

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.Celebrating 81 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

Solar 101

Rachael Kinoshita, KK6DAC

Rachael will help us explore the variety of components that make up a small off-grid solar setup, including batteries, solar panels, charge controllers and inverters. This will help you determine your requirements by examining the actual power used by various ham radios, household appliances and other electronic devices and what is needed to run those during short-term, mid-term and long-term power outages.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|
| Feb 2 | PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM |
| March 2 | Cubberly Community Center, Room |
| April 6 | H-6, 400 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto |
| Feb 21 | Board Meeting, 7:00 PM |
| Mar 21 | Everyone welcome! |
| April 18 | Location: Marty, W6NEV, QTH |



President's Corner

February 2018

I hope that everyone had a good New Year celebration and has been having a good January. February is upon us now and that puts us into the fray once again. Solar activity is deep in the doldrums for cycle 24, so I've noticed a big shift in HF operating. We had our annual PAARA Homebrew Night in early January, which was really fun. And of course the FARS Winter Banquet was another fun night out.



This solar cycle is turning out to be the weakest in over a century. While the bottom isn't for another year or more, there are already long strings of zero sunspots. Even at its peak, the smoothed sunspot number was only

116, and that's quite low. Even in these seemingly bleak conditions, though, hams find a way to operate. I've been turning around the bands at night again when I wake up. I usually take a trip around 40m and 30m, though I might listen on 80m too. The problem with 80m for me is that I don't have an antenna that radiates any appreciable amount of energy on that band, so I just assume it's out of bounds. I've found some nice DX to work on 40m, though, when propagation allows. Usually that DX is operating CW. Lately, though, I don't hear much CW there. I was wondering what was wrong until I found some weak energy at the top part of the CW part of the band. Listening there I heard that distinctive sound of MFSK warbling, and that indicates that it's probably FT8. I haven't turned on WSJT so I can verify, but it wouldn't surprise me to decode that mode. When propagation is marginal, that's where everyone is these days. When I look at 30m, I also see a strip of energy on the waterfall in the right place for FT8. Listening again reveals that same MFSK warble, so I'm guessing it's the same situation. It's not that there is no propagation, since WWV and WWVH can be heard, but I

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A (Retro) Film Review Si Tous Les Gars Du Monde (If All the Guys in the World)

Hiroki Kato, AH6CY

If you are like me, who love ham radio and movies in equal measure, this is a movie that must not be missed. It is, unfortunately though, not coming near you any time soon and most likely ever. It is a black and white French film produced in 1955 (60+years ago!) based on a true story. The film, in my humble opinion, is an Oscar-worthy production even by today's standard with great acting by well known actors like Jean Gaven (if you are not old enough to remember many great movies he acted in, he was, again in my humble opinion, a French equivalent of Marlon Brando or Paul Newman in the 1950s and '60s) and, unlike other more recent films featuring ham radio such as Contact and Frequency in which ham radio plays a significant role but is cast in sci-fi fantasy, ham radio plays a realistic and central dramatic role in this film.

I saw this movie first time in the late 1950s in Japan (with Japanese subtitle) when I was in high school, soon after I received my first ham ticket. My interest in ham radio was not only super-charged by it, but its emotional impact has remained in me throughout the rest of my life, now well into 70s. I have often thought about this movie and asked many hams if they have seen or heard of it, to no avail. Recently, with the help of my French ham friend, Edouard Lafargue, W6ELA, who has transplanted himself in Silicon Valley from Paris and is a member of the PAARA, I was able to see it again, this time all in French for the English sub-titled version was not available to me. My poor French language facility was not a barrier, however, as I already knew the plot well enough and most of ham radio-related scenes required no translation.

The movie, I realized in my recent (re)viewing, is



a great social and historical commentary in addition to being an excellent drama. I realized that I had not grasped the whole socio-historical significance when I first saw it in my high school innocence. I realized that I had not even been aware of the fact that I was too naïve and uneducated to know that at that age. The largest background “picture” of the movie is Cold War where communication and movement of people and goods among different nations, especially between the Eastern and Western Blocks, was difficult to say the least. No FedEx, no commercial flights between Moscow and London, no Skype. Another layer of background is the French colonial rule in Africa, specifically in Togoland where casual and fun loving colonial French culture interplays with local African second-class native life. There was also a sub-plot where racism, in this case, expressed between a white Frenchman and a Muslim Frenchman, is displayed in real life on a fishing boat. A middle-aged blind German ham, a survivor of WWII, and a widow of a famous physician in Paris, both of whom might have lost hope for life in the gloom of post-War, discover renewed joie de vivre by accidentally getting involved in a humanitarian mission. Transcending all of these differences of nations and peoples is ham radio at its best with its own “culture.”

So, here is the story:

A French fishing boat with 12 men on board finds itself stranded in the middle of the North Sea in the stormy WX. To make the matter worse, the men one by one begins to fall gravely ill from eating contaminated pork meat, except Muhammed who, because of his religion, did not eat the meat. The captain tries to send a distress call but the boat's maritime service radio is broken. He then gets an idea of getting on a ham band to send out a distress call. His call is received in Togoland in Africa by FD8AM. As the Togo ham gets excited about the emergency nature of

(Tous Les Gars — Continued on page 3)

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the message, his wife makes a mockery of his hobby (haven't we seen the scene before?). After he has grasped the seriousness of crews' symptom, he gets a French doctor also serving in Togoland who comes over and on the ham radio diagnoses the illness, which turns out to be a type of deadly food poisoning. Without a right serum administered within 12 hours the men will all die. The Togo ham



gets on the air and talks to a young ham Jean-Louis, F8YT, in Paris, who gets on his Vespa scooter to drive to the Pasteur Institute where he obtains the drug, with the help of an initially reluctant widow of the doctor who worked at the Institute before his death. Her reluctance abated as she realizes that she is in a position to be useful and helpful for other human beings, she helps arrange shipment of the drug via a flight attendant (er, a beautiful multi-lingual blond Polish stewardess; I don't think the word "flight attendant" was used in the 1950s when all stewardesses were young, beautiful and educated females, true to the stereotype of the day.) to Berlin, which is under the four-sector Allied Power's administration of the post-WWII arrangement. An American air controller receives the message from a blind German ham, DL3IK, in Munich who is relaying the message from F8YT in Paris, that a packet of the serum is on the way to Berlin.



He needs to walk across the Brandenburg gate into the Soviet sector to get the packet. He gets caught by Russian guards who suspect that he is a spy and send him back to the US sector, but fortunately a Russian officer, who understands the humanitarian mission of the packet, arrang-

es to forward the drug onward to Norway uttering to the air controller "Americans are not the only ones who can help." A Norwegian plane is dispatched to fly over the North Sea and drop off the drug to the suffering and waiting fishermen. Through ham radio, of course, the fishermen already knew that help was on the way, though the time was getting precariously short.

The Norwegian plane finally spots the boat after flying many hours through the thick clouds and drops off the package, but it lands on the rough water. Mohammed jumps into the sea and starts swimming to recover the drug. Their lives saved with the recovered serum, the fishermen return to their home port to a hero's welcome. But the song played in welcoming them back is not La Marseillaise, for that would be too nationalistic. The music played is "Si tous les gars du monde" which is, in terms of sentiment, very much like John Lennon's Imagine, a song about an imagined world without national borders and wars.

The hams who are directly involved in the unfolding drama as well as those who are listening in, are the last to laugh. I highly recommend this movie to any hams and would-be hams. Viewing this movie as a family activity may even help your children and grandchildren to get interested in amateur radio as well as in learning French.

*I wish to thank my friend Ed Lafargue, W6ELA, not only for his initial help in gaining access to this film but for helping me understand some French language dialogue that I did not fully grasp on my own.

-end-

Jan 17, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at Marty's QTH, commencing at 7:22 PM on January 17, 2018. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX (Pres), Marty Wayne, W6NEV (VP), Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Ron Chester, W6AZ (Treasurer, via video conference), Darryl Presley, KI6LDM (Dir), Walter Gyger K6WGY(Dir), Larry Rebarchik, N6DB (Dir). A quorum was present.

Kristen, (K6WX), opened with a discussion regarding comparisons between the ARRL's largely closed board and their meetings and the transparency of the PAARA board meetings and members ability to openly discuss any club business. Very rarely is anything discussed during a PAARA board meeting that might be considered "closed session", which doesn't seem to be the case with the ARRL's board. Additionally, all PAARA board meetings are open to club members, which isn't the case with the ARRL. Granted, the ARRL is a considerably larger organization with many more board members, thus possibly the need for a different approach.

Kristen mentioned her reserve of stories is a little better, but there is always a need for more. Please, if you've committed to a story but not submitted it (there are several people out there fitting this category) 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, or experiences setting up your station or antenna, on the air experiences that might be of interest? If you have not previously drafted that story or have a new story, now is the time to get a byline of your own in PAARAgaphs and get that story submitted to Kristen for publication. "Remember it is 'homegrown' stories that make PAARAgaphs great", she said.

Vice President's Report: Marty, W6NEV, announced that the February 2nd speaker will be Rachel Kinoshita, KK6DAC. She will be presenting a talk entitled "Solar 101". He also reported having a speaker lined up for the March meeting. After that, he's looking for suggestions

for future speakers. Please see Marty or any board member with any ideas you may have for a speaker. Marty also mentioned renewing the search for the next field trip. Several ideas were talked about along with prioritizing them.

Secretary's report: Jim, K6SV, reported that there were 5 new members joining in December and 2 more in January. Currently, the membership stands at 212 which is 7 more than last year at this time. He also mentioned that it's time to renew as all 2017 memberships expired on December 31st. You can look at your PAARAgaphs mailing label to find out when your membership expires. You can renew at a meeting, mail a check, or by using PayPal www.PAARA.org/pages/members-main.html link. He also reported sending in the renewal paperwork for club call W6OTX. Upon checking with the FCC, the renewal was received and the call sign renewed through 1/28/2028.

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, reported that there were proceeds of \$750 from the January meeting but not all the expenses for the month have been received. Overall, the club finances remain in good shape.

Under Old Business,

As you recall, on February 6, 2017, the PAARA Board sent a letter to the ASVARO Board requesting they call a general meeting of all participating clubs. A meeting with the ASVARO Board and other clubs was held on May 6, 2017. Action items were documented, however, to date there still doesn't seem to be much of any action on any of the items discussed at the meeting except the creation of a Facebook account. The PAARA Board discussed the fact that the new Flea Market (EFM) season is approaching, still, nothing has really been done on the action items from the May meeting. There is growing concern by the board that if nothing changes, PAARA and other clubs will lose this event as a source of revenue. The EFM has been a MAJOR source of revenue over the years enabling us to keep membership prices low and fund other club activities.

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Jim, K6SV, reported having sold 4 of the 5 radios at the silent auction during the December meeting. The one unsold radio was given to Doug, KG6LWE, to put on eBay. A discussion ensued regarding the value of the items auctioned, as gleaned from sales of other radios on websites, vs their actual selling price of below “market value”. Part of the idea behind the reduced sale price was to give members an opportunity to get some good equipment at a reduced price. Continuing the practice of heavily discounting radios to members may not be feasible in the future as our main means of income, selling at the EFM, may not be around. Gerry is retiring from selling equipment. Thus, we will not have anyone to sell at the EFM which may handicap our ability to raise capital outside of dues. Dues basically cover the cost of PAARAgaphs. Gerry’s retirement from this valuable function leaves a large hole in the club’s ability to sell equipment as an income stream. The board agrees a new champion for EFM sales, or another method of selling donations to the club, is needed. Reach out to any board member if you are interested in filling this valuable position.

Darryl, KI6LDM, updated the Board on his data mining for Bay Area hams who have either renewed or received their 1st licenses. He reported that newly licensed hams totaled roughly 66 in November and 26 in December. Jim, K6SV, showed the board a proposed card to mail to the prospects which included text previously reviewed by the board and a photograph of the back of a ham with a red PAARA shirt on and an HT in his hand. He also provided a quote to get the cards printed, stamps, etc. After some discussion, the board voted to approve the expenditure for the color cards, stamps etc. at roughly \$28.70 for 50 cards mailed and to get the ball rolling with the January newly licensed hams.

The board had a quick discussion on a date for the next PAARApLink. We came up with a date that has been forwarded to see if it works with the schedule of the 10th Street Range. Stay tuned for further developments.

The Board discussed Lifetime memberships. This is still an open topic but the Board did unanimously vote a member that distinction. Stay tuned for more information.

There are several other items on the agenda that haven’t been worked on very much or could wait until the next meeting, thus at this point there is no new news on them.

Under New Business:

Kristen, K6WX, reported receiving an email with sad news, Adrianus Schrauwen, W6AJS became an SK on January 1st. He was a past secretary of PAARA and active with PAARA during that time.

As mentioned during the January club meeting, the ARRL has been the recipient of some interesting “self-induced” bad PR. The board discussed the situation as we understand it and decided to not draft a letter on behalf of PAARA. There just aren’t enough creditable facts available to make an informed decision on the contentious topics that are in the air, or on the web.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:20 PM.

Jim Thielemann, K6SV
Secretary/membership

**Please welcome
New members:**

Eric Eaton	KI6IML
Patrick Villarreal	KG6ORJ
Colin Snow	KM6NTW
Horacio Posadas	KI6EEX
Dave Pollack	KM6OKD
Richard Tsukushi	KA6IXN
John Sutter	W1JDS
Andrew Olson	N6DRV

Rejoined member:

Michael Bach	WB6FFC
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Member gaining his ticket:

Karl Kappler	KM6HVA
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think everyone has moved to the mode that works best when all else fails. Of course, I wouldn't mind hearing some CW too. If you're interested in what's going on with the sun, take a look at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Solar_cycle_24 to find out more about cycle 24.

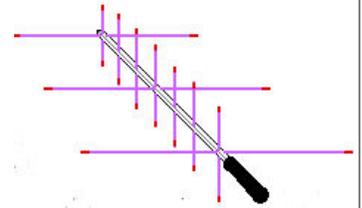
Homebrew Night is when the creativity and engineering acumen of PAARA members shines, and this year was no exception. From HF Doppler DF-ing equipment to battery packs to SDRs to a chorded CW key! We even had a V/U circulator and the worlds smallest 20m transmitter. It was wonderful. There were so many projects, in fact, that I had to keep the presentations to 5 minutes each. Apologies for the short time, but I wanted to make sure the membership got to see everything. What came across to me was the passion and pride each of you had for what you had built. A big part of our hobby is what we build, and that came through as you all described your creations. I want to give a big PAARA shout out to these people who participated: KR6DD, N6AJS, AI6YN, WB6JOE, KC6TYD, WA6ECH, AH6CY, KF6ABC, WY6G, W1JDS, KD6W, and AI6VF. Thank you so much! I hope to see more great projects next year.

The FARS Winter Banquet has just completed as I write. It was a great time, as usual. I even got to say a few words to everyone :). But the best part of all was seeing you all there (PAARA was well represented) for that one last fling after all of the Christmas and New Years celebration is done. It seemed to me that everyone had an enjoyable time. The grand prize, an Elecraft KX2, was won by FARS President, Mikel, KN6QI. Congratulations!

That's it for this month. Something is brewing on the PAARApLink, so stay tuned. If all goes well, it will happen very soon. Until then, CU AT PAARA AND ON THE LOW BANDS DE K6WX.

PAARA February Raffle Prizes

1st Arrow Yagi 146/437/10



2nd Daiwa CS201A Coax Switch



3rd Lido LM801EXP Cup Holder (Thanks Vic Black AB6SO)



4th Two Midland FRS Radios

5th PNY 10400 mAh Power Pack Portable Charger (Thanks Vic Black AB6SO)



6th Lighted Inspection Mirror

7th Stubby Multi-Screwdriver

8th Metric 6 Piece Ball End Allen Wrenches

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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Officers

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Director ('18-'19)	Walt Gyger, K6WGY walt@tradewindsaviation.com	408-921-5901
Director ('18).....	Larry Rebarchik N6DB n6db@arrl.net	650 465-8210
Director ('18).....	Darryl Presley, K16LDM k16ldm@arrl.net	650 255-2454

Appointed Positions

Membership.....	Vic Black, AB6SO ab6so@smrn.com	650-366 0636
Database	Jim Thielemann, K6SV thielem@pacbell.net	408-839-6815
Chaplain	Rick Melrose K6RDM K6RDM@yahoo.com	408-341-9070
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 bob@rgktechsales.com	408 396 4745
Badge Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE dteter@wvci.com	650-367-6200
Historian Position	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinator	Jim Rice, K6AK	650-851-2274
Field Day Coordinator ...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
ASVARO Rep.....	Clark Martin, KK6ISP kk6isp@comcast.net	
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	Ron Chester W6AZ	Vic Black AB6SO
	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	
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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-September, 6am–12 noon

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.k6va.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.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 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 KB6UOJ, (408) 967 7924

shensley@Novell.com

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



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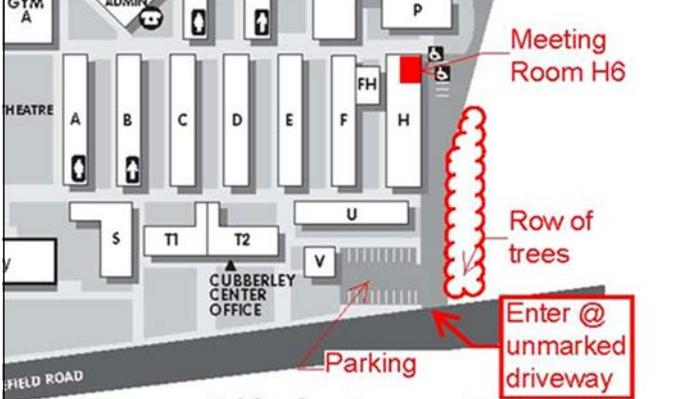
Badges are ready for pickup.

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 st	Joel KD6W
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Jack - W1VSL
4 th	Rob - KC6TYD
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
 650/856.8756 fax
www.cityofpaloalto.org

Legend
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 T1
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 V
 U
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 Cubberley Center Office

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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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 \$25.00 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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440 – 444.475 up 5 MHz	DMR
1.2G – 1284.15 down 12MHz	Off line
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PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

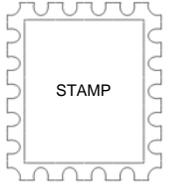
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PAARAgaphs — February 2018

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