

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**

Celebrating 78 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*



## The October Program will be Riley Hollingsworth's, K4ZDH, Video "Amateur Enforcement — Very Much Alive"

Former FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH discusses the issues related to the efforts of the FCC in the Amateur Radio enforcement arena. This video also touches on what we should and should not do with respect to the scofflaws on the air.

## Upcoming Events

- |        |                                                                    |
|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct 2  | PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM                                     |
| Nov 6  | Cubberly Community Center, Room H-6, 400 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto |
| Dec 4  |                                                                    |
| Oct 21 | Board Meeting, 7:00 PM                                             |
| Nov 18 | Everyone welcome! Round                                            |
| Dec 16 | Table Pizza Parlor in Menlo Park                                   |



## President's Corner

October 2015

The year is winding down already and we've just passed the equinox as I write this. CQP is upon us too, which means that I will be gone. Pacificon is just a few short weeks away too. And, of course, the PAARA Leadership Elections and the Dream To Reality Raffle is coming up soon. Lastly, keep a sharp eye out for the next PAARASHOOT as well. It's a fun-packed end to a great year.



The autumnal equinox is now passed, but the day-night ratio is still well balanced. It's a great time to get on HF and take advantage of the less charged D-layer of the ionosphere. If you recall what I wrote a couple of months back, there should be less attenuation because of the

lower amount of ultraviolet radiation reaching down to the D-layer, which is closer to the earth's surface. This lower ionization level combined with the higher recombination rate of ions, as the atmosphere's density is higher closer to the surface, means that we should see less attenuation of HF signals, while still maintaining good ionization at the F1 and F2 layers. This often leads to excellent propagation, particularly around the gray-line around sunset on bands like 20m, 17m, and potentially 15m, depending on how active our sun has been. It's a good time to give some DXing a try, or try a contest and see how far you get. You might be surprised. We may not see as much E-layer refraction at this point. That tends to be most active in the summer months. How E-layer ionization patches form is not well understood, but it's always fun to catch some E-skip unexpectedly. I've been very surprised to find great single-hop propagation on 10m when it seems as though it might be dead. The whole thing is fascinating, so get out there and experience it for yourself.

(President — Continued on page 3)

## **PAARA Field Day 2015 and those easy 100-point Satellite QSOs**

A few months ago, I got back into amateur radio via vhf 2m n6nfi after 2+ years of carrying but not using my radios. I saw kg6lwe Doug (PAARA Field Day Coordinator Extraordinaire) at a meeting and volunteered for Field Day 2015. Doug mentioned the club needed a satellite person because kd6w Joel would be out of the country. Thinking that it would be easy, I volunteered.

I spent the next two months studying amsat.org and other satellite sites to become an expert. Surely it would be OK with just my Arrow (2m/70cm) yagi, my HT and a tripod. Doug offered his heavy-duty tripod and I built a fixture out of PVC pipe to mount the Arrow antenna. I dug up my sailing compass for excellent pointing (azimuth). I built ½ of a large protractor for easy guessing of elevation. I thought that I had this under control.

Leading up to field day, I helped on a couple of Saturdays at Doug's to pack the trailers and build antennas, even testing the 40m 2 element beam with my own 100w Yaesu FT857D. On FD Friday, I arrived to the PAARA site at 08:45. I brought my ARES hard hat, gloves and sunblock and worked with several other hams to build antennas and towers. While moving to the upper site, I was stung by a wasp on my belly (OUCH). Thanks to the reassurance of my EPI pen (epinephrine), no trip to the ER was necessary. While leaving the site after a successful and exhausting day, I told everyone I would be at the site on Saturday just before sundown. This is where the real comedy/tragedy begins...

Early up on Saturday at 07:30 to start preparing my FM frequency by programming it in the radio for multiple satellites. Having a Mac, it turns out isn't ideal, because using the Yaesu (ADMS) software wouldn't work natively. I struggled with programming my radio (ft1dr) utilizing Fusion software (Win7 simulation). I didn't manage to download from the radio until 19:30 (12 long hours). It took looking for the proper cable (it

was in my car) and figuring out how to properly start the radio for download/upload and figuring out the drivers for my simulator and seemingly 1000s of attempts.

By 21:00 I started capturing the info, frequency pairs and names of the satellites that would pass overhead between 22:00 and 07:30 on Sunday. I tried to export a .csv of the current radio settings and then modifying it with all the satellite frequencies using 5 frequency changes for the Doppler shift of the satellites. Importing them from a .csv file failed over and over, by 00:30, I just manually put in the frequencies in the ADMS software and sent that to the radio, WooHoo!! Lastly, I started to print all the collected data and my black ink did not work. I put everything in a document and changed it all to red to print it. By 01:00, I was ready to leave; made coffee and took a shower. Off to the PAARA field day site.

Finally arrived at 01:30 and set up the tripod by the food tent and started to try and receive from the satellites with no luck. Around 03:00, k6wa Dave said that I might need to turn the squelch off. A half hour of web surfing told me how to turn it down and I had to use the monitor button to temporarily turn the squelch off. Shortly after that, I picked up a satellite with perfect reception, another WooHoo moment!! But, tragically, the massive pileup and my 5 watts didn't overwhelm before the satellite disappeared over the horizon. Shucks! (more expletives might have been said)

OK, just use the FT8900 (dual transceiver and wide-open squelch) that I just happened to have in my car, along with a 12vdc AGM battery, the power connectors and a BNC to PL259 cable adapter. I tried to get reception from remaining satellites and ISS as dawn arose over the PAARA site. I failed, but, not for a lack of trying. Around 10:00 on Sunday, I packed it up and went to help with real QSOs.

n6nv Gerry asked me to coach his Daughter Paula on GOTA (Get On The Air). She made 90+ HF QSOs on 20m in just over an hour. She

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*(Satellite — Continued from page 2)*

camped on ONE frequency for an hour!! Both of us felt very accomplished, hopeful for some great points for PAARA. I left after 28½ hours of being awake.

My firm rule for future Amateur Radio Satellite work, “Don't assume anything, practice, practice and even more practice!!”

73, de ae6tt  
Mark Miller

*(President — Continued from page 1)*

The CQP team that I have been with for quite a few years now is getting ready to make another run up to Alpine County this year. If you look at the county operating plan, you can see that Team W6O, N6DQ, K6YL, K6WX, KJ6SEE, K6JEB, K4YR, and N6NU will be QRV on October 3rd and 4th. We will be at the cabins right near Lake Alpine. We will be closing down the season at the resort up there, just as we did last year. Rick, N6DQ, will again be putting up a KB set of antennas and gear to allow for maximum operating ease and low station interference for our effort. It's going to be a great time. We hope to work you from up there, so I hope you'll be QRV too for that weekend, even if it's just to hand out some points and say hello. The exchange is really easy - just a serial number and the 4 letter code for your county if you're in CA and a 2 letter state abbreviation. The abbreviation for Santa Clara County is SCLA, for example. All of the county and state abbreviations are available in the CQP rules. There are also several different operating classes, and separate awards are available for each class, as well as special awards for things like being the first to “sweep” all 58 multipliers, youth operators, and other fun things. Check out all of the details on the CQP webpage at <http://cqp.org>.

Pacificon is our Pacific Division convention that is coming up very shortly from October 16th through 18th. This year it will be in San Ramon at the Marriott there, instead of the Marriot in Santa Clara. While that may be a bit of a longer trip for many of you, I still hope you'll be

there. It's always a great event with lots of technical talks, vendors, and friends to see and talk to. It is my favorite ham event of the year, and I will be making a special effort to be there, returning from Japan the day before the convention. I will also be speaking there, so I hope you'll consider stopping by to hear about The Mighty Transistor. Of course, there's also the Antenna Forum on Friday, which will give you a great series of talks on antenna theory and practice. Oh, and don't forget the Zombie Walk and Wouff Hong late on Saturday night.

Don't forget the PAARA Leadership elections coming up in December. Nominations are now open, and will be open until the end of the November general meeting. Remember that you must be a current PAARA member as of December in order to vote in the election. If you are interested in any leadership position, please see Daniel, KJ6SEE, our election chair. That December election will also feature our Dream To Reality Raffle. The board has approved this year's prize. It will be something new and fun. I think you'll really like it.

I'll miss you in October, but can't wait to see you all again for the November meeting.

CU QRV IN CQP FROM ALPI DE K6WX

### **Sept. 16, 2015 Board Meeting Minutes**

The September Board Meeting was held at the Menlo Park Round Table Pizza Parlor, commencing at 7:38 PM on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX (President), Marty Wayne, W6NEV (VP), Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Ron Chester, W6AZ (Treasurer), Darryl Presley, KI6LDM (Dir), Larry Rebarchik, N6DB (Dir), and non-Board Member, Gerry Tucker, N6NV (Property Manager). A quorum was present.

President's Report: Kristen, K6WX, informed the board that those in attendance enjoyed the

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informative presentation Paul Ewing, N6PSE, gave on the E30FB DXpedition and the upcoming VP8STI/VP8SGI DXpeditions. She also commented on how rare it is that a presenter would comment on how much he likes PAARA. She added that in her travels to various ham related events out of the area, she receives comments from other hams that have “heard of PAARA”. Thus “the word is getting out”, she said, “it is a great thing for a club to have people interested in what PAARA is all about who are outside the area”.

Kristen mentioned that the Niles Canyon Railway trip was a wonderful success and the picnic at the end of the trip was a nice way to culminate the day. She thanked Marty for putting it all together. “This is a field trip that may be repeated in the near future”, she said.

Kristen also reported that she and the board are still looking for a member or members to represent PAARA at ASVARO board meetings and possibly sit on their board. Here is a great opportunity to represent PAARA at ASVARO and assist in the single largest money making event for the club. Contact Kristen or any board member if you’re interested in this important opportunity.

Kristen indicated her reserve of stories is getting quite low and is in need of more stories. Have you committed to a story but not submitted it, do you have any projects, Field Day experiences, technical articles, hints n kinks, DX, setting up your station or antenna, on the air experiences that might be of interest? Now is the time to put pen to paper or exorcise the demons out of your word processing program and get a story submitted to Kristen. “Remember that it is ‘home grown’ stories that make PAARAgaphs great”, she said.

Vice President’s Report: Marty, W6NEV, reported the October speaker will be a video of the presentation Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, gave to the Forsyth Amateur Radio Club entitled *Amateur Enforcement “Very Much Alive”*.

Marty has speakers for the rest of the year but is still looking for speakers for next year. If you have any ideas, let him know. He provided the board a detailed breakdown of all costs for the train field trip with the bottom line being PAARA effectively broke even.

Marty also reported it’s already time to renew the ARRL Affiliation. “Yes, we were just affiliated but all clubs have to renew their affiliation at the same time” he said. He indicated he’ll be filing the needed renewal “paperwork” after the December elections.

Secretary’s report: Jim, K6SV, reported that currently there are 164 PAARA members. The total of PayPal renewals and other sales now totals 148. The aforementioned numbers didn’t change from last month. As it’s now September, it’s time to consider avoiding the renewal rush and renewing your membership either through PayPal or at the next meeting. There are currently only 5 members with memberships good through 2016.

Treasurer’s Report: Ron, W6AZ, reported that very little net income was received for September, but our finances remain strong. He also reported having filed all the necessary State reports needed to keep the club current as well as to get PAARA properly licensed to hold another year of raffles.

Under Old Business, Rebar, N6DB, mentioned that the club’s PE-95 generator is still for sale. He’s looking for someone who is interested in purchasing it. Let Rebar know if you know of anyone who might be interested.

Jim, K6SV, reported that the Club Repeater shack was visited on Saturday September 12<sup>th</sup> by Doug, KG6LWE, Eric, KJ6LAY and Jim to dig the trench and install conduit to start getting power and network up to the shack. There was also enough time to get the hole for the tower pad anchor dug through the rather rocky “soil”. Gerry, N6NV, also stopped by and finished the insulation inside the shed. Jim

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passed a few pictures around of the work being done.

Jim, K6SV, had a member to step up at the last meeting and volunteer to take over the coffee & snack setup/cleanup and making sure to have all the necessary coffee supplies for every meeting. Walter McVeigh, KK6GTU, volunteered to take over the coffee duties.

Kristen indicated that Daniel Rahamim, KJ6SEE, is overseeing the election process again. Now is the time to consider running for a seat on the board of your club. You can contact Daniel at KJ6SEE@gmail.com or see him at the next meeting to throw your hat into the ring. You can also contact any board member to learn about the responsibilities of any position. Remember that you have until the closing of the November meeting to throw your hat into the ring. When the November meeting closes, nominations for the elections are closed.

A continued discussion from the last meeting was had regarding the December Dream to Reality Raffle and the PAARA/FARS, FARS/PAARA banquet. Seems both events are fast approaching and it's time to start thinking about them.

Under new business, Marty, W6NEV, reported he'd received a call from Bob Heil, K9EID, wishing to provide the new HLS-PRO7 headsets for the special event station. Marty should be receiving the new headsets in the next week or so.

Kristen, K6WX, received a call regarding the next PAARApLink. The general feeling of the board is to wait until early next year as there are lots of events on the docket into January. Likely the date will be in the first few months of 2016.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Jim Thielemann  
Secretary/Membership  
K6SV

## October Raffle Prizes

- 1st**      **Kenwood TM281A / 2m Mobile Transceiver**
- High Power
  - 65W Output
  - Large Front Speaker
  - Vivid Amber LCD Display with 32-step brightness control
  - 200 Memory Channels, plus one call channel



- 2nd**      **Two Midland FRS Radios with batteries**
- 22 Channels / 7 FRS / 15 GMRS
  - 18 Mile Range
  - Channel Scan



- 3rd**      **MFJ-108 Dual Clock**



- 4th**      **Ratcheting Screwdriver Set / 38 Piece**

- 5th**      **150 mm Stainless Steel Rule**

- 6th**      **Keychain Light**

- 7th**      **Four Bungee Mini Cords**



### September Raffle Prize Winners — Left to Right

- 2nd Prize Jim Thielemann / K6SV / Lido LM801 EXP HT Cup Holder  
 3rd Prize Carrol Kerns / KG6YPH / MFJ Mag Mount  
 5th Prize Daniel Rahamim / KJ6SEE / Coax Seal  
 1st Prize Dean Swafford / KE6WYK / Kenwood TM281A / 2m Mobile Transceiver  
 4th Prize Joseph Castellano / W6SNV / ARRL Repeater Directory 2015-2016  
 6th Prize Andrea Donderi / AI6IZ / Bongo Ties  
 7th Prize Paul Ewing / N6PSE / ARRL Lanyard (not shown)



**The Crew in Back**



## Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

### Officers

President .....	Kristen McIntyre, K6WX	510-703-4942
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	w6nev@arrl.net	
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Treasurer .....	Ron Chester, W6AZ	408-243 2221
	ron@taxhelp.com	

### Directors

Director ('15-'16) .....	Byron Beck N6UOB	408-369-1913
	N6uob@arrl.net	
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	(cell)	
	ki6inr@arrl.net	
Director ('15) .....	Larry Rebarchik N6DB	650 465-8210
	(cell)	
	n6db@arrl.net	
Director ('15) .....	Darryl Presley, KI6LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@arrl.net	

### Appointed Positions

Membership .....	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database .....	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Chaplain.....	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
	k6rdm@arrl.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@wawi.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 Klibo, N6NFI	650-856-2748
	n6nfi@arrl.net	
Webmaster .....	John Miller K6MM	
	webaron@gmail.com	
Technical Coordinator.....	Joel Wilhite, Kd6w	408-839-5948
	kd6w@arrl.net	
QSL Manager .....	Rob Riley, KI6INR	650 799-1607
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Photographer .....	Bill Young, K6VWO	
	jdjsinger@sbcglobal.net	

## VE Exams

Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room, 4th Saturday 10:30 am each month and De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <http://amateur-radio.org> or Contact Al, [WB6IMX@att.net](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:KD6W@ARRL.NET), 650-325-8239

## FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Friday each month at 7:30pm

Contact: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>

## NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:pres@k6mpn.org)

## SCCARRA

### 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.

Contact: <http://www.qsl.net/sccarra> 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](mailto: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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month.

Contact: <http://wvara.org>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, [N6FFC@Juno.com](mailto:N6FFC@Juno.com), or

[N6FFC@ARRL.NET](mailto:N6FFC@ARRL.NET)


## American Red Cross,

### Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Contact: <http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924

[shensley@Novell.com](mailto:shensley@Novell.com)

(Please send changes to [PAARAgaphs editor](mailto:PAARAgaphs editor))



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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 <sup>st</sup>	Joel KD6W
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Doug - KG6LWE
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jack - N1VSL
4 <sup>th</sup>	Marty - W6NEV
5 <sup>th</sup>	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  
 650/329.2418  
 650/856.8756 fax  
[www.cityofpaloalto.org](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org)

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

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<p><b>RADIO IN THE PARK</b></p> <p>9:30am - 12:30pm                  Check Back In the Spring</p> <p><b>QTH:</b>                  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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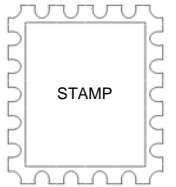
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# PAARAgaphs — October 2015

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 PAARAgaphs Newsletter  
 P.O. Box 911  
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