

# QSA-5

Founded 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Society Monthly Newsletter

October 2009

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## Pres' Msg.

Our Pres' and a close friend have temporarily skipped town and there is no Pres' Msg. This disappearance has nothing to do with the club's receiving a \$35K grant for upgrading the clubhouse.

To fill some of the available space, we have some photos shot at the MARS Picnic at Sam Taylor Park by Marilyn N6VAW. **See more of her pics by searching on <Marilyn Bagshaw>**

There were a couple more that you won't see here due to a few members being in unflattering positions at the time. With luck, a few threats may increase the club's treasury a bit but if the subjects are uncooperative, these pics could show up next month. Taking a closer look at the shots to be included here, we remember that most of the subjects were actually caught at questionable activities. Not nearly as embarrassing, though, as in those pics held back.



We won't say what Chet just did.

KD6SAU



## 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)

## Marin Amateur Radio Society

### Special BOD Meeting

September 18, 2009

Purpose: To sign the contract with BH Builders and Approve Remodel Project

#### Board Members Present:

Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Doug Slusher, KF6AKU, Dave Hodgson, KG6TCJ, Rich Carbine, W6UDS, Phil Dunlap, K6PHD, Augie, Kohler, K0QCL, Marilyn Bagshaw, N6VAW

#### BH Builders: Mike Hadfield

Absent: Norm Baetz, WA6CLK, Horst Dannecker, KA6BHZ, John Boyd, KE6ORI, Justin Smith, KI6TDK

Minutes taken by: Marilyn Bagshaw, N6VAW

The meeting began at 7:00 PM. The BOD did a walk through of the items to be completed by the contract with BH Builders, with Mike Hadfield. Items listed were approved and the contract was signed by Rich. A set of architectural drawings was given to Mike. Copies remain at the Clubhouse. Dave will deposit the grant check in a separate building account and will mail BH Builders a deposit check.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

One of the ice chests.



**POBox 6423  
San Rafael, CA 94903**

MARS Board Meeting, September 10  
2009

President Randy Jenkins called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. Other board members present were Horst Dannecker, Norm Baetz, Phil Dunlap, John Boyd, Justin Smith, August Kohler and Doug Slusher. The minutes of the last meeting were approved with a correction. The County of Marin has asked for the use of the clubhouse for the Nov. 3 elections and this was approved.

The Wm. H. Donner Foundation was the donor of a \$35,000.00 grant to the club to help with our remodeling.

The V.E. Coordinator session will be held on Nov. 14.

Justin Smith gave a report on the Christmas party and a report including costs will be going out to all members. As of now the party will be held at the clubhouse, on Dec. 12 and the cost will be \$25.00 per person. This will be for food, drinks and gifts. More info to come. Upcoming Public Service events were discussed. We are still looking into replacing the repeater on Big Rock. Repairs on the Comm truck will be finished this week. Prices for replacing the upstairs apartment door are being sought.

There will be a Board meeting on Sept. 18 with a building contractor to discuss costs on remodeling our kitchen and bathrooms.

We need candidates to run for next year's board. A poll of the membership for a possible change of meeting day for the General meetings will be forthcoming.

The meeting was adjourned at 2035 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

**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

**San Pedro Ridge 147.330 +**

pl 173.8 off-line - reserve status.

**Mt. Tamalpais 146.700 -**

pl 179.9

Mt. Tam input

**440****San Pedro Ridge**

443.525 +

pl 82.5

**Mt. Tamalpais**

443.250 +

pl 179.9

MARS Sunday morning check-ins are held at **10:00 on 3915kc** for HFers and at **10:15 on the 147.330 repeater** for all members and guests. Those members who are suffering from hangovers, are out of town or have a better thing or two to do on Sunday mornings are excused.

The clubhouse furnace fires up at 0800 Sundays as required so if you show up, you won't freeze your ass off. Take a chance. Come on down 0800 to 1100 +/- Ben N6PJZ has the place opened up before 0800.

**Join the Elderfahrten Net Mondays and Thursdays at 0800 on 3892kc.**

Triviabit.

Those volunteers who worked the Mt. Tam Century/Double Century bike rides know the Lincoln School location on Hick's Valley Road as one of the major rest and food stops. According to the IJ, enrollment at the Lincoln School "District" on opening day of the 2008-09 school year was 13. By the sixth school day of the 2009-10 year the total had increased to 14.

The mandatory pan of whistleberries.



You might recall that John Hinckley was a seriously deranged young man who shot President Reagan in the early 1980's.

Hinckley was absolutely obsessed with movie star Jodie Foster and, in his twisted mind, loved Jodie to the point that to make himself well known to her, he attempted to assassinate President Reagan.

There is speculation Hinckley may soon be released as having been rehabilitated.

Consequently, you will appreciate the following letter from Nancy Reagan to John Hinckley:

**To: John Hinckley**

**From: Mrs. Nancy Reagan**

**My family and I wanted to drop you a short note to tell you how pleased we are with the great strides you are making in your recovery.**

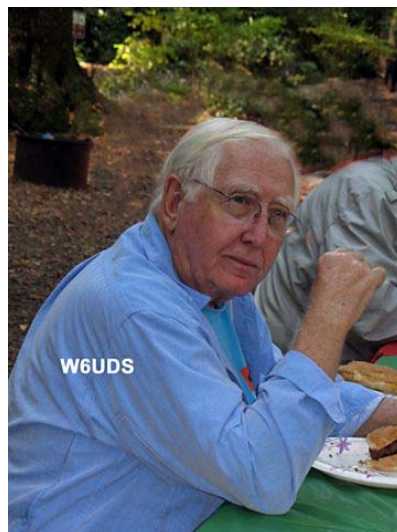
**In our country's spirit of understanding and forgiveness, we want you to know that we bear no grudge against you for shooting President Reagan. We are fully aware that mental stress and pain could have driven you to such an act of desperation. We're confident that you will soon make a complete recovery and return to your family to join the world again as a healthy and productive man.**

**Best wishes,**

**Nancy Reagan & Family**

**P.S. While you have been incarcerated, Barack Obama has been banging Jodie Foster like a screen door in a tornado. You might want to look into that.**

Protecting his burger with raised fist.



**THE WAYBACK MACHINE ISSUE #18**  
**by Bill Continelli, W2XOY**  
**reprinted with permission.**

In our last installment, we took a look at the new "dual Ladder" licensing system proposed by the FCC late in 1974. In effect, there would be 2 parallel series of Amateur Radio Licenses, with 29 Mhz as the Line of Demarcation. Series A covered the frequencies below 29 Mhz, and included the Novice, General, Advanced and Extra Classes. The Conditional Class would be abolished, Extra and Advanced Classes received a power increase, the Advanced License would get access to the Extra phone bands, and Generals would lose power, frequencies, certain modes of operation, and the ability to be a Trustee of a Club station or a Repeater. Series B covered the frequencies above 29 Mhz, and included 2 new license classes--the "Communicator", which would be FM only above 144 Mhz, and the "Experimenter", which would offer all Amateur privileges above 29 Mhz. Like Generals, Technicians would lose big. In fact, those who took their exam by mail (over 90%) would NOT be allowed to renew.

Reaction to the proposal was strong, but somewhat puzzling. Instead of a vehement output of negative comments from the 180,000 General, Conditional, and Technician Class Amateurs, (who stood to lose substantial privileges, and, in many cases, their very licenses), instead, comments concentrated on the "no code" Communicator Class. Amateurs were overwhelmingly against it. In fact, the Communicator License received the same amount of contempt and disdain that the "Hobby Class" proposal had received a few years back. However, while amateurs were debating the FCC Restructuring proposal on the air, and in letters to QST, the ARRL was unusually quiet. Why weren't they coming out with a position?

The answer, in a word, was "Incentive"--as in Incentive Licensing. The ARRL had learned its lesson back in the '60's, when it had submitted its proposal for restrictive

Next page, Col. Two.



phone bands. Now, before any response was made, the ARRL wanted to know exactly what the members wanted.

Thus, the League sent out a comprehensive survey to all 100,000 members. Fifty six percent, or 56,000 (myself included) returned the questionnaires. The ARRL tabulated the results, printed them in a multi page report in QST, and then, in the Summer of 1975, submitted their own proposal to the FCC.

The ARRL's plan kept the basic amateur structure that was in existence--but with a few changes. The League suggested a "Basic Amateur" License, which would provide limited VHF operating privileges. The "Basic Amateur" would not actually have to pass a code exam, but would have to be familiar with cw characters. The trick here, of course, is that once someone has memorized the letters, numbers and basic punctuation marks, they are at 5 wpm already. So, this wasn't really a "no code" license, but it did eliminate formal cw testing.

As for Technicians, the League once again asked that they no longer be burdened with the "experimenter" designation, that they receive Novice HF subbands, and that they receive full VHF privileges.

Generals would see their code requirement drop to 10 wpm, while the Advanced Class would be bumped up to 15 wpm. No major changes were proposed for the Extra Class.

Unlike the '60's, when the ARRL was blasted for shoving Incentive Licensing at the members, this proposal was met with overall approval and appreciation from amateurs.

In the end, although the FCC dropped the "dual ladder" idea, they did incorporate many of the ARRL's ideas into future rule changes. Technicians were mainstreamed into the amateur license structure, Novices received expanded privileges, to eventually include hf & vhf phone, and the FCC, after years of restrictive proposals, finally chose the path of gradual deregulation.

But the "dual ladder" story was not the only event of 1975. When amateurs weren't arguing over the evils of the "Communicator" Class, they were blasting the idea of Class E CB. What was it? In summary, the Electronic Industry Association, or EIA, proposed taking away up to 2 MHz of our 220 band, and turning it over to a new CB service. With 25 kHz spacing between channels, the new EIA Class E CB could have as many as 80 channels. The EIA claimed that the 23 channel CB Band at 27 MHz was impossibly crowded, and worthless for local communication among legitimate users. Remember, this was at the time of the gas crisis and the "CB Boom". The EIA argued that a skip free area was needed for CB, and that the 220 band was underutilized by hams. The EIA's proposals, in fact were quite stringent and, had it not been for their unfortunate choice of frequencies, they may have received the support of the ARRL.

But, the EIA was trying to mix matter and anti-matter--in this case, amateur frequencies and CB. This had happened once before, in 1958, when Class D CB was created out of "our" 11 meter band. "Never Again" was the cry from hams. The explosion of protest from the amateur community was palatable. Amateurs pointed out that CB wouldn't be such a mess if everyone obeyed the Part 95 rules, and the FCC took some enforcement action. The ARRL stated that CB'ers themselves were opposed to 220 Mhz CB--which was only partly true. The only CB operators surveyed were those who read hobby type magazines, such as S-9. They were opposed to anything that would take them away from the skip and dx zone into a tightly regulated land of local communications. Lost in the emotional shuffle was the logical point that CB did not belong in the HF spectrum.

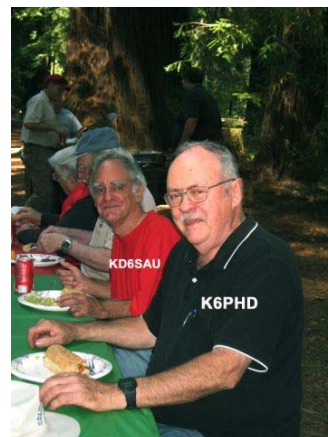
In the end, with the strong opposition of the ARRL, and the indifferent support of cb'ers\* who really wanted to stay on HF, the FCC dropped the idea. Instead, in late 1976, the FCC expanded the CB band from 23 to 40 channels, and prohibited the sale of the older 23 channel units. \*children's banders

This created a mini bonanza for hams, who snapped up the "obsolete" 23 channel units at fire sale prices, and converted them to 10 meters.

As a postscript, amateurs did lose 2 MHz of our 220 band in the early 90's. These frequencies are now in a no man's land, unused. Which is better--to lose 2 Mhz to a service that hams and their families could use productively, or to lose it to something that is inaccessible--and doesn't even exist yet?

In our next installment, we will look at the war protest movement in 1970, and how it affected amateur radio. I hope you will join me.

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Those who missed the picnic lost out on a good ol' no pressure afternoon. Not a single fight broke out nor even any loud arguments to spoil the peaceful event. No kids running around, either. Most brought dogs and burgers and there were a few steaks, too. Caesar salad and briquettes courtesy of Marilyn N6VAW and Rich W6UDS. Bush beans from Connie AE6PA and Ben N6PJZ. Bellywash and ice hauled by Phil K6PHD.

## QSA 5 October 2009

**General Membership Meeting** is held on the first Friday of each month at Alto District Clubhouse at 27 Shell Road in Mill Valley, starting at 7:30 PM. Turn right at the first stop light west off hwy 101 from 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 +or-. Sometimes we even talk about radio. 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, dismemberment or flooding, only. So far, he hasn't forgotten how to get to the clubhouse.

**Dues structure is: \$25. per year. \$30. for family memberships.** No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

<p><b>Marin Amateur Radio Society</b>  <b>President:</b>  Randy Jenkins KA6BQF  510-526-4089</p> <p><b>Vice President:</b>  Horst Dannecker KH6BHZ</p> <p><b>Secretary:</b>  Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887</p> <p><b>Treasurer:</b>  Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ 332-1864</p> <p><b>Additional Board Members:</b>  Marilyn Bagshaw N6VAW 479-3136  John Boyd KE6ORI  Rich Carbine W6UDS 479-3136  Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318  Justin Smith AF6NY</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>  Randy Jenkins KA6BQF  510-526-4089</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> Ben's been doing both.  <b>VHF</b></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 Coordinator</b>  Randy Jenkins KA6BQF  510-526-4089</p> <p><b>ARRL San Francisco Section Mgr.</b>  Bill Hillendahl KH6GJV@ARRL.ORG</p> <p><b>Editor of QSA-5 and Procurer of The Bellywash</b>  Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318  K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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Address  
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