



Amateur Gazette

Paso Robles
Amateur Radio Club

W6LKF

www.pasoroblesarc.org

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

June 2006

President: Bill McFarlen, WA5VGI
Vice President: Mike Barry, AE6FL
Secretary: Greg Porter, N6MOQ
Treasurer: Jane Thornton, KF6QHP
Newsletter: John Thornton, W6HD
Webmaster: Ron Patterson W6FM

- **Meeting Notice**
- **President's Corner**
- **Meeting Minutes**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Amateur Radio Towers in SLO County**
- **Calendar of Events 2006**

PRARC

Next Meeting: June 5, 2006 - Centennial Park, 600
Nickerson Drive, Paso Robles 7:30 PM

FIELD DAY!!!

June 23-25

**Paso Robles Event Center (Mid State
Fairgrounds)**

Set-up begins Friday at about Noon.

[ARRL Field Day](#)

[ARRL June VHF QSO Party](#)

1800Z June 10-0300Z June 12 (see May *QST*, p 104).

Santa Maria Radio Swapfest
Satellite ARC

<http://www.SatelliteARC.com>

Saturday, June 17th
Talk-In: 147.300+ (PL 131.8)

President's Corner:

Last month I was complaining about the rain. Well that sure changed. It looks like spring was around 1-2 days long and now we are into summer. Anyhow it is nice to be able to work outside again. And work it has been. The winter rains created weeds that a week or two ago had reached 4 - 5 feet in height in places. That makes weed cutting a lot more work but we have the property pretty well cleared except for some steep hillsides where the weeds were still green. Those will be cut down in the next week or two.

Normally as a DX'er I would have some exotic DX to report. But unfortunately between weed cutting and finishing a guest bathroom remodel I have had little time to explore the bands. But when I do get on there is no doubt we are at or very close to the bottom of the current sun spot cycle. If the "k" index is low (1 or 2) there is a short path opening into eastern Europe and Russia in our evenings. Also an Asian path in our early mornings. But good openings are scarce. I spent a few hours in the CQ WPX CW contest but activity was down and except for a few loud stations the Europeans were not very strong on the short path. But I did manage to put a few new prefixes in the log book.

Don't forget that this month is the ARRL Field Day and we will again be at the Paso Fair Grounds for the weekend of June 24-25, set-up beginning Friday, June 23rd at about noon. Thanks are due to Larry, W7CB, for taking the helm and again organizing our club Field Day activity. Remember that we will be setting up antennas and stations on Friday afternoon and can always use some extra help. Should be another fun weekend.

As a side note The Satellite Amateur Radio Club is holding it's annual swap meet in Santa Maria on June 17. Good time to haul down that equipment, parts, gear, that you are not using and covert it into good old USA dollars. Info is available on their web site (www.SatelliteARC.com).

This will be my last column as your acting president for the past 6 months. I am hoping someone will step up to the helm and take over for the rest of the year. It is easy to be a strap hanger but we need folks to take up a leadership position if this club is to continue on with its past fine tradition. It would be very sad to see this club fade away due to lack of leadership. I believe that we have too many good members to let this happen.

Thanks for letting me sit up front for the past 6 months. It has been an honor to represent this fine amateur radio club. See you all on Field Day. A great chance for everyone to get radio active.

73/88, Bill - WA5VGI
Acting President, PRARC



Thanks to Bill, WA5VGI for acting as PRARC President for the first six months of this year. As you know, Bill has previously served multiple terms as president and always brings a level of excitement and enthusiasm to the club that is very well received. Thanks Bill !!

May Meeting Minutes

May 1, 2006, 7:30 PM

Minutes of the Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club

The president opened the meeting at 7:30 PM, 20 present.

We discussed upcoming events. Usually the club hosts a BBQ in May as a fundraiser for Field Day in June. The last few BBQ's have been sparsely attended and not been moneymakers. The treasurer stated that we had sufficient funds to pay for Field Day as of now. The club voted to cancel this year's BBQ in May, and tabled further discussion of whether we should permanently cancel the May BBQ.

The next PG&E Siren test is scheduled for Aug 19, 2006. In times past we have assisted them, and PG&E paid the club a small fee for helping. As of yet, we have yet to receive last year's payment. (This just in- they paid! –ed) It apparently has gotten lost in the vast PG&E bureaucracy, but club members have been actively pursuing it.

The club's Fish Fry is scheduled for Saturday, Sep 16, 2006. More to follow...

Field Day preparations are proceeding. Larry, W7CB is the head honcho for the Field Day activities. We are going to occupy our Field Day site at the Paso Robles Fairground from early afternoon Friday, 23 June 2006 until about lunchtime, Sunday June 25, 2006. The fairground is reserved and paid for. We received our traditional special event call sign of W6T. The club discussed other preparations at length.

In Feb 2006, the club made a donation to Handi-Ham, a non-profit organization that helps disabled people be amateur radio operators. They were kind enough to send the club a very kind thank you letter that was read at the meeting.

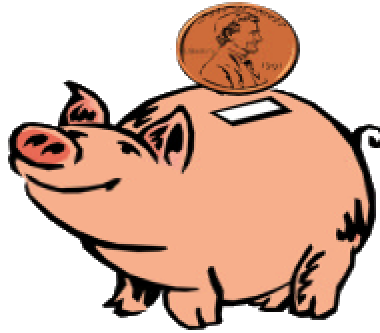
The local horse and animal evacuation team asked for hams to volunteer to help with communications in the event of a large wild land fire or other disaster. Please contact Carolyn Sokol at 466-7402 if you want to help.

Hams that helped with communications at the recent Wildflower Triathlon reported that there were 15 hams volunteers that helped – a very strong showing – and that the event organizers expressed a lot of appreciation for our efforts. Note that this race is relatively long, and conducted over rural rugged terrain not well served by repeaters, so in some cases event communications were only possible by using mobile HF rigs.

Tom N6BT (well known DXer and owner of renowned antenna company Force 12) , entertained us with a presentation about the trials and tribulations of making a portable high power (10KW) AM broadcast antenna for use on 936 KHz in Afghanistan.

Submitted respectfully,
Greg Porter, N6MOQ, secretary.

Treasurer's Report



Jane KF6QHP

We received more than \$500 from PG&E for our volunteer contribution of time for the PG&E siren test! The treasury has \$879.75 without the PG&E contribution.

Amateur Radio Towers in SLO County

I wanted to share a positive experience that I had at the SLO County Planning and Building Department with respect to installation of an amateur radio tower.

Jane and I currently have three Rohn 55 towers that we installed back in 2000 that have all sorts of Force 12 antennas on them from 80 m to 6 m.

We live in unincorporated SLO County, so the jurisdiction for building permits and zoning regulations is SLO County. At that time, I received an over-the-counter building permit for the towers for a cost of \$73. (Nice number).

A month ago, Larry W7CB offered me the remainder of his Rohn 45 tower, and being the infrastructure builder that I am, I drove out and loaded up!

This week, I prepared the application for permit, drove to SLO and purchased the permit. This time it was \$144 but still a simple process.

I am very familiar with the SLO County ordinance relating to installation of towers and would be happy to assist anyone in the permit process in the County jurisdiction. It is a small matter to permit a 50' amateur radio tower!

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

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

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