W6ARA

## PAARA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 60, NUMBER 12, December 2010

K6OTA

K6YQT

# PAARAgraphs

The Official Newsletter of the

## Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 73 years as an active amateur radio club—Since 1937

## **CALENDAR**

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December 3, PAARA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

MENLO PARK COUNCIL CHAMBERS
700 ALMA ST., MENLO PARK

December 15, Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome!

Palo Alto Red Cross

Palo Alto Red Cross 400 Mitchell Lane, Palo Alto

December 15 is also the DEADLINE for PAARAgraphs submissions. Send items to Robin Yee, KI6YTA@ARRL.net

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## Don't miss our next meeting! DECEMBER 3, 2010

Our program will be...

Elecraft co-founder

## ERIC SWARTZ, WA6HHQ,

will tell us about ELECRAFT K3 Features & Developments

## **HOME-BREW NIGHT!**

Show off your original home-made, ham radio-related items **Prizes awarded for top three entries** 

## **DREAM TO REALITY RAFFLE!**

**PAARA Officer Elections** 

## **President's Corner**

The end of 2010 is upon us, and PAARA has exciting events to take you toward the holidays, and through the end of the year and beyond. We have an exciting program lined up and we hope to see you at our next meeting. A quick note just in case you don't read any further, the December PAARA general meeting will be held in the Menlo Park City Council chambers, just a short walk from the Burgess



Recreation Center, where we usually meet.

This last month has already been filled with fun Amateur Radio events. At the October FARS sponsored Amateur Radio Technology Day at the SLAC National Accelerator Center, I had a chance to meet up with long time PAARA member, and fellow 9am Talk Net NCS, Pink Foster, K7ILA (ex KG6ILA). We had dinner together with Kit WA6PWW, Joanna K6YRU, Jake N6EWS, Byron KG6UOB, and Keith KG6ZJI (I think that's everyone). A fun time was had by all, and it was really great to catch up with Pink on what's hap-

(Continued on page 125) Pres Corner

## Welcome New PAARA Members!

Elaine Miller KJ6AOE Newark
Bill Hewitt KJ6IWH Mountain View
Tom Arnold AF6YW San Bruno
Kate Ebneter AF6ZN San Jose

Be sure to check out the ALL NEW PAARA WEB-SITE! www.paara.org

650-856-2748

#### VE Exams, 3rd Saturday each month, 10:30AM, 145.23- PL=100Hz

Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA

contact: http://amateur-radio.org/ or 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-October, 6am-2pm

Howard M. Krawetz, N6HM 650-856-9761 Contact: http://www.electronicsfleamarket.com.

LIVERMORE SWAP MEET. Now in Robertson Park, Livermore, every first Sunday of the month. 7 am to 11:30 am. Free admission for buyers. For further info, see.

#### www.larkswap.com or contact Ian Parker, W6TCP at swapmeet@livermoreark.org

PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Menlo Park Rec. Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See our website at <a href="http://www.paara.org/">http://www.paara.org/</a> 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.k6ya.org/

#### NCDXC Northern California DX Club

meets 2nd Friday 7:30pm each month

repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM contact: http://ncdxc.org/ or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

#### OCWA 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

#### NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club

meets 1st Sunday each month

contact: http://www.norcalqrp.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, San Carlos City Hall. 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, 442.425+ (pl 107.2) Thur. meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.

contact: http://www.qsl.ndv/scara/ or Clark Murphy KE6KXO 408-262-9334 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 ORZ 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

52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF: 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss

223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss

441.35 (+5.0 88.5) ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

Meetings are 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month. contact: <a href="http://wvara.org/">http://wvara.org/</a>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, N6FFC@Juno.com, or

N6FFC@ARRL.NET

#### American Red Cross, SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER

contact: <a href="http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org/">http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org/</a> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924 fshensley@Novell.com

(please send changes to PAARAgraphs editor: KI6YTA@arrl.net)

Please contact Rick Melrose to settle your 2010 membership dues so you can keep receiving your PAARAgraphs.

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

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

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	markc@binaryfaith.com		
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	N6CCH@arrl.net		

#### **Appointed Positions** Vic Black AB6SO

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
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	k6rdm@arrl.net	
Chaplain	Rev. Rick Line, KG6TMD	650 323 8544

kg6tmd@arrl.net

Public Affairs Vacant Station Trustee W6OTX, K6YQT, W6ARA.... Gerry Tucker, N6NV Station Trustee K6OTA.... Ron Chester, W6AZ

Property Manager ......Gerry Tucker, N6NV

Fund Raising Coordinator .Bob Korte, KD6KYT 408 396 4745

bob@rgktechsales.com Badge Coordinator.....Lynn Gentry, KG6JPV

Historian...... Christopher McIntyre, KG6SVI

Raffle Coordinator......Jim Rice, K6AK 650-851-2274 Ticket Master .....Kyle Rice, KG6MSK

Field Day Coordinator......Doug Teter, KG6LWE

ASVARO Rep.....Rolf Klibo, N6NFI n6nfi@arrl.net

Webmaster.....Mark Cohen K6EF .....markc@binaryfaith.com

Technical Coordinator.....Joel Wilhite. KD6W........650-325-8239 kd6w@arrl.net

QSL Manager.....Rob Riley, KI6INR (cell) 650 799-1607

ki6inr@arrl.net Speaker Coordinator Doug Teter, KG6LWE 650 325 8239

dteter@wcwi.com

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jdsinger@sbcglobal.net

#### PAARAgraphs—December 2010

Celebrating 73 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

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pening in Tucson. At the November AmTech Day, I set up a portable station with the K2, the PAC-12 antenna (with the infamous 39 radials!), and my newly acquired LiFEPO4 battery. I worked a number of stations on 15 meter PSK-31 and even worked a few IAs on phone. I realized again how much fun portable operations are, and how easy PSK-31 is. I worked Guatemala, Argentina, Japan, Asiatic Russia, and Brazil on 30-40 Watts. The battery also performed perfectly. I had the rig on from when I arrived at about 2pm until 5:30. When I arrived home and charged the battery, the charger indicated that I still had 28% charge. Not bad at all. I'm quite pleased with the performance, and the light weight is just a dream come true.

We had one fun contest at the end of October, and one at the beginning of November. The CQ World Wide SSB contest on Halloween weekend was great fun. I was able to work D4C on Cape Verde off western the coast of Africa. From my little squirt gun station, that was a great contact. The next weekend we had the ARRL Sweepstakes CW contest. I, unfortunately, did not have much time to work that contest, but maybe next year. I know that the NCCC really appreciates the participation of local Amateurs in ARRL Sweeps to help boost their club score. We have another fun contest coming up on the weekend after Thanksgiving: CQ World Wide CW. That will be a fun one for me, as I really need the signal to noise ratio advantage to work the fun DX. I'm really looking forward to both that, and ARRL Straight Key Night on January 1st (by GMT reckoning, of course). Come on out and pound the brass with us.

I want to extend an invitation to all PAARA members and non-members to come to our December meeting. This is our most special event of the year. As in past years, we have five big things going on. First we have membership renewals for 2011. There are also officer elections for the 2011 PAARA leadership team. **Note that you must be a** member for 2010 to vote in the election. Rick, K6RDM, will be ready accept your renewal for both years if you wish to vote. We will have our annual homebrew night! Be sure to bring those fun homemade projects to show us all what cool things you've made. We will also have a special speaker: Eric Swartz, WA6HHQ, from Elecraft. And that can only mean one thing; we will have a very special PAARA Dream to Reality Raffle featuring another K3! I don't think there is another club that has given away this many K3's, the hands down best transceiver that money can buy. A big thanks to Jim, K6AK, and Elecraft for making our dreams turn into reality again this year.

As you can see, we have a great December planned. On top of that, I'm pleased to announce that PAARA has agreed again this year to bring you, in cooperation with the Foothills Amateur Radio Society, the PAARA/FARS FARS/ PAARA Annual Winter Banquet on January 21st. Save the date. CU IN DEC AT PAARA DE K6WX.

-Kristen (K6WX)

## **Board Meeting Minutes**

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:30 PM on the 17th of November, 2010. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Sec, Database), Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir), Larry Rebarchik N6CCH (Dir), and Robin Yee KI6YTA (Editor). A quorum was not present.

**Secretary's Report:** Rick K6RDM reports that the minutes of the 23rd of September Board meeting had been previously submitted and approved.

**President's Report:** Kristen K6WX Reported that the presentation by Rob Goodson N2RAG at our the November General Meeting regarding the recent PG&E gas line explosion in San Bruno was of considerable interest to the members and was very well received.

Moreover, the December Meeting (NOT TO BE MISSED!) will be very special on several accounts: the Club will elect officers for the new year of 2011; we will be having our Home Brew Night with prizes for the winners; the presentation that evening will be by Eric Swartz WA6HHQ (one of the two founders of Elecraft); and finally, one of their Elecraft K3 kits will be 1<sup>st</sup> prize in our annual "**Dream to** Reality" Raffle. As in previous years, the December meeting will be held in the Council Chambers as our regular space will be in use for another function

Kristen spoke again about some good candidates in line for presentations for future PAARA Meetings and mentioned that Club members might have suggestions or candidates of their own to recommend — any such would

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(Board Meeting Minutes—Continued from page 125)

be welcomed. She mentioned that the new PAARA.org Club website, which John Miller K6MM has created, is continuing to progress and has been getting very good reviews from those who have visited it. Members are reminded that pictures and other suitable content are requested for inclusion. Discussion proceeded to plans currently in process of development for the Winter Banquet scheduled January 21<sup>st</sup> at Michael's Restaurant on Shoreline Blvd.

Larry N6CCH brought up the subject of disposition of some of the equipment contributions that have been made to the club and suggested that we might want to utilize some of our past methods of offering them for sale, first to the membership at club meetings and through PAARAgraphs, as well as on the website, and then via the ASVARO flea market, and perhaps on eBay. He will look into implementing silent auctions at the meetings and on the website and into the logistics of offering them on eBay.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

## **Tri-City VE Group Test Sessions**

Where: Hurricane Electric

48233 Warm Springs Blvd

Fremont, CA

When: Thursday, December 16, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, January 15, 9:00 a.m. Thursday, February 8, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, March 12, 9:00 a.m.

For more information, contact Rita, **KI6SSQ@arrl.net**, (510) 703-7090

Bernhard, <u>AE6YN@arrl.net</u>, (510) 364-0611 or visit

www.sbara.org.

## Congratulations to the winners of the November 2010 Raffle

1st Prize: Ilse Beck / KI6IBM / Yaesu FT-1900R / 2m / 55W /

Mobile

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Rick Melrose / K6RDM / Arrow Yagi Antenna

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Andy Gonzales / KG6RWO / Samlex / SPS-1206 / 5.5

Amp / Power Supply

4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Robin Moore / AF6QC / Battery Tender Junior / 12V /

Charger

5<sup>th</sup> Prize: John Conrady / KI6QQW / TWO FRS / GMRS Radios 6<sup>th</sup> Prize: Robert Krensky / KI6GCL / CQ Amateur Radio Cal-

endar

7<sup>th</sup> Prize: Dave Cooper / K6WA / Mini-Log

8<sup>th</sup> Prize: Doyle Kisler / KG6YUN / Nine-LED Flashlight

## DON'T MISS THE DECEMBER 3rd "DREAM TO REALITY" RAFFLE!

You could take home a top-of-the-line Elecraft K3!

Raffle tickets will be sold until 9:30.

## YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of PAARA's exciting monthly raffles!

PAARA had a remarkable year in 2010! If you are not yet a member, please join PAARA now and experience fun 2011 events with the "friendliest club around."

K6AK Jim

#### **PAARA Exemplary Service Award**

Gerry Tucker, N6NV 2005 Rice Family 2006 Jim K6AK, Lisa KG6KQS, Kyle KG6MSK Wally Porter, K6URO 2007 Vic Black, AB6SO 2008 ??? - 2009



## PAARAgraphs—December 2010 Celebrating 73 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

## PAARA "The Friendliest Club Around"

## "Dream to Reality" Raffle Prizes

## **GRAND PRIZE: Elecraft K3 HF - 6M**

## **Ultra-High Performance Transceiver**



- Main Receiver and Sub-Receiver Feature a High-Dynamic Range, Down-Conversion Analog Architecture
- Roofing Filters with Bandwidths as Narrow as 200 Hz
- Both Fixed- and Variable-Bandwidth Crystal Filters in Data, CW, and Voice-Mode Bandwidths
- Two 32-bit Digital Signal Processors Provide True Software-Defined Features, Along With Expansion Memory to Handle Future Signal Processing Tasks

## Special Thanks to Elecraft!

## SECOND PRIZE: YAESU FT-1900R 2m / 55W / Mobile

- Extended Receiver Coverage 136-174 MHz
- Illuminated Microphone with Keyboard Frequency Entry and Recall
- 200 Memory Channels with Alpha-numeric Labeling
- Dedicated 10-Channel NOAA Weather Broadcast Channels
- Adjustable Mic Gain and Wide/Narrow Deviation and RX Bandwidth



**THIRD PRIZE**: Solarlink FR-500 AM/FM/SW Radio / Flashlight / Cell Phone Charger

**FOURTH PRIZE:** Two FRS Radios

**FIFTH PRIZE:** CR-2 Short Wave Radio Kit

**SIXTH PRIZE:** DBJ-1 / VHF-UHF Dual-Band J-Pole **SEVENTH PRIZE:** Programmable Message Fan

**EIGHTH Prize:** Gordon West / 6 Tape Set / 10-28 wpm / CW Speed Builder

NINTH Prize: Nine-LED Flashlight

Since February 2003, **194 Radios**, including THREE Elecraft K3s, a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1s have gone to Fellow Hams.

Special Thanks to Howard, Jon, Mark, and everyone at HRO for their continued support!

## WHAT IT'S LIKE TO MAKE A PARACHUTE MOBILE JUMP

Chronicle of our Sept 2009 operation at Byron, CA by Mark Meltzer, AF6IM, "Jumper 1" ~ Part 1 ~

I am excited. This crazy daydream of combining ham radio and skydiving is actually turning into reality. We've arrived at the Byron CA dropzone with a handfull of enthusiastic and disciplined ham team members determined to make it all happen. We have to tread softly at first in the hardcore skydiving world and acclimate them to this novel use of freefall airspace. So far that diplomatic mission is going fine. Michael KF6WRW is a regular jumper at Byron and confers with the owner, the pilot and other jumpers. It works. Our team is welcomed warmly.

Parachute Mobile jumps are HAHO (high altitude high opening). Most skydives are HALO (high altitude low opening). I've been skydiving for over forty years and prior to Parachute Mobile all my jumps had been HALO freefalls. HAHOS and HALOS don't mix well without careful planning. On HAHO parachute mobile jumps, we exit the aircraft, freefall for about five seconds to get stable, then deploy our canopies. Our open canopies over the dropzone (DZ) area at high altitudes present significant collision hazards for subsequent freefall jumpers, so we must arrange to be on the ground before the next load exits. We check in with the fight manifest person, check with the DZ owner or safety officer, and check with the pilot so that everyone knows what the plan is and approves it.

Next the jumpers start gearing up. First I put on my jumpsuit. It isn't a wingsuit, but does have fabric extensions in different areas to give improved aerodynamic glide performance over plain coveralls. I then arm my automatic reserve chute opener (called an AAD, Automatic Activation Device) which must be done at the drop zone elevation so the device "knows" where the local ground level is and can activate the reserve if I pass through 700 feet AGL faster than 70 MPH vertically. The AAD offers my very last chance to survive if for some reason I fail to deploy a chute in time. I have done two cutaways from malfunctioing main chutes in my four decades of skydiving. In both cases was able to manually deploy my reserve parachute. I've never had an AAD activate, but I wouldn't jump without one. It just makes the odds better, especially if you are hit hard in a freefall collision and lose consciousness. The AAD has a baro sensor, a microcontroller, and a few thousand lines of code. I just hope the designers and programmers have all the bugs worked out. At 700 feet still in freefall you are out of options. It's obviously too late to install a software patch.

I put on my parachute rig next. It houses two chutes: my main and my reserve. I take great care not to twist any straps and check repeatedly to be sure that both leg straps and the chest strap are securely fastened and properly threaded through their respective buckles and fittings. I put on my wrist-mounted altimeter and calibrate it to zero. It is surprisingly easy to lose track of altitude in freefall, especially when doing formation work. Helmet-mounted audible altimeter alarms enhance safety. I have never lost altitude awareness, but it only takes one lapse to put you at death's door, so I buy and use audible altimeters, an AAD, and just about every safety device made for skydiving.

Mounting of the radio gear depends on whether it is just stuffed into a jumpsuit pocket or carried in a strap attached pack. If a pack is used, it is put on before the parachute rig so that you don't accidentally impair or prevent access to various emergency handles for main chute cutaway or reserve activation. Rob Fenn, KC6TYD, is in charge of tactical ops and checks and double checks all radio mounting and rigging looking carefully for any loops or snag points that could interfere with a deploying parachute. Snags can be fatal. A jumper at this very dropzone died when his deploying chute snagged a shoe grommet.

Next I check my radios, make a test call to mission control, and make sure all cords and cables are properly at-

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tached and routed. I make one more gear check and then ask Michael, KF6WRW jumper 2, to check my jump gear. Jumper 2 looks at my cutaway hardware, checks the seating of opening pins for the main and reserve (each has only a single pin through a looped cord keeping them from deploying, so the pins MUST be secure) and checks to make sure my main pilot chute is properly configured and packed. I return the favor. Jumpers have fallen away from their rigs on opening because their chest strap was incorrectly routed through a buckle. Incredibly, one jumper wearing camera gear put on his jumpsuit and camera helmet but forgot to put on his parachute rig, Shockingly, nobody caught his error and he exited without a chute. His video camera recorded his last 75 seconds of life. You can never have too many gear checks.

Manifest announces "load 14, ten minute call" over the DZ loudspeaker. That means I will be climbing aboard our PAC 250 turboprop jumpship in ten minutes, so I head out to the pickup taxiway area. HAHO jumpers are usually the last to exit so we board first. It is VERY cramped aboard the jumpship. It is also very loud during climb when the engine is set at high power. You sit facing rearward, on the floor or astride a small raised longitudinal bench, packed in like sardines with your knees literally in your face. Before takeoff I fasten an aircraft safety belt though a strap on my rig. I put on my helmet and the takeoff roll starts. It is hot inside the plane with tightly packed bodies and no AC. Soon we are airborne. The plane climbs fast into cooler air. I mentally run over the jump plan, check my straps and buckles again, and start running through my emergency drills so that I will be ready to cutaway should my main chute fail to properly deploy. As we get closer to jump altitude (typically 14,000 ft AGL) jumpers give each other palm slaps, high fives, and other rituals. At many DZs, the ancient skydive chant "BLUE SKIES BLACK DEATH" is shouted out loud by all the jumpers as the plane turns onto jump run. Some say it was used by the Army Airborne troops (paratroopers) during WW 2, but its origins remain murky. That grim chant always creeps me out. I'm glad that it is not on the prejump playlist at Byron.

Soon we are on jump run, the final approach to the exit point. The door is opened and jumpers await the green light as the pilot is using GPS to spot the exit. If the jumpers are doing the spotting, one leans out the door and eyeballs the position, giving left and right hand signals to the pilot. Flaps are lowered and speed is reduced. Jumpers start exiting. You can feel the plane buck and pitch as it rapidly sheds weight in roughly 200 pound increments. Exiting jumpers look below to assure that they have adequate separation from formation groups that have exited in "chunks" before them. I am no longer scared jumping out the door, but watching others fall like rocks as they leave the plane gives an eerie and alarming 3D look to a landscape that had previously seemed 2D and non threatening. My heart rate accelerates, but more out of excitement than fear. As a novice jumper these pre jump moments at the open door were beyond scary. They were absolutely terrifying. The exits no longer scare me, but the freefall jumps still do, at least until my chute opens. I view the change with mixed emotions: mostly relief but also a bit of longing for the old adrenaline surge, terror, and other emotional extremes that confronted me at the open door looking down from 14,000 feet.

Finally, the plane is almost empty. The HAHO Parachute Mobile jumpers have tightened their helmet straps just before jump run and now stand next to the open door. I exit carefully, rolling forward, being sure not to hop up and risk a tail strike. The view of the plane receding rapidly as I fall away from it gets my heart racing. I arch my body hard to get stable and soon, as vertical speed increases, I assume a face-to-earth stable freefall position and am ready to deploy my chute. I reach behind me (the new rigs do not have front mounted main ripcords), grope for a small ball (it is completely out of your field of view) attached to the apex of my collapsed pilot chute, pull it out from a tight spandex pocket, and toss it horizontally into the air roaring past. It quickly catches air, pulls out the closing pin from its closing loop, and releases the bagged main chute, which pulls me upright as it unfolds and inflates. I have deployed prior to reaching terminal velocity so the opening is much slower than I am used to. "Come on... come onnnnn...open up..." I mutter as it slowly inflates. I see jumper 2, KF6WRW, in the distance and his chute inflates even more slowly than mine did. I wonder what Michael is muttering during his prolonged opening.

(Look for the exciting conclusion to AF6IM's story in the January issue of PAARAgraphs!)

## National Weather Service Honors Ham Radio Operators Dec 4

Newington, CT Nov 17, 2010 -- The National Weather Service's annual SKYWARN<sup>®</sup> Recognition event will take place Saturday, December 4. Cosponsored by the National Weather Service (NWS) and ARRL, the national association for Amateur Radio, SKYWARN Recognition Day is the National Weather Service's way of expressing its appreciation to Amateur Radio operators for their commitment to keep communities safe.

Amateur Radio operators (often called "hams") volunteering as storm spotters are an extremely valuable asset to National Weather Service operations because they are cross-trained in both communications and severe storm recognition. Typical SKYWARN operations during severe weather provide direct communication between mobile spotters and local NWS offices giving critical "ground truth" information for forecasters. Instant spotter reports of events such as hail size, low-level cloud rotation and wind damage, given in real time, greatly assist the weather centers. Their reports can be then be correlated with Doppler radar displays which may not see lower level activity in storms. The results are more accurately worded statements or issuing life-saving warnings a few precious minutes earlier than would otherwise have been possible.

While the 2010 hurricane season has been fairly quiet in the US, Amateur Radio's people are also deeply involved with the Hurricane Watch Net (HWN). The HWN, which organized in 1965, began as an informal group of amateurs that has developed into a formal relationship with the National Hurricane Center in Miami via its Amateur Radio station WX4NHC. Ham radio operators and volunteers at Miami work together when hurricanes threaten, providing real-time weather data and damage reports to the Hurricane Center's forecasters.

Over 100 National Weather Service regional offices will be participating in this year's event to recognize the community service of ham radio people.

For full information see: http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio

## Frequently Asked Questions about SKYWARN Recognition Day

#### What is SKYWARN Recognition Day?

SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day SKYWARN operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world. Information regarding SRD is updated at http://hamradio.noaa.gov.

#### Why are the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League cosponsoring the event?

The NWS and the ARRL both recognize the importance that amateur radio provides during severe weather. Many NWS offices acquire real time weather information from amateur radio operators in the field. These operators, for example, may report the position of a tornado, the height of flood waters, or damaging wind speeds during hurricanes. All of this information is critical to the mission of the NWS which is to preserve life and property. The special event celebrates this special contribution by amateur radio operators.

#### When is SKYWARN Recognition Day?

This year SKYWARN Recognition Day begins at 0000 UTC on December 4, 2010. It will last 24 hours.

#### How many NWS stations are participating in the event?

It is estimated that around 100 NWS stations will participate this year.

#### PAARAgraphs—December 2010

Celebrating 73 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

#### Is this a contest or what?

No, this is not a contest, so no scoring will be computed. This is simply a group of stations transmitting from NWS offices during the same time. Similar event occurs every year on the amateur radio calendar. For example, hams operate from lighthouses across the world during one weekend and from naval ships/submarines during another.

#### OST magazine usually lists Special Event stations in a compiled list every month. Will our station be listed there?

If you want your individual station to be listed in the Special Event section of QST magazine, you must submit your information following the ARRL submission policies. You can go to <a href="https://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html">www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html</a> for complete information on how to do this. Remember, though, the deadline to get this information to QST is fast approaching.

#### We would like to publicize the event in the media. Can we do it?

You bet.

#### Is there a national point of contact?

Yes, there are three points-of-contact:

Matt Mehle (Matthew.Mehle@noaa.gov)

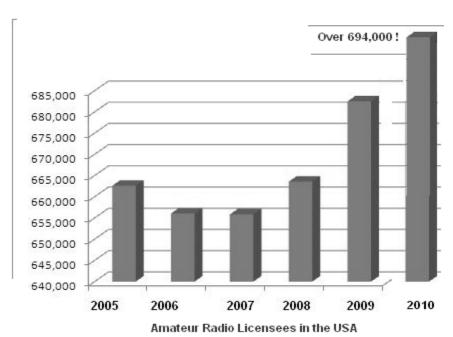
Dave Floyd (David.L.Floyd@noaa.gov)

Scott Mentzer (Scott.Mentzer@noaa.gov)

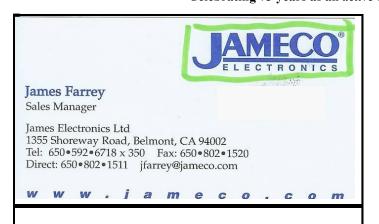
#### Is this an annual event?

Yes. This is the 12th consecutive year that the event has been held.

## Is Ham Radio Dying?



SOURCE: Allen Pitts, W1AGP ARRL Media & PR Manager



# YOUR AD HERE See the next page for details

# The following badges are ready for pickup:

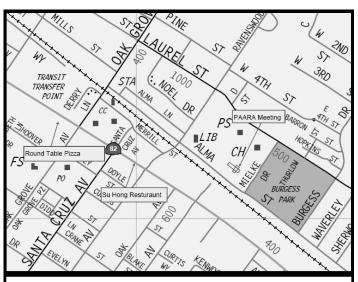
KG6GYY Art; KF6SRD Chuck; KG6QKN Francis; K6FEW Frank; K6TSR George; N6GYR George; KG6ZWQ Henri; N6JCY Joani; KG6QKQ Kali; K6FTF Mark; K4AZY Mike; KJ6GBC Tony; & K6VVK Vincent

If you would like to order a badge, see Lynn Gentry, KG6JPV.

## **PAARA Weekly Radio Net**

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

<u>Week</u>	Control Operator
1 <sup>st</sup>	Doug Teter - KG6LWE
$2^{nd}$	Robin Yee—KI6YTA
$3^{\rm rd}$	Jack Pines - W1VSL
$4^{th}$	Marty Wayne - W6NEV
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mike Bray - N6MEB



## **Directions to PAARA meeting:**

http://paara.org/meetings/

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

# Eye Ball QSO 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

across from Kepler's Book Store on El Camino Real Walking distance from Caltrain!

## 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 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$20.00 per calendar year, which includes one subscription to PAARAgraphs \$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

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## PAARAgraphs—December 2010

Celebrating 73 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

## DON'T **FORGET!**

Amateur Radio **Technology** Day

December 11th, 2010

> 8AM to 9PM

at the SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory

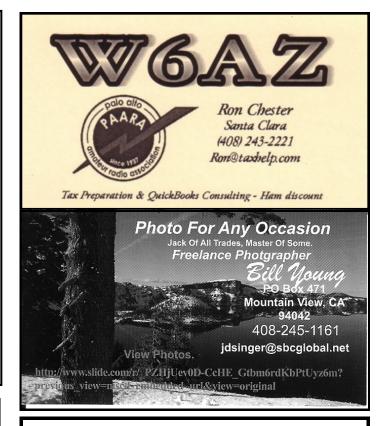
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#### PAARAgraphs E-mail address: Vladimir Vladimirovich ki6yta@arrl.net

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Submissions for PAARAgraphs by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday

Text: Photos:

MSWORD, RTF, or TEXT JPEG or TIFF raster images

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Rick Melrose K6RDM, 1-888-725-1895, k6rdm@arrl.net 

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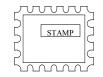
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- 2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.
- These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with ne association. The PAARAgraphs 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 Ron Chester, W6AZ

## PAARAgraphs — December 2010

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