

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.Celebrating 84 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

Alpha Hotel Six Charlie Yankee: Ham Radio documentary

Description:

Documentary filmmaker Michael T Workman shares and discusses his short documentary Alpha Hotel Charlie Yankee. The film features Hiroki Kato and other PAARA members. The film was made in the Stanford MFA Program in Documentary film. It is entirely shot on a Bolex film camera in black and white.

BIO:

Michael T. Workman is a filmmaker, film programmer, and organizer based in San Francisco. Workman's documentaries have won awards and screened at festivals around the world. He received his B.F.A. in Art and B.A. in Filmmaking from the University of Montana in 2015 and his M.F.A. in Documentary Film from Stanford University in 2021.

Workman grew up living between a trailer park and a house without wheels in Missoula, Montana. Having experienced his family's struggle with addiction and surviving on a low income, issues of exploitation and class are central to his concerns in art and organizing. His documentary From Parts Unknown follows Jesse, whose dire need to cope with PTSD led him to find an outlet

(Speaker — Continued on page 5)

This meeting will be conducted with Zoom

Time: Oct. 1, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89569507280>

Login ID: First name and Call Sign

Meeting ID: 895 6950 7280

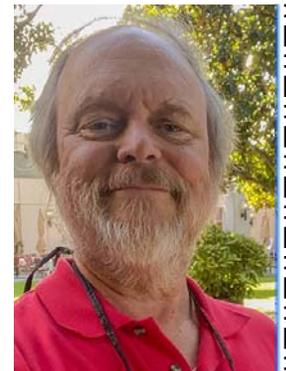
Upcoming Events

Oct 1	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM
Nov 5	Zoom Meeting
Dec 3	
Oct 20	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM.
Nov 17	Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting,
Dec 15	eMail President for details!
Oct	Electronic Flea Market Cancelled
Oct 12-17	Pacificon (currently on)

President's Corner

October 2021

Mikko, AB6RF, our Pacificon special event station captain, is well along in his preparations for the event. He's collected the radios and accessories. Mikko has the club computers and working on connecting them to the radios. Joel, KD6W, has volunteered to take the tower trailer and antenna to the site on the 14th and help with the setup. I'll be assisting on the 17th to help take it down and cart it back. Doug will host an antenna party on October 9th to service the antenna for the event. Please reach out to Mikko and offer your assistance in setting up the entire station on the 14th, covering periods during station operation, and assistance in dismantling the station on the 17th. He can use all the help we



(President — Continued on page 3)

Repeater Project Update - Fall 2021

This year marked an important addition to our club repeater, a new 900MHz analog machine for those that are digitally challenged. As we all know, the number of available analog frequencies in the 2m and 70cm band are very limited. The whole point of getting digital on 2m and 70cm was very controversial because on one hand it was easier to coordinate while at the same time others in the ham community said it wasn't fair that we should get frequencies when others (analog) are being rejected. This all led up to a much larger topic, the creation of narrow band allocations in our wide band repeater segments. Yes, that delicate subject started over 25 years ago and has been a roller coaster ride goes on unresolved today. But that is a topic for another article.

The 900 machine is still stand alone, not currently linked to anything and has a limited range when compared with our 2 meter machine, but is a strong machine down in the south bay. We still have yet to finish the backup internet link and add the ALLNET voice link to the 900 machine. Both of those projects will end up in next years effort to continue the expansion of our repeater capabilities. But in the short term, we are currently not running anything on the 1.2GHz band either. If you recall, we took the D-Star machine down to go up on DMR but we left the 1.2 GHz band to keep it active. The sad truth it got orphaned, there we no users in years so it sat idle burning watts for nothing so I decommissioned it. All the early years we ran the D-Star the lack of users was the elephant in the room. I'm happy to report the DMR machines are heavily used. For more information about the DMR and 900 machines, please see our website for more details. If you are interested in getting on 900 and not sure how to do that, we have the ability to get the older "Motorola" radios programmed onto our frequencies. But before you invest, please check with me first. I will post a list of known good model numbers up to our website shortly. The most recent success has been with the XTS 1500. I have one or two still available, please contact me directly if you live in the south bay.

Moving on from 900

After liberating our D-Star repeater running on the 1.2 GHz band (23cm) we can now start the work to integrate a new Digital Amateur Television Repeater. You knew this day was coming. Those who have been with the club for a long time will remember, I've only been talking about this technology for how many years now? A dozen or so? In case you didn't know, I run a web site at www.nor-cal-datv.org where I have spent a fair amount of time talking about the technology and the reasoning for building a DATV solution. I believe it is important for hams to be seen and heard. For more information about how we are going to launch our new service, please read up on the topics on my web-site and so this next part will make more sense. The thread the needle moment is based on leveraging low cost satellite receivers, like the ones anybody can buy on Amazon. This product link touts support for H.265...

https://www.amazon.com/Satellite-Receiver-Decoder-Supports-PowerVu/dp/B0817ZN2ML/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=dvb+s2+receiver&qid=1632080687&sr=8-3

The next step is to find a set of available frequencies which I have already started and with a signal strong enough to allow viewers to find our signal in the south bay which means having a very strong signal. In the 1.2 band that can be a bit of a challenge considering we are building a machine with a wideband signal output, any where from 3 up to 6 MHz wide. Narrow bandwidth operations is better understood by most hams, so running with a very wide modulation such as DVB S2 in a terrestrial format is more rocket science for most. We will dive into that topic in more detail as we get closer to getting the proposed system up and running. Suffice to say, the amplifiers used in the repeater need to be very robust and very linear. Step one is to get the basic building blocks put together to start testing.

What's Next?

With more and more of our life and society tied to some form of video it should be obvious to

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(Repeater — Continued from page 2)

the casual observer, video is and everyday thing, either consuming it or being part of it. Who has NOT been on a zoom call or other web conference where your camera is turned on. The old saying, “A picture is worth a thousand words” was never more true in today's world as we over stimulate our brains with so many visual images, some we could have never imagined would happen like those which occurred on September 11th. Nobody who was alive back then will ever forget those horrible images. But as we reach for the stars, there is more hope for new and exciting discoveries to look forward to as we become an inter planetary species, right before our very eyes. I'm old enough to remember when Neil Armstrong stepped foot on our moon back in 1969. Now my son gets to watch SpaceX land rocket boosters on a regular basis as they continue to build out the launch facility in Boca Chica which will likely become a thriving spaceport of the future. No doubt there will be more space ports in our future, I believe something to look forward to.

These topics are all compelling reasons to raise the bar in amateur radio and get more youth to look at the hobby in a new light, one which has actually been around for a very long time. Known as fast scan television, it has always been operated in the analog domain to leverage the cheap receiver built into every TV we own today. But as the TVs have become very flat and digital we now have the opportunity to look forward to new and more exciting types of digital modulation which can rival the old one like DVB S and DVB S2. Of course I'm referring to ATSC 3.0 but that is yet another topic for another paper, and will be discussed in more detail at the up coming PACIFICON. You will not want to miss it. In the meantime, we will be focused on getting our next repeater system on the air with Digital Amateur Television. And as we say in the business, stay tuned.

Joel Wilhite – KD6W

(President — Continued from page 1)

can muster as only one person has signed up to help with overseeing the operations on Saturday. Please note the information regarding Covid requirements from the Pacificon website found here: <https://sites.google.com/mdarc.org/pacificon2021-new/covid-19>.

Are you ready for the “big one”? September has been National Preparedness Month. That includes being ready to support you and your family for at least 14 days. That not only means being able to communicate with others but have enough provisions to sustain your family. Ask anyone who was around during the Loma Prieta earthquake on October 17, 1989, and they will tell you the story of their experience. However, not the “big one” it was large enough to upset lots of services everyone relies on. Depending on where you were, some of those services didn't return for days. I was glad to have a Motorhome with a 3K generator in it to keep the food cold and a few lights working at night for a few days.

I received an inquiry from Etón Corporation in Palo Alto (at San Antonio Rd. & 101) regarding hiring someone to work in customer support. You can check out their radios here:

<https://etoncorp.com/>.

Here is the job description: “we would like to hire (either full time or at least 30 hours a week) someone to be customer support for our product lines. This would include our emergency preparedness, as well as, our shortwave radio categories. Even though the person may not have to be in the office all the time, we would surely prefer someone who comes to the office every day. Our office hours, are from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm PST and most of our calls are from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm. Ideally, someone who has been in the field of amateur/shortwave radios and/or other emergency products will have an added advantage”. Please send me an email (thielem@pacbell.net) if you are interested and I'll forward your information to them.

As you will notice, the board decided to wait un-

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(Repeater — Continued from page 3)

til November to have the 1st in-person meeting. We felt there just wasn't quite enough interest yet in meeting in person. With luck, we'll be able to conduct the November meeting in person. At the end of the November meeting, the election slate will be set for the December elections. Make sure to reach out, any time before the end of the November meeting, to Clark, KK6ISP, our election chair if you have any questions or wish to run for a board position.

Concerning the December meeting, remember, last month the board approved purchasing an Elecraft KX3 as the Dream to Reality grand raffle prize. Therefore, we need to hold an in-person meeting to conduct the raffle and you must be present at the meeting to enter the raffle and possibly win the radio. Ask Doug, KG6LWE, what he thinks about the radio he won 2 years ago at the last Dream to Reality raffle.

Have you checked the Blog tab on our website lately? Ron Chester, W6AZ, added a new post in the last few days. He discovered four great books on DX have gone on sale. His post can be found here: <http://w6az.com/users/W6AZ/>.

73, Jim K6SV

Get on the air to keep the airwaves alive!

9/14/21 PAARA Board Meeting Minutes

The September board meeting was held via videoconference. Present were President Jim Thielemenn K6SV, Vice President Rob Fenn KC6TYD, Secretary Ric Hulett N6AJS, Treasurer Bob Korte KD6KYT, Directors Joel Wilhite KD6W, Walt Gyger K6WGY, and Darryl Presley KD6KYT. A quorum was present. Mikko Sannala AB6RF also attended. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm

President's Report: FCC Part 97 regulations describe the purpose of amateur radio. In part "Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications."

September has been designated National Pre-

paredness Month. Are you prepared for an emergency? Do you have a go-bag for emergencies? Do you have emergency supplies? How about your neighbors? Your emergency may be different: fire, flood, earthquakes. Protect yourself and be ready for the unexpected.

The 2021 ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is October 2 and 3. See the ARRL website for details:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Public%20Service/SET/SET.pdf>

Secretary's Report: The end of the year is coming upon us. That means it is time for renewals. Annual PAARA dues are \$25.00 (\$6.00 for family members). Check the PAARA website at www.PAARA.org to renew by paypal. Or, send a check to P.O. Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

We currently have 162 club members.

Treasurer's Report: We paid for PAARAgaphs printing, and purchased a selection of ham equipment from an SK estate.

VP / Program Chair Report: Andreas Junge N6NU gave a well-received presentation at the September meeting. We've had follow-on conversations on the 2m repeater.

Michael Workman will be our guest speaker for October. Topic is TBD

Old Business

MEMBERS! We always need articles (even short ones) for PAARAgaphs: If you have had in interesting Ham experience, take a few minutes to type it and send to the PAARAgaphs editor (editor's note: best sent to president).

Elections: Clark KK6ISP is our elections coordinator this year. He is preparing a slate of candidates for the club officers and directors. Contact him (KK6ISP@arrl.net) if you would like to be nominated for a board position.

Education Committee: Rob KC6TYD an outline of 10 potential topics for new hams.

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He is reviewing with Rachel KK6DAC and Darryl KD6KYT. After some additional detail, we will work out how often to present, and start soliciting presenters.

The club has acquired some ham equipment from the estate of a Silent Key. The board discussed what should be done with this gear, but did not make a decision.

Rob KC6TYD has collected the PAARA-owned equipment (mostly donated gear) from Marty W6NEV. The list of gear (all for sale) is on the PAARA website, under "For Sale".

Pacificon special event station update: Mikko AB6RF is coordinating the W1AW/6 special event station at Pacificon. We need to sign up more control operators for this: Contact [Mikko](mailto:Mikko@mikkops@yahoo.com) [mikkops@yahoo.com](mailto:Mikko@mikkops@yahoo.com) for more info.

MDARC reports that Pacificon registrations are coming in at a good pace.

Repeater status: Working to install digital and TV on the 1.2GHz repeater.

The DMR channel is active with south-bay hams.

October meeting: The board has decided that the October 1 PAARA meeting will be held online.

We will aim for an in-person meeting in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ric Hulett N6AJS
PAARA Secretary

(Speaker — Continued from page 1)

in the hard-won expression of underground professional wrestling. The film won the Grand Jury Prize at the Northwest Film Festival and is distributed by Real Stories and Means TV. His latest documentary, Favor & Grace, was a collaboration with Oakland-based artist Adrian L Burrell; the film explores the damage inflicted on families affected by police violence. Favor & Grace screened at festivals around the world and is distributed by Means TV.



PACIFICONSM 2021

San Ramon Marriott
2600 Bishop Drive
San Ramon CA 94583

IN PERSON!
Friday through Sunday
Oct. 15-17, 2021

COVID-19

Pacificon is committed to keeping our guests and staff as safe as we can during our convention. We will follow the recommendations and mandates from the Contra Costa County health officials that are in effect at the time of the convention. Please study Pacificon's COVID-19 Action Plan for details on what you must bring with you to attend Pacificon.

Some of the features at Pacificon 2021:

- A full slate of outstanding Forum presentations about a wide range of amateur radio topics
- Gordon West
- A large Vendor Expo filled with exciting products and exhibits
- An outdoor Swap Meet
- Youth Activities
- Electronics kit building and soldering instruction
- A One Day License Prep Class to prepare you to pass the amateur radio Technician license examination and get your first amateur radio license
- A One Day License Prep Class to prepare you to upgrade to the General Class level.
- Two days of License Testing
- A Special Events Station where you can operate and contact other hams worldwide, even if you don't have a General or Extra Class license
- A wonderful Banquet with Keynote Speaker
- Our annual Wouff Hong Initiation ceremony
- A chance to hear about and discuss important national amateur radio issues with top ARRL leaders
- A chance to win radios and other great prizes throughout the convention

And perhaps the best part - a chance to interact and share information with lots of other amateur radio enthusiasts.

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Vice President	Rob Fenn, kc6tyd	650-888-9060
	kc6tyd@gmail.com	
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	energyconserved@sbcglobal.net	
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	bob@rgktechsales.com	

Directors

Director ('21-'22)	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	408-839-5948
	kd6w@arrl.net	
Director ('20-'21)	Walt Gyger, K6WGY	408-921-5901
	walt@tradewindsaviation.com	
Director ('21)	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wci.com	
Director ('21)	Darryl Presley, K16LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@arrl.net	

Appointed Positions

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	energyconserved@sbcglobal.net	
Chaplain	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
	K6RDM@yahoo.com	
Public Affairs	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Station Trustee W6OTX, W6ARA....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Station Trustee K6YQT...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
Station Trustee K6OTA...	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Badge Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wci.com	
Historian Position	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinators	Rob Fenn, KC6TYD,	rtyd@aol.com
	Shrikumar, KA6Q	
	shri.paara@enablers.org	
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	408-839-5948
	kd6w@arrl.net	
QSL Manager	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023
Speaker Coordinator	Rob Fenn, kc6tyd	650-888-9060

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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.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

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>

San Mateo Radio Club W6UQ.ORG

Meets, 3rd Friday, January through November

Tuesdays, [Directed] Net, 7pm, N6ZX 145.370Hz -600KHz PL107.2Hz

Contact: <http://W6UQ.org/calendar>

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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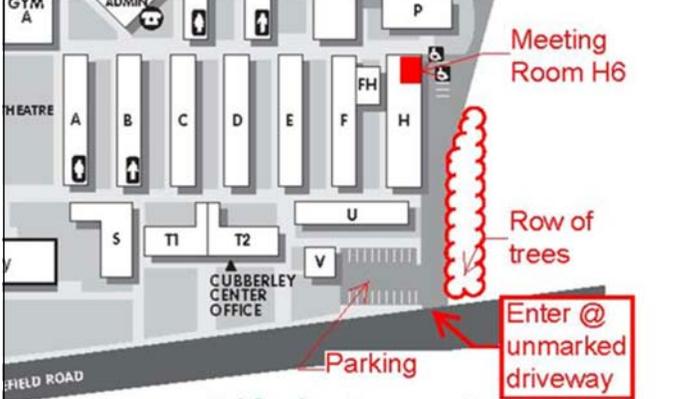
www.jameco.com

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	John - W6JMK
3 rd	Ric - N6AJS
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
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Legend:
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Meeting Location — Middlefield Road between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo 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,
 P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911

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Information
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ARV'S, WA6UUT (SK)
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440 – 444.475 up 5 MHz	DMR
900 – 927.225 down 25 Mhz PL: 100Hz	On Line

Silicone
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 again.

PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

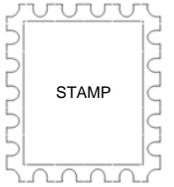
PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). **All ad rates listed are per issue.**

- 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, \$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 2021

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