



# Amateur Gazette

## Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club

Meeting Date: First Monday of the month (Except December)  
7:00 P. M. Centennial Park, Paso Robles

Newsletter Submissions to: [KI6DWP@yahoo.com](mailto:KI6DWP@yahoo.com)

Next Meeting: June 2, 2008

May 2008

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## **President's Corner**

Sorry I missed the meeting and for the matter the Tailgate Breakfast too. I kind of thought I was retired but I guess not. I suspect all had a good time. Just to update everyone, I have a new call. I have been doing a bit more DX lately and I got tired of trying to explain to everyone my K3COP and the fact I was not living in the East. I did not get my first choice on a Vanity Call but was happy with N6BST. My wife figured I got it because "N" is for her name Nancy and she is the best. I told her that is exactly why I got it.

Since this is the President's message I figure I can address about anything I want. I mentioned last month I was buying a new 6-Meter rig. Well it's not new but rather new to me. I bought an Azden PCS-7500H 50 watt mobile. It is a few years old but looks and works great. There is a great repeater system in the southern part of the state and the link I have been hitting is on Frazier Peak in Gorman. It sits about 8,000 feet in the air. According to Dan N6BKL there are at least 4-5 other in the same system and all on 6-Meters. It is supposed to have coverage from San Diego to the Central Valley and the coast. When the "magic band" opens, I'll be ready.

73 Jeff N6BST

## **Meeting Formality and Fun**

The May monthly meeting of the PRARC was informally called to order sometime after 7:00 P.M. In the absence of Jeff, the pre-meeting conversation kind of evolved into an informal meeting. There were 8 members and guests in attendance. We kind of skipped approving the minutes of the March and April meetings, so we will have to address that next month.

## **Program**

Tom talked about his experience on the "ABC" island group and other items of interest including contesting issues. Aruba is essentially a desert island, with a fairly constant and substantial wind. His group took down three towers that had been up for about 14 years (in a salt water environment) and replaced them with towers about 10 taller. Then they put them to work. Additionally he talked about 160m contesting and how he set a record (one of many he has set). He also talked about working from the Caribbean and compared that setting to working right off South America. The rest of the time was a free flowing conversation about contesting and related issues that was enjoyed by all in attendance.

One item that came out of the discussion was a suggestion that the club consider doing some kind of DXpedition experience, and although exotic locations would be interesting, it would not have to be that ambitious.

## **Announcements**

Mary noted that there still is no word on the School Roundup results. It is quite disheartening for the students as they will at least be out of school, if not in another school before the results get posted. The delay in getting “a grade” for their efforts rather takes some of the luster of competing in the event.

## **Treasurer’s Report**

The treasurer was absent so there was no report on the status of the treasury.

## **Old Business/Recent Events**

There was no old business. There was no report of the Tailgate party. Members did participate in either the Wildflower Century ride or the Wildflower Triathlon, held on the last two consecutive weekends.

## **New Business/Events/Activities**

### **Field Day**

In the absence of Larry there was no current report on preparation for Field Day. Everyone with assignments need to continue to work on their preparations. There is a need for one to two more VE’s to be available during Field Day as a testing session is scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup> at 1PM. In the absence of a formal agenda relative to Field Day, there was (are you surprised) some conversation about food.

## **Odds and Ends**

### **News from other clubs**

No news from other clubs.

### **Buy/Sell/Trade/Repair**

No current requests to acquire, dispose, or repair any “stuff”.

FYI

### **Armed Forces Day**

Although May 17<sup>th</sup> is set as Armed Forces Day, May 10<sup>th</sup> is the day set for the Armed Forces Day Military/Amateur Cross Band Communication Test. For more information on this test and how to participate view the MARS web page at [www.netcom.army.mil/MARS](http://www.netcom.army.mil/MARS)

### **Noted Local Author**

The latest issue of QST has an article written by Milton Davis AI6MD which explains how he integrated his mobile rig into his Mini Cooper. He had several criteria including hands free operation, clean installation, APRS messaging, smart APRS beaconing, single antenna, no hole installation, a safe install, and a rig in a portable package so full storage area could be accessed if needed. He was able to use buttons on the steering wheel for some of the needed controls. With some ingenious solutions, he was able to achieve his goal. It's a nice install and a nice article.

### **Newest Tribune Level Member**

This announcement was received from the Straight Key Century Club:

“Congratulations to: **Rich Smith, AB6TY, SKCC #2743T, our One-Hundred-Sixth Tribune !** Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Gather 'round and pay heed to the news of this day! Let there be revelry & celebration for yet another Centurion has advanced to the Tribune level of SKCC achievement !!!

**Rich Smith, AB6TY, SKCC #2743C, of Paso Robles, CA,** is the **ONE-HUNDRED-SIXTH** SKCC member to achieve the coveted 2nd generation SKCC Number achievement known far and wide as the Tribune Award.

The SKCC Tribune Award was approved in mid-February 2007 with an effective starting date of 1 March 2007. The Tribune Award is earned by SKCC Centurions who work 50 other Centurions and Tribunes. **Rich** submitted his log & application to the Tribune Administrator on **24 April 2008**. The Tribune Award Analysis Team performed an exhaustive review of his log. The process confirmed that all of the 50 required contacts had indeed been made with established SKCC Centurions or Tribunes subsequent to his Centurion Award date of **26 April 2007**.

Having submitted a log and sworn statement, both of which have survived the intense scrutiny of the Tribune Administrator, **Rich, AB6TY,** is duly proclaimed to be SKCC Tribune Number **106**.

This SKCC Member shall, from this day forward, proclaim to all that his SKCC Number ends with T. He shall enjoy all the honor and privilege that appertains thereto and all shall accord this operator the esteem and respect appropriate to his achievements.

The Master Tribune List has been duly scribed as have the SKCC Centurion & Tribune Database Lists in the Yahoo! group where all SKCC Members may reflect upon and pay tribute to this momentous achievement.”

### **Unusual Keys**

Speaking of keys, did you happen to see the article in the latest issue of World Radio? They had an article on “Strange, Weird, and Wonderful Keys”. The North American QRP CW club has monthly “sprints” each with a theme. Last November the theme was homebrew keys. Some of the more novel designs were based on things such as a paper clip, a hacksaw blade, wooden paint stirrer, or a breath mint tin. The cover photo showed one clever soul who glued copper strips to two rubber “finger cots” and used them like finger cymbals.

### **Silent Key**

The recent issue of QST noted the passing of Rod Dinkins AC6V. Rod was an author and developer of a very popular website [www.ac6v.com](http://www.ac6v.com) . His son Jeff plans to get his license and apply for his father's call sign, as well as to keep the web site “alive”. Rod lived in Oceanside, CA.

A recent issue of the ARRL Letter noted the passing of L. B. Cebik, W4RNL. He was a life member of ARRL and a technical advisor to the League. He was a noted author and an expert on antennas. He lived in Knoxville, TN. He has served in the Air Force and was Professor Emeritus in philosophy at the University of Tennessee. He maintained a web site at [www.cebik.com](http://www.cebik.com) .

### **Tips for the new hams**

If you have ever wondered about some of the odd sounds that may be coming out of your radio, it may be from some of the digital modes. To help identify some of those, you may want to check out the audio files at [www.bartq.org.uk/Sound%20Files/soundlibrary.htm](http://www.bartq.org.uk/Sound%20Files/soundlibrary.htm).

### **Bad day in the shack**

If you want to see the evidence of some of the things that can go wrong during the testing of equipment, or perhaps just plain bad planning, check out the photos of accidental destruction at [www.microwaves101.com/content.microwavemortuar.cfm](http://www.microwaves101.com/content.microwavemortuar.cfm).

## **Kits for Software Defined Radio**

Rich AB6TY forwarded a copy of the newsletter of the Straight Key Century Club. It had one article written about very inexpensive kits for building a SDR. The author describes his experience building a single band receiver first (for \$10) and then a single band transceiver (for \$28). Although surface mount projects are more difficult to manage, he suggests using Solder Paste which is flux and powdered solder and is activated using hot air. The article is very interesting and for those who want to invest only a little money finding out what software defined radio is all about it gives some good advice. Ask Rich to share the article. More information about the "SoftRock" kits can be found at the AMQRP.org web site, <http://amqrp.org/kits/softrock40/#Kit%20Assembly%20Service>, and the SoftRock40 Yahoo Groups site, <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/softrock40>