W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 60, NUMBER 2, February 2010

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAgraphs

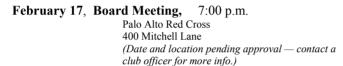
The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 73 years as an active amateur radio club—Since 1937







February 17, DEADLINE

for March PAARAgraphs submissions



You won't want to miss our next meeting! FEBRUARY 5, 2010

Our speaker will be...

...Denice Stoops ~ KI6BBR

PROGRAM

KPH / Restoration of the Radio Room on the SS Jeremiah O'Brien

President's Corner

A belated Happy New Year to the readers of PAARAgraphs! I am pleased to be back for the start of this new decade and the start of another great year of fun and operating with the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association. I'm looking forward to a year of new and interesting talks, club meetings, events, and operating. I think it's going to be a



particularly exciting year as we move into the long awaited upswing that heralds the start of solar cycle 24.

At our last PAARA general meeting we were treated to a great talk about the construction of high power transmitting tubes by Leroy Higgins, KI6MES, who is Supervisor at CPI, formerly known as Eimac. We learned some great things about klystrons and why they aren't the best thing for television transmitters, what IOTs (Inductive Output Tubes) are, why tubes are still the best choice for high

(Continued on page 13)Pres Corner

Fond Farewells to Mr. Ed. KG6KKP-SK



More photos of Ed's service are on page 16.

650 325 8239

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.electronicsfleamarket.com

LIVERMORE SWAP MEET. Now in Robertson Park, Livermore, every first Sunday of the month. 7 am to 11:30 am. Free admission for buyers. For further info, see

PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Menlo Park Rec. Center, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30, See our website at http://www.paara.org/ for more information Or contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, KD6W@ARRL.NET, 650-325-8239

www.larkswap.com_or contact Ian Parker, W6TCP at swapmeet@livermoreark.org

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 2nd Friday 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.norcalgrp.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, 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)

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 ORZ dot com/ky6r 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

52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss UHF:

223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss

441.35 (+5.0 88.5) 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 fshensley@Novell.com

(please send changes to PAARAgraphs editor: kd6w@arrl.net)

Please contact Rick Melrose to settle your 2010 membership dues so you can keep receiving your PAARAgraphs.

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

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Director ('10)	Larry Rebarchik N6CCH	

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PAARA 2010 General Meeting dates——1/8, 2/5, 3/5, 4/2, 5/7, 6/4, 7/2, 8/6, 9/3, 10/1, 11/5, 12/3-

PAARAgraphs—February 2010

Celebrating 73 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

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power transmitters, and how tubes both large and small fail. I was really impressed when John, K6YP, posed a question to Leroy about why a tube in his amplifier would spontaneously flash over and Leroy had an answer right away. He said that the filament voltage was a tad too low and that caused localized electron emission concentration, leading to a highly ionized path just waiting to flash over. The simple fix was to just increase the filament voltage slightly. Amazing.

As of this writing we've just finished the 2010 PAARA/FARS FARS/PAARA Winter Banquet on 22 January. It was really wonderful seeing all of the PAARA members who were present for this annual event. A great time was had by all and we had a great raffle as well. The first prize winner was PAARA member Ray, W6RAR, who was quite surprised. He said that he, "never wins anything." I guess that's not true any longer. We had a really special speaker: Professor Thomas Lee from Stanford University. He told us of the history of Silicon Valley before semiconductors were discovered; when radio reigned supreme. One of the most striking facts for me was learning the history of an abandoned spark-gap transmitter's magnet that later became part of Ernest Lawrence's Nobel Prize winning cyclotron. Special thanks are due to Jim, K6AK, for arranging this great talk and for his hard work on the raffle for the banquet. I'd also like to thank Dave, K6WA, and Mikel, KN6OI, the rest of the FARS board, and the PAARA board for their hard work.

Propagation is definitely looking up these days. February is a good month to get the station in good working order for the spring contest season and perhaps catch the first hints of what our first year on the upswing of cycle 24 will look like. Looking at the sunspot numbers for the week preceding, they are all over ten, with a high of 40. That indicates real potential for a path to the good DX and some KB contest action as the days lengthen. The geomagnetic field also appears quiet at this time, so it may be worth your time to spin the dial and see what you can hear. This morning, before dawn, I heard a Hotel India call (Dominican Republic) on 40 meter CW. It was too weak and with too much QSB to work, but a little earlier and I might have been able to work them.

In closing, I'd like to take a moment to thank the membership for putting your trust in me as your president for 2010. I'm really honored and excited as we move into this new decade to be part of the PAARA leadership team. Thank you. So, I hope to see you all at the March PAARA meeting on 5 February. GL ES GUD DX.

-Kristen (K6WX)

Board Meeting Minutes 1/28/10

The Board Meeting was held at Jeffrey's restaurant in Menlo Park, commencing at 7:30 PM on the 28th of January 2010. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Doug Teter KG6LWE (VP), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Sec. Database), Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas), Larry Rebarchik N6CCH (Director), Gerry Tucker N6NV (Property Mgr.), Robin Yee KI6YTA (Editor), Vic Black AB6SO (Membership), and Adrianus Schrauwen W6AJS. A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report: Rick K6RDM reported that the minutes of the 17th of December Board meeting had been previously submitted and approved.

President's Report: Kristen K6WX reminded the board that the February 5th general meeting will feature a presentation by Denice Stoops, the commercial wireless operator for the WW II Liberty ship, Jeremiah O'Brien, currently touring San Francisco Bay.

Kristen, NAARC, and others attended a meeting regarding the PAVE PAWS Air Force radar and its relationship to our 440 MHz band and found all parties interested in working to reach an accommodation, even including an Air Force visit to a PAARA club meeting and giving a presentation.

Kristen also mentioned that we are still looking for an Elmer to help a 14 year old potential new ham in the Palo Alto area. Doug KG6LWE said he would take up the project and continue looking for an Elmer for the lad.

Vice President's Report: Doug KG6LWE and Larry N6CCH reported that the projects to upgrade for the clubs KT-34 beam and to repair and refurbish our 15 and 20 meter monobanders and the C3S beam is on track and an evaluation meeting will be set to work out the sequence of proceeding.

(Continued on page 14)

(Continued from page 13)

Treasurer's Report: Ron W6AZ reported that the club had done well with the January meeting raffle and membership renewals and that the Winter Banquet had covered its expenses as well. We are still working on contributions to the Red Cross in appreciation for the tower trailer for Field Day (reminder: a check to "American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter" with "Response Communications" in the memo line will help us show it – see donation instructions on Pg. 17).

The board discussed the need for a site for our 900 MHz, 2M and other repeaters. We are still looking for good prospects and are open to any suggestions or recommendations the membership may have to offer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

By resolution, the Officers and Directors of PAARA wish to recognize club member **David A. Cooper.**

A Worthy Amateur

**Many still think of Dave as PFF, a Pretty Fine

**Fellow, a mnemonic for the suffix of his previous

**callsign, KE6PFF, which succinctly sums up his

**character. But after being duly certified as having

**properly attained his status as an Extra Class ham,

**Dave took on his current callsign of K6WA. An

**appropriate mnemonic for his new suffix would

**surely be a Worthy Amateur. A respected ham

**and a man of genuine integrity, Dave has become

**well known and much appreciated for service to

**the amateur community, especially for having

**created, and continuing to create, the monthly Am

**-Tech Day gatherings. But long before that

**unique and admirable contribution to the local

**ham radio community, Dave had become a

**friendly mainstay on the NFI repeater and at in
**numerable PAARA events. We look forward to

**including him as an active participant in the club

**for many years to come.

Congratulations to the winners of the January 2010 Raffle!



1st Prize: Pat Sullivan / W6ABA / Astron VS-35M Lin-

ear Power Supply

2nd Prize: George Fenisey / N6GYR / Yaesu FT-

2800M

3rd Prize: Phil Steffora / K6TT / Deltran Battery Ten-

der

4th Prize: Bill Young / K6VWO / Iron Horse Antenna

Mount

5th Prize: Greg Norton, Sr / AF6TH / Sterling Deluxe

Wire Stripper

6th Prize: Marty Wayne / W6NEV / Repeater Directory

2009-2010

7th Prize: Joel Wilhite / KD6W / Yaesu Log Book

8th Prize: Tony Kooij / W6AWK / Icom Band & Grid

Square Map / Yaesu World DX Map

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of PAARA's exciting monthly raffles!

PAARA had a remarkable year in 2009! If you aren't a member, please join PAARA now and experience fun 2010 events with the "friendliest club around."

PAARA Exemplary Service Award

Gerry Tucker, N6NV 2005 Rice Family 2006 Jim K6AK, Lisa KG6KQS, Kyle KG6MSK Wally Porter, K6URO 2007 Vic Black, AB6SO 2008 ??? - 2009



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PAARA "The Friendliest Club Around"

February Raffle Prizes





- Rugged / Water Resistant / 750mW of Loud Audio
- NiMH / 1400mAh Battery Pack / 13 Hours Operating Time
- Drop-In Charging Base
- PC Programmable with Optional CS-V80
- WX Channel and Weather Alert Function (USA Version Only)
- Transceiver-to-Transceiver Cloning (Optional)

SECOND PRIZE: Yaesu FT-2800M 2m / 65W / Mobile

- Huge Easy To Read Display
- Special Memory Bank for NOAA Weather Broadcast Channels
- Backlit Microphone Keypad
- Smart Search Loads Active Frequencies



Third Prize: Deltran Battery Tender / Auto Switch from Charge to Float / 12V Fourth Prize: Rotary Tool w/35-Pc. Accessory Kit/Polish/Cut/Grind/Sand Fifth Prize: Power Pole Connectors / 10 Pc. / Use w/12-14 Gauge Wire

Sixth Prize: Pocket Reference / Thomas Glover / Third Edition

Seventh Prize: Coby Stereo Ear Buds / Deep Bass Response / Gold Plated Plug

Eithth Prize: Icom Band Plan / Yaesu World DX Map

Since Feb 2003, 167 Radios, including THREE 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.

Ed Gentry, KG6KKP-SK

Ed's memorial service was on January 16th, 2010. Many wonderful stories and memories were shared by those who loved him. He will be dearly missed but never forgotten.



Presenting the Colors.



The potato salad "toast."

Photos courtesy of Bill Young, K6VWO

Dave's New Antenna

by Gary Barnes

I met Dave when I started working for an electronics company in Menlo Park, California. This was Dave's first job after college. I had been in the US Navy, and I had worked for another electronics company before I met Dave.

Dave had passed his Novice Class license, and he was working to get his code speed from 5 WPM to 13 WPM for the General Class license. A Novice Class license was only good for one year, and it could not be renewed.

Dave received a full size tri-band antenna, a three-section self-supporting steel tower and an antenna rotor from a silent key in East Palo Alto. The ham club removed the antenna and tower from East Palo Alto and delivered to Dave in Redwood City.

Dave cleaned and repaired the antenna, and rotor, and then he cleaned and painted the 54-foot, three section steel tower. Dave asked me to install the tower. I told him I would install the tower, but I wouldn't install the antenna. He said the radio club would install the antenna for him.

Next, Dave tried to get a building permit for his tower and antenna. He took the manual for the tower to the Redwood City Planning Commission, but they rejected it. Dave was told to get engineering plans, so Dave got a member of the radio club with degrees in electrical engineering and mechanical engineering. These plans were also rejected by the city.

Dave asked the Redwood City Planning Commission, for a list of approved engineers. Their list had only three names on it and only one engineer on the list would do such a small job. This engineer's plans and calculations were the same as the others with the only exception of specifications for the bolts connecting the tower to the base and the mounting ears. The tower-to-base mounting bolts were to be double shear.

This time the application for the building permit was denied because of the antenna's height above ground. Dave was told the height limit is 33 feet and his tower is 54 feet tall. He was told he might be able to get a variance from the city. At the meeting, he learned the antenna height restriction was only for receiving antennas, and not for transmitting antennas. He finally got his building permit.

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I built the metal frame for the antenna's base. I used about 200-feet of #5 rebar; 15 feet of 2.5" \times 0.375" steel bar stock using to attach to base to the tower and one steel plate 24" \times 24" \times 0.5" thick. All of this was welded together to form a structure 2' \times 2' \times 8.5' high. Then I had the structure sand blasted before I painted it.

We had a backhoe dig a hole in Dave's backyard, and then some base rock was place in the bottom of the hole on Wednesday evening. The metal frame work for the tower's base was placed in the hole and the city inspector was called. He signed off on the building permit on Friday night.

After the city inspector left, we removed the metal frame work and attached the tower to it, and then replaced the assembly back into the hole. We guyed the tower and adjusted until it was vertical. The next morning, Saturday, we filled the hole with about 4 yards of concrete, using seven wheel barrows with volunteers from work. The backyard was about 20 feet higher than the street where the cement mixer was parked.

On Monday, we removed the guy wires before the city inspector came out to sign off on the permit, but he said we needed the engineer that made the drawings to sign off first. Dave called the engineer and he looked at the work. He was happy with what he saw, and then he was told that we had pictures of all of the work, including a picture of the welded metal frame work. While the engineer was looking at the pictures, he noticed the transit I had been using to setup the tower. He then signed off the permit. The next day, the city inspector signed off the building permit. This process only took one year to complete.

The ham club installed the rotor and antenna, and then they raise the both sections of the tower and bolted them together. Later on, a 2-meter vertical antenna was added.

Seven years later, Dave moved to eastern Washington State. The ham club removed the antennas from the tower, and they lowered the tower, and I took down the tower. Then, I built a new metal frame work so the tower could be installed in its new location. Dave didn't need a building permit when he got to his new house in Washington. The tower and rotor are still in use, but the full size tri-band was damaged a few years ago, and it has been replaced.

de KI6HIG Gary

Support the Red Cross— They support us!

You may recall that, a week or so before last Field Day, PAARA was the beneficiary of a fabulous Tower Trailer. This was gifted to us by the Red Cross. Bay Area Chapter and largely organized by Peter Sheerin, K6WEB. They felt it was no longer an appropriate piece of equipment to take up space in their storage area on the San Francisco waterfront. As a thank you effort, I had hoped that the PAARA members could be encouraged to make a donation to the Red Cross, with a goal of \$500. So far no response, mainly, I hope, due to my lack of promoting it. Ron Chester has agreed to match the first \$150 donated with his own check of \$100. His hope is that 5 people would donate \$30 each to get to the matching amount. I think if this goes over a second person could be found to do a second matching effort.

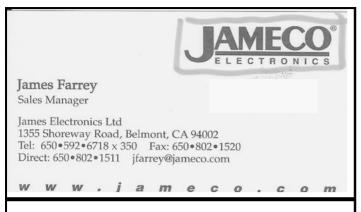
> Checks should be made out to "American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter'. In the memo line put

For: Response Communications.

Give the check to a club officer at the meeting or mail to

Aaron Litwin American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter 85 2nd St. 8th Floor San Francisco, CA. 94105

Send a note to Ron regarding your donation and we will see what happens.
Thanks one and all!! de, Gerry N6NV



YOUR AD HERE See the next page for details

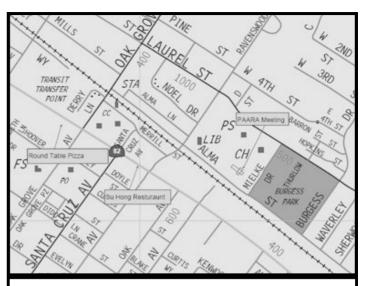
Where's your badge?

If you ordered a badge but have not yet picked it up, or if you would like to order a badge, see Lynn Gentry, KG6JPV.

PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session every Monday evening 8:30pm on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater. *Control operators:*

Week	Operator	
1 st	Doug Teter	KG6LWE
2 nd	Paul Petach	KI6QXV
3 rd	Peter Sheerin	K6WEB
4 th	Doña Kerns	KI6DAR
5 th	Mike Bray	N6MEB



Directions to PAARA meeting: http://paara.org/meetings/

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

Eye Ball QSO gab & gobble

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

across from Kepler's Book Store on El Camino Real Walking distance from Caltrain!

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 Menlo Park Rec Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off.

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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DON'T FORGET!

Amateur Radio **Technology** Day

February 20, 2010

> 8AM to 9PM

at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

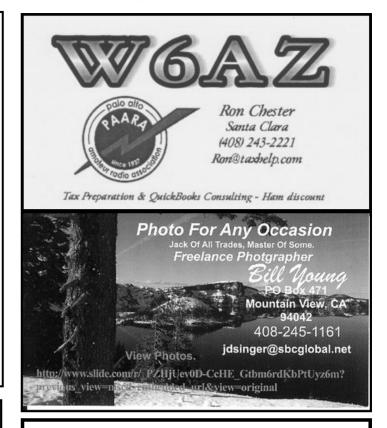
Ilse Beck, E. A., KI6IBM



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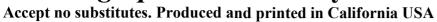
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- 2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$55-balf page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

 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 ne 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

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

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