W6OTX | | W6ARA |

PAARA NEWSLETTER VOLUME 63, NUMBER 9, Sept 2013

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAgraphs

The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 76 years as an active amateur radio club—Since 1937 http://www.paara.org/



PhoneSat: NASA's **Smartphone Nanosatellite**

PhoneSat is a nanosatellite, with a mass between. one and ten kilograms and has a volume of around one liter. The PhoneSat Project strives to decrease the cost of satellites while not sacrificing performance. In an effort to achieve this goal, the project is based around Commercial Off-The-Shelf (COTS) electronics to provide functionality for as many parts as possible while still creating a reliable satellite. This has resulted in satellites that cost under \$8000 and that can survive in space as proven by our first LEO launch.

How Amateur radio operators can help.

PhoneSat satellites are emitting packets on the amateur radio spectrum to report different types of message. The details of these packets can be found on the packets page. If you are an amateur radio operator and you can receive these packets, you have the great opportunity to contribute to the project by submitting them. The <u>dashboard</u> page will give you all the information you need to track the satellites in real time. Visit the PhoneSat web site at http://www.phonesat.org.

Ken Oyadomari biography

Ken is the Communications and Software Engineer for the PhoneSat team. He graduate of the University of Hawaii with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Ken's position is integration and test of the radios that will become a part of the satellite system.

> **Sept 6, 2013** 7:00 pm **Cubberley Community Center** Room H-6 4000 Middlefield Road Palo Alto, CA 94303

President's Corner

September 2013

It's Fall contest season already, and the equinox is not far away. Neither is CQP, which means that the PAARA meeting will be one week later in October. The mini PAARAshoot was a "blast" real for every-And, I'll see you at one. SWHAMCON in Buellton.



Unbelievably, it's almost September as I write this. I cannot believe how quickly the year has progressed. My son Christopher, KG6SVI, is back at Berkeley and classes start in just a couple of days. The light fades noticeably earlier and earlier each day. I just returned from Japan about a week ago as of this writing, and since they are shifted in their time zone and don't observe Daylight Savings Time, I didn't notice how much things had changed until I returned. Japan was very hot and very humid, as is typical of Asia at this time of the year. I did get a chance to stop by all of the ham stores, and I saw the new Kenwood TS990S, or at least the JA version of it in Akihabara. It was really nice. I scanned 40m and listened to some CW and a few phone stations. It has good audio, and the large band scope is great. I'm mostly over my jet lag, though I had almost no time to

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

recover. I had to work through my 'vacation' and then have been working solidly since I returned. Life has been a bit hectic.

Speaking of hectic, we could use some help from our membership. We have two openings in the PAARA leadership team. Long time PAARA Secretary and Database Administrator Rick, K6RDM, has had to resign since he is moving, so we need to find one or two people to fill those roles. If you are interested, or know of someone who is interested, please contact me directly. You know how to reach me (see the masthead). I want to take this opportunity to thank Rick for his many years of service to PAARA. I have always been able to count on him to take care of the DB and the Secretary's duties without fail. I and PAARA thank you Rick.

For those of you who didn't attend the mini PAARAshoot event at the San Jose Municipal Firing Range, a.k.a. the 10th Street Range, you really missed out on a fun time. A group of us, some of whom were first time shooters, assembled there on the morning of the 4th of August as the guest of Carla, WA6UBE. After a bit of organization and range safety instruction, we fixed our sights on some paper target that we downrange, and the fun put menced. There was a nice selection of firearms brought by our members, and we all got a chance to test our marksmanship with different sights and calibers. There was also much fun to be had with several shotguns on the Of particular note, new ham, new range. shooter, and PAARA member Amanda, KK6CWV, was an extraordinary shot. thanks go to Carla and Dick (our range master) for their time with us on that day.

The Fall contest season is just starting, and that means more fun on the air. There will be a number of the big contests coming up like CQWW, ARRL DX, NAQP, and many state QSO Parties. It's also a great time to get on the air because the propagation reaches a sweet spot. The F layer of the ionosphere charges up

nicely during the day, but the D layer is not so charged up that it attenuates HF signals as it does during the summer. There can be fantastic chances for gray line propagation (that is along the day-night line) to South America during this period. Take advantage of it while you can.

Right after the next PAARA meeting in September, I will be going to speak at the ARRL 2013 Southwestern Division Convention at the The Marriott Santa Ynez Valley Hotel and Convention Center. If you get a chance, I'd love to see you there. No matter what, though CU AT PAARA IN SEPT DE K6WX

W6P at Pacificon 2013

PAARA will be heading up the W6P Radio operation at Pacificon this year. Most of the equipment will be furnished by the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club. The radio station will be set up on Friday morning, Oct. 11. It will operate Friday evening, Saturday, and Sunday morning then be taken down Sunday afternoon.

I am looking for people to help get the station up and on the air; to operate during the active hours. Twenty four hour operation is not necessary unless someone wants to volunteer for the overnight shifts. This will be a fun event with no pressure like Field Day. I hope many of you would like to become involved and participate at any level.

Please contact me by email at mcwayne2@comcast.net or w6nev@arrl.net. If you want to chat, call me at 408-234-8023 (cell, best) or 408-246-7531 (home).

Come join the fun and help promote ham radio I and PAARA at Pacificon.

Marty, W6NEV PAARA VP

PAARAgraphs—Sept 2013 Celebrating 76 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937



From Left to Right: KK6CWV, KD6W, Jane Random, KI6KVW, KD6KYT, K6WGY, KG6GLU

CQ Field Day

It's that time of the year when lots of clubs dig their equipment out of where ever it may be stashed or in use to take into the field. PAARA is no exception to this effort. Over the years many a fine ham and volunteer has helped with the effort of getting on the air and getting out into the public to demonstrate communications and stir interest in others who visit the site. Though roughly the same event, there are always variables from year to year. The types of antennas, towers, radios, band conditions, different operators and let's not forget Murphy make every year a bit different. Hopefully with careful planning and lots of participation, the amount of effort is reduced and the fun factor is increased.

Thanks to the ARRL's new web site, I was able to extract historic Field Day data from the last 10 years of PAARA's participation. As you can see, the club has participated in a few different categories over the years, used a couple of call signs and not always had a GOTA station. For the most part every year our overall ranking has gotten better. Now I know this isn't a contest, but the amount of effort is also reflected in how well we do and how much fun is had by all. After all, this is a learning experience for all, especially new hams, to see what it takes to stage such an event, make a bunch of radios work next to each other, and if there should be an emergency, where activation of the equipment is needed, more people have an idea how to get things setup.

The table is divided into three areas. On the left is the general information on the year, calls used, category, points, number of QSO's, and number of participants. The next area is the National ranking by the category PAARA participated in and rank out of all categories. The last group looks only at the Pacific Division. I'll let you interpret the data but generally, PAARA has improved and held its own.

Here's to another successful Field Day in 2013. 73's de Jim KI6KVW



Welcome to PAARA Shoot

Briefing — Always point down range!



Listening Intently

Ready on the Right, ...



Choose your weapon



Fire at will

PAARAgraphs—Sept 2013 Celebrating 76 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937



Did I hit it?



Ready for the Olympics



Tool Box



Blast Them

Data source: http://www.arrl.org/results-database

2012 2011 2010 2009 2008 2007 2006 2005 2004 2003 2002 Year W6AR A X X × W6OT X W6OT W6AR W6AR W6AR W6AR W6AR W6AR X LO9M Cal W6OT X K6OTA K6OTA K6OTA W601 W6O7 ×60 GOTA Category 3A 3A 4A 2A 2A 4A 4A 4A 4A 11,326 10,738 10,774 8,644 6,378 6,004 17,158 Points ',994 ,740 3,480 3,207 2,197 2,617 4,356 1,939 1,764 2,355 QSO's **Participants** 132 123 82 108 74 53 95 126 75 42 36 Cate-gory rank 15 56 二 22 ယ 3 5 6 9 Out of 277 454 429 467 282 125 155 127 130 109 158 NATIONAL Category top points 14696 18142 13972 12518 17140 14404 14202 19288 14336 17158 16668 149 182 33 34 50 20 32 70 တ 16 Cate-gory rank 4 **PACIFIC** Out of 21 24 22 13 Ŋ 8 8 9 ∞ DIVISION All catego-ries rank ယ ∞ N ယ ယ ယ Out of 114 143 117 113 <u>1</u>5 151 122 125 126 137 158

Historic look @ PAARA Field Day results

Celebrating 76 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026 Officers PresidentKristen McIntyre, K6wx 510-703-4942 kristen@alum.mit.edu Vice President......Marty Wayne, w6NEV 408-246-7531 w6nev@arrl.net Secretary.....Rick Melrose K6RDM 408-341-9070 k6rdm@arrl.net TreasurerRon Chester, w6AZ 408-243 2221 ron@taxhelp.com **Directors** Director ('13)Byron Beck KG6UOB 408-369-1913 kg6uob@arrl.net Director ('14)Rob Riley, KI6INR 650 799-1607 (cell) ki6inr@arrl.net Director ('14)Larry Rebarchik N6DB 650-465-8210 (cell) n6db@arrl.net Director ('14)Darryl Presley, ki6ldm 650 255-2454 ki6ldm@arrl.net **Appointed Positions** MembershipVic Black, AB6SO 650-366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com Database.....Rick Melrose к6RDM 408-341-9070 k6rdm@arrl.net Chaplain.....Position Vacant Public AffairsPosition Vacant Station Trustee W6OTX, K6YQT, W6ARA Gerry Tucker, N6NV Station Trustee K6OTA.....Ron Chester, w6AZ Property ManagerGerry Tucker, N6NV Fund Raising Coordinator .. Bob Korte, KD6KYT 408 396 4745 bob@rgktechsales.com Badge Coordinator......Doug Teter, KG6LWE 650-367-6200 dteter@wcwi.com HistorianPositionPosition Vacant Raffle Coordinator.....Jim Rice, к6АК 650-851-2274 Ticket MasterMarty Wayne, w6NEV 408-246-7531 Field Day Coordinator Doug Teter, KG6LWE 650-367-6200 ASVARO RepRolf Klibo, N6NFI 650-856-2748 n6nfi@arrl.net Webmaster.....John Miller к6мм webaron@gmail.com Technical Coordinator......Joel Wilhite. KD6w 650-325-8239 kd6w@arrl.net QSL Manager.....Rob Riley, KI6INR 650 799-1607 (cell) ki6inr@arrl.net Speaker Coordinator......Marty Wayne, w6NEV 408-246-7531 PAARAgraphs 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 AdvertisingRon Chester, w6AZ 408-243-2221 ron@taxhelp.com Member Profiles......Position Vacant Technical Tips......Vic Black, AB6SO 650-366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com PhotographerBill Young, K6VWO jdsinger@sbcglobal.net

Future PARRA Meeting Dates

Sept 6th, Oct 11th, Nov 1st

VE Exams

3rd Saturday each month, 10:30AM, 145.23- PL=100Hz Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA

Contact: http://amateur-radio.org or Al, WB6IMX@att.net

Electronics Flea Market

Sponsorship by A.S.V.A.R.O. — Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations Second Saturday of month, March-October, 6am–2pm

Howard M. Krawetz, N6HM 650-856-9761 Contact: http://www.elec

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

NorCalQRP — Northern California QRP Club

Meets 1st Sunday each month Contact: http://www.norca

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) E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org Web: http://k6mpn.org

SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl

Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 442.425+ (pl 107.2) Thur.

Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.

Contact: http://www.qsl.net/sccara or Clark Murphy KE6KXO 408-262-9334

ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

SVECS — Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)

contact: http://www.svecs.net or Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

TEARS — The Elmer Amateur Radio Society

Dedicated to operational training, knowledge building & FCC exam testing.

KV6R repeater under construction. Contact: AA6T@ARRL.NET

Most members are Extra Class or VE's. See QRZ dot com/kv6r for class info

WVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58mHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223,

while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked. VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UI

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

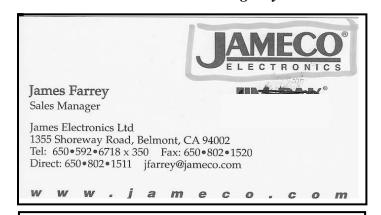
Meetings are 3rd Wednesday of every month.

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://santaclaray ev.redcross.org or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924

(Please send changes to PAARAgraphs editor)





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Badges are ready for pickup.

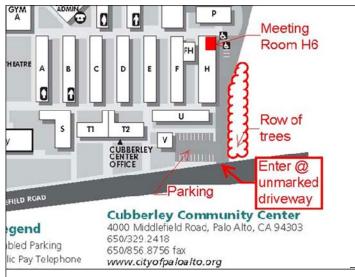
If you would like to order a badge, see **Doug Teter, KG6LWE**.

PAARA Weekly Radio Net

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

<u>Week</u>	Control Operator
1 st	Open
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Jack - N1VSL
4 th	Marty - W6NEV
5 th	Up for Grabs!

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



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

http://www.foto.mail.ru/list/shkurkin

Vladimir Vladimirovich

SHKURKIN

Editing and Translation Services English-Russian-English

shkurkin@ix.netcom.com

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 PAARAgraphs \$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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Amateur Radio **Technology** Day

441 N. Central Avenue, #9 Campbell, CA 95008

Ilse Beck, E. A., KI6IBM

BeckBusiness Services

WILL RESUME

WHEN A NEW

VENUE IS

DETERMINED.

Enrolled Agent Income Tax Bookkeeping/Payroll Elder Care Consultations Billing and A/R

8AM TO **6PM**

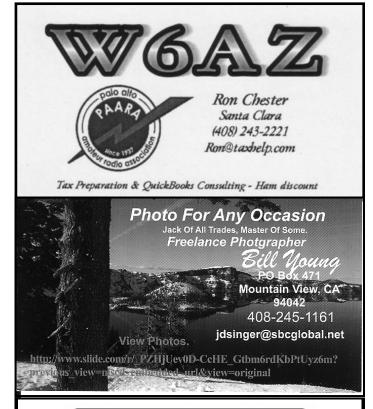
Phone/FAX: 408-267-8234 Email: ilsebeck@jps.net

Starbucks Store 5686 3605 El Camino Real Santa Clara CA 95051

(Corner of Lawrence Expwy and El Camino)

PAARA thanks the crew at Starbucks Store 5686 for their generous support of our radio club.

This spot is available for your advertisement. Reasonable rates, see below.





PowerFlare® safety lights: Ultra-rugged 360 degree LED beacon for your emergency kit, car, home ... Order on eBay or call 650-322-2476 (search for "PowerFlare")

Submit items to **PAARA***graphs* by the 3rd Wed to: rrvt@swde.com

Text: .doc, .rtf, or .txt Photos: jpg, png or tiff

Subscription Problems? Contact Database

Manager: Rick Melrose K6RDM, 888 725-1895, k6rdm@arrl.net

PAARAgraphs Ad Rates

PAARA graphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). All ad rates listed are per issue.

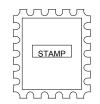
1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).

2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$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 rrangements with the association. The PAARAgraphs 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 Ron Chester, W6AZ

PAARAgraphs — Sept 2013

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA



Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. PAARA*graphs* Newsletter P.O. Box 911 Menlo Park, California 94026

FIRST CLASS MAIL

