



# *Amateur Gazette*

The Newsletter of The  
Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club

**W6LKF**

Meeting Date: First Monday each month (except December)

Submissions and email updates to: [jjt@tcsn.net](mailto:jjt@tcsn.net)

**June 2004**

Volume III, No. 6

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**President: Roland Hinkle, WB6EZH**  
**Vice President: Mike Barry, AE6FL**  
**Secretary: Evan Mason, N6BXL**  
**Treasurer: Jane Thornton, KF6QHP**  
**Newsletter: John Thornton, WM6R**

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- **Meeting Notice**
- **Presidential Ramblings**
- **Meeting Minutes**
- **Editor's Note – A 1913 Wireless Hero**
- **Calendar of Events 2004**

Next Meeting: June 7, 2004 - Centennial Park, 600  
Nickerson Drive, Paso Robles 7:30 PM

## **Ladies Luncheon at Radio Ranch**

**Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> – Noon**

New driveway at 1190 Peachy Canyon Rd

Take Peachy Canyon, right at first driveway (1190, etc.),  
follow driveway up the hill to the left.

Jane Thornton - RSVP 226-9990

### **Presidential Ramblings**

The May BBQ at Heilman Park was well attended – 27 members and guests by my count. The weather was great and the facilities there seem to work out well. Sharon KE6ODF deserves our thanks for putting it together this year. A pleasant surprise was to see Super-Chef Bob K6DXU there looking unphased (rather than out of phase) from his recent surgery. As expected, no one could keep him away from the BBQ pit. Bill WA5VGI has stepped up to the plate as the club's official stand-in cook during Bob's recovery. Its good to have depth on the bench! Bill certainly deserves to be recognized for his efforts at the BBQ and, of course, his new DXCC certificate for 160 meters which we all heard about. As always, thanks to all who brought the great dishes and chipped in with the chores for another fun club event.

Our June event is, of course, field day which Dave WA6TYJ is chairing for us this year. At last report, Dave was well along on arrangements. The June meeting will be our last before the "big event". Dave should have opportunities left for those who can contribute, so come to the meeting and volunteer!

Another good reason to come to the meeting is to discuss and hopefully decide on the Christmas Party location. Mike AE6FL has some new info for us on options.

The June meeting is on the 7th. I hope to see you there. At press time, the presentation topic was not available.

73 de Roland, WB6EZH

Field Day 2004 !!!  
Mid-State Fairgrounds in Paso Robles  
June 25-27  
*“Be there, or be square!”*

**Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club**  
**Meeting Minutes April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2004**

The meeting was called to order by President Roland Hinkle WB6EZH at exactly 7:30 P.M.

Introductions were made of all 23 folks in attendance.

**Announcements:**

Bill, WA5VGI once again cleaned out some dark recess and brought a pile of old magazines to give away. Also Bill Russell left a box of misc. treasures for the taking.

Club BBQ at Heilman Park in Atascadero on 5-23 Sunday. Eating will commence at the noon hour in the Blue Oak area. Please bring a salad or desert or side dish. A spontaneous medical report erupted from the crowd...Culinary expert and grillman Bob, K6DXU had heart surgery, a valve job. He will miss the BBQ and Field Day but has reportedly been seen walking Main Street in Templeton for exercise. We wish him an 80 wpm recovery!

Wine Festival Bike Ride has been cancelled.

Visailia DX Convention Report. Bill, WA5VGI reported that the convention was a great time. There were 600-700 folks involved (Pile-up?) starting Friday night. Saturday was devoted to DX seminars and a fantastic display room. Saturday morning also featured vendor showcases where the unwashed masses were allowed to ask the vendors questions. Next week is the Dayton Convention

***Minutes of Last Meeting***

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

## ***Treasurer's Report***

The Treasurer's Report was approved as mailed. The tailgate netted \$168 and the current balance in the club coffers is \$1,950 (ahead of last year, let that be a lesson to all the slackers in Sacramento!).

## ***Field Day 2004***

Field Day is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup>. We will start set-up on Friday at noon.

Here is how it is shaping-up:

1. Rob, AG6RT will run the GOTA station and the 20M station.
2. George, KC6UVM will do AMSAT.
3. V.P. Mike, AE6FL will do AMTOR and PACTOR on HF.
4. Jerry, AB6BO will help with power.
5. Tom, N6BT has a line on the Quinn Cat generator.
6. Food Committee- Since Bob, K6DXU is out of action, Bill, WA5VGI and Dave, WA6TYJ volunteered to cook Saturday dinner. Mary, W6ROX and Jane, KF6QHP agreed to help. This leaves the breakfast and lunch duties to be fulfilled.
7. PR Person- Check with Bob, KD6LHX for on-site PR.
8. VE Session- At least 3 VEs will be available.
9. Swap Table- info to follow!
10. Tim W6NS has volunteered to organize the logging system.

Dave, WA6TYJ will contact the committee members about a meeting.

## **Sort of Old Business**

## ***Calendar for the Year: Updates!***

Fish Fry will be at Jerry's (AB6BO) QTH in September 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>.

## ***Cuesta College Meeting Place***

Cuesta College at this time will not be a viable meeting place for the club. When school is not in session we would not have access to the facilities.

## ***Adopt-a-Poll***

Evan, N6BXL has left messages with the county person responsible and has not had a call back.

Thus Old Business was closed.

## **New Business**

Dave WA6TYJ reported on the Military Radio Collectors Show at Camp San Luis Obispo. He said that it was a great time, a comment seconded by VP Mike.

Tim W6NS and Ron W6FM won 1<sup>st</sup> Place on the West Coast and 10<sup>th</sup> overall in the recent ARRL VHF Contest-Great Job!!!

Larry W7CB spoke about the wonders of the new Log Book of the World program offered by the ARRL. It sounds like an interesting program. Then Larry confessed his sin and asked for mercy and understanding....seems that Larry has been claiming to have logged 370 countries when in the cold hard light of day the tally is only a paltry 365 countries. His timing was impeccable as the crowd had become restless for cookies and coffee and forgiveness was granted quickly on the way to the coffee pot.

Bill W6PD also dropped off two un-built Heathkits, Those present decided that the club should auction the kits on ebay as a fund raiser. VP Mike, a man of vast ebay experience, volunteered to do the deed. Thanks Mike!

## **Program**

The nights program was devoted to MARS the Military Affiliated Radio System. VP Mike, who is the Southern California Region Emergency OPS Officer, had a nice power-point show.

President Hinkle gaveled this one into the books at 8:54p.m.

Next Meeting is June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Respectfully submitted, N6BXL

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Satellite Amateur Radio Club BBQ at the Newlove Picnic Area Sunday, June 20 (Father's Day)</b></p>
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## **Silent Key:**

**It is with regret that we note the following message relayed by Bill Palmerston K6BWJ:**

May 11, 2004:

We just received a phone call from Jeanne McIntyre that brings deep sadness. During his surgery, "Mac" D.J. McIntyre (KB6FDK) became a silent key. He was a good friend to many of the Central Coast amateurs and well known by all. We will miss him dearly.

Say a prayer for Jeanne, in her time of sorrow

No arrangements have been made, at the time of this writing.

We send 73 to you!

Bob KB6RG & Kathy

## Editor's Note:

### “A 1913 Wireless Hero”

This month, I want to share the story of a 1913 wireless operator and hero named Donald Campbell Perkins. Perkins was my great-grandmother's nephew. (1)

Last year, while I was clearing out the basement of my late mother's home in Berkeley, I discovered a box of old photos that sparked my interest (there's a pun here) in spite of their poor condition.

I discovered that the photos are remnants of my great-grandmother's (Marie Giffin Perkins) photo album that dates to before the turn-of-the-century (1900, not 2000).

One photo particularly caught my attention, reproduced here:



In Mrs. Perkins handwriting it says "Donald Campbell Perkins, Drowned Gambier Bay, Alaska. "City of California" Wireless Operator, August 17, 1913".

I now know that the steamship was called the "State of California", and Donald C. Perkins was her nephew.

My Uncle Toby, KF6JRM, of Berkeley, provided me with more information through copies of two newspaper articles dating back to 1913 that were found in his grandmother's (Mrs. Perkins) scrapbook.



The 1913 article reads in part:

"High Praise for Berkeley Hero Who Died at His Post " - "a letter received by the family from Secretary William C. Redfield of the Department of Commerce pays a tribute to the heroism of her nephew, Donald C. Perkins, a young wireless operator, who went to his death sounding the call for help on the ill-fated Steamship State of California."

"Secretary Redfield praises in glowing terms the heroism of the Berkeley youth, who went calmly to his post when the vessel struck, and stood there facing certain death, sounding the distress signal until the vessel's smokestack fell on the wireless cabin and made escape impossible. Survivors of the disaster declare they heard the wireless instrument ticking as the vessel sank."

"The evidence shows that Mr. Perkins was off duty at the time of the disaster and that he presumably could have saved his life, if that had been to him the supreme thing. He went, instead, back to his post, sent his subordinate to assist in getting out the boats and remained himself, like a faithful soldier, at his station. He went down with her, with the call of distress still sounding."

"A bronze tablet will be hung on the lobby of the Y.M.C.A. in Los Angeles, CA, as a mark of respect to Donald C. Perkins, wireless hero of the Steamship State of California, which sank in Gambier Bay, Alaska on August 18, 1913. Perkins, who was a graduate of the wireless school of the Y.M.C.A in Los Angeles, sacrificed his life in order to save others. The students of the wireless school fathered the movement to place the tablet in the lobby."

"The brief story of his self-sacrifice should be high among the honored traditions of your institution. It shows that there are heroes in peace as well as of war, who without the inspiration and excitement of battle, can face death with a quiet mind, fearlessly doing their duty to the end."

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Another article mentions a "Memorial Fountain to Wireless Operators Lost at Sea" to be erected "at the base of the Tower of the Barge Office, in Battery Park, New York. There is a 1913 artist's rendition of what the proposed memorial would look like.

I was curious if the memorial had ever been erected, and so I did a little searching on the web...

On a web page dedicated to the Titanic disaster of 1912, I found the answer.

**The Titanic Radio Page is dedicated to those Merchant Navy Radio Officers who never signed off articles.....**



Memorial to Radio Officers who died at their posts - Battery Park, New York

(thanks to Carolyn Crapo)



Donald C. Perkins is shown below Jack Phillips, of the Titanic.

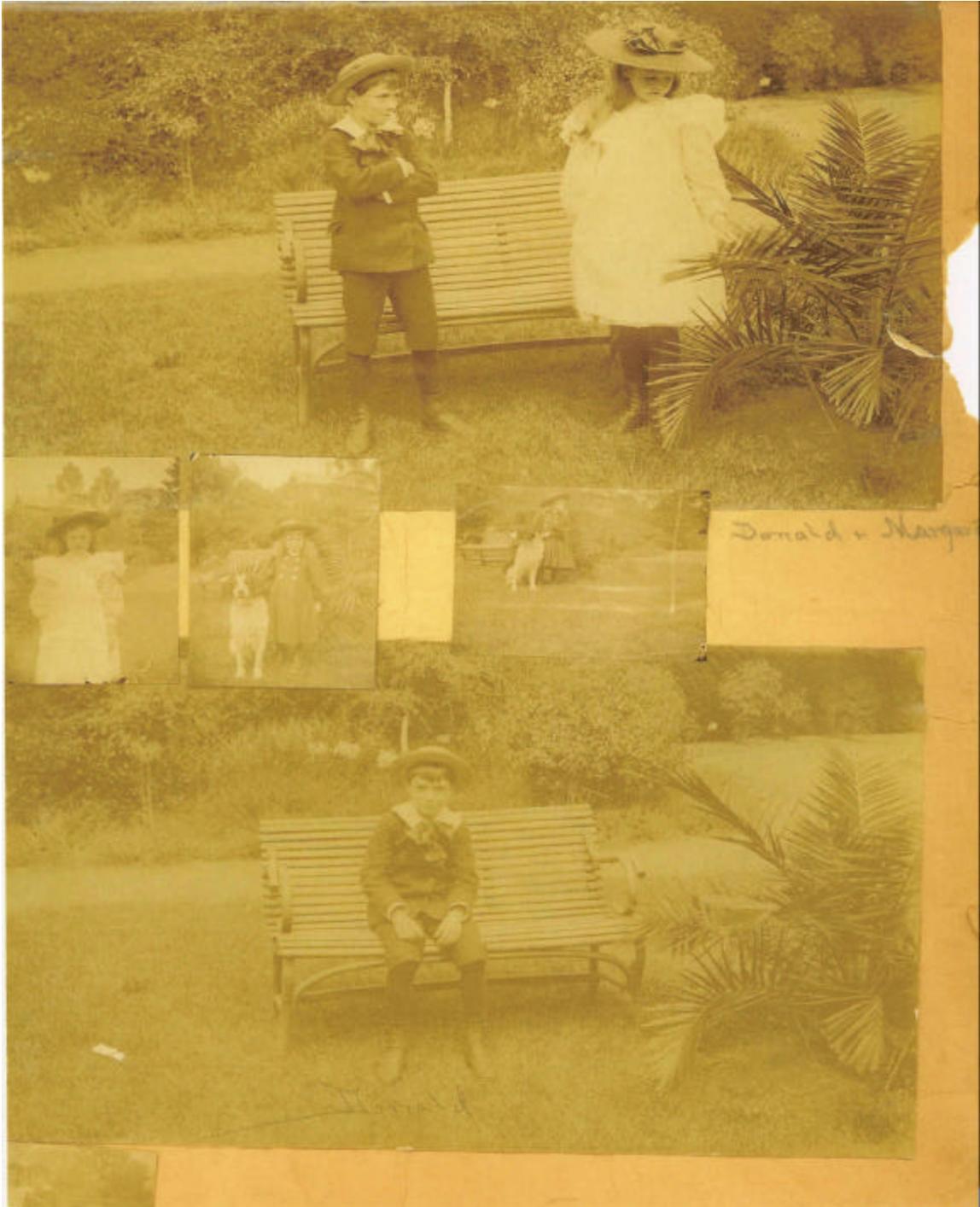
Here is a turn-of-the-century photo of the Steamship State of California. The ship was 300 feet long, weighed 2,266 tons, with a beam of 38 feet. It was built in 1879. Perkins' spark signal was received by the Steamship Jefferson that arrived in time to save 118 people (of the 150 on board) who were found floating in lifeboats.



“A handsome steamer of rakish lines, she maintained a reputation for speed well into her old age, having set a record for the round trip on the Puget Sound-Nome route in 1901, a record which stood for more than a decade. Following her restoration, she was placed on the San Francisco-San Diego-Eureka runs, returning to northern service in 1911, remaining in that trade until her loss in August 1913.”

Here are some family photos of a young Donald Perkins, circa 1889. Donald is not too happy about having his photograph taken with “a girl!!”

The girl is Margaret Hayne (Harrison) who was his cousin, and daughter of Brewton Alston Hayne, City Attorney of Berkeley. Margaret received a PhD from UC Berkeley.



In the lower photo, Donald appears more relaxed as he is the center of attention in the photo.



Donald and his younger brother Kenneth

(1):

1912: "Radio Act of 1912" mandated that radio operators be licensed by the Dept. of Commerce. Requirement that certain steamships carrying passengers are required to have wireless equipment and operators.

1913: Steamship State of California disaster. There were about 2000 licensed radio operators in the U.S. (of course, there were many more unlicensed operators).

1914: ARRL founded

# CALENDAR 2004

Paso Robles Amateur Radio Club

## January

5 7:30PM Club Meeting (cancelled)

## February

2 7:30PM Club Meeting

21 5:00PM Pot Luck –Bethel Lutheran Church

## March

1 7:30PM Club Meeting

27 Ladies Luncheon –Berna Dallons RSVP 995-3052

## April

5 7:30PM Club Meeting

18 8:30AM Tailgate Breakfast – Larry and Char Miller

24 Wildflower bike ride – Bill Palmerston

23-25 Visalia DX Convention

## May

3 7:30PM Club Meeting

8 Armed Forces Day

15 Wine Festival bike ride – Bill Sundius

23 12:30PM BBQ – Sharon George Heilmann Regional Park, Atascadero

26 7:30PM SLOECC Meeting in North County

## June

5 Ladies Luncheon – Jane Thornton RSVP 226-9990

7 7:30PM Club Meeting

20 AM Santa Maria Swap Meet (Father's Day)

25-27 Field Day – Dave Martin, et al.

## July

12 7:30PM Club Meeting

## August

2 7:30PM Club Meeting

21 Siren TeSt / BBQ

27-28 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention in Phoenix

## September

13 7:30PM Club Meeting

**TBD** Fish Fry

## October

4 7:30PM Club Meeting

9 Pioneer Day – Bill Sundius

16 Colony Day – Bill Palmerston

15-17 ARRL Pacific Division Conference (Pacificon) in San Ramon

## November

1 7:30PM Club Meeting - Election of Officers for 2005

## December

**12/19?** Holiday Party

**TBD** Ladies Luncheon – Joan Palmerston

