

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

VOLUME 58, NUMBER 10, October 2008

K6OTA**K6YQT**

PAARAgraphs



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



CALENDAR



- Oct 3, **PAARA Meeting, 7:00**
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- Oct 8, **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:00**
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- Nov 7, **PAARA Meeting, 7:00**
- Nov 12, **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:00**

President's corner

~Kristen McIntyre, K6WX



October 2008

Fall is here and I can just feel a hint of the cooler weather. Certainly it is getting darker earlier than it was before. I have returned from Japan about one week ago at the time of this writing and somehow, while I was gone, the season changed.

Perhaps my perception comes from all of the time shifts and the fact that Japan does not have daylight savings time. Who knows. Regardless, the kids are back in school and the stores have their Halloween wares on display.

While I was in Japan I went to the ham radio stores, as usual. I took a few moments out to send KB K6WX on one of the keys that had a CW decoder attached to it. I was amused and took a picture of that. I walked down a road I usually don't frequent and found a wonderful store that reminded me of Halted. They had some old signal generators in the window and I thought, well this should be a fun store. Inside I found a table full of real multi-meters; you know, the kind with real meter movements and large rotary switches to select the range. Further back was row after row of signal generators, oscilloscopes, RF measurement instruments, kits, and just about anything else you could imagine. There was even a handheld device for measuring magnetic fields. I wanted to buy something, but sadly it all looked too big and heavy to fit into my suitcase.

Another highlight of my trip was finding a wall full of old Japanese radio posters from what looked like the 1960s or so. Several of them were ham radio related and others were just advertising radios and tape recorders of the era. These were found in the small electronics shops next to Akihabara station in Tokyo. I can definitely sense that that someone there is keeping the spirit of radio alive. I had occasion to tell one of my work colleagues about ham radio and to show him how Morse Code is still used. I demonstrated by tapping out my name and callsign on the wine glass on the table. He seemed to be impressed.

As many of you already know, I missed the last PAARA general meeting because of my trip. I was, however, able to be there virtually at the start of the meeting through the help of

(Continued on page 107) Pres Corner

NEXT MEETING

October 3, 2008

**SPEAKER
AND
PROGRAM**

Program not final at press time

~Joel Wilhite KD6W



photo K6WX

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 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+ (pl 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

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

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

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

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Awarded by Action of the PAARA Board

Steve Stuntz, K6FS Dec 2007

Ron Panton, W6VG SK (12 07 2007)

Joe Gomes, KB6HDC SK

Leslie Vickery, KB6HDC SK

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

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 ungar@mac.com
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 dteter@cwci.com
 Director ('08)..... Rob Riley, KG6HVW (cell) 650 799-1607
 kg6hvw@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

MembershipVic Black, AB6SO 650-366 0636
 ab6so@smrn.com
 Database.....Rick Melrose K6RDM 1-888-725-1895
 k6rdm@arrl.net
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 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 CoordinatorDoug Teter, KG6LWE 650-367-6200
 dteter@cwci.com
 Historian.....Christopher McIntyre, KG6SVI
 Raffle Coordinator.....Jim Rice, K6AK 650-851-2274
 Ticket MasterKyle Rice, KG6MSK
 Field Day Coordinator.....Gerry Tucker, N6NV 650-326 4908
 ASVARO Rep.....Rolf Klibo, N6NFI 650-856-2748
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 QSL Manager.....Rob Riley, KG6HVW (cell) 650 799-1607
 kg6hvw@arrl.net
 Speaker Coordinator Joel Wilhite, KD6W 650 325 8239
 joel.wilhite@gmail.com

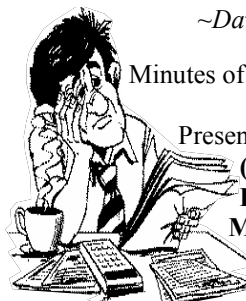
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

~David Ungar W6DH, PAARA Secretary

Minutes of August 2008 PAARA Board Meeting



Present were: **Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres.)**, **Doug Teter KG6LWE (Dir.)**, **Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir.)**, **Rick Melrose (K6RDM)**, **Dan Curry K6DLC**, **Gerry Tucker N6NC (Dir.)** and **David Ungar W6DH (Sec.)**. Meeting was convened at the Palo Alto Red Cross at 7:31 pm local time. A quorum was present.

Kristen K6WX reported that many folks liked the talk at the August meeting and that it was nice to have an HF DX talk. The minutes from July were approved by acclamation without any corrections. We discussed arrangements for the upcoming Flea Market, which would be sponsored by PAARA. We also discussed a possibility for an upcoming tour. **Peter Sheerin K6WEB** (Webmaster) arrived spoke with **Rick K6RDM** and others about various web issues. We then dove into detailed arrangements for the Flea Market, and finished up old business with a short conversation about the club repeater project.

Moving on to new business, we took up the subject of Field Day. The club earned more points this year than last. **Gerry N6NV** has handled the issue of trailer storage for now, but **Kristen K6WX** pointed out that we need to think about alternatives for the future. **Joel KD6W** has set a proposed date for PAARAFest in September: see PAARAGraphs. **Dan K6DLC** asked about getting a volunteer to work on the Red Cross antenna rotator, and **Doug KG6LWE** said he would ask at the next general meeting. **Dan K6DLC** raised the perennial issue of going to a paperless newsletter, but it has been discussed and voted upon before. **Kristen K6WX** suggested that past issues of PAARAGraphs be included on our web site. **Peter K6WEB** will be following up on inquiries about various places to store our trailers. He also initiated a short discussion about next year's Field Day. **Gerry N6NV** mentioned that the club has received a big equipment donation and discussed how to deal with it.

Addendum: Approved with corrections by the Board on 9/10/2008.



photo K6WX

(Continued from page 105 Pres Corner)

two PAARA members and some Amateur Radio technology. For some time now **Andy, KR6DD**, has made available an Echolink node which he sets to transmit on the N6NFI repeater on 145.230 MHz. Andy had e-mailed me that the link would be available for me to talk to people on the way to the PAARA meeting. The meeting starts at 11 AM Saturday Japan time so it was pretty easy for me to be available at that time. There were some technical difficulties at first that caused me to not be able to connect, but Andy changed the configuration and I was in. I had a brief QSO with our speaker for that evening, ARRL Pacific Division director **Bob Vallio, W6RGG**, and then I sent a text message to **Peter, K6WEB**, to see if he could carry an HT into the meeting. Peter had, independently he says, had the same idea and told me on the radio that he would be in the meeting room shortly thereafter. After a few minutes I got the word that he was in place with the HT held to the microphone and I was able to address the meeting from my hotel room in Tokyo. Talk about exciting! I don't think that's been done over Amateur Radio very often when a club president is out of the country. I hope everyone there enjoyed the experience as much as I did. A special thanks to Andy and Peter for making this happen.

A quick note about propagation. As you've probably heard, it's not that good. We had a brief period where there were two small groups of sunspots, but nothing before or since. Still, I've heard reports of people working into Europe, so it's not totally dead. Remember that the band will definitely be dead if nobody gets on the air, so give it a try even when the sunspot number is zero. You may be surprised. There might even be some good grey line propagation near the equinox.

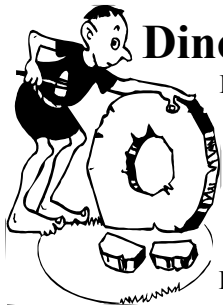
Lastly I want to remind you all about two things: PAARAFEST and elections. PAARAFEST is coming up on September 27th. Don't miss out! There were many good bargains last year at the auction and there was great food, beer, and hospitality at the Wilhite's home. I hope to see you there. The election process is starting up for 2009. If you have ever thought of being more active in the club, now is a great time to discuss it and even give it a try. I am in the process of naming an election committee and chair. If you're interested in what being part of the PAARA leadership team is all about, just contact me or any board member.

Take care everyone and talk to you on the air.

~GUD DX DE K6WX.



photo K6WX



Dinosaur Days

Per NR7X's suggestion about stories from by-gone times here's one that I'll call Radio Rescue.

RADIO RESCUE

~ Rich, W6APZ

It was January, 1960 in Chicago, just after a snowstorm. Only the main arterial streets had been cleared; all the side streets and parking lots were blanketed with snow and ice.

I had recently completed building a six-meter mobile rig and was anxious to try it out. The receiver was an International Crystal Company converter (FCV-1) consisting of two tubes with a 6AK5 RF amplifier driving a 6J6 mixer-oscillator. See schematic, Figure 1. All the parts were mounted on a PC board. See Photo 1. This converted 1 MHz of six meters to the broadcast band. I added a clip-on extension to the broadcast band vertical to make it 1/4th wave on six.

I was very proud of how I was able to miniaturize the transmitter. Its size was way ahead of its time. It consisted of a 12AT7 dual-triode oscillator/doubler driving a 2E26 amplifier, all built on a 2" square x 3" mini-box. This RF section was modulated by a pair of 12AQ5s driven by a 6C4 voltage amplifier. The modulator also was built on a second mini-box of the same size. I had hand-wound the modulation transformer to make it small enough to fit within the mini-box. The microphone consisted of the carbon element from an old telephone.

To check out my new rig, I had arranged a schedule with a ham friend who had been mobile on 6 meters for some time. I was driving from the North side of Chicago via the Outer Drive to my work just outside of downtown. As I drove, I was calling him, listening on his crystal-controlled frequency. I heard no response for a long time. Then I heard a faint signal calling: MAYDAY, MAYDAY. It was my friend. As I got farther south, his signal got stronger. I responded:

"What's wrong, Steve?"

"I parked at school, and I can't get out of my car!" he said.

"Where are you?" I asked.

"I'm at Navy Pier, and I have a class in ten minutes," he replied.

Navy Pier got its name during World War II, when the Navy had used it as a training base on Lake Michigan. It was now being used by the University of Illinois as a satellite campus.

Fortunately, Navy Pier was only a short detour from my normal route. Steve talked me in, and I found him parked between a Renault and a fence in the school parking lot. His car was too close to the fence on one side and to the Renault on the other side to open the doors and the spot where he had parked was covered with ice. His wheels had no traction on the ice. He could not move his car and he could not get out. What to do?

In those days, I was also driving a Renault, so on a whim, I tried my key in the door of the parked Renault. It opened!

But it would not work in the ignition. Releasing the emergency brake, I was able to roll the Renault back so Steve could get out of his car. Mission accomplished! Ham radio had come to the rescue and six meters saved the day.

de Rich, W6APZ

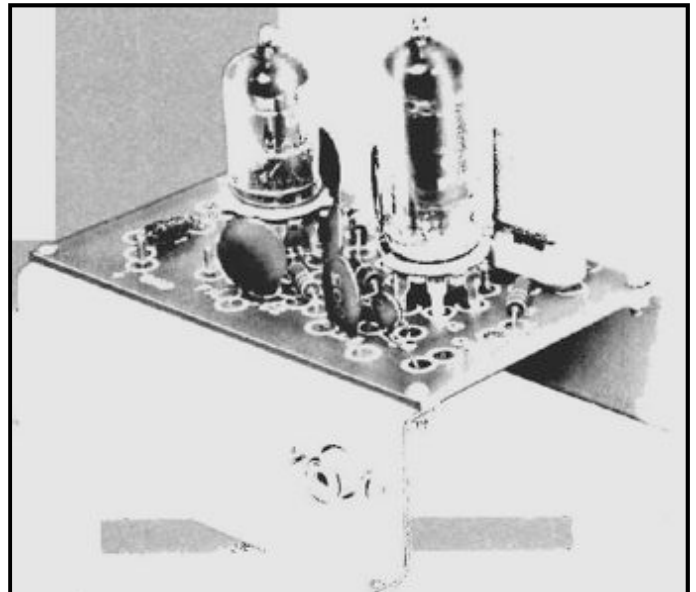


Photo 1

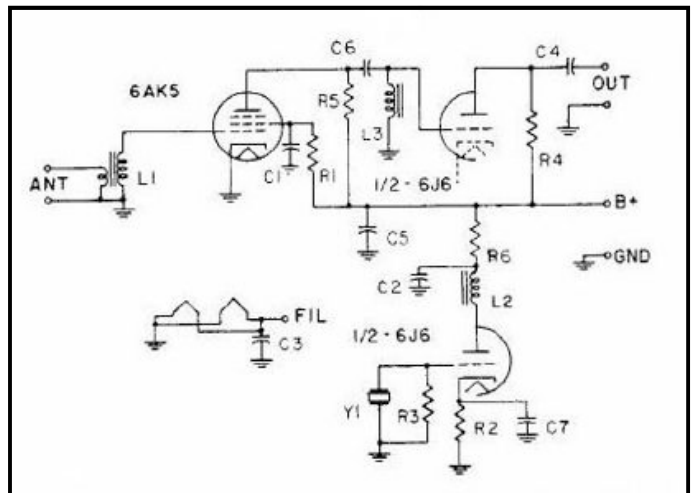


Figure 1



HRO Dan Noriega K6DN

PAARAFEST 2008

Saturday, September 27th – 11 AM

Mark your calendars for the 4th Annual PAARAFEST. And why not celebrate the beginning of Fall while getting that last swap meet bargain. After all, who else in the world will appreciate that precious boat anchor (other than yourself of course). You are a welcome to bring your favorite pot luck dish or dip. Talk in on 147.45 simplex.

Date: Saturday, September 27, 2007

Time: 11:00 pm - 5:00 pm

* set up: 10:00 - 11:00

buy, sell, swap, and dine: 11:00 am - 5:00 pm

Place: The Wilhite Residence (Joel's house – KD6W)
701 Menlo Oaks Drive
Menlo Park, Ca 94025

Who: PAARA club members and families

What: A combination of a bbq / club fundraiser, get together and mingle, and a time to swap out all your ham-related treasures!

Lunch - \$5: All you can eat grilled hamburgers, hotdogs, chips, dips - ALL proceeds go to PAARA.

Bottomless Beer - \$5: All you can drink (and still be able to drive), ALL proceeds go to PAARA.

Buck a Drink: All other chilled drink choices except the beer, ALL proceeds go to PAARA.

RSVP: no later than 9/24/2007 to reserve a selling spot OR if you're stopping by.

Please email to Joel at joelwilhite1@yahoo.com to let him know you are coming to **PAARAFEST 2008!**

LOGISTICAL DETAILS:

- PAARA members and their families only: There will be no childcare, and the yard toys will be off-limits. This event is mainly for the big folks, ok? Yes you can still bring the kids, but YOU have to watch them.
- Parking: there is plenty of free parking around the neighborhood. Please make sure you are not blocking any of our neighborhood driveways.
It is very important to send us your reservations if you plan to sell anything. If you do not have stuff to sell, that's cool too! We need a general head count to know how many wiener schnitzels to buy.

SELLING GUIDELINES:

- **YOU MUST HAUL AWAY WHATEVER YOU BRING or BUY--** The Wilhites will NOT be making dump runs!
 - Please leave your phosphor screens at home, this means **no CRTs**, ancient Oscilloscopes, TVs etc.
 - * Set up will start at 9:00 if you bring your own table or tarp. Don't forget some currency and bags.
 - What kind of stuff? ***Ham related.*** (No, this won't be the swap meet for your vintage NRFB Barbie dolls.)
 - No Microwave ovens, toaster ovens or batteries. No chemicals, paint or PCB laden capacitors.
- If you have big heavy stuff, it's OK to drive into the yard, unload, and go back outside to park.

VOLUNTEERS---We would love some helpful hands to do the following:

- setting up tables and chairs from 10:30 – 11:00
 - cook 11:30- 12:00, 12:00-12:30
- load up and clean up 5:00 - 6:00
-



HRO Dave Wolfe AA6XV / Sending CW "lefty" at 20+ wpm



HRO Will Dees AC6DC

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

CQ Ham friends de WA6SBO

jMelvin <jMelvin@infoPATH.com>

AddWednesday, April 23, 2008 4:06:18 AM

navbits_finallink_ltr.gif (1KB)

Haven't had opportunity to use this but it seems inevitable, i.e.,

digital sound card phone.

Let me know of any results. - 73, Jay

from: QRZ.COM

[QRZ Forums](#) > [QRZ Newsroom](#) > [Ham Radio News](#)

Congratulations: September 5th 2008 PAARA Raffle Prize Winners

- 1st Prize:** Orval Chadsey / N6OZI / Yaesu VX-3R
- 2nd Prize:** Bill Young / K6VWO / Super Antennas MP1
- 3rd Prize:** Bill Young / K6VWO / FR-250 Emergency Radio
- 4th Prize:** Jaime Sedano / AI6ER / Deltran Battery Tender
- 5th Prize:** John Larribeau / KR6MR / World Radio 1 Year Subscription
- 6th Prize:** not available / Sterling Deluxe Wire Stripper
- 7th Prize:** Paul Field / N6FTL / Northern California Repeater Directory
- 8th Prize:** John Eisenberg / K6YP / ARRL Minilog

PAARA Members and Visitors: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the exciting monthly raffles! Since Feb. 03, 130 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



PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”
Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. www.paara.org
Date and Time: Friday, October 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 / 5 Watt / 144 MHZ HT
1400mAh Battery with Drop-In Charger Base**



- Exceptional Receiver Performance
- Clear Transmit Audio
- Illuminated Keypad
- Die-Cast Aluminum Housing
- TX and RX Battery Savers
- Time-Out Timer (TOT)



SECOND PRIZE:
Heil “The Traveler” Headset

Heil ‘iC’ Boom Mic Element
Pendant Switch / PTT & Up/Down Frequency Control
Interface Cable NOT Included

THIRD PRIZE: Arrow Yagi / 3 Element VHF / 7 Element UHF / Max Gain

FOURTH PRIZE: Deltran Battery Tender / Auto Switch from Charge to Float / 12V

FIFTH PRIZE: 2008 ARRL Handbook with Searchable CD

SIXTH PRIZE: Pak-Lite LED Flashlight / Clips on 9 Volt Battery Top with Switch

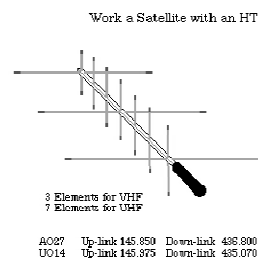
SEVENTH PRIZE: World Radio 1 Year Subscription

EIGHT PRIZE: Sterling Deluxe Wire Stripper


Since Feb. 03, 130 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




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 At any meeting or kg6lwe@arrl.net

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

Permission is granted to reprint from this publication with appropriate source credit.

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

QSO
Oct 3rd
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!

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

Ilse Beck, E. A. , KI6IBM
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 Campbell, CA 95008
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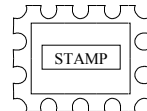


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