

W6OTX**W6ARA**PAARA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 65, NUMBER 5, May 2014**K6OTA****K6YQT**

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.Celebrating 77 years as an *active* amateur radio club—Since 1937

Upcoming Events

May 2, PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM
Cubberley Community Center, Room H-6
400 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto

May 10, PAARA sponsored Flea Market
6 AM — Noon, De Anza College

May 21, Board Meeting, 7:00PM
Everyone welcome!
Round Table Pizza Parlor in Menlo Park

May 21, DEADLINE for PAARAgraphs
submissions

June 28 — 29 Field Day!



ple antennas on small lots and low power. Now retired to the Santa Cruz Mountains, he's been building and enjoying the station and antenna farm of his wildest dreams. This talk focuses on simple antennas for limited space, limited skyhooks, and limited budgets.

President's Corner

May 2014

We are almost to Field Day already and we also have the Electronics Flea Market coming up. Unbelievably, the year is nearing its midpoint, and there's still lots of fun and adventure to go for the year.



The International DX Convention at Visalia has recently concluded, and while I didn't have time to go there, I did have a confederate (a certain Dave, K6WA) who was able to secure some raffle tickets for me. I apparently won 100 ft of RG-8 coax, so I guess I'll be okay to go with putting an antenna up some distance away from the shack. Dave also secured a group-buy of Pixel Technologies RF PRO-1B Short-wave Magnetic Loop antennas. Mine has just arrived, but I haven't even had time to unbox it

(Continued on page 3)

**Presentation at the May meeting:
A Better Way of Planning for HF Antennas — Do I want a vertical or horizontal antenna, and how high should it be? Presented by K9YC**

Jim Brown, K9YC, was first licensed as WN8FNI in 1955, W8FNI a year later, and Extra in 1959. Jim was mostly inactive after college, raising a family and running his own small business. Until moving to Santa Cruz in 2006, all of his hamming has been with sim-

What Happened???

de Rich, W6APZ

At age 13 I was living in Chicago. We were having a typical Chicago summer rainstorm, complete with lightning and thunder. I was not yet a ham radio operator, but I had acquired an old AM radio that had not been working, but that somehow I had been able to fix. So there it was, plugged into AC, a long-wire antenna going out the window and above the roof. With the help of that long-wire antenna, I was pulling in Chicago stations and stations all around the area. This was a relatively simple radio to operate: only an On/Off Switch/volume control and a tuning knob. Lights illuminated the tuning dial when the power was turned ON.

I had turned off the radio before going to sleep. Several hours later, I was awakened by blasts of sound coming out of the radio's speaker and

the dial light was illuminated as brightly as if the radio had been turned ON. However, the power switch was *still OFF*.

I quickly correlated the spurts of sound and the flashes of the dial light with the lightning flashes. I jumped out of bed and unplugged the radio, hoping to avert some major catastrophe. The radio went quiet. In the morning, after the storm had passed, I plugged the radio back into the AC and it performed normally.

The puzzling question was: What was happening during the storm and why? What made the radio turn ON in spurts? Keep in mind that this was a vacuum-tube radio that normally needed several seconds for the filaments to warm up before any sound would come out the speaker. What was going on?

Your thoughts on this can be sent to W6APZ@comcast.net



PAARA 4/4/14 Raffle Prize Winners

- 1st Prize / Nick Cassarino / N6NSA / Wouxon Dual Band HT
- 2nd Prize / John Conrady / KI6QQW / Arrow Yagi Antenna
- 3rd Prize / Paul Gorny / KK6HWN / Two FRS Radios
- 4th Prize / Bob Korte / KD6KYT / "Arthur Collins" book
- 5th Prize / Marty Wayne / W6NEV / "DXA" book
- 6th Prize / Vic Black / AB6SO / ARRL Repeater Directory
- 7th Prize / Tony Kooij / W6AWK / Two Rolls of Rescue Tape

(President's Corner — Continued from page 1)

yet. I'm really excited about using this antenna for receiving, since I have a serious local noise issue at my place. It is supposed to give good performance even indoors, and has great broadband performance across the HF spectrum. If you want more information about the antenna, you can go to

<http://www.pixelsatradio.com>.

The ARRL Field Day packets were released a couple of months back, and we're preparing for another KB Field Day effort at PAARA. It will be the usual grand affair at Bedwell Bayfront Park, on a landscape punctuated by enormous HF antennas (and some pretty good VHF antennas too - I didn't forget you Joel). There is plenty of fun to be had by all, from the Get On The Air, or GOTA station, all the way to the serious phone and CW stations, both up and down the hill. This time we will be using 4 military masts, so the setup will be easier than ever. Doug, KG6LWE, our FD Coordinator has all of the antenna parts color coded for the easiest assembly job you can imagine. This should be a fun, safe, and hopefully trouble-free FD this year. We will need operators, so we will be putting out the call. We also need help with bonus points. Each year we miss a few, and

(Continued on page 5)

PAARA Board Meeting Minutes 16 April 2014

The Board Meeting was held at the Round Table Pizza Parlor in Menlo Park, commencing at 7:50 PM on the 16th of April, 2014. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Jim Thielemann KI6KVV (Sec, Membership), Larry Rebarchik N6DB (Dir), Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir) Darryl Presley KI6LDM (Dir); and non board members, Doug Teter KG6LWE (Field Day Coordinator), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Chaplain). A quorum was present.

President's Report: Kristen, K6WX, reported that the April 4th General Meeting was well attended. The attendees enjoyed the DXpedition video to Desecheo Island. She reminded us of

the importance the 9AM TalkNet is to the club. She urged club and board member participation as the net is a great way to gain interest in ham activities and helps spread the word on PAARA's involvement.

Kristen indicated her reserve of stories is better than in the past but new stories are always needed. The board wishes to encourage the general membership to submit articles to be published in upcoming issues of PAARAgaphs. Do you have any projects, technical articles, hints n kinks, DX, on the air experiences that might be of interest? We can even help you write them up, "even if it's only 4 sentences", says Kristen.

Vice President's Report: Marty, W6NEV, though not able to attend he reminded everyone to get their order in for this year's Field Day shirt. These shirts will only be available on a preorder basis. If you plan on supporting this year's PAARA Field Day effort and want a shirt, start thinking now as there is only a short window left in which to order them. He also reported the speaker for the May meeting is K9YC, James Brown. His presentation is entitled "A better Way of Planning for HF antennas".

Secretary's Report: Jim, KI6KVV, reported that there were 3 new members and fifteen renewals at the April 4th meeting. He also reports that there are 52 — 2013 members and 125 that have renewed for 2014 bringing the total to 177 current members. That said, this is the cut month for members who haven't renewed. Thus our current membership is 125. In an effort to remind members who haven't gotten around to paying their dues, postcards will be mailed suggesting that they could have received PAARAgaphs but need to renew via PayPal in order to become a current member again.

Jim reported that adding a membership portal to the web site is still in progress

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, though Ron didn't attend the meeting, he reported the club remains in good financial condition. Areas where the club brings in revenue to cover operating expenses have been positive for the last 4

(Continued on page 5)

Badges Ready for Pickup

On June 1st the price of a badge will increase to \$15.00.

- Art, KI6GYG, San Jose
- Kali, KG6QKO, Palo Alto
- Henri, KG6ZWO, Palo Alto
- Francis, KG6QKN, Palo Alto
- George, K6TSR, Portola Valley
- Xainde, KJ4SGT, Campbell
- Sreenidish, KJ6GBE, Redwood city
- Scott, KI6QWM
- Mark, K6FTF, San Jose
- Joani, N6JCY, San Jose

(Continued on page 5)

Radio In The Park

Join your fellow hams for a casual morning playing with radios and antennas! Bringing your own equipment is not required, though practicing the portability of your station can be beneficial. The park is open to the public and provides restrooms, picnic areas, benches, beautiful trees and grass areas.

When

9:30am to 12:30pm, Sundays:

- May 4th

(Continued on page 6)

2014 PAARA FIELD DAY T-SHIRTS NOW AVAILABLE TO ORDER.

The 2014 PAARA Field Day T-Shirts are available for order. The cost is \$20.

The shirts are Royal Blue with the club logo on the front and PAARA FIELD DAY TEAM on the back. Sizes are Med, Lg, XL, and 2XL. **Last day to order is May 16th.** Estimated delivery date is the June 6th PAARA meeting. Get yours on order now or forever be left out. Contact Marty, W6NEV at w6nev@arrl.net or call at 408-234-8023 to place order. Note: 2014 will be added to the back of the shirt under "team".



(Minutes — Continued from page 3)

months.

Under old business, the Flea Market changes were a topic of discussion again. Kristen reported making some headway with ASVARO. The board voted to back Kristen in her bid to increase the vender fee by \$5 to cover the increased fee De Anza College is now charging. We have confirmed the equipment normally provided by the Red Cross is still available. PAARA has to pick it up and transport it to and from the site. A rough plan was worked out that will not require renting a truck this year. PAARA will be sponsoring the Flea Market in the month of May on the 10th. Kristen will be soliciting volunteers to help staff the event.

Last month Kristen mentioned that there is a new event called "Radios in the Park" which was held at Agnews Historic Park in Santa Clara. Another event was held last month which reportedly was well attended. The event is now sponsored by FARS. The next event is May 4th and runs from 9:30 to 12:30.

Doug talked about field day and the 2nd antenna party. He currently plans on holding it on April 26th. Watch your email for more information. Renewed discussion centered round someone to handle the NTS traffic. This is still an open item. Darryl mentioned he's received interest from other clubs to exchange with PAARA. This isn't a complete solution and needs more exploration. Also discussed is the need to find someone else to be the GOTA captain. Rob KI6INR has ever increasing family responsibilities that will preclude him from being captain this year. If any club member has ideas on these topics, please contact Doug.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Jim Thielemann
KI6KVW

New Members:

Clark Martin KK6ISP

Vitaly Dubilet AB6VD

Thomas Penning AG6YB

Returning member:

Ron Sfarzo KG6JQT

(President's Corner — Continued from page 3)

those are the easy ones. In addition, if you know of any youth operators (under 18), they are most needed. Just let us know, and we'll get them on board at the GOTA station.

There was some fun to be had in the recent contests, and I actually had some time to get on the air. It was the CQ World Wide WPX SSB contest, and I made several contacts around the world. I fired up the amplifier, and gave the dial a spin. Ten meters wasn't looking so hot, so I switched to 15 meters. Now I had some action, and I heard some accents that were foreign. That's always a tipoff that there might be some DX to be had. Re-tuning the amp, I made a few calls and put a 9A in the log. I looked around a bit more, and heard a station from Spain - in the log. RW - in the log. Listened around a bit, and then I heard another accent. I called, and called again - OK in the log. And on it went. It was great fun to be able to work the stations that I could hear, and see how well they could hear me. It wasn't a fantastic day for 15 meters; it took me a few calls most times to get through, but at least I was able to make the contacts and fill up my logbook. I don't think I worked any new countries either. It didn't matter. Just making that connection through the ionosphere was enough. Pure magic.

Don't forget that we have the PAARA Sponsored ASVARO Electronics Flea Market coming up on May 10th. This is a chance to help PAARA raise funds, and to have some fun with us at oh-dark-thirty, as we gather before the flashlight parade of electronic treasure seekers. If you want to help out, please let me know directly, and we'll get you signed up. Before that, however, we have another PAARA meeting. HOPE TO CU AT PAARA DE K6WX.

(Badges — Continued from page 4)

- Joanne, KI6JLS, Palo Alto
- Vincent, K6VVK, Palo Alto
- Chuck, KF6SRD
- Dave, K6WA
- Clark, KK6ISP
- Rob, K6RWY-Jeff, KG6KCO

PAARA Raffle Prizes

1st

Wouxon KGUUV3D-2-UHF HT Transceiver
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- * Reverse polarity protected.

4th LM 801 EXP HT “Cup Holder HT Mount”



5th Two FRS Radios

6th ARRL Repeater Directory 2012-2013

7th Bongo Ties

(Radio — Continued from page 4)

- June 8th
- July 13th
- August 3rd

QTH:

Agnews Historic Park

4030 Lafayette St.

Santa Clara, CA 95050

N 37° 23.549 W 121° 57.297

Joanna K6YL

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

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 Public Affairs *Position Vacant*
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 Station Trustee K6OTA Ron Chester, W6AZ
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 bob@rgktechsales.com
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 dteter@wcvwi.com
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 jdsinger@sbcglobal.net

Future PARRA Meeting Dates
 May 2nd, June 6th, July 11

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

50 MHz & Up Group

Meets 1st Thursday each month at 7pm in the Texas Instruments Building E conference
 room in Santa Clara.
 Contact: <http://50MhzandUp.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 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

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://santacalaravalley.redcross.org> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924
shensley@Novell.com

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



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 Sales Manager

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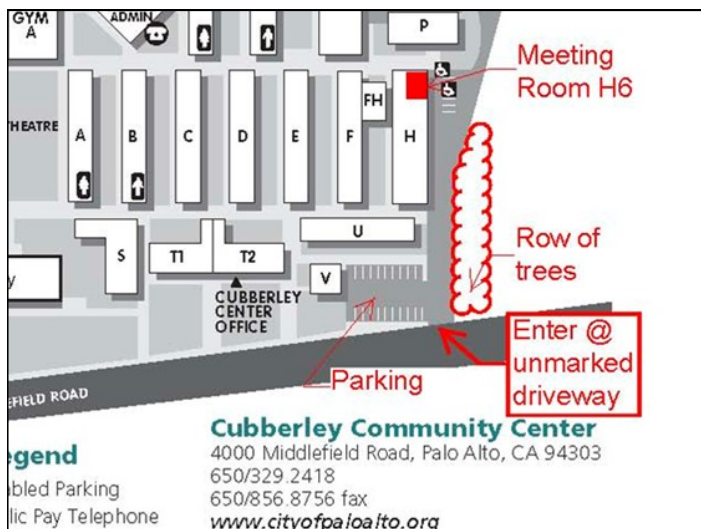
If you would like to
 order a badge, see
Doug Teter, KG6LWE.

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	Joel KD6W
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Jack - N1VSL
4 th	Marty - W6NEV
5 th	Rob KC6TYD

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

Editing and Translation Services
 English-Russian-English

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**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
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 P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911

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<p>RADIO IN THE PARK</p> <p>9:30am - 12:30pm Sundays, 5/4, 6/8, 7/13, 8/3</p> <p>QTH: Agnews Historic Park 4030 Lafayette St. Santa Clara, CA 95050</p> <p>N 37° 23.549 W 121° 57.297</p>	<p>Ilse Beck, E. A. , KI6IBM</p> <p>BeckBusiness Services</p> <p>441 N. Central Avenue, #9 Campbell, CA 95008</p> <p>Enrolled Agent Income Tax Bookkeeping/Payroll Elder Care Consultations Billing and A/R</p> <p>Phone/FAX: 408-267-8234 Email: ilsebeck@jps.net</p>
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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.

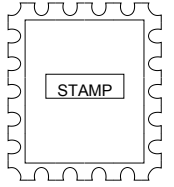
These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association. The PAARAgaphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not 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 Ron Chester, W6AZ**

PAARAgaphs — May 2014

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
PAARAgaphs Newsletter
P.O. Box 911
Menlo Park, California 94026



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SAN DIEGO, CA 5275 Kearny Villa Rd. 94612 (619) 524-5757 (877) 992-1745 Mark, WY7N, Mgr. SteamRadio@sandiego.com

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