

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 58, NUMBER 12, December 2008

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAgraphs



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



CALENDAR



- Dec 5, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:00
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- Dec 10, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:00
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- Jan 9, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:00
PAARA election
- Jan 14, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:00

President's corner

~Kristen McIntyre, K6WX



December 2008

The end of 2008 has come all too quickly and with it my final edition of the President's Corner. It appears that I will not be continuing to serve PAARA as president and I will certainly miss this opportunity to speak with the membership each month.

It has been my distinct pleasure to share with you a potpourri of club events, news, and triumphs, thanks, plans, amateur radio news, technical information, and personal experiences. I have also been privileged to have a forum to write 24 monthly columns which almost certainly wouldn't be rejected by the editor! A special thanks goes to Wally, K6URO, for putting up with my last minute submissions most months. As a result of his indulgence, I don't think I missed submitting the President's Corner for any issue of PAARAgraphs during the last two years. I hope that these columns have been as enjoyable for you to read as they have been for me to write. I also hope that you may have been able to see the world through my eyes for a moment or two, here and there.

A unique duty of the president of the club is to facilitate and direct the monthly general meetings and the subsequent board meetings. Unfortunately I had to miss two of the general meetings recently. Being at the front of the room each month became quite fun over time, but I have to say that those first couple of months were trepidatious. Being the sole entertainment for more than 80 people for an hour can be daunting indeed. As time passed, though, I settled into a more predictable routine and was able to, I hope, provide you with an enjoyable venue to visit at the beginning of each month. The board meetings present their own unique challenge as we amateur radio operators are like a talkative version of software engineers. Guiding us can be like herding cats, as the saying goes. Again, I hope that the board meeting format was productive without being too much of a 'bored' meeting.

These last two years I have been honored to serve and do what I could to lead and facilitate the operation of this club. It has been a source of tremendous personal gratitude to see us

(Continued on page 129)Pres Corner

NEXT MEETING

DECEMBER 5, 2008

SPEAKER

AND

PROGRAM



.Dream to Reality

Homebrew Night

No, this is not another beerfest, this your night for show and tell! Bring in your favorite original design, kit, boatanchor refurbish, anything that is ham radio related and show it off. We are looking for all the builders in the club to come forth and show us what you have been working on all year. If you have a homebrew rig or some device you are particularly fond of, we want to have you bring it in and show us. We will have a panel of judges for grading the designs and provide awards for the top 3 entries.

But wait, there is more! We also have the Dream to Reality raffle of the top of the line Elecraft K3. Raffle tickets will be sold at the regular prices up till 9:30. **YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE, WE KEEP PULLING TICKETS UNTIL WE GET A LIVE ONE.** Tickets with filled out data are eligible for all other prizes.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING.

~David Ungar W6DH, PAARA Secretary



October 2008 Board Meeting Minutes

At 7:20 PDT at the Palo Alto Red Cross, **Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres.)** convened a Board Meeting. Present were **Christopher McIntyre KG6SVI (future Pres.)**, **Joel Wilhite KD6W (VP)**, **Doug Teter KG6LWE (Dir.)**, **Peter Sheering K6WEB (Webmeister)**, **Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir.)**, **Vic Black AB6SO (Past Pres.)**, **Gerry Tucker N6NV (Dir., Past Pres.)**, **Rick Melrose K6RDM (Membership)**, **Michael Pechner KI6QNZ (guest)**, **Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir.)**, and **David Ungar W6DH (Treas.)**. **Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas.)** arrived subsequently.

September's Board Meeting minutes were approved by acclamation. **Kristen K6WX** reminded us to try to write something for PAARAGraphs. **Joel KD6W** reported on the upcoming talk for the November meeting, and we discussed the show & tell event scheduled for the December meeting. **Peter K6WEB** reported on the web site status. **Rick K6RDM** updated us on the membership database, and **Joel KD6W** was pleased to report the receipt of donations to the repeater fund.

Turning to the subject of storage, we took some time to discuss this looming problem. **Peter K6WEB** has a friend investigating some possible solutions. **Ed Gentry KG6KKP** is also working on another solution that would be excellent if it works out. This matter was entrusted to **Doug KG6LWE**, **Joel KD6W**, and **Peter K6WEB**.

Next, the entire Board congratulated **Joel KD6W** on a great and even profitable PAARAFest!!.

Ron W6AZ reported on our flea market proceeds.

Turning to new business, **Michael KI6QNZ**, **Mark KI6DHU**, and **Terry AA6T** have volunteered to be our election committee. They will manage the nominations and the election.

Kristen then repeated her challenge wherein she has offered a dinner to anyone who writes two articles for PAARAGraphs by the December issue. And, the Board expressed our appreciation for the significant time and effort that **Wally Porter KG6URO** puts in month after month on PAARAGraphs.

Our last discussion of the evening concerned the possibility of the club's participation in the Maker Faire this year. **Michael KI6QNZ** would like to have a good ham presence at the event. We wondered about the liability insurance issue, and whether PAARA wants to sponsor a presence there. We were informed that there is a cost to getting mains power. **Joel KD6W** planned to do a site walk there. Our sense was that we were generally positively disposed, but not committed pending further information.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm PDT.

Addendum: minutes approved by Board on 11/12/08.

(Continued from page 127) Pres Corner

evolve and continue to build on the successes that we inherited from all of the leaders that have made PAARA the successful organization that it continues to be. Along the way there have been many challenges for the club as a whole and personal challenges for me. I have always strived to do my personal best and to adhere to a set of principles which I believe best serve us as a club and as human beings. Of course, I can look back and find numerous areas where I believe I could have done better, but, rather than regret, I see those as opportunities for me to learn. If there is any consistent theme in this experience for me, it is how much I have personally grown through it.

I wish each and every one of you a wonderful 2009 and I hope that you will return to PAARA and continue our tradition of being "The Friendliest Club Around". 73 to the membership and to the President's Corner DE K6WX.



photo K6WX

Ham Radio Programming Session

WHAT: Program your ham radio memories with local channels
And, at 7:30pm, watch Dave Fichou (KB6OEN) serve as Net Control for the

SCARES Net (www.k6mpn.org).

And help assemble emergency radio set-ups.

WHEN: Monday, November 17: 7-8:30pm

WHERE: Menlo Park Fire Sta. 77: 1467 Chilco St.
Park in the gravel lot, near the railroad tracks

COST: FREE

BRING: Your ham radio, a charged battery, and your manual.

RSVP: Ken Dueker (kdueker@powerflare.com)

Please advise what radio you have (i.e., "Yaesu FT-60")

2009 Membership DUES



PAARA HONORS

Sister Jean Matthew Smith.
 OP. KG6UGO.

by Terry Finn AA6T

I had the opportunity to visit with and interview **Sister Jean, KG6UGO** on 'All Saints Day', November 1, 2008 while touring the Mother House at the Mission San Jose campus with **Stan Towle, WA6ZGI**, of the QCWA Chapter 11, Northern California. Sister Jean is a relatively new member of the QCWA and of Chapter 11 and PAARA. Her very good friend **Stan, WA6ZGI**, was instrumental in having her join and looks forward to her participation in Chapter 11 activities. Sister Jean qualifies for full membership in the QCWA as she previously held call sign **KN6HRG** in 1955. This was researched and certified by the QCWA administration office. So please welcome our newest member. And, by the way, the OP behind her name means: Order of Preachers.

Allow me to tell you a little bit about Sister Jean as it is a fascinating true story, not a fictional thing, as some have suggested. She was born on November 17, 1939, in San Francisco to her lucky parents, Chester and Margaret Smith who lived on Ocean Avenue. She was given the name Jorgine Edith Smith. Her parents had eloped in 1933 and were married in San Jose at the tender ages of 18 and 19. It should be noted that in those days, you were required to be at least 21 years of age before marrying. Her Father, Chester, was from Corvallis, Oregon, and her Mother, Margaret, grew up in San Jose. They met while attending San Jose High School. It was interesting because they both ended up working in accounting and became qualified book keepers. He lived in San Francisco and commuted to work in San Jose on the train. Her Mother, worked in San Francisco and lived in San Jose so they would pass each other almost every day while riding the commuter trains. Her parents had established a method of communicating by leaving a written letter for the other at the train stations. They were not able to actually live together for several years after their marriage, but they did find a place and lived in San Francisco for some time before moving over to Berkeley.

Sister Jean was blessed with a real, human sister by the name of June Evelyn who was born earlier than her in 1936. The family moved to Berkeley in 1940 so that their father could take a job at the Richmond Paar Terminals as a book keeper. These were the huge, busy freight yards that provided much of the ocean going freight shipping that was so much a part of the economy during that time in California.

Sister Jean was a tom boy type, but she always was so impressed with her older sister and did everything she could to be like her. Sister Jean can recall being a bit of a loaner who played in the sandbox by herself a lot of the time. Her family moved to Richmond in 1948 and lived there until Highway 80 was being built. The State of California purchased the home they lived in to build the new freeway. In 1951 they moved to Albany where Sister Jean shared a bedroom with her sister

jean. They would speak French to each other so their parents would not understand the conversation.

June graduated in 1952 from Albany High School while Sister Jean graduated in 1957. June had skipped a grade so she was able to actually enter UC Berkeley at age 16. She was a very smart 'cookie' and Sister Jean can recall many activities where she became so competitive, just to keep up with her 'brainy' sister who always seemed to be taking the next life step as she was just coming into that part of her life.

Sister Jean took summer school classes from 1952 through 1957 where she learned weaving and other 'lady like' applications. However, one of the more interesting classes was an amateur radio course where she was able to bring her CW skill and speed up to 7.5 wpm and had the electronic theory in place to take the FCC test and earn her first ham radio call sign of **KN6HRG**, in 1955. She really did not have any money for equipment at that time, so her interest in radio waned.

Sister Jean started as a math major at UC Berkeley in 1958 where her class size went from 100 in high school to 3000 at the University. She also took a part time campus job in the Registrar's Office. She later changed her major to physical education and kept taking summer school classes. She was very active during that time with badminton; swimming; field hockey; baseball; basket ball, etc. She can recall that a woman athlete was not a popular position to be in during that period of time. She graduated in 1961 with her Bachelors degree in physical education and science from the University of California, Berkeley. By 1962 Sister Jean had earned her teaching credentials for secondary school and was working in a summer camp as a sports counselor at Camp Imelda in Monte Rio, near Guerneville.

She continued for several summers at this camp and ultimately became the camp director during the 1963 to 1966 seasons. This particular camp was operated by the Dominican Sisters. This was Sister Jean's first exposure to the Catholic religion as she had grown up as an Episcopalian Church member.

By 1961, Sister Jean converted to the Catholic religion because of the influence of the Sister's that she had met and worked with at the summer camp. In 1968, she entered the Dominican Sisters of Mission San Jose to start the process of becoming a Nun and giving herself to God's work for the rest of her life. One year was spent as a postulant and another year as a novice. By 1970, Sister Jean was teaching elementary school at Francis Cabrini elementary school in south central Los Angeles. She can still remember the bullet holes in the walls and windows and street gangs trying to break into the school and the convent where she lived. For the next 30 years, Sister Jean travelled around California and worked in many Catholic elementary schools. This included seven summers of part time University courses at the University of San Francisco in theology where she ultimately earned a Master's degree in Theology in 1984. Her Master's thesis was about St. Catherine and St. Teresa, the Doctor's of the Catholic Church. In 1993, Sister Jean was moved to the Mother House at the Mission San Jose to be the librarian who would "automate the

(Continued on page 131)KG6UGO

HAM RADIO BUSINESS: CQ BUYS WORLDRADIO AND TAKES IT ON-LINE

A big change is coming to the ham radio publishing scene. This as one popular magazine absorbs another. Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is in the Newsroom with the details:

Two magazines that this writer knows quite well are kind of being joined at the hip. At least, so as to speak. This with word that Hicksville, New York-based CQ Communications, Inc. has acquired Sacramento, California based WorldRadio magazine.

Since its inception in July of 1971, WorldRadio has been the only ham radio magazine published West of the Continental Divide. Its a monthly publication with a primary focus on the human side of ham radio. And as many of you know, for about the past 10 years this reporter has been the editor of its VHF and F-M column.

So why has Worldradio been sold? My longtime friend and Worldradio publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, says that at the age of 74 its simply time for him to retire. And why sell to CQ? In a press release N6WR said simply that he wanted to be sure that WorldRadio found a good home, and that its readers would continue to be served by what he termed as an independent voice in amateur radio.

CQ Publisher Dick Ross, K2MGA, echoed Armond Noble's words. Ross says that for nearly four decades WorldRadio has filled an important niche in the hobby. Ross says that he welcomes all of WorldRadio's readers to the CQ family, and looks forward to meeting their needs for many years to come.

At this time WorldRadio to continue to be published, but only online magazine with Editor Nancy Kott, WZ8C, continuing in that position.

Current WorldRadio subscribers will also have their subscriptions transferred to CQ magazine. Readers will be notified of details as plans are finalized.

CQ, a general-interest ham radio magazine best known for its support of DX'ing and contesting, has been in print since January, 1945. And along with Vertex-Standard Corporation, it is also one of the two primary corporate underwriters of the Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award.

In the newsroom, I'm Bill Pasterak, WA6ITF.

We at Amateur Radio Newsline thank retiring Worldradio publisher Armond Noble, N6WR, and his wife Helen for their years of service to the world-wide ham radio community. (ARNewsline from joint CQ / WorldRadio News Release)

~information thanks to Terry Finn, AA6T

*Well there goes another great ham radio publication !
I actually enjoyed reading it cover to cover each month. These
are really tough times we are in folks. 73 de AA6T. Terry.*

2009 Membership DUES

(Continued from page 130)KG6UGO

library", since she was not able to teach elementary school effectively any more.

We can not forget to mention that in 1964 Sister Jean joined the Naval Reserve at Alameda because she thought it was her patriotic duty. They sent her to 'boot camp' in Bainbridge, Maryland. She became a 2nd class Yeoman and worked as a typist in personnel on a one week per month basis in either Alameda or in Los Alamitos. Years later, she taught classes at UC Berkeley for those who wanted to be conscientious objectors. What a difference !Sister Jean sustained some health problems over the years including a 1979 brain surgery for aneurysm's that had caused her to temporarily lose her memory. She has had other health problems that restricted her visit to Lourdes, France, for the traditional bath and has had many visits to the Mission San Jose vacation house in the Santa Cruz mountains where she got to know the local squirrels.

Sister Jean's parent's had retired to the Willets area where they passed on in 1990 &1991. Her sister June passed on in December of 2007. Sister Jean is now living in the Care Center of the Mission. She does not get out much anymore, except for the day trips compliments of **WA6ZGI**. She does maintain a small radio station at the Mission with a Yaesu 2 meter rig; an Icom handheld and an older Heathkit HF rig that she built herself years ago. In fact, another Chapter 11 member, **Joe Tumminaro, K6JFT**, will be donating his Cushcraft R-8 HF antenna to the Mission San Jose so Sister Jean can continue with her HF activities. Her amateur radio abilities and equipment are known to the Mission San Jose administration who encourage her involvement. It should be noted that the Heathkit rig that she built years ago was paid for by a grant that she had applied for from the Dominican Sisters.

Sister Jean maintains a web site at: www.christianpoeticencouragement.com

where she writes her poetry. She is also a member of PAARA (the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association) and has attended many of the recent Field Day activities held in June of each year. She really misses not being able to attend the monthly meetings. And, although not able to participate fully in athletics anymore, Sister Jean still follows many sports activities and the Olympics.

We are so privileged to have Sister Jean as our radio club member and friend. Please do not hesitate to say hello to Sister Jean and thank her for her many contributions to our world.

~Terry Finn. AA6T.

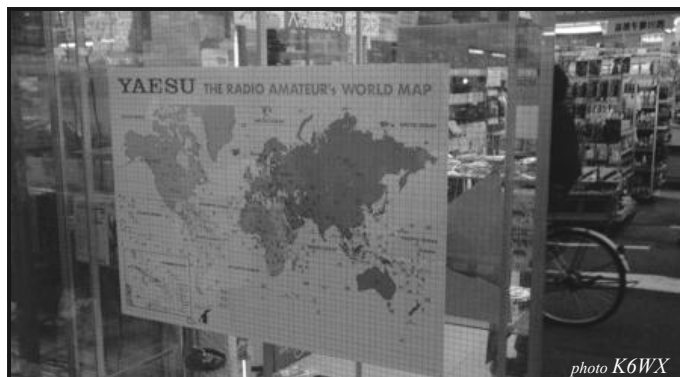


photo K6WX



Congratulations: Nov. 7th 2008 PAARA Raffle Prize Winners

- 1st Prize:** Dale Oharra / NX6S / LDG Z-100 Antenna Tuner
- 2nd Prize:** Ed Gentry / KG6KKP / Yaesu VX-150 / 5W / 144MHZ HT with Charger and Ni-MH Battery
- 3rd Prize:** Leigh Klotz / WA5ZNU / Heil "The Traveler" Headset
- 4th Prize:** Dale Oharra / NX6S / CQ Amateur Radio Calendar
- 5th Prize:** Mike Pechner / KI6QNZ / Sterling Deluxe Wire Stripper
- 6th Prize:** Mike Gavin / W6WZ / ARRL Minilog
- 7th Prize:** Mark Foster / KI6DHU / Icom Grid Square Map & Icom Key Chain Pig

PAARA Members and Visitors: THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the exciting monthly raffles! Since Feb. 03, 132 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

-----REMINDER -----IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN...

Hi ! Everybody It's that time again....HARRY'S HOFBRAU - GET-TOGETHER.

Amateur Radio type persons....1909 El Camino Real, Redwood City this coming WEDNESDAY November 19th Doors open at 11:00 AM...

QCWA Members are requested too attend.

We meet in the Bar area, No Host...Then the food line, Cafeteria style.

Large parking lots, no problem parking. Please wear your Name Tag.

If you don't have one you will receive one.

Any questions Email roGer... wa6aft@juno.com73 & 88...roGer...

PAARA Dec. 5th Meeting and “Event of the Year”

“Dream to Reality Raffle V” with over \$1600 in prizes



PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”
Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. www.paara.org
Date and Time: Friday, Dec. 5th, at 7 p.m.
Menlo Park Rec. Center / Council Chambers, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA.

Welcome Members and Visitors / Raffle Prizes:

FIRST PRIZE: Elecraft K3 HF- 6m Ultra-High Performance Transceiver

“Special Thanks to Elecraft”



- Main Receiver and Sub-Receiver Feature a High-Dynamic-Range, Down-Conversion Analog Architecture
- Roofing Filters with Bandwidths as Narrow as 200 Hz
- Both Fixed- And Variable-Bandwidth Crystal Filters in Both Data, CW, and Voice-Mode Bandwidths
- Two 32-bit Digital Signal Processors Provide True Software-Defined Features, Along With Expansion Memory to Handle Future Signal Processing Tasks

SECOND PRIZE: YAESU FT-1802M 2m / 50W / Mobile



- Extended Receiver Coverage
- Illuminated Microphone with Keyboard Frequency Entry
- 221 Memory Channels with Alpha-numeric Labeling
- Dedicated 10-Channel NOAA Weather Broadcast Channels

- High Output Dynamic Desktop Microphone
- Omnidirectional Pickup Pattern

- Frequency Response Tailored for Optimum Speech Intelligibility
- Impedance Selection Switch

THIRD PRIZE: Shure 450 Series II

Desk Microphone

FOURTH PRIZE: American Red Cross FR-250 AM/FM/SW Radio / Cell Phone Charger

FIFTH PRIZE: ARRL 2008 Handbook with CD-ROM

SIXTH PRIZE: Powerbuilt 6 1/2” Cable Cutter

SEVENTH PRIZE: Gordon West 10 to 28 WPM CW Tapes


EIGHT PRIZE: World Radio Online Subscription via CQ Magazine

NINTH PRIZE: Sterling Deluxe Wire Stripper

TENTH PRIZE: Icom World Map and US Grid Square Map


Since Feb. 03, 132 Radios, including an Elecraft K3, a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706

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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
Dec 5th
gab & gobble



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

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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PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). All ad rates listed are per issue only.

- 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).
- 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, AA6T

