

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 76 years as an *active* amateur radio club—Since 1937

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



December's Speaker:

John Miller / K6MM

K9W Wake Atoll 2013 DXpedition

John Miller, K6MM will present an overview of the recent **Commemorative DXpedition to Wake Atoll**. The **Elecraft K3 was the transceiver of choice**, and John will speak about some of the K3 features that helped during QSOs. John was first licensed as WV2BQJ in 1958 while living in Syracuse, NY.

For the last decade, John has focused heavily on DXing, contesting, and recruiting new operators into the hobby. His DXCC total stands at 327. He holds 8-Band DXCC, working on completing 160M for the 9th band. His article entitled "The No Excuses 160M Vertical" won the cover plaque award for the June 2009 issue of QST.

John is a proud member of ARRL, REDXA, MLDXCC, NCCC, NCDXC, and PAARA. He is Past-President of the Northern California Contest Club, a Director of the Northern California DX Club, a founding member of the CW Operators' Club, a member of the editorial staff of the National Contest Journal, and a Director of the Northern California DX Foundation. He was also the co-chair for the 2011 and 2013 International DX Convention in Visalia, CA.

Dec. 6, 2013 — 7:00 pm

**Cubberley Community Center, Room H-6
4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303**

President's Corner

December 2013

Greetings from New Jersey: 2-land. It's been a long time since I've been back East, and it's really cold here. There's a great contest going on the weekend that PAARAgraphs will be published. And we have our big, big, big PAARA December Dream to Reality Raffle and meeting, as well as officer elections coming up. You don't want to miss it.

Right now I'm staying in the town where I spent my high school years in Northern New Jersey, and it's a very strange experience being back after so many years. I don't often come back here. Not that much has changed, actually. Even though the leaves are all off the trees and everything is bare, the rolling hills and the farmland is still beautiful. The colonial architecture and brick structures speak of the 18th century, and the time of our country's founding. Between the small towns are cornfields and horse corrals, with the occasional sign advertising fresh vegetables for sale. The roads wind back and forth between the hills, following the Musconetcong River's path down from the Delaware Water Gap. Many years ago, my brother in law and I canoed that river from the Gap, right into the back of my sister's house where the river



(Continued on page 6)

PAARA Dec. 6th Meeting *and* **“Event of the Year”**

PAARA “Dream to Reality Raffle X” with over \$1900 in prizes

We have the PAARA “Dream to Reality Raffle” with over \$1900 in prizes! The “top of the line” Elecraft K3 will be the featured prize. Raffle tickets will be sold until 9:30. YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN THE GRAND PRIZE, WE KEEP PULLING TICKETS UNTIL WE GET A LIVE ONE.



PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”

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

Date and Time: Friday, Dec. 6th at 7 p.m.

Cubberley Community Center

4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, 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: Icom IC-V80 Thanks Vic AB6SO! **5.5 Watt 2 Meter HT / Ni-MH Battery**

- **Rugged / Water Resistant / 750mW of Loud Audio**
- **NiMH / 1400mAh Battery Pack / 13 Hours Operating Time**
- **PC Programmable with Optional CS-V80**
- **WX Channel and Weather Alert Function (USA Version Only)**
- **Transceiver-to-Transceiver Cloning (Optional)**

THIRD PRIZE: Two West Mountain COM Speakers / RF Proof Thanks Marty W6NEV!

FOURTH PRIZE: “Array of Light” third edition by Tom Schiller, N6BT Thanks Tom N6BT!

FIFTH PRIZE: Digital Multimeter Thanks Vic AB6SO!

SIXTH PRIZE: ARRL Handbook 2013 / Thanks Bob Vallio W6RGG!

SEVENTH PRIZE: ARRL Antenna Book 22nd Edition / Thanks Vic AB6SO!

EIGHT PRIZE: ARRL Emergency Power Book / Thanks Bob Vallio W6RGG!

NINTH PRIZE: ARRL More Wire Antenna Classics Book / Thanks HRO!

Since Feb. 2003, **256 Radios**, including **SEVEN 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.

Special Thanks to Howard, Jon, Mark, and everyone at HRO for their continued SUPPORT!

K6AK Jim Rice

Carnegie Mellon University students become Hams

Some may remember a group of CMU students that visited PAARA at Field Day. They were eager to see everything that was going on and learn as much as possible about the equipment being used. The visitors also tried their hands at working the GOTA station. PAARA received the following information from Bob Iannucci, Ph.D. W6EI, one of their Professors.

David Witkowski (W6DTW), Martin Griss (KJ6MIN), Derek Kozel (AG6PO) and I (W6EI) ran a ham class at Carnegie Mellon University's Silicon Valley campus over the weeks leading up to Pacificon, and as a result, a group of MS students, PhD students, staff and faculty either earned new licenses or upgraded :

These folks passed the Technician license element:

- Nathan Martin—KK7GZU
- Steven Rosenberg—KK6GZT
- Srikanth Kallakuri—KK6GZS
- Harry Chan-Maestas—KK6GZV

These folks passed Technician and General:

- Guanting Liu—KK6HAM
- Ervin Teng—KK7HAJ
- Patrick Tague—KK6HAN initially, now W6DT
- Ahmed Bougacha—KK6HAP
- Maxim Kovalev—KK6HAI
- Rishik Dahr—KK6HAO

- Martin Griss KJ6MIN upgraded from general to extra
- Arjun Athreya - KK6HPL (took and passed his exam via the Silicon Valley VE group - post-Pacificon)

In addition, Rishik won the Grand Prize at Pacificon -- you can't imagine how excited he is to get on the air! See the picture below -- the smiles on their faces say it all! Gordon West WB6NOA gave them all certificates and "honked the horn" to announce them as new hams at Pacificon.

This group is the nucleus of the new CMU Silicon Valley Wireless Innovators Association (our on-campus ham radio club). Everyone is anxiously awaiting their licenses, and while waiting, they are reading reviews and specs of HTs in preparation for their first equipment purchase. We are planning a tape-measure-Yagi construction project coupled with some fox hunting as our initial group activity. Many of these students are also deeply involved in embedded computing and want to extend their work to include software-defined radio. Derek AG6PO ran a very-well-attended session on SDR at Pacificon.

Footnote: As the email was sent directly after Pacificon and the Government was operating or not as the case may be, the new hams had to wait longer than usual for their call signs. The call signs have been added to the original email. PAARA wishes to congratulate all the new hams and welcome them to the world of Ham Radio Operators. Thanks to those who participated at the PAARA Field Day GOTA station. [ed]



Front Row (L to R)

Guanting Liu, Ervin Teng, Patrick Tague, Harry Chan-Maestas

Back Row (L to R)

Gordon West WB6NOA, Maxim Kovalev, Srikanth Kallakuri, Nathan Martin, Rishik Dahr, Ahmed Bougacha, Bob Iannucci W6EI

Missing from the picture

Steven Rosenberg, Martin Griss KJ6MIN, David Witkowski W6DTW, Derek Kozel AG6PO

The Big Event

After months of planning, numerous antenna parties, volunteers lined up, shacks gutted, the summer heat leads to THE major event for the Ham community in the US. Field day comes and goes in a flash leaving everyone exhausted but with a smile on our faces, or 4A SCV ringing in our heads. Then there's the big pile of equipment and stuff to put back whence it came. Slowly we recover only to wait and wait for the results of our collective efforts.

Discussion surrounds the hopeful start to the event and that the bands would cooperate with everyone and 10M would actually be open. But the reality of weekend proved to be different. The bands were so so but not as hoped though we did make contacts there could have been more, but then there could always be more. The only consolation is they were the same for all but darn; wish they'd been better as were sure it would have made all the difference.

An occasional glance at the ARRL web site only reveals that the answers to our inquiry aren't posted yet. As the computers whir from afar, we can only hope the results will come soon.

Suddenly without your notice the email traffic heats up with a glimpse of what we've been waiting for. How is it I missed the first posting as I'd checked earlier that day only to find nothing yet again! But who cares the answers are finally there. But what are the answers you say to the question that's been in the back of your mind so long?

Let's spend a moment reflecting on last year's results. Our points total from last year was 17,385 with 5,332 contacts and 82 participants. We were 9th in the nation. Even though we had an issue with one of the towers, the band conditions were more favorable than they were this year.

Now that the patient waiting is over, just what were the results of our collective efforts in 2013? Of all the stations who participated, of which there were 2,547 that submitted logs, W6ARA had an official score of 14,172 points with 4,308 contacts. Our score was 17th out of

all participating stations. We had the 3rd highest score in 4A behind K8ES (Delaware ARA with 15,458 points and 4,391 contacts) and K4BFT (HARC with 15,476 points and 4,347 contacts). A very narrow point and contact spread.

As a point of note, there were a total of 156 participants in 4A. We were the only 4A station in SCV. In the SCV section there were a total of 38 participating stations. We were once again 3rd behind K6EI (18,885 points, 1,988 contacts, they had a 5 power multiplier) and W6YX (16,074 points, 4,685 contacts). We had more than twice the number of participants than either of those stations or any other station in our section.

We are 11th in the nation in terms of the number of participants! Only 1 of the 11 had a higher score than we did. As this event is one where part of the purpose is to "get the word out" and get people involved, having more participants and a high score is a great measure of our success in that category.

For anyone who hangs out around or visits the public information table and the GOTA station, they get to see eyes open and excitement grow as interested persons ask questions and learn what this whole thing called "Ham Radio" is all about. Some are even brave enough to mash the push to talk foot switch and give it a try. To watch them try to comprehend what the coach is saying, understand the exchange, understand what the operator on the other end of the speaker is saying, then try to not choke making the contact is a flashback experience to your own first contact. Then the glee that comes over their face when success is realized and any friends standing around them start whooping it up and waiting their turn is the true story of what the weekend is all about.

As we all know, the measure of this event is not how many points or contacts you accumulate but the comradery, making new friends, and getting people interested in what's going on. Considering the hundreds of man hours put in during antenna parties, network day, station captains, FD setup and tear down crews, extra point coordination, photography,

(Continued on page 6)

November Board Meeting

As a number of board members were not able to meet this month and there was no pressing business, the board voted not to meet in November.

Seven members have renewed via PayPal.

New member:
Sergey Nikiforov NS6W

PAARA Badges Ready for Pick-up:

K6FTF	Mark	San Jose
KJ6GBE	Sreendish	Redwood City
KG6GY Y	Art	San Jose
N6JCY	Joani	San Jose
KI6JLS	Joanne	Palo Alto
KG6QKN	Francis	Palo Alto
KG6QKO	Kali	Palo Alto
KJ4SGT	Xiande	Campbell
KF6SRD	Chuck	Palo Alto
K6TSR	George	Portola Valley
K6VVK	Vincent	Palo Alto
KM6WP	Michael	Sunnyvale
KI6QKM	Scott	Palo Alto
KI6INR	Rob	Menlo Park
N6UOB	Byron	Campbell
N6DB	Rebar	Redwood City
W6NEV	Marty	Sunnyvale
KK6HAF	Norm	Sunnyvale

Jim KI6KVV



PAARA 11/1/13 Raffle Prize Winners

- 1st Prize / Don Rodoni / KE6CFX / Kenwood TM-281A / 2m / 65 Watt / Mobile Transceiver
- 2nd Prize / Clark Murphy / KE6KXO / ARRL Handbook 2013
- 3rd Prize / Lee Klotz / WA5ZNU / ARRL Operating Manual 10th Edition
- 4th Prize / Walter McVeigh / KK6GTU / Fourteen Toroids *Thanks Doyle Kisler KG6YUN!*
- 5th Prize / Kristen McIntyre / K6WX / Northern CA DX Foundation CD / Book
- 6th Prize / Amanda Wigylus / KK6CWV / ARRL Repeater Directory
- 7th Prize / Marty Wayne / W6NEV / ICOM CQ DX Zones of the World
- 8th Prize / Dox / K6DOX / Bongo Ties

(Continued from page 4)

radio operators, people who bring their equipment to the event, food, cooks, public information, report generation and submission, least not forget the leader of this whole event Doug Teter, our hats go off to everyone who made this year's event yet another great PAARA success!

It must be rewarding to everyone who participates or we wouldn't keep doing it. One thing for sure, if there is some aspect of being a Ham that is of interest to you, participating in the event is a sure way to learn more from others who know so plan on spending time with one of the teams matching your interest. Every year is different. We can only hope next year will give everyone the band conditions that leave us speechless. Get ready for next year, when we do "it" all over again.

73's

Jim KI6KVW



Remember January is the Home Brew meeting so you have a little over one month to finish them up!

(Continued from page 1)

runs through her yard. It was autumn then, and the river was beautifully shrouded in a canopy of yellow-gold leaves. The light of the setting sun through those leaves was a magical sight. It can be a beautiful place at the right time of the year.

As I write this, this upcoming weekend is the CQWW DX CW Contest. Hopefully you'll have some time to get out there and operate. It's one of my favorite contests of the year and there is sure to be some DX on the air. Even if you miss it this time, be sure to mark your calendar for the spring version, which you can find on the WA7BNM contest calendar. Just put those words into your favorite search engine and you are sure to find it. It's a very easy contest to operate CW in since the exchange is only a signal report (just 5NN) and your CQ Zone. It's also a great contest for finding DX on the bands. If you have a chance, try one of the CQWW DX contests just to get your feet wet. And again, if you aren't able to turn in the logs, don't sweat it. Just hand out some points. The contest sponsors always like to see the logs, but it's okay if you don't submit them too. The real point is to get on the air and have some fun.

The December PAARA meeting is our biggest meeting of the year. I'll be back in time to get my raffle tickets for the giant K3 Raffle. Jim, K6AK, has put together another spectacular Dream to Reality Raffle extravaganza and experience for you, and we hope to see you there. Even beyond the K3, there are other great prizes, and a fantastic speaker, who just came back from the K9W Wake Island DXpedition. Last but not least, there are officer elections for 2014. Once again it's an incredibly contentious, down to the wire, photo finish election that I'm sure you'll want to see the results of. Make sure you are a 2013 current member so you can vote. That's all for right now. I know it's a bit short, but I'm a bit tired after a long trip and a long day, so I'll just hope to see all of you at the December meeting, and look forward to seeing all of you at PAARA in 2014 too.

73 ES GUD DX DE K6WX

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	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-246-7531
	w6nev@arrrl.net	
Secretary.....	Jim Thielemann, K16KVV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Treasurer.....	Ron Chester, W6AZ	408-243 2221
	ron@taxhelp.com	

Directors

Director ('13)	Byron Beck N6UOB	408-369-1913
	N6uob@arrrl.net	
Director ('14)	Rob Riley, K16INR	650 799-1607 (cell)
	ki6inr@arrrl.net	
Director ('14)	Larry Rebarchik N6DB	925 353-7952 (cell)
	n6db@arrrl.net	
Director ('14)	Darryl Presley, K16LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@arrrl.net	

Appointed Positions

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database.....	Jim Thielemann, K16KVV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Chaplain.....	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
	k6rdm@arrrl.net	
Public Affairs	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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@wcvl.com	
Historian Position	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinator	Jim Rice, K6AK	650-851-2274
Ticket Master.....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-246-7531
Field Day Coordinator.....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
ASVARO Rep.....	Rolf Kliibo, N6NFI	650-856-2748
	n6nfi@arrrl.net	
Webmaster.....	John Miller K6MM	
	webaron@gmail.com	
Technical Coordinator	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	650-325-8239
	kd6w@arrrl.net	
QSL Manager.....	Rob Riley, K16INR	650 799-1607 (cell)
	ki6inr@arrrl.net	
Speaker Coordinator	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-246-7531

PAARAgaphs Staff

Editorial Board		
	Bob Van Tuyl K6RWY	Kristen McIntyre K6WX
	Ron Chester W6AZ	Vic Black AB6SO
	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	
Editor.....	Bob Van Tuyl, K6RWY	408 799-6463
	rvt@swde.com	
Back Up Editor	Jim Thielemann, K16KVV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Advertising	Ron Chester, W6AZ	408-243-2221
	ron@taxhelp.com	
Member Profiles	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Technical Tips	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Photographer	Bill Young, K6VWO	
	jsdinger@sbcglobal.net	

Future PARRA Meeting Dates

Dec 6th, Jan 3rd, Feb 7th

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.electronicflea.com/>

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 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.k6ya.org>

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month,
 Repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM
 Contact: <http://ncdxc.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, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. 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 W6UJ & 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

TEARS — The Elmer Amateur Radio Society

Dedicated to operational training, knowledge building & FCC exam testing.
 KV6R repeater under construction.
 Contact: AAGT@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 fhensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to [PAARAgaphs editor](#))



James Farrey
 Sales Manager

James Electronics Ltd
 1355 Shoreway Road, Belmont, CA 94002
 Tel: 650•592•6718 x 350 Fax: 650•802•1520
 Direct: 650•802•1511 jfarrey@jameco.com

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**Badges are ready for
 pickup.**

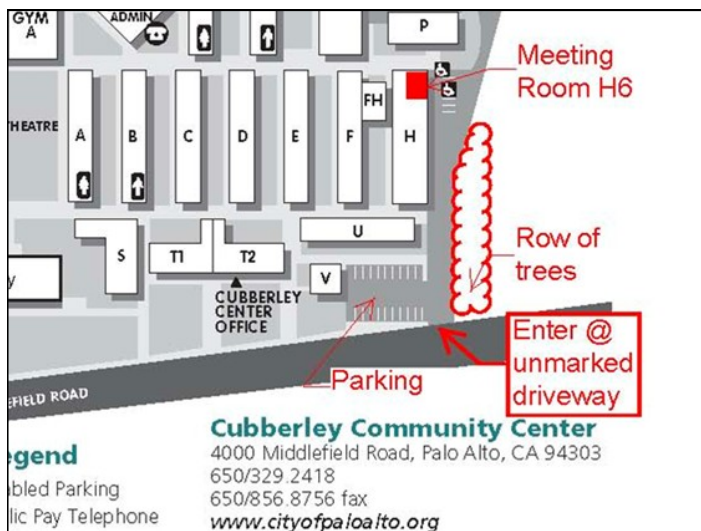
If you would like to
 order a badge, see
Doug Teter, KG6LWE.

PAARA Weekly Radio Net

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

<u>Week</u>	<u>Control Operator</u>
1 st	Open
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Jack - N1VSL
4 th	Marty - W6NEV
5 th	Up for Grabs!

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control,
 Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice,
 and lots o' fun! Give it a try.



**Meeting Location — Middlefield Road
 between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo
 Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road**

<http://www.foto.mail.ru/list/shkurkin>

Vladimir Vladimirovich

SHKURKIN

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 English-Russian-English

shkurkin@ix.netcom.com

**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 Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at
 8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

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,
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Amateur Radio Technology Day	Ilse Beck, E. A. , KI6IBM Beck Business Services 441 N. Central Avenue, #9 Campbell, CA 95008 Enrolled Agent Income Tax Bookkeeping/Payroll Elder Care Consultations Billing and A/R Phone/FAX: 408-267-8234 Email: ilsebeck@jps.net
WILL RESUME WHEN A NEW VENUE IS DETERMINED.	
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W6AZ

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Submit items to **PAARAgaphs** by the 3rd Wed to: rrvt@swde.com
 Text: .doc, .rtf, or .txt
 Photos: jpg, png or tiff

Subscription Problems? Contact Database Manager: Jim Thielemann, KI6KVV,
 408-839-6815, thielem@pacbell.net

PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

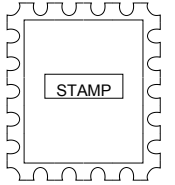
PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). **All ad rates listed are per issue.**

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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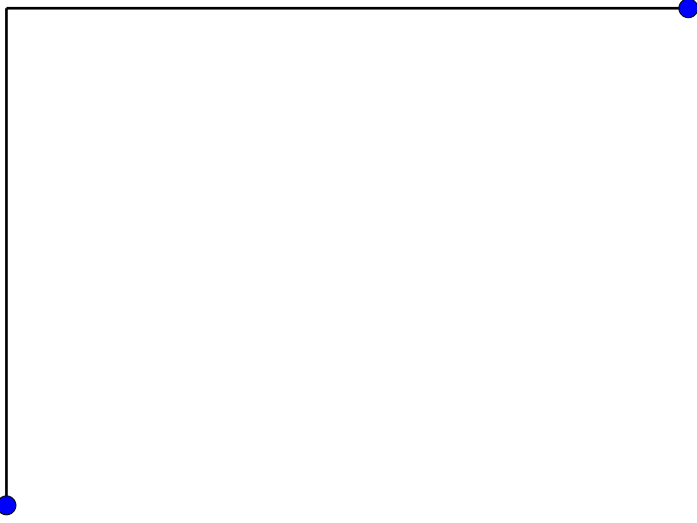
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 PAARAgaphs Newsletter
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