

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 57, NUMBER 11, November 2007

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAgraphs



Celebrating 70 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*
The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



CALENDAR

- Nov..... 2, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- Oct..... 6, **PAARAFest**
- Nov..... 7, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- Nov..... 10, **KNTV/KSTS Tour** 10 AM
- Nov..... 2, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- Nov..... 7, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
- Dec..... 7, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- Dec..... 12, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30



President's corner November 07



Halloween has not happened as I write this, but I can feel it in the air. The first few rain storms have blown through (admittedly my favorite kind of weather) and left behind that special clean smell which I have never experienced at any other time. It is truly autumn now with the passing of the equinox and, for the first time last night, I saw the constellation Orion peek up over the horizon before midnight. It was really a grand sight.

It's been a busy month for ham activities as well. In particular we had the PAARA general meeting on 10/5 followed the next day by the California QSO Party, Amateur Radio Technology Day, and the PAARAFest all on the same day. Yikes! It was tough to choose what to do. I ended up choosing the PAARAFest and had a wonderful time courtesy of **Joel, KD6W**, and his wife **Margaret**. They graciously opened up their home to club members and allowed many of us to display equipment that we had available for auction. There were several tables of things ranging from tubes to an EME capable fold-up dish mounted on a trailer. I was on the buying side of the auctions and was able to collect a few more treasures for my shack. Beyond the gear, there were various delicacies of the hot dog and hamburger variety, soft drinks, and, most importantly, beer. Margaret even had a rack of free clothing inside the house and I found treasures there too. It was a wonderful day. The most important ingredient of all, though, was the people of PAARA.

At our last PAARA general meeting we had a discussion of the procedures leading up to the election of officers and board members for 2008. The current slate of nominees should be published this month in PAARAgaphs in preparation for the close of nominations at the end of the November general meeting on 11/2 this year. You may notice that we have several key spots left to fill. If you have ever contemplated taking a leadership position in your club then now is your chance. In particular, we are searching for someone interested in the role of Vice President / Program Chair. I am willing to split that into two positions if it makes the task easier for someone. If you are interested in any leadership role,

(Continued on page 124) president's corner

NEXT MEETING

November. 2, 2007

PROGRAM:



(Program not confirmed at press time.)

PAARA Election for 2008

Presented by the Election Committee:

- President, Kristen McIntyre K6WX
- VP no candidate
- Secretary no candidate
- Treasurer, Ron Chester W6AZ
- Board seats, Gerry Tucker N6NV, Byron Beck KG6UOB

Nominations from the floor
will be open only at the November Meeting only.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.



Minutes of the October Board Meeting

Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross at 10/10/2007, starting at about 7:20. Present at that time were: **Kristen McIntyre K6WX (President)**, **Joel Wilhite KD6W (Vice President)**, **Doug Teter KG6LWE (Director)**, **Gerry Tucker N6NV (Director)**, **Rick Melrose K6RDM (Membership)**, **Wally Porter K6URO (Newsletter)**,

Chuck Johnson K6VFH, **Vic Black AB6SO**. A quorum was present. Shortly thereafter, we were joined by **Ron Chester W6AZ (Treasurer)**.

Starting with old business, the Board voted to accept minutes of September's Board meeting as published, and the President reported that the PAARAFest was a great success—thank you, **Joel!!** (and **Margaret**, and **Doug KG6LWE**, and everyone else that helped); that we need to encourage club members to write articles for PAARAGraphs; and finally, that **Dennis Wilson KA6LSW**, our webmaster, is alive and well. We were delighted to hear that **Dennis** is recuperating. The Board then heard from **Doug Teter KG6LWE** on behalf of the election committee about the progress of the nominations. We next entertained the Vice President's report and discussed future speakers and tour possibilities. In particular, the KNTV tour is scheduled for November 10th—thank you, **Joel!!**—and I for one and looking forward to this event with baited breath.

Ron Chester W6AZ delivered a thorough and upbeat Treasurer's report: The raffle last time broke even. In addition to being a social success, and a radio success, the PAARAFest brought in \$1400 in gross sales! (Thanks again to **Joel KD6W** and everyone else involved with PAARAFest!) In fact, the club has so far this year more than doubled its total receipts for donated gear over all of last year! And last year brought in \$3300! We took a moment to appreciate the generosity of all those who have donated equipment to the club, including **Frank** and **Dean W6OEB**. The raffle is doing so well that at this point, we are within \$70 of the proceeds for all of last year! (Thank you **Jim Rice K6AK!!**) Total dues are up \$400 this year, as well, mostly because of an increase in membership. Raffle costs are down from last year, in part thanks to donations from **Vic Black AB6SO**. **Vic** pointed out that the club might have to file an Annual Electronic Notice with the IRS and **Ron W6AZ** will take care of this. The KPH trip did a bit better than break-even.

Rick Melrose K6RDM reported that the membership database is progressing smoothly, and that we have 190 paid members. He is looking for volunteers to help him out with taking renewals at the next few meetings. When **Dennis Wilson KA6LSW** resumes his work on our web site, we will look into the possibility of web-based renewals. The Board discussed possibilities for encouraging people to renew in December. Postage costs have increased for PAARAGraphs, and after much discussion, the Board voted to raise member-

ship dues from \$18/year to \$20/year. We noted that this amount was no more and in many cases, less, than other clubs we were aware of.

At the last meeting, the Board decided that the club needed a replacement for its video projector, which is becoming less and less reliable at each meeting. **Joel Wilhite KD6W**, our Vice President, who gets paid real money for his technical expertise in video when he is not making microwave rigs or contacts, had volunteered to research video projectors and choose a suitable candidate. At this meeting, he reporting on his provisional choice. The Board voted to authorize Joel to further investigate, and at his discretion, to purchase said projector on behalf of the club. (Thank you, **Joel!**).

Moving on to new business, we discussed the upcoming PAARA/FARS winter banquet. Although it cannot be officially announced, I can report that there is a strong possibility of an amazing speaker! (Thanks to **Jim Rice K6AK!**)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40.

Brune boys visit PAARA

Members attending October's PAARA meeting were treated to a surprise visit by Steve Brune, KG6OUB and his son Ian, K6IAN. Many of you will remember Steve and Ian as very active members of the club prior to the family's move to the Boise, Idaho area several years ago. Steve was our official photographer and Field Day sign-maker and Ian served faithfully as assistant ticket master.

Steve, now sporting a beard, and Ian looking about a foot taller than last we saw him, are both still paid-up members and enjoy keeping up with club happenings through their monthly issue of PAARAGraphs. It was great to see you both at the meeting and PAARAFest. Come back soon!

~Doug KG6LWE

PAARA/FARS January 25th Holiday Dinner News:

Marty Knutson, W0BBV and U-2 pilot will be the featured speaker. Marty's presentation will be a "once in a lifetime" opportunity, to experience what it was like to fly a U-2 over Russia during the "Cold War". Additional program information and speaker biography will follow. The Banquet is open to all.

~Jim K6AK

MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

To maintain a reliable PAARA Rooster, Data Base, PAARAGraphs mailings

ALL CHANGES OR CORRECTIONS

Should only go to:

Database Manager:

Rick Melrose K6RDM,
408-732-2247, k6rdm@arrl.net

PAARAgaphs—November 2007
Celebrating 70 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*



photo N6NV

Rolf, Mike, Erik, Doug, Rich
The missing ham is the one taking the picture! But your shadow(?) is there Gerry!



Larry Bachman, KA6EZF, admiring his father's tower. (Bip, W6BIP, sk). Larry gifted the tower and much of Bip's ham gear to PAARA.

photo N6NV



photo N6NV

John Bartelme (center) gifting his 3 section Tristao tower to PAARA and the trusty PAARA crew moving it to the trailer storage site.
2007/08/17 23:08



view

photo N6NV



Separating the tower into manageable sections

photo N6NV



photo KG6LWE

PAARAfest a smashing success!

A huge “Thanks!” goes out to the **Wilhite** family for once again hosting the fall get-together, which **Joel** has dubbed PAARAfest, at their home in Menlo Park. A great time was had by all who attended.

In addition to a relaxing afternoon of socializing, cold Octoberfest beer and soft drinks as well as hot burgers, dogs and brat’s right off the grill were enjoyed outside in the sunshine of a perfectly beautiful day.

Rounding out the event was the fundraising sale of donated equipment, parts and test gear. Lots of happy hams went home with new toys, and our treasurer, **Ron Chester** was seen smiling as he counted up the receipts.

Additional thanks are due to **Dean Babcock, W6OEB**, for his extremely generous donation of equipment and test gear, and to the members whose purchases support the club.

~Doug KG6LWE

PAARAfest



photo W6DH



photo W6DH



photo W6DH

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PAARAgaphs—November 2007
Celebrating 70 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

(Continued from page 119) president's corner

please contact me. My contact information is published each month in our newsletter.

The PAARA board meeting that occurred on 10/10 entertained and passed a motion to raise the yearly dues for our club slightly from the current \$18 to \$20. It was a difficult decision and it was based on increases we have seen in various expenses, including numerous postal rate increases. We are sorry to have to do this, but it seemed as though it was the best way to ensure that PAARA can continue stay on a solid financial footing and bring you all of the activities that you have come to enjoy. Even at this increased dues rate we are still one of the less expensive clubs around and one of the last to mail you a paper copy of our newsletter. We think that's pretty special - one of those things which distinguish PAARA from all of the others.

Our last Electronics Flea Market of the year has just passed and I'll really miss it until it returns in the spring. I want to offer up a hardy PAARA thanks to everyone at ASVARO and the sponsoring organizations who keep this institution alive in this era of throw away cell phones. Ham radio would be a lot poorer if it were to lose this ham pilgrimage, as **Andy, KR6DD** calls it. I urge all of you to do what you can to help keep our flea market alive and thriving.

Unfortunately I will be absent from the next PAARA meeting. It's the first one I've missed in quite a while, but I will be traveling to one of my favorite places, Santa Fe, NM. I'll be at a conference there as I enjoy the unique taste of those Santa Fe enchiladas. I plan to bring an HF radio and perhaps I'll catch one of you on the air. **Joel, KD6W**, our Vice President will be your host for the November meeting and will handle the close of the nomination process. Please give him your full support.

Lastly, don't forget the KNTV tour which is now scheduled for 11/10. Please contact **Joel, KD6W**, for details. I'll see you all in person at the big December meeting. Don't forget about the Dream to Reality Raffle and that K3 we are giving away in December! Be there or be square. You don't want to miss it.

~Kristen McIntyre K6WX, PAARA President



photo K6WX

photo K6WX

What Happened to the Repeater?

Rich Stiebel, W6APZ

I frequently bike ride or walk while listening to the local repeater via an earphone. There I am going along looking at the scenery when suddenly, the repeater disappears. When this first happened, I had no idea what was going on. When it happened again, I was suddenly in the middle of a different conversation. That prompted me to look at the HT. The frequency had changed even though the keyboard on my Kenwood TH-F6 had been and still was, locked.

Upon further investigation, I realized that this multiband rig had changed from the A band to the B band, or sometimes the other way around. With additional experience, I realized that when this band switching took place, the submini earplug had partially pulled out from its jack, yet sound would still come through the earpiece.

Looking at the Kenwood manual revealed that the earphone jack doubles as the computer remote programming input. Apparently partially or momentarily disconnecting the earphone contact is equivalent to the computer telling the radio to change bands.

OK, so now I understand the problem. When riding a bike or even walking looking at the scenery, my head moves, as does the rest of my body as I'm enjoying the scenery. Apparently there is sufficient motion to sometimes dislodge the earphone plug. These submini plugs/jacks just don't have the same holding force as the old 1/4" RCA phone jacks! What to do?

The TH-F6 is designed to operate on three bands. While one can monitor two bands at the same time, one *can* program any frequency into any channel of the A or B bands. So, I quickly learned to program the frequency of my local repeater into both bands and have that frequency show up when I toggle the A/B band switch. That way when the band shifts, all I hear is a momentary "beep" but the repeater continues to come through loud and clear. This solution might just work on other rigs as well. Give it a try!

"The K3 – High Performance Design" SPEAKERS:

Wayne Burdick, N6KR and Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ
"the Elecraft guys"

Wayne Burdick (N6KR) and Eric Swartz (WA6HHQ) founded Elecraft in 1998. "We're dedicated to *hands-on* ham radio. We offer unique, high-performance transceivers and accessories that you can easily build yourself."

Eric and Wayne will cover the key features and design aspect of the K3. They will have a digitized signal source that generates 40 kHz of recorded HF spectrum for the demo. It has actual CW and SSB signals that they will tune.

Check out the radio that everyone is talking about! You will see quality engineering at its finest, unbelievable receiver performance, and be entertained by "the Elecraft guys" who are leaders in "High Performance Design." *Jim K6AK*

Osprey hanging from antenna rescued through group effort

By Leslie Williams

Sometimes it takes a village.

An adult male osprey, hanging helplessly by a single talon, was rescued from a **resident's ham radio antenna** Friday morning with the help of Marco Island Fire-Rescue, Rookery Bay, the Conservancy of Southwest Florida and a few residents.

Osprey rescued



Firefighter/paramedic Paul MacMillan climbed the ladder leaned against resident John Abbiuso's radio antenna Friday just after 9 a.m., to free the bird. Bystanders say it had been hanging there since at least 7:30, unable to free itself. Abbiuso lives on Ludlam Court, just south of Winterberry Drive.

Abbiuso said the bird stops by regularly to survey his domain from the antenna, which can reach up to 75 feet in height. Abbiuso, whose call sign is KIPQY, said he has been a ham radio enthusiast for 50 years, though the antenna is only about eight years old.

When MacMillan was finally able to free the bird by pushing against its caught talon, it fell ungracefully onto the roof of the house, about 10 feet below. MacMillan is no stranger to bird rescue. He said his very first rescue on the island 19 years ago was a parrot stuck in a tree.

Before the responding crew could reposition the ladder to net the bird, it wiggled off the roof and flew across Partridge Court before landing in the canal.

Nearby resident Juliette Noens said the bird usually makes a circuit between the antenna and two palm trees bordering the back yard of her house on Partridge Court. She helped lead experts from Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to the injured bird where it landed in the canal.

The distressed animal flailed through the water, eventually reaching the sea wall where two Rookery Bay employees lifted it from the water without much of a fight.

Amelia Horadam, the Environmental Learning Center manager, and Beverly Anderson, a research biologist, plucked the bird from the water before handing it over to Rebecca Galligan, a wildlife rehabilitation specialist called in from the Conservancy of Southwest Florida.

Rebecca Galligan, of the Conservancy, said after stabilizing the osprey that its toe was broken, and that the bird would likely need two to three weeks to recover. She said it would be released on the island once fully recovered.

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PAARA / December 07
 “Dream to Reality” Raffle News:

**1st Prize: Elecraft K3 HF-
 6m, 10W All-Mode Transceiver
 Factory Assembled**



photo K6WX

Congratulations: October 5th 2007 PAARA Raffle Prize Winners

- 1st Prize:** Pat Sullivan / Yaesu FT-2800M / 2m / 65W / Mobile
- 2nd Prize:** Rob Goodson / N2RAG / KG6HOB / Yaesu VX-170 / 2m / 5 Watt / FM / HT
- 3rd Prize:** Bill Parsons / AF6AE / Weller 40 Watt Solder Station
- 4th Prize:** Mike Furman / N6IL / Red-Dee-2 Connect PS-4 Power Pole Connector
- 5th Prize:** Rick Melrose / K6RDM / ARRL Hints and Kinks 16th Edition
- 6th Prize:** Don Chambers / AE6WH / ARRL Desktop Repeater Directory 2006-2007
- 7th Prize:** Jaime Sedano / KG6HOB / 8-LED Metal Flashlight with 3 AAA Batteries
- 8th Prize:** Bill Parsons / AF6AE / Gordon West 8 Audio CD's 0-5 WPM CW Learning Course

PAARA Members and Visitors: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the exciting monthly raffles! Since Feb. 03, **108 Radios**, including a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams, THANKS TO YOU!

PAARA is having a remarkable year in 2007! If you aren't a member, please join PAARA now, and experience fun 2007 events with the "friendliest club around."

~K6AK Jim



PAARA November 2nd 2007 Meeting

PAARA "The Friendliest Club Around"

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. www.paara.org

Date and Time: Friday, November 2nd at 7 p.m.

Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA.

Welcome Members and Visitors / Raffle Prizes:

FIRST PRIZE: Alinco DM-330 MVT

30 Amp Power Supply



- * Variable Output 5 to 15 VDC
- * Convenient Front Panel Connectors: Cigar Plug Socket 10A +
- 2 Sets Snap Terminals 5A + Max. Current Terminals
- * Backlit Amp / Volt Meter
- * Protection: Short-Circuit + Automatic Current Limiting

SECOND PRIZE: Super Antennas MP1

Portable HF 7- 450 MHz Antenna with Tripod



- 3.5 - 4MHz with Optional Coil
- QRP to 200W Operation
- Adjust Slider to Frequency and Snug Down Band Lock Screw
- Portable / Easy to Set Up Operation

THIRD PRIZE: Red Cross / FR-250 / AM/FM/SW Emergency Radio / with Flashlight

FOURTH PRIZE: ARRL 2007 Handbook with CD-ROM

FIFTH PRIZE: ARRL Desktop Repeater Directory 2006-2007

SIXTH PRIZE: Sterling Deluxe Wire Stripper

SEVENTH PRIZE: FCC Part 97 Rules and Regulations

EIGHT PRIZE: Gordon West 8 Audio CD's 0-5 WPM CW Learning Course

Since February 2003, 108 Radios, including a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIG,
a Yaesu FT-897D, and Two Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams.

Special Thanks to Bob, Howard, Rick, Mark, and everyone at HRO for their continued
SUPPORT!

~K6AK Jim

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PAARA Radio NET
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 every Monday evening
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 on the
145.230 – 600 MHz repeater
PL tone off

control operators:

Week	Operator
1 st Mon.	Pink Foster, KG6ILA
2 nd Mon.	Peter Sheerin, K6WEB
3 rd Mon.	Doug Teter, KG6LWE
4 th Mon.	Terry Ridgeway, N6ZAG
5 th Mon.	Doña a Kerns, KI6DAR



Directions to PAARA meeting:
<http://paara.org/meetings/>

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 Menlo Park Rec Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230 – 600 MHz repeater, PL tone off.

Membership in PAARA is \$18.00 per calendar year, which includes one subscription to PAARAgaphs \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter). Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911

Permission is granted to reprint from this publication with appropriate source credit.

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

QSO
November 2nd
gab & gobble



Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own food order.

5:30 pm—at Su Hong Restaurant
1039 El Camino Real
Menlo Park

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 Walking distance from Caltrain!*

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If you or your employer have a service to offer or a product to sell, please consider running an ad or an infomercial in PAARAgaphs. Remember that this little publication is distributed to many hams and ham radio supporters who will read it cover to cover. Simply contact the PAARAgaphs representative, Terry Finn, AA6T, at:

aa6t@arrl.net or 650-366-9111 to submit an ad.

W6AZ



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SURPLUS CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED/WANTED FOR HAM RADIO INTEGRATION

Apple G4 DESKTOP CPU (hard drive not required)
 VHS VCR (if possible with SVHS playback)
 CABLE READY TV (with working remote control)
 TNX & 73

Contact PAARA MEMBER CHUCK N6VFH
 Email: n6vfhmailbox@yahoo.com

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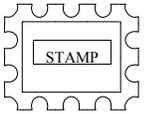
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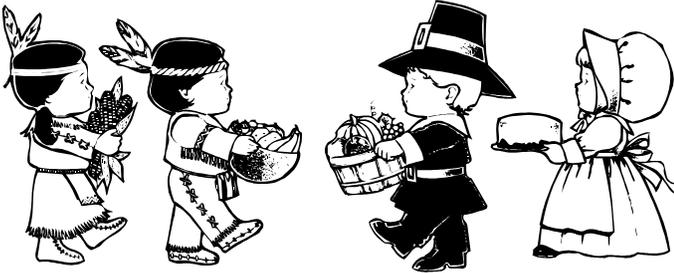
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- These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association. The PAARAgaphs editors 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 Terry Finn, AF6TF



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- Backlit Power Key Panel

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DR-1351T 2M mobile

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Low Pricing!

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