

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 78 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*



Paul Ewing, N6PSE

Paul will talk about the E30FB DXpedition and give a sneak pre-view of our upcoming VP8STI/VP8SGI DXpeditions

Bio

Paul Ewing is a recently retired Silicon Valley Technology Executive. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from St. Mary's College. He was also an early Internet pioneer running the systems, networks and datacenters for such Internet companies as eBay, Yahoo, and Google during their early years.

Paul has been an amateur radio operator since 1982. Since 1992 he has been a serious DXer. He loves to travel and participate in DXpeditions.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| Sept. 4 | PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM |
| Oct 2 | Cubberly Community Center, Room |
| Nov 6 | H-6, 400 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto |
| Sept. 16 | Board Meeting, 7:00 PM |
| Oct 21 | Everyone welcome! Round |
| Nov 18 | Table Pizza Parlor in Menlo Park |



President's Corner

September 2015

It's almost autumn already. When we get there we should see better propagation. Right now I've got S9 noise at my place, though. What to do? I attended the Duke City Hamfest in Albuquerque at the beginning of August. It was a wonderful trip and I took a few days to enjoy Santa Fe, a place I love. I'll also be at Hamcon in Torrance on September 12th. Want to join me? Then there's CQP coming up very soon now, and then Pacificon. With autumn also comes PAARA leadership elections. And we also have the PAARA Dream to Reality Raffle in our future. Whew!



As I write this, we are about to embark on another great PAARAtrip on the Niles Canyon Railway (<http://www.ncry.org>). I think it's going

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to be a great experience for everyone involved. While the only radio relation is probably whatever gear we take with us, it's a great chance to have time with our friends that this diverse and fascinating hobby has brought together. I've noticed over the years that interest in trains is one of those things that seems to overlap with Amateur Radio. When Marty, W6NEV our PAARA VP, suggested this trip some months ago, it seemed like a natural fit. We've reserved the caboose as our own, so we can all ride together in style! We'll also be riding steam, so be prepared for the incredible earth shaking sound of that amazing pressure working the pistons. After our ride, we hope that all of you who've signed up will join us for a barbecue at Lake Elizabeth in Fremont. Sadly, the caboose can only accommodate a limited number of riders, and all seats are already sold out. If you missed out, perhaps you'll join us next time. We, of course, welcome any and all feedback on our PAARAtrips. We hope you enjoy these special events sponsored by our club. It's one of the many things that make PAARA unique in our Amateur Radio community.

The Duke City Hamfest (<https://dukecityhamfest.org>) is over, but not forgotten at all. I had a great time making new friends in Albuquerque and also spent some time talking about club activities with people from the local clubs. Looking at the attendance, there were about 35% more people this year than last. I gave my talk entitled Ground Is A Myth there. In attendance at the talk, notably, was Riley Hollingsworth, K4DZH, retired FCC Special Counsel for the Spectrum Enforcement Division. I had a chance to chat with him quite a bit about so-called grounding and associated regulations. We plan to keep in touch since it looks



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My First K3/10 QSO

Bob Mix, KF6ABC

I'm a novice General-class operator. I own a Kenwood TS-570D and have an 80-meter dipole zig-zagging and tied down on my roof, not up in the air. I bought the dipole just so I could check into Darryl KI6LDM Presley's Tuesday night 3878 Net. Twice I tuned the dipole to chat on 40 meters. I listen a lot, but the transmitter is virginal, and as an operator, so am I.

My chief ham radio pleasure is building kits and experimenting with circuits. As a minimalist engineer I am attracted to QRP and have built a dozen QRP rigs. Last August, I had a birthday that incremented the ten's digit. You never know which birthday will be the last. So, I bought a new QRP kit radio called the K3/10 with no options except the MH2 microphone. The assembly manual is 82 pages, but I easily screwed the 371-part radio together in 5 hours. For power, I bought an MFJ-4230MV supply and with it the K3 receiver sounded sweet until I realized the sound of a jet engine revving up every 3 minutes was a permanent problem. The source had to be in the K3, the power supply, the antenna or my environment. After switching to the Kenwood PS-40 power supply, the jet engine disappeared. So, I swapped the MFJ and \$70 more for an Alinco DM-330MV supply and then the receiver was perfectly sweet. In the early days we burned in our electronics for days and days, so I ran the radio every day while I worked at my job of developing software.

The receiver was solid, so on to the transmitter. The manual does not read like a novel and the menus have a myriad of options. The TX Gain Calibration ran without error. But, when I ran the off-air transmit test, the SWR and RF power scales were blank and an on-air test was no better. Were they liars? I hooked up a tuner with SWR and Watt meters that confirmed no signal was making it to the antenna. I emailed Elecraft Support and received a checklist. Soon I realized the Mic Bias was off. With bias on, all 4 meters told me I had a low SWR and 12 watts at the antenna. With that setup on 20 meters, I got back to programming while listening with one ear. When I took a work break, I picked up a CQ on 14310

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from 19-year-old Aaron NA7AM activating a 150-watt SOTA station at 7000 feet on Illinois Peak near the Idaho-Montana border. I listened to him calling CQ repeatedly, until I got the itch to learn if he could hear my 12 watt SSB signal. Wow! He heard my call and QTH and gave me the SOTA ID of W7I/NI-002. Every time I use the K3, I will remember my first K3 QSO.

Bob KF6ABC

PAARA's Field Day score for 2015

This year's score was on a par, though 530 points lower, than last year's score.

Last year we scored:

2014	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSO's	2,325	0	2,323	
Total Points	4,650	0	2,323	<u>6,973</u>
2x Multiplier				13,946
Bonus Points				1,770
Total Score				15,716

Band splits:

	CW	Digital	Phone
80M	200	0	242
40M	499	0	222
20M	846	0	836
15M	693	0	777
10M	87	0	0
6M	0	0	29
2M	0	0	1
1.25	0	0	1
Other	0	0	2
Satellite	0	0	20
GOTA			193

This year we scored:

2015	CW	Digital	Phone	Total
Total QSO's	2,047	3	2,598	
Total Points	4,094	6	2,598	<u>6698</u>
2x Multiplier				13,396
Bonus Points				1,790
Claimed Score				15,186

Band splits

	CW	Digital	Phone
80M	217	0	139
40M	580	3	459
20M	889	0	1274
15M	361	0	540
10M	0	0	3
GOTA	0	0	183

Analysis

As you can see, the biggest difference is that we were down 278 contacts on CW which equates to 556 points before adding the 2x multiplier. This was especially evident on 15M where the CW antenna wasn't working as well as anticipated. It is possible that contributing to the antenna problem was 15M wasn't as open as the number of phone contacts, where the antenna was working fine, was down considerably from last year. Where we made up the difference was on working phone on 40M & 20M where the numbers of contacts were considerably higher than last year but only counted for 1 point each.

All the other scores were higher than last year in spite of not having any satellite contacts. The lack of satellite contacts was more than made up by Doug, KG6LWE passing "NTS Message

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Traffic” to Peter, K6WEB, something that didn’t happen last year.

GOTA was almost as successful as last year. There were 2 fewer operators this year and 2 fewer that earned additional bonus points but they managed to only rack up 10 fewer contacts thus almost equaling the total points for last year. We did manage to attract 6 youth under 13 as we did last year but overall they made more contacts than last year. Interestingly the average age for the youth for both years is 8.1 years of age.

We’ll have to wait until October to see how we place with the rest of the clubs.

Thanks go out to everyone that participated. Additional thanks go to Rebar, N6DB and Ron, W6AZ who helped compile and review the submission to the ARRL.

Make sure to save June 24-26, 2016 for next year’s event.

Jim Thielemann — K6SV
 Secretary/Membership

Aug 19, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes

The August Board Meeting was held at the Menlo Park Round Table Pizza Parlor, commencing at 7:31 PM on August 19th, 2015. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX (President), Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Ron Chester, W6AZ (Treasurer), Darryl Presley, KI6LDM (Dir), Larry Rebarchik, N6DB (Dir), Rob Riley, KI6INR (Dir), and non-Board Members, Gerry Tucker, N6NV (Property Manager), Joel Wilhite, KD6W (Technical Coordinator), Doug Teter, KG6LWE (Field Day Coordinator), Bob Korte, KD6KYT. A quorum was present.

President’s Report: Kristen, K6WX, thanked Rebar for running the August meeting during her trip to the Duke City Hamfest. Her talk on “Grounding” was of interest to many hams in

attendance. She also made several new friends during her stay. She had the opportunity to talk to the local club about the importance PAARA has found in there being a daily net (the 9AM Talk Net) on general ham interest topics which are keeping people interested, and passing on information on a wide range of subjects. Back home again, she also managed to make it to the Wednesday lunch earlier on the 19th and was a bit surprised that there were only 5 people in attendance, “maybe due to the end of summer” she said.

Kristen also reported that she and the board are still looking for a member or members to represent PAARA at ASVARO board meetings and possibly sit on their board. Here is a great opportunity to represent PAARA at ASVARO and assist in the single largest money making event for the club. Contact Kristen or any board member if you’re interested in this important opportunity.

Kristen indicated her reserve of stories is reasonable but always in need. Have you committed to a story but not submitted it, do you have any projects, Field Day experiences, technical articles, hints n kinks, DX, setting up your station or antenna, on the air experiences that might be of interest? It’s time to put pen to paper or exorcise the demons out of your word processing program and get a story submitted to Kristen.

Vice President’s Report: Marty, W6NEV, having just returned from Europe, was still in recovery mode and not able to attend. In his absence, Jim reported the September speaker will be Paul Ewing, N6PSE who will talk about the E30FB DXpedition and provide a sneak peak at the upcoming VP8STI/VP8SGI DXpeditions. Marty is still looking for speakers for the rest of the year. If you have any ideas, let him know.

Jim also mentioned, on Marty’s behalf, that only 4 seats for the Niles Canyon Railway trip were remaining. During the meeting, 2 more seats were sold for the August 30th field trip and ride the railway. By the time you read this, the trip

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will be a memory for those who went.

Marty also reported, through an email exchange with the board that he successfully filed the needed paperwork for PAARA to be back as an ARRL Affiliated Club. We are now listed on the ARRL web site though some of the information needs to be corrected. He advised the ARRL of the need for a few corrections.

Secretary's report: Jim, K6SV, reported that currently there are 164 PAARA members. The total of PayPal renewals and other sales now totals 148. "There are quite a few people using PayPal to pay for items other than dues, like field trips", he said. He also reported 1 new member joined in August. Further, he mentioned that the Field Day results were sent to ARRL before the deadline and thanked Rebar, N6DB, for his assistance and that of Ron, W6AZ, for reviewing the submission. Now we wait until October for the results.

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, had recovered enough from his moving "experience" to attend the board meeting. He'd also found enough time to catch up PAARA's accounting. He reported that the club remains in good financial condition. The various expenses and income from the club remain very similar to last year and the averages from previous years.

Under Old Business, Rebar, N6DB, mentioned that the deal he hoped to have brokered didn't pan out and that the club's PE-95 generator is still for sale. He's looking for someone who is interested in purchasing it. Let Rebar know if you know of anyone who might be interested.

Rebar also reported that the speaker for August, Professor W.E. Moerner, WN6I, Nobel Laureate, who's talk was entitled "FM Radio at 560 THz Enables Single-Molecule Detection and Spectroscopy, Paving the Way to the Nobel Prize", was very well received by those in attendance. Other board members concurred. Thanks go to Rebar, N6DB, for the speaker suggestion and assistance in setting up the date.

Gerry, N6NV, reported that the Club Repeater shack actually looks like a building. The roof and sides need to have the final treatments applied to keep the weather out but major progress has been made. On Saturday the 22nd a core group made a trip to look at what it's going to take to get power and a base for the tower under way. At the same time, there were talks on how to finish the exterior of the walls and the roof.

Gerry, N6NV, reported that the radios collected from Ron, W6AZ, house have been photographed and will work their way into ads in PAARAgaphs in forthcoming issues. Keep your eyes open as you may find something you're looking for.

Marty, W6NEV, and the board are still looking for a member to step up and take over the coffee & snack setup/cleanup and making sure to have all the necessary coffee supplies for every meeting. The job isn't hard but it an important part of every meeting. Please contact Marty or Jim, K6SV, for information or to volunteer.

Joel, KD6W, provided the board information on the repeater status. He received an offer to take the system "off our hands" for no compensation. He also provided information on the cost for a DMR repeater. The board provided a bit of direction indicating the approval to locate a buyer (meaning monetary exchange) for the existing repeater, less the 1.2M module, and further investigate the cost for a DMR repeater. No votes were taken on these items yet.

Under New Business, Gerry, N6NV, commented on the larger than normal number of empty sellers spots at the August Electronics Flea Market (EFM). Kristen, K6WX, mentioned that that the August EFM was the 1st time the State Board of Equalization was there to "police" the sellers to make sure they have the proper tax paperwork in place. Gerry commented that he "bent the ear" of the representative regarding the concerns most sellers have. He also mentioned that the number of buyers was also rather low thus the proceeds were lower than usu-

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al. Kristen mentioned running into one of the regular sellers at the EFM when at the Hamfest. They said they weren't going to the EFM any longer as they weren't making any money and found Hamfest's to be much more lucrative.

Kristen also commented that it's time to start the election process again. She'll be making contact with a few to locate this year's election chair. Now is the time to consider running for a seat on the board of your club. In the interim, contact any board member if your wish to run for a position.

A short discussion was had regarding the December Dream to Reality Raffle and the Winter banquet. Seems both events are fast approaching and it's time to start thinking about them.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:57.

Jim Thielemann

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like he's switching to a Macintosh :). I also spent time talking with Tim, KB7MDF, owner of Arrow Antenna. Tim is a fascinating person who has done amazing things with the company. Last but not least, though, I had some of that unique and wonderful Northern New Mexican food. If you're familiar, I like Red, and I like it spicy. It was heaven.

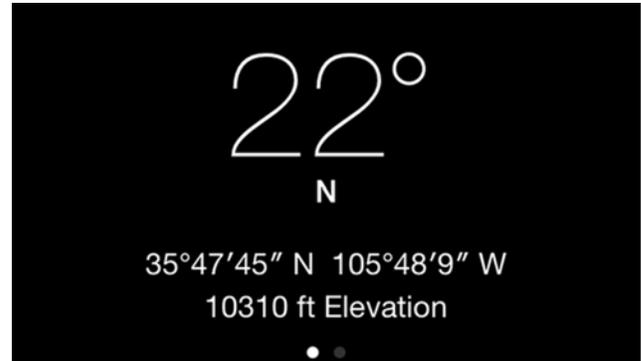
I turned my HF radio on shortly after I returned to find that the noise floor has really spiked. It looks like it's on all bands and pretty uniform with frequency. Yikes! I don't know what the source is yet, but I guess it's time to start an investigation. My Pixel receiving loop allows me to ignore it at some level, but the signal level is reduced. The signal to noise ratio is better, though, so it's a temporary solution. I'll be wandering around the neighborhood with half of my Arrow satellite antenna and an HT set for 70cm AM to see if I can localize it. Not that I can do much about it if I find it. Time will tell.

I'm getting geared up for CQP at the beginning of October. How about you? I hope to work you from Alpine County. Don't forget that this is

the 50th running of the contest, so there is a special coin for working the GOLDRUSH stations. I hope to work you. See <http://www.cqp.org> for details.

CU SOON AT PAARA IN SEPT DE K6WX

Here are some random pictures from the Duke City Hamfest (more may be seen at: k6wx.smugmug.com/Travel/Santa-Fe-8-2015/):



Ski Santa Fe's Elevation
Santa Fe's Elevation is about 7100 ft.



**Faithful Steeds waiting
for Communicators**



Vendor Hall *(President — Continued on page 7)*



Above—Flea Market at Duke City Hamfest

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**Sandia Crest (near Albuquerque)
Communication Hill**

September Raffle Prizes



- 1st **Kenwood TM281A / 2m Mobile Transceiver Large Front Speaker Vivid Amber LCD Display with 32-step brightness control 200 Memory Channels, plus one call channel**
- 2nd **Lido LM801 EXP HT Cup Holder**
- 3rd **MFJ Mag Mount**
- 4th **ARRL Repeater Directory 2015-2016**
- 5th **Coax Seal**
- 6th **Bongo Ties**
- 7th **ARRL Lanyard**





PAARA 8/7/15 Raffle Prize Winners (from Left to Right)

3rd Prize / Darryl Presley / KI6LDM / Dummy Load

5th Prize / Walt Gyger / K6WGY / Power Poles

1st Prize / Richard Hyde / KD6WYK / Kenwood TM281A / 2m Mobile Transceiver

2nd Prize / Jim Thielemann / K6SV / ARRL Handbook

4th Prize / Jim Thielemann / K6SV / Pocket Reference

6th Prize / Bob Van Tuyl / K6RWY / Coax Wrap

7th Prize / Ralph Kugler / KC6YDH / Bongo Ties

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Kristen McIntyre, K6WX	510-703-4942
	kristen@alum.mit.edu	
Vice President.....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-246-7531
	w6nev@arrl.net	
Secretary	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Treasurer	Ron Chester, W6AZ	408-243 2221
	ron@taxhelp.com	

Directors

Director ('15-'16)	Byron Beck N6UOB	408-369-1913
	N6uob@arrl.net	
Director ('14-'15)	Rob Riley, KI6INR	650 799-1607
	(cell)	
	ki6inr@arrl.net	
Director ('15)	Larry Rebarchik N6DB	650 465-8210
	(cell)	
	n6db@arrl.net	
Director ('15)	Darryl Presley, KI6LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@arrl.net	

Appointed Positions

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Chaplain.....	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
	k6rdm@arrl.net	
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.....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wvci.com	
Historian Position.....	<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 Klibo, N6NFI	650-856-2748
	n6nfi@arrl.net	
Webmaster	John Miller K6MM	
	webaron@gmail.com	
Technical Coordinator.....	Joel Wilhite, Kd6w	408-839-5948
	kd6w@arrl.net	
QSL Manager	Rob Riley, KI6INR	650 799-1607
	(cell)	
	ki6inr@arrl.net	
Speaker Coordinator.....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-246-7531

PAARAgaphs Staff

Editorial Board	Bob Van Tuyl K6RWY	Kristen McIntyre K6WX
	Ron Chester W6AZ	Vic Black AB6SO
	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	
Editor	Bob Van Tuyl, K6RWY	408 799-6463
	rrvt@swde.com	
Back Up Editor.....	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Advertising	Ron Chester, W6AZ	408-243-2221
	ron@taxhelp.com	
Member Profiles.....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Technical Tips.....	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Photographer	Bill Young, K6VWO	
	jdjsinger@sbcglobal.net	

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-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 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.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

50 MHz & Up Group

Meets 1st Thursday each month at 7pm in the Texas Instruments Building E conference room in Santa Clara.

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

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/sccarra> 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 Chapter

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

shensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)



James Farrey
 Sales Manager

James Electronics Ltd
 1355 Shoreway Road, Belmont, CA 94002
 Tel: 650•592•6718 x 350 Fax: 650•802•1520
 Direct: 650•802•1511 jfarrey@jameco.com

www.jameco.com

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Email: KARLDRESDEN@juno.com

***Badges are ready for
 pickup.***

If you would like to
 order a badge, see
Doug Teter, KG6LWE.

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	Joel KD6W
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Jack - N1VSL
4 th	Marty - W6NEV
5 th	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.

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

Legend
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**Meeting Location — Middlefield Road
 between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo
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<http://www.foto.mail.ru/list/shkurkin>

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Editing and Translation Services
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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.

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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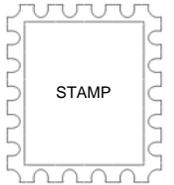
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PAARAgaphs — September 2015

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