

Amateur Gazette

Paso Robles  
Amateur Radio Club

# Paso Robles ARC

## W6LKF

### January 4th, 2010 Minutes

#### **Special Interest Dates:**

- Feb 8-12<sup>th</sup>  
School Club  
Roundup
- Feb 20<sup>th</sup>  
Annual Potluck  
Bethel Lutheran  
Church
- April 10th  
Annual Tailgate  
Breakfast
- April 24th  
Wildfire Century  
Bike Race –  
Creston
- May 1<sup>st</sup>  
AVIA Wildfire  
Triathlon
- May 8<sup>th</sup>  
Central Coast  
Double
- June 25-27<sup>th</sup>  
Field Day
- Jul 26<sup>th</sup>-Aug 4th  
Boy Scout  
Jamboree
- Oct 18-22<sup>nd</sup>  
School Club  
Roundup

**Ham Fests &  
Swap Meets**

**Call to Order** The meeting was called to order by President Mike Kelley K6AJ at 1915 hours. There were 22 members in attendance and introductions were completed. There was a motion to approve the minutes on the November meeting as listed in the Newsletter. Motion was approved.

**Treasurers Report** Ron Patterson W6FM reports there is \$3322.40 in the checking account and \$42.05 in petty cash. Dues are Due! \$20.00 per individual membership and \$30.00 for a family.

#### **Old Business**

Christmas Party – The PRARC Christmas party was held at the Paso Robles Country Club on December 5<sup>th</sup> and was attended by 30-40 members. A special thanks goes out to Jane Thornton, John Foster, Ron Patterson, Mary Mason and Sharon George for their efforts in putting this together. Hopefully I did not miss anyone.

Club Trailer- Motion to let John Foster N6FVY dispose of what is left of the club trailer. John has been storing at his place for the past few years. It worked well for the club for several years serving as station at Field Day and as a storage container for a lot of the club memorabilia. Motion approved.

#### **New Business**

Avery KD4GBA reports the North County ECC is alive and well and added he is now the President SLOECC. He also mentioned something also about making a mistake of coming late to a meeting. I am sure he will do a great job. The FEMA Drill was held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and everything went quite well. FEMA seemed to be impressed. Avery wanted to remind everyone of 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.

## **New Business cont.**

Avery also reported on the WinLink system that is up and running in the County. There are digapeaters all over the county and the server is located at the County EOC. With the WinLink system you can use your regular email and knowledge of Packet is not required. The system also allows you to send small attachments.

Winlink 2000 [www.winlink.org](http://www.winlink.org) is a worldwide system of volunteer resources supporting e-mail by radio, with non-commercial links to internet e-mail. These resources come from Amateur Radio, the Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS), and other volunteer organizations. The system provides valuable service to emergency communicators, and to licensed radio operators without access to the internet. The all-volunteer Winlink Development Team (WDT) is committed to continuous improvement using modern computer and networking technology with the most efficient and effective radio modes and digital protocols for local, regional and long-distance applications.

To use the Winlink 2000 system, you must hold an Amateur Radio license or be a member of a supported organization or agency. Use of the system and all software is free of charge for those who qualify.

Winlink 2000 is an all-volunteer, non-profit project of the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc. <http://www.arsfi.org> It functions only through your generous donations and the unselfish efforts of hundreds of Amateur Radio operators around the world. Please support WL2K with your tax-deductible donation. <http://www.arsfi.org/donate.aspx>.

John Dallons W6YDZ requested assistance in maintaining the 146.980 repeater in San Miguel. John wants to donate it to the club and asked that we maintain the upkeep which he described as "not much". There is likely a little technical work needed but Ron Patterson W6FM indicated this would not be a problem. Other than a bit of weed-wacking and a annual \$20.00 fee, not much else need to be done. Ron said he would coordinate the efforts along with Avery and Mike K6AJ. Motion to accept this generous gift was approved.

John has maintained the 146.980/146.880 machines for the last 30 years. It is located in San Miguel at 1800' and is solar powered. He originally had a repeater system set up in the Los Angeles area on Mt. Wilson. When John moved to the area he brought the system with him. Thanks again John for your efforts and donation.

W6PRB 147.060 PL 127.3 is now being maintained at the Thornton residence.

Meeting locations for 2010 – It seems our usual meeting location at Centennial Park is not available for February and March. Prez Mike has been in discussions with Ron Brooks W6QUI about changing our location to the Estrella War-Birds Museum if we can get approval. Further discussion is needed but it sounds like this could be an ideal location for our club meetings.

Prez Mike wanted to be sure our schedule of events for 2010 was covered so that was the next order of business.

February 8-12<sup>th</sup> School Club Roundup

February 20<sup>th</sup> is the tentative date for the annual Potluck at the Bethel Lutheran Church in Templeton. Bill Sundius AA6CT is in charge of this event and will confirm the date.

April 10<sup>th</sup> will be the annual Tailgate. The Masons have agreed to take on this event. Larry and Char Miller have always hosted this event but believe it is time to pass the torch. This has always been a well attended event by members. Thanks to the Millers for all their past efforts and the memories we will treasure. Thanks to the Masons for volunteering. Plenty of help will be available.

The annual bike races that the club has participated in the past begin in April.

April 24<sup>th</sup> Wildfire Century Ride in Creston

May 1<sup>st</sup> Triathlon

May 8<sup>th</sup> Central Coast Double

June 25-27<sup>th</sup> Field Day – Prez Mike has agreed to be Chairman this year but added he is good at delegation. It was agreed that the Templeton site would be used again and Mary has secured the W6R call.

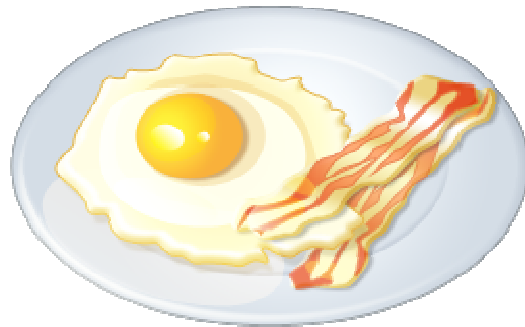
July 26-Aug 4<sup>th</sup> Boy Scout 100<sup>th</sup> Annual Jamboree – Virginia. I have included the requirements for the Radio Merit Badge in the Newsletter.



October 18-22<sup>nd</sup> School Club Roundup

Be sure and visit the club website at [www.pasoroblesarc.org](http://www.pasoroblesarc.org)

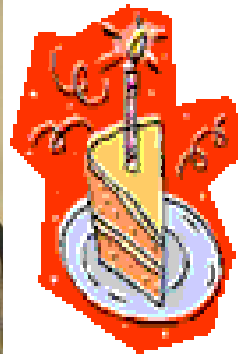
The weekly breakfasts are held every Sunday at Carrows Restaurant 7300 El Camino Real,



Atascadero, CA 8:30 am.

Happy Birthday

Harry Wolf W6NKT turns 101 on Jan 29<sup>th</sup>.





## President's Report

### The Prez Sez:

Happy New Year!

I was very pleased with the large turnout at January's meeting. Everyone had a lot of great ideas and I hope to continue the discussion in the coming months. As we discussed in the meeting, we are looking into changing our meeting place to the Estrella Warbirds Museum. I will let everyone know if this going to happen by the end of January.

This year is already shaping up to be an exciting year. We are looking at having our annual potluck at the Templeton Lutheran church in February. While Larry and Char Miller have officially retired as hosts of the tailgate breakfast, Evan and Mary Mason have volunteered to host the tailgate this year. Planning is in the works for April. Lots more on the year ahead in coming newsletters.

As I mentioned back in November, I have been slowly putting together a mobile station in my work truck. I started with a VHF FM rig and I am in the process of installing an HF rig as well. Back in December, I drove to Arizona for work and had plenty of time to play with the VHF FM. I monitored 146.520 simplex as I was not familiar with the repeaters along my route. I was excited to find quite a bit of activity on simplex in southern California. Try checking in on 146.520 while mobile, you never know how much activity you will raise. I am definitely looking forward to having HF mobile capabilities again. It is a great way to learn the characteristics of the HF bands throughout the day.

As always, if you need some help with an antenna project or station set up; don't be afraid to ask for help. The club membership includes a wide variety of expertise to draw from. Keep the bands alive, get on the air!

73,


Your Prez,

Mike Kelley, K6AJ



# Merry Christmas 2009



Radio Merit Badge			
	<b>Field of study:</b>	Hobbies	
	<b>Status:</b>	Elective	<b>BSA Advancement ID:</b> 093
	<b>Created:</b>	1923	<b>Requirements Revision:</b> 2009
	<b>Discontinued:</b>	N/A	<b>Pamphlet Revision:</b> 2008

### Requirements for the Radio merit badge:

1. Explain what radio is. Then discuss the following:
  - a. The differences between broadcast radio and hobby radio.
  - b. The differences between broadcasting and two-way communications.
  - c. Radio call signs and how they are used in broadcast radio and amateur radio
  - d. The phonetic alphabet and how it is used to communicate clearly.
2. Do the following:
  - a. Sketch a diagram showing how radio waves travel locally and around the world. Explain how the broadcast radio stations, WWV and WWVH can be used to help determine what you will hear when you listen to a shortwave radio?
  - b. Explain the difference between a DX and a local station. Discuss what the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) does and how it is different from the International Telecommunication Union.
3. Do the following:
  - a. Draw a chart of the electromagnetic spectrum covering 100 kilohertz (kHz) to 1000 megahertz (MHz).
  - b. Label the MF, HF, VHF, UHF, and microwave portions of the spectrum on your diagram.
  - c. Locate on your chart at least eight radio services such as AM and FM commercial broadcast, citizens band (CB), television, amateur radio (at least four amateur radio bands), and public service (police and fire).
4. Explain how radio waves carry information. Include in your explanation: transceiver, transmitter, amplifier, and antenna.
5. Do the following:
  - a. Explain the differences between a block diagram and a schematic diagram.
  - b. Draw a block diagram for a radio station that includes a transceiver, amplifier, microphone, antenna, and feed line.
  - c. Explain the differences between an open circuit a closed circuit, and a short circuit.
  - d. Draw eight schematic symbols. Explain what three of the represented parts do. Find three electrical components to match to three of these symbols.
6. Explain the safety precautions for working with radio gear, including the concept of grounding for direct current circuits, power outlets, and antenna systems.

7. Visit a radio installation (an amateur radio station, broadcast station, or public communications center, for example) approved in advance by your counselor. Discuss what types of equipment you saw in use, how it was used, what types of licenses are required to operate and maintain the equipment, and the purpose of the station.
8. Find out about three career opportunities in radio. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.
9. Do ONE of the following: (a OR b OR c )

a. AMATEUR RADIO

1. Tell why the FCC has an amateur radio service. Describe some of the activities that amateur radio operators can do on the air, once they have earned an amateur radio license.
2. Using proper call signs, Q signals, and abbreviations, carry on a 10 minute real or simulated radio contact using voice, Morse Code, or digital mode. (Licensed amateur radio operators may substitute five QSL cards as evidence of contacts with amateur radio operators from at least three different call districts.) Properly log the real or simulated ham radio contact and record the signal report.
3. Explain at least five Q signals or amateur radio terms you hear while listening.
4. Explain some of the differences between the Technician, General, and Extra Class license requirements and privileges. Explain who administers amateur radio exams.
5. Explain how you would make an emergency call on voice or Morse code.
6. Explain the differences between handheld transceivers and home "base" transceivers. Explain the uses of mobile amateur radio transceivers and amateur radio repeaters.

b. BROADCAST RADIO

1. Prepare a program schedule for radio station "KBSA" of exactly one-half hour, including music, news, commercials, and proper station identification. Record your program on audiotape or in a digital audio format using proper techniques.
2. Listen to and properly log 15 broadcast stations Determine the program format and target audience for five of these stations.
3. Explain at least eight terms used in commercial broadcasting, such as segue, cut, fade, continuity, remote, Emergency Alert System, network, cue, dead air, PSA, and playlist.

c. SHORTWAVE LISTENING

1. Listen across several shortwave bands for four one-hour periods - at least one period during daylight hours and at least one period at night. Log the stations properly and locate them geographically on a globe.
2. For several major foreign stations (BBC in Great Britain or HCJB in Ecuador, for example), list several frequency bands used by each.
3. Compare your daytime and nighttime logs ; note the frequencies on which your selected stations were loudest during each session. Explain the differences in the signal strength from one period to the next.



**Larry Miller W7CB** was asked to share one of his favorite moments when he first became involved with ham radio.

“I went through this thought process and recalled how my first transmitter came to be and how I am eternally grateful to a senior ham for assisting me and my friend getting on the air.

If you were alive in 1947 you can recall the general atmosphere of the United States. Things were pretty good for the working class. The war was over and the GI's were going to school on the GI bill new homes were being built at a record pace, jobs that were terminated during the war were coming back. And ham radio was back on the air.

In Long Beach, Ca. there was a bunch of kids that were rather poor but we all had an interest in radio. Since citizen band had yet to be popularized, we all turned to ham radio. We studied the code and the ARRL handbook to prepare for the FCC exams on the 17<sup>th</sup> floor of the federal building in down town Los Angeles. Three of the group went down in April of 1947. Six weeks later all three received their calls W6ZRY, W6ZGM and W6ZPE. In August of 1947 I felt I was ready along with three others of the group. Six weeks later I received W6ANB.

During the six weeks we waited to see if we had passed the exam we had to decide how we were going to get on the air. That is if we passed the exam.

Back to the old 1943 ARRL Handbook. There were some exotic transmitters described in that handbook but the one that caught my eye was the single 6L6 tri-tet oscillator-transmitter that had an output of 9 watts. Built on a breadboard it seemed easy to put together. W6ZRY and myself rode our bikes down to the Good Will store on Alamitos and Anaheim in Long Beach and for fifty cents earned from our paper routes we each bought an old radio. A wealth of parts, sockets, a 6V6 tube (a good substitute for a 6L6), a power transformer, filter caps (they were all bad), resistors and bypass caps and even a variable capacitor. The only parts the old radio did not have were the RF chokes and the Crystal. The RF chokes were no problem because they only cost twenty cents at Scott Radio Supply. The crystal was a problem because they cost four dollars.

Four dollars was the total amount we earned for a month of delivering papers.

But we went ahead anyway and put together the little transmitter.

Larry Lynde, (W6UG) owned a small war surplus electronic store on 10<sup>th</sup> and Pine in Long Beach and W6ZRY and I used to spend almost every Saturday morning going down to Larry Lynde's and drool over the war surplus transmitters. Keep in mind that we had finished our transmitters. Also, my license arrived from the FCC Early in September. But we were not on the air because we did not have a crystal for the little rig. On one Saturday morning while we were in Larry's store he came up to us and said, "would you guys like to have a crystal in the 40 meter band"?.

It seems that he had bought a truck load of surplus and in the load was a bunch of the crystal packs that came with the BC-375- jeep transmitters. He had hundreds of crystals ranging from 6500 Kc. To 7500Kc. After subduing our surprise we both were allowed select a crystal. I picked 7040.

What an exciting moment. We both peddled home and believe it or not when we keyed down the little 6V6 rigs and dipped the tuning condenser the little 47 bulb we used for a tuning indicator glowed. Another exciting moment.

We then installed 66 feet of wire from the top of a tree to the peak of the house, just like the handbook said. We called CQ for about a week before we received an answer. Los Angeles was my first DX and my first QSO in September of 1947.

There have been many exciting moments since that September in 1947 but none can compare to building that little 6L6 transmitter and getting on the air.”

**By: Larry Miller-W7CB ex W6ANB**

I am sure you have an exciting moment with Ham Radio. How about sharing it with us for the next Newsletter?

*Respectively Submitted,*  
Jeff Joynt N6BST