

W6OTX**W6ARA****PAARA NEWSLETTER****K6OTA****K6YQT**

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PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.Celebrating 74 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

Next Meeting October 7, 2011

Rick Ferranti, W6NIR

Will talk about

A History of Radio Development in the US Forest Service, 1930 - 1960

When the USDA Forest Service (USFS) was established more than a century ago, the only way to report a forest fire was by horseback or on foot. Spearheaded by a grizzled forest ranger and radio hobbyist in 1927, the USFS pioneered the development of compact, rugged, simple field communications gear in the Pacific Northwest during the 1930's and 40's. A handful of forestry engineers, almost all of them radio amateurs, solved the problems of radioing through heavy timber and over mountains, becoming the first to discover and exploit a new high-frequency skywave propagation mode. Their VHF equipment surpassed all others in portability, performance, and innovation.

This presentation will feature dozens of vintage photographs, a film excerpt, and exhibits and demos of rare Forestry radio gear dating from spark transmission to a 1930's HF QRP portable transceiver.

President's Corner

The fall contest season is getting into high gear, and luckily propagation is too. We've had lots of new sunspots appear, several coronal mass ejections, and what sounds like good CONDX into Europe and beyond over the last few weeks. This will make the fall contests, including CQP, much more fun and interesting. Beyond CQP there are other great contests, and of course some fun DX to work.



I want to take a moment right away to apologize for the unexpected room switch to the Council Chambers for the September PAARA general meeting. We were unaware of the change in plans until we all started to show up at the Recreation Center. I hope that nobody was discouraged or uninformed of the change that evening. I have discussed this with our contact the Rec Center, and it appears to have been a simple miscommunication. I have been told that we are only scheduled to use the Council Chambers again for the December meeting this year, barring any unforeseen circumstances. I am also told that a solution to the reverb in the Rec Center meeting room is close at hand. I don't know the exact date

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

when the necessary work will be undertaken, but it should happen very shortly.

It's been a very interesting few weeks for our sun. There have been a number of X-class flares, the largest type, quite a few M-class flares, and several coronal mass ejections, or CMEs. While things are fairly quiet at the time of this writing, with only a single M1.8 in the last day, the week preceding the PAARA September meeting we had two X-class and five M-class flares. In addition, the sunspot number has been over 150 very regularly, pushing the 10.7cm solar flux index well above 100 (actually closer to 150) for long periods. In between those bursts of matter from the CMEs, we have had some nice support in the ionosphere for world-wide HF propagation. I have been able to work into Europe with my squirt gun station on 20m even at 10pm on some nights. That's really been a nice surprise. The Pacific Rim has been nice and loud too, so they are easy to work. Of course, this has been enhanced in my case by whatever local source of broadband noise there was simply disappearing for me after about 3 years of making my life miserable. I couldn't even receive broadcast AM signals during that time! Life is much better now.

Our little California QSO Party group that went to Trinity county last year is gearing up for another run this year, and with a new member. This effort is really driven by Rick, N6DQ, who found a great cabin in Lewiston, CA where we set up our stations. Myself and Joanna, K6YL, were also there last year, and this year we are joined by Rhona, K6RHO. We have also decided to set up some different antennas, and use some power. Rick is bringing hex-beams, and he is bringing a Tokyo Hy-Power amp. I'm bringing a pair of Heathkit SB-200s as well. We hope to get our run-rate up by running some power. With the improved propagation, we might get some DX activity too. I remember last year having a nice opening on 20m to EU around midday.

PAARA's Field Day log submission was recently posted to the ARRL website. It's a good time to remember to thank Ron, W6AZ, for preparing our Field Day submission. It's a wonderfully rich bound document that tells the story of another successful PAARA FD.

I want to remind everyone that PAARA officer elections are coming up shortly in November. Nominations will be generally open starting with our October meeting, and will close at the end of the November meeting. I am still, as of this writing, looking for people to serve on the election committee. If you are interested, please let me know. In addition, if you are interested in serving PAARA to bring our membership another great year of fun meetings and events, please don't hesitate to let any board member or officer know. We are in particular need of a Vice Presidential candidate and Program Chair.

Well, that's all for this month. I hope you enjoy the content we are putting together for you in PAARAgaphs. We have a very special article from PAARA member Hiro, AH6CY on the Enola Gay. BEST 73 ES CUL DE K6WX

Kristen (K6WX)



Christopher, KG6SVI, Back in School

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

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 Director ('11)..... Marty Wayne, W6NEV 408-246-7531
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 Director ('11)..... Larry Rebarchik N6DB 650-465-8210 (cell)
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Appointed Positions

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 ab6so@smrn.com
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 HistorianPosition *Position Vacant*
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Future PARRA Meeting Dates

Oct 7th, Nov 4th, Dec 2nd, Jan 6th, Feb 3rd

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.electronicfleamarket.com/>

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 <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

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 3rd 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 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.
 Contact: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara> 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 QRZ dot com/kv6r for class info

WVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223,
 while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.
 VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF: 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss
 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss
 Meetings are 3rd Wednesday of every month.
 Contact: <http://wvara.org>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, N6FFC@Juno.com, or
N6FFC@ARRL.NET

American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Contact: <http://santacalaravalle.redcross.org> or Scott Hensley KB6UOC, (408) 967 7924
shensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to [PAARAgaphs editor](#))

RE-CREATING THE ENOLA GAY RADIO DECK

Hiroki "Hiro" Kato AH6CY/ex-JA4AAO

This article first appeared in August 2011 Issue of Electric Radio

Part One
Part Two
Next Month

How it all began

On Aug. 6, 1945, three B-29 bombers flew over the city of Hiroshima, Japan. One of them, nicknamed Enola Gay¹, dropped the world's first atomic bomb, effectively ending WWII².



Photo 1, Mushroom cloud over Hiroshima



Photo 2, Enola Gay with Captain Tibbets

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

I was three and half years old, living 20 miles from the hypocenter, i.e. ground zero. I became a ham (JA4AAO) in 1957 when I was 15 years old and a high school student. My school was located less than a mile from where the bomb had been dropped; it was re-built hastily with shoddy material shortly after the end of the war. Everything within a mile radius had been destroyed and practically no one had survived the explosion. Ever since those days, I have wondered about the radio system the Enola Gay used on board on that mission. I came to the US in 1966 after college to do graduate study³ and eventually became a US citizen. I was licensed WH6AKI and then the current AH6CY in the 1970's when I lived in Honolulu and taught at the University of Hawaii⁴. After many years of reading, research and visits to museums, including the Smithsonian National Air and Space museum where I came face to face with the Enola Gay itself, I have learned details of the radios, accessories and how they were used on that mission⁵.



Photo 3, Hiroshima immediately after the bomb

It gradually became my dream to acquire and restore the entire set of radios and accessories of the same models as were on board the Enola Gay. It was really just a dream, and I didn't quite expect that it could become a reality some day in the hands of a mere individual like myself.

Some time in the early 1990's I got a call from Chicago from my ham friend and a former fellow faculty member at Northwestern asking me if I wanted a "junk" military radio about to be discarded by his next door neighbour who was preparing to move to an assisted living facility. Larry Pinto, N9FIA, was helping his neighbour to dispose of the accumulated junk. I asked him to check the model number of the radio and it turned out to be a BC348Q, albeit a heavily modified one in a pretty awful condition. So the next time I went to Chicago I schlepped (really!) it back to California as a carry-on luggage, a 35 lbs unwrapped piece (I was younger and my back was stronger then, hi). I doubt that the TSA would let you fly with such a thing these days. Well, that was the beginning of my collection.

The project was slow going, and not the highest priority in my life; I was too busy with work in those days. But I became much more conscientious about looking out for possible useable components for the project at every opportunity. Virtually at every electronic flea market I attended, I picked up



Photo 4, Enola Gay and me at Smithsonian

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

something useful for the project. An “ugly” large knife switch I bought for cheap turned out to be an SA13/U antenna switch. When I saw a pair of darkly tinted old dust covered military goggles, I bought it for nothing out of curiosity; I confirmed much later that it was the same model issued to the B29 crew on the Hiroshima mission⁶.

The advent of the Internet and its concomitant development of electronic markets such as eBay, eHam, QRZ.com and vintage radio sites such as the California Historic Radio Society and the Military Radio Collectors Group have increasingly become a boon for me to locate components and obtain relevant information⁷.

My Silicon Valley QTH is a fabulous place for restorers and home-brew enthusiasts like me⁸.

We in the Valley indeed are very lucky. I recently jumped in my car in the middle of working on the project, while my solder gun was still warm, just to get a replacement for a toggle switch that I had just damaged. Within 15 minutes I found a used but perfectly functional one of the right size for 99 cents! at Halted⁹.

Late in 2009 I decided to give a deadline for my project, coinciding with my club, the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association's home-brew night in December 2010, to finish at least the core part of the restoration and make the system operational and publicly presentable. My activities picked up a fast pace and, as it turned out, it has taken me a lot shorter time than I had anticipated once I got serious to get where I am now. I have collected and restored almost all of the items of the system, thanks to many unexpected encounters and kindness I received from many ham friends as I mention below. Hams are still exceptionally generous group of people. — Continued next month.

¹ Enola Gay is the name of the mother of Paul Tibbets, the captain of the B-29 and commander of the 509th Composite Group which had trained for the mission for nearly a year. He had the name painted on the aircraft the day before it took off from the Island of Tinian, cognizant that the flight was an historic one.

² There have been constant debates among historians, political scientists and philosophers as to the true reason for, and wisdom of, the use of the nuclear weapon with unprecedented and indiscriminate destructive power. My own view is that the dropping of the bomb at that juncture was inevitable and that it did help bring the war to an end sooner than otherwise and thus saved more lives of combatants and civilians on both sides of the conflict than if the war had continued longer, even though the bomb killed about 200,000 people of that city altogether, instantly and subsequently. I am convinced that nuclear threat remains the largest of all the risks that humanity faces today, bar none.

³ I did graduate work in political science and post graduate work in socio-linguistics, and taught at a number of universities, including the University of Hawaii, Harvard and Northwestern until 1989, when I left academia for business and ended up working in Silicon Valley until my retirement in 2000.

⁴ Katashi Nose, the famed DXer KH6IJ, was on the faculty of the University and I got to know him personally. I interviewed him for the University of Hawaii Hour radio program, the recording of which I still own.

⁵ Bockscar, the lead B29 bomber which dropped the Nagasaki bomb, is housed at the Wright Patterson Air Force Museum near Dayton, OH.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

6. A display at the Atomic Testing Museum in Las Vegas confirmed this fact; a statement next to it says that this model of the goggles were manufactured from 1945 to the mid-1950s and many of them were issued to engineers and soldiers at nuclear testing sites in Nevada in the 1950s. Regrettably, they don't allow any pictures inside this museum.
7. For example, someone was recently offering just a vacuum relay on eBay, custom designed for the ART-13 and not useful for anything else. I bought a panel meter replacement a while ago, an unusual size with a black face, again custom designed to work only with the ART-13. I can't imagine that this kind of items could readily find customers if placed and displayed in a brick-and-mortar store. There were few other bidders on eBay besides myself for that meter.
8. In early 2009 I attended the famed New Jersey QRP club meeting at Princeton, NJ, and there heard lots of lamentation regarding how difficult and time consuming it is to find parts on the East Coast. A few surplus or parts stores there are scattered all over the eastern states and one needs to travel hundreds of miles to get to those places. I was also at a monthly MIT electronics flea market held in a garage structure near the MIT campus in Cambridge, MA, early in the spring of 2010 and found it quite wanting compared with our De Anza or Livermore flea markets. The MIT market, despite its glorious reputation and history, is much smaller than either of our regular monthly markets; besides, the WX was so miserable and they charged \$7 just for entry. If only they found out that ours are always in the open air and free! There are no equivalents of a location where there are Halted, Weird Stuff, Allen Steel, Fry's and HRO storefronts in addition to monthly electronic flea markets, all within a 30 mile radius anywhere in the world, perhaps with one other exception, i.e., Akihabara in Tokyo. There is of course the Dayton Hamvention, the world's largest ham market, but it meets only once a year.
9. Halted (Halted Specialities Company) became well known to New York Times readers when the paper featured the store and its owner in the Personal Technology section on Feb. 4, 2009, entitled, "A Haven for Spare Parts Lives On in Silicon Valley." When the article appeared, I immediately heard from one of the aforementioned New Jersey QRP club members who remembered me; I promised him that the next time he comes to California I will be his guide to this store and many others.



Winners of Sept. Raffle

From left to right:

Kristen K6WX —
FT1900R Mobile,
Byron KG6UOB —
Repeater Directory
Bill AF6AE —
Powerwerx Watt Meter,
Doyle KG6YUN —
Battery Tender Jr. &
Prefix Map,
Bob K6TGR —
Two FRS Radios,
Leigh WA5ZNU, Yuki
K6YUU —
18 Ft Fiberglass Mast

August 17, 2011 Board Meeting

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:30 PM on the 17th of August, 2011. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Sec, Database), Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas), Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir), Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir), Larry Rebarchik N6DB (Dir), Marty Wayne W6NEV (Dir), and Gerry Tucker N6NV (Property Manager). A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report: Rick K6RDM reports that there was no board meeting in July due to the President's travel schedule. There was one new member at the July 8th General Meeting.

President's Report: Kristen K6WX reported that Stu Phillips K6TU will be speaking on the intriguing topic of the practical aspects of Software Defined Radios (SDR) at the September 9th meeting and the presentations for future meetings are being lined up. Kristen mentioned that archival material regarding PAARAShoot and Near Vertical Incident Sky Wave (NVIS) is coming to the club and will be scanned and posted on the website when available. The PAARAShoot event was a hoot and came off well. For those who missed the event, it seems there may be a possibility of having another sooner than a year off.

Regarding our meeting room at the recreation center, materials for sound abatement have been ordered and we will be informed as to the availability of that room and also the possibility of storage space at the center.

Ron W6AZ reported that we did better (with 14,066 points) over the previous year's Field Day (13,570) again this year, and for the 4th year in a row. Discussion continued with areas where we could make even more improvements, especially in the matter of bonus points, wherein we apparently were entitled to bonus points that didn't get into our report. It was determined that we must have a thorough debriefing session immediately after the conclusion of the event. Ron showed us a very nicely produced book that went to the ARRL with our sub-

mission.

Kristen pointed out that we will be moving into the area in our calendar where we conduct elections for our officers for 2012 and that we should be aware of the sequence of steps to begin the process, starting with the call for volunteers to serve on a three-member election committee. We'd like to have a few willing club members step forward to participate in the simple functions of the committee.

Discussion then turned to planning for some club field trips, perhaps again to KPH, or the Hornet or possibly one of the Liberty Ships in the area, and other possibilities. The board will welcome comments or suggestions from the membership as to what might be a desirable place to visit. We also discussed this year's Octoberfest plans and Ron W6AZ suggested that might be a better venue for the Homebrew event so that it wouldn't have to compete with the Dream to Reality raffle.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

September 21, 2011 Board Meeting

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:20 PM on the 21ST of September, 2011. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Sec, Database), Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir), Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir), Marty Wayne W6NEV (Dir), and Vic Black AB6SO (Membership). A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report: Rick K6RDM reports that the minutes of the 17th of August, Board meeting had been previously submitted and approved. There were four new members and two renewals at the September 9th General Meeting.

President's Report: Kristen K6WX reported that Rick Ferranti W6NIR will be speaking on the subject of radio communications in the Forest Service at the October 7th meeting. Vic Black AB6SO told us Rick has a keen interest in radio

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

history and made a movie about AM radios while a teacher back east. Kristen told us the presentation for the November meetings is lined up, and that we have the new officers election and Dream-to-Reality program for the December meeting to prepare for.

The topic moved on to the upcoming CQP contest for which Kristen will be operating from Trinity County with Rick Huisman N6DQ setting up his hex beams. Regarding the room in the Rec Center for our next meeting, Kristen said it doesn't look like the acoustic repair has been completed but Noreen will notify us if the room isn't ready in which case we would again meet in the City Council Chambers.

Kristen reported that we do have an election committee chairman posted, Jim Thieleman KI6KVV. He will need some volunteers to help with logistics. Marty Wayne volunteered to be one. Kristen will appoint a nominating committee and the floor will be opened up for nominations for Officers at the October meeting. Nominations will close at the end of the November meeting. Current members will then vote for officers for 2012 at the December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

The new members in Aug. and Sept. are:

Chris Hoffman	KG6O	San Carlos
Michael Yee	KI6SET	Foster City
Robert Clothier	KJ6PO	San Carlos
Barry McMills	KJ6RAV	Menlo Park
George Rubin	KC6NYU	Palo Alto
Raoul Salem	KG6DKA	Redwood City

Badges Ready for Pickup

K6FTF	Mark	San Jose
KJ6GBE	Sreendish	Redwood City
N6GYR	George	S San Francisco
KG6GYG	Art	San Jose
N6JCY	Joani	San Jose
KG6QKN	Francis	Palo Alto
KG6QKO	Kali	Palo Alto
KF6SRD	Chuck	Palo Alto
K6TSR	George	Portola Valley

PAARA October 7, 2011 Raffle Prizes

1st Prize



LDG Z-100 Plus Antenna Tuner

2nd Prize



Alpha Delta D4B UHF 4-Position Coax Switch

3rd Two West Mountain COM Speakers



4th Two FRS Radios

5th LF-01 Blinking Lite Flare

6th NARCC Repeater Directory

7th Bongo Ties



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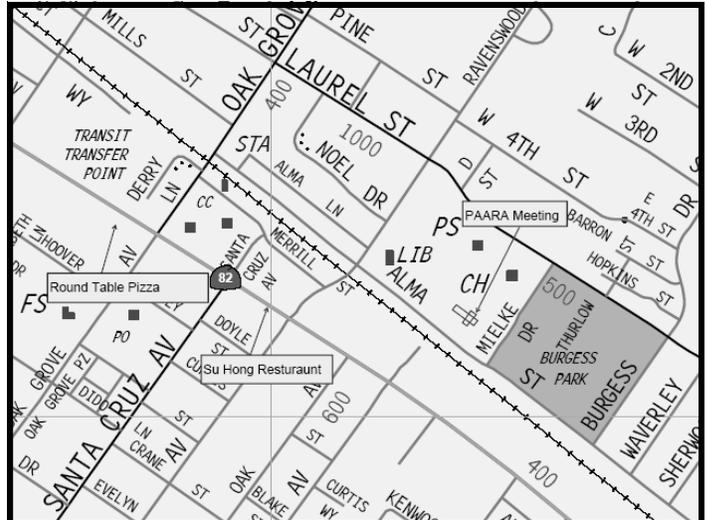
Badges are ready for pickup.

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>	<u>Control Operator</u>
1 st	Doug Teter - KG6LWE
2 nd	Robin Yee—KI6YTA
3 rd	Jack Pines - W1VSL
4 th	Marty Wayne - W6NEV
5 th	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 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

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

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.

1. 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).
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 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 Ron Chester, W6AZ

