



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

Next Meeting: July 7, 2008

June 2008

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President's Corner

There is always good and bad news. The good news is that it is my 25th wedding anniversary and I'm going on a cruise. Yes my wife Nancy is going too. The bad news is I can only attend Friday afternoon of Field Day. The good news is John KI6DWP has prepared an excellent Newsletter for the club for the past several months. Thanks for volunteering. The bad news is he is moving. We need another volunteer. The good news is that once again Larry Miller has surpassed expectations with his planning and organizational skills in preparing for Field Day. The bad news is..... well there isn't any. Larry has just done a great job!

Just because I cannot be at Field Day doesn't mean you can't. I know what I will be missing. There will be camaraderie, a sense of accomplishment, lots of fun and great food. Whether it is helping to set up the antennas, getting on the radio and making contacts or helping Bob Miller prepare and clean up or wonderful meals, it will once again become a time to remember. At least for everyone except me!

This is our big event folks, come out and be a part of it.
73 Jeff N6BST

Meeting Formality and Fun

The June monthly meeting of the PRARC was informally called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Jeff. There were 15 members and guests in attendance. Upon a motion and second, the minutes of the previous meetings were approved as they appeared in the newsletter.

Program

In the absence of a formal program, at the conclusion of the formal meeting, the group engaged in informal conversation, sharing, and general "fellowship" around a variety of topics.

Announcements

BOL: Everyone is asked to "be on the lookout" for the following:

1. The whereabouts of the club gavel so that it can be put to its proper use during the meetings.
2. Any information of the outcome/location of the 830 radio from the PRHS school station.

If you have information on either item, please call/email Jeff or Richard.

Treasurer's Report

Richard reported that he has all checks deposited and there is a current balance of \$3,951.

Old Business/Recent Events

There was no old business or news of recent events to report.

New Business/Events/Activities

Meeting Location – Bill indicated that we have a room reserved through November for our meetings. It will not always be the same room, but it will be within the same building.

Picture Manager

Ron reported that it would be helpful if someone would take over the task of organizing pictures and getting them ready to upload onto the website. He will help with accessing the software to get things ready for upload. Jeff has old pictures. It was suggested that maybe the pictures from the upcoming Field Day would be a great place to start making our website “picture enriched”.

Field Day

Larry led a discussion about the preparations for Field Day.

1. Ron W6FM will research the bonus points for the VHF/UHF station
 2. The call for Field day will be W6R
 3. W6ROX will handle the GOTA station. KI6QFI has indicated he will be bringing people to work from the GOTA station. Larry spoke to a couple of science classes and hopes to have drummed up some interest with some of the students.
 4. Tom will handle the 20/80 station.
 5. Richard and Larry will handle the 40/15 station.
 6. Larry brought up the idea of having a sign-up sheet for operators rather than the “ad hoc” style of the past, but nothing was formalized.
 7. The issue of bonus points was discussed as follows:
 - Publicity is handled by Jeff and Bill
 - Public Location is covered by using the school. Larry says to check your email as he will send a map and directions.
 - Public Information will be a table and handled by Dave.
 - ARRL Message: need to have someone copy or otherwise capture the message.
 - Alternative power will be secured using batteries charged by solar power.
- Larry mentioned that we need pictures of the batteries being charged by solar panels as “documentation” for the points. Jeff will coordinate with Ron W6FM.

- Amateur TV: This will be attempted but need to have at least two stations to contact.

- Testing: Testing is scheduled for Saturday at 1 P.M. and there are several people who are planning to take an exam. We need to be sure to have 3 VE's in attendance.

- Government Official – Larry will be our government official again this year.

- Agency Official : Ron W6FM will follow-up with some potential subjects.

8. Antennas will start going up Friday afternoon starting about 1 P.M. People can spend the night if they choose. Most everything will take place early Saturday morning. Tom is in charge of antennas and the club 20m antenna will be one.

9. Several computers with a variety of logging programs will be used as there will not be a networked system. Each station simply needs to give Larry a summary sheet at the end of Field Day and he will compile the overall results.

10. Mike Kelly is taking care of getting the generator from Quinn.

11. Food: Bob needs a list of meals to prepare and Larry indicated 3 on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. As it stands Friday will be “on your own”. Upon motion and second, the club authorized \$500 to Bob for the purchase of food for the event. Bob also needs cook helpers during the event.

12. Call Larry if you have any questions about Field Day.

Odds and Ends

News from other clubs

No news from other clubs.

Buy/Sell/Trade/Repair

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

FYI

CW Software

Tom mentioned that he saw new software that will scan the band, check stations on the air, compare against your log and alert you to any stations currently operating with which you have not yet worked. Seems to be getting to the point that you can have software that will listen to the spectrum, ID stations, copy code, send code, and log calls; all “automatically.”

Editor's note: Also check the Eclectic Technology column in the recent QSL which reviewed the *CW Skimmer* program.

Morro Bay in the news

The recent QSL (Up Front in QSL section) had a picture of the sign for the “Wavelengths” surf shop in Morro Bay. It was submitted by WA6AYJ during a recent shopping trip.

Aerials in Atascadero

With the City of Atascadero getting a new 100’ aerial ladder truck for the Fire Department, do you think it might be possible to get them to cooperate with us on Field Day and other events to use their ladder truck as a mast if we supply the aerial?

Kids Day

Kid’s Day happens twice a year, with the next one scheduled for June 21st. This is another way to get kids interested in the hobby. Check out QSL (page 62) for more information or go to WWW.arrl.org?FandES/ead/kd-rules.html

Volunteer Operators in Vancouver

The Vancouver Olympic Committee is looking for amateur radio operators willing to volunteer during the 2010 Winter Olympics and the Paralympic Winter Games. Over 25,000 volunteers are needed. Online applications can be obtained at www.vancouver2010.com and be sure to put “Amateur Radio Operator” in the “Additional Information” section on page 5. *Radio Amateurs of Canada*

VHF QSO Party

The ARRL June VHF QSO Party is scheduled for June 14th – 16th. Check the May 31st issue of the ARRL Letter for more information.