

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



Digital Amateur Television (DATV)

A Primer and Use Cases.

Joel Wilhite, KD6W

What DATV is, how it works, and the many uses?

Remember the September 7th meeting is at PAARA's new home, Cubberley Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road Palo Alto, CA 94303, Room H-6.

President's Corner

September 2012

Fall is here, and so is the Fall contest season, and your September issue of PAARAgraphs! We will be greeting you at our new QTH at the Cubberley Community Center this month (see later in this issue for directions), and we say a fond farewell to the Menlo Park Arrillaga Recreation Cen-



ter. I've also said farewell to KG6SVI for the fall semester at Berkeley. Additionally, we hope for some better propagation as the days and nights equalize around the equinox.

First and foremost, I want to take a few moments out to publicly thank the staff who manage and run the Menlo Park Recreation Center for the many, many years of service they have provided to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association. We have been there a very long time (does anyone remember how long?), and they have always accommodated our membership. In particular, I wish to thank Noreen Bickel, my contact at the Rec Center who has always been helpful in negotiating our annual contracts, storage facilities, and other details. She even has gone out of her way to get my MacBook's power adaptor back to me when I inadvertently left it in the Council Chambers one month. Thank you Noreen, and everyone over there. We will miss you.

We will still be going through some adjustment as we settle in to our new digs at the Cubberley Community Center. We are in the process of acquiring a new and larger screen for presentations, and we have yet to find a closer after-meeting pizza place. For now, I can't think of anything but to continue to gather in Menlo Park at Roundtable Number 1 on El Camino. Sadly nothing nearby is open until midnight. Despite these small startup bumps, though, we expect to see you there at 7pm on September 7th, as usual.

The Fall contest season will begin in earnest

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soon, so it's time to get the station tuned up and ready to go. I know that the California QSO Party is just around the corner, on the first weekend of October, and our Team Trinity is gearing up for another county expedition. We scored well last time, but we're looking for an even bigger score this year. We've expanded the team this year, and have a new operating plan. Do you have plans for operating CQP? If so, we'll look forward to working you on the air in CQP. It's a chance for you to be the DX for a change. Rules and info at www.cqp.org.

As you probably heard, the Elaine Gibbons Memorial PAARASHOOT for the end of July was cancelled for reasons beyond our control. This is a special event that combines Part 97 with the Second Amendment, and it commemorates PAARA member and silent key, Elaine Gibbons, WA6UBE. There are rumors that a rescheduled event at another venue is in the works, so stay tuned.

Propagation has been only fair lately, and it seems that this solar cycle is turning out to be only mediocre when compared to some of those past. Sunspot numbers and the solar flux index have been in the high 80s and low 100s respectively, but don't let that stop you from getting on the air. There is lots of DX to be had out there. I hear reports of DX from the Pacific and Arctic all the time. If you have a better antenna, there are many exotic stations out there to be worked. Even if not, there are still many fun places you can reach. If you don't turn on the radio, you surely won't work them, so get out there and warm up the tubes!

That's the news for this month. Believe it or not, it's already time to start thinking about officer elections. I'm forming our election committee now, and nominations will be opened to the general membership at the October meeting and closed at the November meeting. Start thinking about how you can contribute to the PAARA leadership team. Even if it's not as an elected officer, we'd love to have your help in any way. TNX ES CU AT PAARA DE K6WX

QUARTZFEST IN QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA

This is an annual get together for Amateur Radio Operators in the desert on BLM land 8 miles south of Quartzsite on highway 95. 2013 Quartzfest will be held from January 15 to the 25th. The Escapees RVers started this 16 years ago. Gordon West attends this hamfest too in his Roadtrek 190 RV Van. Last year he lectured on special pet collars using tracking gear to locate pets. Last year I saw a few tents, lots of trailers, 5th wheel trailers, & RV's. Looked like thousands parked anywhere in the desert. Bring chairs to hear talks at 2 campfire circles. Social hour is at 4 P.M. This is where they pass out free raffle tickets for donated prizes. No fees for anything except for W5YI license examinations. My only fee was \$12 to take the upgrade exam. Also, they have a DX station for contacting hams around the world.

www.quartzfest.org

Don Frevert KG6GLU

California QSO Party (CQP)

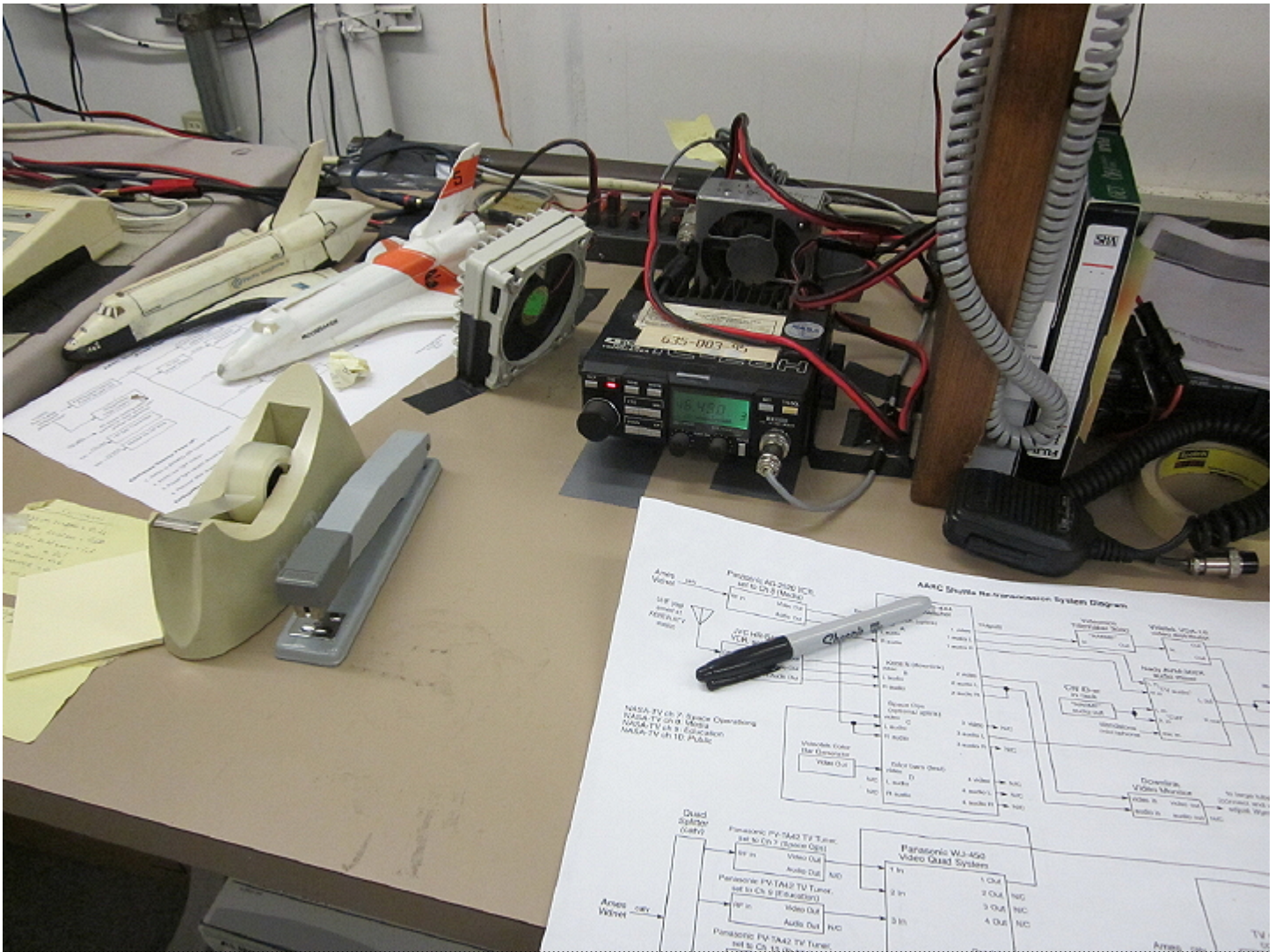
Quick! Mark the weekend of October 6th and 7th on your calendar and start planning for a weekend of radio fun! The first full weekend of October marks the annual running of the California QSO Party (CQP) – the most fun you can have with a radio if you live in the Golden State! This year marks the 46th running of CQP sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club.

Why contest? From an operating point of view, most aspects of Ham Radio from Public Service, chasing DX to working contests have one thing in common – accurate and timely copying of information often under stress.

Entering a contest either casually to give some points or as a serious effort, is a great exercise in operating “under fire”.

The first full weekend of October (October 6th & 7th this year) sees the annual running of the

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The 25 year old Icom above is what was used to retransmit NASA TV audio during Curiosity landing on Mars. This old Icom works pretty good at continuous duty, but I have a couple fans to keep the radio cool. It can be remotely turned PTT on/off. There is a little button that toggles between low and high RF power. It was initially on low, I went back to the shack and pressed the button so it went to high (25w) RF.

Michael Wright, K6MFW

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California QSO Party – a great opportunity for stations in California because everyone else HAS TO WORK US!

We are the DX!

Whether you're a "Big gun" or "Little pistol", CQP is a great opportunity for you to be on the receiving end of a pileup or to search and pounce for other states and countries. You can

easily Work All States in a single weekend especially with everyone looking for you. And there's DX to be worked: it's possible to work all continents during CQP.

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

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ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY - by Joanna K6YL

On Sunday, August 19th Roderick KJ6YEB joined two other rookies up at Stanford W6YX to operate RTTY in the ARRL Rookie Roundup. Roderick is a new PAARA member as well as a brand new ham, licensed as a technician in June of 2012 after coming across the ham radio booth at the annual Makerfaire in San Mateo. Roderick had not operated RTTY before, let alone HF or even VHF/UHF! With the assistance of Joanna K6YL as control operator Roderick called CQ on both 15 and 20m, using WriteLog software to send the RTTY macros and record the QSO's. This is a great event put on by the ARRL three times annually to encourage rookies (licensed in the last 3 years) onto HF. A big thanks to Rebar for getting our three rookies into Stanford W6YX's great station, and also to Rick N6DQ for his ever-humorous RTTY elmering. The next Rookie Roundup is CW in December!

Photo of Roderick KJ6YEB (taken by Joanna K6YL).



PAARA thanks Peter Silverman, KJ6LPN of Palo Alto, who graciously donated a Drake R4B receiver and the matching MS4 Speaker. Peter has upgraded his station to new Yaesu equipment. Both pieces are in very good cosmetic condition. When last used they were in good working condition.

Arvid Hamer, WA6UUT (SK)

It is with regret that the Foothills Amateur Radio Society acknowledges the passing of Arvid Hamer, WA6UUT, on July 15th at the age of 91.

A long time Honorary Member, Arv's involvement with the Society began back in the days when FARS was still EMARC (Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club). Arv has supported FARS as a board member, he's spoken at FARS meetings, and he's won prizes in the FARS Home Brew Contest on multiple occasions.

Back in 1996, when the World Radiosport Team Championship (WRTC) came to San Francisco, Arv was in the midst of this grand event as a volunteer. This was the second WRTC ever held; the first was in Seattle.



Photo © Robert KE6TFU

During the 1980's Arv and friends met on the radio at 10:00AM to help new hams, and this tradition evolved into what is now the 9AM Talk Net on the N6NFI/R. That's 25+ years and going strong!

Thanks to a generous effort by Dave K6WA (left), a longtime friend of Arv, the entire group celebrated Arv's 90th Birthday in style at the May 2011 Am-Tech Day.

Arv was a dependable morning volunteer at Amateur Radio Technology Day. Not only would he show up almost every month on time at 7:15am but he'd be wearing a smile so bright it'd promptly get Am-Tech Day off to a brilliant start.

© FARS, authors K6WA and K6YL

Reprinted from the FARS Relay



Arvid Hamer has returned to the land of his youth.

To a farm land of the mid-west where at an early age his indefatigable personal characteristics were acquired and retained throughout his entire life. His spirit has left our planet to rendezvous with his sweetheart.

At this final moment the Hamer family does now rest in peace.

We are grateful for having known Arvid Hamer.

Charlie Arney, KF6CUU



1st Prize: Jon Gefaell / K6OJ

2nd Prize: Darryl Presley / KI6LDM

3rd Prize: Jeff Norris / KA6UIX

4th Prize: Joe Nichols / KJ6YTA

5th Prize: Rebar / N6DB

6th Prize: not available

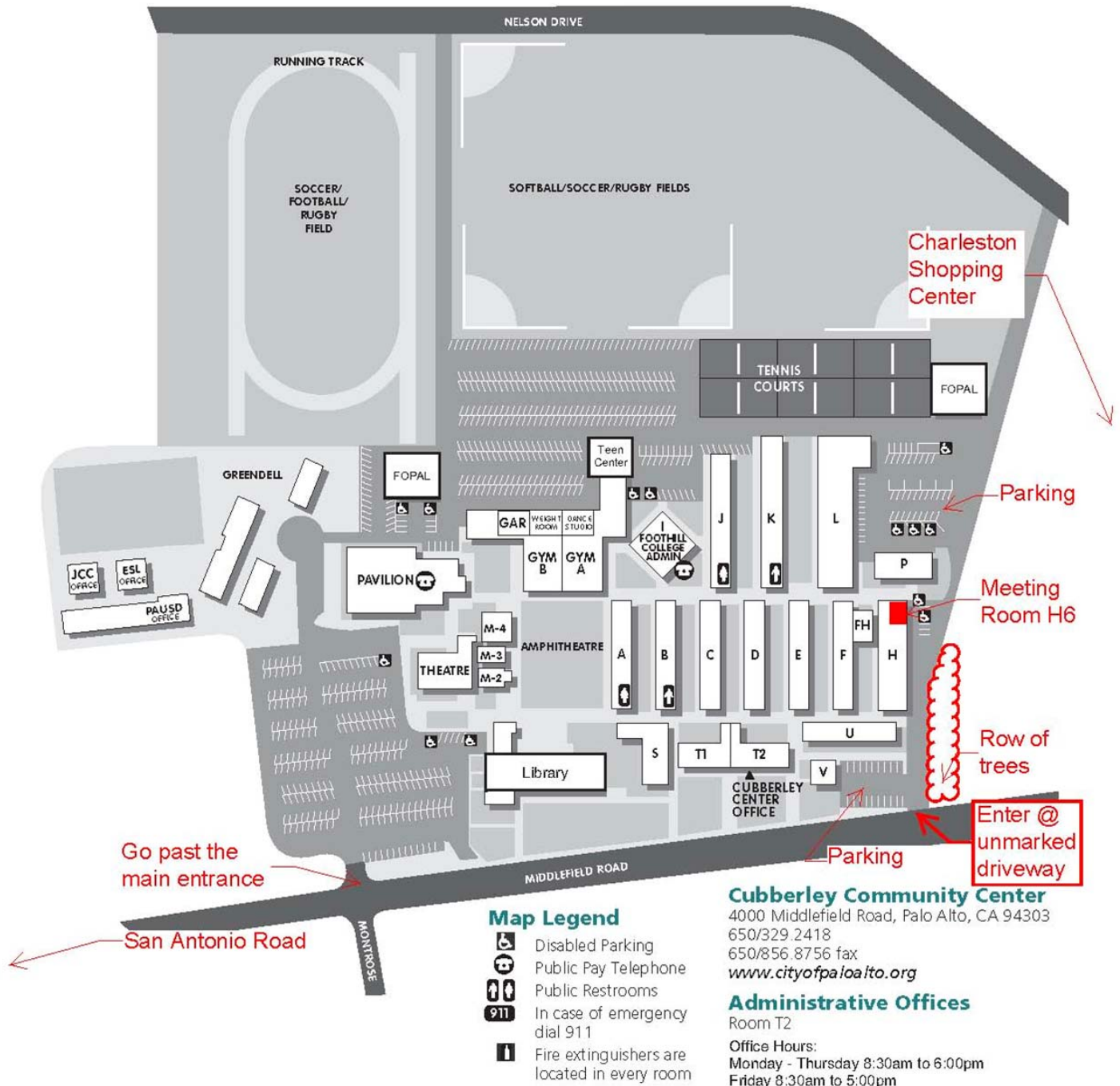
7th Prize: Pat Sullivan / W6ABA

8th Prize: Rob Riley / KI6INR

9th Prize: Shekhar Tipnis / KG6UEF

PAARA September 7, 2012 Raffle Prizes

- 1st** MFJ 4230 MV / 30 Amp Switching Power Supply / Ultra Compact / 3 lbs
- 2nd** Diamond NR770HA / 2m/7cm / High Performance 3-5 dB Gain / Dual Band Mobile Antenna with MFJ MaxStrength Magnet Mount
- 3rd** Powerwerx DC Power Analyzer / measures (Ah), (KWh), (Amps), (Voltage), (Watts), (Current), (Peak Amps / minimum Volts)
- 4th** Battery Tender Junior / 12V Battery Charger
- 5th** MFJ-281 ClearTone Speaker
- 6th** Pocket Reference / Thomas Glover
- 7th** Bongo Ties



Meeting Room Location

The Meeting Room is in Room H6 of the Cubberley Community Center.
It is located at 4000 Middlefield Road between San Antonio Road and East Charleston Road.
From San Antonio Road pass Montrose Avenue on the right (see above).
Turn Left into unmarked driveway and park in parking lot.
Follow road opposite entry to Bldg H.
Room H6 is near the far end of Bldg H from the parking lot.

15 AUG 2012 PAARA Board Meeting

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:30 PM on the 15th of August, 2012. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Marty Wayne W6NEV (VP), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Sec, Database), Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas), Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir), Darryl Presley KI6LDM (Dir), Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir) and Doug Teter KG6LWE (Field Day Coordinator). A quorum was present.

President's Report: Kristen K6WX reported that the August 3rd General Meeting was very well attended and that the presentation on the operation of the Palo Alto Mobile Emergency Operations Center by Ken Dueker, KB6BPM was concise, interesting and well received. Kristen also mentioned that the interview by KALW, recorded at Field Day and played at the meeting, got a lot of buzz. It can be heard on AR News Line (<http://www.arnewsline.org/>) if you missed it.

Vice President's Report: Marty W6NEV tells us that the presentation for the September meeting will feature Joel Wilhite KD6W, former PAARA Club President, speaking about "Digital Amateur Television (DATV), A Primer and Use Cases" Joel will give us an in-depth view of DATV: What it is, how it works, and its many uses.

And again, the board wishes to invite the general membership to consider having your submissions published in upcoming issues of PAARAgaphs. Any projects, technical articles, hints n kinks, DX, on the air experiences that might be of interest? We can even help you write them up!

Secretary's Report: Rick K6RDM reports that the minutes of the 18th of July Board meeting had been previously submitted and approved and that there were three new members and three renewals at the August 3rd meeting.

Vice President's Report: Marty W6NEV reminds our members are that the 7 September PAARA General Meeting will be returning to Palo Alto for our first meeting in our new space at the Cubberly Community Center at 4000 Middlefield Road, Room H6. Maps and information will be in PAARAgaphs and handed out at upcoming meetings as well as posted on PAARA.org. In case anyone forgets, we will have members posted at the Menlo Park Recreation Center to direct them to the new venue.

Treasurer's Report: Ron W6AZ reported that club finances are healthy and that our submission of Field Day results has been entered with the ARRL and, given our score, we should place very well.

Under New Business, Kristen points out that it's that time of year again when our election cycle for club officers for 2013 commences with the September Meeting appointment of our Election Committee Chairman. The Chairman will then in turn assemble the committee and open the agenda with nominations in the October meeting,

which will close in November for the December election.

Mention was again made of the need to clean and repaint the antenna tower trailer, preferably before putting it back in storage. Doug KG6LWE, Field Day Coordinator, plans to look into the logistics and resources available to accomplish this.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

There were three new members at the July meeting

Joseph Weber	KJ6WYO	Sunnyvale
Lorraine Weber	No Call	Sunnyvale
Joe Nichols	KJ6YTA	Milpitas

Badges Available

K6FTF	Mark	San Jose
KJ6GBE	Sreendish	Redwood City
AG6GH	Lee	Redwood City
KG6GYG	Art	San Jose
N6JCY	Joani	San Jose
N6MLK	Matt	Cupertino
KJ6PVN	Josh	Castro Valley
KG6QKN	Francis	Palo Alto
KG6QKO	Kali	Palo Alto
KJ6SGT	Xiande	Campbell
KF6SRD	Chuck	Palo Alto
K6TSR	George	Portola Valley
K6VVK	Vincent	Palo Alto
K6WV	Jon	Cupertino
K6XOX	Nimit	San Jose

(CQP — Continued from page 3)

work counts as a multiplier – 58 total for us just like the number of counties in California.

Want to be on the end of a really big pile up? Plan a County Expedition to one of the rarer California counties ----- the rest of the world will beat a path to You. Check out the counties activation planning map on the CQP web site at www.cqp.org --- you may be surprised that some of the rarest counties often lie on your doorstep.

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

Stu Phillips – K6TU, NCCC President
Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ, CQP Chair

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

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Vice President.....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-246-7531
	w6nev@arrl.net	
Secretary	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
	k6rdm@arrl.net	
Treasurer	Ron Chester, W6AZ	408-243 2221
	ron@taxhelp.com	

Directors

Director (*13).....	Byron Beck K6UOB	408-369-1913
	kg6uob@arrl.net	
Director (*12).....	Rob Riley, K1GINR	650 799-1607 (cell)
	ki6inr@arrl.net	
Director (*12).....	Larry Rebarchik N6DB	650-465-8210 (cell)
	n6db@arrl.net	
Director (*12).....	Darryl Presley, ki6ldm	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@arrl.net	

Appointed Positions

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
	k6rdm@arrl.net	
Chaplain.....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Public Affairs.....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Station Trustee W6OTX, K6YQT, W6ARA	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Station Trustee K6OTA.....	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager.....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Fund Raising Coordinator..	Bob Korte, KD6KYT	408 396 4745
	bob@rgktechsales.com	
Badge Coordinator.....	Lynn Gentry, K6GJPV	
HistorianPosition.....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinator.....	Jim Rice, K6AK	650-851-2274
Ticket Master.....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-246-7531
Field Day Coordinator.....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
ASVARO Rep	Rolf Kliibo, N6NFI	650-856-2748
	n6nfi@arrl.net	
Webmaster	John Miller K6MM	
	webaron@gmail.com	
Technical Coordinator.....	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	650-325-8239
	kd6w@arrl.net	
QSL Manager	Rob Riley, K1GINR	650 799-1607 (cell)
	ki6inr@arrl.net	
Speaker Coordinator.....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-246-7531

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	jdsinger@sbcglobal.net	

Future PARRA Meeting Dates

Oct 5th, Nov 2nd, Dec 7th, Jan 4th

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. — Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations

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 Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Menlo Park Rec. Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz
 Mondays 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 Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:30pm
 Contact: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 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 Club

Meets 1st Sunday each month
 Contact: <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 Service

Meets 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

SCCARRA

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

Contact: <http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924
shensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)



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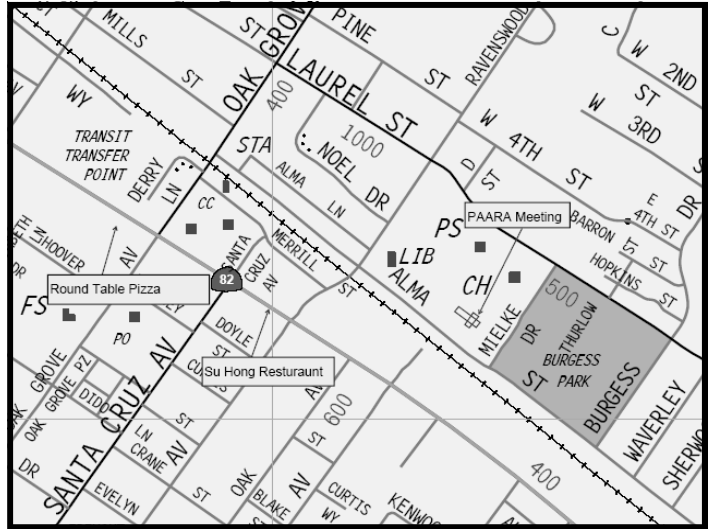
Badges are ready for pickup.

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	Michael - N6MEB
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Jack - N1VSL
4 th	Marty - W6NEV
5 th	Up for Grabs!

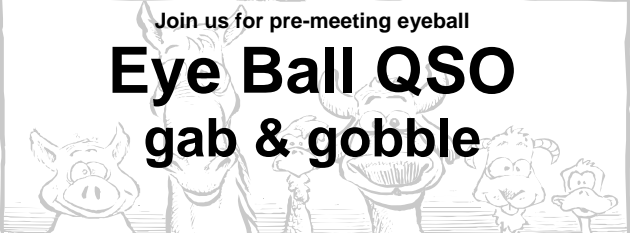
If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots o' fun! Give it a try.



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
 Menlo Park

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

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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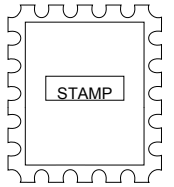
1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
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These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration 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.

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radio@hamradio.com

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