



Amateur Gazette

Paso Robles
Amateur Radio Club

W6LKF

Meeting Date: First Monday each month (except December)
Submissions and email updates to: jjt@tcsn.net

August 2005

President: Roland Hinkle, WB6EZH
Vice President: Mike Barry, AE6FL
Secretary: Ron Massengill, AB6FM
Treasurer: Jane Thornton, KF6QHP
Newsletter: John Thornton, W6HD

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Next Meeting: August 1, 2005 - Centennial Park, 600
Nickerson Drive, Paso Robles 7:30 PM

Meeting Presentation

Ron AF7A will present 22 minute video of a trip he took in 1996 when he was the grand prize winner of a Phoenix radio station trivia contest.

“The prize was a 2-week all-expense paid trip to England. After I won the summer trip in March which was to sail over on QE2 and come back on the Concorde, I found out that QE2 had a ham station for ham passengers. I made 609 contacts mainly on 20 M and 75 M using the TS-50 in the main radio room. I've made this presentation to many other ham clubs and it was always well received.

73 – Ron AF7A

Presidential Ramblings

Just because its summer don't think radio club stuff is dead. At the last meeting, we had a lively discussion on helping to keep the open but privately funded repeater on Tassajara Peak on the air. You'll recall Ron W6FM spoke to our club about IRLP and has since taken over the repeater on the retirement of its previous owner. Ron, of course, has been in our thoughts as her recovers from his serious accident. This meeting we have a proposed non-financial sponsorship of this site and additional radio gear. Please come and voice your opinion.

Don't forget the PG&E Siren Test and BBQ on Saturday August 20. This is a good fundraiser for our club and a lot of fun. If you haven't participated and would like to, see Bill K6BWJ or me for details.

Also upcoming is the Fish Fry so be sure September 24 is prominently marked on your calendars for this event.

The August meeting is on the 1st. I hope to see you there.

73 de Roland WB6EZH

Meeting Minutes July, 2005

1930 HRS Meeting opened by the President Roland Hinkle WB6EZH, 15 members attended.

Announcements:

1. Larry W7CB kept track of field day contacts – 1254 of which 600 were CW. The 40 meter band was strong... At 2 am local, the east coast was S-2 to S-3. All had a good time and a summary of field day will be presented at a later date.
2. Bill K6BWJ put out his request for SIREN DAY as a major drill event and fund raiser for the club. Aug 20th is the big day followed by a Bar-B-Q (location to be announced).
3. August 1 – is the target day for our next PRARC meeting. We may be shifting rooms so watch for signs in the hall.
4. The Ron Patterson Fund Raiser was held with about 20 folks attending from PRARC. Roland proposed the club consider a means of a "sponsorship" role in the repeater and packet systems maintained by Ron W6FM. Additional information will be presented at our August meeting. .
5. Minutes were accepted for July

Treasurer's Report:

About fifty people attended Field Day. We now have a balance of \$1050 and \$70 in petty cash.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

The Evening Presentation:

DAVID MARTIN, WA6TYJ – MISSION RADIO - INDONESIA

Meeting adjourned: 2035 hrs.

Respectively submitted,
Ron Massengill AB6FM
Secretary, PRARC

Treasurer's Report

The account balance is \$1058.67, and we also have \$100 in petty cash.

-Jane KF6QHP

Tassajara Repeater Sponsorship

Submitted by Roland WB6EZH

This proposal is to sponsor the Tassajara Repeater Group (TRG) on a trial basis for one year beginning August 1, 2005. TRG is not asking for financial assistance from PRARC. Rather they seek a ham club sponsor that will afford them economies of operation.

By sponsoring TRG, PRARC members will have a voice in operation of the mountaintop radio gear that includes APRS, IRLP, DX packet cluster. Our members will also have the opportunity to participate in activities supporting the mountaintop equipment.

TRG has provided the area hams with current technologies and wishes to do more in this area. Ideas from PRARC members and other hams will be the basis for these future applications. TRG is looking to use available rack space for experimental ham applications.

The key players of TRG are Chris Arndt KD6DSI and Ron Patterson W6FM. They have generously provided and maintained equipment with loosely solicited donations from the users and their own funds. The recent serious injury to Ron and change of employment by Chris have strained the operating situation.

Please attend the August meeting to discuss and vote on this issue.

From the Sunday SLO Tribune: “Tender-hearted effort”

Teen chooses to use proceeds from Mid-State Fair livestock auction to help family friend who fell from ladder

By Nick Wilson

The Tribune

Ron Patterson was trimming a walnut tree in his Santa Margarita back yard in April when a branch knocked him from his ladder.

The fall paralyzed him from the waist down.

Patterson, 48, has spent the past few months in Santa Barbara hospitals struggling to recover, battling internal infections and accumulating daunting medical bills.

Sixteen-year-old Katy Forte wants to help.

She's putting her 218-pound Yorkshire pig named Tender up for bid at the Mid-State Fair auction Saturday. She'll donate her proceeds to Patterson and his family.

"I found out a couple of weeks ago and it just meant everything that she would be able to do all that work for me," Patterson said from his hospital room Friday. "It's truly wonderful. It totally floored me."

The accident

Marcia Patterson was holding the 10-foot ladder for her husband when she heard a branch crack and her husband say, "Run." She and 12-year-old daughter, Katie, darted away. When they looked back, Ron was on the ground.

"I can't feel my legs. I can't feel my legs," Marcia Patterson recalls her husband saying.

During the past few months, Ron Patterson has started to learn about living as a paraplegic. The six-foot-two, 220-pound man had shoulder surgery to repair a torn tendon to give him the strength to use his wheelchair and perform daily tasks on his own.

But he has been hit with a string of complications preventing his return home. On July 5, he went into a coma for a day and a half. Doctors have not yet determined the cause. Then a few days later he developed pneumonia, which he's been battling since.

"When I think back to everything he's gone through, and he's still so determined -- he's an amazing, amazing person," Marcia Patterson said. "It's a tragic accident. Somebody sent me a card saying, 'It's true, bad things happen to good people.' That's the best way to sum it up."

Friends and neighbors have offered the Pattersons an outpouring of support. The kindness of Katy Forte and others, they say, have helped pull the family through a tough time.

Katy Forte and her pig

The Fortes and Pattersons have known each other for about 10 years. Katie Patterson and 12-year-old Christy Forte are close friends. Matt Patterson, 18, attended Atascadero High with Katy Forte until his graduation this June.

When the Forte family heard about the accident, they had just returned from Tulare County, where Katy and her three siblings bought pigs to raise for the California Mid-State Fair.

Katy has raised pigs for the annual fair in Paso Robles for the past eight years, always putting away the money earned at auction for her college education. But this year, the \$800 or so she expects to take in will go to the Pattersons.

"Buyers have given so much to me over the years that I just felt like I wanted to give something back," Katy said.

Mary Forte said she didn't suggest that her daughter help the Pattersons. It was the teen's idea.

"Katy just said to me, 'This year I want to give back and I want to help Ron,'" Mary Forte said.

Summer temperatures often reach above 100 degrees in Atascadero, so Katy bathes her pig at mid-day to keep it cool. She makes sure Tender's feeder is filled. At night, she exercises the pig to keep the meat lean the way buyers like it.

In keeping with fair tradition, Katy has sent out pitch letters making potential buyers aware of her animal. But this year, she's relating Ron Patterson's story.

"Though we still hope he may walk again someday, Ron Patterson needs all the help he can get," she wrote.

A long road to recovery

Before the accident, Ron Patterson's job involved repairing the hilltop satellite dishes and towers used by local law enforcement and forestry agencies for radio operations and telecommunications.

Now he'll have to retrain or find new work. But the Pattersons don't think about that yet.

"Anything beyond helping him get better is too overwhelming," Marcia Patterson said. "I have to focus all my energy on helping him get better and helping the kids keep their lives as normal as possible."

She used to spend her time volunteering at Atascadero High School and teaching quilting with the Santa Margarita 4-H club. Now she and the kids spend much of their time at the hospital.

Neighbors cook meals and check on the kids when she is away. She keeps them up to date on Ron's progress through frequent emails.

The family is holding together somehow, she said.

"We have to talk. cry. scream and open up and take care of ourselves so we can take care of Ron." she

said. "I tell the kids, 'It's not a Ron thing. It's a family thing.'"

Ron Patterson doesn't have a timetable for his return. But he is thankful for what he does have, his wife says, like the use of his arms and the ability to perform daily routines such as brushing his teeth. Doctors say he will be able to drive again.

"Probably the hardest thing is being away from my family," he said. "I missed my son's graduation (from high school). It has just been difficult. But I'm looking forward to going home."

CALENDAR

Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club
2005

January

3 7:30PM Club Meeting

February

7 7:30PM Club Meeting

12 Pot Luck –Bethel Lutheran Church- Bill Sundius

March

7 7:30PM Club Meeting

April

4 7:30PM Club Meeting

10 Tailgate Breakfast – Larry and Char Miller

15-17 Visalia DX Convention

30 Wildflower Bike Ride – Bill Palmerston

May

2 7:30PM Club Meeting

7-8 Armed Forces Day

TBA Wine Festival bike ride – Bill Sundius

15 BBQ – Heilmann Regional Park, Atascadero - Sharon George

25 7:30PM SLOECC Meeting in North County (Cambria)

June

6 7:30PM Club Meeting

24-26 Field Day

July

11 7:30PM Club Meeting

August

1 7:30PM Club Meeting

20 \$iren Te\$t / BBQ

September

9-11 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention in Riverside

12 7:30PM Club Meeting

24 Fish Fry

October

2-3 ARRL SET

3 7:30PM Club Meeting

8 Pioneer Day – Bill Sundius

15 Colony Day – Bill Palmerston

14-16 ARRL Pacific Division Conference (Pacificon) in San Ramon

November

7 7:30PM Club Meeting - Election of Officers for 2006

December

11 Holiday Party – Sharon George, et al