



Amateur Gazette

Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Date: First Monday of the month (Except December)
Submissions and email updates to: KI6DWP@Yahoo.com

February 2008

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Greetings

This is the first issue in a new effort to have a newsletter for the club. As it is an experiment, there is no "pride of authorship" and all comments and suggestions will be welcomed. The contents are merely a suggestion of what might be useful. It is hoped to put out the newsletter in the middle of the month.

The content of this issue comes primarily from the minutes of the last meeting. They were taken by Jeff (K3COP) simultaneously as he facilitated (ran) the meeting; thanks go to Jeff.

President's Corner

This should/could be a regular feature of the newsletter, depending upon the inclination of the incumbent. At this moment the corner is vacant.

Treasurer's Report

This should be a regular feature of the newsletter as well. Dues are still due. The following members are listed as paid for 2008. If you have paid and we don't have you listed....let us know. If you have not paid....then let us know also. We show 29 paid members which is excellent.

KD6DSI - Chris & Katie Arndt
K3COP - Jeff Joynt
W6YDZ & N6JQE - John & Berna Dallons
WA6DFU - Peter Lawn
KB6TAZ & KB6TAY - Jon & Jan Dallons
K6DXU - Bob Miller
N6FVY - John & Grace Foster
N6BT - Tom Schiller
WA5VGI - Bill & Linda McFarlen
AB6TY - Richard Smith
KE6RBS & KE6RBT - Ted & Anne Miranda

AA6CT - Bill Sundius
K6BWJ & N6VNQ - Bill & Joan Palmerston
KO6LN & KF6UXQ - William & Norma Shelton
KC6ASY – Tom Kotten
K6ICV – Jeremy Howard
AB6FM – Ron Massengill
K6YHL – Dave Altheon
KG6JYJ – Dan Powell
N6BXL & W6ROX – Evan & Mary Mason
KI6EPB – Sean Mudge
KI6CVQ – Ward Roney
KI6SWP – John Stettler

Announcements

From Jeff: Last November we should have elected officers for 2008. It did not get done. We did have a great Christmas party thanks to the efforts of members of the club and our hosts John and Berna Dallons. Rich AB6TY has done an outstanding job over the past many months keeping us informed through emails and holding the office as Treasurer. From all of us, thank you Rich. He cannot do it alone. I have agreed to act as a temporary president until we can complete the vote process. Because of my work I cannot attend all meetings. I would hope someone will step forward at the next meeting to be a vice-president. Someone to fill in when I cannot make it. We still need someone to coordinate the "entertainment" or training at each meeting. You don't have to do the training, just coordinate someone else to do it. Got a good idea? Let us know.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on March 3, 2008 at Centennial Park, 600 Nickerson Drive, Paso Robles. Note the new time of 7:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club 02-04-2008

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM. As you may have noticed this is a bit earlier than our regular starting time of 7:30. It was decided at the January meeting that since we have the room reserved at 7:00 and it affords us the opportunity to finish up a bit early, we opted to begin future meeting at the new and improved time slot. For those of you that make the effort to drive to Paso Robles from out of town, we appreciate it and perhaps now you can get home a

bit earlier. We have moved into the room at the far north end. A lot quieter, no noise from dancing kids.

There were 12 members present and the addition of one new member, Wade Roney KI6CVQ. Welcome Wade! There were no minutes from the last meeting to approve. Thanks Tom N6BT for the great presentation. He is a new World Record Holder. A record that surpassed the old mark by over three times. Must have been the antenna.

Events and Activities

Field Day

It's never too soon to talk about Field Day. Larry W7CB will be our Field Day Chairman. The Templeton High School setting we used last year has been reserved as well as tables, tents and chairs. In Larry's words, "40 meters was outstanding last year". The bands seem to be opening and getting better. The big decision that still needs to be made is whether or not to have two stations plus the GOTA or go with three. A lot will depend on club participation and the number of operators. Bob KD6DXU our "Club Chef Extraordinaire" has agreed to entertain the idea of cooking again for us this year. We all know what that means. Dave K6YHL has agreed to handle the VE session and will order materials. Roland WB6EZH appears to be MIA. Hopefully we can get him back for Field Day.

School Club Roundup

It's that time of year again and Mary W6ROX needs your help. Kermit King will again be participating in the School Club Roundup. The event will be held next week, February 11th -14th at Kermit King. Volunteers are needed to assist the 4-5th graders. A licensed ham needs to be in the room while they are making contacts. In October of 2006 they won First Place with over 66,000 points. The team that won 2nd place had only 24,000 points. In February 2007 they took 3rd place and the results for October 2007 have not been posted. Contact Mary as soon as possible if you can assist. Try her cell phone during the day at 610-6466 or in the evening at 238-0107. An email was sent to all members with a request to assist her. It was also announced at the Estero Bay Amateur Radio Club meeting.

Wildflower Ride

Anyone interested in taking the lead on this event? We will need someone to coordinate communications. Think about it and get in touch with Bill K6BWJ.

Potluck Dinner

The annual Potluck Dinner will be held at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Templeton on Saturday, February 23rd. We will meet at 5:00PM and eat at 6:00PM. Bill AA6CT has made the arrangements and reserved the facility. As in the past we have made a \$50.00 donation for the use of the building. Motion by Larry W7CB to write the check and a 2nd by Bob K6DXU. We need everyone that is planning to attend to call two other people and let them know about this event. Get the word out. Bring either your favorite dish or dessert and soft drinks will be provided. BYOB is optional. Don't forget your own service...plates and silverware.

Tailgate Breakfast

Char Miller says the event will take place on the weekend of April 19th-20th. There was some discussion about having this on a Saturday. Larry said Char makes the final decision. Mark your calendars as this is an annual event you don't want to miss. Always a good time and plenty of food.

Odds and Ends

Club Trailer

It is currently being stored at John's N6FVY residence and the antennas and everything else are at Jeff's K3COP. Not sure if it will be used at Field Day but we will still look into getting the registration taken care of. Granted it does have a few problems, but it has a great setup for a station.

Articles posting Club Meeting dates and times

In an effort to attract new members and old members that forgot, the articles in the Paso Robles paper and SLO Tribune will be listed with the new meeting time of 7:00 PM

Forms for ARES and RACES

Bill K6BWJ has the forms needed for anyone wishing to complete their identification process through San Luis Obispo County. Fingerprints and a background check are required as discussed numerous times. Contact Bill at 466-0308

P.O. Box

Mary with check with Jane regarding the key

Affiliations

Editor's comment: A recent submission from the Santa Barbara Section noted that the club had not paid their dues. That brought to my mind that perhaps our affiliation with ARRL national, sectional, etc. all need to be confirmed and if not current the question posed at the next meeting.

News from Other Clubs

Estero Bay

At their last meeting, the Estero Bay Amateur Radio Club heard a proposal that interested members get together to "build some stuff". It was thought to be a way for new and seasoned hams to learn/reinforce basic knowledge and skill sets and have some good group fellowship at the same time. They will be starting with a simple design circuit for a regenerative receiver. Skills involved include soldering, layout, and coil winding.

FYI

Hams vs. DMV

After considerable discussion, the California Department of Motor Vehicles has reversed its recent implementation of a policy regarding the layout for ham callsigns. They have restored the ability to provide ham plates without spaces in the middle of the callsign. Thanks go to all who assisted in motivating the DMV to reverse itself.

Solar Cycle 24

According to an article in the recent issue of World Radio (Year 37, Issue 9) the long awaited start of a new solar cycle has arrived. A reversed-polarity, high latitude sunspot was observed in January and solar physicist David Hathaway has said "this patch of magnetism could be a sign of the next solar cycle". Old cycle spots congregate near the sun's equator. New cycle spots appear higher, around 25 or 30 degrees latitude. Many forecasters believe Solar Cycle 24 will be big and intense, peaking in 2011 or 2012.

Traveler Alert

According to the FAA/TSA air travelers are no longer allowed to carry loose non-rechargeable lithium ion batteries in checked luggage. This is because of a potential risk of fire which cannot be put out by the fire protection systems aboard aircraft. If the batteries are installed in an electronic device, the device with installed batteries can be in checked luggage. Non-rechargeable lithium ion batteries can be carried in carry-on baggage if packed in plastic bags. Cited from ARNewline.

A “who done it” story

With all the recent discussion about the validity of Marconi’s accomplishment in sending a record setting radio signal, it peaked my interest in the technology of the time. A very interesting website is found as a link in the Wikipedia article on the spark gap transmitter (www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/spark-gap_transmitter). Look at the bottom of the page for the External Link labeled “The sounds of a Spark Transmitter with audio” (www.physics.otago.ac.nz/ursi/belrose/spark/html). That page has several audio clips of the sound of a spark gap transmitter. The refined version shows how audio would sound using this technology.

Buy/Sell/Trade

If there is any interest, the newsletter can include items looking for a new home or for members to list items they would like to acquire.