



Amateur Gazette

Paso Robles
Amateur Radio Club

Paso Robles ARC

W6LKF

October 5th, 2009 Minutes

Special Interest Dates:

- October 10th
Paso Robles
Pioneer Days
Parade
- October 17th
Atascadero
Colony Days
Parade
- October 17 -18th
JOTA
Boy Scouts
Jamboree
On- the- Air
- December 2nd
FEMA Drill
Camp Roberts
- Christmas Party
December ??

Ham Fests & Swap Meets

October 17th
Fresno ARC
66th Annual
Hamfest

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 1907 hours by President, Mike Kelley K6AJ. Introductions were completed with a total of 13 members and guests present. Minutes as printed in the Newsletter are approved as written.

Treasurers Report. Ron Patterson W6FM came late to the meeting, said he needed a recharge. \$3,272.40 in our account and \$42.05 in petty cash

Old Business

Pioneer Days Parade in Paso Robles is on October 10th. Bill Sundius AA6CT is in charge of the event again this year and needs assistance. We need operators staged at different locations to update the announcers of any changes related to the parade. Contact Bill at 434-5662 ASAP if you are available. Bill looks like he has a full roster. Thanks for volunteering

Colony Days Parade in Atascadero is on October 17th. Bill Palmerston K6BWJ is in charge of the event but need someone to take over as he will be out of town. We also need operators for this event. Please call Bill at 466-0308 ASAP to assist with this event. Wes Womble KI6YMW believes he may be able to assist.

We have assisted with these parades for the past many years.

New Business

Elections for 2010 Officers. Tom N6BT suggested we use what is known as a "white ballot" where we vote for all office positions in a single vote. Through a quick nomination process and vote, your 2010 officers will be;

President – Mike Kelley K6AJ
Vice President – John Foster N6FVY
Treasurer – Ron Patterson W6FM
Secretary/Newsletter – Jeff Joynt N6BST

Thanks for volunteering!

Christmas Party Yes it is that time of year again to start thinking about the annual Christmas party. The past few years it has been held at the Dallons residence and with a little luck they may graciously accept us again. John Foster will contact John and Berna with our request. Hopefully before they read this in the newsletter. We would still need a few good souls to make the arrangements for the catering. Last year John and Jane Thornton as well as Clint and Sharon Geroge put things together for a great time. I hope I got that right. Perhaps they will assist again.

FEMA Disaster Drill practice

Wes Womble Ki6YMV reported on the drill as organizer, Avery KD4GBA was not present at the meeting. He said he was a bit disappointed about the drill. He said he signed in at 0800 and the meeting to get things started did not begin until 1030. He said "nobody seemed to know what was going on". He said it lasted until around 3:30 and then there was a debriefing. Wes said Ron Patterson did not have access he needed. Wes was a rover for the event. Mandy Womble KI6ZAT was at EOC in San Luis Obispo. They were under the impression it started at 9:00. The HTs did not work. Mobiles did work and packet radio using Winlink worked great. They received radio call at 2:30 the drill actually began. John Foster also there at DECON center. This area acted as a small hub. A few messages were passed through packet. Other concerns were that it took a long time to get started. There needed to be a lot of equipment setup. The scenario was a problem at Diablo Power Plant and contaminated persons were brought to DECON center. They seemed to think that Ham Radio was under utilized. The main problem was communications with their radios and our ham radios. The actual drill will take place on December 2nd. For specific details contact Avery at 588-4623 or email KD4GBA@ATT.NET.

ARES Weekly Check-In

Just a reminder the weekly check-in is on Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM. As usual on 146.980 / 146.880. The County wide net starts at 7:45 PM on 146.670 and the PL is 127.3. If you are available and can run the Net Control, let Avery know and a schedule can be set up. Thanks to everyone that has been checking in lately. You don't have to be a member to check-in either.

California QSO Party www.cqp.org

Tom N6BT reported on the California QSO Party He operated from Mono County and said the conditions were pretty good. Tom was trying out new antennas. 10 meters was closed and 15 was open. Bill Fageol reported they were set up at the Morro Bay Harbor Festival and they made a few contacts also.



President's Report

The Prez Sez: The first big rain of the season proved to be as good as or better than forecast. Nacimiento Reservoir filled 19 vertical feet in 1 day! That is a lot of water.

I called Bill McFarlan, WA5VGI the other day and he said he measured winds of 80 miles per hour and higher on his ridge west of Atascadero. He said his antennas made it through OK. Speaking of Bill, there is a nice one page article in the October issue of CQ magazine page 98.

Bill received his USA-CA All Counties #1182 award back in February. This is no easy feat to work all 3077 counties in the USA. The article details Bill's entry into Ham radio as well as what he had to do to get his Worked All Counties Award. I highly recommend you find a copy and check it out!

Like most of us Amateur Radio operators, Bill started out building a crystal set. I remember spending hours building crystal sets out of anything I could find. I never had the opportunity to use an actual Galena crystal and a cat whisker. I used a pack of crystal diodes and an earphone purchased from Radio Shack. I somehow ended up with a wooden spool of green cloth wire and used a cardboard tube for the form. I had a lot of fun building and using these sets. Living in a rural area, it didn't take long to figure out that a barbed wire fence with split redwood posts made a great antenna!

I don't remember whether it was the magic of radio or the success of building my own working receiver that thrilled me the most. It was probably a little of both. What ever it was, that feeling has remained with me through the years.

We have discussed different ideas to inspire young people to get interested in Amateur Radio. One such way might be for the club to put together basic crystal radio kits. These kits could be sold or made available for use in classrooms, with Cub Scout and Boy Scout troops, and 4-H clubs. I encourage everyone to give their input and hopefully we can put something together in the new year. It would be a great public service project for the club.

As always, if you need some help with an antenna project or station set up; don't be afraid to ask for help. The club membership includes a wide variety of expertise to draw from. Keep the bands alive, get on the air!

73,

Your Prez,

Mike Kelley, K6AJ

How Hams prepare for disasters Nov. 21st, 2001, By Steve KB1DIG & Kim KB1GTR

GO KIT:

DAILY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS GEAR IDEAS

How do we get all this HT equipment out of the drawer and into our hands when we need it? With a little research, we came up with the ideas and links posted in this section.

Our favorite quote comes from C. Edward Harris, KE4SKY, VA RACES State Training Officer: "It is better to have the bare essentials always handy than to leave a bulky pack someplace where you can't get to it." This has been our inspiration for this project. As always, we are open to your suggestions and comments.

A PLACE TO START:

If you find the perfect guide to how to make an emergency kit, please let us know. Suggested lists and opinions we've seen vary from one big kit to several different size kits. The purpose of the page is to focus on something that will work for everyday use. A small bag to place on the front seat of the car, on the way to work. Something more practical, packed with the basic items that we believe will help if we find ourselves participating in an emergency.

THE BASIC LIST:

This is the primary list for our kits. It works well with what we have available to us today. Items in red are optional and not always packed. Flexibility is dependent on daily activity. An example would be if we were planning a weekend away from home, to a Hamfest. In this case, we will pack up the chargers and leave out the candy and snacks.

Radio Equipment Items:

Triple-band HT
Operating Manual (supplied with HT)
2m / 70cm antenna (supplied with HT)
Antenna "Extender Element" for 6m use (supplied with HT)
High gain dual band antenna for 2m / 70cm use.
Extra high-capacity battery pack.
Battery charger (supplied with HT)
Rapid charger attachment to Battery charger
Cigarette lighter cord
Two extra 3A fuses, for Cigarette lighter cord
Speaker / microphone
Male-BNC-to-SMA adapter
Female BNC to SO-239 adapter

Other Items:

Copy of FCC Operating License.
Mini-Mag-Lite, extra bulb and spare AAs
Leatherman multi-purpose tool
* (2) Ink pens
* (2) Pencils
Paper notepad (self-stick removable notes: 2 7/8" x 4 7/8" size)
Swiss Army pocket knife

Emergency gas / phone money (\$10 bill, + four quarters and five dimes)

Hard candy

Granola bars

Band aids

Surgical gloves

Disposable lighter

* Note:

Pencils for writing. Pens often fail, freeze in the cold, and they smear in rain. It's good to have an extra Pen around if you're at the Bank and need to cash a check. Other than that, stick to using a Pencil. They can be sharpened with a pocket knife and cost almost nothing to replace.

MORE MISCELLANEOUS STUFF:

This is a list of additional things that we are still in the process of rounding up. A few other ideas. Not all are necessary. Remember to think small...

Planned Items:

Small pocket compass

Local ARES phone and frequency reference card

Current eye glasses prescription.

Moist towelettes.

Operating quick reference card for HT

Pocket sewing kit

Sunscreen (small size bottle)

Aspirin

Tylenol

Antacid tablets

Throat lozenges

Roll of electrical tape

Ear phones

Cable ties

Whistle

ALL Family Members emergency contact list

State road map

HOW TO PACKAGE:

Believe it or not, this was the hardest piece of the puzzle to find. We looked around several department stores and always found ourselves in the camera section. We felt the best choice was some type of padded bag with straps and divider sections. The camera bag seemed to suit the bill, but the prices were not cheap. As an alternative, Kim came up with a good solution. She discovered that a soft type lunch box will work. They were padded and came in several different colors, shapes, and sizes. The inside seemed better suited for the items we wished to pack. The selection of colors was appreciated, as to avoid mistaking his from hers. Camera bags come mostly in black. Best of all, the price was right!

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

Some food for thought... Nothing is cast in stone. It's okay to personalize. Here are few items that didn't make it to the list sections above. Some of these items and ideas are from our next big project. The 72hr Emergency Kit. Remember to use your own ideas, also.

Place the photocopy of your Amateur License in laminate. This way it will last for years. 3M™ makes several different sized self-laminating card protectors. Easy to use...no special tools or equipment needed. We took this one step further and chose the Luggage Tag style. The plastic was a little thicker and it has this neat little slit molded into it. A great place to attach and use with your ARRL Amateur Radio ID Badge Lanyard.

LABEL YOUR EQUIPMENT! This isn't your Mom... If you are rushing around, it's easy to forget something. People are basically honest and will make an attempt at returning lost items. Fellow Hams, even more so. Especially if you were trying to help them in an emergency. What we do is make up stickers with just our Call Letters. We have an Electronic Label Maker that we purchased from Staples. You do not need to be so elaborate. Home address labels will do the same thing. The point is, without a form of identification your equipment will stay lost. Mom was right...

We pack a green and orange highlighter for marking on a photocopy of a street map. This was a necessity in New York City. It was a running joke at TSA Headquarters. We had the only green highlighter and needed a sign-up sheet to use it. We will probably never use them much. It just feels good to know it came in handy. You never know... Kind of our safety blanket, we suppose.

Steve packs an American Flag. It's the little one that hung from our pickup truck antenna during our NYC/WTC trip. The stories it could tell. Another one of those good luck charms.

Don't forget about that void under your drivers seat. This is another place to stash stuff. A collinear design roll-up 2-meter J-pole is in each of our vehicles. Too big to pack, but always handy. This is a good place for that extra quart of oil, the jumper cables, some good leather work gloves, and the campers rainwear.

Take a look at some of those new technology LED flashlights. Energizer makes a new folding lantern version with a lifetime warranty. It has 2 LEDs and runs on 4 AAs. What's neat is that the LEDs never need replacement. Also, the thing will continue to run 200hrs on 1 bulb or 100hrs on 2 bulbs. The only bad thing is the size is a little less than a pack of cigarettes. Looks like a Star Trek Communicator. Not that big, but big enough...

Some packing tips. Some items do not travel well. How to avoid the damage? We use some of that smaller size bubble wrap, plastic bags, and elastic bands. Not rocket science, perhaps. This bubble wrap stuff is available at several department stores. It comes in sheets at about a quarter of an inch thickness and can be cut to any size or shape.

Respectively Submitted,
Jeff Joynt N6BST