

K6YQT

PAARA NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 53 NUMBER 11, November 2004

W60TX

# PAARAgraphs



Celebrating 67 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937  
Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



## CALENDAR

- Nov.....5 **PAARA Meeting, 7:30**  
Menlo Park Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- Nov.....10 **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30**  
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- Dec.....3 **PAARA Meeting, 7:30**
- Dec.....8 **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30**

## PROGRAM

November 5, 2004 7:30 P.M.

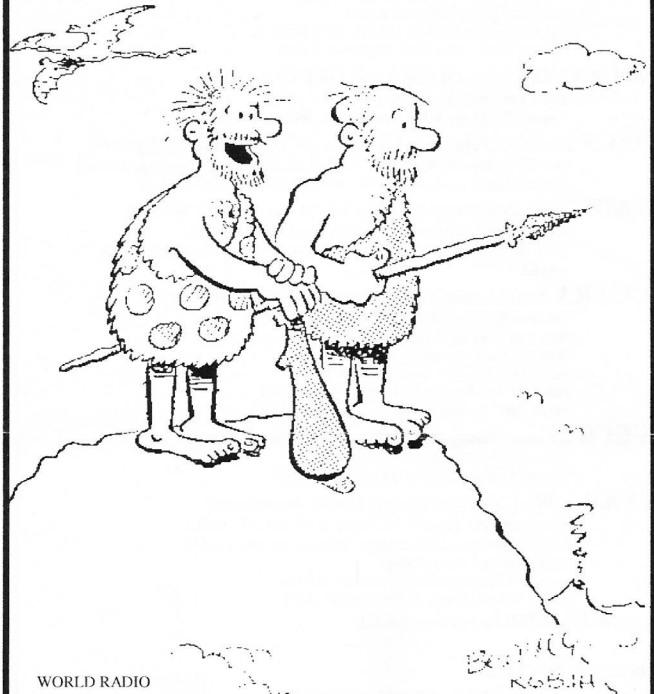


**Speaker:**  
**Grant Connell**  
**WD6CNF**

**Program:**  
**"Software programs**  
**For**  
**Amateur Radio"**

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball  
at Su Hong Restaurant, 1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park  
Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA  
meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own order and bill.

—PAARA Radio NET every Monday evening at 8:30 P.M., local time—  
on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off



BOY, IF SOMEONE WOULD JUST INVENT RADIO,  
WOULDN'T THIS MAKE A DANDY REPEATER SITE

**Program: "Software programs for Amateur Radio"**

**Speaker: WD6CNF Grant Connell**

Grant Connell, WD6CNF HF Pack Member and Amateur Radio software developer, will demonstrate his invaluable Amateur Radio software programs (see QST, Oct. 2004, Short Takes, pg. 61).

Among the programs demonstrated will be: CW Decoder XP, Audio Spectrum Analyzer, Audio Generator/Spectrum Analyzer, Digital Voice Keyer, Simple Windows Packet Controller, DSP Filter for Audio, and Instrument Tuner. A free CD software disc may be available. PAARA says, "Thank you Grant, for making your fine software available free to Amateur Radio Enthusiasts Worldwide."

<http://hotamateurprograms.com/>

~K6AK Jim





## PAARA HONORS

### BOB KORTE. KD6KYT

by Terry Finn AF6TF

The former PAARA treasurer, who is well known to all, took a few minutes to comment on himself the other day. As a result, we were able to scratch together some notes and produce this brief synopsis of his life to date.

Robert Gardner Korte, who we have come to know and love is actually known in most circles as Bob Korte, KD6KYT. He lives in Redwood Shores with his very understanding and patient wife, Geraldine. He works every day for a company known as RGK Technical Sales (which he owns) and spends some of his free time playing with his radios and building another investment home in Lake County.

Bob was born in the Brentwood area of west Los Angeles on November 29. In fact, he will be celebrating his sixtieth birthday this month, so please send him a greeting. Bob's father was Pat

Korte, a first generation American as his father immigrated from Germany. Pat worked for Graybar Electric in Los Angeles and sold GE light bulbs exclusively for many years. Pat was so successful that he would actually win a new car annually and for many years drove Studebaker's and Cadillac's in LA.

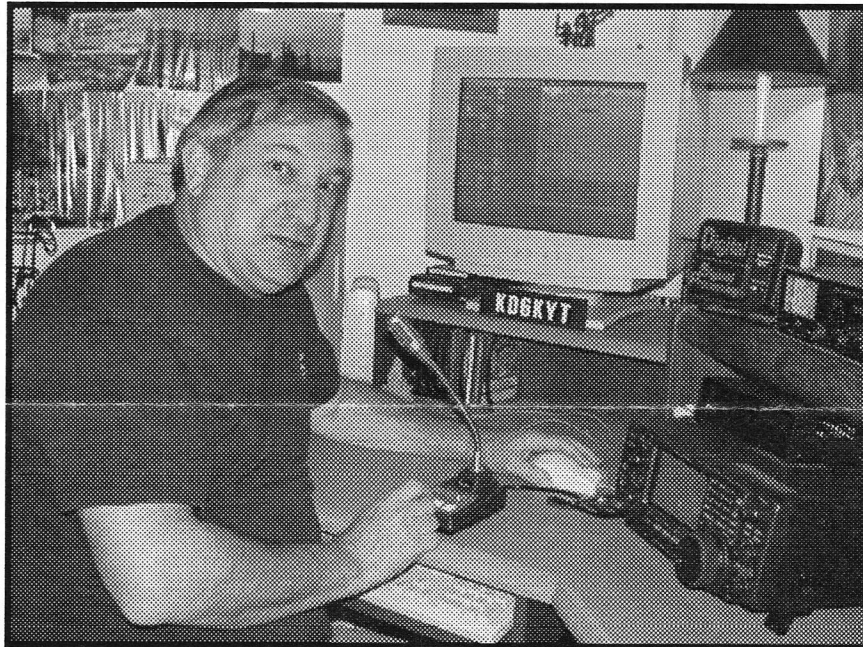
Bob's Mom was Virginia who had been a nurse in New York working in obstetrics. She met Pat and they both escaped from the New York area and moved to California where they were married in Glendale. Along came the first son, Gail, who lives in the Palm Springs area and is now retired from chemical sales for McDermott where he had been an applications engineer for circuit board plating using copper, nickel & gold. The next son, Richard, now lives in Boise, Idaho, where he is retired from AFGA, the European film company, where he had been the sales manager. And then came Bob.

Bob Korte graduated from the University High School in west Los Angeles during the winter of 1963. He had been a member of the radio club and had taken classes in electron-

ics while also working with the school audio/video team. He developed an interest in radar and actually built a working radar transmitter & receiver. Some of the components were obtained from dumpster diving missions that he and his friends conducted behind the Packard Bell television manufacturing plant in Carson which was a bicycle ride away from their homes.

He attended Santa Monica City College and took a variety of engineering courses. However, that came to an end when the family moved to Hawaii and Bob had to enroll at the University of Hawaii to take a series of business classes. At the same time, Bob went to work for his father's business, 'Pat Korte & Associates', and became an outstanding salesman of electrical supplies including lighting fixtures, cable and wire.

In 1965 Bob joined the U.S. Navy and soon found himself in radar school at the Mare Island Naval Facility in the Bay Area. Not long after that he was sent to Vietnam and served two tours of duty during the Vietnam war. He actually earned several medals but has not elaborated on them or his service other than he spent some time serving on the USS Vesuvius (AE-15) in the



combat information center.

In 1967, while he was waiting for his honorable discharge from the Navy at Treasure Island, Bob experienced something that was brand new and exciting. He was in civilian clothes consuming a beverage at a now defunct establishment in San Francisco that was known as the Jolly Fryer Bar & Grill on Clement Street. He observed a young lady engaged in conversation with her cousin and after several attempts at getting her attention, he was finally able to ask her for a dance. Well it was simply a matter of time as the love bug struck hard and Geraldine became his bride on June 15, 1968. They tied the knot in Occidental, which is in the Russian River area.

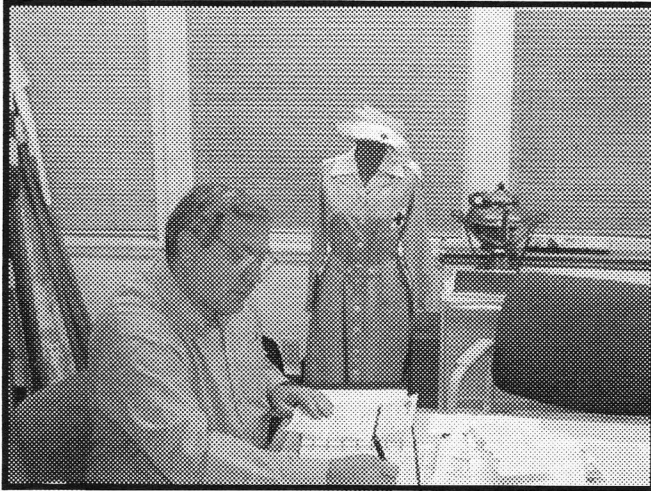
Soon, Bob was working for Edisco as an outside salesman because they were providing him with a new car every year, a one thousand dollar a month salary and a complete expense account for entertaining prospective clients. He was in fat city.

In the early 70's, Bob earned his Novice license and his 5 wpm code qualification. He does not remember what that

*Continued on page 122, BOB KORTE. KD6KYT*

*Continued from page 121, BOB KORTE, KD6KYT*

first call sign was, however he up-graded to General class about five years ago and was issued KD6KYT, which is what he uses today. In 1972, Bob and Geraldine purchased

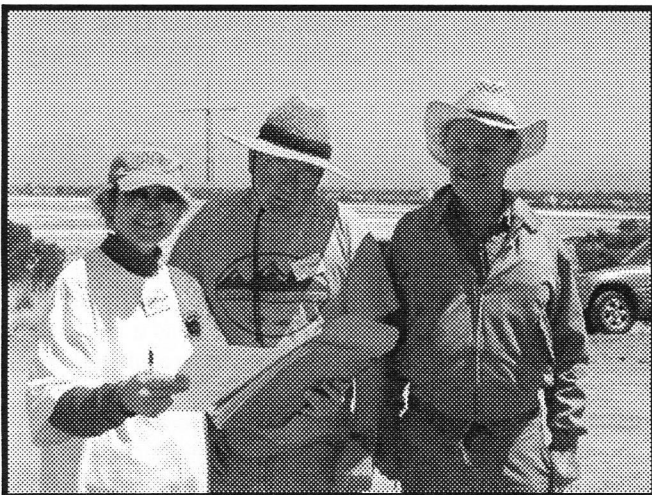


a new home in Redwood Shores and in 1974 along came their daughter Ann Marie who is now a successful hairstylist in San Francisco. In 1978, their son Gerald Patrick came along and he is now a musician living in Tahoe.

Bob owns and operates an Icom 746 with a horizontal loop antenna at home and uses an Icom 706 for mobile and portable operations at his Lake County property. He joined PAARA about thirteen years ago when he was persuaded to do so by Andy Korsak, KR6DD and served as the PAARA treasurer for four years and currently serves on the Board of Directors. Bob has been responsible for obtaining two of the three utility trailers that are currently owned by PAARA and his business sells the circuit boards for the Nor Cal QRP kits as well as the boards used in the Elecraft K1 and K2 transceivers.

PAARA salutes Bob Korte, KD6KYT, as an active and vital member who helps make our club what it is today.

**Thank you Bob.**



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

The regular PAARA Board of Directors meeting was held at the Red Cross offices in Palo Alto on Wednesday, October 6, 2004. The meeting was called to order by Vice President **Jim Rice, K6AK**, at 1950 hours local time.

In attendance was: President **Andreas Junge, N6NU**; Secretary **Terry Finn, AF6TF**; Treasurer **Ron Chester, W6AZ**; Membership Committee Co-chairman **Vic Black, AB6SO**; PAARAgaphs editor **Wally Porter, K6URO**; PAARAsite web master **Peter Sheerin, K6WEB**; Name Badge coordinator **Dave Rogers, K5DKR**; Board members **Adrianus Schrauwen, W6AJS**; **Rolf Klibo, N6NFI**; and **Gerry Tucker, N6NV**. PAARA members **Mark Cohen, KR1PTO**; **Stan Towle, WA6ZGI** and **Dan Curry, K6DLC** also attended as any current PAARA member may if they are interested.

The treasurer led the Board in a healthy discussion of why we must consider raising the PAARA dues from one dollar per month. Several suggestions were considered, including raising the annual dues to either \$16. or \$24. to at least cover the cost of the monthly PAARAgaphs newsletter. The whole issue was tabled for another meeting.

**Vic Black** suggested again that we consider sending the monthly PAARAgaphs news-letter via e-mail to those members who can accept it in that format. The idea is not new as this issue had been discussed before, however the Board was not ready to accept it at this time and the matter was tabled. Vic will continue to send out PAARA info sheets & meeting invitations to newly licensed hams and will create a new 2005 master calendar of PAARA activities that will be published in January.

PAARA is still up-dating the membership list to determine ARRL affiliation of members and changes to members data. This is necessary to bring us back into line with the 51% rule under the ARRL rules so we can once again be an ARRL approved radio club.

The nominating committee chairman, **Gerry Tucker**, provided a report on who should be running for the various executive office positions at the December meeting election. That information will be published elsewhere in the November PAARAgaphs.

**Andreas Junge** announced that due to business & personal commitments, he would not be able to serve on the Board past this election date. **Jim Rice** indicated the same but allowed that he and his capable staff will continue handling the raffle prize event.

The meeting was adjourned at 2115. Many participants re-convened at MacDonald's in Menlo Park for a social visit.

Respectfully submitted by:

*PAARA Secretary. Terry Finn. AF6TF*

PAARA Election of Officers and Board Member at  
December Meeting

## PAARA ELECTION NOTICE.

Gerry Tucker, N6NV, the election nominating committee chairman has announced the results of the nominating committee search for viable candidates to run in the PAARA election on **December 3, 2004.**

The election will be handled in the normal fashion during the regular PAARA meeting on that Friday evening. Candidates will be in attendance and any additional nominations may be accepted from the floor if necessary. All PAARA members voting must be current, paid up, regular members.

Those PAARA members who have been nominated are as follows:

- for President: **Terry Finn. AF6TF.**
- for Vice President: **Peter Sheerin. K6WEB.**
- for Secretary: **Adrianus Schrauwen. W6AJS.**
- for Treasurer: **Ron Chester. W6AZ.**
- for Board member: **Dave Rogers. K5DKR.**

Note that there is only one Board member position open this year.

Submitted by:  
**Gerry Tucker. N6NV.** Nominating Committee chair.



## ARRL Headquarters

### ARRL Letter,

From Vol. 23, No. 41

### ARRL ASKS FCC TO SHUT DOWN NEW YORK BPL FIELD TRIAL

The ARRL this week asked the FCC to shut down a BPL field trial system in Briarcliff Manor, New York, that has been the subject of past interference complaints. The ARRL says the system, operated by Ambient Corporation under an FCC Experimental license, continues to cause "harmful interference" to amateur stations and that the FCC must require it to cease operation immediately.

"The operator of the system has attempted what it referred to as 'adjustments' in this system in order to reduce the severe interference potential to licensed radio services such as the Amateur Service," said ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD. "These 'adjustments' have come to be inaccurately referred to as 'notching' of certain bands, and as a solution to interference to Amateur Service stations, they are incomplete and inadequate."

The ARRL's October 8 letter of complaint asserts that the Briarcliff Manor system not only is currently causing interference but fails to comply with either applicable FCC Part 15 regulations or with the terms of its FCC experimental authorization.

ARRL said the BPL facility at Briarcliff Manor should not be permitted to resume operation until it can demonstrate "full compliance" with FCC rules. The League also called on the FCC to impose "appropriate monetary forfeitures" against Ambient.

Accompanying the League's complaint were technical exhibits substantiating the degree of interference the League alleges. One exhibit shows the results of frequency-shifting adjustments Ambient made to the system in the wake of "multiple interference complaints from licensed radio amateurs." The complaint maintains that the adjustments failed to reduce interference on "a substantial portion" of the HF amateur allocations.

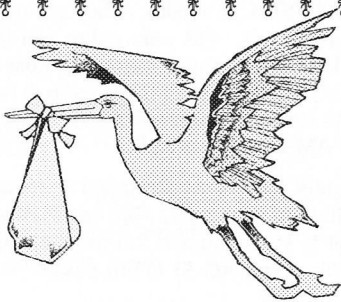
The ARRL study says Ambient has been trying for more than a year to mitigate interference by using "notching" techniques, "but to no avail."

The ARRL said measurements taken at 14.3 MHz at one point in the system "revealed 30 to 40 dB of degradation to Amateur Radio operations along a stretch of road over a kilometer in length." A sweep at another location showed that BPL signals occupying the entire 15-meter band remained strong more than a quarter mile from the BPL injector.

"The levels of interfering BPL signals are sufficient to obscure virtually all Amateur Radio received signals and preclude Amateur Radio communications in the areas and on the bands identified in the report," the ARRL concluded.

ARRL member Alan Crosswell, N2YGK, a resident of the community, has documented interference, complaints and related information on his "BPL in Briarcliff Manor" Web site <<http://www.columbia.edu/~alan/bpl/>>.

The Briarcliff Manor BPL system, which is operated by the electric utility Consolidated Edison, was the focus of a March 2004 front-page Wall Street Journal article, "In This Power Play, High-Wire Act Riles Ham-Radio Fans," by technology writer Ken Brown. ARRL staff members accompanied Brown to the BPL site so he could hear the interference firsthand.



## KG6QQC HAS A BABY !!

As this edition of PAARAgaphs was going to press, we learned that PAARA member **Rob Goodson, KG6QQC** was with his wife at the hospital waiting for the birth of their first child. I am sure that we will learn all of the details soon, so that we can congratulate both of them.

~Terry Finn. AF6TF

## The Satellite Beacon

A monthly article presented by the  
 Project OSCAR Amateur Radio Club

This Month's Topic (September):  
**What is an OSCAR Satellite?**

By Don Ferguson KD6IRE – President of Project OSCAR

Project OSCAR (Orbiting Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio) started in 1960 and was responsible for the construction of the first Amateur Radio Satellite OSCAR-1, that was successfully launched from Vandenberg AFB in California. OSCAR-1 orbited the earth for 22 days, transmitting the "HI" greeting you see in Morse Code above.

In the beginning, OSCAR satellites were mostly beacons in the sky, encouraging hams all over the world to listen to them. Later, OSCARs became more sophisticated and hams could use them to communicate across great distances. OSCAR 40, for example, enabled people to communicate across distances up to 13,000 miles at one time!

Most FM satellites are not as sophisticated as AO-40, though AO-51 or Echo approaches that level of sophistication. AO-51 orbits the earth at an altitude of ~800km every 94 minutes, and allows hams to communicate across continents using small hand held FM radios or easy to assemble ground stations. This easy to use radio system means that working satellites is not limited to a select few - all hams are entitled to use them. If you want to look beyond your local repeater, this is for you.

If you have never used a satellite to communicate before, here are some tips:

Visit the Project OSCAR website at

<http://www.projectoscar.net>

to find some information, or visit the AMSAT website at

<http://www.amsat.org>

Both websites will give you some great information to get started such as the proper frequencies and PL tones, as well as some easy to follow instructions.

More importantly, contact your local representative for AMSAT who is called your area coordinator, or drop us a line through the Project OSCAR website. If you need additional help, or if you belong to a local radio club, invite your local AMSAT area coordinator to come and speak to your group.

### Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

at Su Hong Restaurant  
 1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own order and bill.

### PAARA Radio NET

every Monday evening at  
 8:30 P.M., local time

on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off

## The Satellite Beacon

A monthly article presented by the  
 Project OSCAR Amateur Radio Club

This Month's Topic (October):  
**Choosing A Satellite Radio**

By Emily Clarke, W0EEC – VP of Project OSCAR

The purchase of a new radio is possibly the biggest decision and most debated decision a ham makes. When I started out I asked a dozen people and got as many answers. In the end, I made my decision not on what people told me, but by considering what I wanted the radio to do. Choosing a satellite radio is easy if you know what your needs are. Rather than make specific recommendations, let's examine some general capabilities.

**Simultaneous Dual Band?:** Satellites generally transmit on one band and receive on another. There are a number of dual band radios, but can you listen on 70cm and transmit on 2m at the same time? This **cross band** mode is an absolute requirement. If you have a radio that will do **split** band operation, this probably qualifies.

**Full Duplex?:** Generally you don't need a full duplex radio for repeaters, however when operating satellites it is important to monitor your own signal as it is retransmitted by the satellite. Although you can work the easy sats with a split band radio, **full duplex** is highly recommended. Radios with dual VFOs generally meet this criteria.

**Handheld or Base?:** If you plan on working satellites indoors, antennas will probably be up on the roof or on a tower. You will need extra power (10 watts or more) because you will also have cable losses to overcome. If most of your contacts will be made outside with a handheld antenna, a handheld radio might be all that you need.

**All-Mode?:** All mode radios are base or mobile radios that can do both **FM** and **SSB/CW** modes. They are more expensive but put out up to 100 watts. FM only radios can be used for many satellites, but high orbiting satellites always use SSB/CW modulation. If this is your goal, an all mode radio is for you. A word of caution – some handheld radios say they are all mode, but it is generally only AM receive not SSB.

**HF?:** Currently only two operational satellites use HF. AO-7 operates in Mode A (2m xmit, 10m receive) and AO-51 has a PSK mode that is 10m xmit and 2m receive. Note that you need HF privileges to operate AO-51 in this mode.

**Packet?:** Some radios have built in terminal node controllers or TNCs. These convert data from the satellite and display them on a screen or computer, and vice versa. Other radios don't have built in TNCs but have a data port for a TNC. Make sure it supports 9600 baud data.

**Computer Interface?:** Not all radios have the ability to be controlled by a PC running a tracking program that will automatically correct for **Doppler shift**. While not very important for FM, it is a highly desirable feature for SSB/CW operation. This feature is generally only available on all-mode base station radios.

Whatever your decision, they can sometimes become permanent. Though you can quickly sell a radio you aren't happy with using online auctions it's generally a decision that is difficult for hams to make. So the best advice is to buy a radio that meets your needs and possibly needs you may have in the future.

## PAARA November 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Raffle

**PROGRAM:** "Software programs for Amateur Radio"

**SPEAKER:** WD6CNF Grant Connell

**Grant Connell, WD6CNF HF Pack Member and Amateur Radio software developer, will demonstrate his invaluable Amateur Radio software programs (see QST, Oct. 2004, Short Takes, pg. 61).**

Among the programs demonstrated will be: CW Decoder XP, Audio Spectrum Analyzer, Audio Generator/Spectrum Analyzer, Digital Voice Keyer, Simple Windows Packet Controller, DSP Filter for Audio, and Instrument Tuner. A free CD software disc may be available. PAARA says, "Thank you Grant, for making your fine software available free to Amateur Radio Enthusiasts Worldwide." <http://hotamateurprograms.com/>

### PAARA "The Friendliest Club Around"

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

**Date and Time:** Friday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA.

**PAARA Website:** [www.paara.org](http://www.paara.org)

Welcome Members and Visitors

**SPECTACULAR, UNBELIEVEABLE, & HEART-POUNDING EXCITEMENT!!**

**"MUST ATTEND EVENT OF THE YEAR" say Amateur Radio Operators Worldwide...**

*Mark your calendar and don't sit down in that Barcalounger because "that's not all folks!"*

*Come try your hand at winning the:*

**FIRST PRIZE:** Yaesu FT-60R, Dual Band, 5W, HT

Ni-MH batteries, 1000 memory Channels, Emergency Auto ID System, NOAA Alert

**SECOND PRIZE:** Garmin / Foretrex 101, Wrist Mount GPS Receiver

Weight 2.6 oz., RS232 with NMEA, "A Must Have Hot Item"

**THIRD PRIZE:** Icom IC-T2H, 2m, 6W, HT

Built Tough, PC Programmable, 10 Weather Channels

**FOURTH PRIZE:** TWO Uniden FRS / GMRS Radios / Backlit Display

NiMH Batteries with Drop In Charger

Don't forget about the

**TWO / FIFTH Place Raffle Prizes plus a Bonus Prize of a**

**1-year subscription to WORLD RADIO.**

Enjoy our fabulous speakers, free refreshments, chatting with your friends, and the chance to take home an unbelievable prize. See you at Round Table after the meeting! Kyle, Ian and I are having a lot of fun.

**THANKS AGAIN FOR MAKING THE MEETINGS VERY EXCITING!**

**The PAARA Raffle is FULL of SURPRISES and YOUR LUCKY DAY may be November 5<sup>th</sup>**

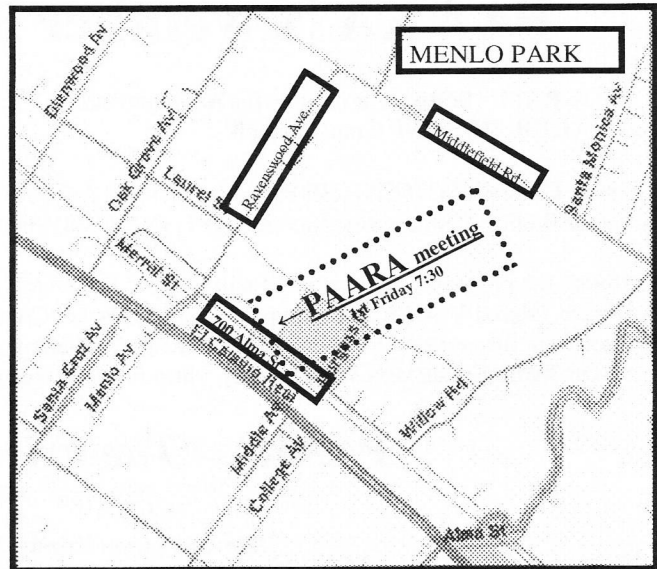
**Contact Kyle, KG6MSK and Ian, K6IAN, "Two of PAARA's youngest members" for tickets at the meeting.**

Members and Visitors: THANK YOU for your continued support of the PAARA Raffle!

**Since February 2003 49 Radios, including an ICOM 706 MK IIG have gone to Fellow Hams, THANKS TO YOU and the PAARA Raffle!**

**Special Thanks to Rick and Howard and HRO for their continued SUPPORT!**

~K6AK Jim



**PAARA Website**  
[www.paara.org](http://www.paara.org)

**PAARA BADGES**  
*to order one, contact coordinator:*  
**Dave Rogers, K5DKR**  
 dkr55@bigfoot.com

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

**QSO**

**November 5th**

**gab & gobble**

*Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own food order.*

**6 pm— at Su Hong Restaurant**  
 1039 El Camino Real  
 Menlo Park


—across from Kepler's Book Store—

**PAARA Radio NET**  
 every Monday evening  
 8:30 P.M., local time  
 on the  
**145.230 -600 MHz repeater**  
*PL tone off*

*control operators:*

**1st Mon KG6ILA, Pinkney Foster**  
**2nd Mon N6NU, Andreas Junge**  
**3rd Mon AD6FX, Jon Zweig**  
**4th Mon AA6PA, Bill Rausch**  
**5th Mon tba**

**Want and For Sale ads in**  
 PAARAgaphs  
 are **FREE** to members  
*(Submit by e-mail or letter before the 15th of the month)*

 *Howard at HRO says: "HAM accessories and gift certificates are available at HRO"*



*"Congratulations PAARA on a successful year."*





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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 only.

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).
2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover.

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 Bob Korte

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

- Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA.
- Radio NET every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230-600 MHz repeater, PL tone off.

Membership in PAARA is \$12.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAgaphs, \$6 for additional family members (no newsletter).  
 Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911  
 Permission is granted to reprint from this publication with appropriate source credit.

