

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.Celebrating 81 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

The KH1/KH7Z DXpedition to Baker Island John Miller, K6MM

Our program for the evening will be a presentation by John, K6MM, on his experiences from the recent KH1/KH7Z DXpedition to Baker Island. It had been 16 years since the last KH1 activation. The team logged almost 70,000 QSOs in 9 days, working under rather harsh conditions near the equator. The Baker Island expedition was the first DXpedition to use the new "dxpedition mode" with FT8. More than 6,000 FT8 QSOs were logged.

Bio

John was first licensed as WV2BQJ in 1958 while living in Syracuse, NY. For the last decade, he has focused heavily on DXing, contesting, and recruiting new operators into the hobby. His DXCC total stands at 331 confirmed and he holds 8-Band DXCC. John has been a member of several DXpedition teams: PJ7E (Sint Maarten), K9W (Wake Atoll), K1N (Navassa Island), K5P (Palmyra Island), and KH1/KH7Z (Baker Island).

John is the President of the Northern California DX Foundation; Past-President of the Northern California Contest Club; a founding member of the CW Operators' Club; and past Director of the Northern California DX Club. He served as Co-Chairman of the International DX Convention for 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, and 2019. John is also the PAARA website manager.

In addition to his four grandchildren, John's interests include website design, piano composition, and exploring the back roads of the Bay Area on his Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 7	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM Cubberly Community Center, Room H-6, 4000 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
Oct. 5	
Nov. 2	
Sept. 19	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Everyone welcome! Location: Marty, W6NEV, QTH
Oct. 17	
Nov. 21	



President's Corner

September 2018

It's nearly fall, and as Amateur Radio operators fall means two things: better propagation and contests. The first might be iffy, but the second is coming regardless of propagation. Don't forget that the PAARA sponsored ASVARO Electronics Flea Market is this month, and we need volunteers. And Pacificon is coming up fast.



As I write this I was reading that two big sunspots are just rotating into view. This has bumped the sunspot number up to 29 and the Solar Flux Index to 71. That's a vast improvement from the strings of zero sunspots and SFI in the 60s that we have been seeing recently. I can't find the reference, but I recall that about a month ago we had accumulated approximately 120 spotless days in 2018. That's a high number for this point in the cycle. We don't know

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Field Day 2018

Jim K6SV

Now that another great Field Day (FD) has passed us by, wondering minds are left to ponder what was and what could have been. Though I can't answer what could have been, I can provide some information on what was. Leading up to FD Doug, KG6LWE, and the station captains along with key players gathered at Marty's, W6NEV, QTH for a planning meeting. As the members of this group had done this before and not much changed from last year, this turned into the only organizational meeting held. That doesn't mean to say there weren't things to make sure were covered but those items were left to email exchanges.

The plan was for 2 antenna parties to make sure all the fantastic antennas we erect were in top notch condition. That also meant thoroughly testing them to fix and avoid the "RF wideband radiator" from the year before. Things went well until partway through the 2nd party when the tilting winch on the white tower trailer let go with about 2' before the tower nested. The winch had been giving us problems earlier in the day but "decided" to have no more of it. No one was hurt but the 40M 2 element beam was a bit bent/broken. That meant we had to fix the antenna, fix the tower trailer and assemble and test the last antenna before FD.

This development required scheduling another antenna party to fix the antenna, as no parts could be scrounged from other antennas. The winch also had to be dealt with. Marty, W6NEV, found a new winch could be purchased. The decision was made to purchase 2 so the tower extension winch, the same model as the tilt winch, could be replaced next year. Jim, K6SV, made modifications to the crank bolt on the new winch so the extension crank would engage the new winch. He went to Doug's, KG6LWE, the weekend before the antenna party to fix the winch issue so time wouldn't be wasted repairing the trailer instead of working on antennas. The 3rd antenna party finished with the successful repair of the 40M and testing of the last antenna. All the antennas for FD were affixed to the top of the box trailer for transport.

Outside of U-Haul's scheduling ineptitude, the rest of FD went smoothly. The setup crew started work on Thursday after 5 PM and were able to get both Station B towers set with antennas assembled and on them. The setup crew gathered again on Friday to finish setting up all the towers and antennas and elevate them to operating elevation. Saturday came and the event started as smoothly as it could, given the U-Haul issues. Then before we knew it, the event was over and time to make like we were never there.

That only left one key item to take care of, file the results with the ARRL and provide all the backup needed to prove the claimed extra points are justified. So, what does that mean? Jim, K6SV, gathers information from Rebar, N6DB, who takes the logs from the stations and produces dup files which list all recorded contacts by the band and ID's the duplicates. Those logs are used to figure out the score for contacts and submitted as part of the report. Bob Korte, KD6KYT, provides information on his publicity efforts and any publications that may have printed something about FD. Jim also gathers information from others like Pink, K7ILA, who passed traffic as the actual messages have to be included in the ARRL report. Then there's gathering of the social media posts, scanning the visitor's log, and photographs documenting all the bonus point categories are gathered. The ARRL filing includes going onto a website to fill out all the information on the club, how many contacts by band and mode, GOTA contacts, and bonus points. All the info is then put in a big pot, stirred not shaken, and after many hours of work out pops an 85-page report to the ARRL documenting our efforts which is rushed to the printer then FedEx for delivery to the ARRL before the submission deadline.

So, if you read this far, likely you're interested in the score PAARA is claiming. Remember, the score isn't official until the ARRL releases all the results in the November time frame. So, in a nutshell, we're claiming 11,796 points. This is down 2,124 from last year's total. We won't know for sure how our score compares with other clubs until after the ARRL posts the results. At that point, we may be in a better position to speculate

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about the difference between years.

What I can say is that most of the difference can be found in the points from contacts being down 2,014 from last year. Both CW and Phone were down. Interestingly, the number of points we were down this year from last is almost the same for CW as Phone. That also means there were two times fewer phone contacts as CW owing to CW contacts counting as 2 points where phone contacts count as 1 point.

With respect to the bands, CW was down ~200 contacts from last year on 80M and 40M where phone was up ~50 contacts on 80M and down 200 contacts on 40M. CW gained a few contacts over last year on 20M whereas phone lost ~400 contacts. On 15M, CW gained ~30 contacts but phone lost ~60 contacts. Interestingly, last year we had no contacts on 10M where this year we managed 49 on phone. There were also ~40 more contacts on 6M this year than last.

From a GOTA perspective, we made 29 more contacts this year than last year. We also scored 40 more bonus points this year than last due to more youth making more contacts which earn us more points than non-youth.

Speaking of bonus points, we got points in all categories except for 2. We didn't copy the W1AW message well enough to qualify for having copied the message and we didn't have a satellite contact. Those are both bonus categories that need to have a champion next year. We also didn't have the maximum of 10 NTS messages but didn't completely lose out as we did have 5 handled messages thanks to Pink, K7ILA.

Thanks to Bob Korte, KD6KYT, and his efforts manning the Public Info table, we had 129 visitors this year. Though this was down from our record year last year, it's still a very respectable number and in line with previous years.

At the last board meeting, the board discussed posting the ARRL submission on the PAARA web site. In the coming weeks, give or take, you'll be able to check out the submissions for the past several years. Likely it will be posted in the member area.

So, what's up now? Rest and recover for next year. There are already a few discussions on taking a different approach next year than in the past. There is some testing being done in that area but it's too early to consider a direction. You'll have to wait until next year. Until then, get on your radios and hone your phone, CW or digital skills for FD next year. Until then, I know Doug, KG6LWE, would say a GREAT JOB, EVERYONE! Everyone helps make FD the great event PAARA is known for!

73, Jim K6SV

SS Red Oak Victory Ship Tour

November 10, 10:00 A.M.

SS Red Oak Victory is the last surviving vessel of 747 ships of all types that were built at the Richmond Kaiser Shipyards during World War



II. She is also one of the last surviving World War II Victory ships. The Red Oak continues to serve today as a museum ship and as a monument to the thousands of men and women who worked hard to build these ships in a time of national crisis.

These ships, along with their cousins the Liberty ships, were built on an emergency basis to carry vital supplies and troops to all theaters of war. The Victory ships remain today as a symbol of the national resolve and industrial might that won the Second World War.

More info: paara.org/pages/events-current.html

Aug 15, 2018, Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at Marty's QTH, commencing at 7:26 PM on August 15, 2018. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX (Pres), Marty Wayne, W6NEV (VP), Ron Chester, W6AZ (Treasurer) via videoconference, Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Darryl Presley, KI6LDM (Dir), Walter Gyger K6WGY (Dir), and non-board member Clark Martin, KK6ISP, (ASVARO Representative). A quorum was present.

Kristen, (K6WX), opened the meeting with news that in the just-released National Institute of Standards (NIST) 2019 budget, there are plans to shut down the Colorado and Hawaii WWV and WWVH time standard broadcasts. Hams routinely make use of these time and frequency standards to calibrate our equipment. What doesn't seem to be considered by NIST are others who use the standards for research or other uses. She urges members who know of other users or uses of the service to advise the ARRL to lobby for the continuation of this service for both hams and other uses.

Kristen mentioned her reserve of stories is non-existent, thus there is an urgent need for stories. 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 by-line of your own in PAARAgaphs and get that story submitted to Kristen for publication. "Remember it is 'homegrown' stories that make PAARAgaphs great", she said.

Vice President's Report: Marty, W6NEV, announced the September speaker is John Miller, K6MM, who will be presenting on his experiences on the Baker Island KH1/KH7Z DXpedition. It had been 16 years since the last DXpedition to Baker Island. This was also the 1st DXpedition to use FT8 in "DXpedition Mode". Marty also mentioned that he has speakers booked for the

remainder of the year. He's starting to work on next year so please let Marty know of anyone who would be interested in presenting at a PAARA meeting.

Secretary's report: Jim, K6SV, reported that there were 5 new members joining in August. The current membership stands at 195. The current membership is made up of 46% Tech/General and 54% Amateur Extra/Advanced licensed amateurs.

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, provided the board with information on last month's income. Including ad sales and balancing out the Raffle expensed vs income since January. The club's finances remain in good condition.

Under Old Business

Clark, KK6ISP, ASVARO representative, provided the board with the preliminary ASVARO breakdown of the impending invoice. The board discussed various charges on the invoice to try and understand what they are for. The board requested that Clark query ASVARO on several of the charges so we could better understand them and why they might be seemingly so high. The board also voted to not pay the \$100 "rainy day" part of the invoice as ASVARO still has a sizable fund which isn't earmarked for anything. Until ASVARO can produce a current P&L showing the status of the rainy-day fund and all other expenses related to the EFM and the new venue, the board doesn't feel the rainy-day fee is warranted.

The board also discussed that PAARA is the September 8th Flea Market sponsor. Kristen, K6WX, is still looking for volunteers to help during the entire event. This is a great opportunity for you to jump in and assist the club in our one big income source of the year. If you enjoyed everything that PAARA did for Field Day, here is a great opportunity to put some back in the coffers to help cover the expenses for this year's event. Please reach out to Kristen if you wish to help.

Last month the board felt we need a list of activities that need volunteers, thus members would know the areas in which they can help. Clark,

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KK6ISP, volunteered to compile a list of volunteer opportunities that members can help the club with. Jim, K6SV, went a little further and created a list of all volunteer activities and indicated who was covering them or if there is a need for someone to fill the position. The list was created to document the efforts of those who volunteer time on behalf of the club and let members know how many things the club does that need someone to assist with to keep the club running. This list will be published in PAARAgaphs with the hope members will find something on the list that they can assist PAARA with. Most of the opportunities don't require much time but do require a commitment to accomplish.

Marty, W6NEV, updated the board, on the next field trip which is to the SS Red Oak Victory, the last surviving, out of 747, World War II Victory ships. This will be a drive yourself to Richmond tour of the ship. There are 2 tours one can sign up for, one including the engine room the other not. The tour will also include a box lunch. The field trip will be on November 10th at 10:00 AM. Also, of note, MDARC has been invited to join us. This will give the opportunity for each club to get to know members of the other club and meet at an event other than Pacificon. You can find more about the ship at <http://redoakvictory.us/>. You can signup for the tour at <http://www.paara.org/pages/events-current.html>.

There was a short follow up conversation regarding the current cost of PAARA badges. This month it was confirmed that the cost of badges from the engraver has gone up higher than the cost PAARA is charging for them. After some discussion, the board voted to increase the badge cost to \$20 starting immediately.

Last month, Marty, W6NEV, mentioned receiving a few QSL cards, mostly from Field Day, but not having any cards to send back. Jim, K6SV, provided the board with a quote to print a small number of cards for both Field Day call signs. The board voted to proceed with having the cards printed.

Last month, Kristen, K6WX, mentioned having written a short story on Field Day for the South Valley Review. I was remiss in not mentioning

that Bob Korte, KD6KYT, was responsible for this opportunity through his work as Bonus Point Captain for Field Day. To date, no one has come forward to pen the next short 200-word story. Please contact Kristen for information on penning the next story.

Last month Jim, K6SV, mentioned that there are a number of openings in the advertising section of PAARAgaphs that could be filled and the existing ad holders needed to be contacted. Holders of existing ad's need to confirm the current ad is still OK. Walt, K6WGY, updated the board on the status of contacting the advertisers and getting any updated ad information and payment. He also mentioned there is no cost in PAARAgaphs for a ¼ page ad. The board voted that a ¼ page ad will sell for \$14/month which is in keeping with the charges on other sized ads.

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

Marty, W6NEV, mentioned needing volunteers to staff the W1AW/6 special event station at Pacificon. He especially needs overnight operators/assistants. However, he needs help with all activities related to setting up, assisting operators during the event and teardown of the station. The plan is to start the setup of the station late Thursday, October 18th with the goal of having at least one radio online by noon on Friday. Last year they were able to get all 4 stations operational by noon. Teardown starts on Sunday the 21st at noon.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:09 PM.

Jim Thielemann, K6SV
Secretary/membership

Please welcome

New members

John Paranzino	W3HEH,
Lynn Niemira	KM6UZZ
Rachel Niemira	KM6UZN
Rebecca	KM6UZN
Robert	KM6UZO

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yet, but we are likely to be near or at a prolonged solar minimum for sunspot cycle 24. We don't know if this is predictive for cycle 25 activity. Some solar physicists believe that we are headed toward weaker cycles and something like a Maunder Minimum, a prolonged minimum during the 17th century. Others say that we just don't know and we could have a great cycle 25. We will know a little more in the next few years. In the mean time, as radio operators, we just shift to the lower bands and continue enjoying QSOs around the world.

The fall contest season is around the corner. This is an opportunity to get on the air and practice working stations using your favorite mode. We can look forward to working some amazing contest stations with our modest equipment. They will have great antennas, so this is a chance to get out there portable, QRP, or just from the home station. From now through November we will see many QSO parties, the ARRL DX contest, NAQP, CQWW DX, WPX, ARRL VHF, AA, Sweeps, and of course CQP. If this jumble of letters makes your head spin, you can check out the contest calendar maintained by WA7BNM at <http://www.contestcalendar.com/contestcal.html>. It's a great resource for finding fun on the air each weekend. Be sure to take advantage of it and hand out some points if you're feeling a little bored with FT8. Contesting and DXing are great fun and they help keep the HF bands alive and vital.

PAARA will be sponsoring the ASVARO Electronics Flea Market on September 8th at Fry's in Sunnyvale. I have a list of volunteers, but we need more. There are many tasks that we need help with and I would love to hear from you. Just send me an e-mail (my address is in the masthead), and we'll put you on the list. If you haven't helped out or been to a Flea Market before, I think you'll enjoy it. For hams it's a little slice of heaven!

Right after the Flea Market, I'll be heading to ARRL HQ for my orientation. I'm not quite sure what that will entail, but it's sure to be interesting. I will be spending the entire day on 9/10

with the staff, learning the ins and outs of getting things done at the League. If there's something you want me to check on or ask, let me know.

Pacificon is October 19th through 21st. PAARA will once again be sponsoring the W1AW/6 special event station. Marty needs volunteers for setup, teardown, and manning the stations. In particular he needs people to man the stations through the night. This doesn't mean you have to stay up all night. It can be done in shifts with a few volunteers so that it's not too hard on anyone. Please contact Marty or myself so we can sign you up. We really need your help on this one.

That's it for this month. Don't miss the meeting! John, K6MM, will be giving a great talk about the KH1 DXpedition. It's not to be missed. CU AT PAARA ON THE 7TH DE K6WX



August Raffle Winners

Front to Back, Left to Right

- 7th Jim, K6SV, General precision slotted screwdriver
- 2nd Kristen, K6WX, Arrow dual-band portable yagi antenna
- 5th Joe, WB6Joe, Lux-Pro LP352 210 lumen palm light
- 4th Merritt, KG6TNO, a pair of Midland FRS radios
- 3rd Peter, no call, Daiwas CS-201A, 2 position coax switch
- 8th Colin, KM6NTW, Grilliput, portable BBQ grill
- 1st Alan, AG6ZEB, Baofeng UV-5RTP HT
- 6th John, KM6SKA, Litz All 200 lumen clip-on cap light

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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	walt@tradewindsaviation.com	
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	n6db@arrl.net	
Director ('18)	Darryl Presley, K16LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@arrl.net	

Appointed Positions

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
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	
Asst. to the Treasurer....	Bob Korte, KD6KYT	408 396 4745
	bob@rgktechsals.com	
Badge Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wci.com	
Historian Position	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinator	Jim Rice, K6AK	650-851-2274
Field Day Coordinator ...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
ASVARO Rep.....	Clark Martin, KK6ISP	
	kk6isp@comcast.net	
Webmaster	John Miller K6MM	
	webaron@gmail.com	
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	kd6w@arrl.net	
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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-September, 6am–12 noon

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.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

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, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur.

Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.

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://santacalaravalley.redcross.org> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924

shensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)



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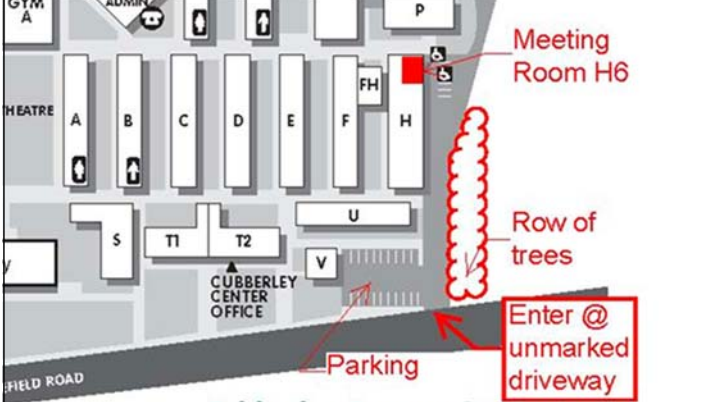
www.jameco.com

PAARA Weekly Radio Net

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

Week	Control Operator
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,



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

Legend
 Disabled Parking
 Public Pay Telephone

**Meeting Location — Middlefield Road
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 Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road**

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Email: KARLDRESDEN@juno.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 \$25.00 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,
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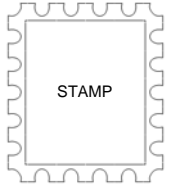
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PAARAgaphs — September 2018

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Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
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