

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER

K6OTA

K6YQT

VOLUME 55, NUMBER 2, February 2006

PAARAgraphs



Celebrating 69 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937
The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



CALENDAR

February 3 **PAARA Meeting**
7:00–9:30
Menlo Park Rec Center
700 Alma Street
Menlo Park, CA 94025



February 8 **Board Meeting** 7:00pm
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Lane Palo Alto
(due to Parking Lot problems location may change, check net before Bd. meeting)

March 3 **PAARA Meeting**, 7:00pm
March 8 **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:00pm

"But why two memberships?"



photo KM6EP

NEXT MEETING



February 3, 2006

Program:

Feb Meeting: DXing for Newbies

For all of you newly minted Generals and those looking to upgrade in the future, Rick Huisman, N6DQ will present us with a discourse on everything you wanted to know about DX but were afraid to ask.

This is not just for newbies—Rick will share with us not only the basics of how to make DX contacts, but will teach us how to get the most out of weak or noisy signals using the various RF and audio adjustments on your radio.

And I'm sure Rick will have an interesting story or two about the DX he's worked with that monster HF antenna on his little red sports car.

Peter K6WEB

PAARA 2006 Dues are Due

Membership in PAARA is \$18.00 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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Miscellaneous Info

VE Exams, 3rd Saturday each month, 10:30AM, 145.23– PL=100Hz

Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room
 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA
 contact: <http://amateur-radio.org/> or 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-October, 6am–2pm
 Howard M. Krawetz, N6HM 650-856-9761
 Contact: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

LIVERMORE SWAP MEET, Now in Robertson Park, Livermore, every first Sunday of the month. 7 am to 11:30 am. Free admission for buyers. For further info, see: www.larkswap.com or contact Ian Parker, W6TCP at swapmeet@livermoreark.org

PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association
 meets 1st Friday 7:30pm each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,
 contact: <http://PAARA.org/> or Terry Finn, AA6T, 650-366-9111

FARS Foothills Amateur Radio Society
 meets 4th Friday 7:30pm each month
 contact: <http://www.fars.k6va.org/>

NCDXC Northern California DX Club
 meets 2nd Friday 7:30pm each month,
 repeater for member info 147.360, Thur 8:00PM
 contact: <http://ncdxc.org/> or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club
 meets 1st Sunday each month
 contact: <http://www.norcalqrp.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, San Carlos City Hall.
 Net is on 146.445 (PL 114.8) & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.
 contact: President Phil Stripling, KG6ILU, 650-342-6648, <http://k6mpn.org/>

SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
 Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl
 Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 442.425+ (p1 107.2) Thur.
 meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.
 contact: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara/> or Clark Murphy KE6KXO 408-262-9334
 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

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: 441.35 (+5.0 88.5) ctcss
 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss
 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss
 meets 3rd Wed every month.
 contact: <http://wvara.org/>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, N6FFC@Juno.com, or
 N6FFC@ARRL.NET

DISASTER SERVICES

American Red Cross, PALO ALTO AREA CHAPTER
 400 Mitchell Lane
 Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM
 HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite.
 contact: <http://paarc.org/> or Mac Millian 650-688-0423. MACM@paarc.org
American Red Cross, SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER
 contact: <http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org/> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924
shenslev@Novell.com

(please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor: k6uro@arrl.net)

PAARAgaphs E-mail address: k6uro@arrl.net

Submit material for PAARAgaphs by the 15th

Text: WORD, MS Publisher, RTF, or ASCII

Photos: JPEG or TIFF raster images

Diagrams and ads: AI, EMF, or EPS vector files

PAARA Web/WAP site: www.paara.org

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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n6nu@arrl.net
 Director (‘06) Kristen McIntyre, K6WX
k6wx@arrl.net
 Director (‘06) David Ungar, W6DH 650-255-2131
ungar@mac.com

See the calendar for Board meeting times. **Visitors are welcome.**

Appointed Positions

Membership Vic Black, AB6SO 650-366 0636
ab6so@smrn.com
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k6rdm@arrl.net
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kg6tmd@arrl.net
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 Station Trustee K6OTA .. Ron Chester, W6AZ
 Property Manager Gerry Tucker, N6NV
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dteter@wcwi.com
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 Ticket Master Kyle Rice, KG6MSK
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 Technical Tips Vic Black, AB6SO 650-366 0636
ab6so@smrn.com

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Awarded by Action of the PAARA Board

Ron Panton, W6VG July 2003

Joe Gomes, KB6HDC May 2004

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Connections and Interconnections 3: “From Samuel F.B. Morris to PAARA”

By Vic Black AB6SO



This time we'll link the work of Samuel F. B. Morse to Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association members. Morse is credited with the invention of the telegraph. Like all technological advances, Morse relied heavily on the work of several predecessors. Patent attorneys call this “prior art”. Prior art in this case involved the work of Louis Braille, inventor of the Braille system of writing for the blind.

Louis injured an eye in his father's leather harness shop at age three. The injury led to an infection which caused blindness in both eyes. At age 10 he enrolled at a school for the blind and was taught to read by feeling large raised letters embossed onto paper, but the system didn't allow for writing. When he was 12 years old he began to experiment with a writing system based on a matrix of raised dots rather than embossed letters. He was inspired by a visitor to his school, Army Captain Charles Barbier de la Serre, who introduced Louis to a system of writing using 12 raised dots made by pressing wires into the back side of paper and used by French soldiers to communicate in the dark. At age 15 Braille completed his improved 6 dot system.

By 1836 Morse's first prototype telegraph instrument required a cable from the transmitting station to the receiving station with a separate wire for each letter. Later he improved on that and printed a dictionary of sorts with a number assigned to each letter. The sending operator would consult the chart and throw a switch on and off until the required number had been sent. The receiving operator would then consult a chart to translate from the numbers back to the individual letters. This new telegraph needed only one wire and a return ground to activate relays.

About that time a New York University student, Alfred Vail, saw the invention and proposed the idea of using a digital code with a unique symbol for each letter. At the receiving end, a machine pushed pins into the back side of a moving tape and the embossed dots and dashes could be “read” off of the tape somewhat reminiscent of the Braille reader. The next refinement was an ink pen which drew a square wave on a paper strip to represent the “dots and dashes” for each letter. The refinement was that there would be only short and long pulses plus spaces to represent each letter instead of a matrix of raised dots. Right away it became obvious that a good Morse operator could hear the clacking of the tape embosser and recognize the letters by sound. The tape printer was replaced by a sounder and the system was complete. With the invention of radio, or “wireless” as it became known, the wires were no longer needed and Morse (Vail) code became a very efficient way to communicate over long distances. The original American Morse code was rationalized later and became the Continental, or International, Morse code which we use today.

During the Second World War a blind telegrapher and Amateur Radio operator, Donald R. “Russ” Farnsworth, volunteered to teach Morse code to soldiers. Russ was first licensed in the 1930's as W9SUV and later as W0JYC. He held W6TTB during

the 1950's. Russ was quite active as a PAARA member and served as the club's President during 1958. He was Field Day 40 meter CW captain during 1958 and later that year PAARAgaphs reported “Russ, W6TTB, is making plans to build a cascade RF amplifier using a pair of 417A's to put ahead of his FM receiver in picking up satellite signals.”

This was certainly on the cutting edge of technology since the “space age” began only a few months earlier with the launch of the world's first artificial satellite, the 184 pound Russian Sputnik, on October 4, 1957 from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan as a predecessor to the 1958 International Geophysical Year. Shortly afterwards the US Vanguard I satellite was launched into a highly stable orbit on March 17, 1958 and is now the oldest manmade object still in orbit.

In January, 1960 PAARAgaphs reported that “Russ Farnsworth, W6TTB, has caused to be issued two and a half hours of revolutionary code instruction records. Even old Dusty was interested and we all know what a CW man he is not. The records should be in your favorite parts house. The tab, \$9.95, the label, Epsilon, the deal, code.” The Dusty referred to was 1958 PAARAgaphs Editor, Landry “Dusty” Doester K6MPN (SK) whose call sign is now assigned to the SCARES club in San Carlos. The three large diameter Long Playing vinyl records, or LP's, were recorded at 33-1/3 RPM, but could be played at 45 RPM to provide a bonus speeded up version of code instruction as the student progressed. Russ narrates these “total immersion” recordings using a technique similar to recorded foreign language training. Epsilon was located at 841 Woodside Road in Redwood City. That address no longer exists, but has been absorbed by a funeral chapel and a small strip mall.

Russ's partner in Epsilon Records was Forrest “Bart” Bartlett W6OWP. Bart was a high speed CW operator for Press Wireless at their high-power HF transmitting station on the San Francisco Bay tidal flats east of Belmont until improved cable facilities and the up-and-coming satellite developments took business away. Bart's job was to copy CW news releases at a standard speed of 39 WPM then transmit them by teletype to subscribing newspapers. He was always quite active on radio teletype (RTTY) and considered an Amateur Radio RTTY pioneer. He used commercial teletype tape punchers to create the masters for Epsilon's recordings. Bart moved from Redwood City to Paradise, east of Chico, after his retirement in 1974.

The “Farnsworth Method” consists of sending letters and words at a high speed with long pauses in between for low speed copy then decreasing the time between letters and words as the student becomes more proficient. The idea is to avoid counting dots and dashes and to recognize the sound and rhythm of the letters as a whole. This is now the approved standard for Morse code training and testing.

It was not a totally new idea, but it was promoted and popularized by PAARA's own Russ Farnsworth.

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MARCHING TOWARD W6ARA

About a year ago I gave some thought to changing my call sign. I was getting a lot of bogus (perhaps unintentionally so) QSL cards to respond to and thought the solution would be a call that hadn't been used for a long time. As a result of searching my 1921 call book for an article I wrote for PAARAgaphs a while back, I knew my old friend and PAARA member, Jerry Zobel, had never had his call reissued. It looked like an ideal candidate. These events were dovetailing with a previous search for older PAARA members that I was hoping Terry, AA6T, would interview for his series of biographical sketches that have been appearing in PAARAgaphs. Having helped Jerry move out of his home on North Hampton a few years ago, I knew that he had relocated to an assisted care facility in Cupertino. I found his phone number and talked to his wife, Louise, only to find out that Jerry had become a silent key in 1999. But, the conversation also revealed that Jerry had been a medical officer aboard the USS Nevada in Pearl Harbor when it was attacked on December 7, 1941. I am continuously amazed at the backgrounds of some of our PAARA members.



and realized what a great call it would be for an Amateur Radio Association. I had already asked Terry if he could do a posthumous article on Jerry, presuming Louise would agree to an interview. Knowing that Jerry's call would soon be publicly available, Terry, Ron W6AZ, and I swung into action. Ron, got a new call for PAARA, in preparation for the vanity conversion. An interview was set up with Louise and the three of us had a delightful visit in her beautiful Cupertino home. Louise provided us with pictures of Jerry, (much younger than the Jerry I knew), and signed the necessary papers for us to obtain a copy of the 1999 death certificate, needed by the FCC for the cancellation process. Ron was working out the strategy for submitting the cancellation of Jerry's call, while almost simultaneously submitting our claim as a vanity application. It is a potentially tricky process, as the cancellation is registered almost immediately, but if your vanity application precedes the posting of the cancellation, your vanity application is immediately rejected and it becomes open season on the W6ARA call sign. To further complicate the situation, and substantially increasing my anxiety, hurricane Katrina resulted in the temporary suspension of all vanity call activity by the FCC. In any case, all's well that ends well and on 10 January, W6ARA was assigned to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.

I began to rethink my interest in Jerry's call, W6ARA,

Four days later, Ron activated our new call sign in memory of Jerry Zobel, W6ARA SK, in the CW portion of the North American QSO Party, making 112 QSO's to 31 states, three Canadian provinces, Japan, and the Turks. He reports that it is an excellent call sign on CW, rolling off the paddles easily; rarely misunderstood on the other end.



It's my hope that we can be more aggressive in activating our call signs, since that is what they are for. Anyone interested in putting our calls on the air, contact Ron W6AZ, trustee for K6OTA, (On The Air!), or myself, trustee for the other calls, and let us know where you will be operating and who the operators will be. It would be great if some Elmers would take PAARA members, who don't have regular access to HF gear, out on some weekend efforts and give our calls some exercise. Meanwhile I will get the support of the Board to provide some QSL cards that your contacts can be proud to show off.
 de, Gerry, N6NV

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ARDF Update: 2005 In Review

By Joe Moell, K0OV

ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator

Contributing Editor

January 15, 2006

More hams than ever are discovering the fun of Amateur Radio direction finding [ARDF] contests. Did you and your club try it last year?

Last month I told you how hams across the country are getting together for competitions that provide both physical and technical challenges. All-on-foot transmitter hunting under international rules--called foxtailing, radio-orienteeing and ARDF--has gained steadily in popularity since its introduction to North America in the early 1990s.



Eric Rice, KG6SIH, of Northridge, California, tracks foxes with his dad Randy, WB6BXP, during the 2005 Catalina Amateur Repeater Association picnic. [Photo by Joe Moell, K0OV]

ARDF activity is expanding every year and 2005 brought the sport to more places in the USA than ever. Southern California led in the number of informal ARDF sessions with at least one every month in parks ranging from under 60 acres to more than 1000 acres. Most of them featured a pair of five-fox 2-meter courses--one for complete beginners and one for advanced foxhunters. Usually one 80-meter transmitter also was on the air to give everyone an opportunity to try foxtailing on that band. For those without any RDF gear [yet], there were plenty of loaner antennas, attenuators and other equipment. [Results and photos](#) are on my Homing In Web site.

Our rain-or-shine policy was put to the test in January when heavy showers drenched Schabarum Park in La Habra Heights, California, just at hunt start time. Only a couple of intrepid hunters braved the downpour and the slippery trails, but they gained experience in conditions similar to some multi-nation events, such as the [2000 World Championships in China](#). For the less intrepid, there was a make-up session at the same park in March

Hamfest Hunts

Along with transformer tosses and QLF [sending Morse code with one's left foot] contests, many hamfests and conventions have begun staging on-foot transmitter hunts. At this year's Catalina Amateur Repeater Association picnic, there were five of my foxboxes in Heritage Park. In addition, there was the hidden "T" for the mobile hunt of South Orange Amateur Radio Association, courtesy of that day's huntmaster Dave Seroski, KG6QCI. CARA picnickers watched and joined in as cars full of SOARA hunters arrived and tried to find them all. [We told them that they couldn't get their free burgers until they did!]



Young Jered Garlitz, KE7DRC, hunts for a hidden transmitter at the 2005 Utah Hamfest and Rocky Mountain Division Convention. [Photo by Joe Moell, K0OV]

In late July, I had a great time at the [Utah Hamfest and ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention](#) near Bryce Canyon. My talk was about hams around the country who are traveling the world in search of ARDF medals. Mike Collett, K7DOU, and I showed them some easy-to-build RDF gear.

Utah Hamfest Huntmaster Larry Benson, N7GY, staged three on-foot foxhunts of varying difficulty on the spacious grounds of Ruby's Inn. The first had only one fox only a few dozen yards away, just to give everyone the idea and to help them check their gear.

The next day there was a two-transmitter hunt, followed later by a five-fox hunt with timing that was intended to simulate international

ARDF rules.

Attendance was good at the annual two-hour Foxhunt Forum at Dayton Hamvention® moderated by Dick Arnett, WB4SUV, Bob Frey, WA6EZV, and Brian DeYoung, K4BRI. It was followed by a demonstration event in a local park with two 2-meter and two 80-meter foxes.

RDF was high-profile at the ARRL Southwestern Division convention in Riverside, California, the weekend after Labor Day. In addition to separate talks about competitive ARDF by Jay Thompson, W6JAY, and myself, there were two hands-on equipment workshops organized by Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS. He brought plenty of kits for measuring-tape Yagis and offset attenuators. Soldering irons, sandpaper and tools were at the ready, so attendees could complete their gear and be all set to hunt VHF radio foxes right away.

Orange Section Technical Coordinator Jim Eason, AD6IJ, put on the official transmitter hunt. A 2-meter rig in an ammunition box was concealed in bushes on the Convention Center grounds. The winner was Trey Barton, KG6ZOE, a high school



Marvin Johnston, KE6HTS (front), explains the details of constructing offset attenuators and measuring-tape Yagis at a 2005 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention workshop.

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student from Rancho Palos Verdes, California.

Youth Magnet



Future ham? One of the dozens of Scouts who experienced ham radio foxhunting in a Long Beach, California park during Scout-O-Rama 2005.

[Photo by Joe Moell, K0OV]

Hidden transmitter hunting is a *great* way to attract young people to Amateur Radio. They don't need either a radio or a driver's license to go out on their own to find foxes on foot. Scouting's Jamboree On The Air [JOTA] weekend each October is an ideal opportunity. Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club members included it as part of a weekend-long JOTA campout near Solvang, California. Scouts learned the basics at the campsite by tracking a couple of radio foxes under the guidance of experts. Then they set out into the woods on their own in teams of two or three. The goal was to find out which team would be fastest at locating three mini-transmitters that cycled at one-minute intervals on the same 2-meter frequency.

Scouting presents other opportunities for foxhunting demonstrations. For the third year, members of the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach [ARALB] organized a ham radio activity center at a Scout-O-Rama during June. Besides tracking hidden transmitters with borrowed equipment, the Scouts could QSO ARALB members on the air and pass simulated emergency messages at a separate station set up by the Orange County Hospital Disaster Support Communications System.

Members of the Catalina Amateur Repeater Association [CARA] and the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club [SBARC] brought foxhunting fun to participants in Radio Camp 2005 in Malibu, California, sponsored by the Courage Handi-Ham System. Many of the campers were visually impaired, so the SBARC hams brought special "sound controls" with both 2-meter transmitters and audible beepers that could be heard within about 15 feet. Campers used RDF to get close and then used sound for the final find.

USA Takes Gold!

ARDF committees of the International Amateur Radio Union [IARU] schedule world championships in even-numbered years. In odd-numbered years, the three IARU regional organizations are encouraged to hold formal competitions. While these are primarily for residents of countries within the respective IARU regions, these can include visitors from other regions.



In September, Bob Cooley, KF6VSE (left), and Harley Leach, KI7XF, went to Japan and won gold in competition with some of the finest radio-orienteeers of Asia. These shots are from their medal-winning performances at the 2005 USA ARDF Championships in Albuquerque.

[Photos by Joe Moell, K0OV]

Practice paid off for two USA radio-orienteeers as they triumphed at the 2005 IARU Region 3

[Asia/Oceania] ARDF Championships near Niigata, Japan. In the 80-meter competition on September 21, Harley Leach, KI7XF, of Bozeman, Montana won the gold medal in M60 Category [males over age 60]. He finished ahead of competitors from Russia and Japan, and was the only M60 to find all three required transmitters within the time limit. In the September 23 2-meter competition, Bob Cooley, KF6VSE, of Pleasanton, California captured the M60 gold, finishing four minutes ahead of silver medallist JE1XXK of Japan.

KF6VSE also traveled to the 2005 IARU Region 1 [Europe/Africa] ARDF Championships in Tara/Zlatibor, Serbia and Montenegro. On September 5 in the 2-meter competition, he finished 16th out of 27 competitors in M60. In the 80-meter competition two days later, he moved up to 12th in his category.

The Third IARU Region 2 [North and South America] ARDF Championships were hosted in New Mexico by the

Albuquerque Amateur Radio Club [AARC] during the first week of August. This was also the fifth annual USA ARDF Championships. Radio-orienteeers from eleven states and three countries [Australia, Czech Republic and Kazakhstan] took to the separate courses on 2 meters and 80 meters. They ranged in age from 13 to 63.

There was friendly rivalry among the nine competitors from California and the five who train together in southern Ohio, southeastern Indiana and northern Kentucky. This year, Team OH-KY-IN garnered three gold, eight silver and five bronze medals. The Californians went home with five gold, five silver and eight bronze.

The 2005 Texas state ARDF Championships took place Sunday, October 23. The site was Bastrop State Park, a pine forest



Dennis Schwendtner, WB6OBB (left), of the Santa Barbara Amateur Radio Club and Marv Bassi, N6VJF, get bearings during a special transmitter hunt at Handi-Ham Radio Camp



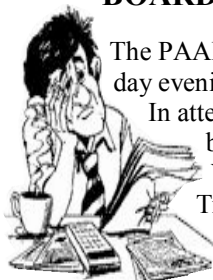
John Munsey, KB3GK (now SK), approaches the finish line in the 80-meter event of the 2002 USA ARDF Championships. He was a long-time proponent of mobile and on-foot transmitter hunting in northern Florida.

[Photo by Joe Moell, K0OV]

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.



The PAARA Board of Directors met on Wednesday evening, Jan 11, 2006.

In attendance were the following PAARA members:

Vice President **Peter Sheerin, K6WEB**;
 Treasurer **Ron Chester, W6AZ**;
 Secretary **Adrianus Schrauwen, W6AJS**.

Visiting the Board meeting were:

Membership coordinator **Vic Black, AB6SO**;
 Editor **Wally Porter, K6URO**;
 Database Coordinator **Rick Melrose, K6RDM**;
 and **Joel Wilhite, KD6W**.

The Secretary announced there was no quorum.

Vice President **Peter Sheerin** started the meeting at 19:25 hours. Reporting on our ailing President **Terry Finn, AA6T** that he was still laid up as a result of a surgery.

The following Boardmembers could not be present at the PAARA Board Meeting tonight: Kristen McIntyre was away to a conference, Andreas Junge is in Germany. Gerry Tucker was out of town.

ITEMS OF DISCUSSION ONLY WERE:

Rick Melrose K6RDM reported on the status of the membership database. He will get together with Lisa and Peter some evening and hopes to have the membership ready for distribution by the February meeting.

Wally Porter discussed the issues of PAARAGraphs and the rising cost of postage stamps. Also discussed the various cost issues, whether we should change format or reduce the number of pages.

Adrianus Schrauwen asked when the PAARA Bylaws could be presented. The committee will have one more final meeting at Wednesday Jan 18, 2006, before presenting it to the membership for a vote.

Ron Chester reported on the PAARA treasury and gave a comparison between the last year 2005 and 2004 financial status. He also relayed a message from **Terry Finn** for Peter to get in touch with ASVARO because of the upcoming Fleamarket. **Rolf Klibo** will be requested to come to our next Board meeting.

Miscellaneous discussions followed regarding Grant request. **Joel Wilhite** needs input from the membership to start. Also several ideas were tossed around regarding trailers, sizes etc. The meeting adjourned at 20:30 hour with no actions taken.

Respectfully submitted by

Adrianus Schrauwen, W6AJS, PAARA Secretary

(Continued from page 18 ARDF)

environment east of Austin and west of Houston. This was a 2-meter only competition, mixed in with an O-meet of the Houston Orienteering Club.

With all the good news, there was also some bad: Long-time foxhunter and tireless promoter John Munsey, KB3GK, succumbed to heart disease on October 7. He had worked very hard to promote both mobile and on-foot transmitter hunting in Daytona Beach and elsewhere in Florida. John competed at the 2002 USA ARDF Championships in Pine Mountain, Georgia. Even with his cardiac problems, he got from start to finish and took home medals.

From the Tech Bench

Most ARDF enthusiasts are also builders--in part because there is little commercially available on-foot RDF equipment from US sources. Foxhunting on 80 meters got a boost with publication of a simple and effective ARDF receiver/antenna project in September 2005 QST, designed by Dale Hunt, WB6BYU, of Yamhill, Oregon.

Some of the most advanced ARDF experimenters are in Albuquerque, where a group led by Jerry Boyd, WB8WFK, and Mike Pendley, K5ATM, unveiled a software-defined ARDF transmitter at the 2005 USA/Region 2 Championships. It generates AM or FM signals on 2 meters as well as keyed CW on 80 meters with timing per IARU rules. Among its novel features are provisions for a data stream and an emergency mode for signaling by foxhunters in distress.

Will 2006 surpass 2005 in ARDF activity? It could happen with the Sixth USA ARDF Championships taking place April 7 through 9, followed by selection of ARDF Team USA members who will travel to the Black Sea coast of Bulgaria for the 13th ARDF World Championships during the week of September 12. Perhaps a team of stateside radio-orientees under age 16 will form for the IARU Region 1 Youth ARDF Championships, July 13 through 16 in Poland. More about these events will be in future ARDF Updates.

A tip of the hat to the hams mentioned above and all the others who are helping to spread the word about the fun of foxhunting. As you plan transmitter hunts for 2006, be sure to inform your ARRL section and division leaders well in advance. Ask them to help get the word out to hams in their jurisdictions. Perhaps they will even attend and participate! Also invite and include Technical Coordinators, Official Observers, search/rescue unit members and any others who might benefit from better RDF skills. And be sure to send me news and photos of ARDF events.

Editor's Note: ARRL ARDF Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, had a busy year visiting and photographing ARDF event, as well as organizing some. He would like to attend and report on your local foxhunts, too. His Homing In Web site has information to help you and your club get started. He welcomes your inquiries and hunt reports via e-mail.

(from ARRL)

PAARAgaphs—February 2006
Celebrating 69 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

Airwaving: Ham club marks 75th

By Wesley Young
 JOURNAL REPORTER
 Sunday, December 18, 2005

People were coming in from all over yesterday to help celebrate the 75th birthday of the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club. There were guests from Italy, Canada, Belgium, Poland and Sweden - to name just some of the countries. Someone checked in from nearly every state of the union.

All by radio, of course. While the club held an open house at its headquarters on Coliseum Drive for anyone who wanted to drop by, much of the party was celebrated over the airwaves.



Henry Heidtmann works with his grandfather's 1950s-vintage Johnson-Valiant transmitter and Hammarlund receiver during the club meeting. (Journal Photo by Bruce Chapman)

"CQ Whiskey Four November Charlie, QR Zed," Ed Swiderski intoned over and over into a microphone, using a lingo that ham-radio operators everywhere understand. Translation: "Anyone out there? This is W4NC. Who is calling me?" Radio operators from elsewhere chimed in. Swiderski logged them on a computer screen beside his set.

W4NC are the call letters of the local club. Someone tapped Swiderski on the shoulder to get his attention, but he kept speaking into the microphone. When Swiderski is handling a "pileup" of incoming radio calls, he's in a world of his own. He has to focus on picking out call letters from the chatter so that he can properly log each caller in turn.

"When I have a lot of them, I want to work them and get a rhythm going," he said. "When I am in that mode, I want to work them, and everything else doesn't matter. I'm in a tunnel."

Swiderski is into DX - that's ham radio for contacting operators in distant stations. He has already logged connections to 296 of the 335 countries, islands and other designated places on the ham-radio globe.

That's just one aspect of the hobby. A lot of people like to build their own equipment. Some like being able to help in a disaster - when the power is out and not even cell phones will work, "the airwaves are always there," said John Kippe, the ham-radio emergency coordinator for Forsyth County.

Ham-radio operators often get the call for help when nature misbehaves. Their radios can provide a communication system for emergency workers if the local systems are out of commission. Ham-radio operators can also pass messages back and forth so that family members can check on the well being of their loved ones.

Yesterday, Gary Carter fiddled with the knobs on his copy of a 1929 transmitter set up to send Morse code. The radio puts out four watts - by comparison, commercial-radio WSJS in Winston-Salem has a 10,000-watt transmitter. Still, Carter has reached as far as Dallas with his set.

As Carter tapped out a message to someone who turned out to be just across town, bystanders remarked that experts can send Morse code at 60 words a minute.

Nearby, Henry Heidtmann operated a 1950s-era set that was owned by his grandfather. Mercury vapor tubes glowed blue inside the set. When Heidtmann twiddles the knob, the set puts out a sound that could have gone into an episode of *The Outer Limits*. The set has a superior sound quality compared with modern ones, Heidtmann said.

"I love to listen at night to this all around the world," Heidtmann said.

Although the Internet has taken away some of the exotic thrill of tuning in to, say, Moscow, ham-radio fans say that there's nothing like being able to hear and talk with people in faraway places over the radio.

The hobby seems to appeal to the technically minded in particular. That's why Barbara Lawrence decided to bring her 12-year-old son Danny by the club yesterday. She wanted to see if ham radio is a hobby her son might want to explore.

Although the Internet has made worldwide communication easy, it has actually helped the ham-radio hobby rather than hurt it, club members said. In the past, if someone picked up a transmission from a particularly exotic spot, the only way to tell others about it would be to call them on the telephone. Now, the Internet can pass the word about who is on the air.

"I grew up in Davie County, in the rural part," said Don Edwards, 52, the club's president for 2006.

"At the time I was turning 10, you couldn't even have a private telephone - it was a party line. Radio was magic. It was absolute magic - the fascination of talking to people who were far away."

• Wesley Young can be reached at 992-0067 or at wyoung@wsjournal.com

• The club meets at 7:30 p.m. each month on the second Monday, and guests are welcome. Meetings take place in the basement of the Red Cross at 690 Coliseum Drive.

This story can be found at: http://www.journalnow.com/servlet/Satellite?pagename=WSJ/MGArticle/WSJ_BasicArticle&c=MGArticle&cid=1128768788909

PAARAgaphs—February 2006
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PAARA February 3rd Meeting



PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”
 Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. www.paara.org
 Date and Time: Friday, February 3rd at 7 p.m.
 Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA.
Welcome Members and Visitors / Raffle Prizes:

FIRST PRIZE: Yaesu VX-150 / 5W / 2m / HT



- 209 Memories
- Automatic Repeater Shift
- Auto Range Transponder System
- Time Out Timer
- Smart Search
- Automatic Power Off
- PC Programmable

SECOND PRIZE: Garmin eTrex GPS Receiver



- 12 Parallel Channels
- Waterproof
- 500 User Waypoints With Graphic Icons
- TracBac Reverses Track Log For Return Trip
- 22 Hours Operation On Two AA Batteries
- 6 Ounces

THIRD PRIZE: Regulated 13.2 Volt DC Power Source / 3.5 Amps

FOURTH PRIZE: ARRL 06 Handbook with CD and Anniversary Edition Handbook

FIFTH PRIZE: Pro Am / Dual Band / Magnet Mount / 2m & 70cm Antenna

SIXTH PRIZE: Hints & Kinks 17th Edition

SEVENTH PRIZE: CQ 06-07 Calendar

Since February 2003, 84 Radios, including a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and Two Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams.

Special Thanks to Bob, Howard, Rick, Mark, and everyone at HRO for their continued SUPPORT!

K6AK Jim

Congratulations: January 6th PAARA Raffle Prize Winners

1st Prize: Merrit Yee KG6TNO / Yaesu FT-180 2M / E / 50W / 2m / Mobile

2nd Prize: Bob Golder WA2CFN / 23 Amp DC Power Supply

3rd Prize: Bob Golder WA2CFN / Alpha Delta / Antenna Hardware Kit

4th Prize: Mike Gavin W6WZ / TWO Uniden FRS / GMRS Radios with Charger and NiMH Batteries

5th Prize: Vic Black AB6SO / Home & Auto NiMH Battery Charger with FOUR NiMH Batteries

6th Prize: Mike Gavin W6WZ / CQ 06-07 Calendar

7th Prize: Dave Cooper KE6PFF / 8-LED Metal Flash Light / Ultra Bright Beam

PAARA Members and Visitors: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the exciting monthly raffles! Since Feb. 03, 84 Radios, including a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams, THANKS TO YOU!

PAARA is having a remarkable year in 2006! If you aren't a member, please join PAARA now, and experience fun 2006 events with the “friendliest club around.”

K6AK Jim

PAARAgaphs—February 2006
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Ham Radio in Science Fairs

Jeff Kelly (KT2K) on January 10, 2006

Sooner or later when raising children you will be working on a science fair project. Why not use Ham Radio as the platform to do amateur science or demonstrate an electrical principal?

Radio, especially specialty modes can become exciting projects for kids (and adults) to work on. I have helped on 2 now - the first while not really Ham Radio - "Determining Sea Surface Temperatures from Weather Satellites" did use radio and antennas (137 MHZ) to receive the data.

The second which was completed last year was an experiment to see if you could bounce a radio signal off a meteor - "Meteor Scatter". Here is a link to Jeff's (8th grade) science report:

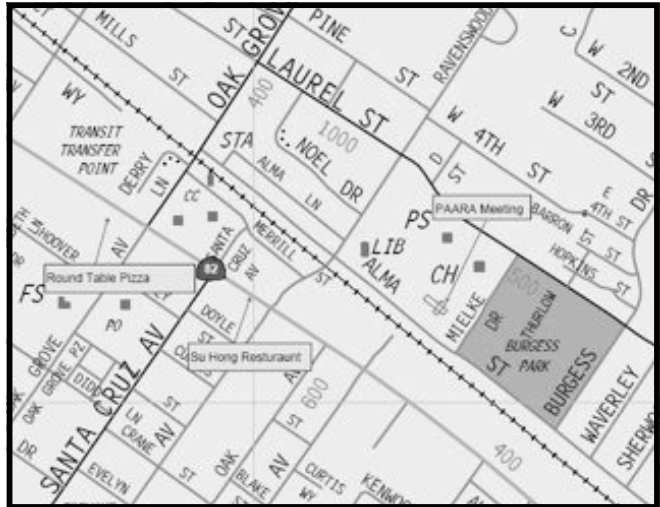
<http://www.kt2k.net>

Maybe others can comment on using Ham Radio in science fairs? It sure beats different color grow lights!

Jeff,

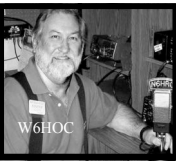
KT2K

From eHAM.net



Directions to PAARA meeting:

<http://paara.org/meetings/>



Howard at HRO says: "HAM accessories and gift certificates are available at HRO. Congratulations to PAARA on a successful year."

HAM FEST

at

ANGELINO'S RESTAURANT

3132 Williams Road, at Winchester Blvd.

2:00 PM

Second Sunday each month

www.Angelinosrest.com

PAARA Radio NET

**and Swap Session
 every Monday evening**

8:30pm local time

on the

145.230 –600 MHz repeater

PL tone off

control operators:

Week	Operator
1 st Mon.	Pink Foster, KG6ILA
2 nd Mon.	Peter Sheerin, K6WEB
3 rd Mon.	Peter Sheerin, K6WEB
4 th Mon.	Bill Rausch, AA6PA
5 th Mon.	Volunteer!



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.

5:30 pm—at Su Hong Restaurant
1039 El Camino Real
Menlo Park

*across from Kepler's Book Store
 on El Camino Real
 Walking distance from Caltrain!*

PAARAgaphs—February 2006
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PAARA BADGES

To order one, contact our Badge Coordinator:

Doug Teter, KG6LWE
 dteter@wawi.com

PAARA Radio NET

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



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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 Terry Finn, AF6TF

