Marin Amateur Radio Society (MARS) may 2026 newsletter

QSA-5

Ready for Field Day?

Inside the Clubhouse

Board actions, club activities, and upcoming opportunities to share and get involved..

Ham Radio in the News

From local to national to international – stories, inspiration, and legislation.

Ham Classroom

Every month, we showcase interesting subjects..

"When all else fails, you can count on Amateur Radio"

From the MARS President

I am very pleased to announce that we will be returning to our Clubhouse on Shell Road. While the entire cleanup of the clubhouse is not yet complete, the safety issues have been addressed. We owe a great debt of gratitude to all of you who volunteered your time and effort to the massive effort it took to get us this far. Although I was a member of both Marin Amateur Radio Club and the Amateur Communications Society since the mid 70s I did not set foot into the clubhouse until 2010. Since then we have not seen that kind of attention paid to our space. I am hoping to hold a homecoming and thank all of the people who contributed. More on that later.

While spring officially sprang way back in March we are still enjoying unsettled weather. In spite of that we are busy getting set up for Field Day. This year we will be returning to Stafford Lake in Novato on the 27th and 28th of June. Setup will begin at 8:00 am on Saturday and we can use your help then. We will work the contest from 11:00 am the official start until 11:00 am on Sunday when again we can use your help to strike. I also want to encourage you to take part in the contest by calling CQ and making contacts. We intend to do a primer on field day contesting to help those of us who are not contesters. I will be sending out an email blast soon with more info on Field Day.

We have received a lot of donated equipment in the last year and we intend to hold a silent auction to get that equipment into the hands of folks who will use it rather than having it sit in a closet. We have not settled the details yet but once the board has settled on the mechanics I will let you all know.

I will finish off with my usual plea to renew your membership. I will be sending out another reminder soon.

Curtis Ardourel, WA6UDS
wa6uds@w6sg.net

Resources

Membership Application

Membership Renewal

Club Calendar

Local Repeaters

Our Weekly Net

North Bay 2-Meter Critical Mass

Get Licensed

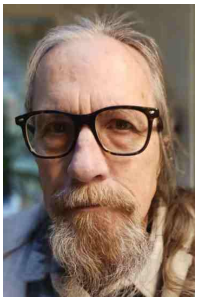
For Newcomers

P.O. Box 6423
San Rafael, CA 94903-0423
A 501(c)3 not for profit corporation

Clubhouse Address
27 Shell Road
Mill Valley, CA 94941

Membership in the Marin Amateur Radio Society is open to any person with an expressed interest in amateur radio. Annual dues are currently $30/individual or $35/family.

From the Editor



Greetings and Salutations! May is here and summer is getting closer. Summer's big event is Field Day 2026, and that's what this issue is all about. While Field Day is a few months away, now is the time to start building your portable station. There's nothing more exciting than operating from unique locations and it's a great opportunity to get new people interested in amateur radio! Amateur radio needs to build up its ranks and Field Day is a great way to do it!

Jay Hamilton-Roth (KO6FIR) has done a brilliant job with the QSA-5 and your responses to the massive face lift and format change has proven this. One thing that has made this change really work has been the contributions of our club's members. As club members, you have a choice in what you see within the pages of the QSA-5. However, you have to tell us what you want in the way of articles, information, etc. As the old saying goes "a closed mouth doesn't eat!"

If you wish to contribute to the QSA-5, please submit any written submissions by the 21st of the month (prior to the next issue). If you have ideas and want us to do the writing, please submit your ideas to the QSA-5 by the 10th of the month (prior to the next issue). As always, ideas and submissions must be radio related. I really hope you'll consider contributing or sending your ideas to us. As always, a huge thank you to all of you who contributed to our May Issue.

Hugh Patterson, KN6KNB
QSA-5Editor@w6sg.net

Committees

Communications Truck

Education

Facilities

Field Day

Marin Radio Communication Volunteers (RCV)

Membership

North Bay Area Mesh (NBAM)

Public Service

Recreation

Technical

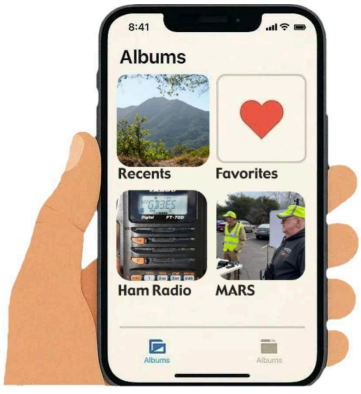
Volunteer Examiner (VE) Testing

QSA-5 is published monthly by the Marin Amateur Radio Society (MARS) and sent electronically to its members.

"QSA-5" is a ham radio Q-code which means "The strength of your signal is very strong."

Have an article or fun ham-related photos you want to share?

Please send by the 21st of the month to QSA5@w6sg.net for publication consideration.



Inside the Clubhouse

Board actions, club activities, and upcoming opportunities to share and learn.

Board of Directors

Meeting Notes

Next Board Meeting Thursday, June 11, 2026

Financials

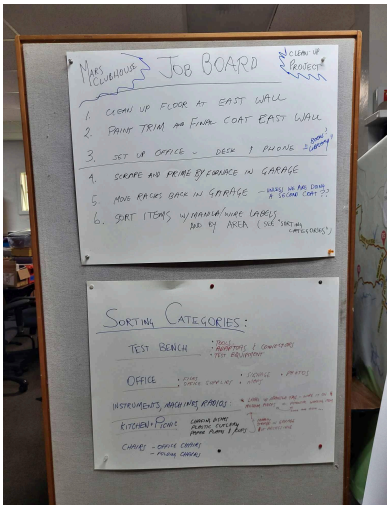
Next Club Meeting: Friday, June 5, 2026 (at the Clubhouse!)

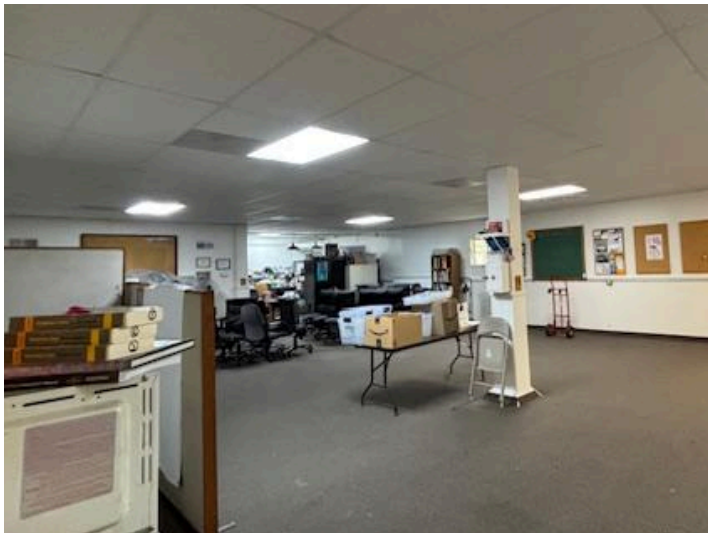
Welcoming New Member: Craig Crispin KE6TMX (San Anselmo) & David Morris KO6NGH (San Rafael)

News

- Cleanup Angels at Work
- Up, Up, and Away
- Ridge To Bridge
- Get Ready for Field Day 2026
- North Bay 2m Critical Mass (NB2mCM)
- May Calendar

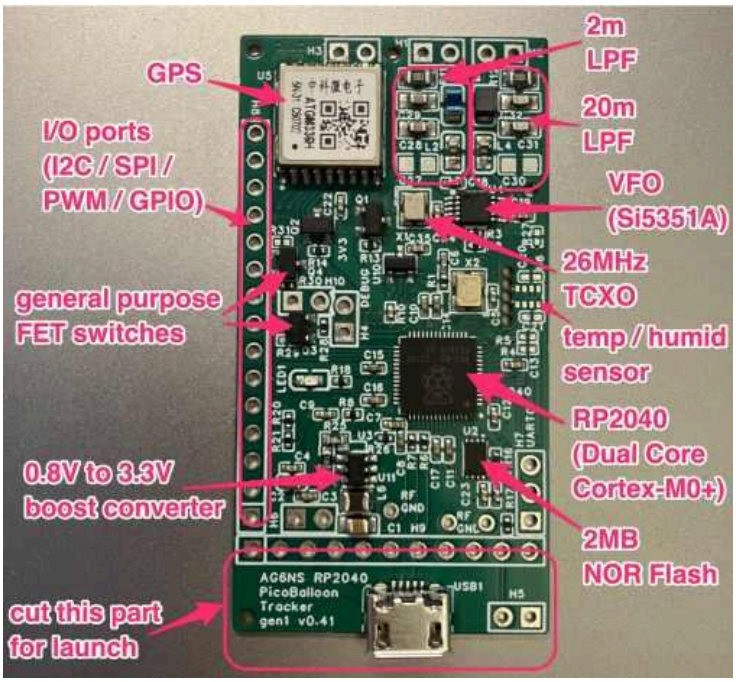
Inside the Clubhouse: Cleanup Angels at Work





Inside the Clubhouse: Up, Up, and Away

As part of the RF Test class Bob Salter and I teach at Sonoma State University, on April 8th Martin (W6MRR), successfully launched a balloon with WSPR tracker on 20m. A day later it woke up from the dark night, and was over Colorado! It could potentially go around the world at 40-60,000 ft!



If the balloon is still aloft (and the tracker is working), find it online on WSPRnet with callsign NJ6Z.

Rob Rowlands, NZ6J

Inside the Clubhouse: Ridge to Bridge

We were again super fortunate to have almost ideal weather. No event drama (aside from the missing water stash), no rescues, and hopefully a good time had by all. The Shoreline team of Skip and John were patient waiting for the last bike stragglers to arrive. Our hiking/biking hams continue to get better with experience. Victor tackled the full 18 mi route laden with enough gear he could be mistaken for a thru-hiker on the PCT.

The APRS infrastructure worked great; probably our most successful deployment to date. Special thanks to Doug, Rob, and James for use of their Starlink terminals.

Oliver Lu, KM6BON

Inside the Clubhouse: What is Field Day?

Field Day dates back to 1933 and is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for amateur radio in the U.S. Originally conceived as a way to test emergency communications capabilities, Field Day has grown into the largest single amateur radio event in North America (over 31,000 hams in 2025), and has three aspects:

Emergency Preparedness Drill. It's a real-world challenge to set up and operate equipment in less-than-ideal conditions: off the grid, outdoors, and perhaps inclement weather.

Public Demonstration. It's important to welcome the curious public to share in your passion, encourage them to experience transmitting/receiving messages, share the benefits of the technology, and demystifying the language/hardware of amateur radio.

Contest. If you're feeling competitive, ARRL has a set of rules for clubs/individuals to enter their contest with points awarded for contacts, publicity, low power, etc. (no prizes, only bragging rights),

Ultimately it's about the community gathering together to share their knowledge, stories, and learn from each other.

Get Connected! As AARL San Francisco Section Manager, Antonis Papatsaras (AA6PP) has just launched a new website that includes 7 counties from San Francisco all the way to Humboldt (and includes 7100+ licensed hams): sanfranciscosection.org

The website is a place to find important news, showcase clubs, ARES, and to get in touch. There's also a new Discord Server to be able to get together, and support each other.

Inside the Clubhouse: Get Ready for Field Day 2026

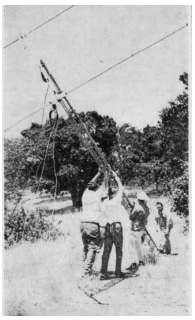
As we look forward to the upcoming Field Day activities it's nice to know we are keeping a tradition that dates back to 1933 and was designed as an emergency preparedness exercise for North American amateur radio operators. Simply put, it was to test, train, and showcase skills in setting up portable, off-grid communication stations. The goal of the Field Day is to work, or contact, as many stations as possible throughout the 24 hour duration of the event. Various Marin County radio clubs have participated over the decades including MARS. Thanks to the archives provided by Gearld McCarthy, W6NOV, we get a glimpse of past efforts.

Independent-Journal, Wed., June 23, 1954 13

RADIO AMATEURS FIELD DAY

Two members of the Tamalpais Amateur Radio Club, one of two clubs participating in amateur radio field day Saturday and Sunday, try for contacts to other "ham" stations in the Western United States, Hawaii and Canada. Using emergency equipment, the club's tent was set up on San Rafael Hill. Left to right are Ed Morrell and Howard Young, both of Mill Valley.

Back in the spring of 1954 two clubs, the Tamalpais Amateur Radio Club and the Marin Amateur Radio Club tried to out duel each other during a Field Day in June. The Marin Amateurs set up in the hills above Kent Woodlands and the Tamalpais Amateurs used San Rafael Hill as their base of operations. In a newspaper article at that time here's how the Marin IJ described the purpose of Field Day, "For example suppose Marin were the direct target for an atomic bomb or if it were damaged by bombs which devastated the Bay Area." We were in the middle of the "cold war" when the article was written. Here is another excerpt ...but a bombing or attack by enemy planes is just one of the many situations...". Clearly the causes of a major incident may have changed but not the ability to be prepared. (cont'd)



Veteran MARS member, Jerry Foster, WAGBXV, remembers when the club took part in several Field Days in the marshlands in southern Petaluma near the Lakeville Highway. "There was an antenna site and a block building we used but we eventually gave it up because we would have to clean up the bird droppings and debris to get the site ready." Other sites for Field Day included Mt. Burdell, the old Nike missile site above McInnis Park in northern San Rafael and Monkey Ranch, a 50-acre former dairy farm in the rolling hills west of Petaluma.

According to Steve Toquinto, KB6HOH, in more recent memory MARS teamed up with the Redwood Empire DX Association and held Field Day at the Marin Rod and Gun Club on the west end of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. According to Toquinto it was a very competitive atmosphere. The club from Sonoma County brought in three 50-foot military grade crank up towers. Once erected the order of the day was to log every contact on a non-stop basis. The facility allowed for campers and had huts for overnight users. According to Foster..."it was intense."

For Annie Ivan, KM6QIW, her first field day was at Howarth Park in Santa Rosa. The effort by the Sonoma County Radio Amateur club featured more than just a "logging" competition. The club staged a "fox hunt" (using radios to locate a hidden transmitter) and offered a place to socialize. Ivan says the focal point of the event was the proper setup and use of radio gear and to provide a motivation for hams to get involved.

The pandemic put a halt to the local Field Day events and it wasn't until 2023 that Tom Jordan, KG6TCM, now the Emergency Manager for the City of Petaluma, kicked started the event again using Measure A funds, the quarter cent sales tax dedicated to fund parks, open space, and enhance recreation.

With the help of Toquinto, KB6HOH, Stafford Lake Park in Novato was chosen as the current site. That first year, 2023, was a bit rough with a location some would say was off the beaten path. The adventure proved a good challenge and certainly showed the true spirit of emergency preparedness and technical expertise. (cont'd)

Field Days 2024 and 2025 moved MARS to the picnic area of Stafford Lake, complete with open grassy fields, tall trees to string antennas and picnic tables with overhead cover. According to James Saltzgaber, KM6WWY, something else came with the new site, a safety compliance officer. As MARS moved forward, concerns regarding the portable generator, antenna cables and vehicle placements were closely monitored.

Something else changed from the Rod and Gun Club Field Days, less emphasis was placed on constant radio contacts and more on socializing and camaraderie. Nowadays the MARS Field Day starts with the installation of long wire HF antennas draped into the surrounding trees and installed at various contact stations spaced out around the picnic site. The club's com van is also pressed into service to serve as one of the sites. The club's com trailer is also put out on display. ARRL likes to say Field Day is a premier 24-hour amateur radio event that combines emergency preparedness training, technical experimentation, community outreach, and socializing. It also serves as disaster emergency training. The theme for this year's event, "Amateur Radio: A Natural Resource". For Marin County, MARS is a vital resource to have.

Curtiss Kim, KM6GUY

Inside the Clubhouse: North Bay 2m Critical Mass (NB2mCM)

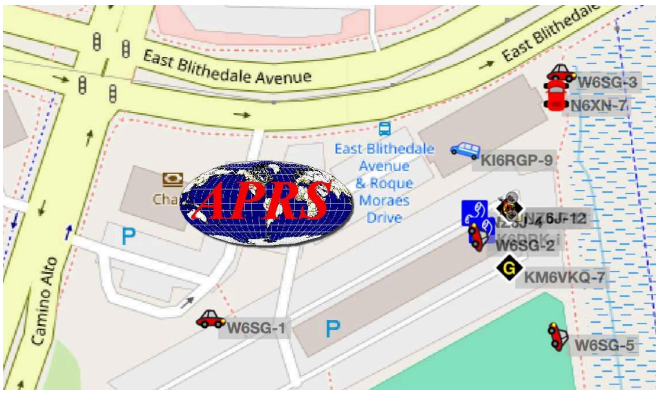

Northbay 2m Critical Mass Team

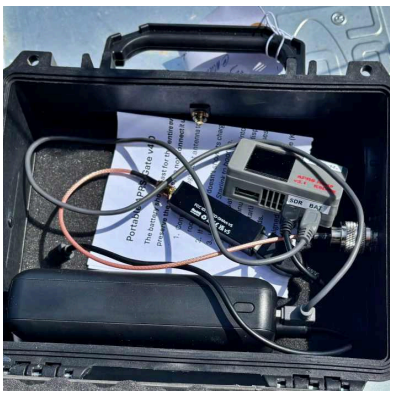
APRS is a method of tracking ham radio operators using ham radio, typically on 144.39 MHz. APRS radios have GPS receivers and modems like old school dial-up computers. The tracker sends out a beacon encoded with the operator's position and other data – either at regular intervals or when the operator moves. At a central location, such as a net control at a public service event, the beacons are displayed on a map on a phone or PC.

That's the first way we use APRS, to track our radio "assets." But APRS radios also receive and decode packets from adjacent radios. This allows operators to be aware of the locations of others nearby, and potentially track them down. **In our April 19th exercise** we are going to demonstrate both uses:

1. We'll divide into groups based on the number of available APRS radios.
2. Each group will set out, walking around the Mill Valley Community Center, beaconing along the way.
3. Each radio can receive other beacons, and we have staged 5 of these along the perimeter.
4. The radios can guide you to these beacons with a compass like display.

There may be a treat for you to find? Come back to net control and we can show you where you've been!





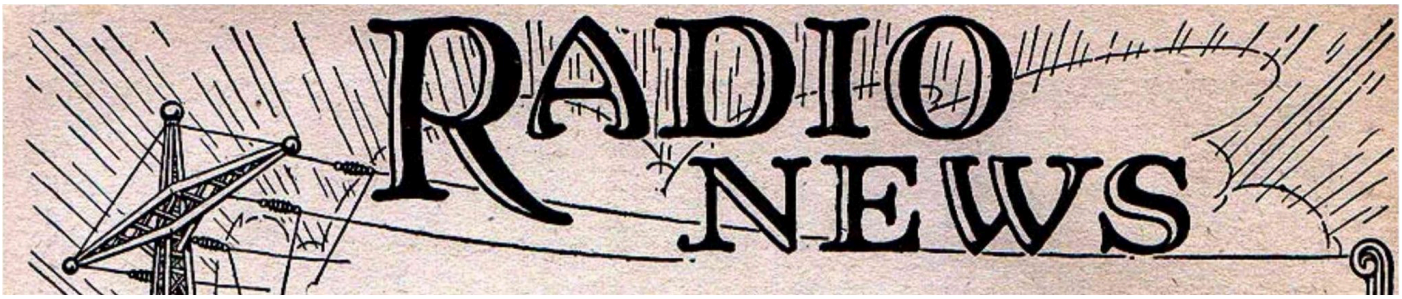
Inside the Clubhouse: May 2026 Calendar

Curious what's coming up? You'll find details on all of our weekly nets, upcoming meetings, public service events, and other local activities on our online calendar. You can even subscribe to the calendar. Please submit corrections or suggestions to: QSA5@w6sg.net.

MAY	Friday, 1	MARS Club Meeting
	Saturday, 2	Miwok 100 🏃
	Sunday, 3	BORP Revolution 🚲
	Saturday, 16	Davis Double Century 🚲
	Sunday, 17	North Bay 2 Meter Critical Mass
	Sunday, 31	Carmichael Elks Ham Radio & Swap Meet
JUNE	Friday, 5	MARS Club Meeting
	Saturday, 14	115th Annual Dipsea 🏃
	Sat-Sun, 27-28	Field Day
	Sunday, 28	North Bay 2 Meter Critical Mass

2026 FIFA WORLD CUP
UNITED STATES – CANADA – MEXICO

From June 13 to July 19, the San Francisco Bay Area will be hosting 7 FIFA World Cup games. Antonis Papatsaras (AA6PP) is one of the organizers of perhaps the biggest ham radio-related special event in recent history. He's looking for mostly HF operators to be hosts for this fun opportunity. Operators will use their own equipment and can operate from their homes during the 7 Levi's Stadium game days. Interested in volunteering? Sign up here: https://aa6pp.org/#/w6s-volunteers



Ham Radio in the News

From local to national to international – stories, inspiration, and legislation.

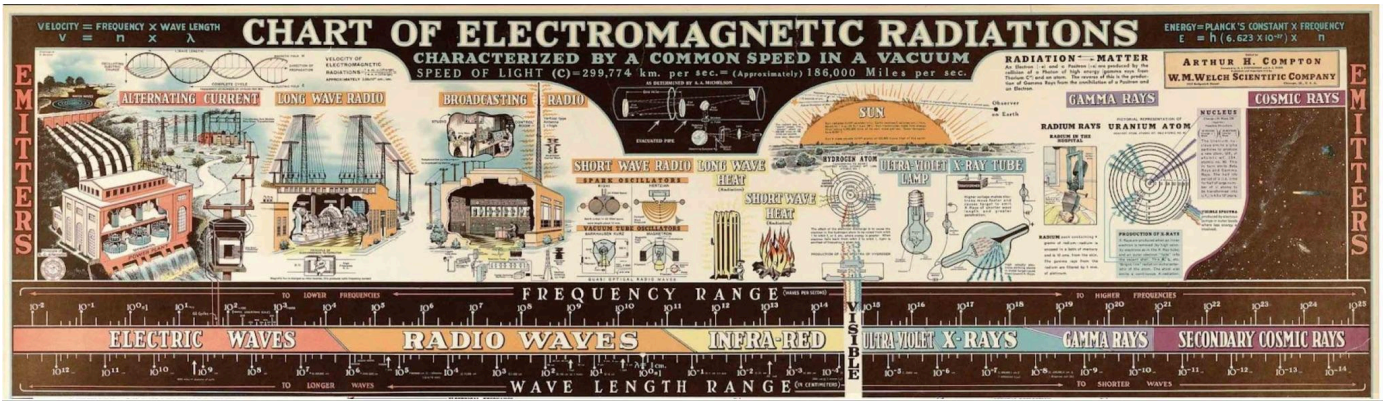
- Modern field radio technology demonstrates new prospects for HF radio
- Linux Kernel Drops AX.25 and Amateur Radio Subsystem Support
- Ham Radio Enthusiasts Land U.S. Airlines With $8 Million Bill to Fix Faulty Equipment On Boeing 787s
- FCC Warns Licensee on Out-of-Band Transmissions

Trusted Radio News Souces

ARRL News Page for national news regarding ham radio.

QRZ Now for ham radio news from around the globe.

Amateur Radio Newsline weekly amateur radio story highlights.



Ham Classroom: Building a Portable HF Ham Shack

For a beginner preparing for **ARRL Field Day 2026** (held **June 27–28, 2026**), the essentials focus on portability, ease of setup, and reliable off-grid power. Field Day is a "field trial" for emergency communications, so your gear should be "portable and self-sufficient". Field Day is both a right of passage for amateur radio operators and an important exercise for emergency preparedness! Every licensed operator should participate in Field Day at least once. The hardest part of this event is taking your ham shack and making it portable.

We get used to our home shacks, every wire and antenna connection carefully and lovingly set up. Many hours have been spent making sure that everything works perfectly. However, many amateur radio operators have never tried to do this in their field where a station must be set up from scratch, where conditions may require some outside of the box thinking if the station is to be functional. Let's look at what you'll need to have to successfully operate outside of your ham shack. We'll start with the most basic necessity, the transceiver Note: This is a simple list of items needed. A check list will be provided at the very end.

Building a portable HF ham radio station is the ultimate exercise in balancing performance with portability. Whether you are hiking to a remote summit for Parks on the Air (POTA) or setting up a temporary command center for ARRL Field Day, your gear must be reliable, lightweight, and efficient.

This article looks at essential components of a field-ready station, providing you with some basic knowledge to build a kit that gets you on the air anywhere.

THE HEART OF THE STATION: THE TRANSCEIVER: The transceiver is your most critical choice. For portable operations, you generally choose between two philosophies: QRP (Low Power) or Full Power (100W). The choice is yours but more wattage generally means more weight and mass.

QRP Transceivers (5–10 Watts): These are designed for hikers. They are tiny, sip battery power, and often include internal batteries and tuners. These Transceivers all cover the standard HF bands 10-160 meters

- **Elecraft KX2/KX3:** The gold standard for many. They offer incredible receivers and high efficiency.
- **Icom IC-705:** A modern marvel with a large waterfall display, D-STAR, and GPS, though it is power-hungry.
- **Xeigu 6100:** At 10 watts and with a built-in battery, plus a low cost, this is a popular choice.
- **Yaesu FT-818:** A classic, rugged all-bander, though now discontinued, it remains a favorite on the used market.
- **Xeigu G90:** At 20 watts, the G90 is between QRP and full power, but with a built-in tuner and lower power consumption, it's another popular choice.
- **PRO TIP:** Avoid bargain QRP transceivers unless you're going to get them and modify them. The price looks great but the results can be frustrating.

100W Portable Transceivers: If you want to "punch through" the noise during a busy Field Day or a weak opening, 100 watts is helpful.

- **Yaesu FT-891:** Extremely popular for POTA. It is rugged and powerful but requires a substantial external battery.
- **Icom IC-7300:** Offers a compact design, making it great for "shack-in-a-box" for outdoor setups.
- **PRO TIP:** Go with brands that are familiar to the amateur radio community. Go online and check forums for information about any transceiver you're considering.

POWER SYSTEMS: FUELING THE RADIO: Portable operation has been revolutionized by Lithium Iron Phosphate (LiFePO4) batteries. They are lighter and hold a steady voltage longer than traditional lead-acid batteries. They're also far less expensive these days. Amateur radio transceivers require 13.8 Volts. Fully charged 12 Volt batteries will cover this.

Battery Choices

- **Bioenno Power:** The industry leader for ham radio. A 3Ah to 6Ah battery is perfect for QRP, while a 12Ah to 20Ah battery is better for 100W operations.
- **TalentCell:** A budget-friendly option, though often requiring more careful connector management.
- **Cheaper Batteries:** Amazon.com has a lot of batteries perfect for portable use that range from $40 to $80.
- **PRO TIP:** Always make sure your battery's amperage is greater than the equipment's amperage. Don't use a battery if the voltage is rated higher than your transceiver.

Power Management

- **PowerPole Connectors:** The universal standard for ham radio DC power. Use these to ensure all your gear is interchangeable.
- **Solar Panels:** For multi-day Field Day events, a folding 28W to 100W solar panel and a charge controller will keep you running indefinitely. However, they can be bulky and require sunlight. Batteries are your best choice!

THE ANTENNA: YOUR INTERFACE WITH THE IONOSPHERE: In the field, your antenna is more important than your radio. You need something that is easy to deploy and resonant on the bands you intend to use.

End-Fed Half-Wave (EFHW): The current favorite for POTA. It requires only one high support (like a tree branch) and covers multiple bands, but you should have a tuner. **Why use it:** Minimal footprint and very fast setup.

Resonant Dipoles and Linked Dipoles: A classic "Center-Fed" dipole is incredibly efficient. A "Linked" dipole uses clips to change bands manually, removing the need for a heavy antenna tuner.

Vertical Antennas: If there are no trees, a vertical is your best friend.

- **Wolf River Coils:** Excellent for 10-40m and very rugged.
- **Super Antenna:** Highly portable and fits in a small carry bag.
- **JCP-**12: A complete antenna system that will cover 10-40 meters (you can purchase a separate coil than will cover 10-80 meters. Comes in a small carry bag and includes radials.

COAX AND ADAPTERS: THE VITAL LINK: The best radio and antenna are useless if they aren't connected properly. For portable use, weight and flexibility are key.

Coax Cables

- **RG-174:** Very thin and light, perfect for short runs (10-25ft) in QRP setups.
- **RG-58 / LMR-195:** The standard for 100W portable ops. It strikes a balance between manageable weight and low signal loss.
- **RG-8X:** Slightly thicker but offers better shielding for high-interference Field Day environments.
- **PRO TIP:** If you're doing HF, you can employ inexpensive coax cable. However, better quality cable will last a lot longer. Don't spend a small fortune trying to get tiny gains in signal by purchasing top of the line coax cable. The cost exceeds the results.

Essential Adapters: Always carry a small "go-bag" of adapters to handle unexpected antenna or cable issues:

- **BNC to PL-259 (UHF):** Most portable radios use BNC, but many antennas use UHF.
- **SMA to BNC:** Crucial if you are using an SDR or certain handheld radios.
- **Barrel Connectors (SO-239 to SO-239):** To join two pieces of coax if your run isn't long enough.
- **Right-Angle Adapters:** To prevent stress on your radio's antenna port when sitting on a picnic table.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS AND ACCESSORIES: How do you get that wire into the air?

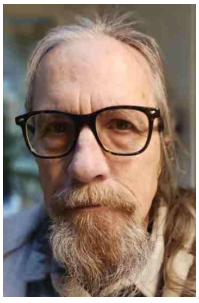
- **Mast:** If there are no trees, a carbon fiber or fiberglass telescopic mast (6m to 10m) is essential.
- **Arborist Throw Line:** A weighted bag and slick line for launching wires over high branches.
- **Antenna Tuner (ATU):** If your antenna isn't perfectly resonant, an external tuner like the **LDG Z-100Plus** or **Mat-Tuner** will save your radio's finals. If you are building a portable station on a budget, the **ATU-100 (Extenda)** is one of the most popular additions to a field kit. Originally designed by David Fainitski (N7DDC), this open-source automatic antenna tuner provides high-end performance at a fraction of the cost of "name-brand" tuners.

THE LOGGING SETUP: POTA and Field Day require accurate logs.

- **Paper and Pen:** Never fails, but requires manual entry later.
- **Tablet/Phone:** Apps like **HAMRS** are specifically designed for POTA and make logging a breeze on a touchscreen.
- **Laptop:** For Field Day, a laptop running **N1MM** is the standard for competitive logging.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION: Field Day often involves unpredictable weather.

- **Dry Bags:** Keep your radio and logbook safe during a sudden downpour.
- **Ground Stakes:** To secure your mast and prevent your station from becoming a kite.
- **Weights/Sandbags:** Useful if operating from a rocky summit or concrete pad.



Hugh Patterson, KN6KNB

The Portable HF Checklist

The Core Station

- ☐ HF Transceiver
- ☐ Microphone or CW Key
- ☐ Headset/Earbuds (essential for noisy Field Day sites)

Power

- ☐ LiFePO4 Battery (fully charged)
- ☐ DC Power Cable (with PowerPoles)
- ☐ Spare Fuses
- ☐ Solar Panel & Controller (for long trips)

The Antenna System

- ☐ Primary Antenna (EFHW, Dipole, or Vertical)
- ☐ Backup Antenna
- ☐ Antenna Tuner (if not internal to radio)
- ☐ Telescopic Mast or Throw Line/Weight

Feedline & Adapters

- ☐ 25′ or 50′ Coax Cable (RG-58 or RG-8X)
- ☐ Short Coax Jumper (for tuner-to-radio)
- ☐ BNC (Male) to PL-259 (Female) Adapters
- ☐ PL-259 Barrel Connector
- ☐ SMA to BNC Adapter (if applicable)

Logging & Tools

- ☐ Tablet/Laptop with Logging Software
- ☐ Charging cables for devices
- ☐ Physical Logbook and two Pens
- ☐ Multi-tool or Screwdriver set
- ☐ Electrical Tape and Velcro Straps

Comfort & Safety

- ☐ Portable Chair and Table
- ☐ Water and Snacks
- ☐ Sunscreen and Bug Spray
- ☐ First Aid Kit

Marin Amateur Radio Society Board of Directors Meeting 4/09/2026

Call to Order 19:30 Hours (7:30 PM)

Attendance:

_X__ **President:** Curtis Ardourel WA6UDS
_X__ **Secretary** James Saltzgaber KM6WWY
_X__ **Director** Richard Cochran AG6QR
_X__ **Director:** Ed Essick K6ELE
_X__ **Trustee W6SG** Marc Bruvry KF6VNT

_X__ **Vice President** Kathy Funke-Spicher KM6URP
_X__ **Treasurer** Bruce Bartel N6VLB
_X__ **Director** Steve Toquinto KB6HOH

____ **Trustee K6GWE** Brian Cooley K6EZX

_X__ **Adopt agenda** Jim S – Old business Item #1 - Add Ann Ivan to Club Cleanup Committee – MSC without objection to adopt agenda as amended.
_X__ **Approve minutes of** 12 March board meeting MSC to approve minutes.
_X__ **Secretary's Report/Communications** – Jim KM6WWY – Certificates of Insurance and use permit application have been sent to Marin County Parks for Field Day.
_X__ **Treasurer's Report** Bruce N6VLB -Published in QSA-5. March financials are available for approval for May QSA-5

Members Present: Gerald McCarthy W6NOV, Milt Hyams KM6ASI, Skip Fedanzo KJ6ARL, Dan Sobel N6HLZ, Scott Pasternak KN6ZDM, Rich Slusher KI6UIM, Charlie Benet AI6TT

Committee and other Reports:

1. **Membership** Curtis -WA6UDS - 107 64% (70%)
2. **Facilities –** Skip KJ6ARL – Milt covered facility except springtime vegetation needs, cleaning leaves & cutting back weeds, likely next month. Suggests that one of the clubhouse committee members take the Facilities Manager position.
3. **VOAD/RCV** Skip KJ6ARL – VOAD and RCV will be participating in the BEACON Multi County exercise April 30th. A plan for RCV & RACES is being developed for the exercise. Will be simulated earthquake response. This will be a "no-notice" drill, and will be focused on policies and procedures, such as assigning personnel after the event has occurred.
4. **Technical** Milt KM6ASI– Antonis AA6PP - No report.
5. **Public Service** Scott KN6ZDM– 11 events total, 10 remaining. Next event will be Ridge to Bridge, organized by Oliver Liu. The BORQ Revolution Ride, May 3, has been cancelled, their needs were course assistance, not communications.
6. **VE Testing** Jim KM6WWY– Next test will be 2 applicants currently.
7. **Comm Truck** Charlie AI6TT – Truck passed smog check, registration will be good until 2028. Thanks to the person who put up the No Parking signs on the outside fence. The exit path needs to be kept clear, and neighborhood cars sometimes park in the way.
8. **NBAM** Kathy KM6URP – The Big News is that Ed Witts, Bodega Bay Fire Dept., has received his MOU from MARS and is ready to do the Bodega Bay AREDN demonstration station setup, preferably by May 2-3 Bodega Bay Fish Festival.

9. **Clubhouse Cleanup –** Milt KM6ASI – Schedule is in place to complete approximately 90% of the work required to reopen by Sunday 4-19. Will need assistance to complete inspecting equipment to be saved vs. disposed. Requested Cathy KM6URP to set up contractor to replace missing water heater room door. Dumpster will be ordered 4 period of 4-23-28 by Ed Essick. Electronic waste will be handled separately from the dumpster. Comm Van will be parked outside in front of the clubhouse as the dumpster will be blocking the driveway. Annie Ivan will continue to organize completion of the painting. Goal is to open for general meeting on May 1. The list of tasks left to be completed prior to the re-opening of the clubhouse was discussed.
10. **Field Day** Steve – 1st meeting was held yesterday. Low attendance, next meeting scheduled for 4/22 @ 7:30 pm on Zoom.

Old Business:

1. Club Budget for 2026 – No Action, continued to May 2026 meeting.

New Business:

1. Clubhouse Inspection and EAP – The attachment documents, Monthly Safety Inspection checklist, Seasonal Safety Inspection checklist, and Emergency Action Plan, submitted by Gerald W6NOV were reviewed and their purposes discussed. How to review, implement, and keep these issues documented was explored. Skip KJ6ARL proposed that they be made as simple as possible for implementation and use by a volunteer group. Gerald W6NOV noted that we must meet the minimum required by the fire department inspections. The documents will be reviewed by Gerald, Skip and Jim S.
2. Sale of donated equipment – Milt KM6ASI – We will give members first opportunity to purchase equipment. Will set up a silent auction for selling the equipment. Rob NZ6J and Steve KB6HOH will be reviewing the value of the various items and setting minimum sale prices. The 1st opportunity for members to buy will be on May 1st at general meeting where some small items will be included in a raffle.
3. Club reopening celebration and thank you – A celebration for the re-opening for the clubhouse was discussed, and it was decided that it would be considered for a later date after Field Day. Curtis -Should we have a re-opening picnic party. Discussion about having this with the silent auction was favoring spacing out the various events. Picnic is also going to be coming up and may be too close to have a celebration, as well as after Field Day.
4. Doug Slusher KF6AKU Donation – Rich Slusher KI6UIM has offered the donation of a new Icom IC-7300 MK-2 transceiver for the clubhouse radio room in remembrance of his brother Doug Slusher KF6AKU. Doug was a longtime active member, proponent, and “Elmer” of the Marin Amateur Radio Society. It was approved to accept this donation. Steve KB6HOH will get the budget for the IC-7300 MK-2 together for Rich.

_X__ Good of the Order – Nothing noted
_X__ Executive Session – Not required
_X__ Adjourn – 10:05 MSC
Next Regular Meeting 1 May 2026
Next Board Meeting 7 May 2026

Suggested EAP and Inspection Checklist (Attachment 1)

1. Monthly Safety Inspection Checklist

Frequency: First meeting or first Sunday of each month
Inspector(s): _____
Date: _____

General Building & Emergency Egress

- ☐ All exits, doors, and hallways clear of obstructions
- ☐ Emergency lighting and exit signs functional
- ☐ Interior lighting (all rooms, hallways, bathrooms, office, garage, comm room no burned-out bulbs)
- ☐ Exterior lighting (entryways, parking area, perimeter) functional and timed/motion-sensor working
- ☐ US Flag (exterior or meeting room display) in acceptable condition: clean, no tears/fraying, properly displayed
- ☐ First aid kit(s) stocked and unexpired
- ☐ No extension cord or "zip" cord use
- ☐ No tripping hazards, loose carpeting
- ☐ No accumulating boxes or electronics (mark with blue tape with date for disposal after 30 days unless directed otherwise)

Fire Safety

- ☐ All fire extinguishers present, pressure in green, pins/seals intact, tags current
- ☐ Smoke/CO detectors tested and batteries fresh (if so equipped)
- ☐ Replace batteries annually in CO/Smoke detectors. Date:_____

Electrical & Electronics Safety

- ☐ No overloaded outlets, daisy-chained cords, or damaged wiring
- ☐ GFCI outlets in kitchen/bathrooms test properly
- ☐ Surge protectors if used on radio/electronics/ computers working
- ☐ No extension cords under rugs or through doorways

Kitchen

- ☐ Appliances clean and operating.
- ☐ Refrigerator ≤38°F; no spoiled food, clean and organized
- ☐ Sink/drains clear, no water leaks under or around

Bathrooms (2)

- ☐ Fixtures functional, no leaks
- ☐ Exhaust fans operating
- ☐ Floors dry and slip-resistant
- ☐ Windows secured

Meeting/Classroom

- ☐ Tables/chairs clean and free of damage
- ☐ Tables/chairs in place with isle access
- ☐ AV equipment secure, cords managed
- ☐ No debris / orphaned equipment (blue tape, date, discard in 30 days)
- ☐ Drop ceiling tiles in place, undamaged (no sagging or stains)

Office

- ☐ Furniture anchored (earthquake zone)
- ☐ No overloaded shelves
- ☐ No extensions cords or "zip" cords
- ☐ Windows secured

Electronics Workbench

- ☐ Tools organized
- ☐ ESD mats/grounding good
- ☐ No exposed wires or chemicals
- ☐ Racks/antennas secure
- ☐ No extensions cords or "zip" cords
- ☐ All coax connectors tight on radios
- ☐ Grounding present and properly secured to radios

Communications Room

- ☐ Antennas coax secure to Polyphaser(s) and ground bus
- ☐ Grounding bus secure to grounding station ground
- ☐ Ground pipe beneath radios secure and undamaged
- ☐ All coax connectors tight on radios
- ☐ Grounding present and properly secured to radios
- ☐ Radio vents clear; no overheating, no storage on radios
- ☐ Grounding present and properly secured to power supplies
- ☐ Power leads from power supply to radios properly secured
- ☐ All coax in good condition

Garage/Storage Area

- ☐ Flammables in approved containers
- ☐ Heavy items secured
- ☐ Floors clear; no spills
- ☐ No signs of water leaks
- ☐ No signs of rodent activity
- ☐ Garage door in working order
- ☐ Garage door locks in working order
- ☐ Garage lighting working

Exterior (Quick Visual)

- ☐ Doors (front and old app bad doors secure/weather-tight
- ☐ No new damage or pests
- ☐ Windows secured and without damage
- ☐ Clear exit path for tenant
- ☐ No items on stairs
- ☐ Hot water heater room clean, free of storage

Update Station Manual (Routine Operations, Emergency Operations, Appliance Information, Emergency Contact Information, Pending Maintenance Issues)

- ☐ Insurance company information updated
- ☐ Emergency contact list updated
- ☐ Emergency vendor list updated
- ☐ Plumber
- ☐ Electrician
- ☐ Roofing Co
- ☐ Safety policies
- ☐ Duplicate Comm Van information updated
- ☐ Insurance
- ☐ Registration
- ☐ Emergency Procedures

Notes / Actions Needed (include pro reports):

Inspector Initials: _____ Signature: _____

2. Seasonal Safety Inspection Checklist

Frequency: October to April, prior to and immediately following major storm
Inspector(s): _____
Date: _____

- ☐ Roof, gutters, downspouts cleared
- ☐ Side drainage ditch clear, functioning, no blockages/erosion
- ☐ Drains in front parking lot working, no blockages
- ☐ No leaks around windows/doors
- ☐ Heating **system clean; air filter replacement date: _____ (replace 1–3 months)**
- ☐ Mold inspection in wet areas
- ☐ Wood framing checked for rot
- ☐ Windows/doors seal; weather stripping good
- ☐ Dipole Antenna mounts secure
- ☐ Flag Pole in place
- ☐ Garage mounted antenna(s) guy wire and antenna condition
- ☐ Roof Antenna mounts secure

Notes / Actions Needed:
Inspector Initials: _____ Signature: _____

Summer (Hot/Dry Season) – May to October or before and after predicted East Wind Event and/or Red Flag Warning for Marin (Below 1000' elevation)
Inspector(s): _____
Date: _____

- ☐ A/C, fans, ventilation clean/operational; air filter replacement date: _____
- ☐ Equipment (radios, HVAC) not overheating
- ☐ Wood surfaces checked for drying/cracking
- ☐ Perimeter cleared of all combustibles (defensible space)
- ☐ Generator serviced
- ☐ Pest nests removed
- ☐ Roof vents clear
- ☐ Roof clear of combustible materials (tree litter)

Notes / Actions Needed:
Inspector Initials: _____ Signature: _____

MARIN AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 3220

1. Fire Safety and Evacuation

- If you smell smoke, see fire, or hear the smoke / CO alarm immediately evacuate —do not investigate or delay.
- Alert others including the tenant(s) calmly Call 911 from outside (provide address: 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley; describe the emergency).
- Evacuate using the nearest safe exit — close doors behind you but do not lock them.
- Follow posted exit signs/routes
- Proceed to a pre-designated assembly point (e.g., across the street or in the parking
- area away from the building and overhead power lines).
- Do a head count/account for people; report missing individuals to firefighters or 911.
- Never re-enter the building until cleared by emergency responders.
- Fire extinguishers — know locations (often near kitchen, radio room, exits); use PASS method (Pull pin, Aim low, Squeeze, Sweep) only if trained and the fire is small/contained — otherwise, evacuate.

2. Utility Shut-Off Procedures

- All members with key fob access should be able to identify, locate and shut down natural gas, water and electric services.
- **Natural Gas Shut-Off**:
  - Main valve: Need to locate — turn quarter-turn so handle is perpendicular to pipe (off position).
  - If you smell gas: Do not turn lights/switches on/off, use phone inside, or create sparks; evacuate, open doors/windows from outside if safe, call 911 first, address is 27 Shell Road, Mill Valley;. Call PG&E (800-743-5000) when told to do so by 911 operators.
- **Water Shut-Off**:
  - Main valve: Often at the street meter (curb box) or inside near water heater/entry point — wheel/lever valve; turn clockwise to close.
  - Internal valves: Near sinks, water heater, or bathrooms for isolating sections (useful for leaks/clogs).
- **Electricity Shut-Off**:
  - Main breaker: In electrical panel (need to identify location); flip main switch to off.
  - Sub-panels: May exist for radio room? — label important circuits (e.g., don't shut off security cameras - I can explain later).

3. **Earthquake Procedures**

- During shaking: Drop, cover, hold on — get under sturdy furniture; protect head/neck; stay away from windows, heavy objects, antennas outside, overhead power lines or utility poles.
- After shaking stops: Check for injuries, fires, gas smells, or damage. If gas smell: Evacuate and shut off main gas (need to locate) if accessible/safe. Inspect for hazards (downed wires, structural issues).
- Evacuate if building damage suspected; assemble at safe point.
- Use club radios/nets for status checks if power/cell service out.

4. **Medical Emergency**
   - Once the club can pass a fire inspection, I would like the club to consider adding a AED and CPR masks.
   - Call 911 immediately — provide address, nature of emergency, number of victims.
   - If trained, provide first aid/CPR; use any onsite first aid kit.
   - Designate someone to meet responders at entrance.
   - Clear space; keep calm crowd control.

5. Power Outage / General Safety
   - Use flashlights (avoid candles/open flames).
   - Unplug sensitive equipment (radios, computers) to prevent surges on restoration.
   - For extended outages: Club may activate emergency nets or generator (if van/on-site).
   - Secure building before leaving (lock doors, check stove off).

6. General Daily/Closing Procedures
   - Kitchen/Stove: Double-check stove is fully off (knobs to OFF, pilot if any); never leave unattended.
   - Exits/Doors: Ensure clear access
   - Security: Arm/disable alarms if present; lock up; report suspicious activity.
   - Last out: Walk through — check appliances, lights off, thermostat set, doors/windows secure empty garbages (bathroom, kitchen, comm room, meeting room.

7. Contact Information
   - Plan must contain the name and contact information for Club President, whomever has delegated responsibility for implementing plan / facility manager and/or club emergency preparedness manager

We will need to document site-specific details (e.g., exact shutoff maps, extinguisher locations, and assembly points) and create a simple laminated map.

All members with key fob access should have a working knowledge of the above information, the "club binder" location along with procedures to contact Insurance Co etc., and fire extinguisher.

Marin Amateur Radio Society

Balance Sheet Comparison - Custom

As of Mar 31, 2026

Distribution account	TOTAL	
	As of Mar 31, 2026	As of Mar 28, 2025 (PY)
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bank Accounts		
CD	0.00	0.00
MARS BUILDING FUND (8795) - 3 - 2	1,960.40	2,078.400
MARS GENERAL FUND (4328) - 9 - 1	75,518.70	75,472.61
Money Market	0.00	0.00
VE Session Cash	0.00	0.00
VE Session Cash Received	0.00	0.00
Total for Bank Accounts	**$77,479.10**	**$77,551.01**
Accounts Receivable		
Other Current Assets		
Uncategorized Asset	0.00	0.00
Total for Other Current Assets	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Total for Current Assets	**$77,479.10**	**$77,551.01**
Fixed Assets		
club house- 27 Shell Rd. MV	58,983.00	58,983.00
Total for Fixed Assets	**$58,983.00**	**$58,983.00**
Other Assets		
Total for Assets	**$136,462.10**	**$136,534.01**
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable		
Credit Cards		
Other Current Liabilities		
Total for Current Liabilities		
Long-term Liabilities		
Equity		
Retained Earnings	22,664.10	15,577.46
Net Income	-10,602.00	-3,443.45
Opening Balance Net Assets	124,400.00	124,400.00
Total for Equity	**$136,462.10**	**$136,534.01**
Total for Liabilities and Equity	**$136,462.10**	**$136,534.01**

Marin Amateur Radio Society

Profit and Loss Comparison (January-March, 2026)

Distribution account	TOTAL	
	Jan 1 - Mar 31 2026	Jan 1 - Mar 31 2025 (PY)
Income		
Donations	1,345.00	1,029.00
Dues	60.00	90.00
Rent	8,550.00	8,100.00
Total for Income	**$9,955.00**	**$9,219.00**
Cost of Goods Sold		
Gross Profit	**$9,955.00**	**$9,219.00**
Expenses		
Awards	200.00	400.00
Car & Truck	323.00	34.94
Food	1,843.37	496.08
Garbage	162.66	158.22
Insurance	$1,760.37	$567.00
Comm Van Insurance	149.16	1,006.49
Total for Insurance	**$1,909.53**	**$1,573.49**
Office Supplies & Software	39.00	39.00
Public Service Expense	3,731.83	1,922.70
Repairs & Maintenance	5,890.88	922.50
Taxes & Licenses	4,442.48	4,164.36
Telephone	334.42	
Utilities	1,003.09	1,004.75
Accounting		195.00
Equipment < $2,500		431.48
Station Upgrades & Maintenance		154.09
Water		214.85
Web Services Expenses		0.00
Total for Expenses	**$19,880.26**	**$12,286.78**
Net Operating Income	**-$9,925.26**	**-$3,067.78**
Other Income		
MESH Grant Income	-100.00	
Total for Other Income	-$100.00	
Other Expenses		
MESH Grant Disbursement	576.74	375.67
Total for Other Expenses	$576.74	**$375.67**
Net Other Income	**-$676.74**	**-$375.67**
Net Income	**-$10,602.00**	**-$3,443.45**

This Month's Quick Online Survey

QUICK SURVEY

[Have a "Go Box"?]

Last Month's Survey Responses

From where have you operated your radio?

5 responses