W6OTX | W6ARA

# PAARA NEWSLETTER VOLUME 64, NUMBER 11, Nov 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/

Operating at or near 10GHz

Moving to the microwave bands and beyond.

Joel Wilhite - KD6W



Our own Joel Wilhite is back with another topic . of great interest to him. This time he will provide an overview of his earliest efforts and attempts to launch his rig building efforts into the 3cm band. There is much to learn in the

craft of making rigs work and has been bitten by the bugs we can find roving the San Joaquin Valley (both figuratively and literally). A meeting you will not want to miss and sure to be a great presentation packed with all kinds of data and how-to information on building your first effort.

Nov 1, 2013 — 7:00 pm **Cubberley Community Center, Room H-6** 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

On behalf of PAARA, I would like to thank Ben Arnold and family for their generous donation of a significant quantity of ham radio equipment to PAARA. It is always sad that that a silent key is the source of donated equipment. I unfortunately do not know the call nor name of the SK who passed in 2006. The equipment is appreciated and will go to support PAARA activities.

Marty Wayne, W6NEV, VP

# **President's Corner**

November 2013

It's November and just at the height of the fall contest season. We've just finished CQP and Pacificon, and we're headed into the end of the year, which means that the PAARA Dream To Reality Raffle is on the horizon.

Coming up very shortly, probably just after PAARAgraphs arrives, is the CQ Worldwide DX SSB contest. This is a great contest for beginners to get on

the air and work some possibly rare DX. You can not even worry about submitting your log, although log submissions are always appreciated by the contest organizers, and just hand out a few points, working the DX as you go. I often do this. The contest exchange is just a 59 signal report and your CQ Zone, which in our case is Zone 3. So, this is a great



chance to work a new one. They will have some great stations on the air, so even if you have a suboptimal antenna system, you can probably get them in the log. More information on this contest can be found at <a href="http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm">http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm</a>

The W6T operation has had another successful trip to lovely Lewiston, CA in Trinity County. This year Team W6T was composed of Joanna K6YL, Rick N6DQ, Dave AA6XV, Andreas N6NU, me, and new team member Daniel KJ6SEE. It was a great year for us. We scored even better than last year, despite our pledge to kick back a bit. I think the natural

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competitive instinct took over once we finally got in front of the radios, and the contacts started rolling in. The weather was gorgeous and warm, and the stars were incredible. The station setup was almost flawless, with the only problem being a slight mixup with which guy lines to set up in which order. This made Rick have to pound in three ginormous stakes a second time, since they were misplaced. Poor Rick! Beyond that, though, it all went up smoothly. The propagation was a bit strange, with a couple of class C flares, but we worked a lot of DX on 15 meters. I know I had several pileups there, and that was great fun. The antennas worked great, with only minimal inter-station interference. When it came time to tear down, we had everything packed and cleaned up, including replacing the furniture in our cabin, in just 4 hours. That was amazing. As a final touch, Joanna gave a copy of our 2012 plaque for winning Top Multi-Multi Expedition to the owners of the Lewiston Valley Motel and RV Park. When I went to the office to check out, they already had it proudly displayed right up front. That was very nice.

The annual ARRL Pacific Division Convention. Pacificon, also happened this month at the Santa Clara Marriott. This appears to be its new home for the long haul, and that is just fine by me. It was a wonderful opportunity to see all of my friends again, some of whom I only see at that time of the year, and also a great time to chat with vendors and spend a day immersed in all things ham radio. I spent some time over at the W6P special event station that was sponsored by PAARA, and it was very busy. PAARA owes a big debt of gratitude to Rick, N6DQ, for all of his help in putting that station together. I'm sure that the attendees really enjoyed the experience. I also went to the banquet, and heard a couple of great talks about how special our hobby is. It really is like no other in how it brings the world together, and makes for some really memorable experiences.

I want to remind you that the end of the year is almost here. That means that we have both the PAARA elections coming up, but most importantly, the PAARA Dream to Reality Raffle! We are giving away another Elecraft K3. I've lost count of how many we've given away now. You don't want to miss it, or the November meeting either.

So, CU AT PAARA IN NOV DE K6WX

# Pacificon 2013, Oct 11 thru Oct 13

W6P Special Events HF Station 391 contacts, 25 countries - WOW what fun!

What a wonderful event Pacificon 2013 was again this year. Lots of speakers, lots of people, lots of vendors, and even some prize winners.

As you know PAARA operated the HF Special Events Station, W6P. We had a great time. The station went up and was operational in about four hours. That time included a couple of do-over's and some idle time. By Friday noon, we had one station up and working. By 1:00 PM, two more were on the air. The stations were an Icom IC-756Pro, a Yaesu FT-1000MP, and an Elecraft K3 all running 100 Watts. By 3 PM Saturday, the Icom and the Yaesu were feeding 500 Watt amplifiers and by 9 PM Saturday, the Elecraft also had a 500 Watt amplifier behind it. This was a really fantastic effort by PAARA members working together. I especially have to thank Rick, N6DQ for the use of his trailer,



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HEX Beam, Radio, two amplifiers and almost all the interface cabling.

We initially activated 20, 15 and 10 Meters using Rick Huisman's tower trailer and HEX beam. What a crowd of looky-loos that arrangement created. Rick could be a spokesman for both K4KIO HEX Beams and Texas Bragg Trailers. Tom Schiller, N6BT brought one of his new 40 Meter Verticals that worked very well. Saturday after the flea market cleared out we strung 80 and 40 Me-



ter dipoles courtesy of Rebar, N6DB. They worked very well and carried most of the contact load Saturday night. Rebar worked from about 9 PM Saturday night until 8 AM Sunday morning. What an effort.

On Saturday there was also a 2 Meter Parachute Mobile rig set up so contacts with the jumpers could be made. John, KI6BEN handled that station and what a crowd it drew. Thanks John.

Unfortunately, a count of visitors and operators wasn't taken but I know there were a lot. At times one couldn't move in the tent. A real high point is when a lad of about 9, made his first ever ham radio contact with a station in Belgium. He was so excited. I think we may soon have a new ham.

There are a ton of people I want to thank for all their help and efforts with this PAARA run station. I captured the names of most who helped. If I didn't acknowledge you, I apologize. There is no malice intended. Please forgive me.

Here are the names and calls in no particular order:

#### From PAARA:

Jim Thielemann, KI6KVW; Eric Thielemann, KJ6LAY; Rick Huisman, N6DQ, Joe Nichols, KJ6YTA; Barry Redding, KK6EIP; Joel Wilhite, KD6W; Joanna Dilley, K6YL; John Vargas, KI6BEN; Darryl Presley, KI6LDM; Rebar Rebarchik, N6DB.

#### From Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club:

Jim Siemons, AF6PU who headed up the whole Pacificon 2013 event; Mitchell Boyce, W8DOD; John Welden, KJ6GLQ

We of course thank the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club for giving us this opportunity. It was a blast for me and I hope that is true for all involved.

Just a heads up, we have been asked to support the Pacificon 2014 Special Events Station W6P again next year. The dates are Friday, Oct 10 through Sunday, Oct 12, 2014. Put those dates on your calendar and join in the fun.

I look forward to having another successful event next year. I also look forward to working with all of you again and hopefully many more from PAARA. We have a great club. Let's again take the opportunity to show the amateur radio community how really great we are.

Thanks and 73, Marty W6NEV



# Oct. Raffle Winners Left to Right

- Vick, AB6SO
- Norma, KK6HAF
- Joseph, KK6FSS
- Kristen, K6WX
- Aida, KIF6LCS
- Joel, KD6W
- Rebar, N6DB

# **November PAARA Raffle Prizes**

# 1<sup>st</sup> prize: Kenwood TM-281A / 2m / 65 Watt / Mobile Transceiver

- · High Power 65W Output
- · Weather Alert
- Large Front Speaker
- Vivid Amber LCD Display with Brightness Control
- 200 Memory Channels plus One Call Channel
- Multiple Scan Functions
- CTCSS and DCSS Encoder and Decoder

On or off the road, Kenwood's TM-281A is a mobile radio you

can always count on. As tough as nails, this MIL-STD-compliant transceiver delivers powerful performance, excellent audio clarity, and a host of advanced features. It offers superb operating ease day or night thanks to the large backlit LCD and illuminated keys. So the next time you take off, take the TM-281A.

2<sup>nd</sup> prize: ARRL Handbook 2013

3<sup>rd</sup> prize: ARRL Operating Manual 10<sup>th</sup> Edition

4th prize: Fourteen Toroids Thanks Doyle Kisler KG6YUN!

5<sup>th</sup> prize: Northern CA DX Foundation CD

6<sup>th</sup> prize: ARRL Repeater Directory

7<sup>th</sup> prize: ICOM CQ DX Zones of the World



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

# **October Board Meeting Minutes**

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:40 PM on the 16<sup>th</sup> of October, 2013. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Marty Wayne W6NEV (VP), Jim Thielemann KI6KVW (Sec, Database), Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas), Darryl Presley KI6LDM (Dir), Larry Rebarchik (Dir) N6DB, Rick Melrose K6RDM (Chaplain), and Doug Teter KG6LWE (Field Day Coordinator). A quorum was present.

President's Report: Kristen, K6WX, reported that the October 11<sup>th</sup> General Meeting was lightly attended. The board discussed and agreed that next year we wouldn't move the meeting date thus keeping it on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of October. She also reported that PAARA received high marks from MDARC for our efforts at Pacificon and the W6P special event station. She also announced the appointment of Rick Melrose, K6RDM, as Chaplin.

On a continuing theme, the board wishes to invite the general membership to submit articles to be published in upcoming issues of PAARAgraphs. Do you have any projects, technical articles, hints n kinks, DX, on the air experiences that might be of interest? We can even help you write them up!

Vice President's Report: Marty, W6NEV, tells us that the presentation for the November meeting will feature Joel Wilhite, KD6W, on working at 10G and up. He updated the board on PAARA's very successful participation at Pacificon. Marty also thanked all the support on the W6P special event station and has committed to coordinating it again next year. He and Kristen were recognized at the Banquet for their efforts.

Secretary's Report: Jim, KI6KVW, reports that there was one new member and eleven renewals at the October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. He also reports that there are 137 members and 16 that have renewed for 2014 bringing the total to 153 current members.

Jim also reported that John Miller, K6MM, will have some updates for the board to review around 10/13 with the anticipation of still going live with PayPal for member renewals and merchandise by November 1st.

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, reported that club finances are healthy and that though the flea market "season" is over, Joel, KD6W, was very successful

in his efforts at the Pacificon flea market. He reported that all the tax forms have been submitted.

Under New Business, Kristen is waiting for a commitment from a candidate for the Election Committee Chairman. The Chairman will then in turn assemble the committee and open the agenda with continued nominations at the November meeting. Nominations will close in November for the December election. There are 3 directors' seats up for election/re-election along with all 4 Board members. Anyone interested in running for a seat needs to notify Kristen who will pass the information to the Committee Chairman or be at the November meeting.

Jim reported that he made the 1<sup>st</sup> D-Star contact with the club's repeater which is currently located at Joel's house. We'll be conducting some more testing in the next few weeks. Joel is still looking for a mountain top to install the repeater on. Anyone with connections or an idea where we could install the repeater should contact Joel.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.

There was one new member at the October's meeting:

Norma Chamberlain Passed test! Waiting for call Sunnyvale

PAARA Badges Ready for Pick-up:

K6FTF KJ6GBE KG6GYY N6JCY KI6JLS KG6QKN KG6QKO KJ4SGT KF6SRD K6TSR K6VVK KM6WP KK6CKO W6EI	Mark Sreendish Art Joani Joanne Francis Kali Xiande Chuck George Vincent Michael Alex Bob	San Jose Redwood City San Jose San Jose Palo Alto Palo Alto Palo Alto Campbell Palo Alto Portola Valley Palo Alto Sunnyvale Palo Alto Palo Alto Palo Alto
KI6QKM	Scott	Palo Alto

Jim KI6KVW

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

# Get ready for the PAARA Dec. 6th Meeting and

"Event of the Year"

# PAARA "Dream to Reality Raffle X" with over \$1900 in prizes

SPEAKER: (To be announced) PROGRAMS: (To be announced)

We also have the PAARA "Dream to Reality Raffle" with over \$1900 in prizes! The "top of the line" Elecraft K3 will be the featured prize. Raffle tickets will be sold until 9:30. YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE, WE KEEP PULLING TICKETS UNTIL WE GET A LIVE ONE.



# PAARA "The Friendliest Club Around"

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. www.paara.org

Date and Time: Friday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.

**Cubberley Community Center** 

4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA.

**Welcome Members and Visitors / Raffle Prizes:** 

# FIRST PRIZE: Elecraft K3 HF- 6m

Ultra-High Performance Transceiver "Special Thanks to Elecraft"



- Main Receiver and Sub-Receiver Feature a High-Dynamic-Range, Down-Conversion Analog Architecture
- Roofing Filters with Bandwidths as Narrow as 200 Hz
- Both Fixed- And Variable-Bandwidth Crystal Filters in Both Data, CW, and Voice-Mode Bandwidths
- Two 32-bit Digital Signal Processors Provide True Software-Defined Features, Along With Expansion Memory to Handle Future Signal Processing Tasks

# **SECOND PRIZE: Icom IC-V80** *Thanks Vic AB6S0!* **5.5** Watt 2 Meter HT / Ni-MH Battery



- 1400 mAh Ni-MH Battery
- 750mW of Loud and Intelligible Audio
- 207 Memory Channels
- WX Channel and Weather Alert

THIRD PRIZE: Two West Mountain COM Speakers / RF Proof Thanks Marty W6NEV!

FOURTH PRIZE: "Array of Light" third edition by Tom Schiller, N6BT Thanks Tom N6BT!

FIFTH PRIZE: Digital Multimeter Thanks Vic AB6SO!

SIXTH PRIZE: ARRL Handbook 2013 / Thanks Bob Vallio W6RGG!

SEVENTH PRIZE: ARRL Antenna Book 22<sup>nd</sup> Edition / Thanks Vic AB6SO! EIGHT PRIZE: ARRL Emergency Power Book / Thanks Bob Vallio W6RGG! NINTH PRIZE: ARRL More Wire Antenna Classics Book / Thanks HRO!

Since Feb. 2003, 256 Radios, including SEVEN 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.

Special Thanks to Howard, Jon, Mark, and everyone at HRO for their continued SUPPORT!

K6AK Jim Rice

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

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026			
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Historian Position			
Raffle Coordinator		650-851-2274	
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	jdsinger@sbcglobal.net		

# Future PARRA Meeting Dates

Nov 1<sup>st</sup>, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, Jan 3<sup>rd</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 AI, 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.ele

#### 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 <a href="http://www.paara.org">http://www.paara.org</a> for more information or contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, <a href="https://www.paara.org">kD6W@ARRL.NET</a>, 650-325-8239

# FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:30pm Contact: http://

QCWA Chapter 11

# 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

#### **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.nor

#### 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

#### **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 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.

Contact: <a href="http://www.gsl.net/sccara">http://www.gsl.net/sccara</a> 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.NE

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 U

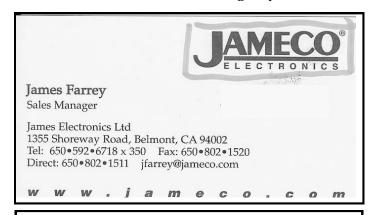
147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

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, or 6FFC@ARRL.NET

# American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Contact: http://santaclarava 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.

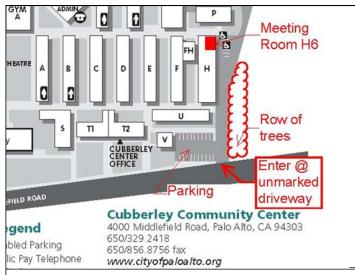
If you would like to order a badge, see **Doug Teter, KG6LWE**.

# **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 <sup>st</sup>	Open
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

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

llse Beck, E. A., KI6IBM

Beck Business Services

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

WILL RESUME

WHEN A NEW

**VENUE IS** 

DETERMINED.

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

**8AM** TO **6PM** 

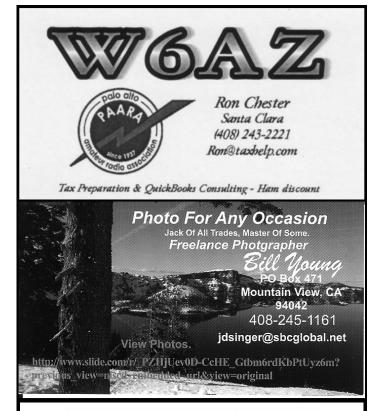
Phone/FAX: 408-267-8234 Email: ilsebeck@jps.net

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
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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: Jim Thielemann, KI6KVW, 408-839-6815, thielem@pacbell.net

# PAARAgraphs Ad Rates

PAARAgraphs 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).

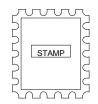
2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue

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 irrangements 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 — Nov 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

