

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 80 years as an *active* amateur radio club—Since 1937

<http://www.paara.org/>



The Original "Ham's Wide World"

Aired in 1959 on ABC TV

A DVD from the ARRL Film Collection, Ham's Wide World from 1959 will be shown. This is a look at how a TV producer pursued and got prime time TV airing on the world of ham radio. It is a fascinating look into ham radio.

Upcoming Events

- Mar 3 PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Apr 7 Cubberly Community Center, Room
- May 5 H-6, 400 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
- Mar 15 Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
- Apr 19 Everyone welcome!
- May 17 Location: Marty, W6NEV, QTH



President's Corner

March 2017

The Palm Springs Hamfest and Yuma Hamfest are over for another year, but NVCON is coming up. Spring contesting is just starting, so it's time to dust off the tubes. And PAARA FD planning is starting up.



The Palm Springs Hamfest was held at the Palm Springs Air Museum on February 4th. I was privileged to be able to attend and speak there. It was great fun. I drove down to Santa Clarita right from the February PAARA meeting, and stayed the night there. I drove the rest of the way in the morning. Coming into the gate I was greeted by Bruce, W6RBM, one of our IOOK Vice Presidents (see iook.org for more info about that). It was wonderful to see someone right away whom I

knew. After a brief chat, I was guided inside to find the venue for my talk. I always like to get that squared away right away. I grabbed some lunch, then headed to the room. I had cut the time kind of close. One of the prior speakers was Chip Margelli, K7JA, one of the two people who appeared on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno when they raced Morse Code against text messaging. I found out that he and his wife lived in Japan for a bit and he speaks Japanese. That was surprising. I had fun changing some minds about the concept of ground, which as we all know is a myth! After the talk I explored some of the airplanes. I got a tour of the inside of the B-17 they have there in the hangar. It's hard to believe that men could move around in that thing while it was flying. The ball turret was another amazing thing. So small and so cramped. It's also quite exposed. And the tail turret is even worse. I talked to a man there that had trained in one. He told me stories of the female pilots that flew them for training. That was quite something. Pictures here: <https://k6wx.smugmug.com/Events/Palm-Springs-Hamfest-2017/>.

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QSO With The Space Station

Matt Manjos, W5MMW

Did you know that there's a way to contact the International Space Station using APRS to receive an automated response? Best of all, you can get started with just a smartphone, an HT and a Technician license!

The ISS, which has had an active history of Amateur Radio operation since October 2000, currently has a number of VHF and UHF transceivers on board. From time to time, these are taken out and powered up in order to make scheduled contacts with schools around the world. One rig, however, is available for use by hams nearly all of the time: the APRS digipeater.

Simply put, the space station digipeater listens for, acknowledges and retransmits APRS beacons that are sent on a particular frequency. APRS - which stands for Automatic Packet Reporting System - is a well-established protocol in amateur radio for reporting locations and short messages on the VHF and UHF bands. If the space station's APRS digipeater receives and decodes your transmission successfully, it will repeat your call sign and message back using one of the currently active calls assigned to the astronauts on board.

While it might be easier to use an HT that has built-in APRS functionality, it's possible to get started with nothing more than a cheap UHF-capable FM radio, a smartphone and an audio patch cable. Smartphone apps like APRS-Droid (for Android) and PocketPacket (for iOS) can generate the AFSK1200 audio for your APRS messages and a cheap (or homemade) cable can patch it into your handheld from your phone's headphone jack.

Once your rig is all set up, you can use one of the many "ISS prediction" apps and websites out there to find the time of the next flyover. Make sure you choose a pass where the ISS

moves directly overhead by looking for an elevation of at least 70° (closest to 90° is best) since these give you the most time to make a successful exchange.

One important detail to take note of is that you may find references online to the VHF frequency of 145.825 MHz for the ISS digipeater. While this used to be the correct frequency for some time, recent malfunctions in the primary radio gear aboard the station have forced them to use a backup radio - operating instead on UHF - for APRS operations. The frequency you will want to use is now 437.550 MHz (FM mode). For the best chance of success, you'll want to hold your HT so that the antenna is horizontal; you're trying to radiate power towards the sky, remember!

Once you've successfully made your first QSO, look into some of the other fun projects that the world of APRS opens up! You can build your own 2m or 70cm Yagi antenna, learn how to set up an iGate (which relays received APRS beacons to the internet), or put together a homemade battery-powered APRS location tracker. Also, don't forget to visit <http://ariss.org> to find out how you can report your APRS exchange and receive a QSL card from the organization.

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February is a big month for hamfests these days. It was only two weeks later that I found myself headed to Yuma, AZ for the Yuma Hamfest. Everything was going well until I got to the Tejon Outlets at the junction of the 5 and the 99. I stopped to use the restroom. When I got back to the car, my old Mustang ran for about 30 seconds, shuddered, and quit. I tried starting it a few more times, but I was pretty convinced it was not getting fuel. I marched into the Minit Mart I was parked in front of and explained the situation. They told me that there was a hotel within walking distance. How lucky is that! I

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called them and walked over there with my luggage. Fortunately I have AAA Plus, so I had the car towed the next morning 50 miles over the mountains, through rain and high wind, to Santa Clarita, where it still is at this moment. It's fixed, and I need to drive down to SoCal again and pick it up. What an adventure. Oh, and it was the fuel pump that broke. I was pretty certain from the start it was that. I arrived in Yuma in a rental SUV and met all of my IOK friends for pizza amidst a dust storm. Pink, K7ILA, arrived after a bit. Lots of food and libations took the edge off the crazy trip. The next morning I gave my talk about why some modes work better to a full house. Pink and I toured the vendor area following that and got ready for the Buzzard BBQ. I had raffle tickets, but sadly didn't win anything. They said the 16 grand prizes totaled \$27,000. Unbelievable! After the BBQ, we all parted ways for another year. How wonderful to see my ham radio friends like this each year. Pictures from Yuma are here: <https://k6wx.smugmug.com/Events/Yuma-Hamfest-2017/>. Note that there are a number of brief movies from the iPhone Live Photos. They're fun to watch too. And NVCON in Las Vegas is at the end of March: <http://nvcon.org>. Won't you join me there?

During the Yuma Hamfest was the ARRL International DX Contest, CW. With the rain, and without my car, I didn't get a chance to operate, despite bringing my K2. But that's the opening salvo in the spring contest season. Be sure to get on the air and light up those HF bands. It's a great chance to troll for DX or improve your operating skills, particularly CW. I hope to hear you there. And, speaking of contests, don't forget that Field Day isn't that far away. Doug, KG6LWE, is already getting the initial planning meeting together. If you're interested in helping out, contact him or me. CU IN MARCH AT PAARA ES ON THE BANDS DE K6WX.

Feb 15, 2017 Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at the home of Marty Wayne, W6NEV, commencing at 7:24 PM on February 15, 2017. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX (Pres), Marty Wayne, W6NEV (VP), Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Larry Rebarchik, N6DB (Dir), via teleconference, Darryl Presley, KI6LDM (Dir), Walter Gyger K6WGY (Dir), and Joel Wilhite, KD6W (Dir and Technical Coordinator). A quorum was present.

Kristen, (K6WX), commented on how being a member of PAARA has a positive lasting effect on hams who move out of the area and still want to remain connected to PAARA activates thus remain members of the club. Additionally, members living outside the area talk about PAARA with their circle of friends some of whom may move into the area and wish to join.

Kristen mentioned her reserve of stories is a bit better than last month. However, she only has a couple of stories for 2017. Please, if you've committed to a story but not submitted it (there are several people out there fitting this category) put pen to paper or fingers on the keyboard and let your creative juices flow! Do you have any projects, Field Day experiences, technical articles, hints n kinks, DX contacts, or experiences setting up your station or antenna, on the air experiences that might be of interest? If you have not previously drafted that story or have a new story, now is the time to get a byline of your own in PAARAgaphs and get that story submitted to Kristen for publication. "Remember it is 'home grown' stories that make PAARAgaphs great", she said.

Vice President's Report: Marty, W6NEV, commented on how interesting Dr. Karl Kappeler's presentation was last month. There were several lengthy discussions after the

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meeting between members and Karl. Marty also commented on having a DVD lined up for the March meeting. At the time of the board meeting the topic of the DVD hadn't been decided. Check in PAARAgaphs or on the web site for the topic. He also reported having a speaker lined up for April but none for the rest of the year. Please let Marty know if you know of anyone who would be of interest to the club.

Marty commented that his efforts scheduling the next PAARA field trip have solidified and deposits paid. We'll be heading to the Western Railroad Museum in Rio Vista Junction via bus on May 20, 2017. Tickets are \$50/person which includes the bus trip both ways, admission, rides on whatever is operating that day and lunch. Information on the trip is on our web site along with a link to purchase tickets. Information about the Museum can be found at: <http://www.wrm.org/>.

Secretary's report: Jim, K6SV, reported that we have 208-members. Three new members joined at the February meeting. Currently there are 48 members who haven't renewed for 2017. If you are one of them, you can renew via PayPal through our web site. Remember the dues are now \$25/year. The family member rate remains unchanged at year. If you don't know when your membership expires, look at the mailing label on PAARAgaphs, next to your call sign is the expiration year of your membership.

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, though unable to attend, advised the board through email that the proceeds from the last month were on par for this time of year though the renewals were down some due to the number of members who renewed in December ahead of the dues increase.

Under Old Business,

A discussion on raffle prizes tossed about a

few new ideas for prizes. These ideas will be passed on to Jim, K6AK our raffle master. If you have any items you'd like to see raffled off, let a board member or Jim know and we'll see about adding the item to the raffle.

Walt, K6WGY, reported on his progress with PAARAgaphs advertising. He requested some information from the other board members before starting to contact the advertisers.

On February 6th, the PAARA board sent a letter to the ASVARO board requesting they call a general meeting of all participating clubs within the 30 to 90-day window required by the ASVARO by-laws. ASVARO acknowledged receipt of the letter and indicated that it's a good idea to hold such a meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss all aspects of Flea Market, the declining attendance and explore ways to change the situation. Stay tuned for updates.

Marty reported there hasn't been much progress on the PAARA banquet and a theme. As this is the 80th year of PAARA, Marty suggested the anniversary of the club as the theme. Kristen challenged the board to come up with some event(s) that recognized the clubs 80th anniversary. If you have any ideas on what you'd like to do to recognize the club's anniversary, let a board member know.

Darryl, KI6LDM, updated the board on his data mining for Bay Area hams who have either renewed or received their 1st licenses. A little progress was made since the last meeting. The board agreed to continue the data mining to learn how many new hams get a ticket every month. Marty also created a few possible post cards which would be mailed to the new hams. His ideas were emailed to the board for comment.

During Pacificon last year, the board learned of an opportunity to acquire a decommissioned news gathering van as was gifted to

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MDARC. Joel, KD6W, provided information on reasons to have a vehicle like this. Joel's selling point is as the club doesn't have a "club shack" where members could operate, "maybe we should have a mobile one that could go to events and be easily setup", he said. After some discussion, Jim, K6SV, suggested that Joel create a business plan for a van so the board could better understand all facets of ownership including utilization of the van. Joel agreed to have something by the next board meeting.

There are several other items on the agenda that haven't been worked on very much or could wait until the next meeting, thus at this point there is no new news on them.

Under New Business:

Field day is fast approaching and as a matter of fact, the ARRL released the rules for this year's event on 2/16/17. The board discussed the possibility a Phone B captain has volunteered to cover this important roll. Kristen reported on the status of diplex filters. There was some discussion about changing categories. Thus, the ball has started to roll on the preparations for the 2017 event. Please reach out to any member of the board or Marty, W6NEV or Doug Teter, KG6LWE, if you have the desire to participate in this year's event.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Jim Thielemann
Secretary/membership
K6SV

Please welcome to PAARA:

New members:

Jerome Mullins	KM6EGD,
Steven Meek	KD6OBA ,
Fred Cirera	N/C

March Raffle Prizes

1st Tytera MD-380 / DMR Digital Portable HT



- Operates in Analog and Digital Modes
- 5 Watt Output
- Uses Time-Division Multiple-Access / Double # of Users
- Private Call / Group Call / All Call

2nd Two Com Speakers



- RF Proof Amplified Stereo Computer Speaker System
- Stereo High Fidelity Response for Use with Voice or Music
- Optimized for Operation in Close Range of any Radio Transmitter

3rd MFJ 1702C / Two Position Coax Switch



4th Diamond SRH77CA 2m/70cm Antenna for HT "thanks Vic Black"



5th Lido HT Cup Holder "thanks Vic Black"

6th Portable 26 Compartment Organizer

7th Two PL259 Connectors "thanks Vic Black"



February Raffle Prize Winners

Left to Right

- 6th Prize Ralph Kugler, KC6YDH — Repeater Directory
- 4th Prize Fred, no call — Two FRS Radios
- 5th Prize Dox, K6DOX — Headband Magnifier
- 8th Prize Dox, K6DOX — Keychain Light
- 2nd Prize John Woodman, KF6YXN — 2m Yagi
- 1st Prize Joel Wilhite, KD6W — Tytera MD-380 / DMR Digital Portable HT
- 7th Prize Gary Snethen, W6ARY — Allen Wrench Set
- 3rd Prize Vic Black, AB6SO — Lido LM801 HT Cup Holder

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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Appointed Positions

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Chaplain	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
	K6RDM@yahoo.com	
Public Affairs	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Station Trustee W6OTX, K6YQT, W6ARA....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Station Trustee K6OTA...	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Fund Raising Coordinator.	Bob Korte, KD6KYT	408 396 4745
	bob@rgktechsales.com	
Badge Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wvci.com	
Historian Position	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinator	Jim Rice, K6AK	650-851-2274
Field Day Coordinator ...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
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	kk6isp@comcast.net	
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	webaron@gmail.com	
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	dianalloyd76@gmail.com	
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	ab6so@smrn.com	
Photographer.....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	

VE Exams

Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room, 4th Saturday 10:30 am each month and De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <http://amateur-radio.org> or Contact Al, WB6IMX@att.net

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 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 UHF:
 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss
 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss
 Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of every month except July, August and December.
 Contact: <http://wvara.org>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, president@wvara.org

**American Red Cross,
 Santa Clara Valley Chapter**

Contact: <http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924
shensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)



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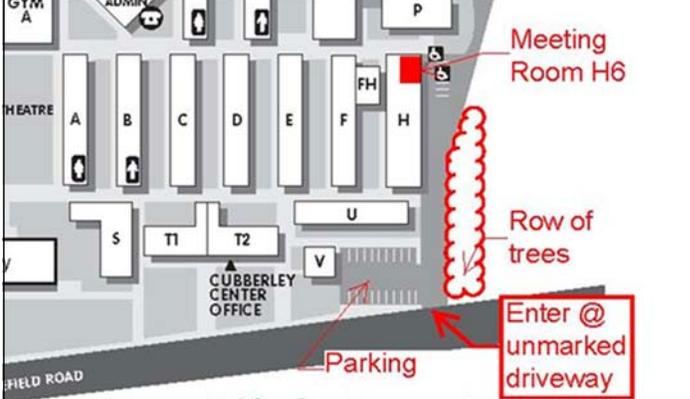
Badges are ready for pickup.

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>	<u>Control Operator</u>
1 st	Joel KD6W
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Jack - W1VSL
4 th	Rob - KC6TYD
5 th	Rob - KC6TYD

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots o' fun! Give it a try.



Cubberley Community Center
 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
 650/329.2418
 650/856.8756 fax
www.cityofpaloalto.org

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

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

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Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$25.00 per calendar year, which includes one subscription to PAARAgaphs \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).
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PAARA DMR Repeater Frequencies	
144 – 144.9625 up 2.5 MHz	DMR—NOR CAL Brandmeister Network
440 – 444.475 up 5 MHz	DMR
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1.2G – 1249.15 half duplex	D-Star Data



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Subscription Problems? Contact Database
 Manager: Jim Thielemann, K6SV,
 408-839-6815, thielem@pacbell.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.**

- Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
- For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$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**

