

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**

Celebrating 83 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*



## Quartzfest:

### A week-long ham radio, camping, earning, and living event.

The speakers for September will be a cast of four.

Rob, KC6TYD; Rachel, KKC6DAC; Frank, AF0XX; and Karen, KK6NGA will share their adventures experienced during Quartzfest 2020. See what happens when you mix ham radio with boondocking. From daily seminars to four-wheel driving to evening campfire camaraderie.

**This meeting will be conducted with Zoom. Please see Zoom details later in this issue.**

## President's Corner

September 2020

As Labor Day approaches, I find it almost unfathomable that we are to this point of the year already. The start of fall and the fall contesting season is upon us. There are lots of interesting contests to operate over the next few months. Even if



## Upcoming Events

Sept 4 Oct 2 Nov 6	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM Zoom Meeting, see article for details
Sept 16 Oct 21 Nov 18	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details!
Sept	Electronic Flea Market Cancelled



you're not a contester, you can "toss out" points to others just by making contacts and providing the correct exchange. Make sure to know what the exchange is for whatever contest you working before contacting any station. Working some of these stations is also a great way to earn an award like WAS or a DX entity that you haven't been able to get in the log yet. Even if you don't work any stations, just listening improves your skills.

Wherever you were in Northern CA, I'm sure you had some experience with the large thunderstorm event that paid us a visit on the weekend of 8/15. Reportedly 11,000 lightning strikes started 350 fires! Two large "complex" fires started in the south bay and one in Santa Cruz. We all have been affected by the thick smoke in one way or another. Though our repeater is close to one of the fire areas, at the time I'm writing this column, it's still safe. We all hope that Cal Fire and other supporting agencies get the upper hand on all the fires. I know one of our members, Joel, KD6W, who benefited from the unusual weather. He was in the central valley participating in the microwave contest and

*(President — Continued on page 4)*

## Stats for W6REK-R Echolink Station

**Henry Strickand W6REK**  
**March 27, 2020, San Jose**

My housemate -- who owns the house and puts up with all my RF emissions and pays the electricity bill for my echolink station "W6REK-R" -- asked me how many people used my echolink.

So I used some GREP and AWK on the log files from January 1 to March 26:

- 124 unique call signs that connected
- 44 unique call signs that transmitted

Over a third of those that connected also transmitted at some point. That's an awesome percentage of participation.

Here are the top 8 stations for number of transmissions (how many times they hit that virtual PTT), which anyone listening 24/7 to the repeater could have counted:

- 111 W6REK
- 144 KI6SEP
- 148 KE5NWY
- 150 JG6DEA
- 172 KC6TYD
- 199 KK6DAC
- 354 KR6DD
- 2724 K7ILA (of course Pink wins!)

Notice two of those stations are out-of-state and another one is from Japan.

Also as a service and as a warning, it's time to remind users that in Ham Radio nothing is private or encrypted. You never know who all is listening or recording any QSO, but some you should know. The N6NFI/R repeater is available on the Broadcastify service (as are many other repeaters) and I maintain an archive of all N6NFI/R traffic through my echolink station.

The most recent 30 days' traffic, as heard by my echolink station, is available on the web at <http://echo.yak.net/> (not in realtime but usually updated within 10 minutes). If you miss the 9am Talk Net, that's a good place to catch up.

If your browser doesn't support the OGG audio format, try Opera, Firefox, or Chrome. If you use the "playlist" link and open the playlist that downloads, your audio player should play back everything from the hour you selected to the current time.

If you're new to this community, you're invited to use the N6NFI/R repeater located near Palo Alto and Stanford University on 145.230 MHz with a PL tone of 100 Hz and a negative offset for input. Then you're invited to the 9am Talk Net every weekday morning from 9am until whenever.

And any time you're not able to reach that repeater by RF, you're invited to connect by EchoLink from your cell phone or computer. A quick internet search for "Echolink" will find the instructions. Search inside the EchoLink app for "N6NFI" and you'll find our volunteer echolink stations, which include my station W6REK-R and Andy's KR6DD-R.

## Topic: PAARA club meeting

Time: Sep 4, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83907954214?pwd=bFA5YXB3MWFJbSttbERncmZhcGwvZz09>

Login: First name and call sign

Meeting ID: 839 0795 4214

Passcode: 900513

One tap mobile

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- +12532158782,,83907954214#,,,,,0#,,900513# US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 839 0795 4214

Passcode: 900513

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kixWqiHK7>

## Once a HAM, always a Ham

**Robert Bance, WA6MSA**

I got my license Radio Amateur HH2RLB in 1953, and my US License WA6MSA in the 70's. As I am not that active on the DX bands and only on VHF/UHF operation, about to reach my 87th year, and managing my physical energy, I prefer dismantling my shack and antennas as herewith illustrated.

I started with those WWII, BC radios offered then in Popular Electronics Magazine.

First contact was Mexico [40/80m] xtal controlled, homemade long whip antenna.

Another ham sold me for \$6.00 a Johnson Viking I + external VFO AM transmitter. The final tube was a full Glass 4D32, whose grid pin was broken off. Using a woman nail file, I wore down the grid pin area, until I could make a one timeluck solder to the grid.

I was on the air with Antenna 100ft dipole attached to the neighbors trees (right & left), Feed line: 75 ohms Flat TV cable (no coax). Receiver: Was my brother's Radio Grundig. (Knife switch to antenna). Plenty QSO's local and French caribes + Venezuela/ Colombia and others. Later used .borrowed ancient Hallicrafters, / National etc.----- Till a big spider got electrocuted on the power slider resistor screen line. Damage: Resistor open as well as Modulation transformer. A qso listener (Long Island NY) sent me the resistor, After study. I modified final stage with a pair of 6146, and rewired Modulation transformer, after constructing an oven to bake it in shellac [To avoid singing modulation]. Still mode operation: AM, SSB at its infancy

Couple of years later: I got a hand on a Collins KWM2 (modified to operate off 40m) which got me in SSB (20/15/10) – Started to build tribander antenna.

Was hired by Heathkit in New-York., transferred to Wesbury, NY. A ham customer befriended me. He was about to sell his house to engage in a long road trip. He asked me to dismantle his tower and antenna TA33, Which he offered to me for little money plus a Hammarlund Q100x? and a Central Electronic 200v transmitter.

Later on, I was transferred to Redwood City, California, where much later I purchased my residence. In the meantime, I had loaned these two last equipments to a friend, Swede, who, to my surprise sold them in a PAARA show.

So, here we go: I bought and built this excellent HW5400 Heathkit transceiver 100w plus a SB-1000 Linear Amplifier (110v\wired). ; in line with HM2140 wattmeter. Having a large flat roof, I could afford multiple antennas. (5) all switched on from the shack with a Heathkit SA1480 with excellent foam quality coax RG8 – still have 280 ft.

- 1 Tower (12 ft) + Rotator Alliance/Control + TX7 Antenna 7 elem. 20-15-10
- 1 Tower (aluminum) 20ft + Radio Shack Rotator/Control + Hex Beam Triband 20-15-10 (can be upgraded to additional 17-12-6)
- Hustler 80-10 Vertical
- Not long ago a Kenwood TS 850 txcvr 100 w (all band) Plus Kenwood DSP-100 Digital Processor/ with Power Supply was added.
- Two Kenwood [2m/70cm] (Tm-32A & TM-707) plus their Discone & Yagui Antennas

With this set up == plenty QSOs, time + conditions permitting

Pretty soon, I will have all these equipments, with full documentation, reasonably priced for sale, except the 2 Kenwood [70cm/ 2m} for local and mobile operations 73's, WA6MSA

*(President — Continued from page 1)*

made a couple of personal best long-distance contacts by using the weather as a reflector.

I hope everyone spent a little time at the QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo. There were some interesting presentations such as Glenn Johnson, W0CJ, Is 3 dB worth a divorce?, Tom Vinson, NY0V, The Search for Amelia Earhart's L10E, Ria Jairam, N2RJ, DXing with modern Software Defined Radios, and a host of other topics. One of the best parts of the Expo is the ability to watch presentations up to 30 days after the actual event. It's also nice to be able to skip through parts of a presentation that you may already know so you can concentrate on the new information. The good news, if you missed this event, they already have another one scheduled for March 13th and 14th next year.

Also, at the Expo, Marcel Stieber, A16MS, gave an informative presentation entitled, Fully Remote Radio Exam Administration. The talk explained how VE's have quickly developed a new method of license testing. The process involved automating the paperwork process and the adaptation of existing online practice testing into an official program. Testing also involves a Zoom conferencing session so the 3 VE's can monitor the person taking the test. Unlike the paper tests, grading is instantaneous upon completion of the test and the testee can see the questions they missed. This is only possible due to the randomization of the test questions the software compiles for each participant's test. All of that said, there is no reason, at least one related to taking the test, you can't get your first license or upgrade an existing one. Several of the local VE groups have adopted and trained on this method of conducting amateur radio examinations.

As we enter September, it's already time to start thinking about elections. The board started the discussion on how to conduct online elections as I doubt, we'll be meeting in person before next year. Thus, we will be coming up with a process so elections can be held online. More information on the process will be forthcoming as we approach December. I asked Clark Martin, KK6ISP, who has accepted, to head up the

nominating committee. Contact Clark if you wish to run for one of the board positions or assist in the process. Remember, you must be a member in good standing before the December meeting and present at the meeting to vote.

I hope everyone enjoyed Rob Sherwood's, NC0B, talk on his experiences with radio testing. As the prominent independent tester of radios for many years, he provided us with a wealth of information. He also answered a wide variety of questions from attendees about testing and various radios, not all of which are current models. I'm still working on getting the video of the meeting edited and posted so you can watch it again or for the 1st time if you missed the presentation. This month, we have a joint presentation by 4 of our members on their experiences at Quartzfest 2020. Quartzfest is a unique ham convention as you'll learn through the presentation. This presentation shouldn't be missed if you enjoy amateur radio and camping.

The September 4th Zoom meeting will have a couple of changes. The hope is to make it harder for any Zoom bombers to interrupt the meeting as we've already experienced. Unfortunately, this also means extra steps for the moderator and participants. I will be adding a 2nd moderator to the meeting to help oversee the participants. The waiting room will also be activated. This means when you join you will be placed in the waiting room until a moderator adds you as a participant. PLEASE, make sure to log in using your first name and call sign as it will make this added process easier.

In closing, I have NO more stories for PAAR-Agraphs. I desperately need at least one for next month, preferably several for the can, or there will be no story in the next issue. I'm sure there are one or more members who have promised a story or have thought about something they could share with everyone. Please put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard as it may be, and send me some new content.

73, Jim K6SV

Keep the airwaves alive by getting on the air!

## **August 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**

Present: Jim Thielemann K6SV, President, Vice President; Ric Hulett N6AJS, Secretary; Bob Korte KD6KYT, Treasurer; Walt Gyger K6WGY, Joel Wilhite KD6W, Doug Teter KG6LWE, and Darryl Presley KI6LDM, Directors. Also present were members Mikko Sannala AB6RF and Rob Fenn KC6TYD. Meeting was called to order at 7:13 p.m. A quorum was present.

### **President's Report**

Last weekend we experienced a major thunderstorm. We were out walking in Olivehurst 2 miles away from my son's house when the storm hit. Our Menlo Park rain gage registered 0.22 inches of rain. We all disconnected our coaxial cables when the storm hit.

One of the things I had not considered was that there are no mass evacuation centers being set up, due to Covid-19. People instead can pick up supplies in their cars: This changes the nature of Amateur Radio support.

### **Secretary's Report**

One renewal, no new members this month.

### **Treasurer's Report**

We have transferred records to our new bookkeeper, Robert Scher, CPA. Rob was referred to us by Elise Scher, KI6PUO)

With no in-person meetings and no Electronic Flea market, there has been minimal financial activity.

### **VP / Program Chair Report**

The September speaker and topic will be Quartzfest: A week-long ham radio, camping, learning, and living event. The speakers will be a cast of four: Rob, KC6TYD; Rachel, KKC6DAC; Frank, AF0XX; and Karen, KK6NGA will share their adventures experienced during Quartzfest 2020. See what happens when you mix ham radio with boondocking. From daily seminars to four-wheel driving to evening campfire camaraderie.

Last month's meeting was very well received. Jim K6SV is working on a video of Rob Sherwood's NC0B presentation, which will be posted to the club site when complete.

### **Old Business**

PAARA members: We need more PAARAgaphs articles, and soon! If you have an interesting story, a technical topic or anything of interest to the club, please write it up and send to the PAARAgaphs editor!

We discussed this question: Could we have a 'dream to reality' raffle in December?

Rob Fenn KC6TYD and Shri KA6Q have some ideas for an online raffle. More to come on this topic.

900 MHz repeater status: This work is ongoing, but Joel is making progress. Still need to terminate the 900Mhz antennas. This repeater may be linked to AllStarLink, a VOIP link to other repeaters.

Call sign trustees: K6YQT has been updated, KG6LWE is the new trustee.

We will be videoconferencing the next club meeting on September 4th.

### **New Business**

Elections: The time is quickly coming when we need to appoint a nominating committee and prepare for the Board elections. The board discussed the likelihood that we will need to have this year's elections online. We will review the club bylaws to determine if any changes are required.

We have had a request from Bob Heil K9EID: They want to add clubs to the Ham Nation meetings. We should talk about: an 82 year old club, a SERIOUS field day effort, the W1AW special event station at Pacificon.

Joel KD6W described his exciting weekend in the ARRL VHF/UHF contest last weekend. 265 miles on 10GHz!

The meeting was adjourned at: 8:52 pm

Ric Hulett, N6AJS, Secretary



## 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 .....	Bob Korte, KD6KYT	408 396 4745
	bob@rgktechsales.com	

### 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@wawi.com	
Director ('21) .....	Darryl Presley, K16LDM	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, W6ARA....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Station Trustee K6YQT...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
Station Trustee K6OTA...	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager .....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
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Historian Position .....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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QSL Manager .....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023
Speaker Coordinator .....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023

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	dianalloyd76@gmail.com	
Technical Tips .....	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Photographer .....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	

## 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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:KD6W@ARRL.NET), 650-325-8239

## FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Friday each month at 7:30pm

Contact: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>

## NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:30pm each month,

Repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM

Contact: <http://nodxc.org> or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:president@wvara.org)

## American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

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

(Please send changes to [PAARAgaphs editor](#))

WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE  
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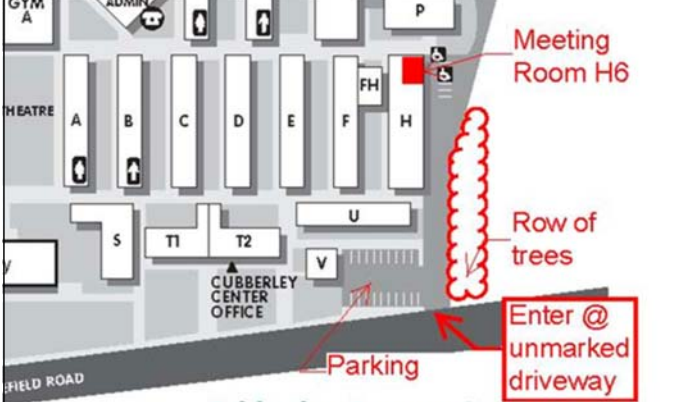




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**Meeting Room H6**

**Row of trees**

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**Parking**

**Cubberley Community Center**  
 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303  
 650/329.2418  
 650/856.8756 fax  
 www.cityofpaloalto.org

### 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 <sup>st</sup>	Joel - KD6W
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John - W6JMK
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ric - N6AJS
4 <sup>th</sup>	Rob - KC6TYD
5 <sup>th</sup>	Rob - KC6TYD

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.

**Meeting Location — Middlefield Road between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road**

Your grandfather told your father and your father told you. If he had invested his money in real estate he would be a rich man today — what will you tell your children?

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**Opening hours**  
 Monday-Friday: 8 AM – 7 PM; Saturday-Sunday: 8 AM – 6 PM



**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.

Membership in PAARA is \$25.00 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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ARV'S, WA6UUT (SK)  
**WEDNESDAY  
 HAM RADIO  
 LUNCHEON**  
 Our 11<sup>th</sup> year!  
 - Since May 2, 2007 -  
**BLACK BEAR DINER**  
**Sunnyvale, California**  
 415 East El Camino Real  
 (Just "North" of South Fair Oaks  
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**11:30 AM ~ 3:00 PM**  
 Website: [www.blackbeardiner.com](http://www.blackbeardiner.com)

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Submit items to  
**PAARAgaphs**  
 by the 3rd Wed to:  
[rvt@swde.com](mailto:rvt@swde.com)  
 Text: .doc, .rtf,  
 or .txt  
 Photos:  
 jpg, png or tiff

Subscription  
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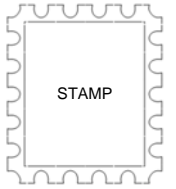
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# PAARAgaphs — September 2020

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