

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**Celebrating 85 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

## Think Like a Backpacker

### George Zafiropoulos

Description: In this presentation, George will describe the process of design, theory of operation and use of the highly portable PackTenna HF wire antennas and thoughts for packing light when operating radio on the trail.

Bio: George has been a ham since 1972. He has a wide variety of radio interests including home brewing, QRP, and repeater building. His current station is a Flex 6400, an Elecraft K3, and a modest 6 band vertical (6BTV) and several QRP rigs. His favorite mode is HF CW and he can be found on DMR talk group 31075. George is the designer of the Sierra Radio Systems repeater control systems and the PackTenna line of portable antennas. George is also the co-host of the Ham Radio Workbench podcast. You can listen to over 150 episodes of the show on any podcast player or directly from website <https://www.hamradioworkbench.com>. Additionally, George was honored to be interviewed by Eric Guth, 4Z1UG, on Eric's QSO Today Amateur Radio Podcast. You can hear that interview at <https://www.qsotoday.com/podcasts/kj6vu>

### This meeting will be a Hybrid Meeting Zoom and In Person

Time: May 6, 2022 07:00 PM Pacific Time  
Please check <https://www.paara.org> for  
Zoom Details

## Upcoming Events

May 6*** June 3 July 1	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM In-Person and Zoom Meeting *** Zoom & IRL Meeting
May 18 June 15 July 20	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details!
May 14	Electronic Flea Market



## President's Corner

May 2020

If you didn't attend last month's Electronics Flea Market, it was a success for the sponsoring club and the sellers that managed to get one of the few available spaces as the site is much smaller. PAARA is sponsoring the May 14th event and



we need members to assist in many aspects of hosting the event. This is the ONLY fundraising event the club has and helps support the Repeater, Field Day and PAARAgraphs along with other smaller activities. Now is the time to show your support for the club.

Well, moments ago (4/27/22 @12:46 PM) I received an email from ASVARO canceling the May 14th EFM! Seems the City of Sunnyvale received too many complaints about the noise and parking challenges from the residents thus

(President — Continued on page 2)

*(President — Continued from page 1)*

felt the event was too large for the chosen location. Please put your thinking caps on and assist ASVARO in finding a suitable location so the event can move forward. More important than just suggesting some location is to provide contact information for a suitable person at that location for ASVARO to contact. As they say, it's all about the contacts you have to make it easier to find a way into a company instead of cold calling. Even better would be a company that either officially or unofficially already has a ham club to make it easier to contact the correct person within an organization and have some "inside" help.

A big thanks go out to the two antenna crews that have successfully removed antennas and towers from KN6DHY's home QTH (Rob, KC6TYD; Christopher, AI6KG; Clark, KK6ISP; Mikko, AB6RF; Darryl, KI6LDM; Gary, KI6HIG; and Doug, KG6LWE) as well as K6JAT's home QTH (Mikko, AB6RF; Darryl, KI6LDM; Rebar, N6DB, Christopher, AI6KG, Gary, KI6HIG, Clark, KK6ISP, Jim, K6SV; and Doug, KG6LWE). This is a valuable service that PAARA offers to hams in the area making life easier for surviving family members and others affected by the passing of a ham. Please let Doug know if you'd like to join the next effort and learn something about taking towers and antennas down.

The month of May might be the last month we can integrate Zoom into a general club meeting! Joel, KD6W, is moving to Arizona! This means he and his video equipment will not be available for use during general meetings. I'm guessing everyone has enjoyed the larger base of presenters we've benefited from over the last year or two as well as the ability to attend a meeting via Zoom should you not be able to attend in person. For these wonderful features to continue to be available to all members, we desperately need a new sponsor for setting up video equipment and running it during general meetings. We'll also have to acquire some equipment to make integrating Zoom into meetings even possible. Let me know if you have any equipment which you'd like to donate to the club that can be used for this effort. Items include small high rez cameras (minimum of 2, 1080P), a video switcher, a laptop computer capable of

hosting the Zoom secession, a dual video monitor, cables et all. Are any of these items you have laying around that we could use? Are you able to set up and run the equipment? There doesn't have to be only one person to take on this challenge, it could be shared between more than one member. But we need equipment as well as members committed to making this a continued part of our general meetings. Please contact Joel or me if you have questions or are interested in participating in this valuable activity.

Along with Joel moving, we need someone with an interest in maintaining the repeater equipment in South East SJ. There isn't a huge amount of work to be done here but checking the equipment through the internet regularly is required along with taking care of any issues that come up. That also means you need a working understanding of repeaters et all. Email Joel or myself if you have any questions on what's required or wish to volunteer.

You might have noticed this issue is smaller than in the past. It seems that out of around 150 members, no one could submit a story for this month! I know everyone is busy but I also know that many people enjoy reading the various stories members submit which make PAARAgaphs such a worthwhile publication. With that said, will you pen a story for PAARAgaphs? I'll bet you have some experience you'd like to share with everyone. So, PLEASE, let's get some stories in the hopper so we don't have another issue go without the main story!

73, Jim K6SV

Get on the air to keep the airwaves alive!

### **April 2021 Board Meeting Minutes**

Present were President Jim Thielemann K6SV, Vice President Rob Fenn KC6TYD, Secretary Ric Hulett N6AJS, Treasurer Bob Korte KD6KYT, Directors Doug Teter KG6LWE, Darryl Presley KI6LDM, Joel Wilhite KD6W, Walt Gyger K6WGY. Also attending was ASVARO representative Clark Martin KK6ISP.

A quorum was present and the meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

*(Minutes — Continued on page 3)*

(Minutes — Continued from page 2)

**President's Report:** Saturday May 14 is the next Electronics Flea Market, and this time the sponsoring club is PAARA! This is the major fundraising event for our club. PAARA needs volunteers to make this a success: We need members to set up the tent, sell coffee and donuts, collect fees from vendors and guide them, and several other tasks. We will need volunteers as early as 5:30 at the site.

Please contact Jim K6SV ([THIELEM@Pacbell.net](mailto:THIELEM@Pacbell.net)) to volunteer.

**Secretary's Report:** The big run of member renewals is behind us. Our membership remains strong at 151 members. Contact Ric ([N6AJS@ARRL.net](mailto:N6AJS@ARRL.net)) to select PDF newsletter delivery, or to update your e-mail address or other details.

**Treasurer's Report:** We issued checks for PAARAgaphs printing and for electricity cost for the repeaters.

**VP / Program Chair Report:** The May speaker is George Zafiroopoulos KJ6VU, the developer of the PackTenna. His presentation is on "Packing Like a Backpacker"

#### Old Business:

We currently have no articles for next month's PAARAgaphs. Sunday is the deadline!

With no submissions, the next month's article will be titled "Lorem Ipsum, Dolor Sit Amet".

All members are encouraged to draft an article for PAARA, even a short one. PAARAgaphs is one of the key features of the club, and member articles make it so.

The board discussed the storage situation at the N6NV location. We need to organize a work party to haul electronic stuff from the house, once Gerry is ready.

#### New business:

**PAARA equipment sale:** Response to the sale posting was pretty good. We have raised \$3447 from sales of donated equipment. There is still a list of equipment on the PAARA website.

The board set dates for PAARA meetings from

September through August 2023, on the first Friday of each month except for September 8 (due to Labor Day).

**Repeater update:** still working. We need to update the microwave link for internet service from the repeater site. This is a backup link; the existing internet is currently working well.

**Education Committee:** The education committee has built an outline for an 'Intro to Ham Radio' presentation for new hams. It is arranged for one session, four hours. Date and location are TBD.

**Electronic Flea Market:** The next EFM is May 14, and PAARA is the sponsor. PAARA will sell vendor spaces, and also will sell donuts and coffee (\$2), and tea (\$1). We have many jobs to do: Members, please step up to volunteer! See the President's column for more information.

The April EFM was sponsored by WVARA (West Valley), and they netted about half the income of prior years, but it was income and not a loss.

**Tower removal:** The K6JAT tower removal work party is scheduled for April 23.

**Field Day:** We have not yet been successful in obtaining permits for Bayfront park from the city of Menlo Park. Ric N6AJS will provide a survey to measure the membership's interests.

The board decided to hold an in-person and zoom hybrid meeting for May. We need to start the meeting promptly at 7:00. Zoom support for meetings after May needs to be resolved.

**Finances:** The board reviewed the financial summaries for 2020 and 2021. Although these were unusual years due to the pandemic, the club has maintained a steady reserve, and had minimal net outflows for these two years.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm

Respectfully submitted,  
Ric Hulett N6AJS  
PAARA Secretary



**April Raffle Winners**  
**Left to Right**

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 4th | Darryl KI6LDM — IRWIN VISE-GRIP Wire Stripper, Self-Adjusting, 8 inch                                       |
| 3rd | John KJ6JPS — Uniden (BC20) Bearcat 20-Watt External Communications Speaker                                 |
| 2nd | Karen KK6NGA — OLIGHT Swivel 400 Lumens LED Compact Rechargeable Magnetic COB Work Light                    |
| 1st | Joel KD6W — Surecom SF401 Plus 27 Mhz-3000Mhz Radio Portable Frequency Counter Meter with CTCSS DCS Decoder |

## May Raffle Prizes

1<sup>st</sup> Place Yaesu FT-65 Dual Band Radio



2<sup>nd</sup> Place GigaParts \$50 Gift Card



3<sup>rd</sup> Place Powerwerx PD-8 Anderson Power Pole distribution block



4<sup>th</sup> Place DC Buck Converter Kit



**Your Story Could Appear Here**  
*Please Send it to the President*

## Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

### Officers

President .....	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Vice President .....	Rob Fenn, kc6tyd	650-888-9060
	kc6tyd@gmail.com	
Secretary .....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	energyconserved@sbcglobal.net	
Treasurer .....	Bob Korte, KD6KYT	408 396 4745
	bob@rgktechsales.com	

### Directors

Director ('21-'22) .....	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	408-839-5948
	kd6w@arrl.net	
Director ('20-'21) .....	Walt Gyger, K6WGY	408-921-5901
	walt@tradewindsaviation.com	
Director ('21).....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
	dteter@wvci.com	
Director ('21).....	Darryl Presley, KI6LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@arrl.net	

### Appointed Positions

Membership.....	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database .....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	energyconserved@sbcglobal.net	
Chaplain .....	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
	K6RDM@yahoo.com	
Public Affairs .....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Station Trustee W6OTX, W6ARA....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Station Trustee K6YQT..	Doug Teter, kg6lwe	650-743-7892
Station Trustee K6OTA...	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager .....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Badge Coordinator .....	Doug Teter, kg6lwe	650-743-7892
	dteter@wvci.com	
Historian Position .....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinators .....	Rob Fenn, kc6TYD,	rtyd@aol.com
	Shrikumar, KA6Q	
	shri.paara@enablery.org	
Field Day Coordinator ...	Doug Teter, kg6lwe	650-743-7892
ASVARO Rep.....	Clark Martin, KK6ISP	
	kk6isp@comcast.net	
Webmaster .....	John Miller K6MM	
	webaron@gmail.com	
Technical Coordinator ...	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	408-839-5948
	kd6w@arrl.net	
QSL Manager .....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023
Speaker Coordinator .....	Rob Fenn, kc6tyd	650-888-9060

### PAARAgaphs Staff

Editorial Board	Bob Van Tuyl K6RWY	Kristen McIntyre K6WX
	Ron Chester W6AZ	Vic Black AB6SO
	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	Jim Thielemann K6SV
Editor .....	Bob Van Tuyl, K6RWY	408 799-6463
	rrvt@swde.com	
Back Up Editor .....	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Advertising.....	Walt Gyger, K6WGY	408-921-5901
	walt@tradewindsaviation.com	
Member Profiles .....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Technical Tips .....	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
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](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-September, 6am-12 noon

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

## 50 MHz & Up Group

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday each month at 7pm in the Summit Room at the Sunnyvale Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale

Contact: <http://50MhzandUp.org>

## San Mateo Radio Club W6UQ.ORG

Meets, 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, January through November

Tuesdays, [Directed] Net, 7pm, N6ZX 145.370Hz -600KHz PL107.2Hz

Contact: <http://W6UQ.org/calendar>

## 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)

## SCCARA

### Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl

Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur.

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

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

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

## 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))

# EXCESS SOLUTIONS

## ELECTRONIC SURPLUS MEGA-STORE!

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- ✦ That's right...Excess Solutions in San Jose recently lost the lease on their old site as the property was sold. We have moved to new premises very nearby at the far end of S. Seventh St., just before Tully Rd. It's easy to find!
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- ✦ Support your local surplus store...there are few left, and you know how much this vital Silicon Valley resource is needed!



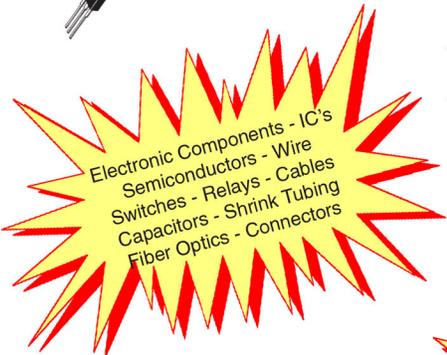
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 Fiber Optics - Connectors



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 Desolder Equipment - Test Equipment

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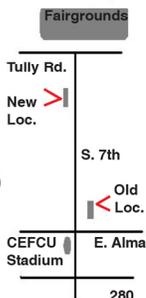
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### Store Hours

Mon. - Thur. 8:00 - 6:00, Fri. 8:00 - 5:00, Sat. 10:00 - 3:00



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### PAARA Weekly Radio Net

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

#### Week Control Operator

1 <sup>st</sup>	Joel - KD6W
2 <sup>nd</sup>	John - W6JMK
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ric - N6AJS
4 <sup>th</sup>	Rob - KC6TYD
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.

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 650/856.8756 fax  
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KJ6GUK General License, PAARA member

777 Woodside Rd., Suite B, Redwood City, CA 94061

**Email:** KARLDRESDEN@juno.com

### 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 \$25.00 per calendar year, which includes one subscription to PAARAgaphs \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).

Make payment to the  
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## PAARA Badges

In the absence of in person meetings, you can still order a badge from the Club's website, [PAARA.org](http://PAARA.org). Go to the bottom of the membership page to order. Badges will be mailed to purchasers, at an additional cost of \$4.95 until we can meet face to face again.

### PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

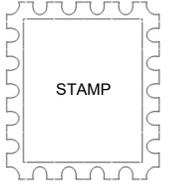
PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). All ad rates listed are per issue.

- 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).
- For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$14.00-quarter page, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association. The PAARAgaphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association.  
 All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. Give payment and copy to Walt Gyger, K6WGY.

# PAARAgaphs — May 2022

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA



Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
 PAARAgaphs Newsletter  
 P.O. Box 911  
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 • Color display-green, blue, orange, purple, gray • GPS/APRS • Packet 1200/9600 bit/sec • Spectrum scope • Bluetooth • MicroSD slot • 500 memory per band



**FTDX10 | HF/50MHz 100 W SDR Transceiver**  
 • Narrow Band and Direct Sampling SDR • Down Conversion, 9MHz IF Filtering Filters Produce Excellent Shape Factor • 5-Full-Color Touch Panel w/30 Spectrum Stream • High Speed Auto Antenna Tuner • Microphone Amplifier w/2-Stage Parametric Equalizer • Remote Operation w/optional LAN Unit (SDI-LAN10)



**FTM-300DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Dual Band**  
 • 50W Ballistic Output Power • Real Dual Band Operation (V-X, U-H, V-L, U-H) • 2-inch High-Res Full Color TFT Display • Band Scope • Built-in Bluetooth • WIRELESS-X Portable Digital Noise Filter Mode with RH-200



**FT-70DR | C4FM/FM 144/430MHz Xcvr**  
 • System Fusion Compatible • Large Front Speaker delivers 700 mW of loud audio output • Automatic Mode Select detects C4FM or Fm Audio and Switches Accordingly • Huge 1.05 Channel Memory Capacity • External DC Jack for DC Supply and Battery Charging



**FT-991A | HF/VHF/UHF All Mode Transceiver**  
 • Real-time Spectrum Scope with Automatic Scope Control • Multi-color waterfall display • State of the art 32-bit Digital Signal Processing System • 3kHz Tracking Filter for enhanced performance • 3.5 inch Full Color TFT USB Capable • Internal Automatic Antenna Tuner • High Accuracy TCXO



**FT-2980N1 | Heavy-Duty 80W 2M FM Transceiver**  
 • Massive heatsink guarantees 80 watts of solid RF power • Loud 3 watts of audio output for noisy environments • Large 6 digit backlit LCD display for excellent visibility • 200 memory channels for serious users

**FT-65R | 144/430 MHz Transceiver**  
 • Compact Commercial Grade Rugged Design • Large Front Speaker Delivers 1W of Powerful Clear Audio • 5 Watts of Reliable RF Power With- in a compact Body • 3.5-Hour Rapid Charge-In- cluded • Large White LED Flashlight, Alarm and Quick Home Channel Access



**FTDX101D | HF + 6M Transceiver**  
 • Narrow Band SDR & Direct Sampling SDR • Crystal Routing Filters Phenomenal Multi-Signal Receiving Characteristics • Un- parallelized - 70dB Maximum Attenuation VC-Tune • 15 Separate (HAM 10 + GEN 5) Powerful Band Pass Filters • New Generation Scope Displays 3-Dimensional Spectrum Stream



**FT-818ND | HF/6M/2M/440 All Mode Portable Xcvr**  
 • Ultra-Compact/Portable • Multi-Color Easy to See LCD • 208 Memory Channels/10 Memory Groups • Built-in Electronic Keyp • Internal Battery Operation Capability • Two Antenna Connectors • Built-in High Stability Oscillator <math>\pm 0.5\text{ ppm}</math>



**FTM-6000R | 50W VHF/UHF Mobile Transceiver**  
 • All New User Operating Interface E20-III (Easy to Operate-III) • Robust Speaker Delivers 3W of Clear, Crisp Receive Audio • Detachable Front Panel • Mounted in Multiple Positions • Supports Optional Bluetooth® Wireless Operation Using the SSM-BT10 or a Commercially Available Bluetooth® Headset



RETAIL LOCATIONS - Store hours 10:00AM - 5:30PM - Closed Sunday  
 PHONE - Toll-free phone hours 9:30AM - 5:30PM  
 ONLINE - WWW.HAMRADIO.COM

FAX - All store locations  
 MAIL - All store locations



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