

W6OTX**W6ARA****PAARA NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 58, NUMBER 8, August 2008

K6OTA**K6YQT**

PAARAgraphs



Celebrating 71 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*
The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



CALENDAR

- Jun.....27, 28, 29 Field Day
- Aug 1, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:00
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- Aug 6, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:00
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- Aug 9, **PAARA sponsored ASVARO Flea Market**
- Sep 5, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:00
- Sep 10, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:00



President's corner

~Kristen McIntyre, K6WX



August 2008

It's nearly August already and summer is racing towards a close. We just finished a great PAARA Field Day effort and we are just starting to get our sponsorship of the ASVARO Electronics Flea Market underway. I cannot believe how the year is flying by!

The PAARA Field Day effort was a great success and there are just too many people to thank. I know that I'll miss someone (please let me know if I blow it and miss a key player and I'll get you in next month), but I want to especially thank Gerry, N6NV, for yet another heroic effort this year. Gerry has told us that this is going to be his last year putting Field Day together and we are looking forward to hosting him as a guest in future years. If you see Gerry at a PAARA meeting, please walk up to him and personally thank him for all of his years of being the real force behind FD. Additional big thanks go to Doug, KG6LWE, for being the person who just made everything work and for setting up one phone station, Andreas, N6NU, for captaining both CW stations, Rebar, N6CCH, and John, K6YP, for co-captaining a phone station, Peter, K6WEB, and Ron, W6AZ, for making sure we followed the rules and earned points, Thomas, KG6ZOO, for keeping the networking going, Rick, K6RDM, for providing food and snacks for the operators, and Terry, AA6T, for doing public relations and safety. Last, but certainly not least, I want to thank Ed, KG6KKP, for pulling a rabbit out of the hat and making the food a tremendous success. I also want to thank Jeff, KG6KCO, who showed up with tri-tip late in the evening. There were many others who worked on setup and who contributed their time, effort, and equipment. Thank you everyone. I know we all had fun this year.

Since the days are starting to get shorter, it's time to take advantage of what remains of the summer propagation. 20 meters should still be open relatively late and even without many sunspots, communication is still possible to the Pacific Rim and beyond. There have been several good openings to Europe as well. And if 20 meters isn't working, there is always a nice

(Continued on page 87)Pres Corner

NEXT MEETING

August 1, 2008

**SPEAKER
AND
PROGRAM**

Eric Hilding - K6VVA

“Activating Farallon Islands”

The Farallon Islands are a remote and uninhabited (by humans) 2 island chain on the Pacific Continental Shelf and home to a host of bird and seal life, 27 miles west of the Golden Gate. A marine wildlife sanctuary located outside the San Francisco Bay, bustles with the abundance of mammalian life/food and attracts sharks of rather considerable size on a regular basis. Getting there is not trivial and landing by boat is only allowed by the state and usually only by wildlife experts for doing research. Being so close to us but so remote from the general public, the challenge of delivering and operating a ham radio effort from the Farallones is formidable. Eric Hilding will talk about his adventure before, during and after the Farallon Island IOTA expedition.

~Joel Wilhite KD6W



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

~David Ungar W6DH, PAARA Secretary



June Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting was convened at Palo Alto Red Cross at 7:25 pm. Present were: Christopher McIntyre KG6SVI (Future Pres.), Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres.), Doug Teter KG6LWE (Dir.), Terry Finn AA6T (Past Pres.), Ed Gentry KG6KKP, Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir.), Gerry Tucker N6NV (Dir.), Peter Sheerin K6WEB (Webmeister), Joel Wilhite KD6W (VP), Wally Porter KG6URO (Ed.), Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir.), Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas.), and David Ungar W6DH (Sec.)

A quorum was present.

The board accepted the minutes of the May meeting with corrections.

The President reported that the June meeting went well.

Wally KG6URO put out a plea for more members to contribute material to PAARAgaphs, as it is in danger of becoming disconnected from the club. Kristen K6WX gave us an incentive to write articles for PAARAgaphs, by offering to buy a dinner for every board member who writes two articles for PAARAgaphs by the December publication deadline. Wally posed the question that, given the low level of participation, should PAARAgaphs continue to exist? This issue was tabled to next month's Board meeting.

Kristen K6WX warned us that she would be gone three Wednesdays next month, so scheduling a Board meeting with her might be difficult.

David W6DH had nothing to report.

Ron W6AZ reported that the raffle made approximately \$100 at last month's meeting, despite a low turnout. Once again, the people at the Board meeting were impressed and grateful at the job Jim Rice K6AK does with our raffle. Ron W6AZ also mentioned that the amount spent for postage on PAARAgaphs increased from \$81 to \$83 last month, despite a 50-cent savings that Wally KG6URO realizes from schlepping to Costco!

Kristen K6WX speculated on whether or not PAARA has become the largest ham radio club in the area, and someone mentioned that we are not even close to MDARK, with its over 300 paid members. On the other hand, our meeting attendance surpasses that club, as only about 50 of its members show up for a typical meeting.

Joel KD6W reported that Steve Stearns K6OIK would be speaking at the July meeting about getting started with EZNEC. He also mentioned some plans for future speakers.

Peter K6WEB said that there was no significant news on our web site, but that he is planning to post photos from club meetings and also field day site directions. This led into a discussion of membership cards, which we are planning to print from the club membership database. A current PAARA membership is good for discount on certain items at HRO, so cards matter! However, HRO understands the current situation and will apparently accept other assurances of club membership until we get cards done. Kristen K6WX has been testing some card-

printing software and she and Peter K6WEB will be putting their heads together on this.

Joel KD6W is following up about trying to arrange some tours.

It was decided that it was now time to stop sending PAARAgaphs to members who had not renewed their memberships.

It was noted that we still do not yet have a mail alias with email addresses of our members.

Next ensued a report from the Field Day committee involving Doug KG6LWE, Gerry N6NV, and Rob KI6INR. The committee expressed concern about staffing the GOTA station.

Kristen K6WX reminded us that our Flea Market is in August and is fast approaching, and we need volunteers!

Joel KD6W gave a vivid presentation about the state of the repeater effort. Amongst many details, your secretary noted that whole 2meter cavities can be had for under \$2,000 and that one for 440cm can be had for \$325.

David W6DH reported that he had received his signature card for the club's bank account.

We next discussed an opportunity that has arisen for the club to acquire the use of a step van. There are many issues to be worked through, including maintenance expenses, a secure place to store it, radios to put in it, etc. The Board decided that it was unwilling to say "yes" to this opportunity at that meeting, and asked Peter K6WEB to gather more information.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Addendum: Minutes approved by Board on 7/23/08.



For Sale

19" Rack Cabinet \$15,

Old fashioned (~40s), faded black, hinged lid. Front opening 19" wide 8.75" high. 14.5" deep. Includes 1 blank rack panel 8.75" high. Used. Will bring to Amtech Day or PAARA meeting.

Jack 650-347-2736 KR6CD San Mateo

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

To maintain a reliable PAARA Rooster, Data Base, PAARAgaphs mailings

ALL CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS

Should only go to:

Database Manager:

Rick Melrose K6RDM,

408-732-2247, k6rdm@arrl.net

PAARAgaphs—August 2008
Celebrating 71 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937



FIELD DAY MUSINGS

Since we have to wait awhile for the 2008 FD results we might as well see what can be gleaned from last year's 2007 QST listings for portable generators. Power is complicated! In class 1A, six stations used greater than 150W, (denying them a X2 multiplier). Class 2A had 5 stations at more than 150W, 3A had 3 stations, 4A had 3 stations, and 5A had a single station over 150W. A full gallon is pretty intimidating in a portable environment! At the other end of the spectrum, QRP isn't getting much of a toe hold either. No one attempted QRP in 1A. The overall winner in 2A however, was W0CQC with 5 watts or less, proving if you can hear 'em you can probably work 'em. With our big antennas, we might want to try this some day! There were two other attempts in 2A with less than stunning results. Talking about extremes again, 3A had only 1 QRP attempt, W0YC achieving last place with 5 QSO's using 3 participants, narrowly missing out on the new 'Tucker Last Place' award described below. We should give them some respect for honesty however, they gave themselves a total score of 60!

Some Alum should shake up the USC Amateur Radio Club. It had only 3 participants and apparently wore themselves out with 70Q's! Where did the 990 points come from?

I'm starting a new criteria for last place, the least number of Q's per participant. The 2007 award goes to N8VFD in class 1A, 1 contact using 4 participants! Were these guys having more fun than the law allows or did something go up in smoke at the first key down? And by the way, where did the 152 points come from? That's a tough number to deconstruct.

de,Gerry, N6NV



photo K6VWO



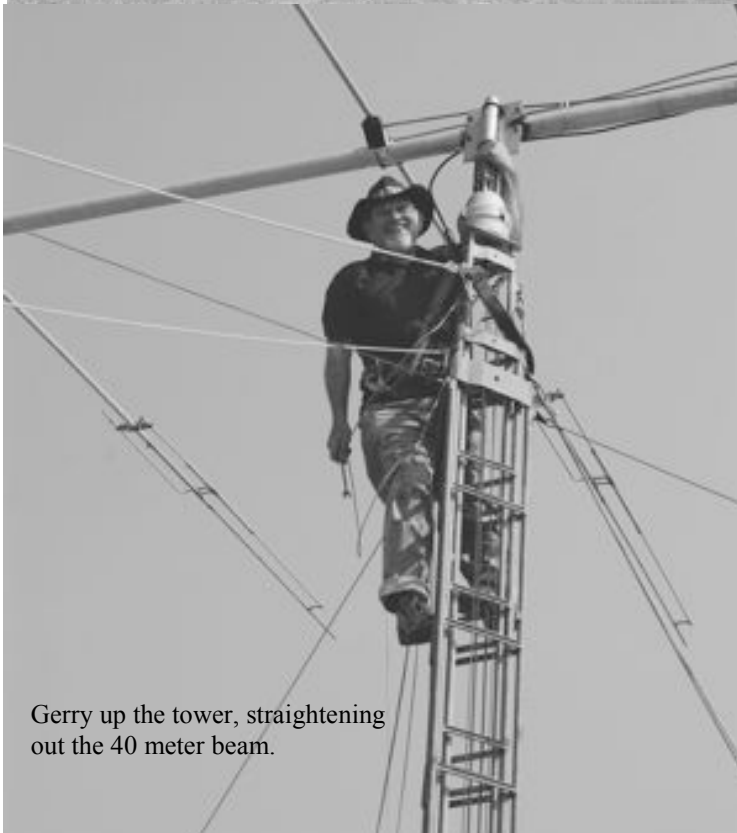
photo K6VWO



photo K6VWO



photo K6VWO



Gerry up the tower, straightening out the 40 meter beam.



CHEATING ON THE EXAM.

I am a VE for the Sunnyvale VEC; the W5YI Group VEC and the ARRL VEC. The VE means a volunteer examiner working for a VEC (volunteer examiner coordinator). The VEC provides examination services for the amateur radio community and actually handles the administration of the tests. This is a very well regulated system and really provides a huge service for the ham radio community and the FCC as it takes the burden of exam administration away from them, which allows more service in other areas that they are responsible for handling.

I enjoy my work as a VE and have officiated in various positions at many dozens of VEC examinations. It is really a lot of fun and I have come to view my VE friends and associates as part of one big, happy, honest family. We actually work hard at providing this service and have become very good at dealing with the anxiety of those being tested.

However, an incident occurred recently at an exam in Redwood City that has taken all of us by surprise and created a situation where we are not sure what to do next.

Basically, we had an Extra class exam participant involved in an episode of cheating. This subject was first observed by a roving VE who noticed that the subject had a larger than normal calculator and he was reading a movable or scrolling graphic on the screen. Upon closer inspection, it was determined that this calculator was probably programmed with all of the questions, answers and mathematical formulas for that grade of test. This was immediately reported to the VE leader who took the VEC (who happened to be visiting the exam site) to the desk of the suspected cheater. They took away the exam the subject was working on and removed his calculator. They replaced the exam with another version of the test (that had different questions) and told him to complete the new exam. The VEC ordered the VE's on site to grade the new exam when he had it completed and to return his calculator as he left the exam facility. It should be noted that the examination subject failed the test miserably.

We learned several days later that this subject had left the greater Bay Area and travelled quite a distance to another radio exam testing session, where he actually passed the exam.

This was the first episode of cheating that any of us had ever heard about, let alone been involved with. We are now wondering if we should report this incident to the FCC so that the subject can be re-tested by them. ?? We are also wondering about some of the other friends of this subject, who recently passed FCC exams.

Please note that we have changed our exam rules about the use of calculators. Now, we will have several, standard 4 function calculators available for the examinees. We are also taking a closer look at the people taking the tests, as none of us expected this particular applicant to be involved in this type of disgraceful, un-ethical and dis-honest activity. Needless to say, the VE's will never look at this subject in the same way again, nor will they trust him for any reason.

Your thoughts and suggestions on this issue are encouraged. The VE's will look forward to assisting you in up-

grading your license when the time comes for you. They are friendly, full of helpful administrative information and really enjoy what they are doing for amateur radio.

~Terry Finn. AA6T.

WHY RADIO AMATEURS ARE CALLED "HAMS".

Have you ever wondered why amateur radio operators are referred to in many circles as "Hams" ? Well, after extensive research and a lot of enquiries, we believe that it is as follows:

The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station call sign of the first amateur wireless station operated by some amateurs from the Harvard University Radio Club. Those men were identified as Albert S. Hyman; Bob Almy and Pogie Murray. In the beginning, they referred to their radio station as: "Hyman-Almy-Murray". Tapping out such a long name in CW soon became tiresome and cried out for a modern revision. Therefore, the men changed it to: "Hy-Al-Mu", just using the first two letters of each of their names.

Sometime in early 1909, confusion resulted between radio signals from the amateur wireless station, "Hy-Al-Mu" and a Mexican ship named, "Hyalmo". The radio amateurs of Harvard then decided to use only the first letter of each name so the station call sign became "HAM".

During those early pioneer days of unregulated radio, the amateur operators often chose their own frequency and station identifying call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better transmitted signals than many commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of a Congressional committee in Washington, D.C. As a result, Congress devoted a lot of time and energy to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity.

In 1911, one of the Harvard University students, Albert Hyman, chose the controversial Wireless Regulation Bill as the topic for his Thesis at Harvard. His professor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of the committee debating the new bill. The Senator was so impressed with the Thesis that he asked Hyman to appear before the committee. Albert Hyman took the witness stand inside the Congressional committee hearing and described how the little radio station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the new Bill went through and became law, that amateurs all across the country would have to close down their radio stations because they would not be able to afford the new license fees and probably not be able to meet the other restrictive requirements which the new law would impose on amateur radio stations.

Congressional debate continued on the Wireless Regulation Bill and the little radio station known as "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country who were crying out to be saved from the political and economic greed of the big commercial radio stations who simply did not want anyone else to have the ability to transmit radio signals. The new Bill eventually made its way to the floor of Congress and almost every speaker referred to the "poor little HAM station".

That my friends, is how it all started. You will find the whole, gritty story in the official Congressional Record. There was nation wide publicity associated with "HAM" and the radio amateur operators. So, from that day on, possibly until the end of radio time, an amateur radio operator is a "HAM".

~Terry Finn. AA6T.

Information sources included the 1959 Florida Skip Magazine; the W4NVU packet bulletin board of June, 1988; and PAARAgaphs of July 1990.

(Continued from page 81) Pres Corner

crowd of people on 40 meters, especially on CW. Come on down and try it some time.

I just came back from Japan a couple of days ago at this writing. I had a fun experience in Akihabara, the electronics district of Tokyo. I went into a ham radio store there and saw a line-up of keys and paddles. I kid was trying to bang out some code while looking at the letter chart. After he gave up, I showed him a little bit about sending. He was quite surprised, both that I knew Morse code and that I spoke Japanese. It was a fun ham radio experience.

Keep in mind a couple of upcoming events, if you will. First, we have the Flea Market on August 9th. If I haven't already tapped you to help out and you read this in time, please consider helping out. We can still use people especially in the preparation. Second, we have the PAARAFest coming up relatively soon. I've heard from our Vice President, Joel, KD6W, that it might be a little earlier than usual this year. Try to keep those weekends in September open. If you went there last year, you know what you'd be missing if you don't make it. If you missed out, well, what can I say. You just have to be there to believe it.

In closing, let me thank all of you for again making this a great year for PAARA. With your help, we can make it even better. Please consider volunteering to help out on any of our events or even in a leadership position. I hope to hear you on the radio.

Very 73 ES enjoy the rest of your summer DE K6WX.

Dinosaur Days

Shave and a haircut . . .

How about an irregular PAARAgaphs feature in which some of us fossils, er, "senior members" of hamdom recount some of the weirder things we used to do? The thought occurred to me while listening to the 9AM Morning Talk Net and hearing the many young voices, some of them new Extras, talking about how eager they were to "get on HF" and even "learn the code." It seemed like it might be fun to pass along how things were "back in the day." If Wally agrees, we might even keep the "Dinosaur Days" column header.

So here goes . . .

Back in the day (I got my Novice call, WA2LJI in 1960), Novices were limited to CW on certain limited sections of the low bands, less than 100 Watts, and our rigs had to be crystal controlled. The latter restriction meant that we had a small number of plug-in crystals, each one good for a single frequency, in a cigar box next to the transmitter. It didn't make sense to have too many of these "rocks" because the Novice bands weren't that wide, and changing frequencies meant not only pulling one crystal out and plugging in another, but also re-tuning the transmitter – a back and forth process of "dipping" the output tube plate current for resonance with one variable capacitor in the tank circuit, and then bringing it back up as you matched your antenna impedance with the tank's other variable capacitor. You would wind up going back and forth three or four times for each tuning-up.

One implication of being rock-bound was that Novice QSOs rarely, if ever took place on the same frequency. You might find yourself talking to some other Novice five or even ten kilocycles

away from your frequency. (Kilocycles/second. "Hertz" was not a term before 1962.)

The issue then, was how did you establish a contact across that frequency gap? There were two ways: the official ARRL way, and the "shave-and-a-haircut -- two bits!" [1] way. Officially, the ARRL method was preferred, and the other method was technically illegal and the mark of a Lid [2], but the Lid method worked better.

What the ARRL liked you to do was to send a full CQ sequence, like: "CQ CQ CQ de WA2LJI WA2LJI," repeated three times, followed by "AR." The trouble with that was, it took a lot of time and often wasn't productive.

The Lid approach was to bang out the "shave-and-a-haircut" rhythm with one hand while slowly tuning up and down the band on your receiver with the other. (Obviously, this required a T/R relay or separate antennas.) When you heard somebody match your rhythm with a "dit-dit" (i.e., "two-bits"), you knew somebody had heard you, so you'd leave the receiver where it was and send an official (but short) CQ. The other ham would answer and off you'd go on your CQ.

This was doubly illegal, because the "dit-didi-dit-dit" wasn't Morse code, and you weren't signing your call on each transmission. It was deplored in official publications, but it was bandwidth-efficient, and I never heard of anybody getting a note from an Official Observer about it, much less a crackdown from the FCC. I mean, that's why we Novices were restricted to the shallow end of the pool and could only swim at all on 80, 40 and 15.

So that's my tale from dinosaur days. Do any of you other fossils have a story?

Don Tuite NR7X

[1] For elucidation, see "Who Shot Roger Rabbit."

[2] Someone with poor operating habits. I don't hear this term much anymore.



FD cook Ed Gentry KG6KKP, taking a well-deserved break from cooking. "Thanks for the great grub, Ed!"



Congratulations: July 11th 2008 PAARA Raffle Prize Winners

- 1st Prize:** Elaine Gibbons / WA6UBE / LDG Z-100 Antenna Tuner
- 2nd Prize:** Ed Gentry / KG6KKP / Yaesu VX-150/64B / 2m / 5W / Transceiver with Extra Battery
- 3rd Prize:** Rob Krensky / KI6GCL / Heil "The Traveler" Headset with Boom Mic
- 4th Prize:** Darryl Presley / KI6LDM / PS-4 Power Pole Connector
- 5th Prize:** Not Available / World Radio 1 Year Subscription
- 6th Prize:** Dave Cooper / KE6PFF / Sterling Deluxe Wire Stripper
- 7th Prize:** Dave Cooper / KE6PFF / Northern California Repeater Directory
- 8th Prize:** Peter Sheerin / K6WEB / ARRL Minilog

PAARA Members and Visitors: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the exciting monthly raffles! Since Feb. 03, 126 Radios, including an Elecraft K3, a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams, THANKS TO YOU!

PAARA had a remarkable year in 2007! If you aren't a member, please join PAARA now, and experience fun 2008 events with the "friendliest club around."

K6AK Jim



PAARA August 1st 2008 Meeting

PAARA "The Friendliest Club Around"

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Date and Time: Friday, August 1st at 7 p.m.

Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA.

Welcome Members and Visitors / Raffl/Prizes:

FIRST PRIZE: Grecom PSR-300

Triple Trunking Scanning Receiver



- Selected Bands From 25-1300 MHz (cellular excluded)
- 700 MHz Coverage
- Upgradeable CPU Firmware for Future Rebanding.
- Multi Trunking of Motorola (Type I, II and Hybrid Analog System) EDACS and LTR
- Pre-programmed Conventional Bands
- Scan Both Trunking and Conventional Channels at the Same Time
- 1500 ID Memories in 10 Banks
- Backlit Keypad and Display
- PC Programmable

SECOND PRIZE: YAESU FT-2800M
2m / 65W / Mobile



- Huge Easy To Read Display
- Special Memory Bank for NOAA Weather Broadcast Channels
- Backlit Microphone Keypad
- Smart Search Loads Active Frequencies

THIRD PRIZE: Deltran Battery Tender / Auto Switch from Charge to Float / 12V

FOURTH PRIZE: Red-Dee-2 Connect PS-4 Power Pole Connector

FIFTH PRIZE: World Radio 1 Year Subscription

SIXTH PRIZE: Sterling Deluxe Wire Stripper

SEVENTH PRIZE: Northern California Repeater Directory

EIGHT PRIZE: ARRL Minilog

Since Feb. 03, 126 Radios, including an Elecraft K3, a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706

MK IIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams.


Special Thanks to Bob, Howard, Rick, Mark, and everyone at HRO for their continued SUPPORT!

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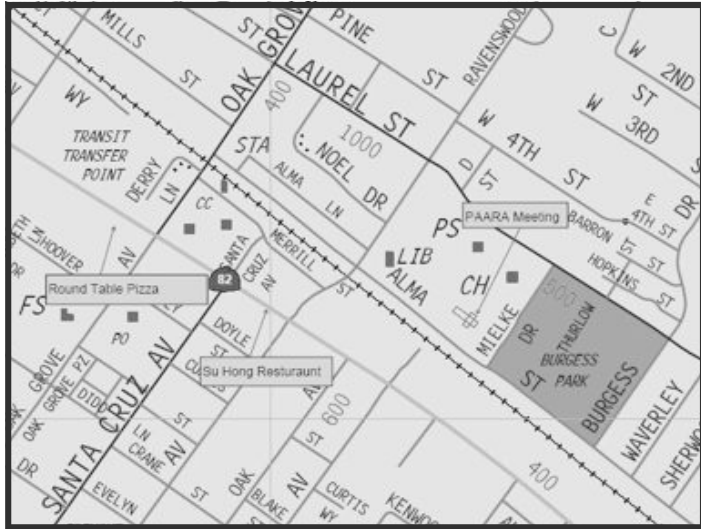


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PAARA Radio NET
 and Swap Session
 every Monday evening
 8:30pm local time
 on the
145.230 –600 MHz repeater
PL tone off

control operators:

Week	Operator
1 st Mon.	Pink Foster, KG6ILA
2 nd Mon.	Peter Sheerin, K6WEB
3 rd Mon.	Doug Teter, KG6LWE
4 th Mon.	Terry Ridgeway, N6ZAG
5 th Mon.	Doña Kerns, KI6DAR



Directions to PAARA meeting:
<http://paara.org/meetings/>

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026-0911
 Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:00pm at the
 Menlo Park Rec Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the
 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL tone off.

Membership in PAARA is \$20.00 per calendar year,
 which includes one subscription to PAARAgaphs
 \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).
 Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association,
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Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

QSO
August 1st
gab & gobble



Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own food order.

5:30 pm—at Su Hong Restaurant
1039 El Camino Real
Menlo Park

across from Kepler's Book Store
on El Camino Real
Walking distance from Caltrain!

PAARA Exemplary Service Award

Gerry Tucker, N6NV 2005
 Rice Family 2006
 Jim K6AK, Lisa KG6KQS, Kyle KG6MSK
 Wally Porter, K6URO 2007
 Vic Black, AB6SO 2008

PAARA Radio NET
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at 8:30 P.M. local time
on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater,
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PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). All ad rates listed are per issue only.

1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size).
 2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover.
- These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association. The PAARAgaphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association.
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