PAARA NEWSLETTER VOLUME 62, NUMBER 10, October 2012

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K6YQT

PAARAgraphs

The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



Exploring the Lunar Environment with NASA's LADEE Mission

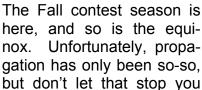
Brian Day, of NASA's Lunar Science Institute will tell us how our understanding of the Moon is changing dramatically as a result of findings from a new generation of robotic lunar explorers. NASA's next mission to the Moon, the Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer (LADEE), offers exciting opportunities to greatly extend our understanding of the Moon's dynamic exosphere. It also offers students and the public exciting ways to participate in science supporting the mission through • observations of meteoroid impacts on the Moon and meteors in the Earth's atmosphere. In this meeting, we will take a new look at the Moon, get an overview of the LADEE mission, and discuss the unique opportunities and challenges that could be provided by forward scatter radio observations of meteors by amateur radio operators.

October 5, 2012 7:00 pm

Cubberley Community Center Room H-6 4000 Middlefield Road Palo Alto, CA 94303

President's Corner

October 2012





from getting on the air. We also had our first PAARA meeting at the Cubberly Community Center. Were you there? And then there's CQP coming up soon. It's an exciting month.

As I write this we've just passed the Autumnal Equinox, and the nights are now longer than the days. Winter will bring less of an enhancement on the upper HF bands, but there will still be plenty of opportunity to work DX on the bands. You'll have to adjust your timing and expectations for the MUF, or Maximum Usable Frequency. At this moment, the solar flux index is at 139 and the sunspot number is at 113. Even with the days being shortened, this should support reasonable propagation. With the sun already down at 8pm, DX Summit (www.dxsummit.fi) reports 20 meters being open to Russia from North America. In fact I see a 10 meter opening to Australia from the Northwest and from Canada. So, don't give up. There is DX to be worked, and propagation to work them with.

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In the next week and a half Team Trinity takes off for our county expedition to the radio-quiet land of Trinity County. You will hear us this time as W6T, and we have a website this year too: www.w6t.org. We also welcome two new members (also PAARA members) to our team, Dave, AA6XV, and past PAARA President Andreas. N6NU. Dave and Andreas join Rick, N6DQ, Joanna, K6YL, Rhona, K6RHO, and myself in our cabin in the wilderness with more radios than ever and lots of power. We have a very elaborate setup this year, and we're trying to beat last year's score by a lot. It will be challenging, but we think we can do it. We hope to hear you on the air, and work you too. Listen for us on all bands, and on both SSB and CW simultaneously (!) this year. We'll bring back lots of pictures to show at the next PAARA meeting. Of course, this means that I will miss the next meeting, so PAARA Vice President Marty, W6NEV, will be your host on October 5th.

At the last PAARA meeting we made the big switch to our new venue at the Cubberly Community Center from the Menlo Park Recreation Center. I hope there was no confusion, and everyone made it to the new meeting room without a hitch. We had PAARA board member Rebar, N6DB, at the old site ready to direct you to the new location, however, he reported that nobody was there to redirect! That was actually good news. The new room was full, and I really enjoyed the homey atmosphere. I also was quite pleased with the acoustics, compared to rebuilt Rec Center. In fact, it reminded me very much of the Rec Center before it was rebuilt. with just the right amount of reverb and warmth. We are still working on what we will do about the screen, as the screen we had for that meeting was borrowed from Jim, KI6KVW. We will borrow it again for October, but the board has authorized the purchase of a new screen which will be mounted in the room. We are currently finalizing the details. After the meeting, we trekked up to the Roundtable Pizza and had our usual after-meeting get-together. It was a bit of a drive, but it was still well attended. Thank you everyone for making this a smooth transition, and thanks to the PAARA

board for making this all work. Great job everyone!

Lastly I want to remind all of you about the upcoming PAARA elections. David, KI6ZHD, is the Election Committee Chair, and will be handling the details. There will be an update at the next meeting. Also, we have been given the goahead for a new PAARAshoot event. I have some details, but we still have to figure out a schedule, and a few more details. I'll miss you all in October, but hope to see you all in November with tales of adventure from Trinity. CU IN CQP DE K6WX

Happening This Month

Hey! There's something huge happening this I month, can you guess what it is? Well, CQP is I one big event, but also Pacificon 2012 is taking I place the weekend of October 14-16 at the I Santa Clara Marriott Hotel. Not only that — the I ARRL will hold its National Convention October I 12-14, coinciding with Pacificon. So this year's I event will be bigger. Even more important, I PAARA members are contributing to this year's I event:

- Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, will present "Maxwell's Equations in 45 minutes" on Saturday at 2:15 PM in the Golden Ballroom (Salon C). Will there be a final exam?
- Joel Willhite, KD6W, will present "Digital Amateur Television Primer and Use Case" on Sunday at 10:45 AM in Salon A. Will there be live video?
- Parachute Mobile is back for the 3rd time on Saturday and, weather permitting, will start at noon for hams to have QSOs with Mark Meltzer, AF6IM, and Michael Gregg, KF6WRW, while they are descending under canopy over Byron Airport. The QSO frequency is 146.430 MHz simplex. Listen to the N6NFI and W6CX Mt. Diablo repeaters for up-to-date information. Parachute Mobile will have a display table with live streaming video at Pacificon.

There is much more happening at this year's I Pacificon. Don't miss this exciting event. For all I the latest details, please visit the Pacificon 2012 I web site at: http://pacificon.org/home.html

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

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	ron@taxhelp.com		

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Director ('12)	Darryl Presley, ki6ldm	650 255-2454
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Appointed Positions

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Station Trustee K6OTA	. Ron Chester, w6AZ	
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Badge Coordinator	.Lynn Gentry, KG6JPV	
HistorianPosition	. Position Vacant	
Raffle Coordinator	. Jim Rice, ĸ6aĸ	650-851-2274
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Future PARRA Meeting Dates

Nov 2nd, Dec 7th, Jan 4th

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 Organiza-

Second Saturday of month, March-October, 6am-2pm Howard M. Krawetz, N6HM 650-856-9761

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st 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, kdbw@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.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.

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.

While 44 F and 1266 repeaters are linked.

VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF:

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

American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Contact: http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924

(Please send changes to PAARAgraphs editor)

It takes a small army

By Jim Thielemann, KI6KVW

During a recent PAARA meeting, we listened to the wonderful radio story on Field Day. In that report was a comment that "it took about 4 hours to set everything up". Several of us "in the know" chuckled when hearing that. Maybe this would be true if you had enough people to setup everything at the same time, but that's not possible. The thought occurred to me that maybe there were a larger number of people that really didn't know what went into "setting everything up". Let's try to put some perspective on the effort it takes for PAARA to operate Field Day in the 4A class.

It all starts with a meeting of the radio station captains and several other key people at the conclusion of the prior years field day and after the points total has been submitted. A discussion on what worked, didn't work, and what to consider for the next year's event ensues. This meeting usually involves about 8 people and lasts around 3 hours equating to 24 man hours (MH).

Around March, an "antenna party" is held to work on antennas or whatever needs maintenance for the upcoming event. There are 3 to 5 of these parties through the upcoming months. Depending on what's being worked on, it may even involve dragging the tower trailer out and erecting an antenna for testing. The final party also involves setting all the stations and computers up to make sure the network is working and each computer can "see" each other and control the radio they are assigned to. Each party usually has 6 to 10 people and lasts 6 hours. We'll say the average number of participants is 8 equating to 48 MH per party. If there are 4 parties, that gives us 192 MH.

During the antenna party period, there are a 2 to 3 of meetings between the station captains and other key people, roughly 8 people. These meetings are to finalize the antenna plan, band plan, and make sure everything that needs

someone to attend to it has someone assigned to take care of the task. These meetings result in action items for everyone. The meetings alone equate to roughly 72 MH not to mention the time it takes to take care of the action items. For estimation purposes well say 8 hours per person or 74 man hours which totals 136 MH.

The week before Field Day a small number of people pick up the towers from their various storage locations, give them the once over and prep them with guy ropes etc. Food and other supplies for the event are purchased and prepped. These tasks equate to roughly 40 MH.

The Friday before Field Day weekend, the setup begins. We can't start setting things up at the site until 10 AM but that doesn't mean there is nothing to do. All the antennas, towers, support equipment, and supplies are loaded onto the trailers and trucks. Roughly 6 to 8 people work 2 hours to accomplish the task. There goes another 14 MH.

Leaving the staging area we travel the short distance to the site and start distributing the antennas and towers. Assembly of the antennas followed by the erection of all 5 towers follows. Late in the day 4 people go to pick up the U-Haul trucks. All this work doesn't take many words to describe but takes upwards of 18 people. If all goes well, the setup is complete for the day by 5 PM. Thus another 105 MH spent assuming an average of 15 people.

The completion of setup resumes on Saturday morning by 8 AM with the goal of being complete by the 10 AM start time. Towers are extended, station captains set up each station, generators deployed, public info table setup, and the network made operational. Roughly 10 people or 20 MH are expended. NOW, PAARA is finally ready to make contacts. Hopefully all the preparation, testing, and setup pay off for another record year.

Oh, let's not forget it takes another 8 hours work of another 10 people or so to take it all down and get the equipment back into the stor-

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age locations for next year. This doesn't include the time it takes the captains to take their equipment home and get their own stations reassembled or the time to get the towers and other equipment back to the storage locations. We'll just chalk it up to another 80 MH of work.

So what does this all mean? If you've kept track, there are 611 MH spent on the event as outlined above. This equates to 67.37 man days (assuming an 8 hour day)! That doesn't include the actual MH spent during the 24 hours of the contest. But let's go back to the statement that started this all, "4 hours to set everything up". If we just looked at the time from Friday to the time we were ready to operate, that totals 139 MH or 17.37 man days. In order to do the work in only 4 hours, we'd need 34.75 people! Wouldn't that be nice, though due to inefficiencies of large crews working on small projects, we still couldn't get it done in that short of time. Now that I've figured all this out I'm not sure I REALLY wanted to know but it does make for some interesting conversation.

Oh well, that gives us something to shoot for eh? On behalf of Doug (KG6LWE), to all those who donated time, effort, and equipment to PAARA's Field Day event, THANKS for making this another great year!

73's Till it starts all over again, Jim Thielemann, Kl6KVW

19 SEPTEMBER 2012 PAARA Board Meeting Minutes

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:40 PM on the 19th of September, 2012. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Marty Wayne W6NEV (VP), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Sec, Database), Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir), Darryl Presley KI6LDM (Dir), Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir), Larry Rebarchik N6DB (Dir), Joel Wilhite KD6W (Technical Coordinator) and Gerry Tucker N6NV (Property Manager). A quorum was pre-

sent.

President's Report: Kristen K6WX reported that the September 7th General Meeting at our new Palo Alto location at Cubberly High School was very well attended and that the space, acoustics and parking worked out very well. (Rebar commented that no one turned up at the Menlo Park Rec Center having to be redirected – speaks well of our group!). What's more, the presentation by our former club President, Joel Wilhite KD6W, on the fascinating subject of Digital Amateur Television was compact, comprehensive and fact-filled. If you missed it, Joel will be doing a reprise at the upcoming Pacificon convention.

Kristen told us that the October 5th General Meeting will feature Brian Day of NASA speaking on Exploring the Lunar Environment using Laser Technology applied to moon dust kicked up by meteor strikes. We'll be finding out how hams can actually participate in the project.

We have begun our election cycle for club officers for 2013 with the appointment of our Election Committee Chairman, David Ranch KI6ZHD. The Chairman with his committee is in the process of putting together the slate and will open the agenda with nominations in the October meeting. Nominations will close in November for the December election.

Kristen mentioned we still want to invite the general membership to give some thought to writing up any projects, technical subjects and tips or operating experiences that might be publishable in upcoming issues of PAARAgraphs. If you have any ideas let us know. We can provide writing help if needed.

Vice President's Report: Marty W6NEV Reports that we have a program in place for the November meeting and will finish out the year with the Dream to Reality feature for the December meeting and the Show and Tell home brew night for January.

Secretary's Report: Rick K6RDM reports that

(Continued on page 7)



Congratulations: September 7, 2012 PAARA Raffle Prize Winners

1st Prize: Rick Melrose / K6RDM / MFJ 4230 MV / 30 Amp Switching Power Supply

2nd Prize: Gerry Tucker / N6NV / Diamond / 2m / 7cm / Dual Band Mobile Antenna with MFJ Magnet Mount

3rd Prize: Shekhar Tipnis / KG6UEF / Powerwerx DC Power Analyzer

4th Prize: Jon Gefaell / K6OJ / Battery Tender Junior / 12 Volt Charger

5th Prize: Peter Chow / AF6DS / MFJ -281 Clear Tone Speaker

6th Prize: Darryl Presley / KI6LDM / Pocket Reference / Thomas Glover

7th Prize: Daniel Rahamim / KJ6SEE / Bongo Ties

8th Prize: Nicole Penner / KJ6WOY / Berry Pie / Thanks Lodema!

PAARA Members and Visitors: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the exciting monthly raffles! Since (Feb. 2003), 239 Radios, including Five 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, THANKS TO YOU!

PAARA had a remarkable year in 2012! If you aren't a member, please join PAARA now, and experience fun 2012 events with the "friendliest club around."

K6AK Jim

PAARAgraphs—October 2012 Celebrating 75 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

Minutes (Continued from page 5)

the minutes of the 15th of August Board meeting had been previously submitted and approved and that there were three new members and eight renewals at the September 7th meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Ron W6AZ was unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

Under New Business, consideration was given to the purchase of a suitable projection screen for the Cubberly meeting room. The board will be looking into appropriate specifications and costs. Also, regarding the prospect of a reestablished PAARAshoot, no news yet but we are still looking into the possibility. Plans are also in progress for the Winter Banquet proposed for January 18th at Michael's on Shoreline. Joel KD6W indicated that the best date for the PAARAfest would appear to be early October, probably the 6th. The date will be announced when set. Pacificon runs the 12th through the 14th of October. Kristen, Joel, Dean Straw N6BV and Leigh Klotz WA5ZNU are all scheduled to present this year. More details are available at Pacificon.org

Kristen thanked the team that worked on taking down a tower for Mary Prochnow and authorization was given for the possible purchase of an aluminum crank-up tower that has become available.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

There were three new members at the September meeting and one mail-in:

Michael Wimble	KM6WP	Sunnyvale
Joanne Petersen	KI6JLS	Palo Alto
Scott Petersen	KI6QWM	Palo Alto
Paul Ewing	N6PSE	San Jose

idges

K6FTF	Mark	San Jose
KJ6GBE	Sreendish	Redwood City
AG6GH	Lee	Redwood City
KG6GYY	Art	San Jose
N6JCY	Joani	San Jose

N6MLK	Matt	Cupertino	
KJ6PVN	Josh	Castro Valley	
KG6QKN	Francis	Palo Alto	
KG6QKO	Kali	Palo Alto	
KJ6SGT	Xiande	Campbell	
KF6SRD	Chuck	Palo Alto	
K6TSR	George	Portola Valley	
K6VVK	Vincent	Palo Alto	
K6WV	Jon	Cupertino	
K6XOX	Nimit	San Jose	

October 5, 2012 Raffle Prizes

- 1st Yaesu FT-60R / Dual Band HT / 144-430 MHz / 5W / Wide Receiver Coverage / Emergency Automatic Identification (EAI) / Outstanding Audio
- 2nd Heil Pro Micro Single Sided Headset / PMS-6 / HC-6 Broadcast Quality Mic Element / Suggested for Mobile Applications
- 3rd Two West Mountain COM Speakers / RF Proof / Stereo / Amplified / with Audio Cables and UL Approved Wall Supply
- 4th Kill-A-Watt / AC Usage Monitor
- 5th ARRL Repeater Directory 2012 -2013
- 6th ARRL Repeater Directory 2012 -2013
- 7th Bongo Ties



Kickoff Speaker With Breakfast Food Available for Purchase

> Banquet with Special Speaker



Latest Ham Radio Equipment

> Ham License Testing



PACIFICON 2012

ARRL National HAM RADIO CONVENTION

Produced by the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club

October 12 - 14, 2012 Marriott Santa Clara Hotel 2700 Mission College Blvd Santa Clara, California

GENERAL ADMISSION: \$23 IN ADVANCE - FOR ALL 3 DAYS!

Tickets at the door will cost \$28 * Some events are additional *

If you need hotel accommodations either call Marriott Hotel Reservations at 1-800-228-9290 by Sept 26, 2012 to ask for the Special Pacificon rate of \$109/night, or reserve your room on-line at www.pacificon.org

Go to the Pacificon Website for Events - Schedules - Registration

WWW.PACIFICON.ORG



Outstanding Technical Forums

Great Saturday Swap Meet

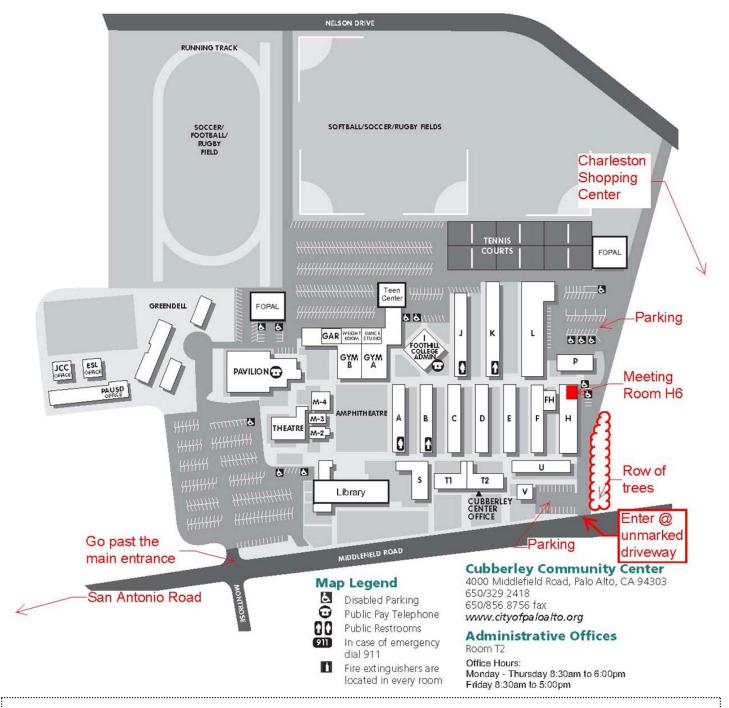


Antenna & Legal Seminars

QRP & HFpack Activities



PAARAgraphs—October 2012 Celebrating 75 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937



Meeting Room Location

The Meeting Room is in Room H6 of the Cubberley Community Center.

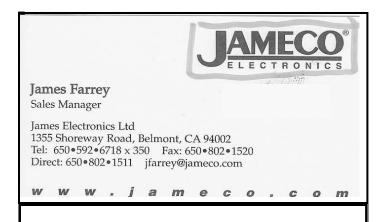
It is located at 4000 Middlefield Road between San Antonio Road and East Charleston Road.

From San Antonio Road pass Montrose Avenue on the right (see above).

Turn Left into unmarked driveway and park in parking lot.

Follow road opposite entry to Bldg H.

Room H6 is near the far end of Bldg H from the parking lot.



Real Estate Needs Med: call Karl

KARL DRESDEN General License, KJ6GUK Cell Ph. 650-274-8155 Email: karldresden@juno.com Full time Realtor since 1976 DRE # 00525686 Terrace Associates, Inc. Full Service Real Estate 926 Woodside Road Redwood City, Ca 94061 Terrace Ph. 650-369-7331 FAX 650-274-8155

Badges are ready for pickup.

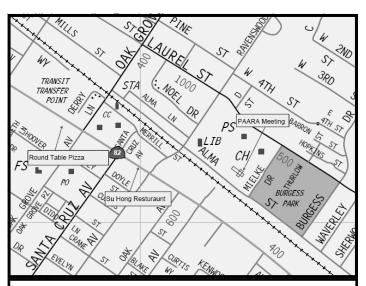
If you would like to order a badge, see **Lynn Gentry, KG6JPV**.

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
week 1 st	Michael - N6MEB
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.



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 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

WILL RESUME WHEN A NEW **VENUE IS**

DETERMINED.

8AM TO **6PM**

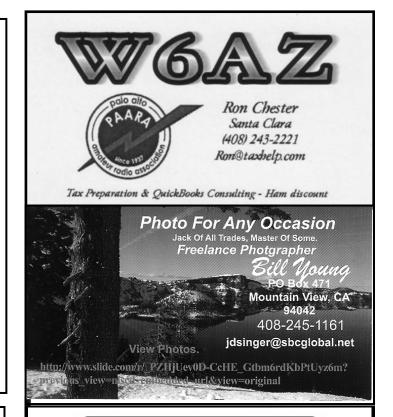
Ilse Beck, E. A., KI6IBM

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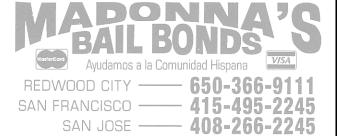
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shkurkin@ix.netcom.com

Submit items to PAARAgraphs 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

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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.

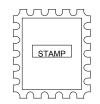
1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).

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 arrangements 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

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