

---

# *HAMateur Gazette*

The Newsletter of The  
Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club

## **W6LKF**

Meeting Date: First Monday Each Month

Email: [prarc@mindspring.com](mailto:prarc@mindspring.com)

February 28, 2002

Volume I, No.2

---

Next Meeting: March 4th, 2002 Centennial Park, Paso Robles  
7:30 PM

**President: Bill Mcfarlen, WA5VGI**

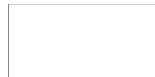
**Vice President: Tim Haueter, W6NS**

**Secretary: Mike Kelley, K6AJ**

**Treasurer: Bill Palmertson, K6BWJ**

---

This Month:



- Newsletter Available Online!
- February Minutes
- President's Corner
- DX News

### **PRARC Club Dues:**

This is a small reminder to remember to pay your club dues if you have not already done so. Checking the club roster shows we have 31 members paid and 56 who have NOT paid. If you have any questions contact Bill, K6BWJ or myself.

73, Bill - WA5VGI

- Welcome, to the second "electronic" edition of the "HAMateur Gazette". I invite anyone to submit an article to be published here.
- 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>
- **Minutes of January 7, 2002 meeting as submitted by Bill, WA5VGI President**

The meeting was called to order by our president, Bill, WA5VGI at 7:30 PM.

Discussion was held on the Pot Luck dinner and three members volunteered to make telephone calls to remind members of the dinner. These were Char Miller-W6ANB, Jane-KF6QHP and Bill-WA5VGI.

The club roster was passed around the room to have those present update changes to the old record and make sure that all e-mail addresses were current.

A straw vote of the January newsletter which was sent via e-mail showed unanimous approval of sending the newsletter by this mode. Our president mentioned that the newsletter will undergo continuous improvement with a goal

of eventually incorporating pictures of club events and members.

Bill, WA5VGI reminded those present that the March meeting will focus on preparations for our annual field day participation to be held again at

The meeting was called to order by our president, Bill, WA5VGI at 7:30 PM.

Discussion was held on the Pot Luck dinner and three members volunteered to make telephone calls to remind members of the dinner. These were Char Miller-W6ANB, Jane-KF6QHP and Bill-WA5VGI.

The club roster was passed around the room to have those present update changes to the old record and make sure that all e-mail addresses were current.

A straw vote of the January newsletter which was sent via e-mail showed unanimous approval of sending the newsletter by this mode. Our president mentioned that the newsletter will undergo continuous improvement with a

goal

of eventually incorporating pictures of club events and members.

Bill, WA5VGI reminded those present that the March meeting will focus on preparations for our annual field day participation to be held again at the same spot on the Paso Robles fairgrounds. Some changes are anticipated due

to changes in the rules by the ARRL. We will still have lots of antennas, networked computers, amplifiers and are looking forward to lots of participation.

Bill, K6BWJ gave the treasurer's report and the club has a balance of \$1,650.36.

The highlight of the evening was a video of the 2000 DXpedition to Clipperton Island.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

• **The President's Corner by Bill Mcfarlen, WA5VGI**

I hope everyone enjoyed our last meeting as much as I did. The video on the Clipperton DXpedition was very well done and included lots of history on a not too well known island.

Thanks for your enthusiasm on e-mailing the newsletter. Most of the clubs are doing this nowadays. The Southern California DX Club has been e-mailing their newsletter complete with text and pictures for over 1 year. It will take us some time to get up to top quality and I am sure, some software, but I know we can do it. Suggestions on how to improve will be appreciated and I know Mike, K6AJ could use some help.

Spring is in the air and field day is just around the corner. We had a very high level of participation last year but I think we can even surpass that. Get the word out and invite friends, new hams, old hams, etc to come join in the fun. And we all know that you can't beat Bob Miller's cooking!!

I inserted a little note on club dues in this newsletter because I have some concern about the number of unpaid memberships. Just remember that 1 year's worth of club dues is a mere drop in the bucket compared to 1 dinner out on the town. Not too much to pay for a year's worth of activities. We ran out of time last meeting to review Bill's (K6BWJ) proposal to possibly

restructuring the club dues but I hope to cover this in our upcoming meeting.

Finally I hope everyone was radioactive this month. No, not glowing with radiation but rather turning on that transceiver switch and reaching out to make a contact with a fellow ham anywhere. I want to reiterate that if there is any club member who is not on the air due to a broken rig, antenna or RFI problems please let us know. We can help you. Put those stations to use.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the next meeting.

73, Bill - WA5VGI  
President

- **DX News**

Mike, K6AJ asked me if I would continue to do a small column on DXing. Seems there is some interest in what we DXers do who get up at all odd hours of the night, battle fierce pileups and then battle one more time to get a QSL for confirmation of the contact. A strange lot we are!!

But -I love it!!

February marked the end of the 75/80 meter long-path DX season. This season which starts in September has its origin in a period of shared mutual darkness which starts prior to our sunrise in California and prior to or just at sunset in northern Europe. During this same period propagation also improves into the middle east and central Asia. Thanks to a new 2 element yagi from Force-12 I was able to work over 90 countries on SSB during this 6 month period and over 100 countries combined on CW and SSB. The help Tom, N6BT gave me in optimizing the F/B on the antenna allowed me to copy many very weak signals and achieve a contact. It is amazing to look at this log and see 75/80 meter contacts with A41, A61, C91, EX4, UK8, 5B4, ZC4, 9K2, VU2, AP2, 9L1, 5U4, 4L6, V51, D2, D6, 9M8, VP8(SG) and others. It was fun to share the experiences with Larry-W7CB, Mike-K6AJ, Tom-N6BT and Rob-AG6RT. We are all looking forward to next season which should be better since the current suncycle will be starting its downward trend.

The past two weeks have been spent chasing TI9M on Cocos Island and PW0S

on Trindade Island. These are both semi-rare DXCC entities that have not been on the air in quite awhile. Being a band/mode chaser it was fun to work these stations on several bands both SSB and CW. I hit paydirt with the TI9M gang and was able to work them on 9 bands. In fact I even got a SSB contact with them on 160 meters. I should add that the 160 meter vertical is also from Force-12 and has performed extremely well for me on the topband. I have not done so well with the PW0S group and still need them on 75/80 and 12 meters with just 1-2 days left for their expedition. Hope springs eternal.

Coming up soon will be a group operating on San Felix Island which is off the southern coast of Chile. Also in the month of March a brand new DXCC country, Ducie Island, will be on the air. This one will generate huge pileups but for us in California should be easy to work since the path is entirely over water. Ducie Island is located east of Pitcairn Island in the south Pacific ocean.

The close of the long-path season brings into play another season called the weed season. For the next 2 weeks I will have to forgo some of my early morning DXing and instead spray Round Up on the weeds now trying to take hold on our property.

But I will also be out there chasing the San Felix and Ducie Island groups.

Well that sums up what's been happening out here on the ridge. Good DXing to all.

73, Bill - WA5VGI

---