PAARA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 74, NUMBER 4, April 2023

K6YQT K6OTA

graphs PAAKA

The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



The Friendliest Club Around Celebrating 86 years as an active amateur radio club—Since 1937 http://www.paara.org/

President's Corner

W6ARA

April 2023

W6OTX

Besides being spring already, April is "get the word out" month! PAARA will be very busy this month. First up, we have our Home Brew meeting on the 7th. This will be an inperson-only meetina. I'm looking forward to all the interesting projects



members have been working on.

Then the jam-packed weekend of April 15th and 16th. On the 15th, is PAARA in the Park. The event will be much like PAARA's 85th-I anniversary event except that we're gathering for some good old eyeball QSO's and to work some HF. We'll have two hex beam antennas! and radios for anyone to operate. We encourage anyone to bring an antenna or radio they may wish to operate or test during the event. Maybe you have some questions about your mobile setup or something else. This is the place to come to get answers to your questions. There's room for more than the two stations and additional equipment. Darryl, KI6LDM, has put together a 3-band fan antenna build project. He has 5 kits for the first five people who cover the \$60 material cost. Assistance will be provided for the builders. Once complete, each antenna will be tested and the owner is given a chance I to operate using it. Reach out to Darryl, KI6LDM@arrl.net, (put "Fan Dipole" in the subjject line) if you wish to purchase a kit. Doug,^l KG6LWE, Mikko, AB6RF, Connie, KN2EFI, and

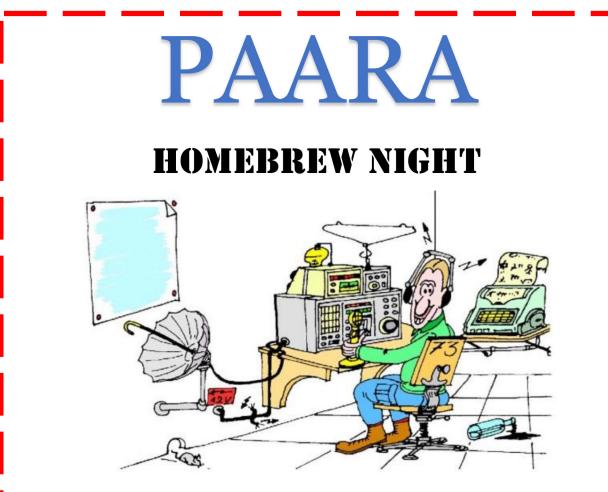
| Upcoming Events | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| April 7*** May 5 June 2 | PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM | | |
| April 19 May 17 June 21 | Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details! | | |
| April 15 | PAARA in the Park | | |
| April 16 | PAARA Electronics Flea Market | | |
| · · · · · | | | |

I gathered at Darryl's last weekend to assemble one antenna and get the kits packaged. All went really well and Doug made a couple of contacts on the sample antenna.

On SUNDAY, April 16th, the first Electronics Flee Market will be held at West Valley College in Saratoga from 0600 to 1200. Please observe the quiet time until 0800 so we can continue to l I hold the event here. For information on the event go to:

https://www.electronicsfleamarket.com/.

PAARA is the sponsor for the event. It's the first time in 3 years we've sponsored an EFM. We need lots of volunteers to make the event successful. Please reach out to me at thielem@pacbell.net to volunteer to help. This is our major fundraising event to help offset the cost of activities we have throughout the year and we could sure use a great event! We need! volunteers to process sellers at the gate, set up and take down the food tent, sell food, order and pick up donuts, and get drinks and other supplies from Costo, among other things. Please refer to the email sent to all club members re-



Time to show off your homebrew project!

Three presenters will be chosen for best project and awarded Home Depot Gift Cards.

Contact Rob @ <u>kc6tyd@gmail.com</u> to reserve you presentation spot.

In person only, no Zoom.

This meeting will be an In Person Meeting Only Time: March 3, 2023 07:00 PM Pacific Time Please check https://www.paara.org

PARAsale Rob Fenn. KC6TYD

The last PAARA monthly meeting gave me the perfect opportunity to sell some of the recently donated SK items. I literally had picked up a truck and trailer full of items that Friday afternoon. Most of the items were a surplus components consisting of resisters, capacitors and other miscellaneous electronic parts.

The SK was a kit builder and there were numerous empty project boxes. One box contained at least a dozen Plano parts organizers containing various components, screws, and various other items. For the most part it was a "grab bag" for anyone to rummage through and when someone felt they had \$5 worth of worthy items they paid up.

I also had a few larger items for sale, such as power supplies, SWR/power meters, and some old vintage test meters. I also brought the Yaesu FTdx1200, that I've been trying to sell, and I finally got a buyer.

Well, I'll be doing the same thing during next meeting. I've had a chance to consolidate items in like boxes to make it a little easer to find what you might be looking for. I'll also bring more priced items as well. Who knows, you just might find your diamond in the rough.

Some of the items will be from the current online list of items at <u>paara.org</u>. Click on For Sale tab to see what what's there. I hope to have the list updated by the time you read this.

(President — Continued from page 1)

garding the event on or around 4/18 for more information. Let me know if you have any questions or didn't receive the email.

As I announced at the March general meeting, we can't hold any raffles until I am able to get the California Department of Justice to be satisfied. The last form I sent in they sent back requesting more information on one item. I provided that information now they decided we needed to provide info on the last 5 years or so along with numerous other forms. This is a work in progress which I hope will be resolved quickly but who knows how long it will take. In the meantime, we have been told we can't hold any

raffles.

I received another email update from the IDXC regarding the upcoming convention on April 21~23. Adrian Ciuperca, KO8SCA, and David Jorgensen, WD5COV, team members of the 3Y0J Bouvet Island DXpedition, will be telling the story of the long voyage and challenges of activating the island at the Saturday night banquet! If you still haven't registered, you can do so at: <u>http://www.dxconvention.com/index.html</u>. I hope to see you there. If you can't attend, hopefully, you'll be able to make a contact with the N6V special event station which will be on the air during the event from 13:00~17:00 on Friday and 09:00~17:00 on Saturday.

Doug, KG6LWE, is making progress with the City of Menlo Park on obtaining the needed approval to have Field Day at Bidwell Bayfront Park for the first time in many years! He's working with the city to see if the fees can be waived otherwise, we think it's close to being a reality. The board decided to operate 2A this year to get the ball rolling before trying to bite off more than we can manage after not having it for so long. Please make sure to block out the weeklend of June 23 ~ 25 for Field Day.

Walt, K6WGY, successfully made contact with the Hiller Air Museum and is working with them to have our 1st field trip in several years. This was one Marty, W6NEV, was working on when Covid shut everything down. Mark your calendars for August 19th as the date it's currently scheduled for. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date.

I learned that from January 18 to February 2, 2024 there will be a DXpedition to Clipperton Island that will use the callsign TX5S. PAARA has a connection to that DXpedition as one of our past presidents, Andreas Junge, N6NU, will be a team member on the voyage.

I look forward to seeing a room full of smiling faces at the April 7th Home Brew Night inperson-only meeting.

73, Jim K6SV Get on the air to keep the airwaves alive!

QST QST PAARA in the Park Event

The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA) is pleased to announce PAARA in the Park.

PAARA is devoted to furthering all HAM Radio skills amongst members and friends for recreational purposes as well as for emergency communications. HAM Radio communications have proven critical in emergencies to be the only way of communicating between citizens and disaster response teams.

PAARA's approximately 150 members always welcome new HAM Operators and those interested in learning about Amateur Radio and support them in their operations.

Please join us on April 15th, 2023 at Memorial Park in Cupertino, CA. The event starts at 10 AM and runs until 4 PM. Food and nonalcoholic beverages will be provided around 12:30 PM. The event is open to members and non-members.

We are hosting a 3-band, (20M, 15M, 10M) fan dipole antenna build. We have 5 kits available on a first-come first served basis. The cost is \$60, in advance, for the required supplies. Once complete, you will be able to test your antenna. You can find more information at: https:// www.paara.org/

We'll be located in the Group Picnic Area. The best place to park is to take Stevens Creek Blvd., turn left on N Stelling Rd., then left on Alves Dr. Halfway down the block you'll find a lot on the right. The Group Picnic Area is at the large grass field's left end.

Two HF (high frequency) stations will be operating along with a GOTA (Get on the Air) station so anyone can try their hand at operating HF. We plan on operating on whatever band is open on the 15th so check the spotting sites to see where we're operating.

You are encouraged to bring any radio or antenna to the event. You can use one of the hex beam antennas we set up with your radio or your antenna with our radio or both your radio and antenna.

We look forward to seeing everyone there. It's an opportunity to socialize with old friends and meet some new ones.

What can I do with my Ham License? *Ric Hulett N6AJS*

At a recent club meeting, a new ham asked me, "Now that I have my Technician license, what can I do with it?" A great question, with many answers:

Chat with other hams: As a tech licensee. • you have many frequency bands available, on HF and on VHF. There are a few 'watering holes' where other hams can usually be found. In particular, our local repeaters are relatively active, especially N6NFI -145.23 MHz, - offset, PL 100 Hz. (If you need help with your radio setup for this, just reach out to any of the club officers.) The 'NFI repeater hosts a number of nets: You can check in to the 9AM talk net each weekday: Newcomers with questions are welhttp://9amtalk.net. Also, PAARA come. holds our club net every Monday evening at 8:30. Again, visitors and newcomers are welcome.

There are a number of other repeaters in the bay area, see <u>www.repeaterbook.com</u>.

• Echolink: Repeaters can also be activated using EchoLink. This software allows licensed Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the Internet, using streaming-audio technology. The program allows worldwide connections to be made between stations, or from computer to station. Some PAARA members host echolink nodes and we often have remote check-ins to the Monday net. <u>www.echolink.org</u>.

• Packet Radio and Automatic Packet Reporting System (APRS): These are digital protocols that allow ham stations to communicate with each other reliably and over long distances using "digipeaters". Packet radio typically requires a laptop with sound card, and a Terminal Network Controller (TNC). APRS is included as a feature in some VHF radios: It allows a mobile (or fixed) station to automatically send its position and other information, along with short

(New License — Continued from page 4)

messages. Find out more about APRS at <u>www.aprs.org</u>, and you can view local APRS stations on a map at <u>www.aprs.fi</u>.

• ARES / Public Service: Many hams are active in public service activities. Hams provide communications support in emergencies, and have organized training and scheduled nets. Acronyms: Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES); Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES); Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). <u>www.scc-ares-races.org</u>.

Other community events like parades and group bike rides often use ham radio for communications.

• Fox Hunting: Use your portable radio and a directional antenna to seek out a hidden transmitter (the "fox"), in a competition with other hams. There is an active group of foxhunters in the bay area. Their website is <u>www.rdf-sf.org</u>.

• DXing: The Technician license gives you privileges on a few interesting bands with the potential for long-distance (or DX) propagation. Techs can communicate via voice on the 10-meter band, from 28.3 to 28.5 MHz. This year, the 10m band has been 'open' during the daylight hours, and contact with European and Asian stations is not unusual. The 6-meter band (50 to 54 MHz) is sometimes open as well: It's known as the 'magic band' for surprising propagation effects.

• CW: (Morse code). CW is like anchovies on a pizza. Some folks can't stand them, and a few really love them! As a tech, you are allowed to send morse on sections of the 80m (3.525 to 3.6 MHz), 40m (7.025 to 7.125 MHz), 15m (21.025 to 21.2 MHz) and 10m (28.0 to 28.3 MHz) bands, and on the VHF bands. With computer programs to send and receive code, it is possible to use the mode without actually knowing Morse! It's not for everyone, but you might give it a try. Just below 28.300 on ten, there are many 'beacon' stations, automatically sending their callsigns and location. • Exotic modes:

Hams make contact with each other using amateur satellites. There are many satellites in low earth orbit, and they can be reached (when overhead) with as little as a dual-band radio and a handheld yagi antenna. www.amsat.org/introduction-to-workingamateur-satellites.

• The International Space Station (ISS) usually has some licensed hams on board. They make scheduled contacts with lucky school classes, but often make contact with other hams on the earth. <u>https://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html</u>.

• With more equipment (and a bigger budget) hams can complete contacts by reflecting their signals off of ionized meteor trails (meteor scatter) and even the moon.

• Finding out More:

• There is so much to know about ham radio, it is impossible to cover it in a short article. You should find opportunities to learn more:

Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL) is the national organization for ham radio. I strongly recommend that any ham join the league. Membership dues are \$49.00 per year. <u>www.arrl.org</u>. ARRL has several magazines which are available in print, or can be viewed online by members. They recently launched a magazine aimed at the newer ham, "On The Air".

• Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA) is on the must-do list. Join our meetings on the first Friday of most months, and you will find hams happy to talk about ham radio, and offer help.

• Field Day: On the fourth full weekend in June (June 24 and 25 this year), hams all over the US and Canada participate in the ARRL Field Day. They set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. (New License – Continued on page 6)

(New License — Continued from page 5)

Field Day combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. This year PAARA will operate three stations from Bedwell Bayfront Park in Menlo Park. This includes a "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station where anyone, including new hams, can operate and make contacts all over the country.

• Ham Radio Conventions: The PACIFI-CON convention is held at the San Ramon Mariott. This is a three-day meeting (October 20 – 22) attended by hundreds of hams from the region. There are many technical talks and meetings, an exhibitors area with ham gear manufacturers, and the chance to operate W1AW/6 – the club callsign for the ARRL.

• What to do next:

The Tech license is only the first step for hams. You will want to study for the General or Amateur Extra class license, which gives access to many more frequency bands and activities.

Ham radio can provide a lifetime of learning and enjoyment. There are many areas to explore: Pick one, or a few, and go for it.

March Board Meeting Minutes

Attending were President Jim Thielemann K6SV, Vice President Rob Fenn KC6TYD, Secretary Ric Hulett N6AJS, Treasurer Bob Korte KD6KYT, directors Doug Teter KG6LWE, Darryl Presley KI6LDM, Joel Wilhite KD6W and Walt Gyger K6WGY. Also present was Mikko Sannala AB6RF.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm. A quorum was present.

President's Report: The weekend of April 15 and 16 will be a busy one for PAARA. On Saturday, we will have "PAARA in the Park", and Sunday will be the first Electronic Flea Market of 2023, which PAARA will sponsor. We hope that there will be a good turnout, as this will only be the second EFM in two years. We need a lot of membership support to make this work for PAARA – It's our main fundraiser event for the year.

Secretary's Report: PAARA has 173 members! 50% of our members hold the Amateur Extra license, five of our members hold Advanced class, 29% General, and 15% hold a Technician license.

Postcards will go out to the few members who have not yet renewed, instead of the April PAARAgraphs.

Treasurer's Report: We have made payments to the printer for the newsletter, and some other minor expenses.

We received a generous \$100 donation from an anonymous club member, in honor of Vic Black AB6SO (SK). **VP / Program Chair Report:** The April meeting is "Home Brew Night" at PAARA. This meeting will be held in-person only. If you have a homebrew project, please let Rob know. We have three confirmed projects, and may have some walk-ins.

Old Business

PAARA members are <u>strongly encouraged</u> to prepare articles for publication in PAARAgraphs. We don't have enough material in the hopper. If you have a ham-radio related experience or story, please type it up and send to the president, K6SV.

Education Committee: Darryl, KI6LDM, will lead an antenna build project for the PAARA in the Park this April: Interested folks can build and test a 10-15-20 meter dipole antenna. The cost for the parts is \$60.00. If you are interested, e-mail Darryl KI6LDM@arrl.net, and put "Fan Dipole" in the subject line.

Radio Sales: We sold some donated items at the last meeting, and raised \$193. We sold the Yaesu FTDX-1200 to a club member. If you are interested in some of the club-owned equipment, please contact Rob Fenn. Rob will continue to bring some sale items to the club meeting.

900 MHz repeater: Christopher Al6KG and Mikko AB6RF visited the repeater site, checked all radios for proper function, and reset all the hardware. We may need to replace the ethernet switch at the site. Recent storms have dropped Eucalyptus branches and debris on the site. No damage was noted. We could spend a day at the site clearing the debris.

Field Day: This year marks PAARA's potential return to the excellent Bayfront Park location. In a change from past years, we are planning a Class 2A operation (Two transmitters plus GOTA) The city fee for a special event permit is \$150. Plus \$100 per day for 3 days. We have reached out for a variance on this.

Field Trip to Hiller Air Museum: This club event will be held on Saturday August 19th, at 10:00 AM. Event cost will be \$10 per person, plus food costs.

PAARA in the Park April 15th: We will need some volunteers for Food preparation, antenna setup, radio setup, and the antenna project. Contact Darryl <u>KI6LDM@arrl.net</u> if you can help out. This event will run from 10:00 until 4:00. The antenna build project starts at 11:00, and lunch is at 12:30. Note that Darryl will conduct a test run on antenna build on March 25.

Electronic Flea Market: April 16th. We will need a number of club volunteers to work this event, which is PAARA's main fundraiser.

Send a blast e-mail to the membership requesting volunteers (Ric)

Members: Please check for an e-mail from <u>paar-apay@gmail.com</u> sent on March 19 or 20.

Badges: Members, please wear your PAARA badge at the monthly meetings. We will have temporary member and guest badges for those who forget. See Ric N6AJS for a badge.

IDXC Convention: This ham meeting is held in Visalia, April 21 to 23. Members should plan a visit to this convention: Two of the Bouvet Island DXpedition participants will be speaking at the banquet. Should be a fascinating talk. Also, an Elecraft K4 is among 9 radios to be awarded as door prizes.

New Business

Raffle: We have been working with the California DOJ to update our permit for the raffle. We are close to success, but will not be able to hold a raffle at the April PAARA meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at: 9:05 pm

Respectfully submitted Ric Hulett N6AJS PAARA Secretary

| Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026 | | | | |
|--|---|------------------------------|--|--|
| | Officers | | | |
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| Secretary | | 408-332-4593 | | |
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VE Exams

De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <u>http://amateur-radio.org</u>

Electronics Flea Market (ESM)

Sponsorship: Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations (ASVARO)

The Electronics Flea Market is seeking a new location. Until that is resolved, the EFM is on hold. Website: <u>http://www.electronicsfleamarket.com/</u>

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 website at <u>http:// www.paara.org</u>. For more information. contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, KD6W@ARRL.NET, 650-325-8239

FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:00pm at Covington School, Los Altos. Website: <u>http://www.fars.k6ya.org</u>

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:00pm each month, Repeater for member info 147.360. Contact <u>president@ncdxc.org</u>, Website: <u>http://ncdxc.org</u>. YouTube content: "The Northern California DX Club Official Channel". Cohost of the International DX Convention.

The 50MHz & Up Group of Northern California

This organization specializes in vhf + wak signal and microwave activities. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Time is usually 5pm for in person meetings, and 7pm for Zoom only meetings. In person meetings are held Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale. Always check the website, <u>http://50MhzandUp.org</u>, for correct information. Zoom information is also there.

San Mateo Radio Club W6UQ.ORG

Meets, 3rd Friday, January through November. Tuesdays & Thursdays, [Directed] Net, 7pm, N6ZX 145.370Hz, -600KHz, PL107.2Hz

Contact: <u>SanMateoRadioClub@gmail.com</u>, Website: <u>http://W6UQ.org/</u> <u>calendar</u>

SPECS

Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System users Group

Meets each Monday 7:30pm and 8:00pm. See: <u>https://specsnet.org/monday-night-net</u> for more info. Contact: <u>https://www.specsnet.org/contact</u> or <u>board@specsnet.org</u>

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: <u>http://k6mpn.org</u> E-mail: <u>pres@k6mpn.org</u>

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+) Website: <u>http://www.svecs.net</u> or contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

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
 UHF:

 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.
 Comparison
 Comparison

Website: http://wvara.org, Contact: info@wvara.org

(Please send changes to PAARAgraphs editor)



PAARA Weekly Radio Net

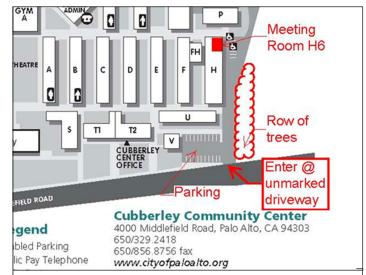
Info and Swap Session every Monday evening at 8:30pm on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater

Week Control Operator

| 1 st | Doug - | KG6LWE |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| 2 nd | Doug - | KG6LWE |
| 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.





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

Tribulations about moving?

We Have Seen It All And I Can Help You

Experienced in Residential and Commercial Property, Full time REALTOR since 1975 Call me at Terrace Associates, Inc.

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Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park California 94026-0911

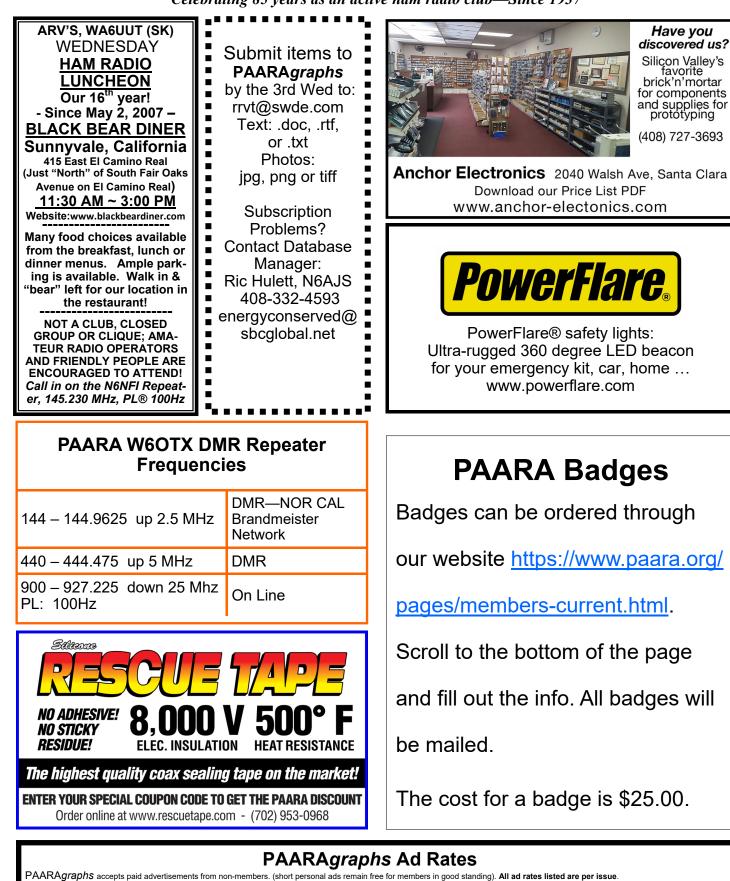
Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

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

Membership in PAARA is \$25.00 per calendar year, which includes one subscription to PAARAgraphs \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter). Make payment to the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911

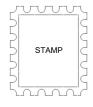
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1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
 2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size,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

PAARAgraphs — April 2023

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA



Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. PAARA*graphs* Newsletter P.O. Box 911 Menlo Park, California 94026



Address Service Requested

