

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Don't miss
our next meeting!
SEPT 9, 2011
Second Friday

September Program

Software Defined Radio for the DXer and Contester

Speaker
Stu Phillips, K6TU

Software Defined Radios (SDR) use a combination of hardware and software technologies to build a flexible system architecture for wireless communication. Moving the majority of the radio into software enables optimized performance and extensibility that is difficult and expensive to achieve through hardware alone.

In this presentation, Stu K6TU will provide an introduction to Software Defined Radios and then talk about applying SDR technology into a DX or Contest focused Ham station. The focus of his presentation is on the practical aspects of SDR in a real world operating environment and will touch on the benefits, integration and operating aspects he has experienced with his station in Woodside, CA.

President's Corner

It's September, and that means we are starting into the fall contest season. We also should enjoy improved propagation around this time of the year. Our sun has been quite active lately, unleashing one X-class flare and several M-class flares. The solar flux index has been over 120, and we've seen the sunspot number rise to 130. These are the best numbers we have seen in Cycle 24 so far.



As I'm sure you have noticed, we did not have an August issue of PAARAgraphs. I apologize for that lapse, but our interim editor Bob, K6RWY, was on vacation, and I was unable to arrange for a replacement. I was away visiting Japan during part of July, so my time was short as well.. There was no time to make arrangements. We are also putting together our September issue through a generous donation of time from Bob, who is simultaneously on jury duty, and between trips. I assure you that we are doing our best, but we had no backup coverage while Bob was away. From this point forward, until next summer, it sounds like Bob will be available, so I'm hopeful that we'll be able to bring you PAARAgraphs to your doorstep. Again, I'd like personally apologize for missing an issue.

Since it has been two months since I've been able to report on PAARA events, I didn't have a chance to mention the return and successful completion of another PAARashoot at the Santa Clara County Field Sports Park's 200 yard range on July 31st. This was the 3rd annual event, and it was sponsored by Carla Satra, the widow of PAARA member Elaine, WA6UBE,

(Continued on page 81)

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

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VE Exams, 3rd Saturday each month, 10:30AM, 145.23-

PL=100Hz

Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room
1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA
contact: <http://amateur-radio.org/> or Al, WB6IMX@att.net**ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET**Sponsorship by **A.S.V.A.R.O.**

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Second Saturday of month, March-October, 6am-2pm

Howard M. Krawetz, N6HM 650-856-9761

Contact: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>**PAARA** Palo Alto Amateur Radio AssociationMeets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Menlo Park Rec. Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100HzMondays at 8:30. See our website at <http://www.paara.org/> for more information.

Or contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, KD6W@ARRL.NET, 650-325-8239

FARS Foothills Amateur Radio SocietyMeets 4th Friday each month at 7:30pmcontact: <http://www.fars.k6va.org/>**NCDXC** Northern California DX Clubmeets 2nd Friday 7:30pm each month,

repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM

contact: <http://ncdxc.org/> or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699**QCWA Chapter 11**

Northern California Quarter Century Wireless Association

Meets third Wednesday monthly at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City @ 11:30 AM.

Guests are welcome. Saturday morning net on 146.850 MHz, PL 114.8

NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Clubmeets 1st Sunday each monthcontact: <http://www.norcalqrp.org/>**SPECS** Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

meets each Monday 8:00pm on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz

contact: <http://specsnet.org/> or Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441**SCARES** South County Amateur Radio Emergency Servicemeets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, San Carlos City Hall.

Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.

contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265(D), 650-595-5590 (N)

Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org**SCCARA** Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl

Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 442.425+ (pl 107.2) Thur.

meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.contact: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara/> or Clark Murphy KE6KXO 408-262-9334

ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)

contact: <http://www.svecs.net/> or Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999**TEARS** The Elmer Amateur Radio Society

Dedicated to operational training, knowledge building &

FCC exam testing. KV6R repeater under construction.

Contact AA6T@ARRL.NET. Most members are Extra

class or VE's. See QRZ dot com/kv6r for class info

WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223,

while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.

VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF:

147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss

223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

Meetings are 3rd Wednesday of every month.contact: <http://wvara.org/>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, N6FFC@Juno.com, or

N6FFC@ARRL.NET

American Red Cross, SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTERcontact: <http://santacalaravalle.redcross.org/> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924fshensley@Novell.com

(please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)

(Continued from page 79)

SK. The event was well attended by PAARA members and guests, and we had expert firearms safety instruction from Dave, K6WA, and Raoul, KG6DKA. Carla was present as range master. I also was able to pick up Elaine's NVIS files from Carla and Chuck, N6VFH, and I will be scanning those for future posting to the PAARA website. Doug, KG6LWE, did the grilling, and we had food donations from Gary, KG6HIG, and Joanna, K6YL. My son Christopher, KG6SVI, was also there shooting my 17 cal CZ 452. We had a really fun time. The highlight for me was an opportunity to shoot the M1 Garand that belonged to Elaine. All of PAARA wishes to thank Carla for the opportunity to use the 200 yard range free of charge and under her supervision, and we hope that we can have that opportunity again for a future PAARAShoot.

Ron, W6AZ, at our August PAARA general meeting, presented me with our 2011 Field Day score. Once again, we've outdone our prior year's score! Ron completed the submission to the ARRL, and our total claimed score this year is 14,066. Comparing against prior years we have done quite well indeed. Our score for 2010 was 13,570, and 2009 was 11,326. I don't have the number for 2008 handy, but I recall around 10,738 or so. So, we've been doing progressively better as propagation has improved, and as our operating skills have improved. Interestingly, our QSO score improved by 896 between 2010 and 2011, however, our overall score only improved by 496. This reflects the loss of some bonus points. That's something to work on for next year, but we made an amazing effort this year. Thank you to everyone who participated, and I'm looking forward to seeing how our scores measure up to the rest of the field. We'll find out near the end of the year.

One final note is that it won't be long before officer elections become our focus. The process starts in September with the selection of an election committee and election chair. Now is your chance to get involved with PAARA. In particular, we are in desperate need of a program chair, the person who sets up the programs for our meetings. I've been doing that task this year, and it's a bit too much for my always overloaded schedule. I have a long list of leads for talks and all you have to do is contact people, and follow up. It's really not hard at all. If you are interested, please contact me directly.

Well, that's all of the space I have for the President's Corner for this month. Next month I'll fill you in on my trip to Japan, and other exciting ham radio events that are approaching. Don't forget that the California QSO Party is only about a month away.

CU AT PAARA ES 73 DE K6WX

PAARAShoot

A few pictures from the recent event.



California QSO Party



CQP & improving your operating skills

From an operating point of view, what do Public Service, chasing DX or working contests have in common?

They all require accurate copy of information under stress – whether the stress of the moment, the adrenaline rush of rare DX or contest pile up, you have to accurately copy and relay information.

Entering a contest either casually to give some points or as a serious effort, Contesting provides a great learning experience for information copy “under fire”.

The first weekend of October (October 1st & 2nd this year) sees the annual running of the California QSO Party – a great opportunity for stations in California because everyone else HAS TO WORK US!

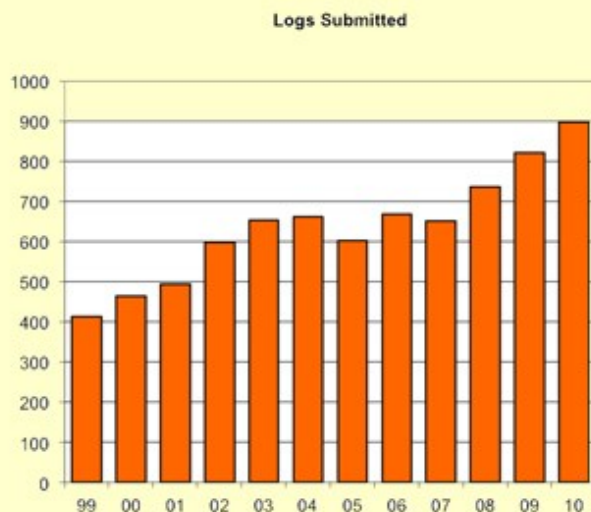
We are the DX!

Whether you are a “big gun” with stacked yagis and 1500 watts, or a “little pistol” with 100 watts to a vertical or a wire antenna, everyone else in the world wants to work YOU to pick up one of the 58 counties in our state.

It’s a lot of fun being on the receiving end of a pile up or searching & pouncing for other states and countries.

For California stations the object of the contest is to work as many stations as possible on SSB and CW. You can work the same station on each band and each mode for score credit. Every US state and Canadian province you work counts as a multiplier – 58 total for us just like the number of counties in California.

Want to be really on the end of a pile up? Plan a “CApedition” to one of the rarer counties in California and the rest of the world will beat a path to your front end!



Low Power, High Power? CW or SSB? CQP is a fun contest for all.

CQP is sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club led by the NCCC “Green” team chaired by Rick “The Rhino” N6RNO as CQP Contest Chairman. A group of NCCC volunteers help with PR, planning county expeditions and processing all the logs to score the contest.

The last 10 years has seen a great increase in the number of logs submitted from the US, the DX world and (of course!) from California.

(Continued on page 83)

(Continued from page 82)

Last year we received just over 900 logs and with 2011 being the 45th Anniversary of CQP, we are making a big drive to get well over 1000 logs submitted.

Every station that submits a log is eligible for an achievement certificate and there are several operating categories where the leader receives a wooden CQP plaque for proud display on the shack wall.

Three categories are designed to encourage operation in contests:

- YL award
- Youth (< 18) award

and starting this year, a New California Contester's Award. This category is open to any operator that submits a log with at least 100 QSOs, made using either TriBander, Wire or Vertical antennas AND who have never submitted a log in any contest with more than 100 QSOs.

So if you've never entered a contest or have only dabbled in the past, this award category is for you!



If you work all 58 counties, you qualify for the "Worked All California Counties Award" sponsored by NCCC.

You can find the full rules and award details on the CQP web site at <http://www.cqp.org>.

Part time or full, home operator or an expedition to a new county, CQP is a blast!

We hope you will join us this year and have a lot of Fun!

Stu Phillips – K6TU

Continued from Page 81





James Farrey
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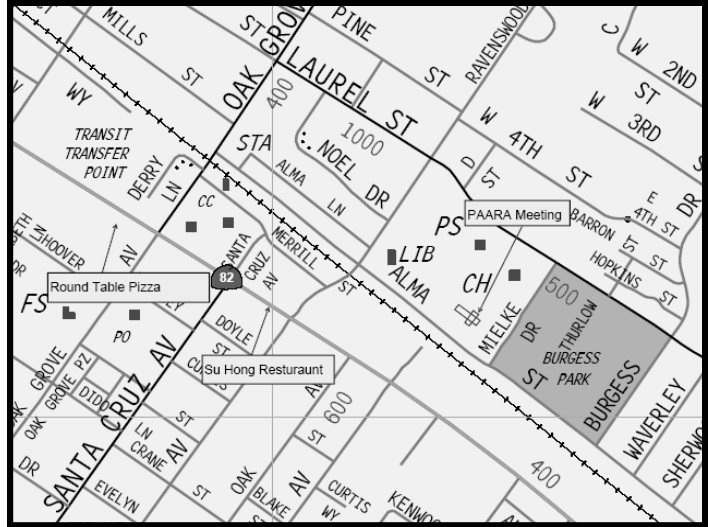
Badges are ready for pickup.

If you would like to order a badge, see
Lynn Gentry, KG6JPV.

PAARA Weekly Radio Net

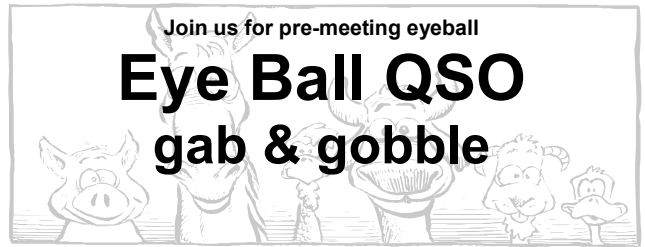
Info and Swap Session every Monday evening at 8:30pm on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater.

<u>Week</u>	<u>Control Operator</u>
1 st	Doug Teter - KG6LWE
2 nd	Robin Yee—KI6YTA
3 rd	Jack Pines - W1VSL
4 th	Marty Wayne - W6NEV
5 th	Mike Bray - N6MEB



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

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball
Eye Ball QSO 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
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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 100Hz.

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, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911

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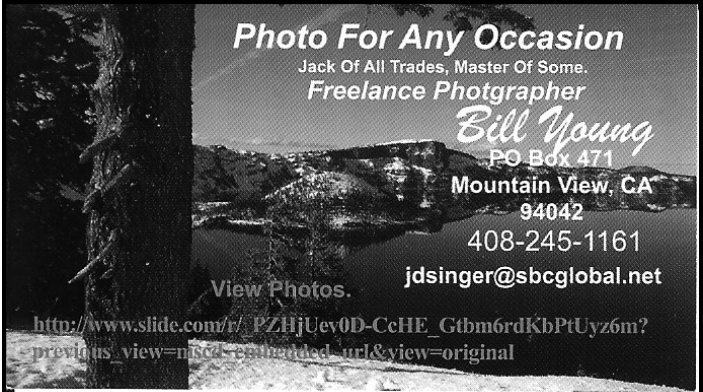


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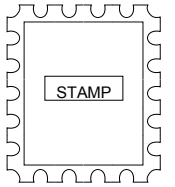
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These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association. The PAARAgaphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association.

All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. Give payment and copy to Ron Chester, W6AZ

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PAARAgaphs Newsletter
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