

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.Celebrating 79 years as an *active* amateur radio club—Since 1937<http://www.paara.org/>

The September 21st speaker is:

Ross Forbes, K6GFJ**Presents: TX3X DXpedition to
Chesterfield Island**

Ross will give a talk and video from the Chesterfield Island DXpedition in, September 2015. Chesterfield Island is a coral atoll located about half way between Australia and New Caledonia in the Coral Sea.

Ross Forbes, K6GFJ, holds an Extra class license and has been licensed since early 1964. Ross is retired after working in the commercial broadcasting industry and in the world of information technology. Ross recently retired as IT manager of Sevin Rosen Funds. Ross has been an EC, SEC, Section Manager and Vice-Director of the Pacific Division. Currently Ross is the president of the Northern California DX Club and is an advisor to the Northern California DX Foundation

Upcoming Events

Sep 2
Oct 7
Nov 4PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM
Cubberly Community Center, Room
H-6, 400 Middlefield Rd, Palo AltoSep 21
Oct 19
Nov 17Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
Everyone welcome!
Location: Marty, W6NEV, QTH

President's Corner

September 2016

It's September already, with fall right around the corner. I just returned from the Duke City Hamfest in Albuquerque, and a wonderful vacation in Santa Fe. With fall comes the opening of a new contest season too. We also have a number of upcoming events, like CQP, Pacificon, and the possibility of the last PAARASHOOT.



Unbelievably, the summer is nearly over. I can already feel a slight chill in the air as I write in late August. I'm sure it won't last, though. Late September and early October almost always bring a heat wave, but I'm enjoying this cooler weather. For my part, I just don't know where the summer went. It seems like just yesterday that we were setting up for Field Day, even though it's more than 2 months ago now.

Mark Miller's, AE6TT, step father passed away recently. As he was a ham, he was listed as a SK in the September issue of QST on page 2.

KE5RIN

Dolbow, Leslie L. Jr, Livingston, TX

Unfortunately, the published information was incorrect. Mark wishes everyone who knew Les to have the correct information:

Les Dolbow KE5RIN Gladewater, Tx.

(President — Continued on page 4)

Shave –and-a-Haircut . . . Two Lids!

Don Tuite NR7X

Novices and QSOs in Days of Yore

Hams, especially new hams have, of course, have always been paragons of virtue, clinging religiously to FCC regulations, right down to the last semicolon, right? No lids here! Well, no, there will always be lids, but, with some lids, you have to hand it to them for creativity. Here is one example: the “*Shave –and-a-Haircut*” trick.

To understand the trick, and its inherent brilliance, you have to understand the rules and handicaps that novice licensees labored less than half a century ago.

For example, my first rig, when I earned my Novice ticket (WV2LJI) in 1959, consisted of a one-tube transmitter based on a 6DQ6A (a horizontal-driver for black-and-white TV sets), CW transmitter, a 100-V homebrew power supply, alongside a short-wave receiver whose lineage I can no longer recall.

For what it’s worth, my station was set up for 80 meters because that what the dimensions of the coils in the ARRL article I built the transmitter from were wound for, but for the sake of this story, it could have been the 40-meter novice band as well. My antenna was a bare wire that ran out the cellar window, up to the peak of the roof, and out to a tree way back in a neighbor’s back yard. I had a Frankenstein’s-laboratory knife switch to switch between transmit and receive.

As the rules demanded, transmit frequency-control was via plugin crystals, of which I had two -- so those were the only spots on the band where my signal could ever appear.

Making a QSO in 1959 – The FCC Way

Making a QSO on the novice bands, using crystal frequency control was challenging. Assume you are the initiator. With the antenna connected to the transmitter, you would key-out three “CQ”s, plus your call sign on whatever frequency (in the novice band) was determined by the crystal currently plugged into your transmitter, then “de” and your call sign three times.

After that, it was time to listen. You would switch the antenna to your receiver and tune up and down the band several kHz from your crystal frequency, listening for your call sign. When you were lucky, you would hear, among all the other activity on that section of the band, somebody keying out your call sign, followed by their own call three times. At that point, you had a QSO.

The main drawback to this was the time it took to tune up and down from your transmit frequency. You’re tuning slowly, and you hear a station sending a call sign; it’s not yours, but you have to stop and listen. If any time has gone by while you were tuning up and down, what you’re hearing could be the other ham’s own call sign, because he or she has already finished pounding out your call. That’s why the ARRL recommended a “3-by-3” response.

(W6L — Continued on page 3)

(W6L — Continued from page 2)

The best thing that could be said about this arrangement was that it encouraged novices to hurry up and get their Generals and buy a rig with a VFO. The worst was that it encouraged new novices to sell their gear and take up a faster-paced hobby, like golf.

So what did the scofflaw element do to increase their ratio of successful QSOs? They bought antenna relays and ignored the FCC requirement that transmissions had to be accompanied by call signs. The “dit-dit-dit-dit” rhythm of “shave and a haircut” became their “CQ” and the double-dit of “two bits” became their response. Novices who fell in with this criminal conspiracy would tune slowly up and down the band while sending out “dit-dit-dit-dit,” and listening for “dit-dits” in the same rhythm. When they got a “dit-dit” with the same pacing, they’d call a conventional 3-by-3 CQ, knowing that they were not sending it into the empty ether.

Technically, sending either dit pattern without signing your call sign was a violation of the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) and might even be considered a conspiracy to under USC Title 18. (You know I’m kidding, right?) And ARRL inveighed against it as inherently lid-like in virtually every third issue of QST. But it was a darned clever approach to enhancing the efficiency of the novice bands. On the other hand, that inefficiency was intended to move novices on to higher-class licenses.

So, all together now: “SHAVE AND A HAIRCUT . . . “

So what happens then? Other hams are tuning around the band, looking for activity. One of them hears you, and by golly, he or she has a crystal for his/her transmitter that, according to the reading on his receiver dial, is within a few kHz of your frequency. He sends out your call sign three times three times on his frequency, signs his, and goes back to listening.

What’s wrong with this picture? *The bands are full of signals, but that his other ham is not on a frequency within the bandwidth of your receiver!* If your receiver is tuned to any other frequency, the only you’re going to hear this comeback is by slowly tuning up and down several kHz from your transmit frequency, while this other guy is keying out his 3-by-3 response to your CQ. It’s easy to miss his response.



Chip, K6JA, Master of Ceremonies at the Duke City Hamfest. He appeared on the Jay Leno show when the topic was "Texting vs. CW".

(President — Continued from page 1)

I spent the middle of August in New Mexico. I was honored to be asked back again to speak at the Duke City Hamfest. For those who are not familiar, Duke City is a nickname for Albuquerque. Its origin is that the city is named for Francisco, the Duke of Albuquerque who was viceroy of New Spain in the 17th Century.

The hamfest was a blast. I got to see and talk to some of my friends from last year and made new ones too. My talk was well received, despite a hotel-wide announcement about a car about to be towed while right in the middle of explaining the cascade!

The Banquet was great and I met people new to ham radio, and one more senior member of our ranks. They were all great people. The real fun part

of the trip for me was that my son Christopher, KG6SVI, was along for the trip.

When the hamfest was over, we drove up to Santa Fe, via Sandia Crest and up the Turquoise Trail, and spent another 5 days there. I was able to show him my favorite places and my favorite New Mexican food. He really seemed to enjoy it. As many of you know, I love weather, and this was a great trip for that. We hit a number of heavy rain storms (it's monsoon season) as well as 3 separate hailstorms. It was quite cold in the mountains. We even hiked a portion of the Bandelier National Monument in a thunderstorm, with lightning crackling overhead as we climbed up into ancient Indian caves in the sides of the mesas. It was unreal. Of course, science was also on the menu. We spent time exploring Los Ala-

(President — Continued on page 5)



Christopher, KG6SVI, at the Los Alamos Main Gate to the Manhattan Project site.

Minutes of the August 18, 2016 Board Meeting:

As it was late summer when some members were out of town and there was no urgent business the board decided, through an email exchange, not to hold an August meeting.

Jim Thielemann
Secretary/membership
K6SV

(President — Continued from page 4)

mos and its history that focuses on the Manhattan Project. We were even stopped at a Los Alamos National Laboratory checkpoint. That was fun. Anyway, I've already been invited back for next year, so I'm counting the days. So is Christopher.

The California QSO Party (CQP) is only a month or so away. This is the premier contest for residents of the Golden State. Usually we are only one amongst a crush of other 6-land stations, but during this contest, you get to be the desirable DX. I urge you all to give it a try, either with a team on a County Expedition, or at your home station. It can be really fun. The exchange is your county and a serial number, if you're in California, or the state or DX if you're outside. Pretty simple. It runs for 30 hours starting at 1600Z on October 1st through 2200Z on the 2nd. If you're mounting a County Expedition,

(Continued on page 6)

Join the PAARA twitter feed at:

<https://twitter.com/paaraW6ARA>

August Raffle Winners



From left to right starting in the front:

1st Prize / Herbert Vanderbeek / WY6G / Tytera MD-380 / DMR Digital Portable HT (yep, it looks like Doug, KG6LWE, doesn't it. He was standing in for Herbert)

5th Prize / Jim Thielemann / K6SV / Repeater Directory

6th Prize / name not available / Coax Seal

4th Prize / Jacob Barreiro / KK6RKA / Small Antenna Book

3rd Prize / Hiro Kato / AH6CY / Lido HT Cup Holder

2nd Prize / Wilco Wilkening / AG6DK / Arrow Yagi

7th Prize / Joseph McVeigh / AG6ZC / Insulators

August Raffle Prizes

- 1st Tytera MD-380 / DMR Digital Portable HT
 Operates in Analog and Digital Modes
 5 Watt Output
 Uses Time-Division Multiple-Access / Double # of Users
 Private Call / Group Call / All Call



- 2nd Eton ZoneGuard Weather Alert Radio

3 Level Alert Light Bar / AM/FM/WB Digital Radio / Alarm Clock / Enter 25 Alert Locations



- 3rd Two Midland FRS/GMRS Radios



- 4th Headband Magnifier

- 5th Ball-End 9 Piece Metric Allen Wrench Set

- 6th Helping Hand with Magnifier/ Solder-Assembly Aid

- 7th ARRL Repeater Directory 2015-2016

- 8th Rhino Keychain Light

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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	K6RDM@yahoo.com	
Public Affairs	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Station Trustee W6OTX, K6YQT, W6ARA....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Station Trustee K6OTA...	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Fund Raising Coordinator.	Bob Korte, KD6KYT	408 396 4745
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Badge Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wawi.com	
Historian Position	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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Field Day Coordinator ...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
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	webaron@gmail.com	
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	kd6w@arrl.net	
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Photographer	<i>Position Vacant</i>	

VE Exams

Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room, 4th Saturday 10:30 am each month and De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <http://amateur-radio.org> or Contact Al, WB6IMX@att.net

Electronics Flea Market

Sponsorship by A.S.V.A.R.O. — Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations
 Second Saturday of month, March-October, 6am-2pm
 Howard M. Krawetz, N6HM 650-856-9761
 Contact: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See our website at <http://www.paara.org> for more information or contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, KD6W@ARRL.NET, 650-325-8239

FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:30pm
 Contact: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month,
 Repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM
 Contact: <http://ncdxc.org> or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

QCWA Chapter 11

Northern California Quarter Century Wireless Association

Meets third Wednesday monthly at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City @ 11:30 AM.
 Guests are welcome. Saturday morning net on 146.850 MHz, PL 114.8

50 MHz & Up Group

Meets 1st Thursday each month at 7pm in the Texas Instruments Building E conference room in Santa Clara.
 Contact: <http://50MhzandUp.org>

SPECS

Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

Meets each Monday 8:00pm on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz
 Contact: <http://specsnet.org> or Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441

SCARES

South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. Contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265 (D), 650- 595-5590 (N)
 Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org

SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl
 Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 442.425+ (pl 107.2) Thur.
 Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.
 Contact: <http://www.gsl.net/sccara> or Clark Murphy KE6KXO 408-262-9334
 ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

SVECS — Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)
 contact: <http://www.svecs.net> or Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

TEARS — The Elmer Amateur Radio Society

Dedicated to operational training, knowledge building & FCC exam testing.
 KV6R repeater under construction.

Contact: AA6T@ARRL.NET

Most members are Extra Class or VE's. See QRZ dot com/kv6r for class info

WVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223, while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.

VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF:

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 2nd Wednesday of every month except July, August and December.

Contact: <http://wvara.org>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, president@wvara.org

American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Contact: <http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org> or Scott Hensley KB6UO, (408) 967 7924
shensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to [PAARAgaphs editor](#))



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 Sales Manager

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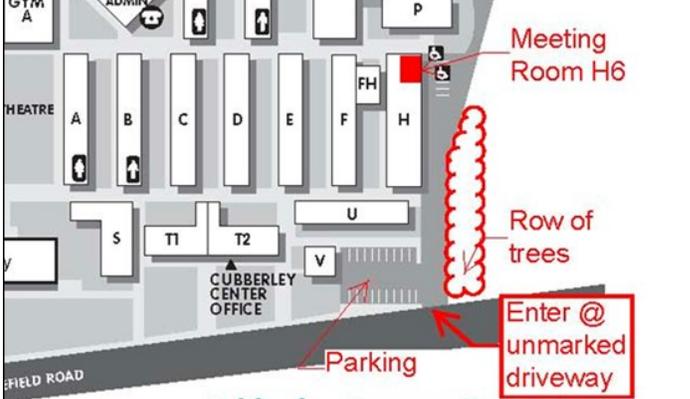
Badges are ready for pickup.

If you would like to order a badge, see **Doug Teter, KG6LWE.**

PAARA Weekly Radio Net
 Info and Swap Session
 every Monday evening at 8:30pm
 on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater

<u>Week</u>	<u>Control Operator</u>
1 st	Joel KD6W
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Jack - N1VSL
4 th	Marty - W6NEV
5 th	Rob KC6TYD

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots o' fun! Give it a try.



Cubberley Community Center
 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
 650/329.2418
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Meeting Location — Middlefield Road between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road

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Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association
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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).
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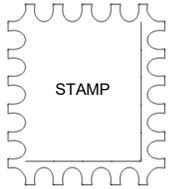
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- For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

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 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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 PAARAgaphs Newsletter
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