

# QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

August 2007

Page 1

## Greetings to the MARS Membership from the desk of the President.

This month's letter is not very newswy. If you've been to the clubhouse lately, you have noticed that the repairs are underway. I estimate that we are a tad less than half way through. The stairs will be waterproofed the week of 7/23 and the window for the east side of the building should arrive by the end of the first week of August. My employer generously provided them at cost.

Night of Nights VIII was a giant success. Thanks to anyone who was able to attend or listen in to the festivities. One distinguished guest was Richard Hart from KGO/Channel 7 and his cameraman. The story they were working on aired Sunday night July 15th and can be viewed at the following link:

[http://abclocal.go.com/kgostory?sec=drive\\_to\\_discover&id=5479758](http://abclocal.go.com/kgostory?sec=drive_to_discover&id=5479758)

I had an opportunity to exercise my new T-1 license on the weekend of July 20 when I sailed as the sole radio operator on the SS Jeremiah O'Brien's cruise to Redwood City to participate in that port's 70th anniversary Waterfront Festival. I managed to get the 3-U console correctly tuned to transmit, but I still have lots to learn about regenerative receivers.... KPH/KSM was hearing me, but I couldn't hear them until I had a visit from John Chow, who gave me some additional tutoring in the art of using the 1944 equipment. I will have to study the operating technique more closely next time I'm onboard.

Have a good August, and I hope the Editor can find room to repeat the list for "dish to pass" assignments that was in my letter last month.

(With a few additions. ed.)

As always, this is your club, and the Board of Directors can't know what you want or need if you don't come to meetings or express your desires.

73 es 88

Denice Stoops

Website at W6SG.NET  
Phone 415.389.6630

For ARRL SF Section news, go to  
[www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF](http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=SF)

### Public Service Events for 2007.

**Sat. August 4** Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century 20 People  
(This event has the most food for all hands.)

**Sat. August 18** Holstein Hundred  
15 People

**Sat. September 29** - Escape from Alcatraz

For info on these events contact  
**Randy KA6BQF 510-526-4089** or  
**Chuck WA6SQQ 897-7267**

**Picnic Saturday 15 September** at our usual great location in Sam Taylor Park. Very easy to find.

**Remember the picnic this year is BYOMAADTP: "Bring Your Own Meat And A Dish To Pass". Because this is not a charity event, that dish should have something in it and you'll have to sign a statement saying that you promise to take your leftovers home. To avoid duplication or omission it is suggested that if your last name starts with A-H please bring appetizers. If your last name starts with I-N please bring salads, and if your last name starts with O-Z please bring a dessert. It will not be acceptable to translate your last name into Chinese, or any other language using strange non-alpha characters, to avoid bringing your not-empty dish to pass around. The club will be providing the means to cook your meat. Bottled water and basic bellywash (sodas) will also be provided. If you have a fear of COKE in any of its forms, you might want to consider bringing your own. We'll prolly also have mustard and relish and whatever else we can find at the clubhouse that has an expired 'use by' date. The picnic crew.**

POBox 6423  
San Rafael, CA 94903

### General Membership Meeting, 6 July

The meeting was called to order at 19:28 hrs by president Denice Stoops, KI6BBR.

Twenty-six members and guests were present. Guests were: Peter Cooke, KG6OUE, Jim Lee, KE6VGV and Bill Hillendahl, KH6GJV, ARRL SF Section Manager.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as published.

Secretary Jenkins reported on communications received from the Registrar of Voters and the Holstein Hundred people.

President Denice reported on the outcome of the previous board meeting. A contractor has been hired, and repairs and renovations have begun.

**Treasurer** Dave KG6TCJ reported income of \$2385.00 for June, and \$11,777.73 in expenses. Total bank balances were \$30,459.53.

**Recreation Committee:** The picnic is scheduled for Saturday, September 15, at Samuel P. Taylor State Park. The format is bring your own meat and a dish to share.

**Public Service Committee:** Randy KA6BQF reported on the upcoming Marin Century / Mt. Tam Double Century on August 4 and the Holstein Hundred on August 18. Volunteers are still needed for both events.

**Technical Committee:** Trustee Doug KF6AKU reported that the repeaters were working as they should.

**Comm Truck Committee:** All installed equipment working well. Operation of the telescoping mast is much improved after some maintenance was done.

**Education Committee:** Ben Sawtelle reported that the classes scheduled for July had been postponed until August and would probably run over four Saturdays. There was an extended discussion about the merits of longer class sessions versus one day cram sessions.

**VE Liaison:** Al Weisman reported that he had received the new testing materials for General Class. The next VE session was scheduled for September 8.

General Meeting, cont.

**Field Day:** Dave KG6TCJ reported that the Field Day event with REDXA was very successful. The three stations were operated under the REDX club's callsign. Preliminary tallies showed about 8500 points and about 2500 contacts. Reservations have been made for the same site for next year, with plans to run a joint operation again. Next year we will use the MARS callsign.

No reports on membership. The board has a couple of ideas to boost membership that will be reported at a future meeting.

**Building Manager:** Rich W6UDS Carbine reported that, as everyone could see, construction was underway on repairs to the northeast corner of our building, along with modifications to the kitchen and restrooms. President Denice will be meeting with Burkell Plumbing to discuss the restroom plans in regard to ADA compliance. Windows will be ordered next week.

**Old Business:**

The Christmas party menu choices from Deer Park Villa were distributed. We need to choose three main course choices from the list provided.

Everyone should have received an envelope in the mail with the members' password for the website. If anyone has something to post on the website, or if there is any outdated information that needs to be removed, they should contact Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ at [davehsau@comcast.net](mailto:davehsau@comcast.net)

We are creating a building fund for renovations and have had several sizable donations already. If members have possible sources for donations let us know.

**Field Trip:** President Denice reported on preparations for Night of Nights VIII, on Thursday, July 12, 2007. The event will run from 3 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. The original KPH transmitters and receivers will be on the air in Bolinas and Point Reyes, respectively. There will also be amateur contacts with K6KPH.

**For the Good of the Order:** ARRL SF Section Manager Bill Hillendahl KH6JGV gave his report on Field Day activity in the section and other matters.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:10 hrs. Respectfully submitted,  
Randy Jenkins KA6BQF, Secretary.

**Triviabit.**

If you've been curious as to how KPH got its call letters, in the 'olden days' the station was located in the Palace Hotel in the City.

**Editor's Meanderings.  
(and column space filling)**

It was, again, time to make the ten mile trip to COSTCO to replenish our food supplies. It wasn't, really, but the lure of the hot or Polish dog with a refillable coke for \$1.62 (incl. tax) was strong. Maybe you could get some of these and take them to a movie matinee. Maybe they wouldn't kick you out on your butt. Of course, any excuse to get out of the house should be balanced against the cost of doing it. Most often, serious consideration of the cost loses out and we're outta the driveway.

We try to arrive around ten in the morning when the doors open one hour earlier for us dummies who are willing to spend the extra fifty bucks for an 'Executive Membership' card. This isn't really as dumb as it sounds because we get back two percent of most items we buy there. The check is usually close to the fifty bucks we paid extra for the card. Anyway, it's worth it to roam the aisles without having to dodge those \*\*\*\*ing (insert your choice of word) strollers and whole families shopping in packs, wandering aimlessly in the aisles and mobbing the free food tasting sites so we can't get near them.

We try to avoid arriving at COSTCO with an appetite but usually fail in that. Then it requires tremendous self control—none of that useless, wimpy 'will power'—to leave most of those high-calorie items on the shelves, or in the freezer especially. On some of the more exotic foodstuffs the prices are high enough to slow us down.

Recently we paused at the muffin rack and, because hunger was really on the attack, grabbed a twelve-pack of the blueberry variety, pushing the cart quickly away. The greater the distance between you and the source, the less temptation there is to go put it back. After getting those muffins home we had to figure out a place to store them so that they wouldn't turn green. (All green is not necessarily good.) The solution was to put 'em in individual ZipLok bags and stack 'em in the freezer. This required rearranging things which, we're afraid, has put a few items in freezer limbo, dooming them to be not found for several months. When finally discovered, they will be pretty well desiccated while their former moisture surrounds them, obscuring them in a shroud of ice crystals. Back to the muffins. These won't last long enough to dry out. Great with your morning coffee. Give 'em about 1¼ minutes in the microwave. Cut in quarters.

**Board of Directors Meeting, 6 July**

The meeting was called to order at 20:27 hours by president Denice Stoops KI6BBR. **Committee reports** were dispensed with as they were presented in the general membership meeting immediately prior to this meeting.

The minutes of the previous board meeting were approved as corrected. The name of a contractor was misreported in the previous minutes.

**Treasurer** Dave KG6TCJ submitted his midyear report and June account summaries. Discussion.

Old Business:

**Building Remodel:** The project was temporarily stopped due to a minor problem with the contractor's bond. This should be resolved soon. (It has been and work has resumed. ed.) President Denice will be meeting with Burkell Plumbing to discuss the restroom plans in regard to ADA compliance. Discussion.

Fundraising: Deferred to August meeting.

**Culvert Repair:** Doug KF6AKU reported that a 20 foot section of pipe would cost approximately \$160 to purchase plus about \$30 for the adapter collar. The board voted to go ahead with the purchase.

**Christmas Party Menu:** No choices made.

**New Business:** Randy KA6BQF reminded the board that we need to appoint a nominating committee for the fall election at the August board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 20:47 hrs.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Secretary

The official copy of these minutes shall reside in the secretary's files at the corporate office.

The teacher was doing a study testing the senses of first graders, using a bowl of Lifesavers. The children began to say:  
"Red . . . . . cherry,"  
"Yellow . . . . . lemon,"  
"Green . . . . . lime,"  
"Orange . . . . . orange,"

Finally the teacher gave them all honey Lifesavers. After eating them none of the children could identify the taste.

"Well," he said, "I'll give you all a clue; It's what your mother may sometimes call your father." One little girl looked up in horror, spit her Lifesaver out and yelled: "Oh My God!!!! They're \*\*\* holes!"

\*\*\* (Insert your choice of word.)

**K6GWE Repeaters**  
**Big Rock Ridge 147.330 +**  
**2 meters INPUTS**  
 pl 203.5 Big Rock  
 pl 179.9 Mt. Tam west  
 pl 167.9 Mt. Barnabe  
 pl 192.8 Tiburon  
**Mt. Tamalpais 146.700 -**  
 pl 179.9 Mt. Tam input  
**San Pedro Ridge 147.330 +**  
 pl 173.8 off-line - reserve status.  
**440**  
**San Pedro Ridge**  
 443.525 + pl 82.5  
**Mt. Tamalpais**  
 443.250 + pl 179.9

Countless children (and adults) have wondered where they would end up if they started digging straight down (ignoring the material and methods). Now we have the answer! Most of the planet is covered in water, so most diggers will dig into some ocean or another. What little land there is is generally not opposite other land. Some of South America and Asia, for instance, are opposite each other, but most Americans will swim in the Indian Ocean. [www.ubasics.com/dighole/](http://www.ubasics.com/dighole/)  
 Sent in by Uncle Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ



Any old timers remember this brand? Made by American Distilling Co. of Pe-kin, IL and Sausalito, CA. At 100 proof it must have had a few fans. Too bad the Feds tax booze on the amount of ethyl alky it contains.

For anyone who has ever wondered if mixing brake fluid with Clorox makes smoke, "lots of it", that's pure BS. At the normal temperatures found in your back yards--that's the best place to try it--it's a total failure. Doesn't even get warm. Too bad. I guess we'll have to stick to black powder mixed with a little motor oil.

If you'd sent in a buck or two, your name could have appeared here along with a little ridicule. So far, only Chet, WA6PAC has had the guts to do this.

A man boarded an airplane in St. John's with a box of frozen crabs. A female crew member took it and promised to put it in the crew's refrigerator, which she did.

Shortly before landing, try as she might, she couldn't remember who gave her the package, so she announced to the entire cabin, "Would the gentleman who gave me the crabs in St. John's please raise your hand?"

Not one hand went up. So she took them home and ate them herself.

For a good description of Amateur Radio and its different modes, search on 'amateur radio' at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur\\_radio](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur_radio)  
 The info on that site was updated 7/29.

Chipotle pepper is not a natural chili but a jalapeño pepper that has been dried and smoked.

There is absolutely no correlation between the time of the full Moon and human behavior. So why do people still believe it to be true? One reason is that the full Moon is just so obvious in the sky that even people not used to stargazing notice it. That is, they may preferentially notice the Moon only when it's full (or nearly so).

People also tend to link unrelated events if they happen at the same time -- for example, if someone sees a bad traffic accident and then sees the full Moon, he'll correlate the two. But how many times have you seen something bad and not seen the full Moon in the sky (or vice versa)? We tend to forget those instances. What newspaper would print the story "The Moon was full but nothing happened"?

Another reason is that people frequently misunderstand how science works. I've seen claims that the full Moon has a strong influence on us because of tides -- after all, we humans are 80% water, and look what lunar gravity can do with the oceans! But oceans have tides because they're so big. Gravity gets weaker with distance, and it's that change in the strength of lunar gravity over the breadth of an ocean that causes tides. Humans are a piddling six feet tall, give or take, which is tiny indeed compared to the distance to the Moon. So tides within a human body are far, far too small to even measure, let alone to affect on our behavior.

Plagiariized from the internet.

DXpedition Approved for DXCC Credit: The ARRL DXCC desk reports that the 2007 DXpedition to Burundi, 9U0X, has been approved for DXCC credit.

ARRL DXCC Manager Bill Moore, NC1L, said, "If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail <dxcc@arrl.org> and you will be placed on the list for update."

An 80-year old man goes for a physical. All of his tests come back with normal results. The doctor says, "Chuck, everything looks great. But at your age tell me how are you doing mentally and emotionally? Are you at peace with God?"

Chuck replies, "God and I are tight. He knows I have poor eyesight, so he's fixed it so when I get up in the middle of the night to go to the bathroom, POOF! the light goes on. When I'm done, POOF! the light goes off. "WOW, That's incredible," the doctor says.

A little later in the day, the doctor calls Chuck's wife. "Ethel," he says, "Chuck is doing fine! But I had to call you as I am in awe of his relationship with God. Is it true that he gets up during the night and POOF! the light goes on in the bathroom, and when he's done POOF! the light goes off?"

"Oh my God!" Ethel exclaims, "he's peeing in the refrigerator again!"

When I had been married for 25 years, I took a look at my wife one day and said, "Honey, 25 years ago, we had a cheap apartment, a cheap car, slept on a sofa bed, and watched a 10-inch black and white TV. But I got to sleep every night with a hot 25-year-old blonde."

"Now, we have a nice house, nice car, a big king-sized bed, and a plasma screen TV. But I'm sleeping with a 50-year-old woman. It seems to me that you're not holding up your side of things."

My wife is a very reasonable woman. She told me to go out and find a hot 25-year-old blonde, and she would make absolutely sure that I would once again be living in a cheap apartment, driving a cheap car, sleeping on a sofa bed, and watching a 10-inch black and white TV.

Aren't older women great? They really know how to solve your problems in a hurry.

**General Membership Meeting** is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse on Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Turn right at the first stop light west off hwy 101 at the Mill Valley/Tiburon exit. Angle right at next stop sign, then turn left at next street, Shell Road. We are in the two story building 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 to try to keep the clowns honest.

**Sunday morning informal meeting**, grinningly called the bible/babble class, meets every Sunday morning at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley starting at roughly 0800 hours and runs to around 1100 hours. This weekly event is hosted by **Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ**, our Ham of The Year in 1996, whose absence would be the result of serious disease or dismemberment, only. **Dues structure is: \$25.00 per year. \$30 for family memberships.** No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

**There is a senior/student category but nobody knows what the dues are.**

<p><b>Marin Amateur Radio Society</b></p> <p><b>President:</b> Denice Stoops KI6BBR 672-0303</p> <p><b>Vice President:</b> Eric Rosenquist KG6WOU 257-8841</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b> Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b> Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864</p> <p><b>Additional Board Members:</b> Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887 Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 Tom Jordan KG6TCM 497-4406 Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978</p>	<p><b>Education Chair:</b> Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170 kermode7@hotmail.com</p> <p><b>Membership:</b> Dave and Phil</p> <p><b>VE Liaison:</b> Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978</p> <p><b>Bldg. Manager</b> Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136</p> <p><b>Trustee for W6SG:</b> Augie Koehler KØCQL</p> <p><b>Trustee for K6GWE:</b> Doug Slusher KF6AKU</p> <p><b>Sunday Emergency Nets:</b> <b>HF</b> Frank Strom WA6JTP <b>VHF</b> Raine Strom KG6GII</p> <p>Corrections to K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>	<p><b>DX Representative of ARRL:</b> Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</p> <p><b>WEBMASTER</b> Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET</p> <p><b>Public Service Event Coordinators</b> Randy Jenkins KA6BQF 510-526-4089 Chuck Deatrick WA6SQQ 897-7267 Asst. Tom Jordan KG6TCM 497-4406</p> <p><b>ARRL San Francisco Section Mgr.</b> Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG</p> <p><b>Editor of QSA-5:</b> Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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The Mailing  
Address  
Goes Here