

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**Celebrating 82 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

## DXpedition DVD

### K5D Desecheo Island, 2009

The 2009 DXpedition to Desecheo Island - K5D is brought to you from a small, uninhabited islet of the archipelago of Puerto Rico located in the northeast of the Mona Passage. It has a land area of only .59 sq. mi. Desecheo has no known bodies of surface water and reaches a maximum elevation of 715 ft. It is most inhospitable!

Bob, K4UEE and Ed, W4ZSB have produced yet another exciting DXpedition video! In the tradition of previous video productions, the K5D DXpedition video, entitled, "Desecheo... So Rare, So Near, Yet So Far" is full of exciting footage of the helicopter trips, the island from the air, camp set up and takedown, QSO pileups you won't believe and an inside look into the logistics of big DXpeditions. Featured interviews with key team members add human interest and of course, humor abounds.

## Upcoming Events

Mar 1 April 5 May 3	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM Cubberly Community Center, Room H-6, 4000 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
Mar 20 April 17 May 15	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Everyone welcome! Location: Marty, W6NEV, QTH 

## President's Corner

March 2017

We are almost at the spring equinox and that could bring improved conditions for the beleaguered HF bands. We will have to see. The Yuma Hamfest was a blast. Wish you were there. And we have a Flea Market coming up.



You have probably already noticed that the days are getting longer. The 21st of this month is when day and night reach equilibrium. That is a happy compromise for our ionosphere too. There is enough solar radiation to ionize the F layers for long-range propagation on the low bands with less time for recombination. We need the solar radiation to pull apart the atoms that make up the very upper layer of the atmosphere to create the plasma that refracts electromagnetic radiation back to earth. If we get too much of this, however, a significant absorption layer forms. This is what we call the D layer, and it absorbs energy in the 80 meter band and below during the day. It can also attenuate fre-

*(President — Continued on page 4)*

## The Geloso Twins Rigs from bygone years.

*Ben Deovlet, W6FDU*

Geloso was a post-WWII Italian electronics manufacturer that produced home radios, audio amplifiers, TV sets, home Hi-Fi and stereo equipment, as well as amateur radio rigs. Geloso was a fully integrated manufacturer in that they produced all of their designs and components as well. The Geloso ham radio equipment was popular during the late mid-fifties through the mid-seventies. "Popular, you say, but why haven't I heard about them." Well, they were popular primarily in Europe, Africa, throughout the Middle East, and over to India since they proved to be less expensive than their American counterparts plus their shipping costs, customs duties, and so forth. Remember, the Japanese ham market had not yet been established...that would take another decade. I recall photos in QST of foreign hams' stations, and most of them were using Geloso. I bought the transmitter and receiver in the early 1960s, and later used them from the top (eighth) floor

quite well. Yes, the sunspots were smiling on us during those years.

The Geloso rigs came in custom-made wooden crates with rope handles which, in my opinion, gave them a bit of class over the conventional cardboard packaging. The G-209R receiver was a rather conventional double conversion design that received CW, AM, SSB, and with a Termi-



**Fig 2. Receiver Tuning Indicator**

nal Unit or converter, RTTY. It had a tunable first oscillator and crystal controlled second conversion oscillators, one for USB and one for



**Fig 1. Geloso Receiver and Transmitter, circa 1960s**

of the Norton Hall dormitory at the University of California, Berkeley. My roommate, Steve, who is now AC6T and I strung two sets of parallel dipoles from the roof of our dorm to the roof of the adjacent dorm. The antennas were used as a bi-directional phased array, and they worked

LSB. For selectivity, it uses a conventional single crystal filter with a phasing control. It covered the 80 through 10 meter ham bands and also included the 11 meter band, which at the

*(Geloso — Continued on page 3)*

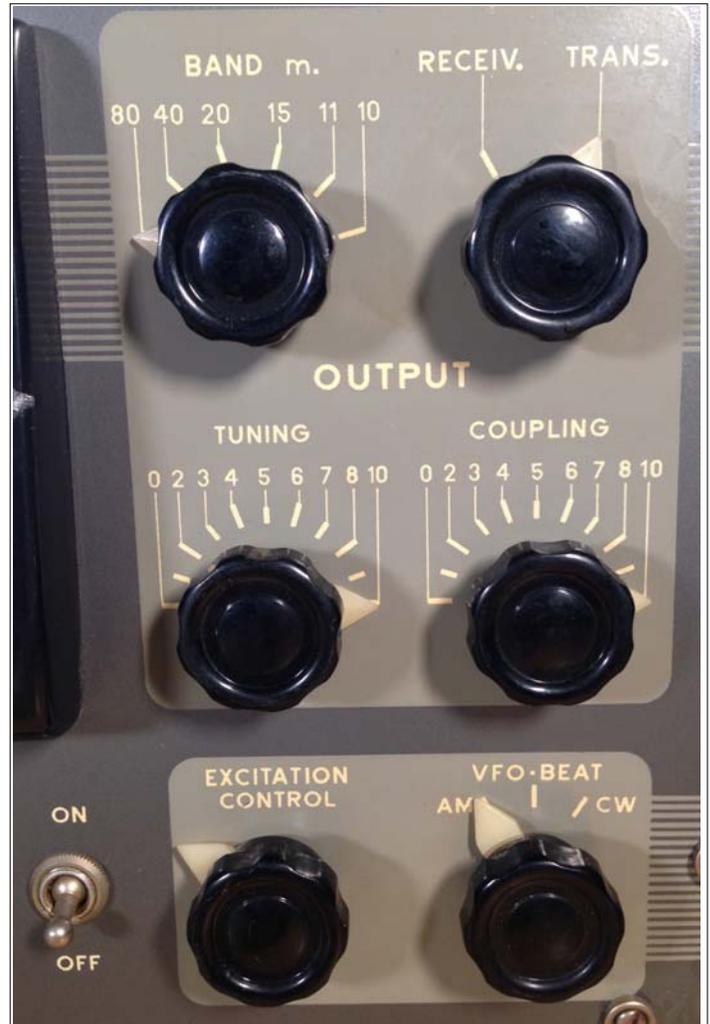
(Geloso — Continued from page 2)

time of its design was also a ham band. Frequency stability was adequate for most applications. One could think of this receiver, a double conversion ham band only design, as a lesser relative to the Hammarlund HQ-129 series.



**Fig 3. Transmitter meter for monitoring currents and modulation**

The G-222-TR AM and CW transmitter used a single 6146 final amplifier and was modulated by a pair of 807 tubes and was VFO controlled. It was styled to match the G-209R receiver, and one could think of it as a “lesser” Johnson Ranger. It used a Clapp 6CL6 acting as an oscillator, buffer, and multiplier driving a 5763 amplifier which then drove a single 6146 amplifier running in Class C operation with pi-network coupling to the antenna. Antenna switching from transmitter to receiver was done by a manual transmit/receive switch on the front panel. The “heart” of the rig was a transmitting VFO module, the 4/104-S which was sold as a separate item for the homebrewers. The power am-



**Fig 4. Transmitter controls**

plifier was modulated by a pair of push-pull 807 tubes which were driven by three stages of triode amplification (12AX7 tubes) feeding a 12AX7 phase inverter. The audio input was high impedance, such as from a crystal microphone; I used a D-104 microphone for my dorm room set up.

In addition to Ham equipment, Geloso made TV sets, home audio Hi-Fi and stereos, tape recorders, home radios, and higher power audio amplifiers for use in movie theaters, and so forth. This equipment was widely used within Europe and the related markets. In addition to the Ham transmitter and receiver, they also produced a VFO and converter for the two-meter band and in their later years, an SSB ham band transmitter. Quite frankly, the Geloso Amateur

(Geloso — Continued on page 4)

*(Geloso — Continued from page 3)*

Radio rigs represented the conventional designs of the 1950s, and as expected, were not sterling performers. Unlike fine wine, they haven't improved with age. Yet, they were fun to use. I bought them when their popularity was waning since Geloso, like many other manufacturers, were now producing SSB equipment. I later replaced them with a Hallicrafters HT-32 transmitter and a National NC-300 receiver, and I then later traded these rigs for a used Collins KWM-1 transceiver. This Collins rig worked 20 through 10 meters continuously, and its design was the forerunner of the KWM-2 and the various iterations of the S-line. By the way, I still have my old KWM-1 on the air. Did you know that this rig was designed with the CIA in mind? It has an interesting history, which I'll save for a future article. Meanwhile, I'll have these Geloso rigs and their associated schematic and physical layout documents on display for the January show-and-tell.

de W6FDU, Ben

Reference: *Bullettino Thechico Geloso*, No. 69-70, third edition.

*(President — Continued from page 1)*

quencies above this - even 20 - 15 meters. That's why daytime propagation on those bands in the summer can be weak. In the spring, though, there isn't much absorption yet. Then at night, when the F layer begins to recombine (the nuclei and electrons of the gas atoms find each other using the electric force), the time spent recombining is shortened. So the layers stay charged longer. It's a happy medium. This also happens at the fall equinox. This is why there are contest seasons roughly centered around the two equinoxes - propagation is improved meaning more fun! Take advantage of this situation and get on those HF bands. You might find things generally better. With our quiet sun it still might not be great, but you never know until you try.

I made my annual trek to the Yuma Hamfest just a week ago as I write. I missed it last year since I was in Vietnam. The Lunar New Year unfortunately overlapped with the hamfest. I was back

this year with two talks to make up for missing the last one. The drive down was nothing but rain, even through LA and beyond. There were many slippery roads through San Bernardino. Some were even washed out by rivers of orange mud. I had to drive very slowly in places where there was a foot or more of rushing mud and water. It was really something to see. I finally arrived in Yuma Thursday evening to high winds and clouds. I went right over to see some of my IOK friends and fellow Vice Presidents and enjoy some adult beverages. The hamfest started on Friday and I gave the first talk of the event. It was so fun being back there with all of the people I knew from years past and the sound of freedom coming from the MCAS across the highway. We got a nice demonstration of a VTOL jet hovering over the runway. I'm not sure what it was exactly, but it was certainly loud and majestic. Friday night we had a traditional IOK pizza dinner that was unfortunately only lightly attended, in particular because Pink was missing. K7ILA couldn't make it because she had a cardiac event right before the hamfest. She is fine and was there in spirit. Saturday was another great day with everyone that I capped with a root beer float from Zemmer's homemade root beer. Fantastic! I ran into PAARA member Henry, W6REK, who came down from SoCal to visit. And then there was the Buzzard BBQ, featuring an amazing array of raffle prizes. Here are just a few: Flex 6600, FT-DX5000, IC-7610, K3S, KX3, IC-7300, TS-890S, and more. It was just unreal, particularly when one person won two of those great radios (the Yaesu and the Kenwood). Banquet tickets sold out in just a few hours. I drove home on Sunday in one big push. The weather was dryer than the trip down, but there was snow over Tejon Pass. It was exciting and treacherous. Once again the Yuma Hamfest was unforgettable. Please join me there next year.

Don't forget the PAARA sponsored ASVARO Electronics Flea Market on March 9th. We are the first market of the year this time. I've already sent out emails looking for volunteers, but please contact me if you haven't heard from me and want to help. CU AT PAARA AND THE EFM IN MARCH DE K6WX

## Feb 20, 2018, Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at Marty's QTH, commencing at 7:20 PM on February 20, 2018. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX (Pres), Marty Wayne, W6NEV (VP), Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Ron Chester, W6AZ (Treasurer) via videoconference, Darryl Presley, KI6LDM (Dir) via audio conference, Walter Gyger K6WGY(Dir), and non-board member Clark Martin, KK6ISP, (ASVARO Representative). A quorum was present. Also present were guests from ASVARO Mikel Lechner KN6IQ (President), Jeff Shimbo AK6TG (Treasurer).

Kristen, (K6WX), opened the meeting by yielding the floor to Mikel, KN6IQ. Mikel provided information to the board from the ASVARO board meeting which was held on 2/18/19. Mikel was pleased to report on cost-saving measures that are largely the result of Fry's hosting the Electronic Flea Market (EFM) and changes in how the trash is handled after the event. PAARA, who has the 1st EFM on March 9th, will have to remove any cardboard left at the close of the event. All sponsoring clubs will also have this added task. The end result of the changes brings the cost to PAARA down to \$550! Very welcome news. Mikel also advised us that they voted to replace many of the tables that are falling apart with new plastic ones. This also is welcome as the plastic tables are much lighter and don't have issues with spilled drinks and ice that the wood ones do.

The board asked Mikel if he had any information regarding what Fry's thought of the EFM. Though he hasn't received much feedback from them, they have loosely indicated a modest increase in business when the EFM is there. There is speculation that it may be in additional sales in their food court. Mikel indicated there is no information regarding the EFM being able to sell food other than donuts, though it has been a topic of discussion at ASVARO. After more discussion about ASVARO, the board thanked Mikel for coming to the board meeting and all the information he provided which answered a number of questions the board had.

Kristen, (K6WX), resumed the normal sequence

of the meeting mentioning the need for speakers at the meetings. Several possibilities were mentioned to Marty for exploration.

Vice President's Report: Marty, W6NEV, commented that we'll again have a DVD of a DXpedition as he couldn't drum up a speaker. He did mention having two speakers lined up for April and May.

Secretary's report: Jim, K6SV, reported that there are 216 members but there are 93 on the "chopping block" that haven't renewed their membership for 2019. He reminds everyone that it's past time for all 2018 members to renew for 2019. **This is the last month non-renewing members will receive PAARAgaphs. Look at your PAARAgaphs mailing label for the year your membership expires. If your membership expires in 2018, it will be in RED.** You can renew anytime through our website, <http://www.paara.org/pages/members-current.html>, drop a check in the mail or at a meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, reported that the proceeds from January and February are on par for this time of year. The raffle proceeds were very close to breaking even.

### Under Old Business,

Marty, W6NEV, reminded the board that a new champion is needed for the special event station at Pacificon this year. He mentioned that it's not that hard but does take a dedicated individual to put it together. Please contact Marty or any board member if you're interested in this important role. Though Pacificon seems like a long time from now, MDARC is already in the planning stages for 2019.

Ron, W6AZ, provided a detailed report on a conversation he had with Gerry, N6NV, regarding the "PAARA stuff" that Gerry has stored at the farm or his house. The upshot of the conversation is Gerry would like Rebar to help him inventory the towers and other items that are at the farm and eliminate anything that's not of value. Gerry feels he has two more pickup truck loads of goodies to sell. Once that is done and the good items that he and Rebar agree are worth

*(Minutes — Continued from page 5)*

keeping are moved out of the farm, Gerry will be officially retired from being the PAARA property manager and selling PAARA “stuff”. The board recognizes the GIGANTIC contribution Gerry has made over his many years of service to the club in his many roles and to the financial health of the club.

As it was getting rather late, other items on the agenda that haven’t been worked on very much or weren’t as critical will be topics for next month.

### **Under New Business:**

Jim, K6SV, mentioned Rachell Kinoshita, KK6DAC, (new member mailing) contacted him indicating she’s run out of new member cards. She also mentioned the need to find another volunteer for this job. There was a short discussion regarding the impact this program has had on drawing new members. The jury is out on that so the decision was made to hold off on printing any

more cards for the time being.

Kristen, K6WX, asked if a Field Day planning meeting was in the works yet. The short answer was not yet. One needs to happen very soon as June will rush up on us very quickly.

Walt, K6WGY, reported being proactive in getting all the advertisers in PAARAgaphs contacted and sent invoices for 2019. He reported hearing from almost all of them.

The board meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Jim Thielemann, K6SV

Secretary/membership

### **Please welcome**

#### **New members:**

[Jan]: Ryan Linehan, no call,

Truman Lindsey, N6TRU,

[Feb] Lee Manter, KM6YZB

#### **New family members:**

[Jan]: Brandon Williams, KM6FZD,

Marshall Williams, KM6GAR

## **February Raffle Winners**

### **Front to Back, Left to Right**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Shri, AJ6GV, Sure 450 classic desk mike, N.O.S. in box
- 7<sup>th</sup> Greg, KE7DO, clip-on LED flex light
- 8<sup>th</sup> Cliff, KN6DH, Big bag o' bungees
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ben, W6FDU, Daiwa, 2-position Coax switch
- 1<sup>st</sup> Ric N6AJS, Arrow dual-band Yagi antenna
- 5<sup>th</sup> Marty, W6NEV, 2 Midland FRS radios with batteries & drop-in charger
- 6<sup>th</sup> Darryl, KI6LDM, 175 Lumen LED headlight
- 4<sup>th</sup> Steve, WB6KIO, Tool and 1/2" socketset



**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

**Officers**

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	n6db@arrl.net	
Director ('19).....	Darryl Presley, K16LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@arrl.net	

**Appointed Positions**

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	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database .....	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Chaplain .....	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
	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	
Asst. to the Treasurer....	Bob Korte, KD6KYT	408 396 4745
	bob@rgktechsales.com	
Badge Coordinator .....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wvci.com	
Historian Position .....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinator .....	Jim Rice, K6AK	650-851-2274
Field Day Coordinator ...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
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	webaron@gmail.com	
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	kd6w@arrl.net	
QSL Manager .....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023
Speaker Coordinator .....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023

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	dianalloyd76@gmail.com	
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.k6va.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)

**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: 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss  
147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss  
223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 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))



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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>	Doug - KG6LWE
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jack - W1VSL
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,



**Cubberley Community Center**  
 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303  
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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 \$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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NOT A CLUB, CLOSED GROUP OR CLIQUE; AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS AND FRIENDLY PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

### PAARA Badges

You can order a \$20 badge from the PAARA web site or at a meeting through Doug Teter, KG6LWE, and usually pick it up at the next meeting.




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440 – 444.475 up 5 MHz	DMR
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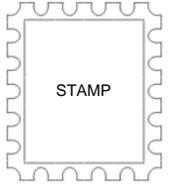
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# PAARAgaphs — March 2019

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA



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