

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.Celebrating 80 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*<http://www.paara.org/>

Speaker for July

Dave Crocker, W6VYC

For 2016 National Parks on the Air, FARS's dynamic duo of Dave and Dave activated the nonexistent ghost town of Furnace near Dante's View in the Greenwater Valley of Death Valley National Park. Exploiting an extremely low noise floor, they achieved an extremely high number of QRP contacts in stark and magnificent desert solitude.

Dave has been a ham since 1989 and currently holds an Amateur Extra license. He graduated with a BSEE from San Jose State in 1975 and spent most of his career in radio communications, working for Chevron, Farnon Electric, Ampex, and Digital Microwave. His Ham interests include: QRP ops (mostly SSB) and antennas. He likes to hike and is also interested in trains and photography.

Upcoming Events

- July 7 PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM
Cubberly Community Center, Room H-6, 400 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
- July 19 Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
Aug 4 Everyone welcome!
Sept 20 Location: Marty, W6NEV, QTH
- Sept. 8th PAARA banquet, Social hour
6pm, dinner at 7pm.



ment on KCBS radio. While band CONDX weren't ideal, FD has a way of making its own propagation.

PAARA Field Day is wrapped and I'm still in recovery from sleep deprivation today. We had a great time. I really hope all of you reading this were able to either join us or were able to visit a Field Day site near you. It was a reminder to me of what makes our hobby something much more than just a bunch of radios, or than just people gathering with a common interest. I saw many of my friends, some of whom I haven't seen in a long time and some whom I see and talk to frequently on the radio. And I made new friends too. But what I also saw was a tremendous passion for this strange and wonderful mix of technology, cooperation to achieve a common goal, our desire to hone our skills, a desire to help out when something goes wrong, and the bond of human contact that make Amateur Radio what it is. All of this starts with the crew putting up our amazing station, which is frankly the envy of many. The operators and station captains make up the next layer, so that we have something both to show and to play with

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President's Corner

July 2017

As I write this, we've just finished another fantastic PAARA Field Day. It was not without a few foibles, but we made the best of it. We also got some great press for the event as well - including a seg-



(President—Continued from page 1)

in the FD exercise. Then comes the support of so many volunteers that take care of everything non-radio, from getting things to the site to buying and making the food that we have at the site. Lastly, there's each and every one of you that came to see what we had to offer and then stayed to be a part of the event. We are so very appreciative of all of your contributions. There are just too many people to thank here.

Of course, FD wouldn't be complete without something going wrong. It's what we're there to demonstrate, right? Resiliency in the face of the unexpected. First and foremost, PAARA VP Marty, W6NEV, had a medical emergency the night beforehand, taking him out of the action. We are all keeping you in our thoughts Marty! Then Doug, KG6LWE, found out that some of the U-Haul trucks he had reserved in January were not available. Doug gave it to them with both barrels (you're amazing Doug!), and we finally got two vans, instead of the usual trucks. I kind of liked the van. The result of this for me was that I had to set up a table on the grass to test everything out. The van arrived just 10 minutes before the start of the contest. But we got it together, and I only started 1 minute late, opening on 15m briefly before David, K6DAJ, arrived to take over. Then the radio for the Phone B station was locked in some way that stopped it from being able to transmit. I hauled my K3 down there, stealing the mic from my K2 to use with it. Good thing the K2 happened to be in the trunk. The K3 had never been on phone before. Well, the K2 mic didn't transmit any audio, so what to do. Well, I just pulled out the trusty old K2. That worked! It was the first time the K2 has seen serious action in years. Then there was a loud crackling noise on receive on the K2. We also heard serious interference on GOTA with the same crackling. Joel, KD6W, heard it also all the way up on 2m. We knew something serious was going on. Rick, N6RK, suggested there was a bad antenna - he was right. Doug pulled the tribander down. The gamma match was really loose. The crew tightened everything up and the antenna went back up. Everything was fine

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Field Day Snapshot Report

By Doug Teter KG6LWE

It's the Monday after Field Day as I write. After a good night's sleep, I am just home from towing the tower trailer back from my shop where I left it yesterday.

I know many of you are interested in how it went for PAARA. As you may already know, this was not our smoothest Field Day ever.

After an excellent start Thursday evening, with the rapid assembly and erection of the big KT34XA tribander, and the 2 element 40 meter mono band antenna for the B stations down at Stonehenge, we left Marty, W6NEV, to babysit the aluminum overnight. So far, so good.

Friday dawned cool and a little cloudy, which helped with the heat for a while. The team met at the park at 9:00 AM. The rest of the antennas, masts and tower went up quickly and smoothly. This seems to go better each year.

Then we headed to U-Haul to pick up the trucks we would use as shelters for the stations, and that's when things started hitting the fan. After waiting in a long line, we were told that despite confirming the reservation twice earlier that week, only 3 of the 5 trucks I reserved in *January*, were there, and that the other two were promised to someone else for Sunday.

Despite my best efforts over the course of the next 90 minutes to convince the people there at the store and at Corporate, that they should honor their commitment, we had to leave with only three trucks.

Frustrated, but hopeful that something could be worked out the next day we called it a day. Leaving Ric, N6AJS, our new CW-B Station Captain with the overnight watch, I headed home to bank some sleep.

That was interrupted about 11:30 PM by a call from Marty, W6NEV, our Phone-B Station Captain, saying he was being taken to the hospital with atrial fibrillation. After assuring me that he would be OK, he broke the news that he would not be at Field Day.

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(Field Day—Continued from page 2)

In addition to being in charge of a station, Marty has been my backup for the last two seasons, and one of the more experienced members of the setup team. Losing him was a blow.

Jim, K6SV, contacted his friend Randy, K8TR, who volunteered to step in for Marty on Saturday morning and oversee the station through the event, so I was starting to feel a little better about things. I called U-Haul around 9:00 AM and was told that our trucks were at the store, so we headed over to pick them up. Jim also contacted his XYL, who was making soup for dinner. With only 4 hours' notice, she was able to purchase additional soup so there would be enough for everyone.

I called U-Haul around 9:00 AM and was told that our trucks were at the store, so we headed over to pick them up. Of course, when we got there, "our trucks" weren't there, as they hadn't been returned by the previous renters yet. No amount of persuasion or argument with the people at the store or at Corporate on the phone would convince them to let us have any of the half-dozen box trucks in the yard. Those weren't "our ones."

At about 10:15 AM, I finally gave up and took two cargo vans (Ford E150's), which while a bit cramped when compared to box vans, worked surprisingly well.

11:00 AM came, and all of our stations except Phone-B went on the air. Randy had assembled Marty's station, but couldn't get his radio to transmit. Lots of time went out the window trying everything we could think of. We finally gave up on Marty's FT-1000MP, and went to Kristen's K3 which she had brought as a backup rig.

That radio had never had a mic connected to it, and we were unable to get it to transmit on SSB either. Rather than waste more time on troubleshooting, Kristen reached a little deeper into the trunk of her Mustang, and pulled out her K2.

When Randy got the K2 plugged in it worked fine for the duration of the event. Relieved, I left Stonehenge to check on everything else. Both

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Minutes of June 21, 2017 Board Meeting

The meeting was held at the Round Table Pizza Parlor in Menlo Park, commencing at 7:28 PM on June 21, 2017. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX (Pres), Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Ron Chester, W6AZ (Treasurer) via videoconference, Larry Rebarchik, N6DB (Dir), Darryl Presley, KI6LDM (Dir), Joel Wilhite, KD6W (Dir & Technical Coordinator), Doug Teter, KG6LWE (Field Day Coordinator). A quorum was present.

Kristen, (K6WX), mentioned the "free advertising" PAARA receives when she or other PAARA members travel to other club meetings or conventions. The "advertising" starts with making sure to wear your badge when attending these events and continues with every person you talk to at the event.

Kristen mentioned her reserve of stories is effectively non-existent! She desperately needs stories. Please, if you've committed to a story but not submitted it (there are several people out there fitting this category) put pen to paper or fingers on the keyboard and let your creative juices flow! Do you have any projects, Field Day experiences, technical articles, hints n kinks, DX contacts, or experiences setting up your station or antenna, on the air experiences that might be of interest? If you have not previously drafted that story or have a new story, now is the time to get a byline of your own in PAARAgaphs and get that story submitted to Kristen for publication. "Remember it is 'home grown' stories that make PAARAgaphs great", she said.

Vice President's Report: Marty, W6NEV, though not able to attend the meeting reported via email, that the July speaker will be Dave Crocker, W6VYC. The topic will be Dave Flack, W6DLF (SK) and Dave Crocker, W6VYC's activation of the town of Furnace in Death Valley for last year's ARRL National Parks on the Air.

Secretary's report: Jim, K6SV, reported that there are currently 186 members of PAARA. One new member joined in June. He also mentioned being approached by Ric Hulett, N6AJS, during the last meeting who volunteered to take on mailing PAARAgaphs. Thank you, Ric!

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(Field Day—Continued from page 3)

Christopher, AI6KG, our new GOTA Captain, and Joel, KD6W, VHF/UHF Station Captain, reported broadband interference from the B stations, which was de-sensing their radios and crippling their operations. It seemed that Phone-B and CW-B's signals were also getting into each other's radios.

After scratching our heads, we had a couple of probabilities to look into, none of which seemed likely. Rick, N6RK, who was operating at CW-B said he thought it was the antenna. He has a KT-34XA, and said they're notorious for causing spurious emissions when any of the many aluminum to aluminum connections aren't perfect.

We decided to pull the antenna down and give it a look. It had scoped perfectly after assembly, but I found a loose clamp on the gamma match tube that connects the balun to one of the driven elements. After tightening that clamp, we went to our stations and found the radios much quieter, and no longer blasting out the noise they had been doing.

The loose joint that looked good to the antenna analyzer's milliwatt signal was arcing under the load of the two 100 watt signals from both B stations feeding through Kristen's new triplexer/filter setup. We had effectively turned our stations into spark gap transmitters that were blasting interference from 2 meters on down.

Having 4 of our 6 stations in trouble for the first several hours of the contest (I mean event) probably put a bit of a dent in the Q count, but with the problem solved, we went to work making up for it. Thankfully, that was the last of our rude surprises and the rest of the "event" was uneventful.

Jim's preliminary look at the log showed 4,039 contacts, for 5,689 raw points on Q's. GOTA logged an additional 236 contacts this year. Given less than ideal band conditions, and a spate of unexpected problems, not too bad.

Thanks to all who participated in preparation, set-up/teardown, operating and gathering extra points. What a GREAT team!

de KG6LWE

P.S. a few of the many pictures are on page 6 & 7

(Board Minutes—Continued from page 3)

Treasurer's Report: Ron, W6AZ, via videoconference, advised the board that proceeds from last month were on par for this time of year. Ron also mentioned having received a check for the deposit from the Western Railroad Museum. Jim, K6SV, added that in a conversation with Gerry, N6NV, he learned that Gerry was at the last flea market and sold about \$300 worth of items from his "collection". This was welcome news to Ron and the rest of the board.

Under Old Business,

As you recall, on February 6th the PAARA board sent a letter to the ASVARO board requesting they call a general meeting of all participating clubs. A meeting with the ASVARO board and other clubs was held on May 6, 2017. Some but not all of the clubs who participate in the Flea Market had a representative at the meeting. Representing PAARA were Kristen, K6WX, Ron, W6AZ, and Joel, KD6W. Clark, KK6ISP, also a PAARA member, was at the meeting but in his capacity as an ASVARO board member. Many issues were discussed, some of which were agreed needed follow-up action. Action items were documented, however, to date there doesn't seem to be any action on any of the items.

Darryl, KI6LDM, updated the board on his data mining for Bay Area hams who have either renewed or received their 1st licenses. There were 40 new hams last month living in the area of interest. This seems to be the number of new hams for most months. The board is still looking for a champion for this outreach effort who can take Darryl's information and get the cards mailed. Please contact a board member if you're interested.

Doug, KG6LWE reported on the status of Field Day preparations. With the event starting the day after the board meeting, there were many last-minute items to discuss. Most of the items discussed were updates to action items and the last of the coordination conversations. There were renewed hopes, though likely optimistic ones, that the bands would be open, or at least more open than last year.

The board was reminded that Marty, W6NEV, is still looking for someone who can assist him in

(Continued on page 5)

JULY RAFFLE PRIZES

1st Tytera MD-380 / DMR Digital Portable HT

Operates in Analog and Digital Modes

5 Watt Output

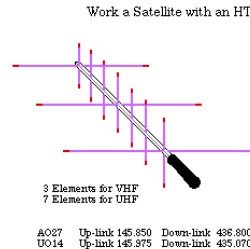
Uses Time-Division Multiple-Access / Double # of Users

Private Call / Group Call / All Call



2nd Arrow 2m Yagi Antenna

3 Element VHF / 7 Element UHF / Max Gain



3rd CS-201A Daiwa Coax Switch



4th Battery Tender Junior

5th “Contact Sport” Amateur Radio Book “thanks Pete WA6ECH”

6th Portable BBQ Grill “thanks Nick N6VOA”

7th Clarus LED Lantern “thanks Nick N6VOA”

8th Cage Screwdriver with six choices “thanks Nick N6VOA”

(Board Minutes—Continued from page 4)

planning and running the event station during Pacificon. He’s also looking for someone to take over the coffee service at meetings. Please contact Marty or any board member if you can assist in planning and during Pacificon or take over the coffee at meetings.

There are several other items on the agenda that haven’t been worked on very much or could wait until the next meeting, thus at this point there is no new news on them.

Under New Business:

Kristen reminded the board that August 12th is

PAARA’s month to sponsor the Flea Market.

She’s looking for volunteers for the event. She also reminded us that she’ll be at the Duke City Hamfest and thus not able to attend. Someone is urgently needed to man the gate and take payment for the stalls. Contact Kristen if you can help out at the gate or in any way.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

Jim Thielemann
Secretary/membership
K6SV

Please welcome new member:
Jason Mills, KM6KRL

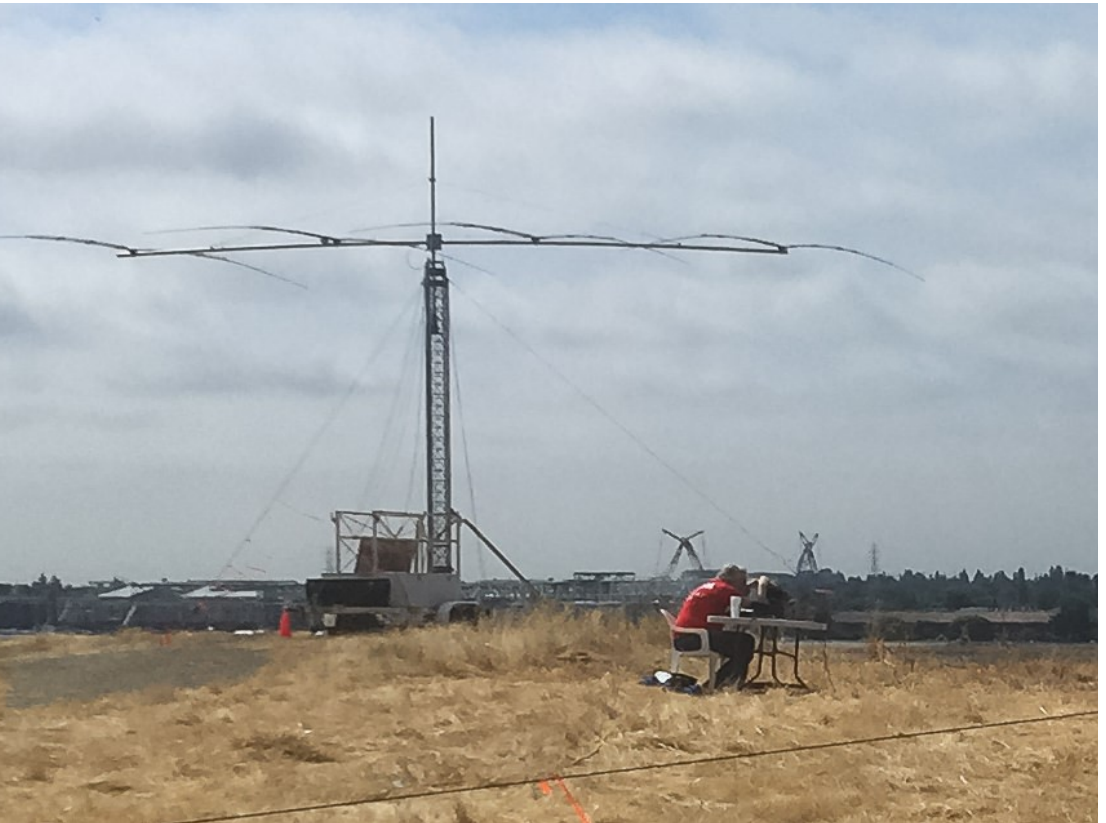


FIELD DAY





June 2017





June Raffle winners: *Front:* 1st prize; Joe, WB6JOE, Tytera MD-380 DMR Radio
Back row: 4th prize; Joel, KD6W, Battery Tender Junior — 5th prize; Mr. Mike, KM6WP, Magnet Mount — 6th prize; Mike, W6WZ, Portable Grill — 7th prize; Rich, W6APZ, LED Lantern — 3rd prize; Larry, KM6KSX, Coax Switch — 8th prize Alan, AG6ZE, Plastic Compartment Boxes

(President—Continued from page 2)

after that, but what a series of events. We got them all fixed up and did our best. That's what FD is all about, I believe.

Propagation wasn't great, and at times 15m was a bit of a struggle, but it worked out well regardless. And if I may brag a bit, the 40/15 CW station beat the 20/80 CW station for number of Qs for the first time I can remember. And we just had two OPs - K6DAJ and myself. While 15m was challenging on Saturday, it worked great on Sunday, and 40m was wonderful all through the night. What a thrill!

Well, that's all for now. You can check out my FD pictures at <https://k6wx.smugmug.com/Events/Field-Day-2017/> and we hope you can join us in 2018 at the Friendliest Field Day Around. Check out the SJ Mercury article at <http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/06/22/ham-radio-enthusiasts-invited-to-annual-field-day/>.

CU AT PAARA MTG IN JULY DE K6WX

HELP NEEDED

The PAARA board is looking for a few volunteers to take on a few projects.

1. An assistant to backup Marty for the Special Event station at Pacifi-con in October.
2. A member to be responsible for bringing the coffee supplies and cookies to each meeting and make the coffee.
3. A member to take on the job of mailing out post cards every month to new hams for the purpose of introducing them to PAARA. The mailing list will be provided by Darryl, KI6LDM.

Contact any member of the board for more information or to volunteer.

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

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	thielem@pacbell.net	
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	ron@taxhelp.com	

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	kd6w@arrl.net	
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	walt@tradewindsaviation.com	
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	n6db@arrl.net	
Director ('17)	Darryl Presley, K16LDM	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@yahoo.com	
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
Field Day Coordinator ...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
ASVARO Rep	Clark Martin, KK6ISP	
	kk6isp@comcast.net	
Webmaster	John Miller K6MM	
	webaron@gmail.com	
Technical Coordinator ...	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	408-839-5948
	kd6w@arrl.net	
QSL Manager	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-246-7531
Speaker Coordinator	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-246-7531

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	ab6so@smrn.com	
Photographer	<i>Position Vacant</i>	

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

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.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: 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss
 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss
 Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of every month except July, August and December.
 Contact: <http://wvara.org>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, president@wvara.org

**American Red Cross,
 Santa Clara Valley Chapter**

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

(Please send changes to PAARAgaphs editor)



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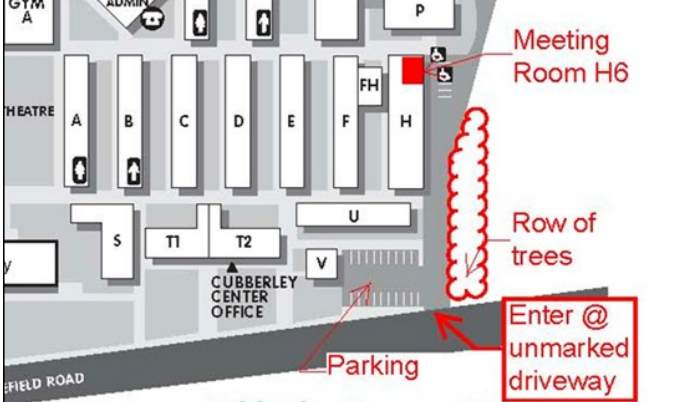
Badges are ready for pickup.

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 st	Joel KD6W
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Jack - W1VSL
4 th	Rob - KC6TYD
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
 650/329.2418
 650/856.8756 fax
www.cityofpaloalto.org

Legend
 Disabled Parking
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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 \$25.00 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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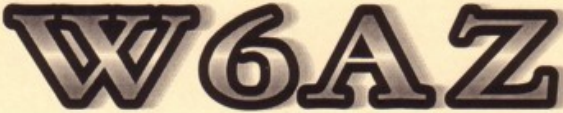

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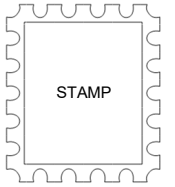
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PAARAgaphs — July 2017

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