

W6OTX**W6ARA****PAARA NEWSLETTER**

VOLUME 57, NUMBER 10, October 2007

K6OTA**K6YQT**

PAARAgraphs



Celebrating 70 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*
The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



CALENDAR

- Oct..... 5, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- Oct..... 6, **PAARAFest**
- Oct..... 10, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto

- Nov..... 2, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- Nov..... 7, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
- Nov..... 10, **KNTV/KSTS Tour** 10 AM

- Dec..... 7, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- Dec..... 12, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30



President's corner



October 07

I'm sitting outside writing this feeling the sun's waning warmth. There is a slight chill in the air and the thatching of crinkled leaves tells me that it really is autumn and the equinox is at hand.

On the radio, 20 meters still seems to work after sunset, but the signals have deep QSB as the ionosphere shifts from its charged state toward one where the

lower atmospheric ions are recombining and refraction is becoming more tentative and evanescent. Last month while at Mt. Shasta I did get a chance to set up and operate K6WX/P. It was amazing how quiet the bands seemed after being here in the Bay Area for so long. HF noise appeared limited to natural sources high up in the atmosphere and this allowed me to hear signals just pop up out of nowhere even with my little PAC-12 vertical antenna on the ground. It was a reminder of the irony of how our RF and computer dominated existence actually degrades overall RF performance by raising the noise floor.

I continue to get great feedback about our trip to KPH arranged by **Elaine, WA6UBE**. Rumor has it that a significant amount of time was taken at the last Foothills Amateur Radio Society meeting to tell everyone about the event and urge them to participate in future events. I and the board are really excited about having more of these trips and, through them, continuing to bring exciting, educational, and fun experiences to all of you.

October arriving also means that we can look forward to Pacificon, the ARRL's West Coast Ham Radio Convention sponsored by the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club. Along with the usual collection of vendors and fun with our friends, there is a great lineup of talks and seminars. Friday will feature a full day of antenna talk at the Antenna Forum, followed by a full schedule of technical talks on Saturday, and the swap meet on Sunday. There will also be one day ham exam classes, a banquet, and the Wouff Hong ceremony on Saturday / Sunday at 00:00 hours. I will be giving a brand new invited talk there so stop on by. For more information go to <http://www.pacificon.org>.

(Continued on page 111) pres corner

NEXT MEETING

October 5, 2007

PROGRAM:

Don Tuite

"Ultracapacitors"

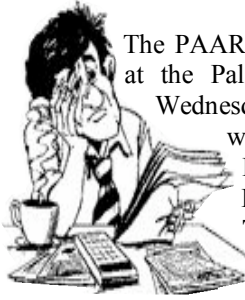


They told us in high school a 1-Farad capacitor would have to be as big as a bathtub; now they're putting ultracapacitors rated in hundreds of Farads in buses and trains and windmills. What happened? What's going on? How do ultracaps work and what are they good for? **Don Tuite, NR7X**, is a Senior Technical Editor at Electronic Design magazine. He's been working on an Electronic Design e-book sponsored by Maxwell Technologies, the biggest company in the U.S. producing ultracapacitors. At October's meeting, he will share with us what he's learned to date.

Don Tuite was first licensed in 1960, as WN2LJI. Over the years, he's been on the air as KB6UEF, KB7TB, and, since around 1985, as NR7X. He's married to **Vicky, N7HBJ**. Don's current on-air activity was sparked when Vicky organized a local CERT team in Emerald Hills. Don is now active in SCARES, and in addition to UHF/VHF work there, he's been developing his QRP PSK31 skills on the low bands with an ICOM 703.

*Don Tuite Technology Editor,
Analog/Power Electronic Design*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.



The PAARA Board meeting was called to order at the Palo Alto Red Cross at 7:25 pm on Wednesday, September 12, 2007. Present were: **Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas.)**, **Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres.)**, **David Ungar W6DH (Treas.)**, **Doug Teeter KG6LWE (Dir.)**, **Joel Wilhite KD6W (VP, Prog. Chair)**, **Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir.)**, **Wally Porter K6URO (Ed.)**, **Gerry Tucker N6NV**, and **Rick Melrose K6RDM (Membership)**. This group was sufficient to constitute a quorum.

Starting with old business, we first heard the President's report. **Kristen K6WX** reported that the KPH tour, organized by **Elaine Gibbons WA6UBE**, was a great success. It even received about five minutes of serious praise at the FARS meeting! We agreed that Elaine had done a wonderful service to the club and ham community. **Joel KD6W** suggested looking into the possibility of a trip to the S. S. Jeremiah O'Brien. **Kristen** finished her report by noting that she has been getting good feedback about our meetings.

The Board next moved on to the Secretary's report, which consisted of a vote to accept the minutes of the August meeting as published in PAARAGraphs. The Treasurer reported that the raffle is doing well, and that the club has benefited substantially from receipts from donated gear. The KPH trip has at least broken even, according to the Treasurer, and two checks that were late in being sent did finally get sent out.

Joel Wilhite (VP) reported on his efforts to line up a speaker for the December club meeting, and also that there is a strong possibility that we will have to postpone the KNTV field trip, scheduled for Sept. 29th. He also spoke about his efforts with **Doug Teeter KG6LWE** operating a booth at the flea market to make money for the club by selling donated equipment.

Next, in lieu of a report from the website committee, we collectively sent our best wishes for a speedy recovery out to the club webmaster, **Dennis Wilson KA6LSW**, who is recovering at a local hospital from an infection. **Kristen K6WX** continues to evaluate some software for membership cards. **Rick Melrose K6RDM** reported that the membership database is working smoothly and asked to revise a notice in PAARAGraphs to direct membership updates to himself, instead of the club secretary.

Joel KD6W reported on some preliminary research into the selection of a new video projector for the club, and said that he would make a specific recommendation to the board within a week. It was the sense of the board that the old projector no longer serves our needs and is ready for replacement. Someone proposed using the old projector as a raffle prize, once a new one is procured.

Moving on to new business, **Doug KD6LWE** volunteered to take a look at a tower that is available to the club as a donation. The Board next considered practices at other clubs such as token fees for members who forget their badges, etc.,

but rejected these as clashing with our being "The Friendliest Club in Town." **Joel KD6W** offered to look into badge extensions (i.e. small add-ons to badges to commemorate extra service) and report back at the next board meeting.

The nominating committee for the December 2007 elections has been partially formed: **Rob KI6INR** is chair, and **Doug KG6LWE** is a member. The third and final member is **K6TBD** (in other words, to be determined).

The PAARAFest (thanks, **Joel KD6W**, for hosting!) will be on October 6th. This event promises to be a lot of fun with food, beer, and equipment for sale. **Joel** will put together something for PAARAGraphs (maybe even with cool pictures of the gear for sale).

Wally K6URO will be reviving the gear-for-sale-or-wanted column for PAARAGraphs, so please send in any items to him. (I want to buy an IBM Selectric computer terminal if anyone has one.)

Finally, the Board discussed efforts to add narration to a great video presentation about our field day, that has been produced by **Bob Korte KD6KYT**. **Kristen K6WX** will transfer it to a DVD and **Gerry N6NV** will see about supplying a voice-over.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30.

~David Ungar W6DH, Secretary

(Continued from page 109) pres corner

As I mentioned at the last PAARA general meeting, elections are coming up soon and it's not too soon to consider who you want to lead the club over the next year. You might also consider whether you'd like to be in one of those leadership positions. I have appointed **Rob, KI6INR** to chair the nominating committee and have appointed **Doug, KG6LWE** to assist him. According to the bylaws there must be a third member of the committee and I have entrusted Rob to recommend an appointment for that third person. If you're interested in a leadership position please contact Rob and let him know. The nominating committee's job is to prepare the initial slate of nominees, present them at the October general meeting, and collect any additional nominees until the close of the November meeting. Candidates will be given a chance to make a statement at that time. The general membership will vote at the December meeting and choose our leadership for 2008. I urge all of you to be present at the December meeting to vote on the future of PAARA.

Fortunately the election is not the only reason to come to the December PAARA meeting. We are going to have a special program to celebrate our exciting Dream to Reality Raffle. **Jim, K6AK**, has put together a really special one where we will be giving away a fully assembled Elecraft K3. I haven't checked, but it wouldn't surprise me if we were one of the first clubs to give away a prize like that. It's going to be a really amazing meeting and I hope to see all of you there.

~Kristen McIntyre K6WX, PAARA President

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PAARAgaphs—October 2007
Celebrating 70 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*

PAARA MEETING September 2007



FIELD DAY 2007



PAARAgaphs—October 2007
 Celebrating 70 years as an *active* ham radio club—Since 1937

PAARA / December 07
 “Dream to Reality” Raffle News:

**1st Prize: Elecraft K3 HF-
 6m, 10W All-Mode Transceiver
 Factory Assembled**



Congratulations: September 7th 2007 PAARA Raffle Prize Winners

- 1st Prize: Bill Young / K6VWO / LDG Z-100 Antenna Tuner
- 2nd Prize: Jaime Sedano / KG6HOB / Astron RS-12A / 12 Amp Power Supply
- 3rd Prize: David Crocker / W6VYC / Red Cross / FR-250 / AM/FM/SW Emergency Radio with Flashlight
- 4th Prize: Patricia Gibbons / WA6UBE / Elk Antenna 2m/440 Five Element Log Periodic Antenna
- 5th Prize: Bill Rausch / AA6PA / ARRL 2007 Handbook with CD-ROM
- 6th Prize Peter Chow / AF6DS / Coax with PL259 Connectors / 75 Feet
- 7th Prize: David Crocker / W6VYC / ARRL Hints and Kinks 16th Edition
- 8th Prize: Rob Riley / KI6INR / ARRL Desktop Repeater Directory 2006-2007
- 9th Prize: Bill Young / K6VWO / Sterling Deluxe Wire Stripper
- 10th Prize: Robert Shelton / K6TGR / (Ed Fong WB6IQN Dual Band J-Pole + Roll Up J-Pole)

PAARA Members and Visitors: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the exciting monthly raffles! Since Feb. 03, 106 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 2007! If you aren't a member, please join PAARA now, and experience fun 2007 events with the "friendliest club around."

~ K6AK Jim



PAARA October 5th 2007 Meeting

PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. www.paara.org

Date and Time: Friday, October 5th at 7 p.m.

Menlo Park Rec. Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA.

Welcome Members and Visitors / Raffle Prizes:

FIRST PRIZE: YAESU FT-2800M

2m / 65W / Mobile



Huge Easy To Read Display
One-touch WIRES Internet Linking Access Capability
Special Memory Bank For NOAA Weather Broadcast Channels
Backlit Microphone Keypad
Smart Search Loads Active Frequencies

SECOND PRIZE: Yaesu VX-170 2m HT

5 Watt / FM / Huge LCD Display



- Wide Coverage Receiver
- Submersible 30 Minutes @ 3 Feet
- Long Life Battery 7.2 V / 1400 mAh NiMH
- Huge LCD Display
- Outstanding Receiver Audio

THIRD PRIZE: Weller 40 Watt Solder Station with Adjustable 5-40 Watts

FOURTH PRIZE: Red-Dee-2 Connect PS-4 Power Pole Connector

FIFTH PRIZE: ARRL Hints and Kinks 16th Edition

SIXTH PRIZE: ARRL Desktop Repeater Directory 2006-2007

SEVENTH PRIZE: 8-LED Metal Flashlight with 3 AAA Batteries

EIGHT PRIZE: Gordon West 8 Audio CD's 0-5 WPM CW Learning Course

Since February 2003, 106 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


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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.	Doug Teter, KG6LWE
4 th Mon.	Terry Ridgeway, N6ZAG
5 th Mon.	Doña Kerns, KI6DAR



Directions to PAARA meeting:

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

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
 Menlo Park Rec Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA.
 Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the
 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL tone off.

Membership in PAARA is \$18.00 per calendar year,
 which includes one subscription to PAARAgaphs
 \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).
 Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association,
 P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911

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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!*

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If you or your employer have a service to offer or a product to sell, please consider running an ad or an infomercial in PAARAgaphs. Remember that this little publication is distributed to many hams and ham radio supporters who will read it cover to cover. Simply contact the PAARAgaphs representative, Terry Finn, AA6T, at:

aa6t@arrl.net or 650-366-9111 to submit an ad.

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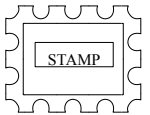
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1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size).
2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half 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



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VX-7R

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- Internal Wires compatible

J-196T 2M-4T

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