



Paso Robles ARC

Amateur Gazette

W6LKF

Sept 14th , 2009 Minutes

Paso Robles
Amateur Radio Club

Special Interest Dates:

- September 30th
FEMA Disaster
Drill Rehearsal
- October 3-4th
California
QSO Party
- 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

Ham Fests & Swap Meets

October 17th
Fresno ARC
66th Annual
Hamfest

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 1910 hours by President, Mike Kelley K6AJ. Introductions were completed with a total of 19 members present. Pretty good turnout.

Treasurers Report. Ron Patterson W6FM reports we have the same amount as last month but that figure is not presently available. We are in the **RED** as they say. Since we did not participate in the Siren Test this year the amount of funds coming in are less than our expenditures. The Field Day expenses were a bit less this year also. It's not like we are going broke and we are a non-profit organization.

Old Business

Siren Test

A report for those who attended reported the sirens worked and lunch was excellent. That is about how it usually goes. SLOECC participated and had enough volunteers to fill their quota it was heard there was some difficulty filling all the slots. It was suggested that VOAD might not be too picky about how funds that are received will be spent. Andrew KG6TZM gave us a run down on how VOAD got involved in the process with PG&E. Avery KD4GBA voiced his concern that if we participate through VOAD we are effectively being paid for our work and that is in violation of FCC rules. He said it "looks improper".

New 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.

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.

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

New Business cont.

FEMA Disaster Drill

Avery KD4GBA will be coordinating for ARES in our assistance in the FEMA Drill that will be held on December 2nd. He is requesting additional volunteers. The rehearsal for the drill will be held on Wednesday, Sept 30th. The actual drill will take place on December 2nd. Exactly what will happen at the event remains to be seen. Avery requests three additional operators for communications at the event. 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.

Ham Radio Scholarship

Harry Wolf W6HKT has offered to sponsor a scholarship for a graduating student at Paso Robles High School that is involved in the High School Radio Club. The problem is the club is no longer operating. If anyone has any ideas lets talk about them at the next meeting. In case you didn't know, Harry K. Wolf PhD is a member of the Paso Robles High School Academic Hall of Fame, Class of 1926.

California QSO Party www.cqp.org

Begins: 1600 UTC - 3 October 2009

Ends: 2200 UTC - 4 October 2009

The California QSO Party (CQP) is the premier state QSO party held every year on the first weekend of October. The Northern California Contest Club ([NCCC](http://www.nccc.org)) has sponsored CQP since 1974. CQP has traditionally opened the annual contest season by providing an opportunity for contesters to prepare for the ARRL November Sweepstakes since the format is similar. Stations outside of California, worldwide, work stations in California only. The 58 counties of CA are the [multipliers](#). California stations work all stations in or out of CA. The 50 US states and 8 Canadian provinces are the multipliers. Stations outside of Canada and the US add to one's QSO total but do not count as multipliers. See the full set of [CQP Rules](#) for more details.

On this site you will find lots of information so peruse the index above and learn all about the California QSO Party! Also, be sure to visit the [NCCC](http://www.nccc.org) website for the latest scoop on a super contest club.

Tom N6BT reports this is a great opportunity for all of us in California to participate. You can work anywhere from 160 to 2 meters for this event. He also said there are lots of great prizes.



President's Report

The Prez Sez:

Thank you to Joel Kaye, AD6KH, for a great presentation on Meteor Scatter Propagation.

The basic concept of working Meteor Scatter consists of transmitting digital SSB signals on 6m or 2m. The signals are sent and received using WSJT software by K1JT <http://www.dk5ya.de/wsjt/>. WSJT stands for Weak Signal Communications by K1JT. QSOs are arranged in advance off the air. Because the completion of the QSO relies on the trail of ionized air created by meteors entering the earth's atmosphere, the message is transmitted over and over again for a preset amount of time then listens for a preset amount of time. WSJT captures the sub audible signal burst and decodes it. The exchange consists of the station call and a brief acknowledgement. The equipment required consists of a SSB 6m or 2m transceiver and a simple audio interface between the rig and the computer. Rig Blaster is just one of many interfaces available. Other than a multi mode transceiver, this mode is fairly inexpensive to get started.

73,
Your Prez,
Mike Kelley, K6AJ

Passing the Tech Test

by Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

Dan provides monthly articles related to Ham Radio for Newsletters. I use these articles from time to time.

I teach One-Day Tech classes. At the start of each class, I go over the following to help focus students on what to keep in mind when taking the test. It occurs to me that these are good tips no matter who is taking the test, so if you know someone

who will be testing soon, please feel free to pass along this advice.

Technical Topics

The Tech test is not very technical, but there are three technical topics that you need to know:

- * Ohm's Law,
- * how to calculate power, and
- * the relationship between frequency and wavelength.

Ohm's Law

The basic formula for Ohm's Law is voltage (E) equals current (I) times resistance (R), or $E = I \times R$. On the test, there are several questions where they give you two of the values and ask you to calculate the third. If you're asked to calculate the current, you use the formula, $I = E / R$. If you need to calculate the resistance, use the formula $R = E / I$.

How to Calculate Power

The formula for calculating power is power (P) = voltage (E) times current (I), or $P = E \times I$. To calculate the current drawn, when given the power being consumed and the voltage applied to the circuit, use the formula $I = P / E$.

Relationship between Frequency and Wavelength

There are several questions that require you to calculate the wavelength of a signal or some fraction of the wavelength. The reason for this is that antennas are often a fraction of a wavelength.

The formula that describes the relationship between frequency and wavelength is wavelength in meters = $300 / \text{frequency in MHz}$. One question asks for the approximate length of a quarter-wavelength vertical antenna for 146 MHz. To figure that out, you first calculate the wavelength:

$$\text{wavelength} = 300/146 = 2.05 \text{ m or about 80 inches}$$

One quarter of 80 inches is 20 inches, and the antenna will actually be a little bit shorter than that because radio travels more slowly in wire than it does in free space. The correct answer to this question is 19 inches.

That's all there is to the technical part of the test!

Safety

There are lots of questions on the test about operating safely and being safe when working on antennas. My advice when answering these questions is to always choose the most conservative answer. The two exceptions are when asked what is the lowest voltage and current that can hurt you.

Emergencies

There are lots of questions about what to do in emergencies. There are two things to keep in mind when answering these questions:

- * you should do whatever you can to help someone who is in an emergency situation.
- * You can even break the rules to help someone in an emergency situation. This includes operating on frequencies you are normally not allowed to operate on and communicating with other stations in other radio services.

Miscellaneous Tips

Here are a couple of other miscellaneous tips:

- * The answer is 'D.' If one of the answers to a question is, "D. All of these answers are correct," chances are that is the correct answer but not always.
- * Long-Answer Rule. Where one answer is a lot longer than the other options, chances are that this is the correct answer. I haven't done an exhaustive study of this, but when one answer is very long, take a good, hard look at it.

That's all I have. Good luck on the test!

Good Samaritan Law

In case you missed the email sent out last month regarding the Good Samaritan law, I decided to reprint it in the Newsletter. Governor Schwarzenegger signed two pieces of legislation that have a significant impact for us. A previous decision by the California Supreme Court exposed a number of significant loopholes in the previously adopted Good Samaritan Act that consequently opened up personal liability to Good Samaritans and Disaster Services Workers. The adoption of these two pieces of legislation will provide Good Samaritans and Disaster Service Workers immunity from personal liability if they choose to provide aid in an emergency or disaster. Both bills take effect immediately:

Assembly Bill 83-Good Samaritan personal liability immunity. Existing law provides that any person who in good faith, and not for compensation, renders emergency medical care at the scene of an emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act or omission. This bill would instead provide that medical, law enforcement, and emergency personnel who in good faith, and not for compensation, render emergency medical or non-medical care at the scene of an emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act or omission. This bill would also provide that any person, not including medical, law enforcement, and 3 emergency personnel, who in good faith, and not for compensation, renders emergency medical or non-medical care or assistance at the scene of an emergency shall not be liable for any civil damages resulting from any act or omission, as long as that act or omission does not constitute gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

Senate Bill 39-Personal liability immunity: disaster service workers. Existing law provides that no disaster worker who is performing disaster services during a state of war emergency, a state of emergency, or a local emergency shall be liable for civil damages on account of personal injury to or death of any person or property, as provided. This bill would provide that disaster service workers shall not be liable when acting within the scope of their responsibilities under the authority of the governmental emergency organization, as provided. This bill would provide that these provisions apply exclusively to any legal action filed on or after the effective date of this bill. This bill would declare that it is to take effect immediately as an urgency statute.

John Stettler KI6DWP, a former member of PRARC writes a Newsletter for the Amador County Amateur Radio Club. Occasionally I borrow articles from him. Thanks John

From the pages of QST –

There a bunch of construction articles in the latest issue. Included are plans for a gel cell charger, integrated station control system, and a simple transformer to measure antenna current. Lots of projects to put on your “to do” list.

We are all used to the digital frequency counter. There is an article on “Measuring radio frequencies” that talks about methods of frequency measurement from the early days of radio up to the present; with some pictures of interesting old devices.

If you want to combine HF and computer based (phone) communication, the article “An HF roundtable with a Skype based VoIP bridge” is a must read. It shows how to link “over the air” and internet linked stations using VoIP, including features such as video feeds and chat room for simultaneous multi-media information exchange.

NGenLog for Windows is a new logging program that is reviewed in this issue. It has a number of useful features. It supports LoTW , tracks QSL's and makes labels, and includes "just about any conceivable operating mode, even rare digital modes". There is a free trial version; www.ngenlog.com.

The article in the link below was in the Pinnacle News in San Benito County. My brother-in-law, Ron Ross KD6ZXG is featured in the article. A little advertising seems to go a long way. Thought you might enjoy the article. Just click on the Link to view the article, assuming you are connected to the Internet. The San Benito County Amateur Radio Emergency Services Group

<http://www.pinnaclenews.com/news/contentview.asp?c=260879>

Respectively Submitted,
Jeff Joynt N6BST