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# *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)

March 31, 2002

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**Next Meeting: April 1st, 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**

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- March Minutes
- President's Corner
- DX News

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- 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 March 4, 2002 meeting as submitted by Mike, K6AJ, Secretary**

**The meeting was called to order by Mike Kelley**

**He announced that it was decided to leave the dues structure the same.**

**The Nipomo club that was disbanded donated \$250.00 to the PRARC and the total balance is now \$1850.00.**

Cliff Buttschardt gave a presentation on the restoration of the Piedras Blancas Lighthouse and the upcoming radio operations from the lighthouse. He asked the members of the PRARC to think about what areas they might be interested in contributing to these operations.

Larry Miller announced the return of the Santa Maria Fathers Day Hamfest. Larry also discussed field day operations and the associated committees.

A motion was made by Larry to spend \$300.00 to reserve the fairgrounds, it was seconded by Bob Miller and passed unanimously.

Ideas for a field day homebrew project were floated around.

Bob Alberti passed out applications for anyone interested in signing up for ARES and pictures were taken for ID cards.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

- The President's Corner by Bill Mcfarlen, WA5VGI

### **PRARC Meeting - April 01, 2001**

No it is not an April fool joke!! Our next meeting will be held on 01 April, 2002 at our regular location. We will be discussing Field Day and we want to make sure that our various teams are in place. We will also be showing a video on the WRTC championships held in Slovenia in 2000. The World Radio Team Contest is the equivalent of the ham radio olympics and this event was represented by teams from around the world. We also want to continue to update our club roster so please bring any changes (mailing address, e-mail, telephone, amateur call) to the meeting. See you all there.

**73, Bill McFarlen -WA5VGI**

**President**

- **DX News**

March was a busy month for DX'ers. Two expeditions representing very rare entities were active: XR0X on San Felix Island and VP6DI on Ducie Island. The operation from Ducie was the first ever and counts for a brand new

**DXCC country. So as you can imagine the pileups were huge. Both expeditions were active 24 hours a day and eventually were active on all 9 HF bands. Unfortunately the VP6DI operation was plagued by almost constant intentional QRM on their operating frequencies. Not only were the frequency police extremely active but others were placing carriers right on the operating frequency to cause QRM. Working the VP6DI group in the early stages of operation could be difficult. They chose to work split (correct thing to do) but over a frequency range of sometimes up to 40-50 kc. Now I can tell you that that makes finding where the DX station is listening quite a challenge!! Also despite such a wide listening range it still took many of the VP6DI operators up to 45-60 seconds to respond to a calling station. That is definitely a formula for frustration!! In this writer's humble opinion it would have been better to limit the split range to 10-20 kc and simply work the pileup down logging the strongest stations calling first to thin out the pileup. However none of the above is any reason for the terrible QRM and intentional interference observed during this operation. It seems the problem of intentional QRM on expedition stations and other rare DX is becoming more common and I think a very serious problem. And we, the amateur community need to put a stop to it. Also it is easy to blame the operators on a DX expedition but we should always remember they were the fellows who took their time and their money to travel to some remote spot to put out a rare country.**

**While the XR0X gang had their share of QRM their QSO rate was much higher and the width of the split listening frequency was generally smaller than the VP6DI group. After a few days XR0X was fairly easy to work. After almost 2 weeks of listening and checking the bands at all kinds of odd hours I managed to work the XR0X group on 9 bands and the VP6DI on 8 bands. The one night that VP6DI was on 160 meters I simply could not hear them. Maybe next time!**

**Tom, N6BT and I had fun chasing the H40XX (Temotu Islands) station on 75/80 meters. The one night they were very active I was not at home. So for the next four nights I got up at 11:30 PM, 1:30 AM, 2:30 AM and 3:00 AM to listen for them. But alas they were not active. After wasting all of that time not to mention sleep we found out that they had some kind of problem**

**( several stories abound) and never got back on the band. In addition they left the island several days early. Tom's newly designed 80 meter yagi is really working well for him. It is nice to have company now in the missing sleep department. Mike, K6AJ and I had fun helping Tom get it up on his tower. Mike really shines when he is on the end of a rope. It is a great antenna with a very small foot print for a 80 meter beam.**

**Although we are moving rapidly into the summer months there is still lots of DX on 160, 80 and 40 meters. I worked a GW(Wales) station a week ago on 75 meter SSB around 10:00 PM our time who had an honest 58 signal. Also a number of west coasters have been working Europe on 160 meters.**

**For those needing Mellish Reef as a new country there is an expedition scheduled for this month with a multiband operation planned.**

**Someone is calling from the yard about grass and mowing so I better change clothes and get going. Good luck in the pileups.**

**73, Bill - WA5VGI**

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