



# *Amateur Gazette*

The Newsletter of  
The  
Paso Robles  
Amateur Radio Club  
**W6LKF**

Meeting Date: First Monday each month (except December)  
Submissions and email updates to: [jjt@tcsn.net](mailto:jjt@tcsn.net)

**April 2005**

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**President: Roland Hinkle, WB6EZH**  
**Vice President: Mike Barry, AE6FL**  
**Secretary: Ron Massengill, AB6FM**  
**Treasurer: Jane Thornton, KF6QHP**  
**Newsletter: John Thornton, W6HD**

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- **Meeting Notice**
- **Presidential Ramblings**
- **Meeting Minutes**
- **ARRL Simulated Emergency Test in October**
- **Calendar of Events 2005**

**Next Meeting: April 4, 2005 - Centennial Park, 600  
Nickerson Drive, Paso Robles 7:30 PM**

## Presidential Ramblings

Roland is taking a break this month. We all have "Spring Fever" after what seems like months of rain. The WX is turning FB, the weeds are growing, and it's time to install Evan N6BXL and Mary's W6ROX HF beam antennas! (This from a guy who had his HF beams sitting on the deck "aging" for a couple of years prior to installation).

At the time of publication, we don't have the meeting agenda available but we do know that it will include a video or presentation. Bill WA5VGI claims to know the callsign prefixes of all DXCC entities. Bring the names of those obscure entities for Bill to identify. Not only will he be able to identify them, but has probably also confirmed them on more than one band!

We need to come up with some new, improved, fresh, Spring ideas for club meeting topics. -ed

## Meeting Minutes March, 2005

1930 HRS Meeting opened by President Roland Hinkle WB6EZH, 24 members attended.

### Announcements:

1. Bill, WA5VGI brought out fried insulators and ceramics demonstrating the wrong choice could lead to a disaster. He also suggested a QSO card provider that sells large quantities at low prices. The quality looked great.
2. John W6HD reported sixteen scouts received Radio merit badges as a result of the club member efforts. Mike AE6FL provided the scouts a tour of the ECC at the EOC. Mary W6ROX led the operation at W6HD and the completion of the Merit Badge for the scouts. The future of ham radio depends on such efforts.
3. Larry W7CB directed the clubs attention to the "INSTRUCTOGRAM" code teaching machine out of the past. Several free items were available prior to the formal auction.
4. Mary W6ROX also did a mighty good thing by guiding the local youth to the world of Ham Radio. The event was ARRL School Club Roundup at which all 50 states were contacted in 13 hours with a total of 260 contacts. Not bad. They must have had a special antenna working. Tom N6BT was on the antenna committee and came through for the kids. Again, this type of support is our investment in our future.
5. John W6HD took sign ups for World Radio – which provides club members a special price. Contact him for remaining subscriptions.
6. Roland WB6EZH proclaimed April 4<sup>th</sup> as the next meeting day for our club and we will meet in the Live Oak Room.

7. Larry W7CB passed on albums and pictures to AB6FM the club secretary for safekeeping. I noticed they were unmarked and not labeled. The pictures will be brought to the breakfast on April 14<sup>th</sup> so the members can identify the mug shots for future club generations.
8. The minutes were almost unanimously approved for last month.

Committee Reports:

1. Holiday Party-- rising cost again were discussed and some creative thinking was suggested. The catering situation was not looking good and further research is ongoing.
2. Field Day site is secured according to Mike AE6FL. Contact – Clint George K6YY Bill WA5VGI or Tom N6BT to volunteer or ask questions.
3. Treasure’s Report –Jane KF6QHP—Jane said we have about \$1100 in our account. *Please Pay Your Dues.*
4. VEC Dave K6YHL has ordered testing material from ARRL for licensing.
5. The BAR-B-Q at Heilmann Park May 14<sup>th</sup> is being guided by K6YY Clint and company.
6. Several folks have signed up for the SLOBC Wildflower Bicycle event as ham radio support. Please continue to contact Bill K6BWJ to join in on the fun.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Presentation: The Auction

Meeting adjourned: 2035 hrs.

Respectively submitted,

Ron Massengill AB6FM  
Secretary, PRARC

### **Treasurer’s Report**

The cost for Field Day at the Midstate Fairgrounds Carnival Lot has increased this year and we will attempt to negotiate a lower rate. \$900 is a bit high!

The PRARC Christmas Party will be held at the Paso Robles Country Club this year. This was determined by the Christmas Party Planning Committee to be the best overall arrangement for the event.

## ARRL Simulated Emergency Test (“SET”) – October 2-3 from Mike AE6FL

<http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/setguide.html> (Info from 2004 SET)

### **Proposal:**

A coordinated ARES/RACES Simulated Emergency Test Exercise for Santa Barbara Section stations.

Let's work together on this exercise to test and improve our network, train our operators and provide an opportunity to consume mass quantities of donuts and coffee, etc.

For a scenario, we need to use something big that would involve several counties, perhaps a large scale terrorist event.

### **Scenario:**

- Coordinated attacks on our Southern CA Nuclear Plants, Diablo Canyon and San Onofre, with associated utility power outages.
- Dept. of Homeland Security suspends cellular service Nationwide due to terrorists using cell phones to detonate explosive devices at infrastructure locations like communication and transportation sites and petrochemical distribution facilities. *(Well, okay Mike, but a more realistic scenario is that the cellular network becomes heavily overloaded with traffic, and cell sites that have lost commercial power and don't have generators are QRT. Most cell sites do not have emergency generators and are reliant on a T-1 telephone circuit to connect to the switching office. –ed)*

Each participating station would be provided with scenario details, simulate trouble in their local area of operations including agency support and support requests and enter this message traffic into our network by contacting Net Control Stations at Emergency Operations Centers. Some stations may operate mobile to simulate field deployment. EOC's may be required to contact other counties to relay message traffic and send simulated support requests. If we have an idea of who will participate, we can really tweak the scenario and enhance realism by addressing exercise traffic to specific Emer. Ops Centers, etc. that require simulated replies.

We'll need to coordinate nets and frequencies:

- HF and VHF/UHF voice mode primary and secondary for each County/Area
- HF voice and/or digital mode primary and secondary exclusively for EOC stations
- HF and VHF/UHF digital modes including Winlink and packet for Section

Many of these frequencies may already be specified in SOP's for your area. All formal message traffic should use National Traffic System format.

Alternatively, please review the "experimental and un-official" ARES/RACES Message Format shown below. We used this shortened message format in San Luis Obispo during a recent FEMA/OES/Diablo Canyon Exercise and many operators who are not familiar with the NTS format found this abbreviated version easier to work with and in some cases more effective.

Ideas from our membership can be put together into an overall Exercise Operations Plan that'll be sent to all participants in advance. If we're all working from the same plan, we can guide our training and test specific functions. The most important part of any exercise is the After Action Report. Each participating station should send an AAR to his ARES EC. A consolidated Section AAR should be distributed to all member stations to pass on lessons learned.

Sounds like fun to me. If this sounds like fun to you, let's do it! Kick around the idea with your members and maybe we should discuss further at next Section meeting. There's interest from ARES folks in Monterey and Orange County, as well as probable Army, Navy-Marine Corps and Air Force MARS participation to test interoperability. October is out on the horizon and approaching fast, so thought I'd get the ball rolling. Any comments welcome.

SGD,

Michael Barry AE6FL/AAM9ECS in Paso Robles, CA

- U.S. Army MARS Emergency Operations Officer for Southern CA
- ARES/RACES Emergency Coordinator for N San Luis Obispo County
- VP PRARC
- GROL PG-01-1289
- [ae6fl@arrl.net](mailto:ae6fl@arrl.net)
- AE6FL @ N6LYF.#CENCA.CA.USA.NOAM
- 805-239-3548

This email was sent to:

Rob Griffin K6YR SB Section Manager

Pete Nicklin K6TOD SB SEC

Pete Lawn WA6DFU SLO DEC

Dave Gilmore AA6VH Ventura DEC

Dennis Daniel KM6DF SB DEC

Max Sicher WD6Z

Ron Massengil AB6FM

Ray Lischka W9EC

Bill Bailey AE6EQ

Fred Campbell WB6MIA

Bob Spencer W6HMC in Monterey

Brian Eller AE6FJ Orange Section



# CALENDAR

Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club  
2005

## January

3 7:30PM Club Meeting

## February

7 7:30PM Club Meeting

12 Pot Luck –Bethel Lutheran Church- Bill Sundius

## March

7 7:30PM Club Meeting

## April

4 7:30PM Club Meeting

10 Tailgate Breakfast – Larry and Char Miller

15-17 Visalia DX Convention

30 Wildflower Bike Ride – Bill Palmerston

## May

2 7:30PM Club Meeting

7-8 Armed Forces Day

TBA Wine Festival bike ride – Bill Sundius

14 BBQ – Heilmann Regional Park, Atascadero - Sharon George

25 7:30PM SLOECC Meeting in North County (Cambria)

## June

6 7:30PM Club Meeting

24-26 Field Day

## July

11 7:30PM Club Meeting

## August

1 7:30PM Club Meeting

TBA Siren Te\$t / BBQ

## September

9-11 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention in Riverside

12 7:30PM Club Meeting

24 Fish Fry

## October

2-3 ARRL SET

3 7:30PM Club Meeting

8 Pioneer Day – Bill Sundius

15 Colony Day – Bill Palmerston

14-16 ARRL Pacific Division Conference (Pacificon) in San Ramon

## November

7 7:30PM Club Meeting - Election of Officers for 2006

## December

11 Holiday Party – Sharon George, et al