

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the  
**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**  
Celebrating 79 years as an *active* amateur radio club—Since 1937



## Design and construction of a Magnetic Loop Antenna (MLA) Vitaly Dubilet, AB6VD

The four main components are, five foot long central pole with motor driven vacuum capacitor on one side and matching unit on another. Loop made from two 7/8-inch copper tubes with soldered ring terminals on each end. Central pole made from hollowed fiber glass with 1 x 1-inch cross section. RF cable RG-8U and tripod.

Frequency of operation: 3.5 to 24 MHz

Maximum power: 100 Watts

Height: 5 feet

Loop diameter: 4 feet

Band switch located on the matching unit box.

Better orientation of antenna will be in reverse order (matching unit should be at the bottom of antenna and tuning capacitor on top).

I increased the band width (BW) on 80 meters in porpoise for ATAS system to be able to lock up on minimum SWR.

Antenna can be tuned manually by manual tuner and automatically by active-tuning antenna system (ATAS), used in Yeas radios.

### Bio

Vitaly has a Masters Degree in Electrical Engineering and has worked R&D in semiconductor equipment manufacturing.

His hobby is radio and enjoys working with portable antennas. He has been a HAM since 1970 and joined PAARA in 2014.

Couple of years ago, Vitaly designed and built a magnetic loop antenna for portable operation. His talk will cover the design and construction of this antenna.

## Upcoming Events

- Feb 5 PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Mar 4 Cubberly Community Center, Room
- Apr 1 H-6, 400 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
- Feb 17 Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Mar 16 Everyone welcome! Round
- Apr 20 Table Pizza Parlor in Menlo



Early March? PAARAlink

## President's Corner

February 2016

As I'm looking out of the window, I'm seeing the beautiful green hills of Mission San Jose and Mission Peak. We are finally getting some of the rain that we need, thankfully. Creativity was on display at PAARA last month, and it was great. While inside I've been listening for the DXpeditions. Have you? And lastly, the PAARA / FARS FARS / PAARA Winter Banquet was a great success.



As many of you know, I love rain, and we've been getting some nice steady liquid sunshine over the last couple of months. Even the drive home from the Winter Banquet was accented by the windshield wipers going full-speed for most of my trip back to

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## **Pacificon Special Events Station W1AW/6**

It was another successful year at the Pacificon Special Events Station. PAARA and partners again sponsored the station, which was in operation from 11:30 AM, Friday, Oct 16, until 12:00 noon, Sunday, Oct 18, 2015; the total operating time was 48 1/2 hours. Although band conditions were not optimal, 2,761 contacts in 102 entities were made.

There was a good turnout of guest operators, all of whom had a great time operating the station. Approximately 25 Boy Scouts visited the station and operated on 20M HF, working towards getting their Radio Merit Badge. Certainly this experience will draw some of them into the amateur radio hobby.

Rick Huisman, N6DQ, and Joanna Dilley, K6YL, again provided a fantastic radio station. Four HF stations and one VHF station were in operation. The triplexer/filter setup drew a great deal of interest and plenty of photographs were taken. There were also many comments on the antenna trailer and hex beam antenna. Bob Heil, K9EID, also supported the station by providing the latest Heil Pro7 headsets and FS-3 Foot Switches.

Thank you to all the operators who spent time working the station. Without you, it would have just been a display of radios. Thank you also to those who helped set up, monitor, and take down the station. It was a big effort that was completed successfully and without any major issues.

We are looking forward to Pacificon 2016 and another successful outing for the Pacificon Special Event Station.

Thanks everyone!

Marty, W6NEV  
 Special Event Station Coordinator

## **Ten-Meter Contest Experience 121615o**

**Rich Stiebel, W6APZ**

“Copy my 59 Connecticut, please repeat your state.” This is a familiar refrain heard in contests. A report of 59 is supposed to mean a perfectly readable, extremely strong signal. How then was the state missed?

My love affair with ten meters began shortly after I was licensed and I tried to get 20-meter DX with only 12 watts of RF into a long-wire antenna. This low power level did not result in any contacts. Shifting up to ten meters and using a simple dipole antenna resulted in contacts all over the Chicago area, where I lived at the time. Hence, ten meters became my favorite band.

Two-meter equipment was not yet available. We used 29.640 MHz as the Civil Defense emergency frequency for the city of Chicago. Ten meters became MY BAND. I could talk to anyone in the city. I had given up on 20-meter DX and was happy on ten.

Fast forward to December 12 & 13, 2015, the Ten-Meter Contest. I went to the ARRL website, downloaded the rules and Contest Log form and was ready to get on the air with my ancient Icom IC-735, running 100 Watts into my GAP Titan vertical. Sunday morning at 17:15 Zulu I turned on the rig and started tuning from 28.600 MHz down the band, listening only for loud, easy-to-copy signals. When I found a strong signal, my technique was to listen to that station making a few contacts, so I knew its call sign and location before calling that station. When I did call, all I needed was verification that the station had heard my call sign, as my reported signal was always “59”. Since there was QSB (fading of the signals) the fact that I had already written down most of what I needed made the contact go more efficiently. I then tuned down the band listen-

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*(Contest — Continued from page 2)*

ing for the next strong signal. Frequently after having found a loud signal, QRM would interfere with my ability to copy. Using the fine tuning, band pass control, and notch filter, I was able to minimize the interference sufficiently to complete the contact. If after calling the station several times my signal was not recognized, I simply moved on down the band to the next loud signal. I was not fixated on racking up points, nor states worked. I just wanted to have fun and see what I could work easily.

When I had tuned down to 28.30, the bottom of the phone band, I went back up to 28.6 MHz and repeated the process of tuning down. Since the contest form requires noting the frequency of the station worked, I could quickly avoid working the same station twice. In any case, most of the strong stations I had worked the first time tuning through the band were no longer there the second time through. I repeated this process for a third time till I filled up one page of the Contest Log.

Having worked stations from Argentina to Canada, from New York to California and many states in between, I was satisfied that my station was working and that with reasonable propagation, my signal was getting out.

An interesting aspect of contesting is that all the reports I received were 59 plus the state of the station. There were numerous times when the station I was talking to asked for a clarification of my call sign, or my state. Yet, they gave me a report of 59. As a reminder, the 5 of the report means “perfectly readable” and the 9 of the report means “extremely strong signal.” One would think that with a perfectly readable, extremely strong signal, a station would not need a repeat of anything, but such is the nature of contesting. One simply can’t believe the report one is given when stations are racing to make the greatest number of contacts in the time allotted.

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Fremont. While this may inhibit our outdoor activities a bit, it’s a great excuse to get in front of that HF radio and see what you can work out there on the bands. Another thing that it reminds us of is to check our antennas and coax for water incursion where it shouldn’t be. In particular, if you see a significant shift in SWR, it might be worth inspecting all of the connection points and places where coax might be abraded. Relatively small shifts in SWR are expected with weather, since water can liberate dissolvable ions and change conduction and dielectric characteristics in some places. Radically changed SWR or impedance (somewhat similar measures in this domain) most likely indicate something that needs to be looked into, however.

The January PAARA meeting was, as in past years, another great display of the creativity of our membership on display. I really loved the homemade miniature keys brought by frequent PAARAgaphs author Hiro, AH6CY. In particular, the key made from microswitches and pennies was wonderful. Gerry, N6NV, brought some vintage homebrew items made by the legendary Bill Orr, W6SAI - SK. We weren’t entirely sure what they were, but they looked like they could be transmitters, with tube sockets and large copper inductors. The best part for me, though, was the contribution from our young hams and hams in training. Kelton, K6KEL, brought his USB hand warmer, built from a dead x86 CPU. He spent a lot of time, apparently, searching for the right pins with low resistance between them that would allow it to sink enough current to get hot. I tested it personally, and it sure gets hot! We also had Justin, N6ETC, and his two sons with one project each. First was the Heathkit Explorer Jr AM radio receiver built by 9 year old Jacob. We got a demo of this revival of the Heathkit brand using an amplified speaker. Next was an LED traffic light built by 7 year old Arslan, which worked wonderfully

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well. You can tell that Justin is raising two future hams! They both were HF operators at Field Day last summer. The entire meeting was all a sight to behold. My pictures of this event, including those homebrewers whom I didn't mention, can be found at <https://k6wx.smugmug.com/Events/PAARA-Homebrew-Night-2016/>.

Have you all worked the K5P Palmyra DXpedition? I haven't as of this writing. They always seem to be on a band that's not propagating to my QTH. Same for VP8STI on South Georgia Island. That latter one I didn't expect to get easily, but I thought I'd have a chance with K5P. I'll keep watching dxsummit.fi, and hope I make it before they shut down.

For those of you who missed the Winter Banquet, you really missed out. It was a great event, and I thoroughly enjoyed talking with and seeing so many Amateur Radio OPs, all in one place! The speaker, Tom Lee from Stanford, was not to be missed either. His telling of the story of the first transatlantic cable effort was both engaging and fascinating. I was really struck by how much they were able to do with the relatively primitive technologies available in the mid-19th century. The contributions and brilliance of William Thompson, later Lord Kelvin, was an inspiration to me as an engineer. Lastly, congratulations to Dave, AE6EO, on winning the grand prize, a Yaesu FT-857D.

That's it for this fun-filled month, but there's always February and lots more fun to be had at the Friendliest Club Around. Oh, and by the way, the board has requested 6 March for the next PAARApLink at the 10th Street Range, in San Jose. Watch these pages for confirmation and more information. CU AT CUBBERLY ON 5 FEB DE K6WX

Kristen

## Jan 20, 2016 Board Meeting Minutes

The January Board Meeting was held at the Menlo Park Round Table Pizza Parlor, commencing at 7:37 PM on January 20th, 2016. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX (President), Marty Wayne, W6NEV (VP), Ron Chester, W6AZ (Treasurer) via videoconference, Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Darryl Presley, KI6LDM (Dir), Rob Riley, KI6INR (Dir), and non-Board Member, Gerry Tucker, N6NV (Property Manager), Clark Martin, KK6ISP, (ASVARO Representative). A quorum was present.

President's Report: Kristen, K6WX, mentioned how sparse the response has been to the "operating news" section of the meeting. Conversations ensued as to the possible reasons regarding the lack of attendees either wishing to share a recent contact with the group or are the members asleep on their keys? Maybe it's the latter as most members of the board haven't found the time to turn on their radios lately either. It is a bit discouraging as we are a radio club after all.

Thanks also go to the members who came to the January meeting with a home brew project they'd been working on. Even the youngest members of the club had items to share. Congratulations to the participants for showing their great work at the meeting. Thanks also goes to Gerry, N6NV, for bringing in a few home brew items from the "Tucker Museum" which were built by other hams who over the course of time have been influential in Ham Radio.

Kristen indicated her reserve of stories is doing better than last month but as always on the lookout for 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, experiences setting up your station or antenna, on the air experiences that might be of interest? If you've have or

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have not previously drafted that story, now is the time to get a by line of your own in PAAR-Agraphs 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, attended the 1st Pacificon 2016 meeting. He will once again be heading up the radio station at the convention. It's not too early to let him know of our interest to assist in the effort. Marty also announced that the speaker for February will be Vitaly Dubilet, AB6VD, who will present at talk on "Design and Construction of a Magnetic Loop Antenna". Additionally, Marty indicated having a speaker for next month but is looking for speakers for the rest of the year. Make sure to forward him your ideas.

Marty is also working on a couple of field trips for 2016 but none have been finalized. He has a couple more suggestions but is looking for more. 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.

"The club roster was submitted to the ARRL", said Marty. We will have to wait until hearing back from the ARRL that our affiliation has been renewed for 2016.

Secretary's report: Jim, K6SV, reported that currently there are 180 PAARA members. The total number of PayPal renewals and other sales is now 174. As it's now 2016, it's past time to renew your membership for 2016. Of the 180 members, there are 84 that have yet to renew for 2016. Members who haven't renewed for 2016 will receive an extra "reminder" sticker on their copy of PAARAgaphs. 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 joining between the December meeting and the Winter Banquet.

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, was able to videoconference into the meeting, a 1st for a

board meeting. At times the conference was a bit challenging, due to background noise, but overall the test was successful. It was great to have him "attend" a meeting. He wished to thank Bob Korte, KD6KYT, for filling in during his absence. As for a report on the finances, Ron is playing catch up with the paperwork but knows the finances are doing fine.

Under Old Business, Jim, K6SV, reported progress had been made on the repeater shack et al. All the bolts have been installed in the tower sections, the upper sections of guy cables have been installed, the sheetrock installation inside the shack completed. Joel, KD6W, has the new repeaters installed in the rack and ready to be programmed. With any luck, mostly on the weather side, the rack will be in the shack and the antennas up by the end of January.

There was also a further 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.

Kristen, K6WX, mentioned the next PAARApLink date needs to be set. The board discussed various options. Kristen will try to confirm a date in early March.

Clark Martin, KK6ISP, reported that he'd received an email indicating that there was to be an ASVARO board meeting the night of the PAARA board meeting but it had been canceled. He and the board spent a little time reviewing the areas of interest which should be discussed with the ASVARO board.

Under new business, Jim, K6SV, brought the topic up of naming the repeater shack. There was a short discussion on the topic. Further conversation on the topic will be held at another

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meeting.

The board also voted to award an honorary membership to PAARA to the person that has graciously allowed PAARA to install the repeater on their property.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Jim Thielemann  
 Secretary/membership  
 K6SV

**Please welcome to PAARA:**

New Members: Robert Lawrence, N6RLZ, and Will Radcliff, AA1FD.

**February Raffle Prizes**

1st Kenwood TM281A / 2m Mobile Transceiver  
 High Power 65W Output  
 Large Front Speaker  
 Vivid Amber LCD Display with brightness control  
 200 Memory Channels, plus one call channel



2nd GP5 SSB thanks Vic Black AB6SO  
 Dimensions: 6.20" X 2.05" X .80"  
 Weight: 85 Grams not including batteries  
 Modes : AM, FM, SW, USB, LSB



3rd Arrow 2m Yagi Antenna

4th Two West Mountain COMspkr  
 Thanks Marty Wayne W6NEV  
 RF Proof Amplified Stereo Computer Speaker System  
 Stereo High Fidelity Response  
 Optimized for Operation in Close to a Transmitter

5th ARRL DXCC List Book

6th ARRL Minilog

7th Two PL259 Connectors



**Raffle Winners — left to right**

- 4<sup>th</sup> Prize Rob Fenn / KC6TYD / Mag Mount  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Marty Wayne / W6NEV / Two West Mountain COM Speakers  
 1<sup>st</sup> Prize Karen Misenhimer / KK6NGA / Kenwood TM-281A / 2m Mobile Transceiver  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize Paul Gorny / KK6HWN / GP5 SSB Receiver  
 5<sup>th</sup> Prize David Ungar / W6DH / ARRL DXCC List Book  
 6<sup>th</sup> Prize Bill / ARRL Minilog  
 7<sup>th</sup> Prize Hiro Kato / AH6CY / Two PL259 Connectors

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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
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	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](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.k6ya.org>

## NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:30pm each month,

Repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM

Contact: <http://ncdxc.org> or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:30pm each month, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. Contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265 (D), 650- 595-5590 (N)

Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: [pres@k6mpn.org](mailto:pres@k6mpn.org)

## SCCARRA

### Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl

Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 442.425+ (pl 107.2) Thur.

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

Contact: <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](mailto: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:

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month.

Contact: <http://wvara.org>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, [N6FFC@Juno.com](mailto:N6FFC@Juno.com), or

[N6FFC@ARRL.NET](mailto: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](mailto:shensley@Novell.com)

(Please send changes to [PAARAgaphs editor](mailto:PAARAgaphs editor))



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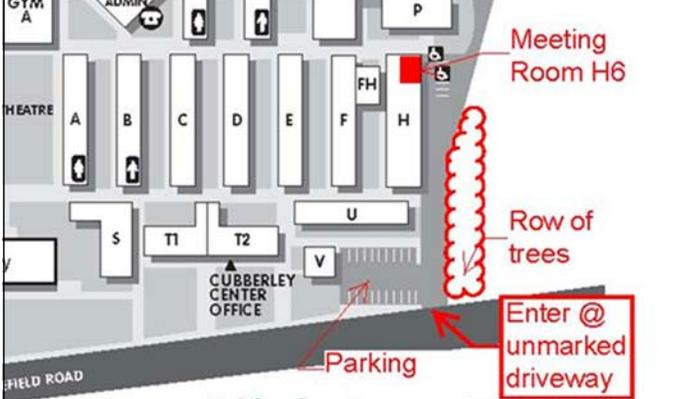
***Badges are ready for pickup.***

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 <sup>st</sup>	Joel KD6W
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Doug - KG6LWE
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jack - N1VSL
4 <sup>th</sup>	Marty - W6NEV
5 <sup>th</sup>	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  
 650/329.2418  
 650/856.8756 fax  
[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)

Legend  
 bled Parking  
 lic Pay Telephone

**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**  
 P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park  
 California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$20.00 per calendar year, which includes one subscription to 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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**RADIO IN THE PARK**

9:30am - 12:30pm  
 Check Back In the Spring

**QTH:**  
 Agnews Historic Park  
 4030 Lafayette St.  
 Santa Clara, CA 95050

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