

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 79 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*



Home Brew Night.

We encourage all members to bring their latest (or not so latest) homebrew efforts and show them off to the club. This is always a fun night looking at the skills and efforts of our members.

January 8th, 7:00 PM

Upcoming Events

- Jan 8 PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Feb 5 Cubberly Community Center, Room H-6, 400 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
- Jan 20 Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Feb 17 Everyone welcome! Round Table Pizza Parlor in Menlo 
- Jan 22 FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet

mas, but that's okay. It's going to be a fantastic addition to my stable of test equipment in the shack. Of course, there are plenty of things one could get over at HRO in just about any price range. No matter what you get, I hope you have some fun on the radio at this time. You can, for example, work the Santa Claus Arctic Circle Team from Finnish Lapland. You'll hear them as OH9SCL on HF, all modes. They will be active throughout December.

Speaking of things that happen this time of the year, there is the Fessenden Christmas Eve (UTC) commemorative transmission from experimental station WG2FXQ. They will be on 486 kHz from Virginia. This is to commemorate the anniversary of the first audio transmission by Fessenden in 1906. The station will also be on the air on New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. Did you copy them? There is also the SAQ Alexanderson alternator transmission on 17.2 kHz from Sweden. This is a tough one to get (have they ever been copied from the West Coast?), so please let us know if you do copy the signal. The power output should be around 100 kW, so you never know. The accompany-

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President's Corner

January 2016

Happy New Year and welcome to 2016! That sounds a little weird since it's still before Christmas as I write this, but you won't see it until later. We have an exciting year planned for everyone. It kicks off with the PAARA / FARS FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet on January 22nd at Michaels at Shoreline, and we follow that up with the mostly annual PAARApLink. We have other fun things we're working on, but not ready to announce. Don't forget SKN coming up too.



It's the Holliday Season, and that usually means gifts. I hope you are getting everything you want this year. I decided to gift myself with a new Rigol spectrum analyzer with the tracking generator. I don't think it will make it by Christ-

A Short review of the Countycomm GP5-SSB

By
 Ed, W6ELA

A lot of the regular attendees of the monthly PAARA meeting have probably noticed some of the members talking about new very compact shortwave receiver made by Countycomm, the company of our friend Nick, N6VOA. So what is this receiver about?

The GP5-SSB is a super compact receiver with extensive coverage on FM, AM broadcast band as well as shortwave, barely as large as a small TV remote. The story behind it is that like many products from CountyComm it came from a government request, this time for a small and high performance receiver to use for emergency purposes. CountyComm worked with SiLabs, who manufacture single-chip radios, as well as Dr. Edison Fong, WB6IQN, to create a device that would fit the bill.

They ended up using the excellent Si4735 which is a full featured one-chip receiver, but with a twist: if you look at the specs of the GP5-SSB (<http://goo.gl/PFKPW>) and those of the Si4735 (<http://goo.gl/n0mUAT>), you will notice that there is some secret sauce going on! The GP5-SSB SW coverage goes beyond what a regular Si4735 can do, and more importantly, it is also able to demodulate SSB.

Pretty much every Ham I know who has had a GP5 in their hands has commented on its excellent sensitivity: despite its small size, it is a grown up receiver. It will not beat your Ham transceiver on ease of use, since it does not have direct frequency input nor very fast VFO control, but it does have lots of memories, so you can pre-program frequencies across Ham bands to jump very fast across them. And it does have a couple of nifty scanning features that will enable you to get a quick overview of activity on a particular band. While the built-in whip will give you decent reception, clipping a longer wire to it will of course improve things a great deal.

In a nutshell, Nick and his company have managed to design a wide coverage radio that works great for Hams for quick monitoring of the bands for activity or act as a small second receiver. Since we all live in the Bay Area, it also makes very good sense to stow one of these into your earthquake kit as an emergency receiver. Another really nice feature is the presence of a mini-USB plug to power the receiver, and even recharge the internal AA batteries if you use NiMH. Good design at work. You can find the GP5-SSB on Countycomm's site at <http://www.countycomm.com/gp5ssb.html>

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ing Amateur Radio station, SK6SAQ, will not be active this year because they are renovating.

Lastly, don't forget my favorite thing at the end of the year - ARRL Straight Key Night. This event starts at midnight UTC on January 1st (4PM PST) and runs for 24 hours. Most of the activity is after dark on 40m. The idea is to pound the brass the old fashioned way. If you have a boat anchor to bring up on the air, all the better. I plan to be on the air with my Kent hand key and K3 (sorry, no boat anchor available). This isn't really a contest, but is more like an opportunity to have a fun QSO with some other CW OPs. There's no real exchange, other than a signal report, and it's nice to say HNY to anyone with whom you chat. Sometimes it's just a short exchange, but I've also had 30 minute QSOs with some very fun and interesting people. Come on out and join us on the air, even if it's your first time. No pressure, just have fun!

As the New Year gets underway, we will firm up our plans for the the next PAARApLink, a mashup of 2nd Amendment and Part 97. Sometime in February we plan to head on over to the Tenth Street Range in San Jose and provide an opportunity for PAARA members and their friends to put some holes in paper, or maybe it's a little hot lead therapy. In any case, we hope to see you 2A enthusiasts there for a

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day of fun at the 5 shooting positions that are available, and a PAARA sponsored BBQ. We'll let you know when we have the dates secured.

I want to take this opportunity at the opening of the President's Corner for 2016 to wish each and every one of you a happy, healthy, and productive New Year. We will see you on January 8th (our meeting is a week later than usual) for our annual Homebrew Night.

CU AT PAARA WITH UR PROJECT IN JAN DE K6WX

Kristen

Dream to Reality Raffle XII

Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, congratulates Daniel Rahamim for winning the KX3



December 16, 2015 Board Meeting- Minutes

The December Board Meeting was held at the Menlo Park Round Table Pizza Parlor, commencing at 7:34 PM on December 16th, 2015. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX (President), Marty Wayne, W6NEV (VP), Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Darryl Presley, KI6LDM (Dir), Larry Rebarchik, N6DB (Dir), Byron Beck, N6UOB (Dir), and non-Board Member, Joel Wilhite, KD6W (Technical Coordinator). A quorum was present.

President's Report: Kristen, K6WX, mentioned how many comments she's received from members and non-members of PAARA with regard to how many wonderful and diversified events PAARA conducts each year. The comments she's received include the December Dream to Reality raffle that Jim Rice, K6AK, put together. Congratulations go to Jim for another great raffle and the board for coming up with another winning grand prize.

Thanks also go to Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, for an enlightening talk on the new "toys" Elecraft has developed in the last year. We know there were many thoughts of upgrades floating through the minds of those in attendance.

Kristen indicated her reserve of stories is still dangerously low and is in urgent need of more stories. If you have committed to a story but not submitted it (there are several people out there fitting this category) please put pen to paper or fingers on the keyboard and let your creative juices flow! Do you have any projects, Field Day experiences, technical articles, hints n kinks, DX contacts, or experiences setting up your station or antenna, on the air experiences that might be of interest? If you've have or have not previously drafted that story, now is the time to get a by line of your own in PAARAgaphs and get that story submitted to Kristen for publication. "Remember it is 'home grown' stories that make PAARAgaphs great", she said.

Vice President's Report: Marty, W6NEV, men-

tioned that he sold a number of T-shirts at the December meeting. He also mentioned almost being to the point of ordering more club shirts.

He reminded everyone that January is "Home Brew" night. So blow the dust off your pet project and bring it to the meeting to show others what you spend your spare time creating. Additionally Marty mentioned still looking for speakers to fill out 2016. Please let him know if you or an acquaintance could give the club a talk on some subject that would be of interest to the group.

Marty is also working on a couple of field trips for 2016 but none have been finalized. He's also looking for suggestions. Several nautical ideas were discussed which could be of interest to the group. The train ride on a weekend when the steam locomotive is used was discussed. Subsequent to the meeting Marty learned that the steam locomotive ride is no longer an option, though having another train ride isn't out of the question. Should you know of an interesting adventure the club could partake in, let Marty know.

Secretary's report: Jim, K6SV, reported that currently there are 178 PAARA members. The total number of PayPal renewals and other sales is now 164. As it's now December, it's time to renew your membership for 2016. Of the 178 members, there are 107 that have yet to renew for 2016. Remember that PayPal is "open" 24/7/365 so you don't have to wait until the next meeting to renew your membership. Jim also reported that there were 2 new members and 1 rejoining member at the December meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, wasn't at the meeting but, via email, reported the finances are in fine shape.

Under Old Business, Joel, KD6W, reported that though not much has been done at the repeater site due to weather and schedules, he has all but completed fabrication of the candelabra for the top of the tower which will hold the anten-

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nas. A list of items yet to be completed has been generated in order to sequence the remaining activities correctly with the goal of getting the project done very soon.

Joel also presented the board with quotations for DMR VHF and UHF repeater equipment. He also presented a plan on selling the existing D-Star VHF and UHF equipment. After some discussion, the board voted to proceed with the acquisition of the new repeater equipment and to sell the existing D-Star equipment.

Kristen and the board wish to thank Daniel Rahamim, KJ6SEE, for conducting the election at the December 4th meeting. If you missed the results, all the existing officers and directors were re-elected for 2016.

Kristen, K6WX, mentioned the next PAARApLink date in February has yet to be set.

Kristen, K6WX, is still looking for a speaker for the PAARA/FARS, FARS/PAARA (or winter) banquet on January 22nd. However the signup page is open so don't forget to go to, <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/> and get your tickets for this fun event.

Under new business, Joel, KD6W, presented a forward thinking plan for an additional use of the repeater site. This plan is in its incubator state and as it could be a 1st for signal repeating, mum will be the word for a while. The board however, was very interested in his proposal and offers assistance as needed.

Marty mentioned that the club banner has gone missing. The board voted to replace the banner as it was getting a bit worse for wear anyway.

There was also a general conversation about all the radios that have been "collecting" at Gerry's, N6NV, house. As there are a many more than one would like to keep lying around, the board discussed various methods of getting the radios into hands of ham's who could put them to use. If you are interested in a radio, or know someone who is in need of one, talk to Gerry. He

may make you an offer that is hard to refuse. We'd like to provide club members with the 1st crack at the radios. Youth or needy hams not in the club would be 2nd choice.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:53 PM.

Jim Thielemann
Secretary/membership
K6SV

Please welcome to PAARA:

Re-joining member: Buzz Dean, W6BZZ
New Members: Robert Kindlund, KK6YRV
Kiana Lloyd, KK6YGM

January Raffle Prizes

1st TM281A / 2m Mobile Transceiver

- 65W
- Front Speaker
- Amber LCD Display with 32-step brightness control
- 200 Memory Channels, one call channel



2nd Two West Mountain COMspkr

- RF Proof Amplified Stereo Computer Speaker System
- Stereo High Fidelity Response for Use with Voice or Music
- Optimized for Operation in Close Range of any Radio Transmitter



3rd Practical Wire Antennas Book

4th ARRL DXCC List Book

5th ARRL Minilog

6th Two PL259 Connectors

7th Two PL259 Connectors



Raffle Prize Winners

Front to Back, Left to Right

1st Prize Daniel Rahamim / KJ6SEE / Elecraft KX3 + 2m Module / Auto Tuner / Mic
Jim Rice congratulating Daniel

5th Prize Christopher Hoover / AI6KG / LM 801 EXP HT Cup Holder Mount

4th Prize Doug Teter / KG6LWE / Arrow Yagi

3rd Prize Darryl Presley / KI6LDM / GP5 SSB Receiver - thanks Vic Black AB6SO

2nd Prize Joe / AG6ZC / Yaesu VX-3R / VHF / UHF Dual Band Transceiver

6th Prize Dox / K6DOX / Coax Wrap

7th Prize Rob Fenn / KC6TYD / FCC Part 97 Rules and Regulations

8th Prize Rob Fenn / KC6TYD / 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	
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	(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@wawi.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	
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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

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 UHF: 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss
 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss
 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 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)



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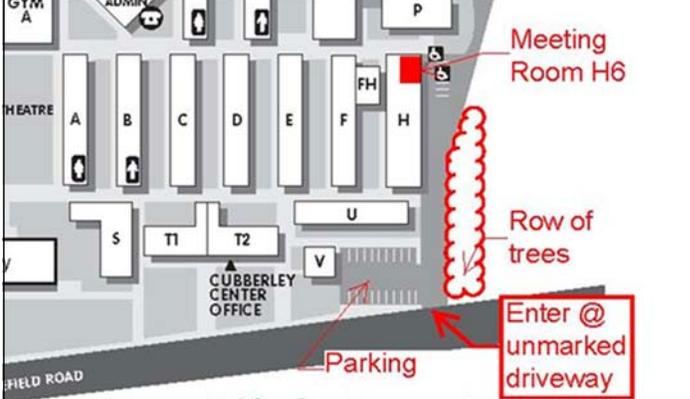
Badges are ready for pickup.

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 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
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 650/856.8756 fax
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Meeting Location — Middlefield Road between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road

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

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Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association
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 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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<p>RADIO IN THE PARK</p> <p>9:30am - 12:30pm Check Back In the Spring</p> <p>QTH: Agnews Historic Park 4030 Lafayette St. Santa Clara, CA 95050</p> <p>N 37° 23.549 W 121° 57.297</p>	<p>Ilse Beck, E. A. , KI6IBM</p> <p>Beck Business Services</p> <p>441 N. Central Avenue, #9 Campbell, CA 95008</p> <p>Enrolled Agent Income Tax Bookkeeping/Payroll Elder Care Consultations Billing and A/R</p> <p>Phone/FAX: 408-267-8234 Email: ilsebeck@jps.net</p>
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Subscription Problems? Contact Database
 Manager: Jim Thielemann, K6SV,
 408-839-6815, thielem@pacbell.net

PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

PAARAgaphs 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 arrangements with the association. The PAARAgaphs 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**

