



# Amateur Gazette

## Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Date: First Monday of the month (Except December)  
7:00 P. M. Centennial Park, Paso Robles

Newsletter Submissions to: [KI6DWP@yahoo.com](mailto:KI6DWP@yahoo.com)

Next Meeting: May 5, 2008

April 2008

### **Contents**

- President's Corner
- Meeting Formality and Fun
- Announcements
- Treasure's Report
- Old Business/Recent Events
- New Business/Events/Activities
- Odds and Ends
- News from other Clubs
- Buy/Sell/Trade/Repair
- FYI

## **President's Corner**

I started or rather restarted playing with some of the newer modes of Ham Radio communication. I downloaded Echolink about a year ago but it took me until last week to get it up and running. The software is free to use, you just have to supply verification you are a Ham. Then you have to have a home computer with a good internet connection and be able to configure your router or setup to allow access through a range of ports. Sound confusing? It is a little bit but from the assistance of fellow Hams you too can be up and talking around the world.....through your home computer or laptop if you are on the road.

A few days ago I used my laptop to conference with Ron W6FM and another Ham walking in the park in Arroyo Grande using an HT. We were using the 444.525 machine that Ron setup with Echolink. Even though I was at home in Paso Robles, I could just as easily have been using my computer in some foreign land to complete this communication. Simply amazing.

Using IRLP or rather Internet Radio Linking Project, I can use my mobile rig to access the W6FM repeater and access another IRLP node on the East Coast or wherever to complete a QSO. Again, simply amazing.

While playing with Echolink I was talking with a Ham in Arizona and he told me about another program called CQ100. This software is available from [WWW.QSONET.COM](http://WWW.QSONET.COM). It is free to try for 90 days and then costs \$32.00 per year. It has the look and feel of Ham Radio meaning you actually have a Ham Radio on your computer screen and you operate on different bands. In reality there is actually no RF involved. It is all VOIP or rather Voice Over Internet Protocol. You might ask yourself why you would want to do something like this? Crystal clear communication. This is a service specifically for Ham Radio operators. You have to send a copy of your license before you can download the software. If you have friend in Europe or anywhere else for that matter, you can talk to them at anytime with the look and feel of Ham Radio. Obviously this has nothing to do with true DXing but if you want to have a QSO conference with friends that are difficult to get a hold of, this might be your answer and it is a lot of fun.

I just bought a 6 Meter rig. I believe I have heard that called the "magic band". I will let you know next month how that is going. 73

Jeff K3COP

## **Meeting Formality and Fun**

The April monthly meeting of the PRARC was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Jeff K3COP(well it was really 7:15 as their clock was slow). There were 16 members

and guests in attendance. We kind of skipped approving the minutes of the March meeting, so we will have to address that next month.

### **Program**

Rich AB6TY ordered and assembled an Elecraft K1 CW QRP transceiver. He brought it in and gave a discussion about the “build” and also the operation of it. He brought along a MP-1 Super Antenna which is very portable and seems to be both compact and effective; good for travel or emergency use. Rich pointed out that it took him about 30 hours to assemble and set up. It is available in either a 2 band or 4 band version; he opted for the 4 band configuration. It has a 3 message memory and a variable display that, in addition to frequency, can be a battery monitor or a S-level meter. This compact unit (Rich can put the transceiver, key, battery, and antenna all in a briefcase) is truly portable. In terms of construction there is no direct wiring as everything attaches to the pc board. Coils can be purchased already wound if you don't want to wind them. The instructions were well detailed and the build was a very methodical process. Additional information can be obtained as follows:

For the Elecraft K1 you can get more info at <http://www.elecraft.com>  
and for info on the MP-1 Super Antenna they can go to <http://www.superantennas.com/>.

Next month Tom N6BT will bring a few pictures from a recent trip to Aruba. They put up an antenna array there.

### **Announcements**

Bill K6BWJ mentioned that the Tuesday night SLOECC check-in has been a little sparse and needs the participation of members. Also we still need to coordinate with local law enforcement as they have fully equipped stations for use in the event of an emergency.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer reported that the treasury, stands the same as last month with the addition of one new membership to be deposited.

### **Old Business/Recent Events**

There was no old business nor were there any reports on recent events.

## **New Business/Events/Activities**

### **Wildflower Century Ride**

Bill K6BWJ mentioned that the Wildflower Century bike ride will be held April 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Milton Davis is coordinating volunteers for communication for that event. He can be reached at 474-1543 or at [miltondavis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:miltondavis@sbcglobal.net).

### **Wildflower Triathlon**

This event will be held the weekend of May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at Lake San Antonio (South Shore). They are in need of communication volunteers in several capacities including dispatch center as well as mobile units for various locations around the course. More information can be obtained by calling Brad Mitchell at 916-275-3612 or email to [bpmitche@gmail.com](mailto:bpmitche@gmail.com).

### **Tailgate Party**

This event has been rescheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> of April and is ready to go. Larry passed around a list for people to sign up and/or agree to bring some still needed food items. It will start about 8:30 A.M. and brunch will be served around 10:00 A.M. An email will be sent to everyone with directions to the location of the feast. If further directions are needed, the Tailgate Party will use the 146.980 repeater for "talk in".

### **Field Day**

Larry W7CB reported on progress for Field Day. He confirms that we will use the Club Trailer as the GOTA station with Mary in charge. The 20/80 station will be under the tent with Tom in charge. The 40/15 station will be in Larry's trailer with Larry in charge. Larry reminded everyone that there are 100 bonus points for every unlicensed operator making 20 contacts, so more incentive to get people interested and involved. We need someone with a truck to go and get (and return) the generator. Ron W6FM will coordinate the VHF/UHF activity, Rich will take care of the alternative power activity. Testing will be at 1 P.M. and one more VE is needed to be available. Larry reminded everyone that his take on Field Day is to really test the ability to function in field conditions; use as much power as possible for as long as possible and make sure that the equipment will stand up to the workload. "It's a test of equipment in as 'real as possible' field operating conditions".

## **Odds and Ends**

### **News from other clubs**

No news from other clubs. Contact was made with Robert Griffen, Section Manager about contacting other clubs in the section to exchange newsletters. A request for exchange of newsletters was sent to a couple of clubs that he suggested, but no response has been received.

### **Buy/Sell/Trade/Repair**

No current requests to acquire, dispose, or repair any "stuff".

## **FYI**

### **Silent Key**

Gerry Peterson passed away on March 9, 2008 in San Luis Obispo at the age of 90. He received his amateur license in 1933 and kept it current until his death. He refined his knowledge of electronics in the Navy during WWII and then attended Notre Dame, MIT, and Cal Tech. He came to San Luis Obispo in 1946 and taught electrical engineering at Cal Poly. He established an amateur station at Cal Poly. In 1953 he started RCS, Inc. a very successful communication company for 38 years. In addition to his interest and contribution to the communications field, he and his wife were very active in community affairs and made significant contributions to arts and cultural activities, including strong support for the Performing Arts Center at Cal Poly. When the facility was preparing to open, it was not going to have an organ; Gerry's response was to build one. He was a friend and an inspiration, and he will be missed.

### **Radar Moon Bounce**

Air Force and Navy scientists have produced the lowest frequency lunar radar echo ever detected, according to the latest issue of Popular Mechanics. They used a 180 antenna array in Alaska to bounce a 3.2 Megawatt signal off the moon at 7.4 Mhz. to be received at a station in New Mexico. This capability is proposed to be used to probe lunar geology to learn more how the moon was formed. (April, 2008 Popular Mechanics)

### **Unusual Dipole (Talking on the can)**

The quest for unusual construction projects goes on, in this case with details on how to build a functional 2 meter dipole using soda pop cans. It was constructed for the 2007 Strange Antenna Challenge and construction details were given in the latest issue of World Radio. Even though it is the April Fool edition, this thing

works. For information on the 2008 Strange Antenna Challenge, scheduled for 24 May through 26 May go to <http://www.b0ew.org/k0s/>. (April, 2008 World Radio)

### **Pacific Northwest DX Convention**

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention will be held from August 1-3, 2008 in Portland, Oregon. The conference site will be the Monarch Hotel. The convention website is [www.wvdx.org/dxconvention](http://www.wvdx.org/dxconvention) which has registration forms and information. The Willamette Valley DX Club is the host for the event. The contact person is Al Rovner and he can be reached at [www.k7ar@arri.net](mailto:www.k7ar@arri.net).

### **Patches**

The club received advertising from the R.E. Williams Company in Toledo, Ohio. They manufacture a line of custom patches (embroidered emblems) in a whole host of styles, shapes, sizes, and colors. If the club wants to pursue making patches, this may be a good source.

### **CERT**

A certified emergency response training class has been formed and will be offered in May. Sponsored by the County Fire Chiefs, the Sheriff's Advisory Council, ASAP Reprographics, and San Luis Ambulance, this course will teach individuals to be better prepared in the event of a major disaster and to be able to form effective neighborhood teams to assist others. Classes will be held from May 1<sup>st</sup> through May 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 P.M. to 9:30 P.M. for a total of 5 classes. The location will be in Los Osos and Morro Bay. The fee is \$40 which provides a manual and a "CERT" bag containing helmet, gloves, vest, goggles etc. If you are interested, you can reserve space by sending a check to Morro Bay Fire, 715 Harbor, Morro Bay, 93442 or call them at 772-6242.

### **IARU**

April 18<sup>th</sup> marks the 83<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union, with the day being marked as World Amateur Radio Day.

### **International DX Convention**

Visalia is the site for the International DX Convention being held April 25<sup>th</sup> through April 27<sup>th</sup>. More information can be obtained at [www.dxconvention.org](http://www.dxconvention.org).

### **Armed Forces Day**

Although May 17<sup>th</sup> is set as Armed Forces Day, May 10<sup>th</sup> is the day set for the Armed Forces Day Military/Amateur Cross Band Communication Test. For more

information on this test and how to participate view the MARS web page at [www.netcom.army.mil/MARS](http://www.netcom.army.mil/MARS)

## **Building a Strong Club**

This article was submitted as being of potential value to the club.

*Interdependency, The Need for Others in Order to Succeed, by Norm Fusaro, W3IZ*

All relationships require effort from all who are involved. Member recruiting and retention has long been a challenge for local clubs and cultivating interpersonal relationships with your club members is important to achieving the goals of the club and its members.

As people, we are independent, capable of our own thoughts, actions and opinions, but as members of society we are interdependent and rely on others to fill certain needs. As radio amateurs our interdependence is as basic as the need to have another radio operator to establish a contact. The local club fills a need beyond this basic illustration and provides where we can go to meet with friends and share knowledge and experiences.

If the needs of the individual are the Ying, then the Yang must be the needs of the club as an organization. Clubs need members to manage club business and perform the jobs required to operate a successful club. One does not have to look too far to see that successful clubs rely on synergistic roles that benefit both the individual and the organization. If a club provides a way for non hams to get licensed then the club will recruit new members. The club that offers classes for licensed hams to upgrade will retain members. Active hams that are willing to share their experience will teach the newcomers who then become club members and so-on and so-on.

Clubs that seek perfection and a world where all members get along and agree on everything are striving for an unrealistic goal and often end up in discontent. Health and active clubs tend to work together as a group toward a common goal. Setting the goals can be a democratic process, which in itself is a healthy activity, however once the objective is set it takes the effort of everyone to achieve the result. For club leadership, it is your job to keep the members focused on the mission. Club members also have a responsibility to the club by supporting the mission and not undermining the project just so they can say "I told you so."

People joined your club to get involved. One of the best ways to keep club members is to include them in club business and activities and most importantly, recognize your people for their contributions to the club. Your club newsletter is a terrific vehicle for recognizing members who participate in club activities and programs. Sometimes a special presentation or award may be in line with a

member's exemplary involvement. The actual deed is not as important as is the recognition of the people who make it all possible. When others see that the club appreciates the work of the members then more people will be willing to take on jobs and run for office. Mutual effort must be ongoing if a club is to recruit and retain members.