

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER

K6OTA

K6YQT

VOLUME 59, NUMBER 6, July 2009

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 72 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*



CALENDAR

July

10, PAARA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

18, PAARA Tour, 9:30 a.m.

U.S.S. Hornet CV-12 (meet on the pier)
707 Hornet Ave.
Alameda, CA. 94501

29 Board Meeting, 7:10 p.m.

Palo Alto Red Cross
400 Mitchell Lane



President's Corner Reflector

Joel Wilhite – KD6W

July 2009

No your eyes aren't deceiving you, we didn't have a May or June issue but more on that later.



We have been very successful at three De Anza Flea Market events including our first ever SCHLEPFest! A very big thanks to Gerry Tucker—N6NV and Doug Teter—KG6LWE for their herculean effort and to wake up at 5:30 a.m. on a Saturday. A special tanks goes out to all those that stopped by in support of the club to help sell or even if it was to buy a vacuum tube. Every little bit helps and yes, even the little things add up. PAARA members also helped support the wonderful Maker Faire event, which if you didn't "make it" (bad pun) this year, there will be more opportunities in the years to come. Put on your thinking caps and think of a kit design that kids and adults would be interested in building that could be sponsored by PAARA. How about a receiver that requires no batteries?

We just completed yet another eye opening and very successful ARRL Field Day operation from Bay Front Park in Menlo Park. Without a doubt, Field Day represents one of the clubs most interesting challenges and unique events that brings out all kinds of people and ideas. At times I'm certain we were entertaining to watch too as we set about to activate 4A with V/UHF satellite and GOTA operations. I have to admit I probably looked pretty silly when my 6 meter beam came crashing down when the mast snapped. These things happen and is the whole reason why we have a "field day" so you can improve upon the mistakes from others. Fortunately, the only thing that was hurt (besides my wallet) was my pride. Next year I won't goof around with such a flimsy solution.

Other activities also included a very fun 2nd annual PAARASHOOT and a big thanks to Elaine and Emily for their hard work to pull off yet another bang up event. The next big event coming up is our PAARA Tour 2009 for our PAARA Troupers

(Continued on page 37) Pres Corner



PLEASE JOIN US AT OUR
NEXT GENERAL MEETING ON
JULY 10, 2009
OUR SPEAKER WILL BE...

Ben Koning –

Software Engineer and part-time Filmmaker

The Echophone Radio Story Sunnyvale Historical Society Film Documentary

Ben Koning is a software engineer and part-time filmmaker whose chance meeting with the late Jack Rowe and the Sunnyvale Historical Society led to a 3-year project culminating into a 48 minute documentary film and exhibit island at Sunnyvale's new \$2.5M museum. Ben will bring an Echophone radio restored by his father.

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 7:00pm each month at Menlo Park Rec. Center, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30. See our website at <http://www.paara.org/> for more information.
 Or contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, KD6W@ARRL.NET, 650-325-8239

FARS Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:30pm
 contact: <http://www.fars.k6va.org/>

NCDXC Northern California DX Club

meets 2nd Friday 7:30pm each month,
 repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM
 contact: <http://nedxc.org/> or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

QCWA Chapter 11

Northern California Quarter Century Wireless Association
 Meets third Wednesday monthly at Harry's Hofbrau in Redwood City @ 11:30 AM.
 Guests are welcome. Saturday morning net on 146.850 MHz, PL 114.8

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/secara/> 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

TEARS The Elmer Amateur Radio Society

Dedicated to operational training, knowledge building &
 FCC exam testing. KV6R repeater under construction.
 Contact AA6T@ARRL.NET. Most members are Extra
 class or VE's. See QRZ dot com/kv6r for class info

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: 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 441.35 (+5.0 88.5) ctcss
 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

Meetings are 3rd Wednesday of 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
shenslev@Novell.com

(please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor: kd6w@arrl.net)

Please contact Rick Melrose for
 settling your 2009 membership dues so
 you can keep receiving your
 PAARAgaphs

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	650 325 8239
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	ron@taxhelp.com	

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Past President (09)	Kristen McIntire, K6WX	510-703-4942
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Director (09)	Byron Beck KG6UOB	408-735-8604
	kg6uob@arrl.net	

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	kg6tmd@arrl.net	
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	bob@rgktechsales.com	
Badge Coordinator	Ed Gentry KG6KKP	650-368-9455
Historian	Christopher McIntyre, KG6SVI	
Raffle Coordinator	Jim Rice, K6AK	650-851-2274
Ticket Master	Kyle Rice, KG6MSK	
Field Day Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	
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	dteter@wvwi.com	

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Photographer	Bill Young, K6VWO	
	k6vwo@sbeglobal.net	

to visit the U.S.S. Hornet in Alameda. The tickets are on sale now for the tour which are \$30 for adults, \$25 for seniors and \$20 for kids under 16. Children under 5 are going to be challenged getting around on the lower decks and in some parts of the superstructure as some hatches have “knee knockers up to an adult knee cap. The museum does have handicap access to the hangar and flight decks with several vintage and new era aircraft on display with some in active restoration. The tour group will meet up on the pier at 9:30 a.m. for check in as the ship opens at 10 a.m. Although there is plenty of parking on the pier, I would encourage folks to car pool where possible. Please bring your checkbook to the next meeting and make them payable to PAARA.

Last month we were fortunate to get not one but two volunteers for our newsletter editor, Paul Petach KI6QXV and one of our newest members and ham operators Robin Yee (now a General Class!). With the additional staff on board the newsletter will be back on track next month. Ron and I met with Paul to discuss the software requirements and will have another meeting when Robin comes on board. We are going to look at making a few minor changes to help streamline the publishing process including posting past issues to the web site for archive starting this year. I’m looking forward to their new ideas and talent as I’m certain each will bring a new fresh perspective to the newsletter and I’m looking forward to working with both of them. At last a PAARGraphs!

Needless to say, I have been wedged in between several projects, one of which was to get my portable 10’ dish activated for the Apollo anniversary moon bounce event “Echo’s of Apollo” just prior to field day but the technical difficulties and time crept up on me and before I knew I had to drop everything and get the field day preparations completed in time for field day. Chances are much better that I’ll have a solution working for next year as I’m certain the event will happen again but if not, I’m certain the big dishes will activate around this date in the future.

I have also been making preparations for getting our repeaters installed and though this may sound like a broken record, the time is fast approaching for organizing work parties and eventually starting to perform some tests. It gets really exciting once all the little bugs are worked out to see how far our effort takes us. Then we can get down to the business of reprogramming radios. I appreciate the patience of the membership as we navigate these waters with both a new machine and new technology.

73 de Joel Wilhite — KD6W

April 2009 Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross. Attending were Joel Wilhite KD6W (Pres), Doug Teter KG6LWE (VP), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Sec, Database), Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas), Gerry Tucker N6NV (Dir), Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir), Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir), Peter Sheerin K6WEB (Dir, Webmaster), Vic Black AB6SO (Membership). A quorum was present.

Secretary Report – Rick K6RDM

- The minutes of the February Board meeting were read and approved as amended.

President’s Report – Joel KD6W

- Reported the club tour to the USS Hornet is almost ready but we need to set a date that doesn’t conflict and preferably during warmer weather.
- Discussed the print schedule of PAARAgaphs and set the deadline for the advertising materials and editorial submissions to the 15th of the month.
- The first ASVARO Ham Flea Market will be on the 14th of March at De Anza College. SCHLEPfest crew will meet at Joel’s house to sort and load the club’s materials on Wednesday at 6pm into Doug’s white trailer.

Treasurer’s Report: - Ron W6AZ

- Reported losses on the winter banquet and Feb raffle. The only income is from membership renewals. A few expenditures were recorded since the last meeting.

VP/Program Chair - Doug KG6LWE

- Reported on status for speakers at upcoming meetings. The membership is reminded to suggest topics for speakers that they feel may be of interest to the club.

Webmaster - Peter K6WEB

- Reported the new PAARA.org is running on Dreamhost. We reviewed the levels of access and how each allowed content to be input and moderated. A more detailed presentation for site administration and organization will be made at the next meeting.

Newsletter Editorial Staff - Ron W6AZ

- Plans are to publish the club roster in the next issue. Agreement was made to include all 2008 members along with those renewed. Rick K6RDM to take the last snapshot on March 14th. The editorial staff will meet right after the March general meeting.

Old Business -

- The club’s towers and trailers discussion continued regarding storage and disposal of surplus and end-of life materials.
- Repeater Committee - Joel said the 900MHz repeater will be running in a month’s time and installed on site some time after when the weather gets better. The D-Star repeater has further to go and is receiving welcomed contributions toward the acquisition of the necessary hardware. A special thank you to Ed KG6KKP – we bought the new repeater antenna with your single contribution!
- The Field Day committee will meet at Doug’s house tomorrow (Feb 26th).

New Business -

- Joel recommended exploring the possibility of the club obtaining a Service Monitor for use by the membership to check their HTs. The idea was welcomed if the equipment can be procured at a reasonable price. They sell used for \$1k – \$6k and retail for much more (upwards of 10x). Ask the membership to watch for a bargain and recommend a way to move this club benefit forward.
- The club by-laws are to be uploaded to the PAARA.org website. Likewise, our archives are to be updated and input to a new FTP site to archive all data.
- Gerry N6NV has found some materials to be passed on to Christopher McIntyre KG6SVI, the Club Historian, for inclusion into the archives.
- Joel KD6W offered the establishment of several permanent club contests. More details are required to help firm up rules and dates for each event.

- 1.) N6NV Photo Contest - for July to include photos from Field Day and any other Ham activity that is particularly photogenic.
- 2.) December Kit Contest – was well received and very appealing to the membership.
- 3.) KR6DD Homebrew Antenna Contest - categories for 2m/70cm handheld, HF portable, beams or wire antennas.

• Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm

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
 ??? - 2009

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Awarded by Action of the PAARA Board

Wally Porter K6URO Dec 2008
Steve Stuntz, K6FS Dec 2007

PAARA People and Places

by Moore N. Pho, 3WINKS...

Adventures in the Promised Land: Pho has relocated to Silicon Valley, Cali. I will send a monthly post card about my adventures in my adopted radio club, Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association. Some places are no fun because there's no "there" there. Silicon Valley is special. That's why it's called "Valley of Gold" in Vietnam. People from all over the planet want to live here, the center of the known universe. Here is gossip about all the things fit to print happening in Cali now...

Volunteers: PAARA member John Eisenberg K6YP rates a Major Mention as Chairman of the annual Visalia International DX Convention, a volunteer job he does for the Northern California DX Club. PAARA members Carolyn WB6ABC and Mike W6WZ Gavin, who arrange excellent NCDXC raffles, announced "You haven't seen anything yet". The annual Visalia DX Convention features more than \$30,000 in raffle prizes for about 600 attendees, plus a chance to hobnob with your favorite DXers from all over the planet. PAARA's Dave Cooper K6WA reports 50 months of organizing monthly Am-Tech Days for Foothills Amateur Radio Society. Come out to "socialize, lurk and learn". The monthly Hamfest convenes at Stanford Linear Accelerator Center in Menlo Park. Gerry Tucker N6NV, Joel Wilhite KD6W and Doug Teter KG6LWE volunteer a lot of time selling donated equipment at local swap meets in order to generate funds for PAARA. Former PAARA Prez Terry Finn AA6T is the trustee for the new club call KI6WBR, the Quarter Century Wireless Association Chapter 11 in San Carlos. Membership is open to anyone first licensed more than 25 years ago...

When good science turns into bad politics: It's been twelve and a half years since the last sunspot low. It was expected to be eleven years. A mention of the sunspot cycle to the average layman five years ago brought blank stares. Now, the mainstream discusses the Spoerer Minimum, the time period from about 1420 to 1570 and the Maunder Minimum, from about 1650 to 1710, when there were no apparent sunspots. Those periods coincided with "little ice ages". We've had global cooling for the past decade, as recorded by satellites. It even snowed recently in Baghdad for the first time in recorded history! These satellite measurements are affected much less by politics, economics, parking lots, buildings and other ground clutter than earlier ground level measurements and are considerably more reliable...

Recently the inventor of "Global Warming" has been on a pilgrimage searching for a new mathematical "Al Gore-Rhythm" to explain the changes. The new more inclusive term?: "Global Climate Change". This allows us to be taxed if the climate turns either cold or warm. We are told that our cars cause the "problem". At last check the biggest US consumers of cars and gasoline are various Govt agencies...

Food for thought: In 1889 Rudyard Kipling admiringly remarked that "for something less than a rupee a day, a man can

feed himself sumptuously in San Francisco, even though he be bankrupt". That was before inflation. You can still feed sumptuously in the Bay Area, though. Mr. Pho likes chicken feet while chasing DX. Feet, not legs. Cartilage and tendons on the bones make tasty snacks. The feet are boiled to remove the hard skin and then covered in spices and grilled. Better than biting your finger nails while breaking pileups. Vietnamese menus call them dragon claws. South Africans call chicken feet and heads walkie-talkies or sometimes chicken dust, referring to the dust chickens make when scratching the ground with their feet. Would you like spare batteries with your walkie-talkies?...

Major Milestone: It's been 100 years since Doctor Charles Herrold graduated from Stanford U and founded the Herrold College of Wireless and Engineering at the corner of First and San Fernando Sts in San Jose. He and his students, whom Doc called "my little hams", built a cutting edge spark gap radio station and played music to check their work. Crystal set radio enthusiasts requested more music and the world's first commercial station was on the air using the initials FN and later SJN for identification. Power to operate the station was "borrowed" by tapping into overhead power cables that gave life to the San Jose Trolley Car railroad. During World War I the station had to leave the air. After the war in 1921 the call sign KQW was issued. Doc couldn't afford the new technology, radio tubes, so he donated the station to a church in exchange for a job maintaining the old station. Subsequently the church laid off Doc and sold the station to CBS in the 1940s after CBS tried to buy KSFO, an offer refused by KSFO. CBS bought KQW, was issued the call letters KCBS, and moved to SF where KCBS is still on the air today. The entire original station ended up at the Foothill Electronics Museum until Foothill College needed the room. The Perham Foundation, which owned the station by now, donated the entire original station to San Jose Historical Museum where it resides in storage...

Live the Dream. Grab the Airwaves and hang on. Enjoy the ride. 73 de Pho dit dit dit

Congratulations June 5th PAARA Raffle Prize Winners

- 1st Prize: Keith Remillong / KG6ZJI / Yaesu FT-2800M / 2m / 65W / Mobile Rig
- 2nd Prize: Rob Riley / KI6INR / Garmin eTrex H GPS
- 3rd Prize: Elaine Gibbons / WA6UBE / Iron Horse Stake Bed Antenna Mount
- 4th Prize: Nick Garner / N3WG / ARRL Wire Antenna Classic Book
- 5th Prize: Dan Curtis / KI6WYA / Folding Pick Up and Reaching Tool
- 6th Prize: Leigh Klotz / WA5ZNU / Yaesu Log Book
- 7th Prize: Steve Fields / K6PMF / Sterling Deluxe Wire Stripper
- 8th Prize: Steve Sabram / KI6FYG / Icom Band Plan and Grid Square Map

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the exciting monthly raffles!



PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association Presents...

Friday, July 10th at 7 p.m.

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

Welcome Members and Visitors

July Raffle Prizes:



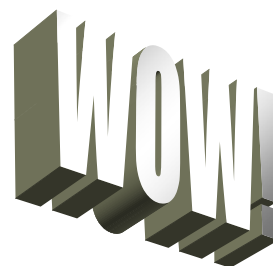
FIRST PRIZE: Yaesu FT-2800M 2m / 65W / Mobile

- Huge Easy To Read Display
- Special Memory Bank for NOAA Weather Broadcast Channels
- Backlit Microphone Keypad
- Smart Search Loads Active Frequencies

SECOND PRIZE: ICOM IC-V8 2m / 5.5W / HT



- Backlit Alphanumeric LCD
- 107 Total Memory Channels
- Fast Scanning - 40 Channels Per Second
- Optional PC Programming



THIRD PRIZE: TWO 915MHz Wireless master/client Evaluation Boards with Antennas / 500m Range / 38.4 Kbps Data Rate / with Battery Packs & Cables.
Many thanks to ONE NET for the generous donation!!

FOURTH PRIZE: Iron Horse Stake Bed Antenna Mount

FIFTH PRIZE: ARRL 2009-2010 Repeater Directory

SIXTH PRIZE: Yaesu Log Book

SEVENTH PRIZE: Sterling Deluxe Wire Stripper

EIGHT PRIZE: Icom Band Plan and Grid Square Map

Since Feb. 03, 144 Radios, including TWO Elecraft K3's, a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams.
A special thanks to Bob, Howard, Dan, Mark, and everyone at HRO for their continued SUPPORT!



James Farrey
 Sales Manager

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YOUR AD HERE
See the next
page for details

Badges in hand as of 3/15/09

- KG6QKO, Kali, Palo Alto
- KI6TAR, Tanya, RC
- N6JCY, Joani, San Jose
- K4AZY, Mike, Palo Alto
- KI6GYY, Art, San Jose
- KJ6FEW, Frank, Palo Alto
- KG6QKN, Francis, Palo Alto
- K6TSR, George, Portola Valley
- KI6NOV, Jason, San Francisco
- N6MEF, Michael, Los Altos (2)
- AE6PM, Don, Saratoga
- KI6EEX, Horacio, Union City
- KF6SRD, Chuck, Daly City
- K6FTF, Mark, SJ

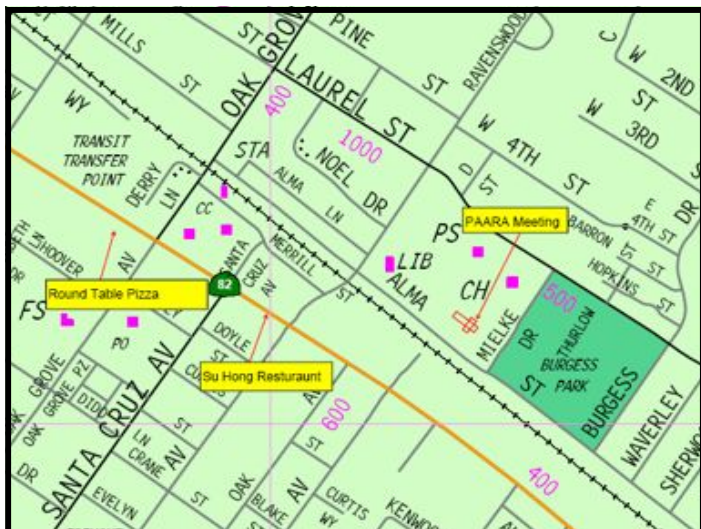
73 de Ed, KG6KKP, Badgemeister

PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session every Monday evening
 8:30pm on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater.

Control operators:

Week	Operator
1 st	Paul Petach KI6QXV
2 nd	Doug Teter KG6LWE
3 rd	Peter Sheerin K6WEB
4 th	Doña Kerns KI6DAR
5 th	Mike Bray N6MEB



Directions to PAARA meeting:
<http://paara.org/meetings/>



Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

Eye Ball QSO 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!

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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 Radio Net**

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 evening
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 on the
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 repeater,
 PL tone
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 quired**

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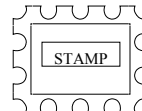
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1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).

2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

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PAARAgraphs Newsletter
P.O. Box 911
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