
HAMateur Gazette

The Newsletter of The
Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club

W6LKF

Meeting Date: First Monday Each Month

Email: prarc@mindspring.com

April 6, 2003

Volume II, No.4

Next Meeting: April 7, 2003 Centennial Park, Paso Robles
7:30 PM

President: Bill Mcfarlen, WA5VGI

Vice President: Tim Haueter, W6NS

Secretary: Evan Mason, N6BXL

Treasurer: Jane Thorton, KF6QHP

Newsletter: Mike Kelley, K6AJ

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- The Newsletter is also available online at:
 - <http://force12inc.com/F12-CLUB-PRARC.htm>
 - Tom Schiller has graciously spared some space on his Force 12 site. He has also listed several club newsletters from other clubs at this link : <http://force12inc.com/F12-NEWS-CLUBS.htm>

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PRARC Meeting - Monday, April 07, 2003:

The highlight of our meeting will be a talk and video on the Alaskan earthquake back in the 1960s and the use of our old tube type ham gear to assist in post earthquake operations. Also a video on traveling the Alaskan highway for a vacation. Now the punch line. In the process of redecoration of our home and moving our main computer, I have lost the name, address and telephone of our presenter. Major faux pas (sorry for the French). So I am hoping our presenter will show up for an interesting presentation. Next time my notes go into my briefcase which never let me down in 34 years of corporate life.

73,

**Bill McFarlen - WA5VGI
President PRARC**

Meeting Minutes February 2003

Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Minutes February 2003

The meeting was called to order by President Bill McFarlen WA5VGI at 7:30 P.M.

Introductions were made of all 30 folks in attendance.

Apparently no one was in the mood to clean out their closets and therefore there was nothing for free.

Sort of New Business

President McFarlen presented a plaque to Bill Palmerston recognizing all of his years of dedicated service to the club and amateur radio. Bill Palmerston graciously accepted the plaque and just recently celebrated his 80th birthday. Thank you and way to go Bill P.

Discussion of the May BBQ. The proposed date, May 18th, is not available at Templeton Park. Discussion about moving the date to the 11th or 25th met with strong resistance. Therefore the date will remain the 18th and an alternate location will be sought.

New Business

Field Day June 28-29 2003. The call W6R has been reserved. The Fairgrounds have been engaged for the fee of \$300 agreeing to waive the clean-up fee of \$60.

Motion by Bill Palmerston to authorize the treasurer to pay the \$300 to the Fairgrounds. Second by Jon Thornton. Motion was carried, payment will be made.

Larry Miller reported on the Field Day (drinking club) Committee and the progress made by same. The results of last year:

#3 in California, #19 in the U.S., 48 people operated, 4,600 QSO's including 550 by the GOTA station.

This year the GOTA station only needs to make 100 QSO's (instead of 400) for the 100 bonus points. Once again the bar has been lowered.

The food budget for field day was discussed with reflection on the \$1,100 spent last year. Folks ate well, but the new treasurer may be more fiscally responsible.

Set-up will be on Friday, June 27, 2003. The Generator has already been procured. Clint may be cajoled into making a video tape of Field Day as soon as the flying pigs clear the Fairgrounds airspace.

Finally, bring your homebrew rigs to field day.

Wildflower Bicycle Ride The Wildflower will take place on April 29, 2003. Bill Palmerston will not be able to lead this effort and requested a volunteer to come forth. The silence was deafening, no one stepped to the plate so Bill is looking for a hit-man to help recruit a volunteer. This is one of our best opportunities to provide community service.

Lighthouse Weekends Cliff reported that the BLM requires some paperwork for those who wish to participate in the lighthouse weekends. He had the necessary forms.

Treasurer's Report The treasurer was away on business so her spouse gave the report. The treasury has about \$1,700 with only about half the membership paid up. So come on you cheap skates pony-up!

Mike Kelly asks that all members consider forwarding interesting info and stories and ads for ham gear for sale to him for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.

The remainder of the meeting was spent watching the video on the 2002 South Georgia Dxpediton brought in by the emir of DX, President McFarlen. Great video.

The video concluded, some members awoke and the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, N6BXL

Gear Grinder



This month I want to tell you about a couple of websites that offer options for upgrading your digital mode software to run on newer versions of windows and also upgrading some of that older gear to be able to use some of the newer digital modes. As most of you who have been using packet and some of the older digital modes know, the software used to run these modes has not faired well through the Windows OS evolution. Most of the software packages available early on were designed to run on DOS. I have found one host software package that made it! CSS, Inc at <http://www.cssincorp.com/default.htm> wrote the original PacTerm host software package for the Kantronics TNC's. They offer a windows version of PacTerm for the Kantronics equipment as well as PkTerm for any of the old AEA equipment amd MultiComm for MFJ equipment. They offer limited use demo downloads for free so check it out!

As far as those old AEA Pk232 TNC's sitting around, dig them up and dust them off. There is new life available for those old units! Timewave technologies at <http://www.timewave.com/> picked up the PK line after AEA folded. They offer numerous upgrades for the old PK232. One of the technicians I talked to a while back , told me that the older PK232 are real workhorses and really work well with their upgrades. These upgrades include DSP and PSK sound card interface as well as several others. Check it out and have fun!

**Mike Kelley - K6AJ
Editor PRARC**