



Amateur Gazette

Paso Robles
Amateur Radio Club

Paso Robles ARC

W6LKF

July 6th , 2009 Minutes

Special Interest Dates:

- Southwestern
Division
Convention
Santa Barbara
ARC
August 15-16th

- Fresno ARC
66th Annual
Hamfest
Oct 17th

Ham Fests & Swap Meets

De Anza College
Ham Swap
2nd Saturday of
each month
Cupertino

TRW Swap Meet
Last Saturday of
each month.
Los Angeles

Call to Order The meeting was called to order at 1915 hours by President, Mike Kelley K6AJ. Introductions were completed with a total of 13 members present.

Treasurers Report. Ron Patterson W6FM reports we have \$3707.46 in our Checking Account and \$42.05 petty cash before field day receipts are turned in.

Field Day Report President Mike Kelley reported the generator used 13.4 gallons of diesel. This is a 25kw generator and it ran for about 30 total hours. This generator is donated to the club each year by Quinn Rentals in Paso Robles. Stop by and tell them thanks.

We discussed the idea of spacing out the antennas to eliminate in band problems. It was suggested filters could be used to correct the problem. The concern was operating CW and Voice on the same band at the same time. W6FM Ron has military grade mast that will support any antenna. The suggestion was to include a verticle dipole on this mast next year for the GOTA station. There was also discussion to purchase a verticle dipole. Two other club antennas need parts replaced. The mounting plates are missing for two of the beams.

The discussion included the need to schedule operators throughout the 24 hours period. This has been done in the past when we had more members participating in Field Day. It seemed to work well without it this year. If we had more members participating we could include other bands like 6 meters.

The operating conditions were good this year with lots of contacts. Preparation for next year needs to include the requirements to get each station up and operating. We need to have a check list that includes all bonus points and a designation as to who is responsible for each. We did not get W1AW message. Mike suggested putting together a Field Day Manual that could be presented to the Field Day Chairman each year to assist him and getting everything done. It was a great weekend and a good time was had by all. Thanks Mike for the great BBQ.

Thanks to Mary W6ROX we have W6R reserved Field Day 2010.

Boy Scouts, Youth Groups and 4H. There was a good discussion about the club becoming involved with these groups and introducing them to Ham Radio. We are still involved in the School Club Roundup each year but there may be more opportunities. John N6FVY made several suggestions participation on the Boy Scout Jamboree.

Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA)

What is JOTA?

When Scouts want to meet young people from another country, they usually think of attending a World Jamboree. But few people realize that each year more than 400,000 Scouts and Guides "get together" over the airwaves for the annual Jamboree-on-the-Air (JOTA). Modern technology offers Scouts the exciting opportunity to make friends in other countries without leaving home.

JOTA is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. Scouting experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared via radio waves. Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-on-the-Air was held, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years.

With no restrictions on age or on the number of participants, and at little or no expense, JOTA allows Scouts to contact each other by ham radio. The radio stations are operated by licensed amateur radio operators. Many Scouts and leaders hold licenses and have their own stations, but the majority participate in JOTA through stations operated by local radio clubs and individual radio amateurs. Some operators use television or computer-linked communications.

When

JOTA is held the third weekend in October of each year. JOTA takes place starting Saturday at 0000 hours local time (12:00 AM) to Sunday, 23.59 hours local time (12:00 PM), though some activity continues over from Friday to Monday to take advantage of long distance (DX) time differences.

How Do We Take Part?

First, contact a local Amateur Radio operator or club to ask for assistance. If you need help finding a club in your area check the [ARRL Affiliated Club Search](#) page. The FCC's list of amateurs and clubs in your area (enter your zip code only) can be found [here](#). Radio amateurs are enthusiastic about their hobby and most will be willing to help you participate in JOTA. The radio operator may suggest that the Scouts visit his/her station or that the operator bring equipment to your local campsite. Often, JOTA stations are set up in unusual locations, such as the top of a mountain, or on a boat.

Final Discussion

There was discussion as to why Ham Radio is viewed differently throughout the world. One thought is that in Europe Amateur Radio is a symbol that you are an open country and is considered to be a "sport" through contesting. In the US it is considered a nuisance in places and this is proved through the numerous city ordinances in place to keep us out. Ham Radio gets a bad rap. Did you know that Amateur Radio is the backup communication system for Homeland Security? Did you think that Morse Code is a dying mode? Maybe here but not in other countries. You never know when it could come in handy. Try this link for practice; <http://aa9pw.com/morsecode/>. You can also get an App for your iPhone or iPod Touch.



President's Report

The Prez Sez:

Field Day 2009 has come and gone and I find myself looking forward to Field Day 2010. I would like to thank everyone who pitched in to make Field Day 2009 a success. Once again, the Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club set up competitive Field Day stations and kept them operating for most of the full 24 hours, running on portable power.

Attendance this year was lower than past years but we were still able to rack up an impressive score.

Amateur Radio clubs the world over are always looking for new ways to increase interest in Ham radio. A club in Finland, known as Radio Arcala, <http://www.radioarcala.com/> is implementing a unique approach as defined in their mission statement.

“Providing an alternative way to promote amateur radio activity among young people by launching a team of skillful participants targeting and conducting competitive activities at extreme level as their way of self-education and self-satisfaction to boost interest among those who seek and value competitive amateur radio as an option.

I think the old adage “you can lead a horse to water but you can’t make him drink” applies to this situation. Several ideas to build interest in Ham radio were discussed at the July meeting. Getting out into the community and getting exposure as amateur radio operators, I believe, would be a great way to find those people interested in amateur radio. I have personally met many people who are interested in amateur radio but did not know how to pursue a license. I was one of those people who just needed an Elmer to guide me through the process, when I was originally licensed. I would like to continue the discussion about setting up a public exposure task force that could set up a display and station at public events. Any ideas are welcome!

As always, I am still looking for meeting ideas and speakers. If you have an idea, please let me know.

73,
Your Prez,
Mike Kelley, K6AJ



Templeton "Old Practice Field"



Dave Bower, Ron W6FM and Mary W6ROX



Ready to go



Field Day Information Station Jeff N6BST



Licensing Exams



John KG6NXX creating a pile up



Break time and getting ready for dinner



Mr. BBQ Mike K6AJ



Let's eat!



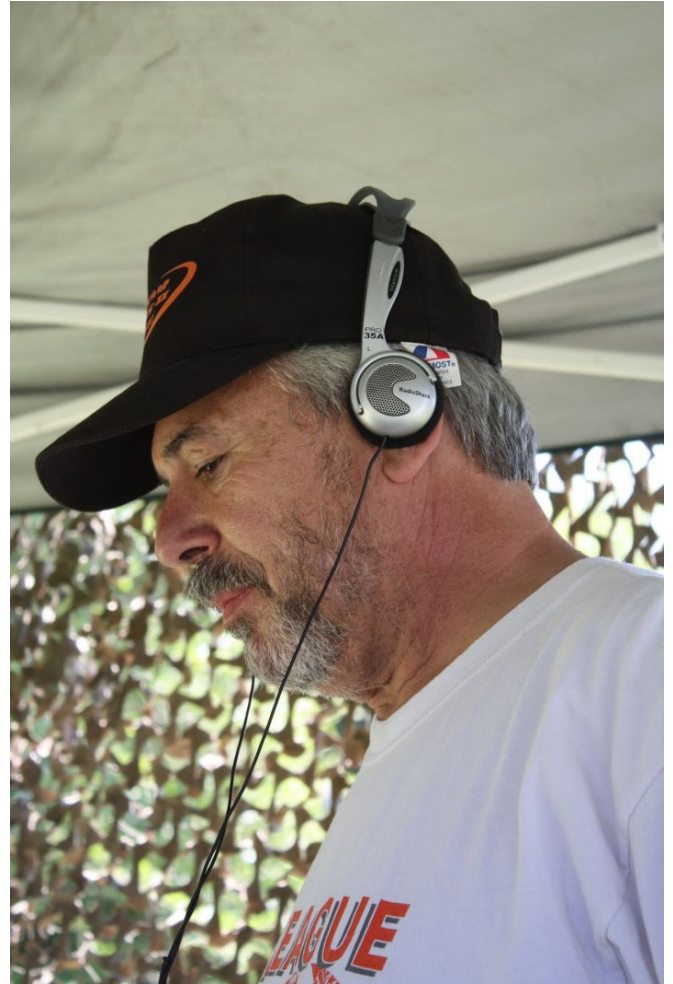
GOTA Station



Larry W7CB



I am sure there was an easier way to do this



Joel AD6KH



GOTA station operated by Mary W6ROX and a future Ham



Do-it-Yourself Ham Radio



Respectively Submitted,
Jeff Joynt N6BST