



# *Amateur Gazette*

Paso Robles  
Amateur Radio Club

**W6LKF**

Meeting Date: First Monday each month (except December)  
Submissions and email updates to: [w6hd@arrl.net](mailto:w6hd@arrl.net)

**April 2006**

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**President: Bill McFarlen, WA5VGI**  
**Vice President: Mike Barry, AE6FL**  
**Secretary: Greg Porter, N6MOQ**  
**Treasurer: Jane Thornton, KF6QHP**  
**Newsletter: John Thornton, W6HD**

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- **Meeting Notice**
- **President's Corner**
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Next Meeting: April 3, 2006 - Centennial Park, 600  
Nickerson Drive, Paso Robles 7:30 PM

### Meeting Presentation

The program for the April meeting is a video of a March 2000 DXpedition to Clipperton Island. From its legendary DXpeditions over the last fifty years, to its chilling history of shipwreck, murder and piracy, join the FO0AAA team as they activate one of Amateur Radio's most magical destinations.

(Presidents note: I worked these guys on 160 meter SSB with 100 watts for a new one on top band)

### President's Corner:

Another rainy day on the central coast. I think it is time for summer. The other day I was out in our garage and found four 500 ft. spools of #14 copper-weld wire. Made me realize that I had never gotten around to putting up the additional beverages for 160 meters that I had planned. Now being retired and not having any specific schedule I wonder sometimes where all of the time goes. Wherever it is going it seems to be going fast.

Spring is definitely around the corner. The 80 meter LP is gone, 40 meters still has a little action just before sunrise and 20 meters is starting to show life just after sunrise. As most club members know I am very involved in chasing DX. So I was curious about the DX I have worked since the first of the year and printed out a DXCC report from my computer log starting from 01 January of this year. I was really surprised to find I had worked 163 countries as of 28 March. Not that this is any record but does show that there is DX out there to be worked. My activity covered all nine HF bands and CW/SSB. A couple of QSOs listed brought back some good memories such as 6O0N on 75 meter LP, 5T0JL on 12 meter CW, SV3RF on 160 meter CW, and A71EM on 17 meter SSB. Of course participation in the

ARRL CW and SSB DX contests and the CQ WPX SSB contest helped contribute to that total. I still need 3 countries to get to top of the Honor Roll, those being 7O, VU7, and FR/G. Thought maybe we would all get a shot at FR/G but looks like a mosquito borne disease put a hold on that Dxpediton. And I do have a 7O1YGF QSL card with a picture of the capital city on it but worthless due to documentation problems with the ARRL DX desk. Such is life. But to fill in until I get a chance to work these remaining entities I chase band countries ( ARRL Challenge Award). It is lots of fun and keeps my interest up in chasing DX. Also IOTAs, new prefixes, and if the “k” gets too high I look for new US counties. Only 41 left to work all 3077. And that’s a lot of QSLing. Oh yes I should mention that Larry, W7CB, has worked them all a number of years ago. Not an easy feat so congrats Larry.

I am getting excited about the upcoming DX convention in April at Visilia. I went to my first DX convention with John, W6KFV , back when I was still working and living in Thousand Oaks, I think the year was 1988. Since then I have only missed one year of attendance. It sure is fun to meet all of our fellow DX’ers and of course those who come from outside the US. Only downside is that each year everyone gets one year older and you just don’t see any new young blood. I remember one year when they asked anyone under 30 years to stand up. That year there were no takers. DXing is a big part of my life and I plan to be active for a long time.

Another fun event next month is the annual tailgate at Larry and Char Miller's home. Even if it rains, its lots of fun to enjoy all of the bacon, sausage, eggs, and other condiments that abound for us to enjoy. What great hosts to share their lovely country side home with fellow club members. Make sure to put April 18 on your calendar.

I would also like to take this opportunity to personally thank two members of our club who have for many months done a great service for our club. Those folks would be Jane and John Thornton. Jane keeps the club books and John has been kind enough to provide us with an interesting club newsletter with pictures et. al. Thanks you guys.

And a very special thank you to club member Ron Patterson, W6FM, for putting together a website for our club. The site is off to a great start and should be an excellent vehicle for getting the word out on the service/social events that our club supports and promotes. Ron, we know you have a tough

row to hoe as my Dad would say but we are pulling for you and are always there to help you in any way.

Lastly I turned 67 this month. Don't know how I got there so darn fast but here I am. As each year passes I am reminded of the important things in life. Our families, friends, country and faith. How lucky we all are to enjoy life here on the central coast of California. See you at the April meeting.

**73, Bill - WA5VGI**  
**PRARC Acting President**

## **March Meeting Minutes**

March 6, 2006, 7:30 PM

Minutes of the Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club

The president opened the meeting at 7:30 PM, 19 present.

We discussed the meeting location again. The current location at Centennial Park in Paso Robles is scheduled for a significant rate increase in the near future. We are paid up at the current lower rate through June 2006. We probably will relocate if the proposed increases go into effect.

We discussed calendar items and proposed 2006 dates for events. John, W6HD, had a skeleton of a calendar and took detailed notes on proposed dates. We will attempt to have the latest revised calendar and dates in the next newsletter.

Our Field Day is planned for June 23-25, 2006 at the Paso Robles Fairgrounds. Plans are proceeding. Mike, AE6FL, requested and was issued the W6T special events call sign we commonly use and the Fairgrounds have been reserved.

We discussed at length making a new web site for the club. Ron, W6FM, said that his friend Mark Smith, KR6ZY, was willing to host the site. The

club voted and agreed on using the web address of <http://www.pasoroblesarc.org> for the club. Ron will register the web address (the club will pay for this), and is soliciting members for content.

Mary, W6ROX, told the club about the School Roundup contest she and her students participated in. The kids had fun, but the computers that they were logging contacts on had a number of issues, and logs were lost. She doesn't expect a competitive score as we had in 2005.

We discussed ARRL affiliation again, and the club voted to pursue it. John, W6HD said he would prepare the paperwork and send it to the ARRL.

Dave Martin, WA6TYJ, entertained and informed us with a presentation about his recent trip to Burma to install an FM broadcast transmitter for the provisional government to use (and also to work a little DX).

Submitted respectfully,  
Greg Porter, N6MOQ, secretary.

### **Special Thanks!!**

**A very special thanks go to Ron W6FM for creating the first ever Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club web page:  
[www.pasoroblesarc.org](http://www.pasoroblesarc.org)**

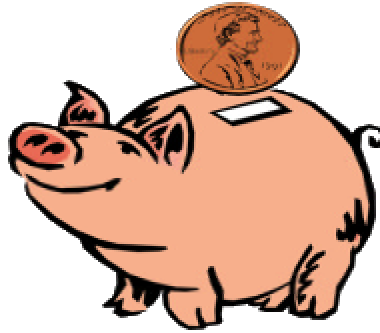
**Thanks also to Mark Smith KR6ZY for hosting the web page on one of his servers.**

**Ron spent many hours collecting content, writing code, and debugging the page and it shows.**

**Please respond to Ron's requests for input for the web page. It is a great way to share the activities of this great club.**

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# Treasurer's Report



Jane KF6QHP

The bank balance stands at \$907.70. This year, we have 13 individual memberships and 13 family memberships, compared with 17 individual and 23 family memberships last year. Field Day rental expense and club insurance alone consume more than what we have collected in dues.

We received a nice note from Harry W6NKT with his club renewal.

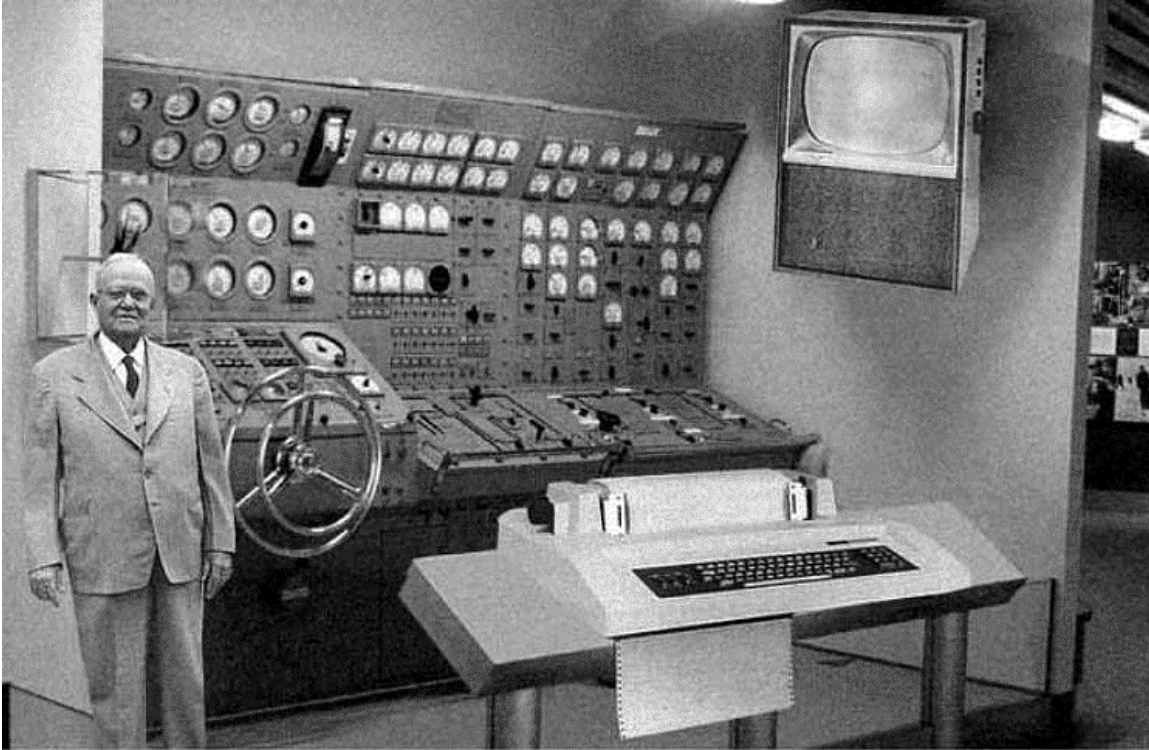
“Jane: I am sending the dues for both 2006 and 2007. I am sorry to miss so many meetings but I have to rely on someone to take me. A picture of me and my station. I am still on every day. 73, Harry W6NKT”



Note: Harry was born in 1909 in Paso Robles. He'll be paid up until he's almost 100. Thanks Harry and we miss you at our meetings. 73 from your PRARC

## From and Internet Email

I received this in an email and it is said to be from a 1954 Popular Mechanics Magazine. Very amusing.



*Scientists from the RAND Corporation have created this model to illustrate how a "home computer" could look like in the year 2004. However the needed technology will not be economically feasible for the average home. Also the scientists readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work, but 50 years from now scientific progress is expected to solve these problems. With teletype interface and the Fortran language, the computer will be easy to use.*



## April Fool! Things are not as they appear!

After peering at the previous photo, I realized that the “control panel” appears to be more like something off of a ship or submarine, and the keyboard is a Digital Equipment Corporation teletype circa 1970’s.

So, I got curious and did a Google search for “RAND Corporation computer 1954” and this is what I found:

<http://www.snopes.com/inboxer/hoaxes/computer.asp>

The web page [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com) has a bunch of interesting urban legends and myths.

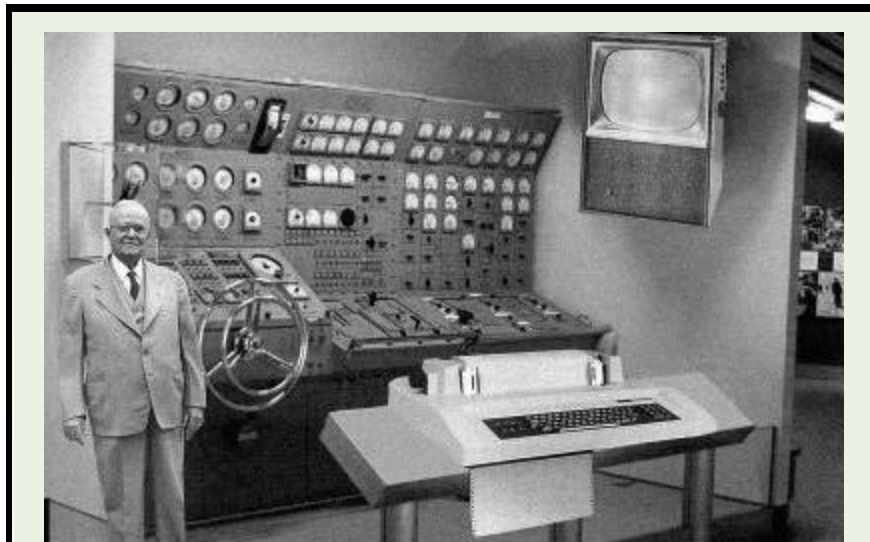
-John W6HD

## Does Not Compute

**Claim:** Photograph shows RAND Corporation's 1954 design for a home computer.

**Status:** *False.*

**Example:** *[Collected on the Internet, 2004]*



(Click to enlarge)

Scientists from RAND Corporation have created this model to illustrate how a "home computer" could look in the year 2004. However the needed technology will not be

economically feasible for the average home. Also the scientists readily admit that the computer will require not yet invented technology to actually work, but 50 years from now scientific progress is expected to solve these problems. With teletype interface and the Fortran language, the computer will be easy to use and only

### Variations:

?:A November 2004 version of this piece opens with: "This article is from an issue of 1954 Popular Mechanics magazine forecasting the possibility of 'home computers' in 50 years. It appears that the 'mouse' replaced the steering wheel . . ."

**Origins:** Many a prognosticator who has tried to envision the future has been tripped up by a failure to correctly anticipate the direction of technological change. Those who would forecast the world of tomorrow have often made the mistaken of simply taking the technologies of their day and assuming that in the future those technologies would be bigger, faster, and more powerful – what escaped their vision was that science and society might come up with new and different ways of manufacturing and using those technologies.

One case in point is the computer. Predictions from several decades ago failed to foresee that computers would become much smaller and cheaper; that these changes would enable nearly every business and home to have its own computer to be used for a variety of applications, and that those machines would be linked together in a world-wide network. Instead, futurist scenarios frequently presented a world of very few, very expensive all-powerful computers the size of large buildings, used only for divining answers to complex problems beyond the ability of man to solve on his own.

Although the photograph displayed could represent what some people in the early 1950s contemplated a "home computer" might look like (based on the technology of the day), it isn't, as the accompanying text claims, a RAND Corporation illustration from 1954 of a prototype "home computer." The picture is actually an entry submitted to a Fark.com image modification [competition](#), taken from an original photo of a [submarine](#) maneuvering room console found on [U.S. Navy](#) web site, converted to grayscale, and modified to replace a modern display panel and TV screen with pictures of a decades-old [teletype/printer](#) and television (as well as to add the gray-suited man to the left-hand side of the photo):



(Click to enlarge)

The color picture above was taken in 2000 at the Smithsonian Institution exhibit "Fast Attacks and Boomers: Submarines in the Cold War" and depicts:

A full-scale display of a typical nuclear-powered submarine's maneuvering room in which the ship's engineers control the power plant and electrical and steam systems

**Last updated:** 23 November 2004

The URL for this page is <http://www.snopes.com/inboxer/hoaxes/computer.asp>

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# CALENDAR

Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club

2006

*We are missing a lot of the dates for club activities for the year. Please provide the editor with dates.*

## January

9 7:30PM Club Meeting

## February

6 7:30PM Club Meeting

18 Pot Luck –Bethel Lutheran Church- Bill Sundius

## March

6 7:30PM Club Meeting

## April

3 7:30PM Club Meeting

9 Tailgate Breakfast – Larry and Char Miller

? Visalia DX Convention

? Wildflower Bike Ride – Bill Palmerston

## May

1 7:30PM Club Meeting

? Armed Forces Day

TBA Wine Festival bike ride – Bill Sundius

? BBQ – Heilmann Regional Park, Atascadero - Sharon George

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

## June

5 7:30PM Club Meeting

23-25 Field Day

## July

3 7:30PM Club Meeting

## August

7 7:30PM Club Meeting

? Siren TeSt / BBQ

## September

? ARRL Southwestern Division Convention in Riverside

4 7:30PM Club Meeting

? Fish Fry

## October

? ARRL SET

2 7:30PM Club Meeting

? Pioneer Day – Bill Sundius

? Colony Day – Bill Palmerston

? ARRL Pacific Division Conference (Pacificon) in San Ramon

## November

6 7:30PM Club Meeting - Election of Officers for 2006

## December

? Holiday Party