PAARA NEWSLETTER VOLUME 65, NUMBER 4, April 2014 K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAgraphs

The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 77 years as an active amateur radio club—Since 1937



DXpedition Video 2009 DXpedition to Desecheo Island K₅D

Mar 7, 2014 — 7:00 pm **Cubberley Community Center, Room H-6** 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

President's Corner

April 2013

It's finally spring, and the propagation is really looking good. As I write, there is a great contest right around the corner. We had a great trip to the MVTF; were you there? The 9 A.M. Talk Net - nearly 30 vears and still going strong.



We are right past the vernal equinox at this time, and propagation is really looking up. A quick glance at the ionospheric activity at http:// dx.qsl.net/propagation/ shows that the solar flux index is around 150 and the sunspot number is Those are great numbers, though not spectacular. Unfortunately the K index, a logarithmic scale of geomagnetic activity causing noise on the HF bands, is at 3. That's a somewhat high value indicating that the bands might be rather noisy. The CQ World Wide World Prefix Contest, SSB has started, and I'll probably drop in on Saturday to see how things are

and troll for DX. I'm betting that 10 meters will be guite workable, but I'm not sure how far the F-layer propagation will take me. Time will tell. If that fails, it's down to 15 meters for some fun. We'll see how much the K index will affect things. We've had a couple of M-class flares over the last 24 hours, which is probably why the K is so high. If those settle down, things will get better.

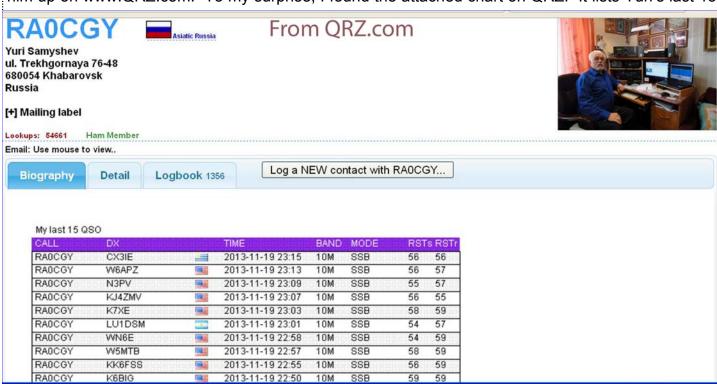
The trip to the Military Vehicle Technology Foundation was one of PAARA's best trips yet. If you missed it, you really missed something spectacular that's not to be seen again in the Bay Area. As I've mentioned before, this display is partially leaving for the East Coast, and also partially being broken up and auctioned off. Fortunately roughly 60 PAARA members and friends were able to see it before that, and capture it in pictures. Of course, with the high density of hams, our tour guide was peppered with questions about everything. I think he was surprised by how inquisitive the group was, and how knowledgeable we were. There weren't many radios in evidence, but if you looked carefully, you could see them. I got a few pictures. Regardless, there were tanks of every description, era, and style. You could see the evolution of each country's engineering through time, and whether they learned from their experiences or not. You could also see what they valued. For example, maintainability vs. ruggedness; ease of mass manufacture vs. low-skilled labor adapted; over engineered vs. under engineered. It was really fascinating. There was even one radar truck that had a nice big pair of

(Continued on page 3)

Instant QSLing?

Did you realize how easy it is to make DX contacts even with a modest station & antenna? Did you know that some stations provide virtually instant confirmation of your contact (QSL)?

I currently subscribe to the ARRL Propagation reports, which are available via email to any ARRL member. The latest report for the week of November 17th predicted sun spot numbers in the high 170 range, which was not as high as the numbers were last week, but I thought the numbers were high enough to give the bands a try. I turned on ten meters and spun the dial picking up RA0CGY, from Russia, calling CQ. He came back to me on my first call. We chatted for a few minutes and he told me that he was running 600 Watts to a 5-element 10-meter Yagi up on a tower. No wonder he was 5 by 7 on my vertical! Yuri told me he was located in Russia! After finishing the QSO, I looked him up on www.QRZ.com. To my surprise, I found the attached chart on QRZ. It lists Yuri's last 15



QSOs! There I was, the second one down on the list. I was IN his logbook! That's the fastest QSL I have ever gotten from a DX station.

While I was aware that some DX expeditions published their logs on the Internet, I did not know that it was possible to do this on QRZ. This type of listing might be of interest to our members who work DX. I'd be interested in hearing a talk at PAARA on how to set up such as table on my QRZ page.

You don't think you can work DX? Watch the propagation predictions. When the sunspot numbers exceed 100, get on the air and give it a try. Even a modest station, such as my 100 Watts with a vertical can make some interesting contacts when the sunspot numbers get high enough. If you listen and don't hear anything, call CQ for a while. Maybe the band seems dead only because everyone is listening and no one is transmitting.

Good luck and good DX hunting!

de Rich, W6APZ

(President's Corner — Continued from page 1)

final tubes in it that resembled 3Z-500s. I think he most amazing thing of all was that the entire collection was the result of one man, Jaques Littlefield's, lifetime obsession with tanks. We will be posting pictures from the tour on our website at paara.org.

If you haven't stopped by the 9 A.M. Talk Net recently, how about dropping in? We'd love to hear from you, particularly if you're a new ham who has questions. But even if you're a seasoned op, we still love hearing from you! We meet Monday through Friday from 9 A.M. until whenever on the N6NFI Repeater, 145.230 MHz, negative offset, 100Hz PL. The net was started in the 1980s as the 10 A.M. talk net to help new hams who had questions. We are still going strong almost 30 years later. passed my 11th anniversary as net control this month. You can hear me on Fridays, though I used to do Mondays and Fridays until about 5 vears ago (remember that?). Please stop by and join Rob KC6TYD, Pink K7ILA, Steve KG6EVZ, Mikey NE6RD, and me at 9 A.M. Jump on in; the water's fine :).

Well, that's it for this month. I hope to see you at PAARA in April, and on the air. Until then ... GUD DX TO U DE K6WX.

PAARA Board Meeting Minutes 19 March 2014

The Board Meeting was held at the Round Table Pizza Parlor in Menlo Park, commencing at 7:50 PM on the 19th of March, 2014. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Jim Thielemann KI6KVW (Sec, Membership), Ron Chester W6AZ (treasurer), Larry Rebarchik N6DB (Dir), Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir), Byron Beck N6UOB (Dir); and non board members, Joel Wilhite KD6W (Technical Coordinator), Doug Teter KG6LWE (Field Day Coordinator), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Chaplain). A quorum was present.

President's Report: Kristen, K6WX, reported that the March 7th General Meeting was well at-

tended. There was lots of interest in Leigh Klotz's interesting talk on Ham Radio and Modern Micros. She also reported that the MVTF tour was very well attended. Discussion followed on how few clubs have any "field trips". Discussion followed on the topic of future trips and possible destinations. The board urges all members to let Marty know if they know of an interesting destination for a future trip.

Kristen indicated her reserve of stories for PAARAgraphs is still very thin and in need. She could really use the stories members have committed to write and haven't yet done so. The board wishes to encourage the general membership to submit articles to be published in upcoming issues of PAARAgraphs. Do you have any projects, technical articles, hints n kinks, DX, on the air experiences that might be of interest? We can even help you write them up, "even if it's only 4 sentences", says Kristen.

Vice President's Report: Marty, W6NEV, was on vacation watching grain grow. Prior to his departure he advised the board that he visited the Tee shirt shop to check into Field Day Team shirts. The artwork is in process for review. Unlike the past Field Day shirts, these shirts will only be available on a preorder basis. If you plan on supporting this year's PAARA Field Day effort and might want a shirt, start thinking now as there will be a short window in which to order them.

The board wishes the thanks Marty for the OUTSTANDING MVTF filed trip he orchestrated. Even though he missed the actual trip, everyone agreed that the trip was a great success. The board received many positive comments from multiple participants.

Secretary's Report: Jim, KI6KVW, reported that there were 2 new members and eleven renewals at the March 7th meeting. He also reports that there are 62 — 2013 members and 112 that have renewed for 2014 bringing the total to 174 current members. Mailing labels for the April issue of PAARAgraphs have a notice in red that this is the last issue of PAARAgraphs

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Radio In The Park

Join your fellow hams for a casual morning playing with radios and antennas! Bringing your own equipment is not required, though practicing the portability of your station can be beneficial. The park is open to the public and provides restrooms, picnic areas, benches, beautiful trees and grass areas.

When

9:30am to 12:30pm, Sundays:

- April 13th
- May 4th

- June 8th
- July 13th
- August 3rd

QTH:

Agnews Historic Park 4030 Lafayette St. Santa Clara, CA 95050

N 37° 23.549 W 121° 57.297 Joanna K6YL

2014 PAARA FIELD DAY T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER.

The 2014 PAARA Field Day T-Shirts are available for order. The cost is \$20.

The shirts are Royal Blue with the club logo on the front and PAARA FIELD DAY TEAM on the back. Sizes are Med, Lg, XL, and 2XL. Last day to order is May 16th. Estimated delivery date is the June 6th PAARA meeting. Get yours on order now or forever be left out. Contact Marty, W6NEV at w6nev@arrl.net or call at 408-234-8023 to place order.



(Minutes — Continued from page 3)

for 2013 members. There is an additional line in red suggesting renewing via PayPal.

Jim reported that progress has been made on the idea of adding a "donations" button, a method for international membership along with setting up a member only area to the web site. These changes to the web site are still in progress but the basic logistics of process have been worked out.

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, The club remains in good financial condition. Areas where the club brings in revenue to cover operating expenses have been positive for the last 3 months. The only unknown area at the time of the meeting was the flea market.

Under New Business, the Flea Market changes were a lengthy topic of discussion. There have been several big changes that are causing some head scratching. The two biggest ones are the increase in fees being charged by De Anza College and Red Cross largely backing out. Currently there are more questions than answers. With the Red Cross backing out, PAARA now will be sponsoring the Flea Market in the month of May on the 10th. The last Flea Market of the year will be September 13th so plan ahead! There will still be a Flea Market at Pacificon in October. Some discussion waged on other methods of selling equipment donated to the club such as eBay.

Kristen mentioned that Joanna, K6YL, Rick, N6DQ, and Mikey, NE6RD orchestrated an event called, "Radios in the Park" which was held at Agnews Historic Park in Santa Clara on 3/15/14. It's a casual gathering of hams some of whom came with radios etc to work off the grid. Ron, W6AZ, went and had a great time. There is the probability that this event will become a regular monthly event so keep your ears open.

Byron commented that he will be involved with 3 special event stations this year. As plans solidify, he'll provide more information to the members.

Rebar mentioned that the 1st phase of antenna

work at Bob Vallio's (W6RGG) QTH has been completed. Bob is in the process of gathering parts for the final phase of reinstalling some aluminum onto his naked tower.

Joel informed the board that he still wants to move ahead with the location for the D-Star repeater the club was given a few years ago. The board is still looking for a lawyer to draft a memorandum of understanding. If any member knows of a suitable lawyer, better yet a ham lawyer, please advise someone on the board so we can move this process along.

Doug talked about field day and the 1st antenna party. Dates and action items were discussed [sec update: 3/22 was the 1st antenna party, the most important items were checked off the list]. Also discussed was the need for someone to handle the NTS traffic. This was a problem last year that didn't become one until Field Day. Also discussed is the need to find someone else to be the GOTA captain. Rob KI6INR has ever increasing family responsibilities that will preclude him from being captain this year. If any club member has ideas on these topics, please contact Doug.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Jim Thielemann KI6KVW

New Members

Joe Pistritto N3CKF Barry Redding W9FFL

Badges Ready for Pickup

On June 1st the price of a badge will increase to \$15.00.

Art	KI6GYY	San Jose
Byron	N6UOB	Campbell
Chuck	KF6SRD	Palo Alto

(Continued on page 6)

PAARA 3/7/14 Raffle Prize Winners

1st Prize Joe Castellano / W6SNV / Wouxon Dual Band HT

2nd Prize Ron Chester / W6AZ / Arrow Yagi Antenna

3rd Prize Ron Chester / W6AZ / Coax Switch

4th Prize Kristen McIntyre / K6WX / "Ham Radio Arduino and Picaxe"

5th Prize Paul Gorny / KK6HWN / "Hints and Kinks for the Radio Ama-

teur" book

6th Prize Joe Pistritto / N3CKF / ARRL Repeater Directory book

7th Prize Joe McVeigh / AG6ZC / Bongo Ties

8th Prize Rebar / N6DB / Two Rolls of Rescue Tape

April Raffle Prizes

1st Wouxon KGUV3D-2-UHF HT Transceiver, 2M/440 DUAL BAND HT, 128 Memories, 1700mAh LI-ON BATTERY

2nd Arrow Yagi / 3 Element VHF / 7 Element UHF / Max Gain

3rd Two FRS Radios

4th "Arthur Collins Radio Wizard" book "Thanks Rich Stiebel W6APZ"







- 5th "DXA" The real-time online radio log server book "Thanks Vic Black AB6SO"
- 6th ARRL Repeater Directory 2012-2013

7th Two Rolls of Rescue Tape

(Badges — Continued from page 5)					
Dave	K6WA	Menlo Park			
Francis	KG6QKN	Palo Alto			
George	K6TSR	Portola Valley			
Henri	KG6ZWO	Palo Alto			
Joani	N6JCY	San Jose			
Joanne	KI6JLS	Palo Alto			
Kali	KG6QKO	Palo Alto			

Mark	K6FTF	San Jose
Rob	KC6TYD	Redwood City
Ron	W6AZ	Santa Clara
Scott	KI6QWM	
Sreenidish	KJ6GBE	Redwood city
Vincent	K6VVK	Palo Alto
Xainde	KJ4SGT	Campbell
-		

Celebrating 77 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026 Officers President Kristen McIntyre, K6wx 510-703-4942 kristen@alum.mit.edu Vice President Marty Wayne, w6NEV 408-246-7531 w6nev@arrl.net Secretary Jim Thielemann, KI6KVW 408-839-6815 thielem@pacbell.net Treasurer......Ron Chester, w6AZ 408-243 2221 ron@taxhelp.com **Directors** Director ('13)..... Byron Beck N6UOB 408-369-1913 N6uob@arrl.net Director ('14)..... Rob Riley, KI6INR 650 799-1607 (cell) ki6inr@arrl.net Director ('14)..... Larry Rebarchik N6DB 925 353-7952 (cell) n6db@arrl.net Director ('14)...... Darryl Presley, KI6LDM 650 255-2454 ki6ldm@arrl.net **Appointed Positions** Membership...... Vic Black, AB6SO 650-366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com Database Jim Thielemann, кı6кvw 408-839-6815 thielem@pacbell.net Chaplain Rick Melrose K6RDM 408-341-9070k6rdm@arrl.net Public Affairs Position Vacant Station Trustee w6otx, K6yQT, W6ARA....Gerry Tucker, N6NV Station Trustee K60TA Ron Chester, W6AZ Property Manager...... Gerry Tucker, N6NV Fund Raising Coordinator . Bob Korte, KD6KYT 408 396 4745 bob@rgktechsales.com Badge Coordinator Doug Teter, KG6LWE 650-367-6200 dteter@wcwi.com Historian Position Position Vacant Raffle Coordinator Jim Rice, K6AK 650-851-2274 Ticket Master..... Marty Wayne, w6NEV 408-246-7531 Field Day Coordinator Doug Teter, KG6LWE 650-367-6200 ASVARO Rep..... Rolf Klibo, N6NFI 650-856-2748 n6nfi@arrl.net Webmaster...... John Miller к6мм webaron@gmail.com Technical Coordinator Joel Wilhite. KD6w 408-839-5948 kd6w@arrl.net QSL Manager.....Rob Riley, KI6INR 650 799-1607 (cell) ki6inr@arrl.net Speaker Coordinator Marty Wayne, w6NEV 408-246-7531 PAARAgraphs Staff Editorial Board Bob Van Tuyl K6RWY Kristen McIntyre κ6wx Ron Chester w6AZ Vic Black AB6SO Joel Wilhite, KD6W Editor Bob Van Tuyl, K6RWY 408 799-6463 rrvt@swde.com Back Up Editor Jim Thielemann, KI6KVW 408-839-6815 thielem@pacbell.net Advertising...... Ron Chester, w6AZ 408-243-2221 ron@taxhelp.com Member Profiles Position Vacant Technical Tips Vic Black, AB6SO 650-366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com Photographer..... Bill Young, K6VWO jdsinger@sbcglobal.net

Future PARRA Meeting Dates

May 2nd, June 6th, July 11?

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 AI, 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.ele

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See our website at http://www.paara.org for more information or contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, kD6W@ARRL.NET, 650-325-8239

FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:30pm Contact: http://www.fars.k6ya.org

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, Repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM

Contact: http://ncdxc.org or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

QCWA Chapter 11

Northern California Quarter Century Wireless Association

Meets third Wednesday monthly at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City @ 11:30 AM. Guests are welcome. Saturday morning net on 146.850 MHz, PL 114.8

50 MHz & Up Group

Meets 1st Thursday each month at 7pm in the Texas Instruments Building E conference

room in Santa Clara. Contact: http://50MhzandUp.org

SPECS

Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

Meets each Monday 8:00pm on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz

Contact: http://specsnet.org or Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441

SCARES

South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. Contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265 (D), 650- 595-5590 (N) Web: http://k6mpn.org E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org

SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl
Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 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,

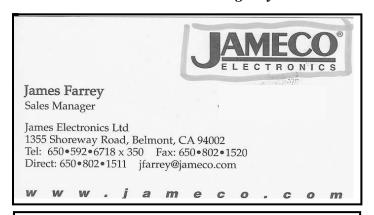
while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked. VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UH 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss

441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss

American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Contact: http://santaclara or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924

(Please send changes to PAARAgraphs editor)





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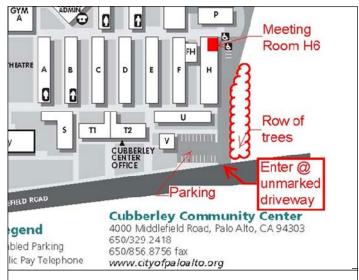
If you would like to order a badge, see **Doug Teter, KG6LWE**.

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 st	Open	
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE	
3 rd	Jack - N1VSL	
4 th	Marty - W6NEV	
5 th	Up for Grabs!	

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.



Meeting Location — Middlefield Road between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road

http://www.foto.mail.ru/list/shkurkin

Vladimir Vladimirovich

SHKURKIN

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shkurkin@ix.netcom.com

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 \$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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RADIO IN THE PARK

9:30am - 12:30pm Sundays, 4/13, 5/4, 6/8, 7/13, 8/3

QTH:

Agnews Historic Park 4030 Lafayette St. Santa Clara, CA 95050

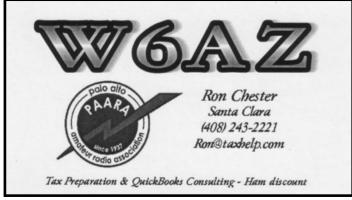
N 37° 23.549 W 121° 57.297 Ilse Beck, E. A., KI6IBM



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(Corner of Lawrence Expwy and El Camino)

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PAARAgraphs Ad Rates

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

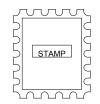
- 1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card–size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
- 2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per 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
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 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 — April 2014

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

