



# 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](mailto:KI6DWP@yahoo.com)

March 2008

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## **President's Corner**

As your self-appointed and acting President of the Paso Robles Amateur Club, and in accordance with past presidents, I will attempt to impart my pearls of wisdom in the "Presidents Message" to our monthly electronic newsletter.

As with all clubs, nothing works without participation. This Newsletter only exists because members have agreed to accept the task of taking minutes at the meeting, and present it in a form for others. John KI6DWP has agreed to do this for the benefit of the club. Each month Bill AA6CT comes early to the meeting and prepares coffee for the enjoyment of everyone. He is the last one to leave because he cleans up too. Rich AB6TY is our Treasurer. Not sure he was elected but he is doing the job. For a while he was running the meetings too. Larry W7CB is at the helm for Field Day. We could not do it without him. He and Char are also hosting the annual Tailgate Breakfast next month. Bill K6BWJ has helped organize our involvement in the Wildflower Bike Run and PG&E Siren Test each year. There are many more examples that affirm that this club exists because members are willing to participate. Many members have held offices over the years and their participation is gratefully acknowledged. The Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club has been around longer than some of us have been around. Raise your hand and volunteer when asked or volunteer when not asked. Participation is the key to the success of any club.

See ya at the next meeting.  
Jeff K3COP

## **Meeting Formality and Fun**

The March monthly meeting of the PRARC was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Jeff K3COP. There were 19 members in attendance. Motion to approve minutes sent out by email as the newsletter. Motion by Larry W7CB and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mary W6ROX.

Larry W7CB presented a narrated slide show for a contesting event held in the US Virgin Islands, KP2N, in 1986; otherwise know as the Voodoo Contesting Group. Other members attending were Jim Robb W6OUL and the late Bob Horton W6MSG. The group went to Water Island which is just off the coast of St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. It was an excellent presentation of a memorable and successful trip.

The program for next month will be in two parts. Rich AB6TY has built a Elecraft K-1 QRP CW Rig and will show it off. In addition, Tom N6BT just returned from Aruba where they put up an antenna array. He has a few pictures.

## **Announcements**

Jeff announced that he had contacted both the newspaper in SLO and Paso Robles about the new meeting time. He asked to be notified if anybody sees it listed.

## **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

Jeff asked if everyone had received the February newsletter, which contain the minutes of the last meeting. Just to be sure, a copy of the current roster was passed around and everyone was asked to check to be sure all contact information is current.

## **Treasurer's Report**

The treasurer reported that the treasury, as of Feb. 23, stood at \$3,631. This includes recent disbursements to the DMV for the trailer license, the church for the potluck, liability insurance, semi-annual rent for the meeting room (it will be due in June again and Bill AA6CT will take care of this) , and the domain name for the web site. There was some discussion about the state of the treasury, some feeling that having a cushion is desirable while others felt our purpose as a "service" club would be better met by using some of the funds for worthwhile endeavors. Bill also prepares the coffee we all enjoy each meeting and is need of supplies. He will make the purchase and submit a receipt for payment. *Thanks Bill.*

## **Old Business/Recent Events**

Mary W6ROX reported on the recent School Roundup at Kermit King school. There were 60 students participating during 15+ hours of operation. They made 208 contacts covering 36 states, 5 Canadian provinces, 1 club station, 27 school club stations and in the process amassed a total score of 37,024. Mary tendered appreciation to all who helped out during the Roundup. A suggestion was made that possibly the club should donate a permanent antenna for the school. Mary observed that the annual "raising of the antenna" helps create a level of excitement. No further action was taken.

The potluck was held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> with 15 people in attendance. There was good food and everyone enjoyed themselves.

## **New Business/Events/Activities**

### **Wildflower Ride**

The Wildflower ride is scheduled for the weekend of April 26<sup>th</sup>. The staffing for this event is getting started and communication will be needed. Ron, AB6FM reports he will not be available this year to participate. Dave Albrecht from the SO is heading this up. More details will be available.

### **Tailgate Party**

This event has been rescheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> of April. This is usually a Sunday event but will be held on Saturday this year. Early birds at 0800 and the meal will begin about 1000. You need to bring either eggs, OJ, muffins, or fruit. A sign-up sheet was passed around for donations. Contact Char if you plan to attend and get on the list.

### **Field Day**

Larry W7CB reported on progress for Field Day. It looks like we will need to use the Club Trailer as one of the stations. 15 meters was wide open the other day says Larry; perhaps a sign of good things to come. The site may include 40/80m station in the trailer, 20m under canvas, and a GOTA station. We will use the same antennas as last year (unless we do something different).

## **Odds and Ends**

### **ECC Stations**

Bill K6BWJ reported that there is some work needed at the local stations. Paso Robles needs cable pulled and antenna work. Atascadero needs antennas replaced. Both Police Departments have new Chiefs. Jeff offered to work with Bill to make contact and introductions to the new Chiefs.

### **Old Stations**

There was some discussion about equipment at old stations, including the Fire Station and the High School. Mary will check out what she can about the high school station's equipment.

### **Post Office Box**

It was reported that the club does not have a P.O. Box of its own. Everyone has just used their own as needed. Hearing no objections, that practice will continue.

## **News from other clubs**

No news from other clubs. Contact will be made with Robert Griffen, Section Manager about contacting other clubs in the section to exchange newsletters.

## **Buy/Sell/Trade/Repair**

Jeff asked if anyone had knowledge of repairing a power supply. The power supply for his ICOM 718 is non-op; and yes he assured everyone that he did check it first to be sure it was plugged in and the fuse was OK.

## **FYI**

**Morse Code** – The FCC has denied petitions to reinstate Morse Code proficiency as a condition of granting the Amateur Extra license. *ARRL Letter*

**Lithium Batteries** - It is no longer possible to carry loose Li-Ion batteries in checked luggage on airplanes. This is due to an apparent fire hazard which is beyond the capacity of fire suppression systems in aircraft cargo holds. All Li-Ion batteries must either be installed in the applicable electronic device before placing in checked luggage, or must be placed in plastic bags and taken through security as “carry-on” items. NiCad and NiMH batteries are not affected by this ruling. *FAA/TSA*

**Poetry** – The March issue of “World Radio” had several pieces of poetry relating to amateur radio. They were quite touching, and admittedly a departure from the usual type of articles in ham publications. They are worth looking up if you missed that issue.

**MARS call to assist state emergency** – Recently the Tennessee emergency management agency called up the services of MARS to assist during recent tornado activity. They specifically needed the Winlink 2000 capability of MARS to provide email capability during the disaster. It was reported to be a “first” for the agency. *ARRL Letter*

**Club Social Net** – It has been suggested that there might be interest in having some kind of 2M social net. If anyone has any ideas or interest, let the editor know or bring it up at the next meeting.