

QSA-5

Founded, 1933

The Marin Amateur Radio Soc. Monthly Newsletter. December/January 2005/2006

<p>President's Message? Abandon all hope.</p>	<p>Website at W6SG.NET Phone 415.389.6630</p>	<p>P.O. Box 6423 San Rafael, CA 94903</p>
<p>General Meeting, 4 November.</p> <p>President John Boyd was not able to attend the meeting so Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ was roped in to preside over the meeting which started at 1935 hours. Other board members present were Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Phil Dunlap K6PHD and Al Weisman W5ALW. There were some 25 members and guests present.</p> <p>Connie Sawtelle gave the Treasurer's report and it was approved.</p> <p>Randy Jenkins KF6BQF, our Public Service chairman, said all events for the year are over and he thanked all that were involved for their help and hoped they would again be available for next year.</p> <p>The members of the Tech committee were not present so anything new will have to wait until next month.</p> <p>Al Weisman said he would need 90 days notice to set up next year's VE tests and asked the board to give him available dates to send to ARRL.</p> <p>The next Board meeting was pushed back a day to Nov. 9 because of the use of the clubhouse for election balloting.</p> <p>Compliments were given to John Butler for his remodeling of the radio room. All are invited to operate the equipment.</p> <p>There will be a countywide drill Nov. 17 where RACES will be involved.</p> <p>The regular meeting was followed by our guest speaker, Denice Stoops, who gave a very informative talk about her career as a CW operator in the Coast Guard and her 19 years as a radio telegrapher for KPH (an RCA station) in Pt Reyes. She is now a docent for the KPH museum. Denice recently passed her General test so hopefully we'll soon hear her CW fist on the air.</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 2030 hours.</p> <p>Before I sign off, many thanks to Connie for a great dinner spread. Submitted</p>	<p>Stuff.</p> <p>With all the public service jobs completed for the year, this column is available for stuff sent in by members or just about anyone else who has latched onto a copy of a previous month's issue. Unfortunately, nothing has been forthcoming (Great word, forthcoming. Uses up eleven character spaces.) and we are forced to fill it with miscellaneous drivel and whatever pops into our depleted mind.</p> <p>We had about a dozen hams show up at the clubhouse on Saturday 19 November for Randy KA6BQF's appreciation lunch for the volunteers who worked the public service events of this year. With help from his close friend Rita KG6WPN, Randy brought in pre-cooked chicken breasts and chunks of raw meat on skewers, which he grilled out back, plus salads and cookies, etc. No one left hungry. We'd removed the leftover picnic hotdogs from the freezer on the previous Sunday and thawed them in the reefer. Didn't need them and they were refrozen. What they will taste like after the next thawing out, which could be months away, we'll let others find out. We may monitor them—not too closely—at that time for possible negative changes in facial expression, possibly prefacing regurgitation.</p> <p>After lunch, we all sat around and talked about future event scheduling conflicts and, of course, had a discussion of how to do things better than at past events. Eric KG6WOU's XYL came by and provided us with a very pleasant diversion from having to look at each other. She would be welcome at any time, with or w/o any intention by her to get a ham ticket.</p> <p>Made it to the bottom of this column. Now, onward to page two and we'll see if we can find something to plagiarize.</p>	<p>Board Meeting, 9 November.</p> <p>John Boyd KE6ORI called the meeting to order at 1930 hours. Other board members present were Norm Baetz WA6CLK, Phil Dunlap K6PHD, Dave Hodgson KG6TCJ, Al Weisman W5ALW, Raine Strom KG6GII and Kevin Foley KF6YUF.</p> <p>There was no Treasurer's report as it was given at the General meeting.</p> <p>There was a question about the sending out of ballots for next year's candidates and it was believed (hoped, actually. ed.) that they would be in the mail soon.</p> <p>Randy Jenkins KA6BQF said all public service events were over for the year but asked all to be available for next year. John and Randy led a discussion about the good points and pitfalls of this past year's events that the club was involved in. Randy is putting on a luncheon for those that helped out and the MARS Board offered to help out with costs.</p> <p>This year's Christmas party was brought up; invitations should be going out soon. (Recd. ours in Saturday's mail, 11/12. ed.)</p> <p>There was a discussion about VE testing and the scheduling of classes for 2006. This will depend on public service dates so nothing definite until after the first of the year.</p> <p>The rest of the board meeting was occupied by a lengthy discussion about the condition and general future of the club's comm. truck and how we will pay, or get donations, for body and paint work. Also a need for a shelter for the truck from this winter's rains. John said he would look into this.</p> <p>One of the members brought up the idea of having an emergency cash fund available at the club to cover fuel costs. This was put off for future discussion. To defray costs there was again talk about the possibility of asking the County to help out. Page 2, col. 3.</p>

TOP BAND "DRAGON'S FIRE" SIGNAL BLANKETING 160 METERS IN ASIA

The IARU Monitoring System (IARUMS) says radio amateurs in Japan and elsewhere in Asia and Oceania are reporting an unidentified intruder signal on 160 meters. In Japan, the wideband signal, which IARU Region 2 Monitoring System Coordinator Bill Zellers, WA4FKI, has dubbed "Top Band Dragon's Fire," reportedly began transmitting continuously about October 1, blanketing 160 meters and rendering it useless for Amateur Radio work in some places.

"The intruder is detectable from approximately 1700 kHz up to about 1930 kHz," said one report, likening the sound to "a diesel motor with a ticking sound at a constant rate which is evenly spread across the band." The signal has been heard in the US Northwest at about 1830 kHz on a north-pointing Beverage. Reports also have arrived from New England.

First heard as long ago as December 2004, the signal turns up at different times at different locations, reports indicate. In some cases, it's only during so-called "gray line" propagation, while others hear the signal 24/7. Near Perth, Australia, the intruder was heard slowly rising out the noise floor about a half-hour after sunset, increasing to around S7 and remaining long into the night. Amateurs in Singapore report that the signal recently shifted from wideband noise to a pulsed signal.

Veteran Top Band DXer Tom Rauch, W8JI, in Georgia says he can "just detect a noise floor increase some mornings," but was unable to identify an actual signal.

Forward reports, accompanied by sound recordings if available, to Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG <cskolaut@arrl.org>, at ARRL Headquarters. (Nothing new on this as of 12/19)

Two cannibals are eating a clown. One says to the other: "Does this taste funny to you?"

A man woke up in a hospital after a serious accident. He shouted, "Doctor, doctor, I can't feel my legs!" The doctor replied, "I know you can't - I've cut off your arms!"

From column three

with your electric fence and as a result the matter has been referred to our office. The FCC prefers that those responsible for the proper operation of equipment assume their responsibilities fairly. This means that you should resolve the interference caused by the electric fence charger and make necessary corrections within a reasonable time.

Please advise the complainant what steps you are taking to correct this reported interference problem. If you are unable to resolve this by January 13, 2006, please advise this office about the nature of the problem, the steps you are taking to resolve it and the estimated time in which those steps can be accomplished.

3. Dear Mr. (deleted): Enclosed are complaints filed against the operation of your station. The complaints indicate that you have been operating on 7.290 MHz and other frequencies not authorized to you as a Technician Class licensee. The complaints further allege deliberate interference to ongoing communications. We note also that in a listing you submitted for an Amateur radio licensee database, you claim to be an Extra Class licensee. The complaints and your claim to be an Extra Class licensee raise serious issues regarding your qualifications to retain an Amateur license. (And about your sanity. ed.)

Section 308(b) of the Communications Act of 1934 gives the Commission the authority to obtain information from applicants and licensees about the operation of their station and their qualifications to remain a licensee. Accordingly, you are requested to review the complaints and respond in detail to this office within 20 days.

In an inquiry of this type we are required to notify you that a willfully false or misleading reply constitutes a separate violation made punishable under *United States Code* Title 18, Section 1001.

Two little old ladies were attending a rather long church service. One leaned over and whispered, "My butt is going to sleep."

"I know," replied her companion, "I heard it snore three times."

Board Meeting from page 1, col. 3

This also was tabled for future discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 2020 hours. Submitted by Norm Baetz, Secretary.

We are considering a new column entitled "The Canal at The End of The Alimentary Tract" awards. (This is a legitimate phrase as we found it in a medical dictionary.) Data would come from the FCC Enforcement Bureau. Here is some, condensed.

1. Dear Mr. (deleted): The Wireless Telecommunications Bureau has notified the Enforcement Bureau that, on its own motion on October 24, 2005, it set aside your application for a General class license on October 21, 2005. That action is based upon complaints about the operation of your station since the grant of your General class license.

The trustee of the N4CLA repeater has requested in writing that you refrain from use of the N4CLA repeater, operating on 144.870/145.470 MHz. The letter was issued as a result of your failure to follow operational rules set forth by the licensee/control operators of the repeater system for its users. You were previously requested verbally to refrain from using the system, but have apparently ignored both verbal and written requests.

Please be advised that we expect you to abide by the request to stay off the N4CLA system and any other such request by a repeater licensee, control operator or trustee. If you use the repeater again after receipt of this letter, we will initiate enforcement action against your license, which may include revocation, monetary forfeiture (fine) or a modification proceeding to restrict the frequencies on which you may operate. Fines normally range from \$7,500 to \$10,000.

2. Dear (name withheld): The Federal Communications Commission has received complaints that an electric fence charger at your residence may be causing harmful radio interference to an operator in the Amateur Radio Service.

The complainant has attempted unsuccessfully to resolve this problem

Go to column 2.

Triviabit.

Elderfahrten will remember this thing. It's a SILEX vacuum coffee maker. They were also made by CORY and are still made today by others. The top half had an airtight



seal to the lower part. A tube extended from the upper unit to near the bottom of the lower. Water was added to the lower and ground coffee to the top. A glass rod inserted into the tube from the top kept the coffee grounds—most of it— from getting into the lower half but allowed the water to pass up and the coffee to go down after the heat was removed. The term 'CORY rod' might be familiar. The SILEX equivalent part was equipped with a spring and a hook to insure that it wasn't dislodged from its seat; this did a better job at preventing coffee grounds from passing into the lower pot. In use, after the right amounts of water and coffee were added, heat was applied, usually by a stove burner, until the boiling water had gone up the tube into the upper chamber. Then the unit was removed from the burner and when it cooled a little, the vacuum created in the lower pot sucked the brewed coffee back down. The upper chamber was removed and the coffee served. This is a much better method than the percolator which is only a little better than putting ground coffee into a stiff gym sock and dropping it into a pan of boiling diesel. Serious coffee drinkers don't use percs which boil the coffee and contribute to a bitter taste. However, you'll still find them used where large quantities of coffee are required.

A Living Will

A man and his wife were sitting together in the living room. He turned to her and said: "Just so you know, I never want to live in a vegetative state, dependent on some machine and fluids from a bottle. If that ever happens, just pull the plug."

His wife then got up, unplugged the TV, and threw out all of his beer.

Subject: Dateline- Crawford

CRAWFORD, TX. -- A tragic flood this morning destroyed the personal library of President George W. Bush. The flood began in the presidential bathroom where both books were kept. Both his books have been lost. A presidential spokesman said the president was devastated, as he had almost finished coloring the second one. The White House tried to call FEMA, but there was no answer.

My daughter, Catie, was nearing her fourth birthday when I was preparing her for the day her little sister would arrive. Everything was going well until I told her the baby was in my belly. She eyed my protruding midsection and asked, "Where is my little sister?" I pointed to my very large belly and said, "She's right inside here, in Mommy's belly."

Gingerly she patted my stomach as huge tears formed in her big blue eyes. Then she whispered, "Why did you eat her?"

Christmas Party

All went well. Good food. Open bar. The only negative was failure of the bar to be operational at start time.

The top raffle prize was taken by John KF6VYH. It was an HT but we don't remember the brand and model. Back to the open bar!

John, performing as Iacono the Great, faked us out once again with feats of—like last year, I had to look up the spelling of the next word—legerdemain. He did this without serious injury to himself or others on site. However, when he went into his fire eating routine we were half expecting the aroma of burning mustache. Like last year, we were disappointed in this but he's getting older and we're looking forward to 2006.

The accordion player was the same musician who entertained us in 2003. Unlike the substitute we had in 2004, he played softly enough during dinner that we could carry on conversations across the table without yelling.

Connie AE6PA did one hellofa job setting the whole event up. She also intervened when the bartender showed up with a cash drawer, expecting to be running a no-host bar.

None were seen to embarrass themselves excessively. The event ended peacefully.

Backyard Smoker.

If you fishermen ever thought about smoking your own catch—or pork chops, spare ribs or country ribs, etc. from COSTCO—there's an easy, inexpensive way to do that. The LUHR JENSEN line of smokers is available from Bi-Mart membership—\$5 for lifetime—stores in Oregon. These smokers used to be sold at places like Longs Drugs and sporting goods stores. Bi-Mart sells them for half of the manufacturer's price. We bought a "Little Chief" smoker, top loader for 48.77. (The maker's price is \$96.36.) Add the five bucks for the lifetime Bi-Mart membership and \$7.98 shipping charges, no tax, and your total is just over \$60 delivered.

The heating element is a CALROD—better known for making kitchen stove burners—250 watt unit. The steel chip pan slides into a door in the lower part of the front side so you can add more smoke w/o disturbing the food.

For specs, go to the LUHR JENSEN website and click on 'smoker products'. To buy, go to Bi-Mart's and in the search area select brand and enter 'LUHR JENSEN'. Bi-Mart also sells the chips of hickory, apple, alder, cherry and mesquite for half (\$1.99) of Jensen's price.

The four racks slide into the lift-out assembly and can go in the dishwasher. Removable Drip pan at the bottom.

In operation there are no flames. The wood is converted to smoke and, later, the cold ash can be dumped into your garbage can. The burn lasts for an hour. We put a thermometer inside which registered 160°. The hickory smoke smelled great. Neighbors peered enviously over the fence.

Not having much raw salmon lying around we did some pork chops with very good results, with the final cooking later. Worked great on ribs, too, which we hung on homemade hooks made from a wire coat hanger.

Old aunts used to come up to me at weddings, poking me in the ribs and cackling, telling me, "You're next." They stopped after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

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. The upper floor is a private residence so don't go up there pounding on the door.

Business/Board Meeting meets at the Alto District Clubhouse in Mill Valley on the second Tuesday at 7:30 PM. Members are encouraged to attend to keep those clowns honest. We're afraid it's a lost cause.

Sunday morning informal meeting, smilingly called The bible (or 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-. 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: \$20.00 per year for regular or family memberships. No dues are charged for Life or Honorary members.

<p>Marin Amateur Radio Society</p> <p>President: John Boyd KE6ORI</p> <p>Vice President: John Iacono KF6VYH 897-0431</p> <p>Secretary: Norm Baetz WA6CLK 898-4887</p> <p>Treasurer:</p> <p>Additional Board Members: Al Weisman W5ALW 510.237.1978 Kevin Foley KF6YUF 388-4849 Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 Raine Strom KG6GII 453-3170 Frank Strom WA6JTP 453-3170 Dave Hodgson KF6TCJ 332-1864</p>	<p>Education Chair: Ben Sawtelle N6PJZ 382-1170 Ben7ham@aol.com</p> <p>Membership Chair, sort of: Doug Slusher KF6AKU 927-8120</p> <p>VE Liaison: Al Weisman W5ALW 510-237-1978</p> <p>Building Mgr. John Butler KF6GNI 717-3148</p> <p>Trustee for W6SG: Augie Koehler KØCQL</p> <p>Trustee for K6GWE: Doug Slusher KF6AKU</p> <p>Sunday Emergency Nets: HF Frank Strom WA6JTP VHF Raine Strom KG6GII</p>	<p>ARRL WAS Local Rep:</p> <p>DX Representative of ARRL: Jerry Foster WA6BXV 892-3829</p> <p>WEBMASTER Glenn Meader N1ZKW 987-3948 N1ZKW@ARRL.NET</p> <p>Public Service Event Coordinator This is a shared responsibility.</p> <p>Send a few bucks to our POBox and we'll put your name here for a while. Pick your own title. (Supreme Commander is available.)</p> <p>Editor of QSA-5: Phil Dunlap K6PHD 491-0318 K6PHD@ARRL.NET</p>
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Address
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