

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**Celebrating 83 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

## Contests and Operating from Aruba

### ED MUNS, P49X (W0YK)

Ed, W0YK, has operated from Japan, Jamaica, Aruba and The Galapagos. Since 2005, he has made 4-5 trips per year to Aruba for 1-2 week periods, operating CW and RTTY contests. In 2008 and again in 2019, along with station owners AE6Y/P49Y and W6LD/P40L, disassembled the three towers and antennas, rebuilding them with all new material. The indoor portion of the station undergoes constant upgrading and improvement.

Operating from a DX location has challenges, especially if it involves maintaining a station in a salt-water environment. Today's remote-operation technology can reduce the travel, but it also increases the station complexity and maintenance work. There are a number of ways one can get started in DX operation that range from traveling to an existing DX ham's station to joining an existing multi-operator trip to owning and maintaining a station overseas.

### BIO

Ed, W0YK, entered CW and SSB DX contests initially in the early 1970s as a way to work new band/mode-countries for DXCC. His interest rapidly evolved from DXing to contesting with his early learning at the K0RF multi-multi. Today, CW and RTTY contesting dominate Ed's operating time. His local contest club, the Northern California Contest Club (NCCC), mounted an effort for the club competition gavel first offered in the 2004 ARRL RTTY Round-Up where Ed reluctantly (kicking and screaming) learned how to setup RTTY and ultimately won the Pacific Division SOHP plaque. He ironically enjoyed that induction into RTTY so much that he now includes all the major RTTY contests in his contesting schedule.

With his P49X call sign, Ed holds the world SOHP record in ARRL RTTY Round-Up, having broken the record eight times, and the world SOHP record in CQ WPX RTTY, having broken that record seven times and set a world SOHP record in the 2010 CQ WW RTTY.

He was inducted into the CQ Contest Hall of Fame in May 2014. This is his thirteenth year at CTU delivering the two Digital Contesting presentations and Q&A.

## Upcoming Events

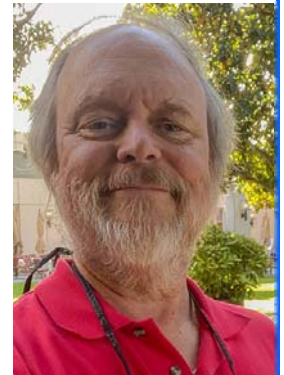
June 5 July 3 Aug 7	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM Zoom Meeting, see article for details
June 17 July 15 Aug 19	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details!
June	Electronic Flea Market Cancelled



## President's Corner

June 2020

As I reflect on what to pen this month, I realize I neglected to put our flag up! After all, it's Memorial Day weekend, strange as it seems. I've been flying the flag on Memorial Day weekend for as long as I can remember. I choose to



honor all the past, present, and future military veterans that have served with distinction over the decades. At one point, I flew my grandfathers' flag. I had to retire his flag as it was getting a bit worn. He served in "The Great War", WW1. I wish I could have asked him about it but he passed away when I was very young. I'm guessing many of us have memories of someone like that or maybe someone who is still around. Take advantage of time with them and learn about the stories

*(President — Continued on page 3)*

### Field Day 2020

In the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the associated shutdown of life as we know it here in the Bay Area, the PAARA Field Day planning committee has been trying to figure out how to hold the event while keeping participants safe.

Ric, N6AJS, our CW-B station captain for the last several years, came up with a proposal for a modified Field Day, which assumes that Shelter-in-Place rules have been relaxed, but not eliminated entirely. We are planning on that basis, but caution everyone that circumstances beyond control may make even this scaled down operation impossible.

#### The Plan

Under the assumption that large gatherings (more than 10 people) will still not be permitted, or should at least be avoided, we will likely not be permitted nor really want the use of our usual venue, Bedwell Bayfront Park in Menlo Park.

Caution dictates that we keep the number of attendees to a minimum at any given point over the weekend, which the use of almost any public space would make difficult at best. The biggest private space available to us is my 5-1/2 acres, so if we are able to do any kind of group effort this year, it will be in San Martin.

We think it likely that we will still be observing precautions like social distancing, mask-wearing, and sanitizing everything.

To keep setup and the number of people here at any given point manageable, we will reduce the overall size of the operation from our usual entry in Class 4A (4 primary transmitters, operating on generators). We will instead enter in Class 2A, with a smaller and less labor-intensive setup. We will unfortunately, also be forgoing our usual GOTA station and all of the public outreach effort.

To minimize potential exposure risk, we will do our best to limit the number of people at the site to no more than 10 ideally. We will still attempt to keep both HF transmitters on the air for the entire 24 hours of the event.

This will require that operators and loggers sign up for COMMITTED slots in the schedule. Ric is working on an on-line schedule that you can use to sign up. You'll be able to find it at:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/FieldDaySchedule>.

Unlike our usual practice of having dedicated CW & phone stations, we plan to be mode-flexible, hoping to maximize points by using digital modes and CW for 2-point contacts whenever possible. Please indicate your preferred operating mode when you sign up. We will do our best to accommodate.

We will be sanitizing radios, keyboards, mice, keys/paddles and operating positions between shifts. We're still considering our options for food & drink.

Due to the relative difficulty of effectively sanitizing headsets, we will be following a BYOH (Bring Your Own Headset) policy. Radios will be equipped with 3.5mm jacks, stereo for ear-phones, mono for Mic. Operators wishing to bring a headset that does not match these connector types, will be asked to bring whatever adapters will be needed.

Unfortunately, casual visits will be out for this year. The gates will be closed to keep in's and out's to a minimum. Operators, loggers and support personnel will be the only ones allowed on-site. We realize that this means forgoing the usual visits by elected officials, and served agencies, and the points we usually garner from those visits.

The situation dictates the conditions. We MUST do this safely, or not at all.

As the League has encouraged us all to do, we are adapting our operation to the conditions at hand. While the scope of things will be reduced, we will still need operators and loggers, and encourage club members to sign up for operating slots well in advance of the event.

Stay tuned to PAARAgaphs, the Club website and the Monday evening net for further developments.

Doug Teter, Field Day Planning Committee

*(President — Continued from page 1)*

they are willing to share or at least what branch of service they were in. There are quite a few members of PAARA who served. To all of them, a heartfelt THANKS for your service!

Normally there was a mass exodus of vehicles load with a wide variety of fun “stuff” that would have clogged the freeways leaving the Bay Area on Friday. They’d be traveling to some favorite destination to “enjoy” the 3-day weekend with everyone else that left. I never 100% enjoyed going away on one to the two weekends a year that EVERYONE else also left. I preferred to make a 3-day weekend out of a different weekend so there were fewer people wherever I went. After all, there are PLENTY of people in the BA, why go with a large percentage of them to “have fun”? This year, however, there wasn’t an exodus but hasty plans to figure out something to do at home that didn’t involve being with others, not even family members that lived somewhere else. Today we’re only left with memories of past trips to fill the void of the unofficial start of summer. I hope everyone found a memory or two to enjoy reminiscing over the weekend.

As you can imagine, the next club meeting, June 5th, will again be a Zoom meeting. Make sure to update the Zoom software to 5.0 as the old version will not work due to new security measures. Doug, KG6LWE, will provide information on the status of our Field Day effort. At the time of my writing, we still aren’t 100% sure Santa Clara County will lift the restrictions enough for us to even hold the planned drastically scaled-down event. See Doug’s article in this issue for a bit more information on the current plan. We’ll do our best to get the word out regarding the final plan through the 9 AM Talk-Net, Monday night PAARA Net, and the web site as we get closer to June 27th. We may also have a format change in the June meeting. A presenter has stepped forward who is willing to give his

presentation using Zoom. As I draft this letter, we’re still working on the logistics so stay tuned. There may be more current information on the 1st page of PAARAgaphs as this column is drafted before PAARAgaphs has begun being assembled.

Hopefully, you’ve been able to take advantage of some of the band openings that have popped up. There’s been increased activity on 15M and 17M along with the usual large amount of activity on 20M. Now and then, 10M becomes an active band. Sometimes only for the short-haul but more likely for long-haul contacts. Unfortunately for my experiencing ham radio, work has kept me out of the shack except when joining one of the many Zoom meetings I’ve needed to participate in. Though my shack isn’t exactly my office, it is the best and quietest place to hold or join a Zoom meeting. Board members can attest that my daughters’ Cockatiel can chime in with comments at interesting times during a meeting as he did at the last board meeting because I was late to start the meeting and conducted it in from the kitchen.

Joel, KD6W, made progress in getting a 900MHz repeater operational on his bench. He’s filed documents to coordinate the repeater frequency of 902.225. He procured a much larger 900MHz station antenna to replace the small one we put up when the tower was originally installed. The larger antenna will increase the coverage area considerably. Shortly, once the restrictions on sheltering in place have been relaxed, he’ll be looking for a few volunteers to help with a small work party to swap out the antenna, run two sections of ¾” helical hard line down the tower, install the repeater hardware and make it operational. At the same time, we may finally be ready to install a battery back up system consisting of surplus UPS systems Doug, KG6LWE, salvaged from a project he was working on.

73, Jim K6SV

Keep the airwaves alive by getting on the air!

## May 20, 20 Board Meeting Minutes

The May Board meeting was a virtual meeting, conducted over Zoom.

### Attending

Jim Thielemann K6SV, President; Marty Wayne W6NEV, Vice President; Ric Hulett N6AJS, Secretary; Bob Korte KD6KYT, Treasurer; Walt Gyger K6WGY, Joel Wilhite KD6W, Doug Teter KG6LWE, and Darryl Presley KI6LDM, Directors.

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. A quorum was present.

### President's Report

During the Covid-19 situation, hams have shown interest in remote operations, remote Field Day, and other contesting.

Jim watched a Flex Radio webinar about remote operation: Many Field Day stations will operate remotely as well. For Field Day, imagine a remote computer interface to a FD station with good internet access.

Of course, in a real emergency, no internet is to be expected.

We still need members to write stories for PAARAgaphs: Consider writing up ham radio experiences, projects, or anything ham-related.

### Secretary's Report

We have 168 members who are paid up through at least 2020. We received 15 paid renewals in March, 17 in April, and 5 in May so far. 37 regular and 9 family memberships have moved to expired status.

There are 15 club members who have elected to receive PAARAgaphs by e-mail. Any other members who wish to use this option can send an e-mail to PAARAPAY@gmail.com

### Treasurer's Report

Since there was no in-person meeting last month, there wasn't any income or expenses.

We are awaiting the arrival of a new bookkeeper, after tax season.

### VP / Program Chair Report

All speakers are on hold for now, until we are

able to meet again at Cubberly.

We will contact scheduled speakers to see if they are interested in giving an online presentation.

No field trips are currently planned. No T-shirts have been sold.

### Old Business

#### Repeater backup

Doug has a couple of high-capacity uninterruptible power supplies (UPS's) which were recently removed from service, which he and Joel will evaluate for use in bridging power outages at the repeater site. Joel has been working to build a 900MHz repeater: He has obtained a 900MHz antenna with hardline connectors. Frequency of 902.225, coordination has been requested.

#### Field Day organizing meeting

We met on May 6. Operating plan approved, assuming we are able to meet as a group by the Field Day date. If we can operate, we'll be at Doug Teter's ranch in San Martin. No action pending health department rules updates.

#### PAARA equipment for sale

We have sold \$1095 of equipment to date. Marty will add some additional items on the website.

We will be videoconferencing the June PAARA meeting. Marty will solicit a zoom speaker for the meeting

#### PAARAgaphs member advertising

We are creating space for a member ad in the next issue.

### New Business

#### EFM replacement income source

No action until we find out what happens after the shelter-in-place. A PAARA auction, perhaps? If the EFM is not restarted, this may impact our cash-flow.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,

Ric Hulett N6AJS

Secretary

## Zoom Meeting

### Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81658347414?pwd=c1htci8rZ3dqV0NKejBxWVZKb29sZz09>

User Name: First name & Call

Meeting ID: 816 5834 7414

Password: 751411

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+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kpSe0FxsU>

## Stay At Home Membership Renewal

Here is a link to renew your membership:

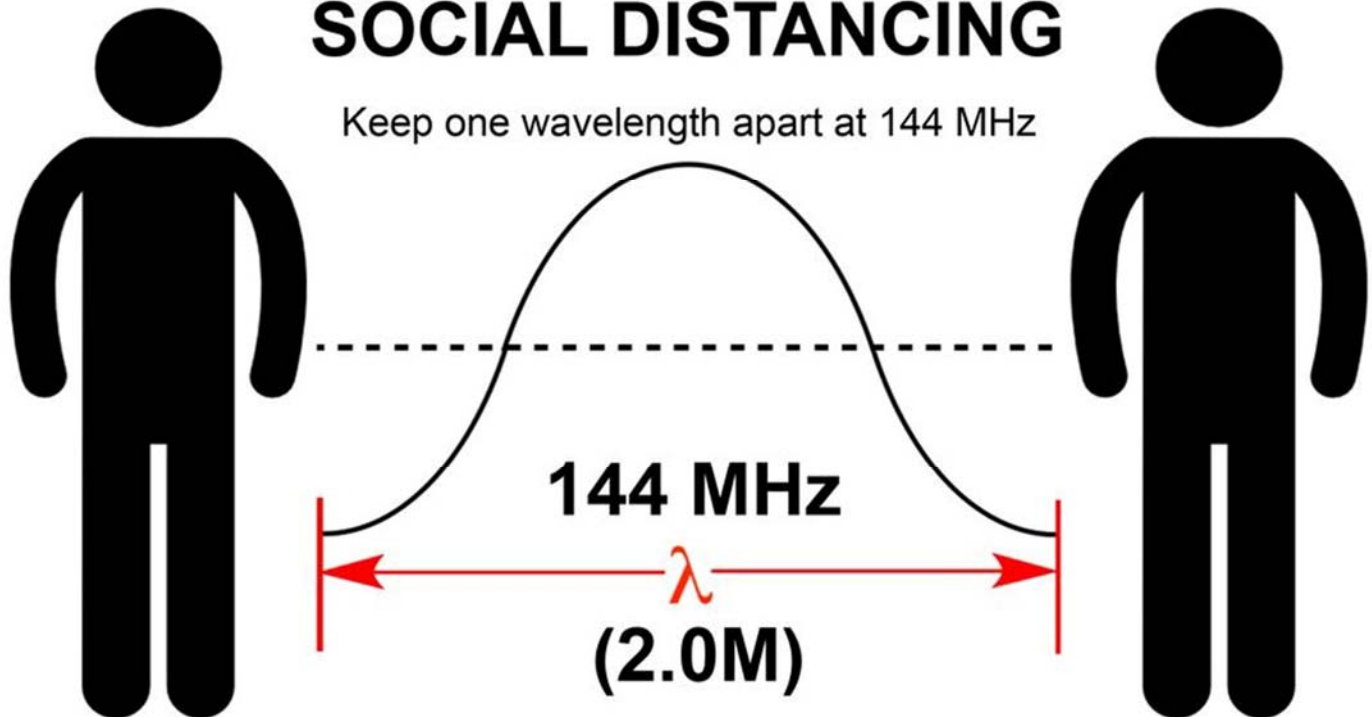
<http://www.paara.org/pages/members-current.html>

Or go to the PAARA (google search PAARA) home page, look down the column on the left to the membership button. Select the membership button. At the bottom of the membership page, there is a new membership button and an existing member button. Select the existing member tab and you can renew from there.

## Amateur radio enthusiast guide to

# SOCIAL DISTANCING

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## 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 .....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023
	w6nev@arrl.net	
Secretary .....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	energyconserved@sbcglobal.net	
Treasurer .....	Bob Korte, KD6KYT	408 396 4745
	bob@rgktechsales.com	

### Directors

Director ('19-'20) .....	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	408-839-5948
	kd6w@arrl.net	
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	walt@tradewindsaviation.com	
Director ('21) .....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wci.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, K6YQT, W6ARA....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Station Trustee K6OTA...	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager .....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Asst. to the Treasurer....	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Badge Coordinator .....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wci.com	
Historian Position .....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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	Shrikumar, KA6Q	
	shri.paara@enablers.org	
Field Day Coordinator ...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
ASVARO Rep .....	Clark Martin, KK6ISP	
	kk6isp@comcast.net	
Webmaster .....	John Miller K6MM	
	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.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://nodxc.org> or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

## 50 MHz & Up Group

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

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:

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))

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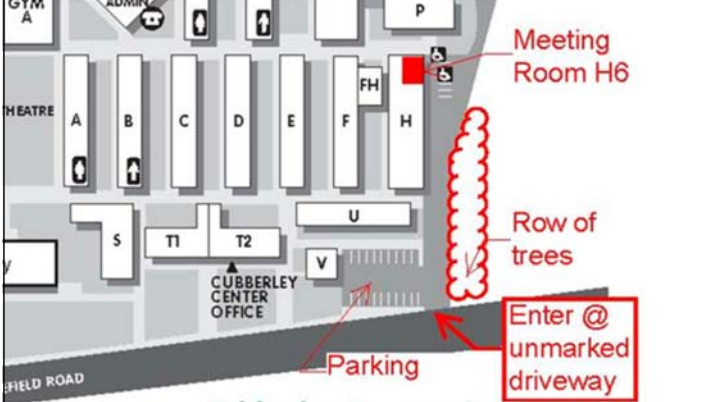
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### PAARA Weekly Radio Net

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.



**Cubberley Community Center**  
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 650/856.8756 fax  
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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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**ARV'S, WA6UUT (SK)**  
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**LUNCHEON**  
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-----  
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 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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**PAARA W6OTX DMR Repeater Frequencies**

144 – 144.9625 up 2.5 MHz	DMR—NOR CAL Brandmeister Network
440 – 444.475 up 5 MHz	DMR
1.2G – 1284.15 down 12MHz	Off line
1.2G – 1249.15 half duplex	Off line

Submit items to **PAARAgaphs** by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed to: [rrvt@swde.com](mailto:rrvt@swde.com)  
 Text: .doc, .rtf, or .txt  
 Photos: jpg, png or tiff

Subscription Problems? Contact Database Manager: Ric Hulett, N6AJS, 408-332-4593  
[energyconserved@sbcglobal.net](mailto:energyconserved@sbcglobal.net)

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**Classified Ads**

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Superior Electric Co. 900w Powerstat (variac) Hefty Design, 7.5 Amps Output. Contact Rich, [W6APZ@comcast.net](mailto:W6APZ@comcast.net), \$25

**PAARAgaphs Ad Rates**

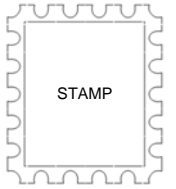
PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). **All ad rates listed are per issue.**

- 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 — June 2020

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA



Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
 PAARAgaphs Newsletter  
 P.O. Box 911  
 Menlo Park, California 94026

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**TM-D710G**  
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**TM-V71A**  
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**TM-281A**  
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**TH-D74A**  
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**YAESU**  
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**FT-991A**  
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