

**W6OTX****W6ARA**

PAARA NEWSLETTER  
 VOLUME 62, NUMBER 11, Nov. 2012

**K6OTA****K6YQT**

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

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



**Special thanks to HSC Electronics for helping PAARA find the perfect screen!**

**HSC's generosity will help our speakers every month get their message out.**

**Thank you HSC!**

**<http://halted.com>**

## Stratospheric Observatory For Infrared Astronomy

**Nans Kunz**, Chief Engineer NASA Engineering and Safety Center will tell us about the Stratospheric Observatory For Infrared Astronomy (SOFIA).



Why put a telescope in an airplane and the technical difficulties of doing so.

**October 5, 2012**

**7:00 pm**

**Cubberley Community Center**

**Room H-6**

**4000 Middlefield Road**

**Palo Alto, CA 94303**

## President's Corner

November 2012

It has been an incredibly busy month for both myself and for Amateur Radio. We have just finished both the California QSO Party and the ARRL National Convention held in conjunction with Pacificon this year in Santa Clara. I hope to share a few of my experiences with you here in the President's Corner. What a time it's been.



The month started with the California QSO Party, the premiere State QSO Party sponsored by the Northern California Contest Club. Many PAARA members, including me, are also members of NCCC. Again this year Rick, N6DQ, outdid himself with an amazing setup for our Trinity County expedition. While we are not going to reveal the details of the setup, I can say that it worked quite well, and gave us the competitive edge we were looking for. We were able to improve our score significantly over last year, and of course, we are already looking to improve for next year. But all of that competitive stuff aside, it was great to be with the team again in Trinity. On the drive up there, my call-sign was spied on my license plate, and I was called on 146.52 by K6MI. We had a great chat as we both headed to our expedition sites. This

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being our third year, we now have traditions that have grown, like our post-setup prime rib dinner (and beer spill by K6WX ;), and pre-contest breakfast and team photo at oh-dark-thirty on Saturday morning. We welcomed new team members Andreas, N6NU, and Dave, AA6XV, into the rituals, and then set out to operating the full 30 hours of the contest this time. It was full-throttle operating until late into the night, when we realized that the original Trinity crew was left awake: K6YL, N6DQ, and K6WX. Rick and I took the night shift until dawn. I caught a couple of hours of sleep between 6 and 8am before getting on the key again on 20m to finish the contest. We had a couple of visitors from Redding who had talked to Rick on 80m at 5am, and had come by to see the setup. They were quite amazed, and they stayed through the end. When it was all over, we didn't bother to tear down right away, but instead had a late lunch / early dinner while we told stories of the contest in our sleep-deprived state. It was a blast. I highly recommend a county expedition if you can possibly do it. Even if you are not seriously competing, it's like a mini-Field Day.

The other big event this month was, of course, Pacificon. This year it was bigger and better because it was the American Radio Relay League's National Convention, right here in the Bay Area. It was the first time since 1992 that the National Convention was held on the West Coast. Like last year, Pacificon was held at the Santa Clara Marriot Hotel, which was most accommodating to our, no doubt, strange-to-them group. I can only imagine what other guests thought as they looked out on the swap meet and that glorious beam in the parking lot. I loved it, naturally. It was wonderful to see all of my old friends, some of whom I only see at Pacificon, and I had my usual quota of fascinating conversations. I also failed to get to any other talks than my own, since I end up just having so many opportunities to talk to people. I heard reports that there were many great learning opportunities. I also saw a number of the vendors, and was able to make contact with them to see what's up. There were other fun conversations about scientific topics like retarded fields, Clifford algebras, quaternions, and I even had a discussion about the meaning of

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Ham Radio in Thailand

**Nimit Hongyim (K6XOX / HS1IFU)**

I first thought that I should write something about how I was away from my original country for many years and what has changed. I did my research about Ham radio in Thailand and I have so much more information on Thai HAMS that many of you might have never known.

I will briefly include some information that explains topics such as the HF Band plan so that someday you might want to tune your rig and listen to us. There are more General class Thai HAMS now since they only have a the General classification. The detailed Thailand HF Band Plan may be viewed at <http://www.qsl.net/rast/text/HFbandplan.html>.

There is also some government regulation that you should know about if you want travel to Thailand to operate on HF. Sorry to say, **You are not allowed to bring any radio to Thailand** and use inside Thailand if you do not have a Thai call sign. It's a very firm law on that here so do not try it; use a Club Station instead.

### **US Ham License Reciprocity**

To apply for a native radio license, Thailand does not require 6 month residence for a call. You can apply for one even if you are coming for holiday! Do not forget that:

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1. Operating with your own personal equipment is only allowed with “**HS...**” **callsigns only!!**
2. **Equipment registration** (import only with Import Licenses according to specific approval)
3. “**HS**” **Station Licenses** - You cannot obtain one if you're not staying here . For shorter stays, you can only operate from existing persona stations or Club stations. HS prefixes are not legal with portable use to anybody

## **The Frequency band plan for HAMs in Thailand**

Effective January 1, 1988, Thailand permitted HF amateur radio operations on the 10-meter (28 MHz), 15-meter (21 KHz), 20-meter (14 MHz) and 40-meter (7 MHz) bands. Nearly a decade later in October 2007, permission was extended to include the so-called WARC bands including 30-meter (10 MHz), 17-meter (18 MHz) and 12-meter (24 MHz) bands as well as authorizing segments in the 80-meter and 160-meter bands.

Thailand's Post and Telegraph Department initially promulgated the first set of regulations on August 4, 1987. The National Telecommunications Commission was later responsible for the expanded allotment to amateur radio in 2007. The successor regulator, the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC) have all urged all Thai HF amateur radio operators to adhere to the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) Region 3 bandplan (reproduced below). Superimposed on this chart are Thailand's authorized frequencies in the 80-meter and 160 meter bands, namely, 3.5-3.54 MHz and 1.8 - 1.825 MHz as well as other differences. While originally authorized in October 2007, the allocation for 7 MHz was expanded by 100KHz to 7.0-7.2 MHz in February 2010.

Radio Amateur Society of Thailand (RAST) has been lobbying the NBTC for an expansion of the allocation in the 80- and 160 meter bands as well as for regular use of the 6-meter band. These uses have been permitted on occasions for RAST club stations to operate in during contests. A draft band plan has been prepared that will greatly expand the allocation for Thai radio amateurs on HF and VHF and this is expected to be enacted later this 2012 year.

## **All transceivers must be inspected after entering the country and an import license is required**

The importation of amateur radio transmitting equipment into Thailand must comply with the amateur radio regulations of the National Broadcasting and Telecommunications Commission (NBTC). The mandate is that all transceivers, both VHF and HF, need to be inspected and approved for use by the NTC. Prior to their being brought into the country, an import license must be obtained from the NBTC and after a customs duty has been paid, the transceiver must be submitted to the NBTC for inspection within seven days.

To expedite this inspection and registration, RAST strongly advises that only type-approved transmitters be imported since equipment that is capable of transmitting on unauthorized amateur radio bands will not be registered or allowed to be used. This list is shown below and as you can see, is limited in the makes and models that are allowed in.

Please note that there is an involved procedure in getting any transceiver added to the approved list and there is a possible high "first listing cost of 27,000 baht (roughly \$880 US dollars). It is not nor-

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Type-approved Transceivers for Thailand (NBTC inspection and approval is still required)					
Kenwood	Icom	Yaesu	Collins	Drake	Misc
TS-120B	IC-710	FT-1000	KWM-2A	R4-C	Heathkit HW-101
TS-120S	IC-718	FT-290RII (Version B)	32S-1	T4X-C	Elecraft K2
TS-440S	IC-720A	FT-747GX	75S-1		MFJ-9015
TS-450S	IC-725	FT-757GXII	32S-3		MFJ-9020
TS-50	IC-730	FT767	75S-3B		MFJ-9040
TS-50S	IC-735	FT840	KWM380		HR-20
TS-570D	IC-737	FT890			HR-40
TS-820S	IC-738	FT900			Trio R599
TS-830S	IC-751A	FT-101			Trio T599
TS-850S	IC-775DSP	FT-1000MP			
TS-870S	IC-781	FT-1000MP MkV			
TS-870SAT		FT-200			
TS-920S (see note)					
TS-930S		FT920 (see note)			
TS-940S					
TS-940SAT					
TS-950SDX					

Notes:

I can find no data to support there ever being a TS920, either internationally or JA domestically. There is an FT920 and I know of at least one in Thailand so most likely this is confusion from the original list.

The FT290 and FT767 are the only VHF radios shown. The FT767 was approved with only the 144-146Hz module.

Source: HS0ZED, July 1, 2008

mally possible to import and register a transceiver that operates on bands that are not approved by the NBTC and this includes most modern transceivers that include 6 meters (50-54MHz) as a standard feature. While this band has yet to be authorized for general use in Thailand, there have been some exceptions to this rule in 2012 and the last RAST representative to obtain the latest information about this from is Narissa Showannasai (HS1CHB/N9WMS) whose email address is n9wms(AT)hotmail.com.

Please also note that in addition, only persons who possess a Thai amateur radio license may be issued an import license to bring in such equipment into the country.

Updated on July 2, 2012

RESOURCES:-

Thank you and Credit from RAST (Radio Amateur Society of Thailand's) <http://www.qsl.net/rast/>

Below is my (i.e. Nimit Hongyim, K6XOX / HS1IFU) Thai Callsign "HS1IFU" License. The license is not the same as in USA. Here we have only piece of paper while the Thai license is the same size as Credit card. This will be convenient for Local Police as they will ask any time when they see you have HT on you hand or your belt. It is important to have the license handy so that one is not mistaken for a police officer.



## Congratulations: October 5, 2012 PAARA Raffle Prize Winners

- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Joel Wilhite / KD6W / MFJ 4230 MV / Yaesu FT-60R / Dual Band HT  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Emily Stemmerich / KJ6SBS / Heil Pro Micro Single Sided Headset  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Kostyantyn Parchevsky / KJ6TWH / Two West Mountain COM Speakers  
4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Joel Wilhite/ KD6W / Kill-A-Watt / AC Usage Monitor  
5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Mike Wimble / KM6WP / Four Antenna Insulators  
6<sup>th</sup> Prize: Kostyantyn Parchevsky / KJ6TWH / ARRL Repeater Directory 2012-2013  
7<sup>th</sup> Prize: Marty Wayne / W6NEV / Bongo Ties

PAARA Members and Visitors: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the exciting monthly raffles! Since (Feb. 2003), 240 Radios, including Five Elecraft K3's, a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams, THANKS TO YOU!

PAARA had a remarkable year in 2011! If you aren't a member, please join PAARA now, and experience fun 2012 events with the "friendliest club around."

K6AK Jim

## 17 OCTOBER 2012 PAARA Board Meeting Minutes

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:30 PM on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 2012. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Marty Wayne W6NEV (VP), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Sec, Database), Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir), Darryl Presley KI6LDM (Dir), Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir), Larry Rebarchik N6DB (Dir), Doug Teter KG6LWE (Field Day Coordinator), and Gerry Tucker N6NV (Property Manager). A quorum was present.

**President's Report:** Kristen K6WX reported that the presentation by Brian Day of NASA speaking on Exploring the Lunar Environment using Laser Technology at our October 5<sup>th</sup> General Meeting at our new Palo Alto location at the Cubberley Community Center created a good deal of interest in the project of observing moon dust kicked up by meteor strikes and the possibility of radio amateur participation.

Kristen mentioned that the Pacificon Convention, which this year hosted the National ARRL as well, seemed to be a lot of fun for all and that attendees were very complimentary of both her presentation and of PAARA. Moreover, the staff coordination of the Mount Diablo club (MDARC) and the hotel service were outstanding and highly commended.

Kristen again mentioned we still want to invite the general membership to consider writing up any projects, technical subjects and tips or operating experiences that might be of interest to our PAARAgaphs readers. If you think might have something, we'd like to hear from you.

The project to acquire a suitable projection screen for the Cubberley meeting room has come to fruition and it looks at this point like we have what we need. Also, regarding the prospect of a reestablished PAARASHOOT, we have a green light and will be selecting a date after the first of the year. Plans are also moving ahead for the Winter Banquet proposed for

January 18<sup>th</sup> at Michael's at Shoreline.

Joel KD6W has set the date for the PAARAFest for October 27<sup>th</sup>, commencing at 11:00 AM. These are a lot of fun and an opportunity to pick up some pretty nice equipment bargains with the proceeds benefitting the club. Joel is still working on the project to find a suitable location for our activated D-Star repeater and will welcome any ideas on the subject.

Our election cycle for club officers for 2013 is moving ahead. The Election Committee Chairman, David Ranch KI6ZHD is in the process of putting together the slate of candidates. Nominations will close at the end of the November meeting. We will finish out the year with the election and the Dream to Reality feature for the December meeting and begin the New Year with our Show and Tell home brew night for January.

**Vice President's Report:** Marty W6NEV reports our next General Meeting, on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, will feature Nans Kunz of the Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy. SOFIA is an 80% / 20% partnership of NASA and the German Aerospace Center (DLR), consisting of an extensively modified Boeing 747SP aircraft carrying a reflecting telescope with an effective diameter of 2.5 meters (100 inches). SOFIA is the largest airborne observatory in the world, studying the universe at infrared wavelengths, capable of making observations that are impossible for even the largest and highest ground-based telescopes.

**Secretary's Report:** Rick K6RDM reports that the minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> of September Board meeting had been previously submitted and approved and that there were four new members and six renewals at the October 5<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ron W6AZ was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

Under New Business, authorization was given for Doug KG6LWE to purchase an aluminum crank-up tower that has become available.

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Doug has asked that we schedule one more antenna party to help with finishing the work of putting up our antennas and other equipment to be stored until our next Field Day. A date will be announced when established.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

There were four new members at the October meeting:

Michael Gold	KJ6ZOM	Mtn View
Konstantin Parchevsky	KJ6TWH	Mtn View
Walter Underwood	K6WRU	Palo Alto
Mike Lang	No call	Redwood City

Badges available to be picked up:

K6FTF	Mark	San Jose
KJ6GBE	Sreendish	Redwood City
KG6GY Y	Art	San Jose
N6JCY	Joani	San Jose
KG6QKN	Francis	Palo Alto
KG6QKO	Kali	Palo Alto
KJ6SGT	Xiande	Campbell
KF6SRD	Chuck	Palo Alto
K6TSR	George	Portola Valley
K6VVK	Vincent	Palo Alto
W1VSL	Jack	Campbell
KI6QWM	Scott	Palo Alto
WA6UIM	Barry	Gardnerville
KI6JLS	Joanne	Palo Alto

New badges ordered last month, available this month

KJ6SBS	Emily	San Mateo
KJ6ZOM	Mike	Mountain View
W6ABA	Pat	Palo Alto
K6WGY	Walt	Cupertino

(President's Corner, Continued from page 2)

mathematical limits, and the subtleties of delta-epsilon proofs. What other hobby offers stuff like that? It was unforgettable, and those are just the highlights. There was so much more.

I could continue, but sadly we're out of space for this month. We just had an M9 class flare as I write this, so HF CONDX aren't that great. Maybe in a couple of days they will get better. I'm actually working on my PSK app a bit this weekend instead of using it. We have a great program this month, so I hope to see you at PAARA, and the Dream to Reality Raffle is next month. We're giving away another K3!!! You don't want to miss it. Don't forget the election too - both of them - PAARA and the US. CU AT PAARA DE K6WX.

### PAARA November 2, 2012 Raffle Prizes

- 1<sup>st</sup> Yaesu FT-60R / Dual Band HT / 144-430 MHz / 5 Watt / Wide Receiver Coverage / Emergency Automatic Identification (EAI) / Outstanding Audio
- 2<sup>nd</sup> MP-1 Portable HF Super Antenna / 7-450 MHz / Assembled 7.5 Feet High
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Two West Mountain COM Speakers / RF Proof / Stereo / Amplified / with Audio Cables and UL Approved Wall Supply
- 4<sup>th</sup> ARRL 2012 Handbook
- 5<sup>th</sup> LF-01 Blinking LED Lite Flare
- 6<sup>th</sup> ARRL Repeater Directory
- 7<sup>th</sup> Bongo Ties

## Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

### Officers

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### Appointed Positions

Membership.....	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
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Public Affairs.....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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Station Trustee K6OTA .....	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
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HistorianPosition.....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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Ticket Master .....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-246-7531
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	ab6so@smrn.com	
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	jdsinger@sbcglobal.net	

### Future PARRA Meeting Dates

Dec 7<sup>th</sup>, Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, Feb 1<sup>st</sup>

## 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](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-October, 6am-2pm  
 Howard M. Krawetz, N6HM 650-856-9761  
 Contact: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

## PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> 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](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://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](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: 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

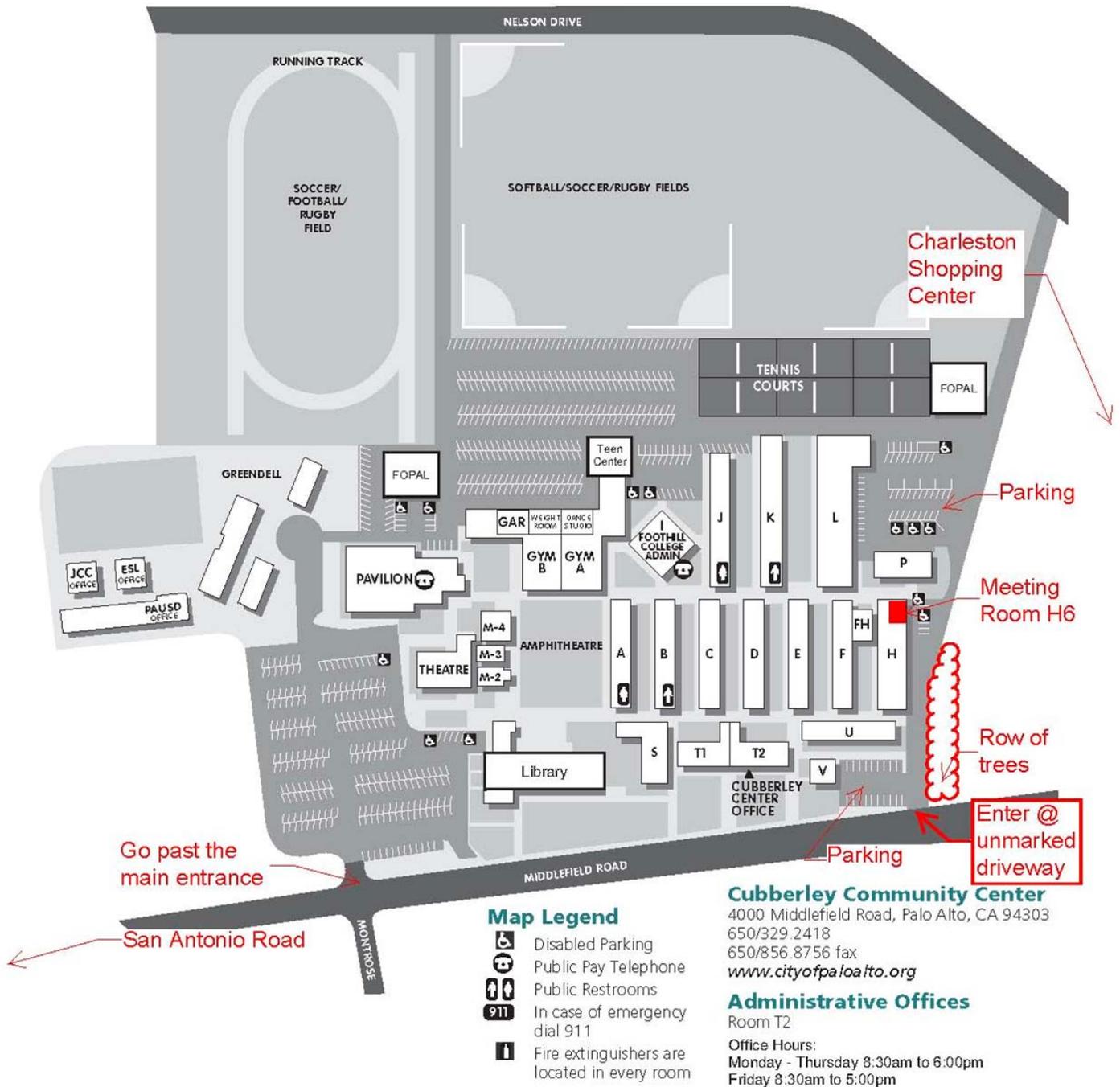
Meetings are 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month.

Contact: <http://wvara.org>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, [N6FFC@Juno.com](mailto:N6FFC@Juno.com), or [N6FFC@ARRL.NET](mailto:N6FFC@ARRL.NET)

## American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

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

(Please send changes to [PAARAgaphs editor](mailto:PAARAgaphs editor))



## 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.



James Farrey  
 Sales Manager

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*Badges are ready for  
 pickup.*

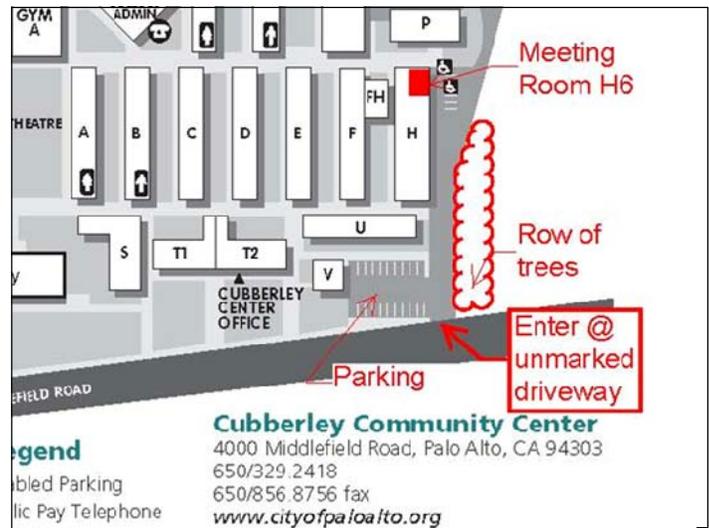
If you would like to  
 order a badge, see  
**Doug Teter, KG6LWE.**

## 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 <sup>st</sup>	Michael - N6MEB
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Doug - KG6LWE
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jack - N1VSL
4 <sup>th</sup>	Marty - W6NEV
5 <sup>th</sup>	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.



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



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**

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