

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.Celebrating 82 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

Knowledge, sufficiently forgotten, is indistinguishable from Magic

Shrikumar KA6Q

I have been a Ham Radio enthusiast for over 36 years, and a licensed Ham for about 36 weeks. Since I grew up in a negative-20 year time-warp in my high-school days, and thence transplanted to Silicon Valley at the temporal edge of civilization, I am just as comfortable with valves viz. as ECC81, (translation ... "electron tubes, like 12AT7"), as I am with ML-engines implemented in 14nm FinFETs. My favourite [sic] bed-time reading material has ranged from the Lenkurt Demodulator to Running Light Without Overbyte.

In this informal talk, I would like to share a sneak-peek from something that's currently cooking on my lab-bench, when I set out to build something specifically because it seems impossible. During this journey, I learned about innovations that had been made way back in the 30s and 40s, which somehow seemed to have been forgotten by Hams in all the intervening years. One example relates to SSB that can be demodulated by plain AM radios, known as CSSB, or Compatible Single Side Band. And a second related one is, how, despite widely-held conventional Ham wisdom, you can indeed boost SSB signals with a saturating power amplifier that is most definitely not linear."

Upcoming Events

Oct 4	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM Cubberly Community Center, Room H-6, 4000 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
Nov 1	
Dec 6	
Oct 16	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Everyone welcome! Location: Marty, W6NEV, QTH
Nov 20	
Dec 18	



President's Corner

Greetings from Santa Fe, New Mexico, just after the Duke City Hamfest. It's been a great time and it's wonderful to see how much this hamfest has grown over the last few years. It's really becoming a big event.



I arrived in Albuquerque on Thursday before the hamfest opened so that I could rest a little and get a nice meal. Lately I try not to push myself as hard as I used to when traveling. It was a nice experience. I even got a nonstop flight from SFO! As soon as I got off the airplane I could somehow smell New Mexico in the air. The first thing I needed to do was get some wonderful New Mexican food.

I don't know why, but I've never found proper New Mexican food anywhere else. Some claim to have it, but it never tastes even close to right. Ask me sometime about the place my son and I tried in San Francisco. The first proper New Mexican food was found at Mary and Tito's, a little hole in the wall in Albuquerque. A stuffed

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Lifetime award

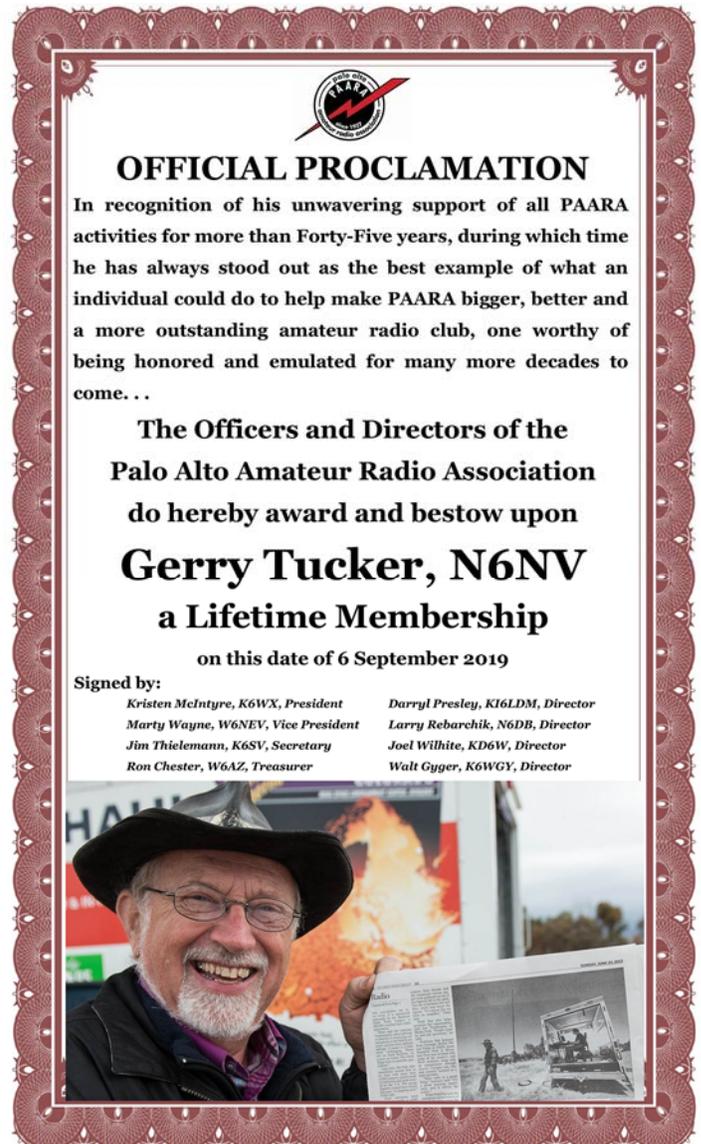
If you attended the last PAARA meeting, you were privileged to witness a rare event, the presentation of PAARA's lifetime membership award. The board voted to bestow the honor of lifetime membership to Gerry Tucker, N6NV. As stated in the proclamation, Gerry has been an active member of PAARA for 45+ years. He enthusiastically embraced participating in any volunteer activity that came along.

Over the many years with PAARA, Gerry was the secretary in the '70s when the club met in a green trailer in SRI's parking lot. Served as president of the club for 6 ~ 8 years. During his tenure as president, he also ran the Monday night net as all presidents at that time did. He championed Field Day for many years leading PAARA to the highest score ever for the club in 2012 with 17,158 points. As the property manager, he kept a record of PAARA donated items and stored lots of them over the years. He's been very active for years in selling goods at the Electronic Flea Market which lead to the current healthy financial position of the club. He consistently assisted in decommissioning SK shacks and towers. Ask Gerry anything about electronics as it relates to amateur radio or amateur radios or antennas and he's more than happy to freely share what he knows, which is considerable.

Also unveiled at Gerry's presentation was a plaque listing all the recipients of the award. Previous winners are Ron Panton, W6VG 2003; Leslie Vickery, W6AKR 2003; Joe Gomes, KB6HDC 2004; and Gerry, N6NV, who is the 6th PAARA member to receive the award. Not many have been awarded life membership considering the club has been around for 82 years. New recipients of the award will have their name added to the plaque. The plaque will be on display at most member meetings along with a copy of Gerry's proclamation.

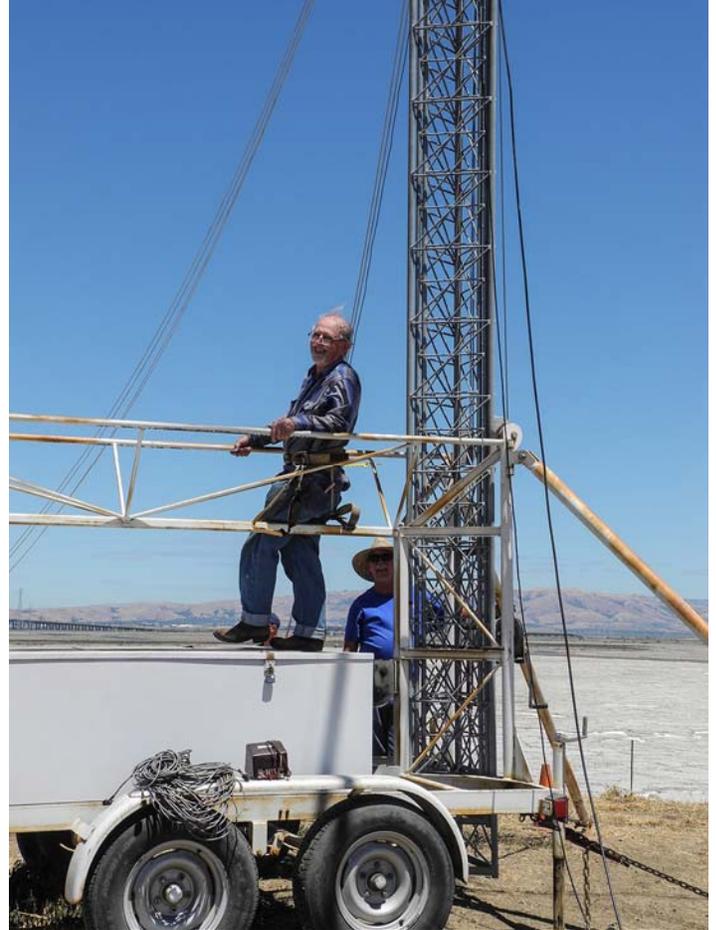
To quote Gerry, "if you participate, you can be part of the history of PAARA".

Jim, K6SV





Selling At the Flea Market



Helping at a Tower



In the Field at Field Day



Award Presentation

Left: Checking the contact log during Field Day



Analyzing the Antenna: The match is 1.5:1

(President — Continued from page 1)

sopapilla smothered in red chile just made me smile from the first bite to the last. At night, I went to Sadie's for stacked blue corn enchiladas and some local beer. It was wonderfully spicy and yummy.

This time I didn't get a room at the Isleta Hotel and Casino. That wasn't the plan, but I was too late making reservations. So it was a bit of a schlep into the venue each day. It didn't matter, though, because once there I didn't want to go home. I spent all day Friday visiting the vendor floor, meeting old friends, and taking in some talks.

Saturday was notable because I went to a talk by Rob Sherwood, of radio testing fame. He spoke about how our receivers are getting better, but transmitters are getting worse. It was a fascinating discussion of something I had long suspected. Using transistors to create RF linear power amplifiers is difficult, even with FETs. The distortion from the nonlinear transfer function seems to leak out more than we want. Because of that, Rob still uses tube amplifiers just like me. My first talk of two was later in the day. I had fun taking the audience through my way of evaluating antennas and they seemed to enjoy it.

It was the last session of the day, so the banquet was shortly after that. I slipped away for a short nap in the car. When I got back to the event room, there was already a line for drinks. I ended up talking to an ARRL Technical Specialist from the New Mexico Section. We started talking about Winlink. That subject seemed to pop up throughout the day. He finished by asking me to join him at his table. We had a number of great discussions that ranged from talk of urban RF noise to League policy.

Following dinner was a keynote by my friend and fellow IOK VP Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH. Instead of talking more about the Volunteer Monitoring Program, he gave an inspirational account of ham radio dedication, volunteerism, and cooperation. That came with a warning, though. With the coarsening of society, if we don't all come together, we could easily lose it all. Our hobby, while robust in many

ways, has a fragile future. We must find a way to recruit the next generation. We are all not getting any younger.

Sunday morning I had to get up early because I had the first session at 9 am. I was able to get to bed early so I wasn't too sleepy. When I left my hotel room I was greeted by 5 hot air balloons gently floating over the outskirts of the city, one of which was adorned with a red on yellow zia, the sun symbol on the state flag. Albuquerque is famous for its balloons, but I had never seen them before. I got closer to them as I drove to the venue and was able to get a few great pictures.

Despite the hour, the talk was well attended and had some great questions at the end. Anxious to get to Santa Fe, I said my goodbyes and struck out for the Turquoise Trail. It's the slow way north, but so pretty. I drove up to Sandia Crest so I could see for 100 miles, then by 1 pm I was parking at the Plaza in the center of the city, heading for more great food.

Since then I've been taking in the local sights and eating more than I should, of course. Last night I attended the first of two annual Santa Fe Institute Ulam Lectures on a complex systems approach to disease pandemics. It's all been great. Maybe one September you will join me here. 73 FROM NM DE K6WX

Sept 2019, Board Meeting Minutes

The meeting was held at Marty's home QTH, commencing at 7:17 PM on September 18, 2019. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX, (Pres), Marty Wayne, W6NEV (VP), Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Larry Rebarchik, N6DB, via audio conference (Dir), Walter Gyger K6WGY (Dir), A quorum was present.

Kristen, (K6WX), opened with a discussion expanding on the comments she made at the last club meeting regarding Milt Jensen's, N5IA (SK), site in Safford AZ and the noise study project the ARRL is considering undertaking in conjunction with others, including Kristen. Milt's site is unique as its 150 miles out in the desert. Antennas include a number of beverage and an 8 ver-

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(Minutes — Continued from page 4)

tical steerable array of 160 M antennas. A story on using the 8-circle array can be found here:

<https://ncjweb.com/features/julaug16feat.pdf>.

The number and types of antennas along with their location make it a prime site for a noise study. “The study’s goal is to learn if the background RF noise is increasing or decreasing”, said Kristen. The general opinion is that the RF noise has been increasing over the years but there is no empirical data.

Kristen mentioned her reserve of stories is non-existent, thus there is an urgent need for more. 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 ‘homegrown’ stories that make PAARAgaphs great”, she said.

Vice President’s Report: Marty, W6NEV announced that Shrikumar, KA6Q, will give an informal talk on what he’s been “cooking up” on his workbench. Marty also reported having the speakers for the rest of the year and one for next year. He’s in the hunt to fill next year, so please reach out to Marty if you have any suggestions for someone who can provide an interesting presentation at an upcoming meeting.

Secretary’s report: Jim, K6SV, reported the membership now stands at 195. Six new members joined and one rejoined at the September meeting. He reminds everyone that it’s not too early to renew your membership for 2020. You can always renew through our web site or at a meeting.

Under Old Business,

Marty, W6NEV, reported that the signups for the next field trip to the SS Jeremiah O’Brien Liberty Ship VERY low. He reminded us that the tour is now on October 5th. The tour will start at 10 AM

with lunch provided on the ship by Boudin Bakery. The tour and lunch cost \$33 per person. You can sign up for the trip through the PAARA web site. As the USS Pampanito is at the same pier as the Jeremiah O’Brien, those interested can also tour the sub on your own for an entrance fee of \$10 for Youth 5-13, \$20 for Adult 14-61 or \$15 for seniors 62+. The last day to sign up is September 27th.

The board had a short discussion regarding finding a new Raffle coordinator. No one has stepped up yet. Please let a board member know if you have any questions about the volunteer opportunity or wish to take this important position on.

The board had a short discussion on the status of the Pacificon special event station. As Mikko Sannala, AB6RF, the event station coordinator wasn’t at the meeting, we believe things are on track. There will again be a signup list at the October meeting to sign up for operating time slots. October 18th isn’t very far away so reserve your operating slot now for the best choice.

The other items on the agenda that haven’t been worked on very much or weren’t as critical will be topics for next month

Under New Business:

The board had a short discussion on the upcoming elections. As Clark Martin, KK6ISP, the election chair was not able to attend, no update on the status of identifying any candidates was available. The most important positions of President and Treasure need to be filled. Please let Clark know if you’re interested in either position.

The board meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM.

Jim Thielemann, K6SV
Secretary/membership

Please join me in welcoming new members:

Gabriel Blaj	AJ6KX
Phil Muller	No Call
Chris Sharp	N2VWO
Becky White	No Call
Florian Gutzwiller	W8RWB

And returning member:

Joe Nichola	KJ6YTA
-------------	--------

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Kristen McIntyre, K6WX kristen@alum.mit.edu	510-703-4942
Vice President	Marty Wayne, W6NEV w6nev@arrl.net	408-234-8023
Secretary	Jim Thielemann, K6SV thielem@pacbell.net	408-839-6815
Treasurer	Ron Chester, W6AZ ron@taxhelp.com	408-243 2221

Directors

Director ('19-'20)	Joel Wilhite, KD6W kd6w@arrl.net	408-839-5948
Director ('18-'19)	Walt Gyger, K6WGY walt@tradewindsaviation.com	408-921-5901
Director ('19)	Larry Rebarchik N6DB n6db@arrl.net	650 465-8210
Director ('19)	Darryl Presley, K16LDM ki6ldm@arrl.net	650 255-2454

Appointed Positions

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO ab6so@smrn.com	650-366 0636
Database	Jim Thielemann, K6SV thielem@pacbell.net	408-839-6815
Chaplain	Rick Melrose K6RDM K6RDM@yahoo.com	408-341-9070
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 bob@rgktechsales.com	408 396 4745
Badge Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE dteter@wvci.com	650-367-6200
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	
Technical Coordinator ...	Joel Wilhite, KD6W kd6w@arrl.net	408-839-5948
QSL Manager	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023
Speaker Coordinator	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023

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Technical Tips	Vic Black, AB6SO ab6so@smrn.com	650-366 0636

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 Summit Room at the Sunnyvale Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale
 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://santaclaravalley.redcross.org> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924
shensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)

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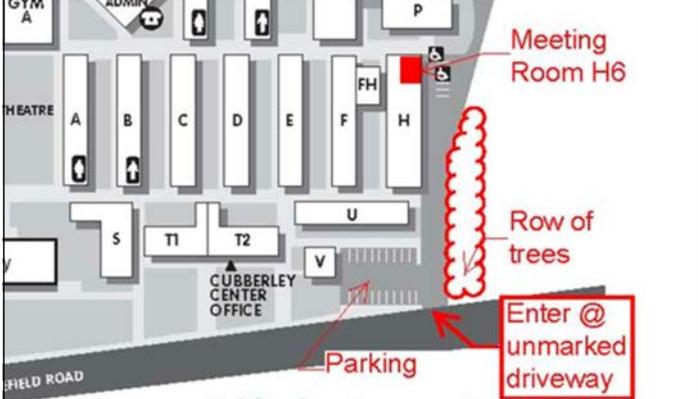
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PAARA Weekly Radio Net

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,



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 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
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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.

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NOT A CLUB, CLOSED GROUP OR CLIQUE; AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS AND FRIENDLY PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

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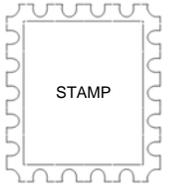
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PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). **All ad rates listed are per issue.**

- 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, \$14.00-quarter page, \$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 Walt Gyger, K6WGY.**

PAARAgaphs — October 2019

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 PAARAgaphs Newsletter
 P.O. Box 911
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