



**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.electronicshelfmarket.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: [www.larkswap.com](http://www.larkswap.com) or contact Ian Parker, W6TCP at [swapmeet@livermoreark.org](mailto:swapmeet@livermoreark.org)

**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, 650-325-8239

**FARS Foothills Amateur Radio Society**

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Friday each month at 7:30pm  
 contact: <http://www.fars.kfya.org/>

**NCDXC Northern California DX Club**

meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday 7:30pm each month,  
 repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM  
 contact: <http://nedxc.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)

**SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association**

Operates W6UU & W6UUR, 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. 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 ctess UHF: 441.35 (+5.0 88.5) ctess  
 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctess 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctess 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctess

Meetings are 3<sup>rd</sup> 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  
[fshenslev@Novell.com](mailto:fshenslev@Novell.com)

*(please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor: KI6YTA@arrl.net)*

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

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

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

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Secretary.....	Rick Melrose K6RDM k6rdm@arrl.net	408-341-9070
Treasurer .....	Ron Chester, W6AZ ron@taxhelp.com	408-243 2221

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(Board Meeting Minutes—Continued from page 115)

elections. Nominations for positions still open will be received at the November meeting and the slate of candidates for the election, to be held at the December meeting, will be announced at that time. While a good deal of membership renewal activity will occur in the year end meetings as always, current active membership at the time of the elections qualifies a club member to vote.

**Vice President's Report:** Doug KG6LWE reported that per conversations with Kristen, Rob Goodson N2RAG, who is very active in the Red Cross, will be giving a presentation regarding the recent emergency at the PG&E gas line explosion in San Bruno at our upcoming November 5<sup>th</sup> General Meeting. This made news all around the world — an inside look should be very interesting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ron W6AZ was unable to attend and will be updating the board at the next scheduled board meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

## Congratulations to the winners of the September 2010 Raffle



- 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Pat Sullivan, W6ABA: Powerwerx 30 Amp Power Supply  
2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Leigh Klotz, WA5ZNU: Super Antennas MP1 Portable HF Antenna  
3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Bob Korte, KD6KYT: Solarlink FR500  
4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Bill Young, K6VWO: TWO FRS / GMRS Radios  
5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Marty Wayne, W6NEV: Power Pole Connectors 10 Pair  
6<sup>th</sup> Prize: Pat Sullivan, W6ABA: Bongo Ties  
7<sup>th</sup> Prize: Bill Young, K6VWO: Nine LED Flashlight
- Special Prize: Bill Young, K6VWO: Pie & Hand-Made Ceramic Pie Holder / Courtesy of KI6UGV Lodema Epperson

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."

K6AK Jim

### Tri-City VE Group Test Sessions

**Where:** Hurricane Electric  
48233 Warm Springs Blvd  
Fremont, CA

**When:** Saturday, November 13, 9:00 a.m.  
Thursday, December 16, 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact  
Rita, [KI6SSQ@arrl.net](mailto:KI6SSQ@arrl.net), (510) 703-7090  
or  
Bernhard, [AE6YN@arrl.net](mailto:AE6YN@arrl.net), (510) 364-0611  
or visit  
[www.sbara.org](http://www.sbara.org).

### 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



PAARAgaphs—November 2010  
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## PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”

# November 5<sup>th</sup> Raffle Prizes

### FIRST PRIZE: YAESU FT-1900R 2m / 55W / Mobile

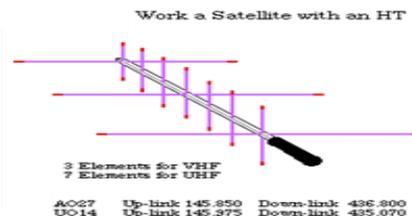


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- Illuminated Microphone with Keyboard Frequency Entry and Recall
- 200 Memory Channels with Alpha-numeric Labeling
- Dedicated 10-Channel NOAA Weather Broadcast Channels
- Adjustable Mic Gain and Wide/Narrow Deviation and RX Bandwidth

### SECOND PRIZE: Arrow Yagi Antenna

#### 3 Element VHF / 7 Element UHF / Max Gain

- Max Gain and Efficiency in the Smallest Package
- Perfect Satellite Antenna
- Boom / 3/4" Square / 37 1/2" Inches Long
- Boom and Elements have Plastic Tips for Safety
- Weight 19oz



### THIRD PRIZE: Samlex SPS-1206 / 5.5 Amp / Power Supply

- Output 13.2V DC / 5.5 Amp
- Current Limiting / 6 Amps
- Weight 2 lbs. / Dimensions: 3.8"W X 6"L X 2"H



**FOURTH PRIZE:** Battery Tender Junior / 12V / 0.75A / 4-Step Charging / Auto Float

**FIFTH PRIZE:** Two FRS/GMRS Radios

**SIXTH PRIZE:** CQ Amateur Radio Calendar 2011-2012

**SEVENTH PRIZE:** Mini-Log

**EIGHTH Prize:** Nine-LED Flashlight

Since February 2003, **191 Radios**, including THREE Elecraft K3s, a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1s have gone to Fellow Hams.

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

de K6AK Jim

## Amateur Radio Accessibility

### Darryl Presley, KI6LDM

#### INTRODUCTION

Accessibility is now becoming more commonplace for many computer related use we take for granted. It is becoming less and less of a specialized area and as such benefits everyone. Amateur radio is no exception and the newer radio models are becoming more accessible either on the radio itself or through the software that controls it. For instance, the ICom IC-7000 has a speech synthesizer that can be used to speak the current frequency, mode, and S-meter levels. This article will serve to provide the reader some guidance that can be used specifically for those who are visually impaired.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** This article will not focus on totally blind users nor the use of JAWS. It is possible to use JAWS with software that controls a given radio but only if the controlling software package complies with current ADA standards.

#### REQUIREMENTS

To have accessibility for your radio, the following requirements should be met:

1. The Windows or MAC OS platform you have must support both the screen magnifier or screen reader assistive technology software AND the radio controlling software package.
2. The radio controlling software should be transparent to the use of other applications.
3. Java Access Bridge version 2.0.1 or higher from Sun (nor Oracle) has been installed from: <http://java.sun.com/developer/earlyAccess/accessbridge/>

For the purpose of this article and to serve as a working example, we will use the following:

Dell Latidue e6400 running Windows XP with service pack 3  
ZoomText 9.18.4.45 screen magnifier or higher by Ai Squared  
The Java Access Bridge version 2.0.1 or higher  
Ham Radio Deluxe Beta 5  
Icom IC-7000 HF/VHF/UHF transceiver  
West Mountain RigBlaster Pro

It is assumed that the above components have been installed, and are working properly.

#### ZoomText Screen Magnifier

While Windows XP does offer some accessibility features, ZoomText provides more tools and flexibility to the end user for their specific needs. ZoomText screen magnifier offers the ability to set the magnification level and type of magnification. For example, the type of magnification can be set to an overlay magnification lens on the desktop, a moving lens, a docked lens (left, right, top or bottom) region of the screen, or full screen magnification. In addition, ZoomText offers the ability to modify the video display for those who are color blind (monochrome or reverse video), increase the contrast and enhance character smoothing.

If you are using ZoomText, configure its settings to suite your needs. Ensure that you have both mouse and cursor tracking enabled. You may wish to set the following with in ZoomText under the Settings menu:

Under the **Tracking** tab, enable the following:

Mouse pointer  
Text cursor  
Menus  
Controls  
Windows  
Area to Track should be set to Entire Screen

Under the **Mouse** tab, enable the following:

Route pointer into view when it is moved

This last setting is important as some applications will hide the mouse pointer however, ZoomText will redisplay it when the mouse is moved.

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### Ham Radio Deluxe

Now, to the more fun stuff. In this article, we will use Ham Radio Deluxe (HRD) Beta 5 as I have found it to be more accessible to the end user in addition to using an assistive technology (AT) tool such as ZoomText. There are a few things you should be aware of when using a screen magnifier with HRD.

- HRD makes extensive use of tool tips for just about every feature of the product. This is great however, depending upon your level of magnification, these tool tips can fall outside of your field of view.
- When configuring HRD, make use of the Appearance controls as the authors of HRD have gone to great lengths for flexibility but be mindful of the color, background and foreground settings you choose in the Appearance configuration. If you have changed the display settings in ZoomText, changes in the Appearance tab in HRD might create a less than desirable display if the two conflict.
- HRD digital modes do consume CPU cycles for FFT computations for PSK31, RITTY and other digital modes while displaying the waterfall. This will compete with ZoomText's ability to display what is on the screen and at times, performance can be sluggish.

HRD has a voice synthesizer that enables you to hear various settings such as current frequency, mode and the S meter reading. Under the Voice menu, if you enable voice then select Frequency + Mode, each time you switch frequencies and mode, it will speak the new frequency and mode. In addition, if you select Tool Tips under voice, mousing over the various buttons (except the sliders and band region) the tool tip is spoken. This is helpful if the tool tip falls outside the field of view.

The voice feature is also useful in the Satellite Tracking specifically for when a given satellite appears on the horizon (acquisition of single) or disappears below the horizon (loss of single). HRD will speak these events 2 minutes and 1 minute prior to the event and when the event actual occurs.

If you find that while running DM780 or PSK31 or other digital modes causes your computer to run much slower (assuming you have sufficient memory and your system meets the minimum requires) this can be caused by the speed at which HRD is displaying the waterfall along with FFT computations. It is recommended to slow down the waterfall display doing the following:

1. Start DM780 if you are not already there
2. Click on Program Options
3. On the left pane of the Program Options window, select Waterfall
4. Click on the tab: Frequency, Mode, Speed

In the top right region of the window is an area marked "Speed" with 4 buttons labeled 1 through 4. The higher the number, the faster and more CPU the waterfall display will consume. The lower the number, the slower and less CPU. Choose a lower number. Select 3 will reduce the display speed and use less CPU. Choose the number that best suites your situation.

If you are using the PSK Reporter and have the map displayed, you will see several points on the map in different colors. The different colors represent contacts made on different bands and to whom the contact was made. If you mouse over these points, a square box on the bottom left is updated providing information about the station. This may be out of your field of view. However, if you click on it, a pop up balloon window will be displayed just above the point showing the station's information and when it was last contacted. In full screen mode of ZoomText, you should be able to pan over this information.

The HRD logbook works well with ZoomText. Cursor tracking moving from field to field for log entry enables the user to enter the information without having to move the mouse. This is the case for ZoomText full screen mode where the cursor and mouse tracking focuses the user at or near center screen. One other option you may wish to enable is the Cursor tool in ZoomText. This allows you to enlarge the cursor for easy identification.

The tips and guidelines provided in this article should help anyone using a screen magnifier with HRD to have a better experience. Many amateur radio software applications will work transparently with a screen magnifier such as ZoomText but some may exhibit issues. If required, ensure that the Java Access Bridge is installed and the assistive technology tool utilizes it. Refer to the appropriate documentation for your assistive technology tool.

### TERMS

**ADA** Americans with Disabilities Act 1998 and 2001 under Section 508 of the ADA legislation

**AT** Assistive Technology such as screen readers and screen magnifiers

**JAWS** Job Access With speech screen reader software produced by Freedom Scientific

**WCAG** Web Content Accessibility Guidelines provided on the w3c.org web site which provides guidelines for building accessible web base contentment.



**James Farrey**  
 Sales Manager

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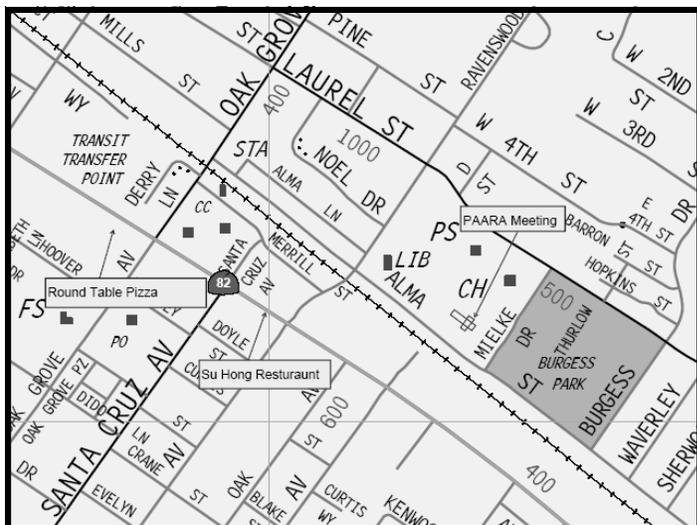
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If you would like to  
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## PAARA Weekly Radio Net

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>	Doug Teter - KG6LWE
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Robin Yee—KI6YTA
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jack Pines - W1VSL
4 <sup>th</sup>	Marty Wayne - W6NEV
5 <sup>th</sup>	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**  
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*across from Kepler's Book Store  
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**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 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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**DON'T FORGET!**

**Amateur Radio Technology Day**

November 13th, 2010

8AM to 9PM

at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

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Submissions for PAARAgaphs by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

Text: MSWORD, RTF, or TEXT

Photos: JPEG or TIFF raster images

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Rick Melrose K6RDM, 1-888-725-1895, k6rdm@arrl.net

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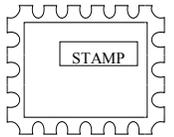
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2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

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

# PAARAgaphs — November 2010

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA



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 PAARAgaphs Newsletter  
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