



---

# *HAMateur Gazette*

The Newsletter of The  
Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club

## **W6LKF**

Meeting Date: First Monday Each Month

Email: [prarc@mindspring.com](mailto:prarc@mindspring.com)

May 5, 2002

**Volume I, No.4**

---

**Next Meeting: May 6th, 2002 Centennial Park, Paso Robles 7:30 PM**

**President: Bill Mcfarlen, WA5VGI**

**Vice President: Tim Haueter, W6NS**

**Secretary: Mike Kelley, K6AJ**

**Treasurer: Bill Palmertson, K6BWJ**

---

**Editor's note: I apologize for the abbreviated newsletter. My computer is severely wounded and I have a new one on the way! -Mike**

- The Newsletter is also available online at:
- <http://force12inc.com/F12-CLUB-PRARC.htm>
- Tom Schiller has graciously spared some space on his Force 12 site. He has also listed several club newsletters from other clubs at this link : <http://force12inc.com/F12-NEWS-CLUBS.htm>

- **PRARC Meeting - Monday, May 06, 2002:**

The highlight of the next PRARC meeting will be a video entitled VK0IR Heard Island - Outpost at the Edge! "Heard Island is one of the Earth's most pristine and isolated natural wildernesses, and one of the few places on the planet completely free from any human introduced species. Its remote, inhospitable, and almost as far from civilization as is possible. This documentary traces the early nineteenth century American sealing history through the Australian occupation in the 1950's and finally to the famous 1997 amateur radio DXpedition - VK0IR". This video is high quality and in Stereo Hi Fi.

We will also be finalizing the plans for the barbecue to be held May 19th at the park in San Miguel.

See you all on May 6th.

73, Bill McFarlen

President, PRARC

**PRARC Ladies Lunch - Saturday, June 01, 2002:**

Ladies Lunch will be held at Jane Thornton's house on Saturday, June 1st at 12:00 PM. Date changed from May 18. Please bring a salad.

**Driving directions: 1512 Peachy Canyon Road, Paso Robles. From Spring Street, take 6th St. west and follow the dog-leg turn at Olive which turns into Pacific, still heading west. Pacific turns into Peachy Canyon Road. Our entry gate is about 1 mile out, on the right (orange gate). Drive up this road about 1/2 mile, staying right at the "Y". You wil see the pine trees and antennas!!**

**Telephone: (805)-226-9990.**

**Thanks,**

**Jane**

**P.S. For those who have not had an opportunity to visit the Thornton home you will be in for a treat as they have one of the best views in the county.**

**Bill - WA5VGI**

- **The President's Corner by Bill Mcfarlen, WA5VGI**

**Just a couple of comments. First it has been great working with fellow club members these past few months. I am still getting to know some of you and welcome the times when we can have an opportunity to chat.**

**A special Thank You to Sharon George, KE6ODF who was able to arrange getting the park at San Miguel reserved for the May 19th club barbecue. We didn't have a barbecue last year and I look forward to again having the barbecue at its old location. We plan to start serving at around 11:00 AM but of course come early. I offered to help with the cooking so please stop by and annoy the cook. Also, John, W6KFV has volunteered to be available to check QSL cards for both DXCC awards and also WAZ awards. If you have any interest in doing this at the barbecue please contact John at 929-6694 or myself at 466-0372. This is a great opportunity for first time applicants as well as those who might want to update their records.**

**Club Dues. We are falling behind in collecting the club dues for this year. We all know that we get a big bang for the buck with our PRARC club dues so PLEASE get your check or cash into Bill, K6BWJ.**

**A major goal of mine is to make the monthly club meetings interesting. Hence the videos. I also plan to have Tim, N6WS talk about his experiences on 6 meters and Tom, N6BT talk about their world record breaking QRP contesting down in Jamaica (6Y). If you have a topic you would like discussed at a club meeting or know of an interesting speaker please contact me.**

**Looking forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting.**

**73, Bill - WA5VGI**

**President, PRARC**

## **DX News:**

**Another great month for DX'ers. Two major DXpeditions took place: one from the country of Laos with the call XW1HS and the other from a remote Australian reef called Melish Reef using the call VK9ML. While Laos isn't considered a rare country it has very few licensed operators and getting a QSL card from this country has become a nightmare. One of the regular operators there, XW0X, has his mail opened and stolen on a regular basis. The beauty of the DXpedition to Laos was that the operation was put together by amateurs from Thailand and the QSL manager is also in Thailand (E21HIC). Getting a QSL card from there is not the problem that it is from Laos. The XW1HS operation was active on all 9 bands from 160 to 10 meters. I caught them on 8 of those bands but was never able to hear or work them on 160 meters.**

**Mellish Reef is considered a semi-rare country (separate DXCC entity) and had not been on the air for several years. This expedition was comprised of experienced operators and was also active on all 9 bands. Eight of those bands were not too difficult to achieve a QSO but making a 160 meter contact took several tries and was managed finally on very heavy rising and falling QSB under very weak signal conditions. This means trying to time your call on a rising signal strength and hoping that his signal will also return on a rising signal which of course doesn't always happen. Finally on the the third night of trying he got my call after 4 exchanges. This is why you don't see a lot of DXpedition operators fighting over the 160 meter position!!**

**Mid April was struck with several solar storms with "k" indices as high as 5 and "A" indices in the 30's. This took a toll on the HF bands but did make some of the 6 meter operators happy. Maybe Tim, N6NS can give us a separate report at our meeting.**

**Nevertheless there was some good DX on the bands to be worked and A61AJ, P5/4L4FN (North Korea - 15 meter SSB), 9L1JT, 5N1BHF, YI9OM (Iraq - 17 meter CW), A25/G3HCT and ET3PMW made it into my log this month. These countries represented new band/modes.**

**On a good note the ARRL approved the P5/4L4FN operation for SSB operation and QSL cards should be coming out next month to those who worked Ed in North Korea. North Korea is still listed as the #1 most wanted country on the DXCC list.**

**Well that about wraps it up. I will be going to DX Convention in Visalia at the end of this month to rub elbows with well known DX'ers, swap tales, and see old friends who enjoy this hobby.**

**73, Bill - WA5VGI**

---