

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

VOLUME 58, NUMBER 3, March 2008

K6OTA**K6YQT**

PAARAgraphs



Celebrating 71 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*
 The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



CALENDAR

- Mar.....7, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
 Menlo Park Recreation Center
 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- Mar.....12, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
 Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- Apr.....4, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- Apr.....9, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
- May.....2, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- May.....7, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30



President's corner

~Kristen McIntyre, K6WX

March 08

With the arrival of March we are almost into Spring and that means, beyond the usual flowers and warmer weather, better propagation and the Spring contest season. As the sun returns to warm us, it also puts more ultraviolet energy into the ionosphere, loosening more electrons from their nuclei to create the plasma

which refracts HF electromagnetic waves and creates the miracle of skywave propagation. At the same time, the ionosphere's D layer is not overly ionized, as it is in Summer, and thus we don't see as much attenuation though there, to the E and F layers beyond. This all makes for more fun on HF.

Evidence of this return to better propagation was experienced by myself and others during the ARRL International DX CW Contest. I was actually able to work a little DX from my apartment (a rare thing these days), though nothing too far away. The farthest station was Kiribati (T32) on 15 meters, which was open during much of the daylight part of the contest. For me it was really fun to be around and participate in one of these contests even as a casual operator. I missed most of the fall contests for one reason or another and I felt like I'd missed some real fun. If you haven't participated in a contest before and you have HF privileges, why not give it a try. It can be fun even if you aren't going for a high score or submitting your log. The Phone version of the ARRL International DX Contest is the weekend of 3/1 - 3/2. Check out <http://www.arrl.org> for contest rules and more information.

At our last PAARA general meeting we saw the debut of our new projector which was purchased with board approval by **Joel, KD6W**. It was nice and bright and, best of all, does not flicker. I think it will enhance the quality of the experience of each talk at our club. In addition **Jim, K6AK**, will be very happy not to have to carry the large projector which we have been using until this point. The old projector has served us well for many years and I'd like to thank **Steve Brune, KG6OUB**, on behalf of PAARA for generously bringing our previous projector to us.

On a personal note, I wanted to mention something that hap-

(Continued on page 26) Pres Corner

NEXT MEETING

March 7, 2008

SPEAKER

and

PROGRAM:

Mark Laubach, K6FJC

Chief Engineer, KFJC 89.7 FM, Foothill College.

Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES), Cupertino and Santa Clara Valley Section, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) and Medical Reserve Corp. (MRC), Cupertino, and Sworn Disaster Services Worker (DSW), Cupertino and Santa Clara County.

He also has a separate love for Sushi and Gadgets. (and who doesn't)

~Joel KD6W

LOST or STOLEN

I lost an Icom IC-T90a, kind of old, black case, with an SRH-77 antenna fixed with black and clear heatshrink. It has a black counterpoise and a sticker on the body with my call sign

~Kristen McIntyre, K6WX

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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.k6ya.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 Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265(D), 650- 595-5590 (N)
 Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org

SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
 Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl
 Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 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/>

American Red Cross, **SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER**
 contact: <http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org/> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924
fhensley@Novell.com

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

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
 PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Kristen McIntyre, K6WX	510 703 4942
	kristen@alum.mit.edu	
Vice President	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	650 325 8239
	joelwilhite1@yahoo.com	
Secretary	David Ungar, W6DH	650 255 2131
	ungar@mac.com	
Treasurer	Ron Chester, W6AZ	408-243 2221
	w6az@arrl.net	

Directors

Director ('08)	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wvwi.com	
Director ('08).....	Rob Riley, K16INR (cell) 650 799-1607	
	k16inr@arrl.net	
Director ('09)	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	650-326 4908
	n6nv@arrl.net	
Director (09).....	Byron Beck KG6UOB ,	408-735-8604
	kg6uob@arrl.net	

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

Appointed Positions

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database.....	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-732-2247
	k6rdm@arrl.net	
Chaplain	Rev. Rick Line, KG6TMD	650 323 8544
	kg6tmd@arrl.net	
Station Trustee W6OTX, K6YQT, W6ARA....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Station Trustee K6OTA...	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Fund Raising Coordinator	Bob Korte, KD6KYT	408 396 4745
	bob@rgkTechSales.com	
Badge Coordinator.....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wvwi.com	
Historian.....	Christopher McIntyre, KG6SVI	
Raffle Coordinator.....	Jim Rice, K6AK	650-851-2274
Ticket Master	Kyle Rice, KG6MSK	
Field Day Coordinator.....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	650-326 4908
ASVARO Rep.....	Rolf Klibo, N6NFI	650-856-2748
	n6nfi@arrl.net	
Webmaster.....	Dennis Willson, KA6LSW	408-644-2166
	dennis@ka6lsw.org	
Technical Coordinator.....	Joel Wilhite. KD6W.....	650-325-8239.
	joel.wilhite@gmail.com	
QSL Manager.....	Rob Riley, KG6HVW (cell) 650 799-1607	
	kg6hvw@arrl.net	
Speaker Coordinator	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	650 325 8239
	joel.wilhite@gmail.com	

PAARAgaphs Staff

Editor	Wally Porter, K6URO	650-494 7038
	k6uro@arrl.net	
Editorials	Terry Finn, AA6T	650-366-9111
Photography:	Bill Young K6VWO, kc6vwo@sbcglobal.net	
	Dick Kors KM6EP, Al Montoya WB61MX, John Larribeau KR6MR, Mark Cohen K6EF, Andy Korsak KR6DD	
Advertising.....	Terry Finn, AA6T	650-366-9111
	aa6t@arrl.net	
News.....	Terry Finn, AA6T	650-366-9111
Member Profiles	Terry Finn, AA6T	650-366-9111
Technical Tips	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Awarded by Action of the PAARA Board

Steve Stuntz, K6FS Dec 2007

Ron Panton, W6VG July 2003

Joe Gomes, KB6HDC SK

Leslie Vickery, KB6HDC SK

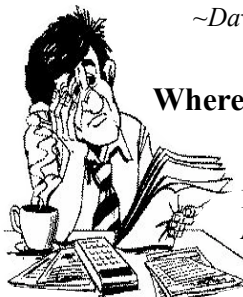
PAARA 2008 meeting dates: : 1/4, 2/1, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2, 6/6, 7/11, 8/1, 9/5, 10/3, 11/7, 12/5

~Kristen (K6WX)

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

~David Ungar W6DH, PAARA Secretary



Where are the minutes of the February Board meeting?

Dear Reader,

At the February board meeting, some members of the board expressed a desire to review the accuracy of the minutes for each board meeting at the following board meeting. In order to accommodate their wishes, the minutes of each board meeting will henceforth appear in the subsequent month's issue of PAARAgaphs. In particular, the minutes for the February meeting will appear in the March issue.

- 73 - ~David Ungar W6DH, Secretary

WEB's

Recommended by PAARA Members
(Do you have one or more?)

check this out for a great list of free, downloadable old electronics books! www.pmillett.com/ ~Gerry Tucker N6NV

<http://www.n7yg.com/propnetpsk/index.html>

QST March page 95 and the above URL discusses an internet based beacon system that we'll all enjoy!

~Jay WA6SBO/VE7 wa6sbo@arrl.net

P.S. If you are using this for propagation data, you should also consider:

<http://hfink.com/>

You can run the software in receive-only mode and get the propagation info or join the group. It uses 160 through 2 meters and you really need an antenna that is resonant on all the bands you use/monitor.

~Orval Chadsey N6OZI San Francisco, CA



VIC BLACK, AB6SO, WINS PAARA AWARD.

Long time, active PAARA member, **Vic Black, AB6SO** was presented with the coveted PAARA Exemplary Service Award during the annual PAARA/FARS winter banquet on Friday, January 25/08 at Michael's Restaurant.

Most PAARA members and all the regular readers of PAARAgaphs will recognize Vic Black as a regular contributor of technical articles that are published by PAARA on a monthly basis. Vic has also served in various other capacities within PAARA over the years, including the office of President; Vice-President; Secretary; Board member and is known to recruit new hams into the membership of PAARA on a regular basis. In fact, Vic researches the various lists of new hams who are located within the geographical area of PAARA and sends out a personal written invitation to come to a PAARA meeting. These post cards keep him busy, but the results have been exceptional as indicated by our large radio club membership.

The members and Board of Directors of PAARA want to thank Vic for his long time association with the club and all of the duties he has been responsible for over the years. In fact, Vic still picks up all the mail that is sent to PAARA and distributes it to the various responsible parties. Vic is truly a well deserving PAARA member. Please make a point of saying hello to Vic at the next PAARA function.

Submitted by: *Terry Finn. AA6T.*

PAARA Exemplary Service Award

Gerry Tucker, N6NV 2005

Rice Family 2006

Jim K6AK, Lisa KG6KQS, Kyle KG6MSK

Wally Porter, K6URO 2007

Vic Black, AB6SO 2008

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Book Review

Arthur Collins – Radio Wizard 012308o *~de Rich, W6APZ*

Arthur Collins – Radio Wizard was written by Ben W. Stearns, who worked as Public Relations Manager for Collins Radio Company and then the Collins Radio Group of Rockwell International (1962 to 1977). Mr. Stearns uses interviews with many of the important players in Collins Radio, giving a most interesting picture of the rise and fall of this well-known radio communications company.

Most hams are familiar with the amateur radio line of Collins Radio transmitters, receivers, and single sideband (SSB) transceivers. While the ham radio market gave Arthur Collins his start in business, Collins Radio had a large share of the broadcast transmitter market and the avionics market as well. The company also developed the first digital modems for computer-to-computer communications, even outfitting ships to explore the Arctic with communications equipment. At one time Collins Radio had 1000 products in its inventory that the company itself it had designed and produced.

Arthur Collins was born in 1909; at age 9 he was building transmitters and receivers that were more advanced than the crystal sets commonly used at the time. He had to wait until 1923, when he was 14, to get his ham radio license, 9CXX (at the time there was a minimum age requirement). He was an avid reader of QST, Wireless World, and professional engineering journals. Apparently, reading and experimenting provided most of his electronics education. In those days, one did not go down to the local surplus or electronics store to buy electronic parts; most parts had to be made by hand or scrounged from telephone equipment. As an experimenter, he was always pushing the envelope, accomplishing feats thought impossible. Arthur Collins had twenty patents in his name and was listed as co-inventor on nine more. This book documents many of those accomplishments.

Collins' early ham transmitter designs were much better than what most amateur radio operators were using at the time. He ran ads in QST offering to build ham transmitters, then built them at home; thus Collins Radio Company began. When he broadened his equipment line to broadcast transmitters, RCA did not like the competition and filed a suit in 1935 claiming Collins had infringed on an RCA tube patent. Arthur Collins turned to Dr. Robert H. Goddard (of rocket fame) to help him with the lawsuit. Collin's relationship with Goddard was most interesting (read the book to find out why!). World War II transformed Collins from a small electronics company to a major player in military communications. Many US warplanes carried Collins gear.

Arthur Collins installed one of his SSB ham transceivers in a SAC (Strategic Air Command) bomber on a trial basis.

This trial was so successful that it convinced General Curtiss LeMay (SAC commander) that Collins SSB equipment could give SAC bombers reliable worldwide communications capability. Prior to the installation of Collins SSB gear, SAC planes had been unable to communicate directly with their commanders on the ground from many places in the world.

This book covers the fascinating story of Arthur Collins and Collins Radio from many viewpoints. While it is a fast read, some material is repeated when the story is told from various viewpoints. It's amazing how far ahead of its time Collins Radio was. Any hams who lived through the 40s to the 70s wished they could afford a Collins rig. Even if you came on the scene subsequent to the 70s, this book provides an interesting historical view of one ambitious, driven, hard-working man and the communications company he created. The book is well worth reading. Its ISBN is 097164160-9; it was published in 2002.

Troop 206 Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, March 8

Kyle Rice, KG6MSK, is fund raising for his boy scout troop, Troop 206 of Menlo Park. Many of you helped him last year with his efforts (which he and his troop really appreciate!). If you would like to purchase a ticket(s) to help support Kyle, please contact him at (650) 851-2274. The money raised from the breakfast supports the troops year long activities.

The cost for a ticket is \$5 (a ticket is good for one adult or two children). The breakfast will be held on Saturday, March 8th from 7:30--11:30 am (Kyle, Jim and Lisa begin their shift at 9:30 am); Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall, 330 Ravenswood Avenue in Menlo Park .

Thanks very much!

Lisa, Jim and Kyle Rice
 KG6KQS, K6AK and KG6MSK

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opened to me that I think is relevant to all amateur radio operators. I recently had my backpack and a few other items stolen from my locked car here in the Bay Area. I've heard about a number of similar thefts of late. I lost only one HT, but a significant amount of other electronics, identification, and even my passport. Fortunately my mobile rig was not taken. I bring this up as a reminder to all of us that our cars, while appearing like safe repositories for our gear, really are not very safe at all. A determined thief will find a way to get in take whatever it is that they have their eye on. As I see it, there are two main approaches to this problem. One is to leave as little gear as possible either in plain sight or in the vehicle at all. The other is to invest in some inexpensive insurance that will help you to recover some of the value of the lost equipment. My homeowner's policy only covers losses above a certain deductible amount, but there are alternatives. The ARRL provides an insurance plan which can return to you the replacement value

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December 2007, the PAARA Board awarded Steve PAARA Life Membership.

The following biography by Terry Finn AA6T, was published in PAARAgaphs February 2004.

STEVE STUNTZ. K6FS.

ALPHA, BRAVO, CHARLIE,

Have you ever wondered where the phonetic alphabet came from or who may have been responsible for this rather unique and essential method of verbal communication? Well, fellow amateur radio operators and members of PAARA, once you have read this profile, you will know the answer and quite possibly, you will have some questions of your own.

Allow me the pleasure of introducing to you, yet another highly skilled and experienced licensed radio operator who lives in our community and has been an active PAARA member since 1974. Mr. **Steve Stuntz, K6FS**.

Stephen Emil Stuntz was born on May 8, 1913, in St. Louis, Missouri. As a child he moved with his family to Chicago, then on to a suburb known as Wheaton, Illinois. At ten years of age, in 1923, the family moved to Worthington, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus. In 1926 the family moved again to Findlay, about 50 miles south of Toledo, Ohio, where Steve graduated from the Findlay High School in 1931 at age nineteen.

Steve's father, Ralph Emil Stuntz was originally from northern Ohio and Pennsylvania areas. He graduated as an electrical engineer from the Case School of Applied Science in Cleveland, which is now known as the Case Western Reserve University.

Steve's mother, Hazel Stuntz (Howlett) was originally from Denver, Colorado, and met Ralph while attending Case. During the summer breaks from school she worked with the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad out of Denver. She graduated with a BA and married Ralph in 1912. Hazel was primarily a homemaker during her life and raised Steve, his brother David and his sister Margaret. Brother David is 83 years of age and lives in Brunswick, Maine, while his sister Margaret Hager is 88 years of age and lives in San Diego, California.

Steve earned a scholarship that paid for tuition for two years, so he enrolled at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. It

should be noted that the Country was still suffering the effects of the 1929 depression in 1931 (the economy really did not recover for ten years). Once the scholarship money was depleted, Steve joined the U.S. Army and became a PFC specialist. He was sent to Fort MacArthur radio school in San Pedro, California where he learned what the Army could teach him between August 1935 and July 1936. This Army training school was named after the father of the famous General Douglas MacArthur.

Although Steve had first been exposed to amateur radio during high school when he took photographs of his friends shack and station, he really did not get bitten by the radio bug until he was in Army radio school. The technical sergeant at the school was **Mariam Brashear, W7MB (SK)** who worked with Steve to build a homebrew 50 watt transmitter on 40 meters using tubes like a 210 power amplifier; a 47 oscillator and 46 amplifier. They also had access to a National receiver with plug in coils. Oh, what fun they had with that equipment. The radio school ham station license at that time was **W6KNK**. The radio school was part of the HQ Battery, 63rd Coast Artillery, Anti-Aircraft Unit and was considered a mobile unit. At the time, the idea of having a completely mobile radio command post was innovative due to the obvious requirement for this type of military control.

It should be noted that during that time in his life, Steve had always wanted to be a broadcast radio engineer and had actually studied and passed

the Federal Radio Commission (now the FCC) exams in Detroit, Michigan in 1934. As a result, he earned the first class radio telephone operator license, which did not include any code or CW qualification requirement. Steve learned the international code while attending Army radio school in California.

Steve was subsequently sent overseas to Manila in the Philippines to work as a qualified Army radio operator and technician. He can remember leaving Angel Island in the San Francisco Bay on a U.S. Army troop transport named the 'Ulysses', in the late summer of 1936. This ship had been a former German luxury liner that had been impounded by the U.S. Government in Baltimore during World War I. Steve was a passenger on the same ship when he returned home in

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August of 1939 and was discharged at Fort McDowell on Angel Island. During those days, it was referred to as: 'expiration-term of service'. Steve was honorably discharged and made his way back to Oxford, Ohio. While serving in the Philippines, he was stationed at Army HQ located on Corregidor Island, on the mouth of the bay, about 26 miles from Manila Bay. His daily work included transmitting & receiving all of the official Army CW dispatches from Washington, D.C. via the station at Fort Shafter in Hawaii. This is where Steve honed his CW skills. Just imagine it, if you can. Working CW at over 35 words per minute, almost eight hours a day!! Steve applied for his first amateur radio license here through the Bureau of Posts, which was authorized by the Federal Radio Commission and was issued call **KAIUS**. This particular amateur station had been operated earlier by **Chuck Larcom**, who became **W7ALQ (SK)** when he returned home.

In 1941 Steve graduated with a BA in Speech (now Theater Arts) with a minor in experimental psychology from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. He subsequently enrolled as a graduate student at the University of Iowa, in Iowa City, near Cedar Rapids (original home of Collins Radio). He was working on speech research; however he ran out of money when that scholarship was depleted, so he moved to Chicago and took a Federal Civil Service job at Army HQ as, you guessed it, a radio operator. Again, he was pounding the key at 35 wpm for eight hours a day and handling all of the official military and government traffic.

Steve recalls an unusual event that occurred about that time in Indiana. Apparently the then Governor Paul V. McNutt, who later became the high commissioner of the Philippines, authored and pushed through some legislation in Indiana that would make the mathematical value of PI be 3.00 rather than 3.1416... Just to simplify things in that State. The academic community became outraged and the law was dumped in rather short order.

Just before December 7, 1941, the Army Colonel who was operating the HQ radio station asked Steve if he would move to a facility in Battle Creek, Michigan, to start up, open, and operate an Army radio repair & logistics training center. Naturally, Steve jumped on the opportunity and while there, actually did a study on the applicability of musical aptitude and Morse code learning ability, which he sent off to the National Research Council. Steve realized that there may be a value to this type of study to determine who would make the best radio school candidates for future training.

There were only about 25 civilians at this Army base, and Steve had the good fortune to meet one of them at a base Christmas party in 1941. Elizabeth was working at the base telephone switchboard although she had earned a BA in English. They were both bitten hard by the love bug and were married on February 8, 1942 at the Unitarian Church in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Steve remembers it as a cold Sunday. I am sure he is just referring to the outdoor weather at the time, because he and Elizabeth are still together today in their home in Menlo Park.

In September 1942 the still newly married couple moved to another Army Signal Corps contract school in Lexington, Kentucky. Steve was teaching radio theory to the radio students as there was now an urgent demand for qualified military and civilian operators. In January 1943 they moved again, this time to Chicago where Steve became a member of a unique Army Navy research project where they were experimenting on radio operators to refine the techniques of selecting and training new radio operators. The theory was that based on certain criteria, new operators could be taught to communicate at 13 wpm very quickly so they could be used by the military.

It was in Chicago in 1943 that Anne Margaret was born to Steve & Elizabeth. Meanwhile, Steve was still developing new training aids that included using a wheatstone perforator to punch holes in paper tape, much like a typewriter, for CW communications. They also designed, built & recorded audio training on 16 inch vinyl disks that could be played on record players at 16 & 2/3 rpm. Steve actually spent three weeks in New York at Columbia Recording studios to make the training records. The audio was fascinating as they purposely included actual copies of enemy audio radio jamming so that the radio operator students could learn how to copy code in the worst conditions. Steve can recall riding on the famous 20th Century Limited train from New York to Chicago during this time as he worked on this special project until 1944, when the whole program was down graded and moved to New York.

Steve took a job teaching radio theory and broadcasting techniques at a women's college in Columbia, Missouri, known as Stephens College. What we now take for granted and refer to as networking was something that Steve did on a regular basis back in those days. So, in the spring of 1945 he was hired back to the special radio operator project which had moved to Mamaroneck, New York, which is a suburb of Whiteplains and New York City. Steve was able to design and build a CW copying machine using a modified IBM typewriter while working at the special project. This was the first machine that could copy CW off the air and type the characters onto paper. It was considered a real innovation. One of the machines was purchased by the Canadian Government while the other may quite possibly be on display in the Smithsonian or another fine museum.

It was here in August of 1945 that Kathryn was born. The special project was cancelled at the end of the war and Steve went to work at a counseling center for returning war vets. The center was part of New York University and they would pay the tuition for any employee who wanted to take classes. Needless to say, Steve took advantage of that opportunity and graduated in 1948 with his Masters degree in experimental psychology. His thesis was all about, psychoacoustics, which is the study of recorded music and how people heard and understood the sounds that they were hearing.

Steve then took a job at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio, for a short period of time as a teacher. However, in January 1949, he was asked to come on board a special

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project at the new submarine base in New London, Connecticut. Steve worked there for five years in the psychoacoustics research side of Naval aviation and other Government agencies. He then went to the new U.S. Navy underwater sound lab for another five year stint where they were experimenting with human engineering and speech communication research.

In 1959 Steve took a job at the U.S. Air Force lab in Cambridge, Massachusetts. They had a new project relating to the development of a phonetic alphabet. He was there for five years and had the opportunity to present two papers at the ITU in Japan on the benefits of this new alphabet that enhances speech and communication, especially over the radio. This particular project had been funded in part by the ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organization) which immediately authorized its use in world wide civil aviation operations. Can you believe this? This is our very own **Steve K6FS**, who you have probably talked with or met at a PAARA meeting.

In 1964, the Stanford Research Institute asked Steve to move out to California and work on some rather special projects that they had involving speech. He worked there until retiring in 1977, although he went back as a consultant on several projects until the end of 1978. One of the more interesting projects that Steve was involved with was actually commissioned by the ARRL for their presentation at the 1979 IRU Congress. Steve had to do some extremely difficult and unusual research of traveling around the world and interviewing various commercial broadcasters about how they perceived their audience. This material was then prepared for the ARRL people who went to the IRU to argue that amateur radio operators should not lose more of the available frequencies and possibly should benefit with other frequencies when the commercial broadcasters move or use other frequencies. You should know by now that the work completed by Steve and used by the ARRL has had a dramatic effect that we are actually seeing and benefiting from today. Steve Stuntz was issued amateur radio call sign **W2SMT** in 1945 in New York. He later was issued call sign **W1RXX** in Connecticut in 1949. In 1974 he was re-examined at the FCC offices on Battery Street in San Francisco and earned his extra class license and was issued call sign **W6RCO**. He later applied for and was issued his current call sign, **K6FS**.

Steve uses his Kenwood TS450 and multi band vertical and his 10 watt Elecraft K2 frequently. He was one of the early, original field testers for the Elecraft unit. Steve is a DXCC award holder and has 276 countries confirmed, mostly on voice side band. Steve was one of the PAARA members who used to put together this fine PAARAgaphs publication years ago when they used to mimeograph things and stay up late as a group making sure the newsletter was ready for mailing. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to Steve at a PAARA meeting and thank him for all of the contributions he has made over the years to the amateur radio service, our hobby and PAARA.

~Submitted by Terry Finn. AF6TF.

Attention PAARA members

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

for the first-ever “Amateur Radio Shoot-out” .. No, this event is not for comparing antenna performance, rather, it is Elaine and Carla’s attempt to cross-pollinate two areas of interest

DATE: Sunday, March 30th

TIME: 9AM to 3PM

PLACE: Santa Clara County Field Sports Park

This event is FREE of charge to PAARA radio club members, family and friends, and has been arranged as a ***private event*** in order to introduce members of the amateur radio community to pistol and rifle marksmanship.

Bring your favorite firearms to this private event for amateur radio operators, especially those who have never done any target shooting.

All calibers of firearms are allowed, up to and including 50 cal BMG (Browning Machine Gun for those who don’t know what ‘BMG’ means)

If you do not have any firearms of your own, plan to bring some extra ammunition of any of the following calibers, as firearms will be available for use at the range:

30Cal 06

22 cal rim-fire long-rifle ammunition

38 special handgun ammunition

30 caliber carbine

45ACP

Those under 18 years of age must be accompanied by their parent or legal Guardian..

There will be a special safety orientation on use of the range, and is especially required for those who are NOT already knowledgeable about target shooting, and safe firearms handling.

Basic training in firearms use will be made available to those who have, as yet, never handled firearms..

Elaine, WA6UBE and Carla, N0CAL have been range safety officers and have been managing the County’s 200 yard rifle range for 10+ years.

The 200 yard rifle range is normally open to the public on the 4th Sunday of each month (weather permitting), and the planned 5th Sunday event on March 30th is a special event for PAARA members, and others who are amateur radio operators..

Talk-in frequency: 147.555 simplex (no PL) cellphone for contact: 408-483-3003 or 408-483-3004

When arriving at the event, do NOT check in at office at the 100 yard range, park in the parking lot of the 200 yard range (after offloading your gear at the 200 yard firing line)..

Detailed info can be found on our website, which is used to provide late-breaking info on weather conditions which may result in a cancelation of this event:

http://www.tactical-link.com/200_yd_rifle_range.htm

Elaine

-- Patricia (Elaine) Gibbons WA6UBE / AAR9JA
<http://www.qrz.com/wa6ube>

PAARAgaphs—March 2008
Celebrating 71 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

(Continued from page 26) Pres Corner

of the stolen gear. There are other insurance carriers that provide similar services. While I neglected this area in the past, you can bet that I will be purchasing a policy very shortly that will guard the value of my gear.

At the recent (2/13/08) PAARA board meeting we finally discussed the role of the PAARA Secretary and have come up with a way to report the board meeting minutes which I believe offers the membership a reasonable compromise between transparency and board governance. One result of this is that the board meeting minutes will now be delayed one month so that the board can potentially approve them and have the board's approval or lack thereof noted for publication. While this may seem strange at first glance, it provides a mechanism for the board to express its views on the board meeting minutes as compiled by the Secretary. I would like to thank **David, W6DH**, PAARA Secretary and the entire board for getting through this difficult decision making process.

A final thanks to all of those people who make PAARA "The Friendliest Club Around." We have another great year of activities coming up and we are planning some of them right now. As always, we can definitely use some help with both organization and implementation of those plans. I would like to encourage you to give us a hand and help us to make 2008 even more spectacular. CU in the contests.

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

A M A T E U R R A D I O
LICENSE TESTING

This session is produced by Bay Area Educational Amateur Radio Society - member W501 YEC

Study Session, Followed by Exam

Offering a one day study session for Technician or General theory, followed by testing.

WHEN: Saturday, May 17, 2008
8:00am - 5pm

WHERE: College of San Mateo

FEE: \$30.00

Register: wb6zbu@arrl.net

Questions: Ross Peterson 650-349-5349 or wb6zbu@arrl.net

Class size is limited, reservations are required.

Prospective Hams should have an active Ham as a sponsor to assist in familiarization with amateur operation.

RESERVE YOUR SPACE * BE A HAM!



Sponsored by: College of San Mateo Electronics Technology Department (323.220.3310)

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Congratulations: February 1st 2008 PAARA Raffle Prize Winners

- 1st Prize:** Mark Cohen / K6EF / Garmin® Nuvi 200 GPS Navigator
- 2nd Prize:** Paul Field / KI6MQV / Heil "The Traveler" Headset with Boom Mic
- 3rd Prize:** (not available) / Red Cross / FR-250 / AM/FM/SW Emergency Radio / with Flashlight
- 4th Prize:** Horacio Posadas / KI6EEX / Kill-A-Watt / AC Electricity Usage Monitor
- 5th Prize:** Joel Wilhite / KD6W / World Radio 1 Year Subscription
- 6th Prize:** Jim Volstad / WA0TRY / ARRL Desktop Repeater Directory
- 7th Prize:** John Cameron / KG6MSM / Gordon West 0-5 wpm CW / Two CD Set
- 8th Prize:** Jay Ford / KI6MQD / FCC Part 97 Rules and Regulations
- 9th Prize:** Gerry Barnes / KI6HIG / Sterling Deluxe Wire Stripper

PAARA Members and Visitors: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the exciting monthly raffles! Since Feb. 03, 115 Radios, including an Elecraft K3, 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 had a remarkable year in 2007! If you aren't a member, please join PAARA now, and experience fun 2008 events with the "friendliest club around."

~K6AK Jim

PAARAgaphs—March 2008



PAARA March 7th 2008 Meeting

PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”

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

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

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

Welcome Members and Visitors / Raffle Prizes:

FIRST PRIZE: LDG Z-100 Antenna Tuner



- Tunes From 0.1 to 125 Watts
- Latching Relays
- Current Draw Is Nearly 0 When Tuner Is Not Tuning
- 200 Fast Memories / Decreases Tuning Time Up To 95%
- Optional Interfaces Available For Popular Radios
- Operating Range Is 1.8 To 54MHz

SECOND PRIZE: Alinco DM-330 MVT

30 Amp Power Supply



- * Variable Output 5 to 15 VDC
- * Convenient Front Panel Connectors: Cigar Plug Socket 10A + 2 Sets Snap Terminals 5A + Max. Current Terminals
- * Backlit Amp / Volt Meter
- * Protection: Short-Circuit + Automatic Current Limiting

THIRD PRIZE: FR-250 Emergency Radio / AM/FM/SW / with Flashlight

FOURTH PRIZE: ARRL Antenna Book / 21st Edition / with CD-ROM “Thanks Vic”

FIFTH PRIZE: World Radio 1 Year Subscription

SIXTH PRIZE: Gordon West / Morse Code / 0-5 wpm / Two CD Set

SEVENTH PRIZE: ARRL Desktop Repeater Directory

EIGHT PRIZE: FCC Part 97 Rules and Regulations

NINTH PRIZE: Sterling Deluxe Wire Stripper

Since Feb. 03, 115 Radios, including an Elecraft K3, 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

PAARAgaphs—March 2008
 Celebrating 71 years as an *active* ham radio club—Since 1937

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PAARA Radio NET

and Swap Session
every Monday evening

8:30pm local time

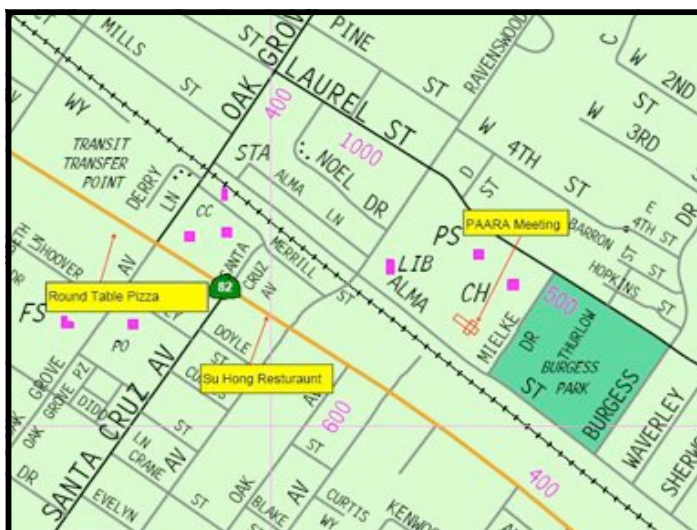
on the

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 \$20.00 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

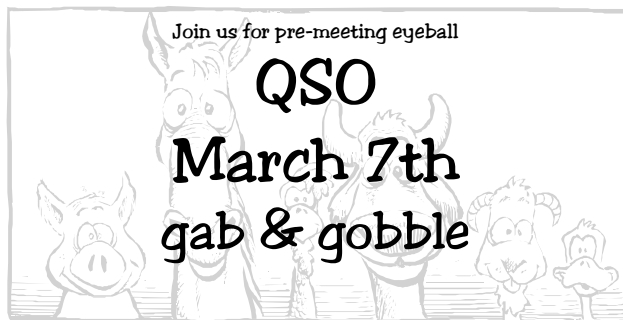
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Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

QSO

March 7th

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.

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—March 2008

ADVERTISERS WANTED.

PAARA members are encouraged to purchase an annual advertising space in the PAARA newsletter, commonly known as PAARAgaphs. This space is the size of a regular business card and only costs \$60.. annually. The money really assists our Association in producing and mailing the finest printed radio club newsletter in the western United States.

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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PC-100/133 DIMMS

TNX & 73

Contact PAARA MEMBER CHUCK N6VFH

Email: n6vfhmailbox@yahoo.com

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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

