

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

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

Radios for the Rest of Us

Alan Thompson

Most of us nowadays depend entirely upon cell-phone and Internet services to stay in touch with our friends and families. These services, in turn, depend upon billions of dollars of technology not to fail. The last few years have seen a dramatic rise in the frequency and intensity of storms, fires, power shutdowns, and other natural and man-made disasters - events which often disrupt these vital communications services. Recent examples include 9/11, the Boston Marathon bombing, the Carr and Camp Fires, and Hurricanes Sandy, Katrina, Maria and Irma, which wiped out cell and Internet communications, sometimes for days or weeks. With the ever-increasing impacts of climate change and political tensions, these disasters may only become more frequent and more intense - putting us all at greater risk.

For years, Ham Radio Operators have stood ready to use Radio during these kinds of emergencies to help restore communications when normal communications fail. This has worked well to aid First Responders like the Red Cross. However, it has become increasingly critical for the average citizen to also have alternative methods to communicate when cell phone and Internet services fail. Getting a Ham Radio license is not for everyone, and requires passing a technical exam well beyond the interests or capability of most average citizens.

In this talk, Radio For The Rest of Us, Alan Thompson will highlight these cell phone and Internet service vulnerabilities, and how our unconscious over-reliance on cell phones for virtually everything puts us at serious risk. He'll also suggest ways how "the rest of us" might help ourselves, our friends, our families and community stay safer in the face of cell-phone and Internet service failures.

Presentation Outline

- Profiles of recent disasters, and catastrophic points of failure that impacted emergency communications, alerts, and evacuations, placing people at risk

(Meeting — Continued on page 3)

**Sept 6th, 7:00 PM, Cubberly
Community Center Room H-6**

Upcoming Events

Sept 6	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM Cubberly Community Center, Room H-6, 4000 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
Oct 4	
Nov 1	
Sept 18	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Everyone welcome! Location: Marty, W6NEV, QTH
Oct 16	
Nov 20	



President's Corner

September 2019

I'm somewhere over the Aleutian Island chain as I write this from a Business Class (yay!) seat, coming back from a somewhat unplanned visit to Tokyo. It was a wonderful visit and it included a few ham radio moments too. I hope you'll indulge me writing about it this month.



For various reasons, including my increased travel to other places, I haven't had a chance to go to Japan for almost 2 years. I really have missed it. Getting out of town, though, was not easy. I started getting texts from work even before I left SFO. I ended up buying internet service on the airplane to make sure I could keep in touch. And to make matters worse, one of my servers at home had a network problem, so I had to have a friend go over to my home to troubleshoot and help fix it. There's nothing like trying to do pings and traceroutes while texting and asking for pictures of lights on equipment

(President — Continued on page 3)

The Challenge

How often do you hear about the great DX other hams have worked? Oh how you wish that could be you bragging about that rare DX. What about others telling stories about making Worked-all-States or Worked-all-Continents? These are all wonderful achievements but there is more to ham radio. Not everyone has a station setup and antenna system to easily reach these goals. Our hobby has many different avenues for operating activities and achievements. Sometimes setting a goal helps kindle the urge to reach it. Even if you don't make the goal, nothing is lost and you will have had a wonderful time making the effort.

Many hams like chasing wallpaper, that is, getting a certificate for their achievements. However, not all goals come with that piece of paper. Some times it's just the personal satisfaction and earned bragging rights of reaching the goal. Even with a limited capability station, you can reach many goals.

Consider this, California has 58 counties. A goal of making a contact in each county can be accomplished with your RF never leaving the California border. It is a good goal for hams with smaller stations. It isn't easy, but doable. If you are more interested in DX, look to Canada and Central America. They are nearby yet they are DX!

NOW THE CHALLENGE!

I challenge all in our club, but especially those with limited station capabilities to work towards one or more of the following Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) awards. The RAC is Canada's version of the ARRL. As with the ARRL, this organization sponsors several operating awards that can be achieved by persistence, patience, and then, ONLY by getting on the air. Being an RAC member is not required, in fact they encourage all hams to work towards these awards.

There are six operating awards offered by the RAC. They are the Canadaward, 5 Band Canadaward, Trans-Canada Award, Provincial Capitals Award, St. Lawrence Seaway Award, and Worked All RAC Award. A brief description of each award follows. Please check the RAC website,

<https://wp.rac.ca/operating/rac-operating-awards>,

for specific requirements.

The Canadaward

This award consists of making at least one two-way contact in each of the Canadian provinces and territories, all on one band.

The 5 Band Canadaward

This award consists of making at least one two-way contact in each of the Canadian provinces and territories on each HF band; 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters.

The Trans-Canada Award

This award requires making 5 two-way contacts within each of the 10 VE call areas plus 5 two-way contacts within the VO1/VO2 call area. This is a total of 55 contacts.

The Provincial Capital Award

This award requires making 1 two-way contact within each of the 10 provincial capitals

The St. Lawrence Seaway Award

This award requires making 10 two-way contacts within certain specified areas along the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The Worked All RAC Award

This award requires making a two-way contact with an "Official" RAC station having the suffix "RAC" in at least 10 of the 18 Canadian prefixes.

Remember, check the RAC website, <https://wp.rac.ca/operating/rac-operating-awards>, for specific requirements.

I hope you will consider taking on one the challenges listed here. It is a great way to get on the air and who knows, you may get some wallpaper from it.

Talk about bragging rights!
 Thanks and Happy Hamming, 73
 Marty Wayne,
 W6NEV

(President — Continued from page 1)

while you're on a slow satellite link at 35,000'. We got it fixed, though.

The minute I got out of the airplane, the heat and humidity hit me from the jetway and I began to wonder if I was going to survive. I had slept on the airplane, which is very rare for me, so I felt awake when I got in. I had a chance to try out my new APEC quick entry card for Asia, and what a great thing that is. It's sort of like Global Entry for the US, except it works with many Asian countries. There was a huge crowd of people trying to get through immigration. I found the APEC sign and just breezed through in 5 minutes with diplomats and US Military personnel. It was wonderful. Before I knew it I was on the train to Tokyo from Narita Airport.

Once in Tokyo I met some friends at Gotanda Station and we soon went out for dinner and drinks. There was some light rain, making the sultry air cooler. And I was back in Japan. Life was good. I did what I always do to fight jet lag - stay up as late as possible until around midnight in the new time zone, then crash. I use some prescription sleep drugs to put myself back to sleep if I wake up in the middle of the night. Then I wake up in the morning in the new time zone. I'll reverse the procedure when I get back. It really works. Try it sometime.

I spent much of the rest of the week taking care of some family matters and visiting various people. I also spent a lot of time doing work. It seems that whenever I'm away, something blows up. It almost never fails. That's life, though. When the weekend finally arrived, I was ready for a break.

On Saturday I went to a Japanese matsuri, or festival near a friend's house. It was great. We walked down the long shotengai, or street market, buying snack food and drinking beer. We saw some great taiko drummers too. The day was capped off by a nice dinner in a Spanish restaurant back in Gotanda.

Sunday I went exploring and ended up in good ol' Akihabara, an old favorite of mine. It is the electronics section of Tokyo, though it's much smaller than it used to be. I had to make sure

that all of the ham radio shops that I remembered were still there. I found them all and took lots of pictures. And many small electronics shops are still there, like the guy who sells only transformers. I found some tubes too, tape recorders, and vintage radio gear.

The day was topped off with a visit to Sensoji and Kaminari Mon in Asukasa, and then a long dinner with my niece in Shinjuku. What a day! And now I'm headed home. It was an unbelievable week. Sadly I missed the Tokyo Ham Fair by just a few days. It is August 31st and September 1st. Oh well, there's always next year. CU IN THE US AT PAARA DE K6WX

Jeremiah O'Brien Tour Date Change

- Where: Pier 45, Fisherman's Wharf, San Francisco
- When: **October 5, 2019, 10:00 AM**
- Cost: \$33, (includes ship tour and a box lunch)

Last day to sign up is Friday, September 27, 2019.

(Meeting — Continued from page 1)

- Coverage and comparisons of various communications tools, backups and alternatives to cell phones
- "Radio For The Rest of Us" programs to support citizen-to-citizen emergency communications in our own, local communities
- The opportunity for Ham Radio Operators and Clubs to lead the way in implementing and sustaining these programs, and thereby help to ensure the future of the hobby

About Alan Thompson

Alan Thompson is a licensed Amateur Radio Operator who grew up and still lives in Placerville California. He's the Owner and Field Engineer for El Dorado Networks in Diamond Springs, and provides satellite Internet systems installations and maintenance services for businesses and governmental organizations including Facebook, Intelsat, Bank of America / Merrill Lynch, the Department of Defense, and the Federal Aviation Administration. On one of his most recent projects, he was part of a Disaster Recovery Team that installed several satellite Internet backup systems to help restore cell-phone service ten days after the 2018 Camp Fire rubbed out electronic communications in Paradise and Magalia.

Aug, 2019, Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at Marty's QTH, commencing at 7:10 PM on August 21, 2019. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, via videoconference from JA (Pres), Marty Wayne, W6NEV (VP), Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Ron Chester, W6AZ, via audio conference (Treasurer), Darryl Presley, KI6LDM (Dir), Walter Gyger K6WGY(Dir), A quorum was present.

Kristen, (K6WX), opened with a discussion on threats to ham radio, more specifically the transition from service to hobby. The changes from our fathers' amateur radios to SDR along with new modes of operation. These changes are in part in order to attract new amateurs in this age of technology and because of new technology making them possible where they weren't possible in the past. Are new modes of operation an added incentive to participate? Then there is the question, do we have relevance anymore? Are we able to find ways to keep in the forefront of served agencies and the government? These and other questions were discussed and will be for years to come.

Kristen mentioned her reserve of stories is non-existent, thus there is an urgent 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 Alan Thompson, W6WN, would give us a presentation entitled "Radios for the Rest of Us" at the September meeting. Marty also reported having the speakers for the rest of the year and one for next year. As he is in the hunt for more, reach out to Marty if you have

any suggestions for someone who can provide an interesting presentation at an upcoming meeting.

Secretary's report: Jim, K6SV, reported that the membership now stands at 188. The membership is split 50/50 between Tech/General and Amateur Extra. He reminded everyone that it's not too early to renew for 2020. You can always renew through our web site or at a meeting.

Ron Chester, W6AZ, reported the proceeds from June and July were on a par with this time of the year. Of course, June was higher due to the EFM profit of about \$3,200.

Under Old Business

Marty, W6NEV, reported that the signups for the next field trip to the SS Jeremiah O'Brien Liberty Ship VERY low. In a development that occurred after the board meeting, the date of the trip had to be moved. It will now be on October 5th. The tour will start at 10 AM with lunch provided on the ship by Boudin Bakery. The tour and lunch cost \$33 per person. You can sign up for the trip thought the PAARA web site. As the USS Pampanito is at the same pier as the Jeremiah O'Brien, those interested can also tour the sub on your own for an entrance fee of \$10 for Youth 5-13, \$20 for Adult 14-61 or \$15 for seniors 62+.

The board had a short discussion regarding finding a new Raffle coordinator. No one has stepped up yet. Please let a board member know if you have any questions about the volunteer opportunity or wish to take this important position on.

The board had a general discussion on the status of the Pacificon special event station. As Mikko Sannala, AB6RF, the event station coordinator wasn't at the meeting, we believe things are on track. There will again be a sign up list at the September meeting to sign up for operating time slots. October 18th isn't very far away so reserve your operating slot now for the best choice.

The other items on the agenda that haven't been worked on very much or weren't as critical

(Minutes — Continued from page 4)

will be topics for next month

Under New Business:

Walt, K6WGY, brought up the discussion regarding the ad Excess Solutions wishes to run in PAARAgaphs. Adding the ad requires adding a page to the publication in order to provide space for the ad. Jim, K6SV, provided information from the printer about the costs involved. After a short discussion, the board voted to add a page to the issue for the new advertiser.

Jim, K6SV, mentioned it is election time and as there are two important elected positions, President and Treasurer, to fill this year, we should get started a little earlier than in the past. Kris-

ten sent an email soliciting an election chair.

Marty, W6NEV, mentioned picking up a number of radios from Mark Kent that he had collected from an SK. Marty anticipates bringing them to meetings to see if members are interested in purchasing them. A short discussion followed regarding what to do with any remaining radios.

The board meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Jim Thielemann, K6SV
Secretary/membership

Please join me in welcoming new members:

William Straka, NA5P,
Barbara Straka, N6YXO,
Stephen Lester, AJ6EM



August Raffle Winners

Left to Right

- 2nd Steve, WB6KIO - Arrow II Dual-Band Hand-Held Yagi Antenna
- 6th Steve, WB6KIO - Gorilla Grip Allen Wrench Wet
- 1st Truman, N6TRU - Baofeng Dual-band HT
- 9th Truman, N6TRU - 10.6 inch Tablet Sleeve
- 8th Greg, KE7DO - LED Moonstick

- 4th John, KM6SKA - Atomic Projection Alarm Clock with In/Outdoor Temp.
- 3rd John KM6SKA - Daiwa CS201A Coax Switch *
- 7th Rod, KF6EDJ - Screwdriver Set
- 5th Doug, KG6LWE - Cyclemore LED Lantern *

* Donated by Ben, W6FDU. Thanks Ben!

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Kristen McIntyre, K6WX kristen@alum.mit.edu	510-703-4942
Vice President	Marty Wayne, W6NEV w6nev@arrl.net	408-234-8023
Secretary	Jim Thielemann, K6SV thielem@pacbell.net	408-839-6815
Treasurer	Ron Chester, W6AZ ron@taxhelp.com	408-243 2221

Directors

Director ('19-'20)	Joel Wilhite, KD6W kd6w@arrl.net	408-839-5948
Director ('18-'19)	Walt Gyger, K6WGY walt@tradewindsaviation.com	408-921-5901
Director ('19)	Larry Rebarchik N6DB n6db@arrl.net	650 465-8210
Director ('19)	Darryl Presley, K16LDM ki6ldm@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	
Asst. to the Treasurer....	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	
Webmaster	John Miller K6MM webaron@gmail.com	
Technical Coordinator ...	Joel Wilhite, KD6W kd6w@arrl.net	408-839-5948
QSL Manager	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023
Speaker Coordinator	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023

PAARAgaphs Staff

Editorial Board		
	Bob Van Tuyl K6RWY	Kristen McIntyre K6WX
	Ron Chester W6AZ	Vic Black AB6SO
	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	
Editor	Bob Van Tuyl, K6RWY rrvt@swde.com	408 799-6463
Back Up Editor	Jim Thielemann, K6SV thielem@pacbell.net	408-839-6815
Advertising	Walt Gyger, K6WGY walt@tradewindsaviation.com	408-921-5901
Member Profiles	Diana Lloyd, KK6YGM dianalloyd76@gmail.com	650-988-8882
Technical Tips	Vic Black, AB6SO ab6so@smrn.com	650-366 0636

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, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur.
 Meets 2nd 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
 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 KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924
shensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)

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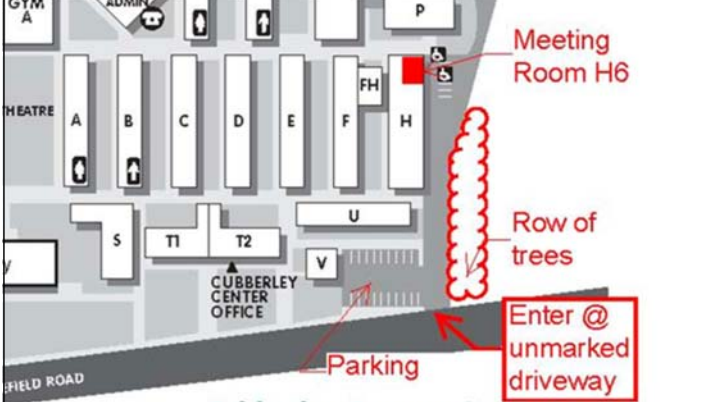
www.jameco.com

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 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,



Cubberley Community Center
 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
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**Meeting Location — Middlefield Road
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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
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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
1.2G – 1284.15 down 12MHz	Off line
1.2G – 1249.15 half duplex	Off line



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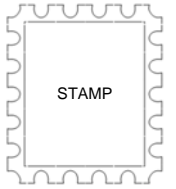
PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

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).
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PAARAgaphs — September 2019

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