



# *Amateur Gazette*

Paso Robles  
Amateur Radio Club

**W6LKF**

[www.pasoroblesarc.org](http://www.pasoroblesarc.org)

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

**August 2006**

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**President: Mike Barry, AE6FL**

**Vice President:**

**Secretary: Greg Porter, N6MOQ**

**Treasurer: Jane Thornton, KF6QHP**

**Newsletter: John Thornton, W6HD**

**Webmaster: Ron Patterson W6FM**

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- **Meeting Notice**
- **President's Corner**
- **Meeting Minutes**
- **Greg N6MOQ Rover Station**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Cliff K7RR SK**
- **Swap Shop**
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**PRARC**

**Next Meeting: August 7, 2006 - Centennial Park, 600  
Nickerson Drive, Paso Robles 7:30 PM**

**John W6YDZ will share some home movies of earlier days  
of the Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club**

**President's Corner:**

**No Report this Month**

New PL tone on the 146.880 W6YDZ repeater: 141.3

Please make note of it ...

And thanks much to John W6YDZ for the time, effort, exotic hill-top locations and cash-ola expenditures to keep the machines working. We all appreciate having your repeaters available and they're a great resource for our communities.

73, Mike AE6FL

**July Meeting Minutes**

PRARC minutes 10 July 06

(Secretary's note: I managed to lose my handwritten minutes from this meeting, so what follows is based on my recollection....)

Mike, AE6FL opened the meeting at 7:30 PM.

We discussed at length our activities for Field Day at the Mid-State Fairgrounds on 24-25 June 2006. All in all it went very well, and was a success. The club sends a big thank you out to:

Larry, W7CB, for honchoing the Field Day efforts

Tom, N6BT, for providing great antennas

Bob, K6DXU and his gang, for all the excellent food

Quinn Equipment for providing the generator  
SLO Unified for providing the EOC operations trailer  
And all the rest who helped with setup, tear down, and providing interesting displays and demonstrations

We discussed what we could do better next Field Day. A lot of ideas were discussed. Many felt that we should try to schedule operators for all positions (the 2 main positions, as well as GOTA and VHF) during the entire Field Day period.

Larry, W7CB is going to gather the logs and submit the score for the club. Greg, N6MOQ is going to provide him the logs from the GOTA station. Larry has the rest already.

Ron Patterson, W6FM, needs photos and content for the club website - <http://www.pasoroblesarc.org>. Ron can use either digital or hard copy photographs.

The meeting was a short one, and adjourned about 2015.

Greg Porter, N6MOQ  
Secretary

## Operating in the July 2006 CQ WW VHF Contest, Greg Porter, N6MOQ

Having not been very active on the bands, I thought perhaps a little contesting would be in order. I decided to try my hand at the CQ WW VHF Contest (<http://www.cqww-vhf.com/>) on 15-16 July 2006 on 2M SSB. I discussed my plans with a number of hams, looking for advice. Ron Patterson, W6FM, suggested I try to operate on 6M, and offered to let me borrow his 6M loop antenna. I didn't have a portable mast for my antennas, so I bought a 15' high portable tripod mast from Force 12.

So equipped for low power operations as a rover on 6M and 2M, I went to the top of Williams Hill, north of Paso near Lake San Antonio and set up on Saturday, 15 July. This was an ideal spot for this type of operation, and I worked a number of 6M and 2M contacts. I worked both Ron W6FM, and Mike AE6FL. I stayed there for about 2 hours, and then decided to move on.



Williams Hill, CM95mw, 2665', 15 Jul 06.

My next planned grid square was DM05ax, over towards the intersection of Highway 41 and US 5, by Kettleman City. I got there and set up at about 1600 PST. I arrived in the middle of a giant opening on 6M, double hop to the east coast. Awesome! I made a number of long distance 6M contacts, and a couple of 2M ones.

I then moved north on US 5 to hit the next grid square, DM06. I misjudged how little DM06 overlaps US 5, (at freeway speed, you are only in the grid square a minute or two). I took the next exit and backtracked to the middle of some cotton field at DM06ax. There were power lines everywhere, and no place to get any elevation. I made one 2M contact here, gave up after listening to LOUD 60 cycle hum for a while, and headed towards Avenal.

I got to Avenal about 1900, and found a high ridgeline above the city that sported a few microwave towers. I got set up at CM96wa, but the 6M opening had died out, and this was a darn noisy place, too. After a couple of contacts, I called it quits and went home.



CM96wa near Avenal, 1310', 15 Jul 06.

I decided to head back out to one more grid square on the morning of Sunday, 16 July. I went south, past Santa Maria, to CM94. I wandered around extensively in the hills between Los Alamos and Vandenberg, but no matter where I tried, I didn't hear much. I headed back towards Santa Maria, and then found a likely spot near Orcutt, above and looking down on Santa Maria and the valley at CM94tu. I worked a couple of stations here, including Ron W6FM and John W6HD.



CM94tu near Orcutt, 777', 16 Jul 06

So I made a total of 20 contacts in 8 grid squares, from 5 different grid squares, claimed score 450, about 400 miles traveled. This wasn't much of a score, but I had fun. I plan on operating next in the ARRL UHF contest on 5-6 August, 2006, and if I finish my transverter in time, the ARRL 10 Ghz and Up contest on 19-20 Aug.

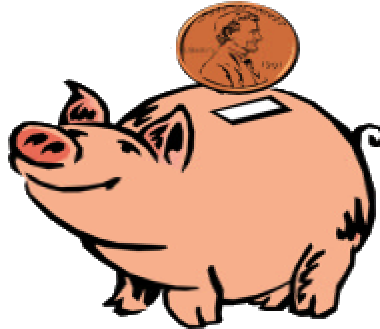
What I'd do differently next time:

- Drive less, talk more. I'd worry less about getting grid squares, and more about logging contacts. I should have stayed in DM05 and worked the 6M opening more.
- Be able to operate while driving. The setup I used was such that I had to stop the vehicle and set up. I would not have ever stopped at some of the places I tried to operate from if I could have heard how noisy they were in advance.
- Use a shorter length of better coax, the piece I used had about a 3dB loss on 2M.

Equipment:

Group 24 gel deep cycle battery with PowerPole power distribution  
 Icom 706 MkII G HF/VHF portable rig  
 Kenwood TH-D7A(G) 2M/70CM HT  
 Force 12 15' portable mast  
 M2 6M loop (borrowed from W6FM, thanks, Ron!)  
 Par Electronics 2M OmniAngle loop  
 Garmin Etrex Legend GPS

## Treasurer's Report



Jane KF6QHP

The balance in the treasury is \$1206.98

### **Cliff Buttschardt K7RR SK**



It is with regret that I report the passing of a fine amateur radio operator and gentleman, Cliff Buttschardt, K7RR.

Cliff passed away on Sunday July 30th at age 74.

Cliff always made the PRARC meetings much more interesting, informational, and entertaining with his passionate discussions of the CubeSat project, intrusion of WiFi operators into our 2.4 GHz band, and stories of working with students- something which he truly enjoyed.



I will remember Cliff for his technical excellence, willingness and ability to explain technical matters in understandable detail, and enthusiasm for learning new things.

-John W6HD

Cliff was always willing to step in and help on special projects. He was on the first field day I ever worked and he never turned me down on a request for help. This usually meant bringing equipment and his expertise to make it work. I liked Cliff as a personal friend and I will miss him. Bill Palmerston K6BWJ.

Well, I can say that Cliff went out of his way to cheerfully make new to the area (or new to the club) hams feel welcome and always remembered your name. A nice guy. Keith N5RA

Here are some pics of Cliff at Piedras Blancas lighthouse about 3 years ago. Use them as you wish.

John Byrne W6WJB / AAT9DI / AAM9TCS







### *Swap Shop*

**US Tower TX-455, 55 foot crank up**, side mounts have been welded to the bottom two levels, it comes complete with a new base, and all manuals. It was up for only six months and is on the ground in excellent condition, ready to go! \$1000 for it and someone will have to come and get it in Santa Barbara.

Andy W6AMS 805-898-2460

Bob Pattison W6RP would like to sell the following:  
Kenwood TS-940 in Mint Condition \$850.00 or Best Offer  
(No contact information was provided for Bob –ed)

## **Santa Barbara ARC Hamfest 2006**

Location: Elk's Lodge #613 at 150 N. Kellogg, Goleta  
Date: Sunday, August 13th starting at 8:30 a.m.

Each summer, the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club holds an annual Communications Fair and Hamfest.. This is an annual event that provides a day

of fun for the whole family - SBARC style. From the Delicious Barbecue served

HOT and the salads served COLD, from the fantastic prizes, games, demonstrations and flea market to the camaraderie and Eyeball QSOs, you are

sure to have a wonderful day. Come early and stay until it's all over.

For more information go to

<http://www.sbarc.org/annual/hamfest/index.html> ,

where you can download a hamfest flyer with directions and a ticket order form.

73, Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS, President SBARC

## CALENDAR

Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club 2006

### 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

29 Wildflower Bike Ride – Bill Palmerston

### May

1 7:30PM Club Meeting

? Armed Forces Day

TBA Wine Festival bike ride – Bill Sundius

TBA BBQ – Heilmann Regional Park, Atascadero

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

### June

5 7:30PM Club Meeting

23-25 Field Day

### July

10 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