

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



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.Celebrating 83 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

HOME BREW NIGHT, 2020

Happy New Year. Another year will soon be on us and with the January 3 meeting, we start the year showing off our new or favorite projects. Bring your latest project, completed or not and let us see your handy work. It doesn't have to be ham or even electronic related although that would be nice.

When you come in, be sure to let Jim know so show and tell time can be allotted to each of you.

Marty, W6NEV

Jan 3rd, 7:00 PM, Cubberly Community Center Room H-6


President's Corner

January 2020

Though you'll be reading this before Christmas due to printing deadlines, Happy New Year to all. I reflect back wondering what happened to the 20 years since the BIG transition to 2000! I'm sure we're all glad none of the feared "Y2K bugs" actually matured, thanks to all the hard work of programmers, though interestingly they "created" the problem in the 1st place. For all



Upcoming Events

Jan 3 Feb 7 Mar 6	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM Cubberly Community Center, Room H-6, 4000 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
Jan 15 Feb 19 Mar 18	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Everyone welcome! Location: Marty, W6NEV, QTH 

those too young or too old to remember, check out:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_2000_problem

for a refresher.

Thinking of the past, I looked at PAARAgraphs from January 2000. Thanks go to Andy Korsak, KR6DD, for saving so many issues so we could reflect back on the PAARA activities of the past. Printing costs must have been lower as the dues were only \$12! Andreas Junge, N6NU, was president, Jon Zweig, AD6FX, VP, there wasn't a secretary, and Dan Curry, K6DLC was the treasure. Spinning forward to today we have a similar issue, we're without a treasurer.

This is an important position needs to be filled. As I reported last year in the Board minutes, when secretary, I discussed with the board at the November meeting the idea of altering the current description of treasurer. Ron Chester, W6AZ, has agreed to keep the books for now. Ron will take care of the accounting and filings with the government for us. We need a member to sit on the board as treasurer, collect the money, pay bills, and report the transactions to Ron. Splitting the traditional role of treasure into two

(President — Continued on page 4)

The B2 Spy Radio

Hiroki Kato AH6CY

Nazi Germany invaded Poland on Sept 1, 1939. Britain and France declared war against Germany two days later. In less than a year, Norway, the Netherlands, Belgium, Denmark and France all fell to Hitler's rule. The Allies were completely helpless against the German onslaught. The US's entry in the war was still more than a year away. Two recent films, Dunkirk and Darkest Hour realistically depict the situation. In these dire circumstances, Winston Churchill, who was just appointed Prime Minister, created a secret paramilitary organization called the Special Operations Executive*. SOE was tasked to engage in sabotaging German war effort; organizing, supplying and training of local resistance fighters in Nazi occupied Europe. According to General Dwight Eisenhower, WWII came to an end half a year sooner as a result of SOE's work.

SOE agents and resistance fighters communicated with London HQs primarily via portable radios which were most often dropped by parachute. Two radios were most commonly used, although there were others: the B2, also known as Type 3 Mk II (Fig 1), and the Paraset, also known as Mk VII (Fig 2). Some PAARA members may remember seeing my working replica of the Paraset at the home brew night three years ago. I recently acquired a B2 from an East Coast ham and restored it to a working condition. As I received it, it lacked the power supply and none of the connectors or accessories came with it except an original straight key. But considering that it is 75 years old, it was remarkably in good shape. None of the resistors and capacitors needed replacement (those in the power supply, of course, are new). Some final transmitting coils required re-soldering. The transmitting tube, 6L6, was weak but I happened to have a NOS (New Old Stock) metal type in my junk box. I needed to fashion several connectors from various parts from my junk box. You may notice an Erector set piece for the key base in a photo below. (I am a very good friend to my grandkids, thank you.)

The B2 came in two flavors. One was housed in

a leather suitcase, weighing over 35 lbs. (considered portable in those days!). The other was housed in two separate metal cases with



Fig 1. B2 — Type 3 Mk II Radio



Fig 2. Paraset — Mk VII Radio



Fig 3. Restored B2 taken out of the metal box and put in an operating position

(Spy Radio — Continued from page 2)

protective cushion material (one for the transmitter and the receiver, the other for the power supply and accessories) which was designed to withstand parachute drop better and is referred to as the Container Version by collectors. These two metal boxes, with the transmitter, the receiver, the power supply and accessories inside, together weighed about 55 lbs and required two persons to carry the set. Mine is a container version. (Photos from Crypto Museum website):

The following is the specs of the radio:

Receiver:

- Circuit Features: Mix/Osc. IF. IF/BFO, Det/AF (AM and CW)
- Frequency Coverage: 3.1-15.2 MHz in 3 ranges
- Intermediate Freq: 470 KHz
- Tubes: 7Q7 (x2), 7R7 (x2)

Transmitter:

- Circuit Features: CO, RF power amplifier (CW only)
- Frequency Coverage: 3-16 MHz in 4 ranges
- Power Output: 20 W
- Tubes: EL32, 6L6

As you may have noticed, the B2 is not a true transceiver, but is a combination of a separate transmitter and a receiver. (The Paraset is a true transceiver.) Although it is possible to tune the receiver to the transmitting frequency, clandestine communication was always on a split-frequency basis. Also, very often the radio was used for a cross-mode communication, namely, an agent send enciphered Morse code message but the directives and responses from London HQs were sent in coded messages in AM inserted in the regular BBC broadcast. Thus, when the agent Virginia Hall (more on her later) heard “Les marguerites fleuriront ce soir” (the daisies will bloom tonight) followed by “Je dis trois fois” (I say three times) on the BBC’s evening French language program, she knew that the supplies she had requested earlier over her radio would be para-dropped by three planes that night. Another important point to note is that SOE’s radio communications was

always a QRP to QRO affair, i.e., an SOE agent carried a portable QRP rig and the SOE HQs’ transmitter and antenna in England did all the heavy lifting. The B2 can put out about 20 watts (the Paraset produced five watts) and the home station located near Bletchley Park in England used a 250 watt transmitter and had several large antenna farms at a high elevation. The home station, moreover, had a 15 kw transmitter ready when propagation was poor.

Two celebrated SOE agents, Virginia Hall and Noor Inayat Khan carried the B2. Hall is the subject of the recently published book “A Woman of No Importance”. Among many books written on SOE agents and their work, this is the best researched and best written biography, in

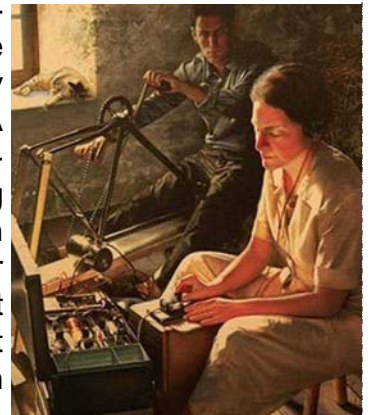


Fig 3. Virginia Hall



Fig 4. Noor Inayat Khan

my opinion. Hall was highly successful in organizing, supplying and training local resistant fighters to destroy German transportation lines, phone exchanges, bridges and local factories supplying materials for Germans. Their effort delayed the German army’s movement into Normandy significantly where the Allies landed in June of 1944. Khan was the very first SOE radio operator sent into Paris after volunteering at the age of 19. She had reputedly had the best fist among agents. She was captured and sent to the concentration camp where she was executed shortly before the liberation. She singlehandedly transmitted more than 100 messages before she was betrayed by her neighbor. She was scheduled to be exfiltrated two days later by a single engine Lysander from a

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(Spy Radio — Continued from page 3)

field outside of Paris.

A Woman of No Importance is a page turner and I highly recommend it to any PAARA member looking for a good read. If you are interested to know more about Khan, read “Spy Princess” among others. A new French film called Liberté about these two women will be released this fall.

*SOE’s existence was among the most closely guarded secrets of WWII, along with ULTRA that broke German code, and the Manhattan Project that built the first atomic bomb.

(President — Continued from page 1)

parts lightens the workload and should make it easier to find someone to be the treasure. Out of 200 members, there must be someone who is interested in stepping into this important role, are you that person? Please see me or any board member if you’re interested, have questions or wish to join the board and take on the roll.

Please join me in thanking Kristen McIntire, K6WX, for her stewardship of PAARA as Director in 2006 and President 2007-2008 & 2010~2019. I wish to also thank her for providing me a detailed look under the covers on being president so I could make an informed decision regarding taking on the roll. In mid-2013 when I took over as secretary/membership, PAARA’s membership hovered around 150. In the last few years, it’s grown to 200+ members. In an age where growing membership is a challenge, Kristen has grown the club larger and stronger. Clearly, I have some big shoes to fill but know with the help of our diversified members, it’s well within reach to keep growing the club.

I also wish to thank a few other members who I solicited for insight and proved to be wonderful sounding boards as I worked through the process of deciding to move forward and run for the office. I know they along with many others

will continue to assist me as we move forward in this new decade.

Speaking of moving forward, there are a few tweaks to the meetings I’m considering. I don’t intend on making any drastic changes and don’t intend on making them in a vacuum. In fact, a few members have already approached me with an idea or two. There is one tweak I intend on working hard to meet. Our web site says meetings start at 7:00 PM (1900). This has been hard to do without officially having the room until 1900. Lately, we’ve been able to get into the room before 1900 as there isn’t a class in the room ahead of us anymore. I’m going to do my dandiest to start the meetings by 1915, so please plan accordingly. I believe the social aspect of the time before a meeting actually starts is of value but I also believe starting on time or closer to on time is equally important.

Speaking of tweaking the agenda, I am openly soliciting ideas on any change’s members feel would make the meetings more interesting and meaningful. So, put your thinking caps on and come to the meeting with your ideas. Keep in mind that we are a general-interest club not specifically focusing on one aspect of the hobby and have members from beginners to old-timers. We try to appeal to everyone, thus the challenge. The more people that have the same type of idea, the better the chances of adding the idea into the meetings. That also means something will have to go as there is a fixed amount of time for meetings. I’ll talk a bit more about this at the January meeting and provide a format for advising the board of your ideas.

The January 3rd meeting is Home Brew night, we need all the time we can squeak out of the agenda to give everyone time to show us what they’ve been up to. Thus, I plan on shortening the first part of the meeting thus having the break earlier than usual to give us a little more time for all the great presentations. If you have an item to show everyone during the meeting, plan on arriving earlier than you would if you were planning on showing up during the usual break time. Time permitting, any of the skipped

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(President — Continued from page 4)

“standard” meeting items will happen after all the presentations complete.

I truly hope everyone enjoyed the December Dream to Reality meeting and Raffle. The presentation by Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, provided an insightful look into the new Elecraft K4. We wish to thank Eric for his continued support of PAARA. I also wish to congratulate Doug Teter, KG6LWE, for winning the Raffle grand prize, an Elecraft KX3! I’m sure his planned activity for Saturday abruptly changed as “playing” with a new radio became the #1 thing to do.

Of notable merit toward the betterment of PAARA is Jim Rice’s, K6AK, unwavering commitment in creating the very best raffle possible for the past 15+ years! Please join me in congratulating him for all his hard work finding great

prizes for all these years, roughly 180+ raffles. Please make it a point to personally thank him for all his efforts over the years the next time you see him, especially if you won one of the great radios he came up with for 1st place prizes.

I know this is a longer than normal presidents’ letter, and they’ll all not be this long but, there’s one last thing to mention. As my 1st presidential action, Doug Teter, KG6LWE has agreed to join the board as director filling the open position. Thus, I’ve appointed him to be the 4th director on the 2020 board. Please join me in welcoming Doug to the leadership team!

73, Jim K6SV

Keep the airwaves alive, get on the air!



December 18, 2019, Board Meeting

As mentioned last month, the board voted to cancel the December board meeting.

Jim Thielemann, K6SV
 Secretary/membership

December Raffle Winners

Left to Right

- 4th 2-pack, Hyper-Tough Parts Organizer, Darryl, KI6LDM
- 5th Hyper-Tough LED work light, Randy, K8TR
- 1st A Loaded Elecraft KX3, Doug, KG6LWE
- 3rd Nano Vector Network Analyzer, Shakir, KG6UEF

Not Shown

- 2nd B-Tech VHF amplifier, Mikko, AB6RF

2020-01-03 Raffle Prizes

1st Yaesu FT-60R

2nd Zalman ZM-RSSCv2 External Sound Card

3rd Ed Fong
 144/220/440 Band Antenna

4th Quantum QHL-310 Headlamp

5th HomeWorks 9-LED Push Lamp



Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815 thielem@pacbell.net
Vice President	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023 w6nev@arrl.net
Secretary	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593 energyconserved@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	<i>Position Vacant</i>	

Directors

Director ('19-'20)	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	408-839-5948 kd6w@arrl.net
Director ('20-'21)	Walt Gyger, K6WGY	408-921-5901 walt@tradewindsaviation.com
Director ('21)	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200 dteter@wvci.com
Director ('21)	Darryl Presley, KI6LDM	650-255-2454 ki6ldm@arrl.net

Appointed Positions

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com
Database	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593 energyconserved@sbcglobal.net
Chaplain	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070 K6RDM@yahoo.com
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	
Asst. to the Treasurer....	Bob Korte, KD6KYT	408 396 4745 bob@rgktechsales.com
Badge Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200 dteter@wvci.com
Historian Position	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinator	Marty Wayne, N6NV	408-234-8023
Field Day Coordinator ...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
ASVARO Rep	Clark Martin, KK6ISP	kk6isp@comcast.net
Webmaster	John Miller K6MM	webaron@gmail.com
Technical Coordinator ...	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	408-839-5948 kd6w@arrl.net
QSL Manager	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023
Speaker Coordinator	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023

PAARAgaphs Staff

Editorial Board		
	Bob Van Tuyl K6RWY	Kristen McIntyre K6WX
	Ron Chester W6AZ	Vic Black AB6SO
	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	Jim Thielemann K6SV
Editor	Bob Van Tuyl, K6RWY	408 799-6463 rrvt@swde.com
Back Up Editor	Jim Thielemann, K6sv	408-839-6815 thielem@pacbell.net
Advertising	Walt Gyger, K6WGY	408-921-5901 walt@tradewindsaviation.com
Member Profiles	Diana Lloyd, KK6YGM	650-988-8882 dianalloyd76@gmail.com
Technical Tips	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com

VE Exams

Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room, 4th Saturday 10:30 am each month and De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <http://amateur-radio.org> or Contact 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-September, 6am-12 noon
 Contact: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community 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.k6va.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

50 MHz & Up Group

Meets 1st Thursday each month at 7pm in the Summit Room at the Sunnyvale Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale
 Contact: <http://50MhzandUp.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, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. 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, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur.
 Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.
 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 2nd Wednesday of every month except July, August and December.
 Contact: <http://wvara.org>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, president@wvara.org

American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Contact: <http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924
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(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)

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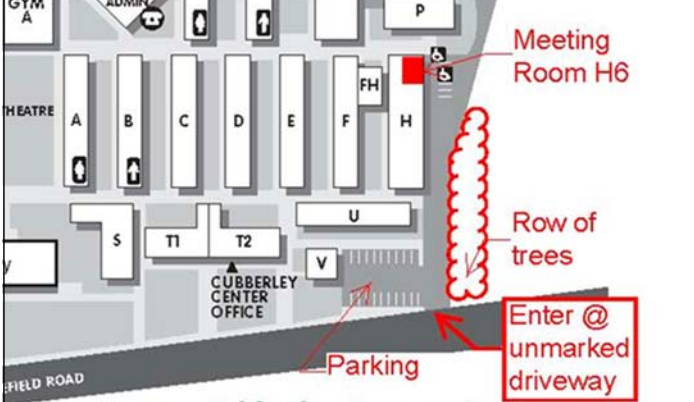
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PAARA Weekly Radio Net

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

Week	Control Operator
1 st	Joel KD6W
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Jack - W1VSL
4 th	Rob - KC6TYD
5 th	Rob - KC6TYD

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control,
 Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice,



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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 Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at
 8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

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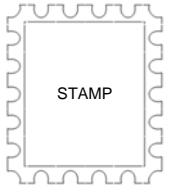
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- For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$14.00-quarter page, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue. These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association 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 Walt Gyger, K6WGY.**

PAARAgaphs — January 2020

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- FAX - All store locations
- MAIL - All store locations

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