

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

- Aug 1 PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM
Cubberly Community Center,
Room H-6 400 Middlefield Rd,
Palo Alto
- Aug 20 Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
Everyone welcome!
Round Table Pizza Parlor in Menlo
Park
- Oct 10-12 Pacificon 2014 — W100AW/6 Host



"CW For The SSB Operator"

Rick Eversole, N6RNO

Rick was first licensed as KG6KZV in 2001. He worked the California QSO Party in 2006 as part of the N6O team, started the CQP Tehama county expedition team in 2007. He has been a member of the Northern California Contest Club since 2007. Rick was the chairperson for the California QSO Party from 2009 through 2011. As a phone operator, he worked CW using decoder software. He recently started doing RTTY and JT-65. Although trying hard Rick is still a long way from even DXCC. He has been a software/Electrical engineer for 30+ years.

President's Corner

August 2014

With Field Day in the rear-view mirror, and the sun very quiet, we are really in the summer doldrums. PAARA won't let you down, though, because we have a great program, and great meetings coming up. The fall contest season is also on the way, so don't despair, and there is always propagation on the lower bands to be had.



The sun has been going through an unusually quiet period for the peak of the solar cycle. We had several days over the last week where the sunspot number was actually zero. This means that the face of the sun was blank, with no sunspots at all. This is nearly unheard of at the peak, and speaks to the strange nature of cycle 24. It appears that we really are at or past the

peak for this cycle, and will be descending down to lower activity over the course of the next few years. Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, recently compiled data from all of the recorded solar cycles, and plotted them so that we can get an idea of how cycle 24 compares to others. The data go all the way back to the 17th century, and show a very distinct minimum between roughly 1640 and 1710, where there were almost no sunspots at all. You can also see that there are meta-cycles at a lower frequency that are on top of the 11 year cycle we are all familiar with. There is another chart showing the maximum smoothed sunspot number for each cycle, which gives a general idea of the relative strength of each cycle. The commentary is also very interesting. The entire article can be found at http://k9la.us/A_Look_at_All_Twenty_Three_Solar_Cycles.pdf.

(President — Continued on page 5)

**PALO ALTO
 AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION**

**Field Day Callsign: W6ARA
 2014 FIELD DAY ENTRY SUBMISSION
 JULY 26, 2014**

**Youth Participation Bonus
 Points: 100**

Ron Chester, W6AZ

Five youngsters under the age of 19 made a total of 18 QSO's at the PAARA Field Day, all on the GOTA station, providing our entry with 100 bonus points. None of them were licensed hams. All GOTA contacts were on 20 m phone, using 100 watts of power.

Here is a listing of the youngsters who made QSO's at our 2014 Field Day:

Kathryn Chen	Age 6	2 contacts
Megan Chen	Age 9	2 contacts
Yvonne Miller	Age 10	8 contacts
David Prior	Age 13	2 contacts
Elijah Wigylus	Age 11	4 contacts



Yvonne Miller, age 10, cranked out eight of the Youth QSO's on the GOTA station.

Elijah Wigylus operated the GOTA station during two different sessions. When he worked OK2RZ in the Czech Republic, it was probably a bit after his usual bedtime on Saturday night. He actually broke



Elijah Wigylus, age 11, astounded us all by working the Czech Republic on 20 m phone.

through a pileup rather quickly, as the Czech operator picked out his higher pitched voice in the stateside din. Elijah was pleased when he made the contact, but had no idea where the Czech Republic is located. So the GOTA station took some time out for a bit of a geography lesson, with Elijah's eyes growing larger and his smile getting wider as he learned how far the radio signals had traveled to make communication possible. He was quite excited after it all sank in.

And then he had to return to his family, who were camping out nearby on our Field Day site, for his bed time. We encouraged him to tell his mother what he had done. So he practiced how to say "The Czech Republic," and then went off to tell her. Of course she was quite impressed and pleased about his accomplishment, as we all were!

Every Field Day has its surprises and exciting moments. It's one of the reasons so many of us come back year after year to participate in Field Day. This year Elijah supplied one of those special moments, that make it all worthwhile.

“There is still Hope”

**Rick Huisman
N6DQ**

One recent afternoon, while rebuilding the shack, which gets done pretty often, this time after moving back after a year-long house remodel/addition, I was spinning the dial of the rig on 10 meters and heard a very young sounding voice calling CQ. The guy had that pleading sound in his voice which said “please, please answer SOMEBODY, PLEASE!”

Well, I spun right by and kept looking around the band while fidgeting with whatever I was doing at that moment. Then it struck me — I remember how badly I wanted to talk with anyone when I fired up my little station early in my ham career. So, I tuned back to 28.442 and heard the enthusiastic “CQ, CQ this is K8DAR, Menominee School Radio Club calling CQ.....over.”

“K8DAR, this is N6DQ, over”

“N6DQ, hi, this is Brodee!”

“Brodee, this is Rick, and your 5/9 near San Francisco!”

Wow, did Brodee get excited! We talked for a few minutes and exchanged a lot of information.....Brodee’s in first grade and talking with no “mic fright” whatsoever. Then, Ed the control op came on and said there were more students who wanted to talk with me and he proceeded to put Lavineea, a fourth grader, on the air.

I wasn’t quite sure about the spelling of her name so she gave me the phonetics...“LIMA ALPHA VICTOR INDIA NOVEMBER ECHO ECHO ALPHA” and she sounded like a seasoned operator! She inquired about the weather in California and informed me that it was 9 degrees in Menominee (Michigan). I could hear in her voice that she wanted to make more contacts so I heard the familiar “thanks for the contact and 73 Rick. ”I just knew we had a new ham right there.

“K8DAR, this is N6DQ, 73”

“N6DQ, this is K8DAR, 88.....Q R Zed?”

There is still hope.

July 16, 2014 Board Meeting Minutes

The June Board Meeting was held at the Menlo Park ‘Round Table Pizza Parlor’, commencing at 7:49 on July 16th, 2014. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX (President), Marty Wayne, W6NEV (V.P.), Jim Thielemann KI6KVW (Sec, Membership), Darryl Presley KI6LDM (Dir), Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir), and non-Board Members, Rick Melrose (Chaplain), and Doug Teter, KG6LWE (Field Day Coordinator).

President’s Report: Kristen, K6WX, commented on how wonderful Field Day was and how seemingly smoothly the weekend went. She received lots of positive comments from visitors. The club received lots of great PR as a result of the event. Without a doubt, the Certificate of Recognition received from Jeffrey Gee, Mayor of Redwood City, is something to be proud of. A short conversation ensued with reflections on the weekend from other participants at the meeting.

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, reported that the next speaker was Rick Eversol, N6RNO, who will present “CW for the SSB Operator”. He also reported that he has a full roster of interesting speakers lined for the rest of the year. Marty is still working on the next field trip. He has a destination in the works but is still

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trying to connect with the contact.

Marty also reported that 17 - 2014 Field Day T-shirts were sold. You could sure tell on FD who had them, just look at the pictures! Next year the shirt will be the same except for the updated year and a color matching the ARRL's shirt color.

Secretary's report: Jim, KI6KVW, reported that the membership stands at 155 for 2014, with two members paid through 2015, for a total of 157 members. So far there have been 43 renewals via PayPal on the Club website. He also reported there were 2 new members in July with one of them working to get his license.

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, was not able to attend the meeting. He is madly working on the Field Day submission which is due at the end of the month.

Under Old Business: the Board once again discussed hosting the Electronics Flea Market in October. There was considerable discussion on the impact of Pacificon, which is the same weekend, and the radio station Marty is overseeing. After weighing all the issues, the board voted to advise ASVARO that PAARA would host the event in October.

Doug, KG6LWE, reported that there were no major issues this year and everyone seemed to have a great time at Field Day. He also wanted to thank everyone that participated in the event. A discussion ensued regarding antennas, both how well they all worked and what improvements need to be considered for next year. During the discussions, a participant of the event stood out as having risen to the occasion. The board voted to issue a rare "MVP" certificate to commemorate the achievement. The recipient will be announced at the August meeting.

Jim, KI6KVW, reminded the board that the password only section of the web site had been "activated". A member roster has been placed in that area. The board discussed the various as-

pects of "publishing" member information on the web. As this isn't the 1st time the information has been published and members have the option of opting out along with a method of communicating any desired changes, the board voted to commence allowing member access to the page. In the coming month or so, members will receive an email from paarapay@gmail.com with the login information. The board strongly urges the login information not be discussed beyond other club members. Should you wish to not have your information published, please send an email to the above address advising what information you don't want included in the member list.

Under New Business, Chuck N6VFH, contacted Kristen wondering if the club was interested in having a PAARAshoot this year. The board agrees the response is yes, but not until later

(Minutes — Continued on page 6)



"Reporting for duty"
You just can't keep a good man down!



Aerial View of CW A, Phone A, Sat/VHF, GOTA taken Saturday Morning



PAARA's Version of Scud Missile Launchers Awaiting Deployment, :-))

(President — Continued from page 1)

Another solar cycle comparison was done by Jan Alvestad, at solen.info. This graph attempts to show how solar cycle 24 compares to other similar cycles, and this might be a predictor for how the cycle could finish off. The closest similar cycles are 10, 12, 13, 14, and 16. If these data are any guide, we may be headed for a series of these minimal cycles. On the other hand, solar dynamics is a complex system of fluid dynamics, so making predictions is at some level a fools errand. There is a certain

amount of predictably, like the 11 year cycle, and the meta-cycles, but there is also a highly unpredictable element. This comparative graph can be found at http://www.solen.info/solar/images/comparison_similar_cycles.png. The entire solen.info site has much useful solar activity data. I highly recommend it, if you are interested in solar activity, as I am.

PAARA is planning a number of other activities throughout the year, so please stay tuned to our website for updates as our plans firm up. I know that Marty is working on another PAAR-Atrip (thank you Marty!), the details of which will be announced when we have confirmation that we can make it happen. We are in the planning stage of another mini PAARashoot at the San Jose 10th Street Range. I know that those that made it last time really enjoyed this activity. We will probably schedule this for late in the fall, and hope you can join us if you enjoy the shooting sports. And then there is Pacificon coming up in October, where we will be hosting the W6P special event station, and we also hope to

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**June raffle winners: Robin KI6INR, Joel KD6W,
 Joanna K6YL, Rick N6DQ, Dominic N6NSA**

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this year as there are lots of things going on or about to go on.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10.

Jim Thielemann, KI6KVW

New Members:

Justin Witmer, N6ETC (actually joined at Field Day)

Kenyi Donoso, studying hard, breaking news ... he's now KK6OBS!

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host a special October Flea Market. These are the things that make PAARA a special club, and one that values your participation at all levels. We hope to see you at these events, and would love to have you help us make them happen too. If you'd like help out, please contact any member of the PAARA leadership team.

Well, that's it for now. I'll look forward to seeing you at the August meeting. Until then ... CU ON THE BANDS DE K6WX

Kristen (K6WX)

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 Station Trustee K6OTA..... Ron Chester, W6AZ
 Property Manager Gerry Tucker, N6NV
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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/>

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.k6va.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.gsl.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

WVVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223, while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.
 VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF: 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss
 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss
 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss
 Meetings are 3rd Wednesday of every month.
 Contact: <http://wvvara.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
fshensley@Novell.com



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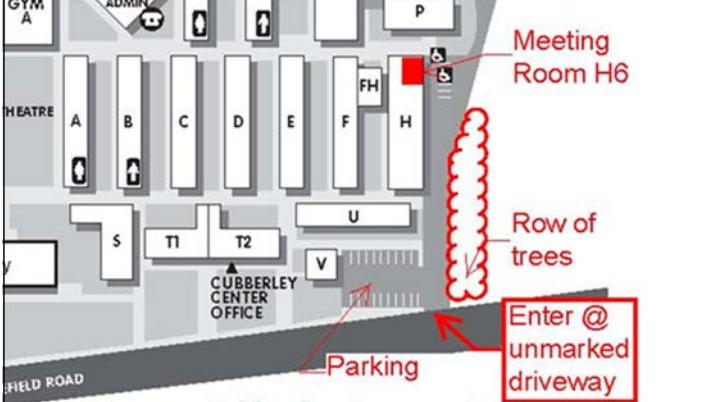
Badges are ready for pickup.

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	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.



Cubberley Community Center
 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
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 650/856.8756 fax
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Meeting Location — Middlefield Road between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road

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

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Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association
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 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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<p>RADIO IN THE PARK</p> <p>9:30am - 12:30pm Sundays, 8/3, 9/7</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>Beck Business 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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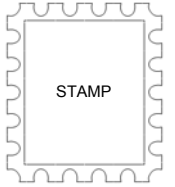
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- Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
- For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half 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 — August 2014

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Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
 PAARAgaphs Newsletter
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