LOSS DETAIL September 1 - October 2, 2020

DATE	TRANSACTION TYPE	NUM	NAME	MEMO/DESCRIPTION	SPLIT	AMOUNT	BALANCE
▼ Ordinary Income/Expenses							
▼ Income							
▼ Rent							
09/09/2020	Deposit		Sharon Miller	Sept rent	B of A General account - 4328	2,450.00	2,450.00
Total for Rent						\$2,450.00	
Total for Income						\$2,450.00	
▼ Expenses							
▼ Garbage							
09/09/2020	Check		Mill Valley Ref	garbage	B of A General account - 4328	43.94	43.94
Total for Garbage						\$43.94	
▼ Telephone							
09/14/2020	Check		ATT	phone	B of A General account - 4328	93.02	93.02
Total for Telephone						\$93.02	
Total for Expenses						\$136.96	
Net Income						\$2,313.04	

MINUTES

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

September 4, 2020

Held on: Zoom on line.

1. Call to Order:

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

2. Introductions:

There were a total of 24 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; K6GWE Trustee Doug Slusher, KF6AKU, and W6SG Trustee Mitch Martin WU1Q, members.

3. New Members:

Two new members were announced: Kevin Foley, KF6YUF, Mill Valley, and Steve Grumer, KN6IZD, Sausalito. They were not present at the meeting to be introduced.

4. Adopt Agenda:

The hidden agenda was adopted, as not submitted, without objection.

5. Approve Minutes:

Minutes of the General Meetings of June 5, 2020, as published in QSA-5, were approved without objection.

6. Board Actions:

Curtis reported that the actions at the August Board meeting were limited to routine and procedural business.

7. Fun with Ham Radio:

Jim Saltzgaber, KM6WWV, reported installing a Tarheel antenna on his roof using the gutter as a counterpoise. So far he has been able to work up and down the West Coast with it.

Craig Mirkin, KG6VMT, stated he has been working 20, 30 and 40 meters, mainly digital.

Andrew Musselman, KI6UOC, confessed to having recommended a Baofeng handi-talkie to an unsuspecting new ham friend.

8. Secretary's Report—External Communications:

No correspondence of any significance has been received since the last meeting. The Election Department website indicates that the Clubhouse will not be used as an election site in November.

9. Treasurer's Report:

There was no Treasurer's Report as the Treasurer was not present and no QSA-5 was published for September.

9. Committee and other Reports:

Membership: As of noon September 4th, we have 129 paid up members, 94% of the year-end membership for 2019.

Facilities: Doug reported that the Clubhouse was still there, but unused consisted to the COVID shelter in place rules.

Milt reported that we had received another bid on the antenna tower base and that Ed had solicited a further bid from Fred Conner for the full installation of the tower. He also stated that he had been in contact with Adam McLaughlin who has agreed to assist us with the installation of the tower which may make the additional bid moot. Adam also agreed to check with his employer, PG&E, to see if there are any issues concerning the transmission lines running over the Clubhouse with respect to the antenna tower.

Doug announced that the simulcast system antenna on Mt. Tam had been replaced and relocated. The system is working better with this change, especially in Mill Valley. There is still a little digital noise on the receiver which the Technical Committee is continuing to work on.

VE Session: Curtis announced that Steve Fischer, K6ETA, has his VE examination crew lined up for a VE session to be held at the Clubhouse on September 13th. People interested in taking a license examination for upgrade of their licenses may sign up on the VE page of the MARS website. So far 11 have signed up for the September 13th exam.

10. Old business: None.

11. New business:

Curtis announced that the MARS Board of Directors election will be conducted in November. The nominating committee will be appointed at the Board meeting to be held next week. Anyone interested in running for the Board should contact Curtis right away.

12. Good of the order:

Skip inquired about the status of the Club Christmas party. The principal concern is whether we could have the number of attendees in the Clubhouse we had last year under social distancing rules. The trick will be to come up with a model that would work and still be safe. At this point a number of impractical options were discussed. The matter will be further discussed by the Board next week.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 10, at 7:30 PM. Members wishing to attend the meeting on Zoom should request credentials from Curtis. The next General Membership Meeting will be on October 2, 2020, on Zoom.

Cal Anber, N6TIA, announced that he had found a Go-Pro drive containing movies of the 2015 club Christmas party, including a number of members who are no longer with us. Curtis and Andrew agreed to compile the recording and post it on the website.

13. Adjournment: It was **M/S/A** that the meeting be adjourned at 8:41 pm.

Presentation: There was no presentation.

Respectfully submitted by

Milton Hyams, Secretary, on September 7, 2020.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

September 10, 2020

Held at: On Zoom on line.

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: Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH. Two other members observed the meeting on-line.

10. Call to Order:

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

The agenda was adopted as submitted without objection.

2. Approve minutes:

Minutes of the August 13, 2020, board meeting were approved without objection. They will be published in the next QSA-5.

3. Secretary's Report (External Communications):

There was no external correspondence to report. Milt will check with the postmaster for the Terra Linda branch of the post office concerning mail receipt issues.

4. Treasurer's Report:

Ed submitted both the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Detail (8/1 – 9/9/2020) to the Board for review. The Balance Sheet will be published in the next QSA-5. There were no questions concerning either document.

5. Membership Chair Report:

Curtis reported that as of September 10th, there are 129 members current for this year, 94% of total paid membership at the end of last year.

6. Education:

Steve Fischer, K6ETA, will conduct a VE Examination session at the clubhouse on Sunday, September 12, 2020, in the parking lot. He will need some cones to mark parking/examination spaces and a few tables to conduct the examination. Doug will follow up on his requirements.

7. Facilities:

All is well at the clubhouse except that Cal has parked his limo in front and stored an old compressor in the rear of the building. He will be directed to remove both items. The parking space will be needed for the VE Session scheduled for September 12th.

Milt suggested that we need another clean up session for the garage/storage area in the rear of the building. It is getting unmanageable again, after Tom Soskin's excellent clean-up a couple of years ago. He would need at least 6 volunteers.

8. Public Service:

There was no report as Michael Fischer reported in sick.

9. Old business:

a. Curtis reported that he contacted MARS' tenant, Sharon Miller, regarding a rent increase. He negotiated an increase from \$2450 to \$2500 per month to be effective November 1, 2020. He sent her formal notice in a letter on September 7th.

b. Ed reported that he had received a bid from Van Midde Concrete of \$4900 to pour the cement base for the antenna tower, including removal of dirt from the hold. The bid from Fred Conner for the same scope of work, less removal of dirt, was \$9200. He was exploring with Fred Connor what his bid would be to include erection of the tower as well. Milt reported that he had been communicating with Adam McLaughlin, K6POC, who is an engineer for PG&E, and who helped us with the Bahia repeater installation. He has agreed to assist us with resolving any clearance issues with PG&E concerning the transmission lines over the clubhouse and with the erection itself. Milt offered that the issues to be resolved prior to entering into any contracts for the base include county permitting; getting PG&E clearance; and providing notice and soliciting feedback from the neighbors concerning their issues.

c. The repeater removed from Ward Peak has been brought to the back room at the clubhouse awaiting testing and maintenance as required. It could be available to support establishment of a local UHF net if one is set up. Questions were asked about the location of the 147.33 repeater removed from San Pedro Ridge and its availability for installation and/or back up to the simulcast system.

d. Skip reported attending the most recent VOAD meeting. Communications were not discussed. The latest dialog concerning communications with VOAD was Skip's response to their requests for support after the last Board meeting. He has not received any feedback to that communication to date. Our position relayed to them so far is that a VOAD land mobile network would be the best solution for them internally, with ham support for training and communication relay from VOAD headquarters to the EOC as required.

10. New business:

a. The Board reviewed the feasibility of a club Christmas dinner under COVID conditions. The major problem is finding a facility that can hold 50 or more people with appropriate spacing. Curtis will check with our caterer to see if she is aware of any possible facilities. Also, alternatives such as a ZOOM meeting/party were being considered.

b. Curtis announced that a Nominating Committee needed to be appointed since a slate of candidates for Board of Directors would be needed before the November meeting and election. There are four positions up for election—those currently occupied by Curtis, Ed, Marc and Mitch. Ed and Marc will term out under the bylaws. Curtis and Mitch announced that they wish to be candidates for reelection. Therefore at least two more new candidates will be required. Curtis nominated Doug, Skip and Milt as members of the nominating committee.

It was **M/S/A** that Doug be appointed as chair of the nominating committee and Skip and Milt to serve as its members.

c. Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH, brought before the Board the possibility of installation of an RMS Packet Station at the clubhouse. He said that there is no dash 10 DMR station in the San Rafael area and that we should install one here as well. He has

offered to do the set up and provide the equipment as needed. It was agreed that Steve be authorized to set up a trial station on the open shelf space area on the left side of the radio room in the clubhouse.

11. Good of the order:

It was suggested from the floor that it might be appropriate to consider a paid Life Membership category when the issue of changes to the dues structure is considered for next year. This matter will be considered further at that time.

Next General Membership Meeting will October 2, 2020.

Next Board of Directors Meeting will be October 8, 2020.

12. Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm

Respectfully submitted by

Milton Hyams

Secretary, on September 12, 2020

Marin Amateur Radio Society W6SG.NET, 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. **Online Zoom only until further notice.**

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. **Online Zoom only until further notice.**

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. **Suspended until further notice due to covid.**

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, 415-453-3867

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