

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 81 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*



PARACHUTE MOBILE

Past-Present-Future

Rob Fenn, KC6TYD

Topic:

So why do they jump out of a perfectly good airplane? Come and join us for an exciting and informative presentation where Rob will take you through nine years of Parachute Mobile. Using skydiving as a platform, discover the many unique projects the members of Parachute Mobile have incorporated into each mission.

Bio:

Rob has been in the EMS field since the mid 90's. He is currently working as a paramedic with AMR in Santa Clara County. When Parachute Mobile began Rob was recruited as the Safety Officer. When the Team Coordinator position opened up Rob grabbed it and has been handling all the coordinating, scheduling, and promoting ever since. He was not a skydiver when he started with the team. Being around and involved in the sport got him interested and in 2011 Rob took the course and a couple years later he was making his own QSO jumps.

Upcoming Events

March 2	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM
April 6	Cubberly Community Center, Room
May 4	H-6, 400 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
Mar 21	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM
April 18	Everyone welcome!
May 16	Location: Marty, W6NEV, QTH



President's Corner

March 2018

Greetings to everyone from Biên Hòa, a little north of Saigon. I'm having the time of my life staying with my friend's family for the Lunar New Year, which was on the 16th of February this year. Sadly it didn't seem easy to get a Vietnamese ticket before going, so I passed on that. But ham radio has been fine without me for a couple of weeks :).



This trip has been something very special. I have become friends with a young Vietnamese woman in Fremont named ThuyHong. She got her US citizenship several years ago and has been going to San Jose State to study to be a teacher. On several occasions she's asked me to proofread her papers or help her out to understand some philosophical and historical texts that she was assigned. Having become proficient in another language, I really admired her courage to pursue a degree after acquiring a

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Motorcycle Mobile John KM6LQZ

I recently mounted a 2m/440 mobile radio on my motorcycle. I enjoy using it to chat with my riding companions, and it's useful for public service

The radio is positioned behind the saddle. To mate with existing bolt holes in the rear sub-frame, I made a model bracket out of aluminum flashing, translated that to a working drawing and took it to Precision Metal Works in Campbell



Control Head, PTT Button for Handle Bar, Helmet containing mic and earphones

communication at athletic events, where hams coordinate support and aid for bicyclists or runners.

to fabricate from sheet steel. The bracket is connected by four rubber vibration isolators to a watertight aluminum project box, mounted upside down with the radio inside and a 32" whip antenna on top. The radio control head rides up front in a tank bag, together with the interface to a mic and earphones built into my helmet, and a PTT button on the handgrip under my left thumb.

The vibration on a motorcycle is hard on antennas, other riders have told me. Long antennas are prone to break from getting whipped around, and designs that have a coil in a capsule in the middle tend to break where the capsule is bonded to the whip. The Larsen whip I'm using has the whip rod itself twisted into a loose coil, which has held up so far. But the first time I took the rig on a long ride, I arrived with no whip! Vibration loosened the set screws that fasten it to the

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View inside the Project Box

base coil, and the whole whip bounced out. It's somewhere in Oakland, I guess. I replaced the whip and put Loctite on the set screws, and I haven't lost the second one yet!

If you'd like to know more, contact me at KM6LQZ@ARRL.net.

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second language later in life. I found myself helping her whenever I had the chance, while also trying to teach her to fish (metaphorically, of course). Recently she texted me a picture of her BA diploma. I was so proud of her.

I was visiting with her about 4 months ago and she mentioned that she'd be going back to Vietnam for the first time in 3 years. She was going back for Vietnamese New Year celebration, and she described to me how beautiful it was with all of the flowers and how her family was going to be so happy to see her. Then she looked at me and said, "You should come back with me to Vietnam and see the flowers! You can stay with my family!" In a moment of, this is so crazy it just might work, I decided that this was not to be missed. So, I booked flights for 10 days surrounding mid-February, the Lunar New Year.

As the days ticked down, I began to wonder what I'd done to myself. I didn't speak a word of Vietnamese and I was going to stay with this

PAARA PLINK

Sunday, March 4, 2018

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

The Shooting Sports, Marksmanship Practice, Skills Improvement, Firearms Familiarization.

PAARA returns to the **10th Street Indoor Shooting Range** in San Jose for a safe, enjoyable shooting experience; meetup with your PAARA friends and have a nice day.

Limited to PAARA Members and 1 guest per person. Bring your own firearms and ammunition. 50' Indoor range with 5 firing points. 22 to 45 Caliber (no magnums). Any air rifle or 17-22 LR Rimfire only. Shotguns (no slugs). Some eye and ear protection may be available and is required. Lunch TBD but likely hamburgers/hotdogs, etc. Rain or shine.

SAN JOSE MUNICIPAL FIRING RANGE, Santa Clara Valley Rifle Club

15805 South 10th Street,
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 275-1738

More info & pictures www.scvrc.com
Latest info: March 2 PAARA Mtg.

family that I didn't know at all. I thought back to how I'd gone to Japan so many years ago by myself and survived. All I had to do was be observant and let whatever happened happen. I've been to lots of strange places before, like Alor Setar in Malaysia. I have a translation app on the phone for emergencies. I got a gig of data for the phone too. This will work out somehow.

Long story short, it has worked out well and more. I'm having such a wonderful time with a loving family here in Biên Hòa, where they treat me like one of their sisters. We've done so many fun things, but my favorite is going to the beauty shop to get our hair washed (sorry guys). It's so luxurious and cheap, and so necessary in sultry Southeast Asia. Here are a couple of snippets from my experience.

I went to an evening mass held in the cemetery where ThuyHong's father and grandfather are

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buried. Out of thousands, I was the only Caucasian there. Everyone was staring at me, understandably. In fact, I haven't seen another white person since the airport, and even then there were few.

One morning I attended morning mass (7 AM!) with some of the family. It's so strange seeing all this Catholicism here. I'm not Catholic, but find it fascinating to observe. A remnant of the French, no doubt. We spent the afternoon at a park looking at a special display of flowers for the new year.

ThuyHong's brothers find it fascinating that I drink, and that it mostly doesn't affect me. They brought out the whiskey last night. We drank quite a lot. Lots of talking. Sometimes I get a translation, sometimes not. It's all okay. I just go with the flow. I am picking up a few words, though, and have started studying Vietnamese online. Next time I hope to be able to speak a little. It doesn't seem like a very hard language. At least the grammar is similar to English, unlike Japanese which is totally different. And the letters are the same, only with a lot of accents and diacritics. Probably also the French influence.

More ham radio stuff next month, but I thought you might enjoy something different. Looks like we're on for the next PAARApLink on March 4th, the day after the meeting. Hope to see you then for some therapeutic plinking. Chào bạn. CU AT PAARA DE K6WX/XV

PAARA_{in} DaysGoneBy - 1973

Did you know that PAARA used to keep a stock of surplus parts for members to use? Vacuum tubes were mentioned in the June issue and in September there was a plea for the return of any of the unused, club-owned 145.24 MHz crystals because other members needed them so they could check into the Monday night net.

In the "Wow, Was it Really that Cheap!?" category: I learned from the April and September issues that PAARA member badges were \$1.58 (including tax!) and a non-member subscription to

PAARAGraphs was \$1.00 per year. Back then, this left \$0.04 "profit" after paying for postage.

In November there was an article claiming to explain decibels without using logarithms. Unfortunately, that promise was broken before I got halfway through the first page. Oh well, I guess nothing worthwhile is ever that easy.

The November issue chronicles a trip up Mt. Hamilton to work the Oscar 7 satellite as it passed by. The writer refers to the group, led by Andy Korsak, as "PAARASITES." They got into a bit of hot water when they fired up their army surplus generator right next to a dormitory full of sleeping astronomers trying to recover from a hard night's work.

You can read more about PAARA's fascinating history for yourself at <http://paara.org/pages/>

Board Minutes

As some members were out of town or out of the country the Board decided, through an email exchange, to move the meeting until the week of February 26th. As such, there will be no Board minutes published in this month's PAARAGraphs. Minutes from the next two meetings will be included in the March issue of PAARAGraphs.

Jim Thielemann
 Secretary/membership
 K6SV

**Please welcome to PAARA:
 New member:**

Adrian Chadd, KK6VQK



Joel on top of the repeater tower trimming the trees a month ago.



Joel is testing the repeater after the repeater equipment was re-racked into a larger equipment rack to make room for more exciting things to come.



February Raffle Winners

Left to Right, Front to Back

- 7th prize, Multi-bit screwdriver, Kelsey, KM6PNJ
- 3rd prize, CS201A Coax switch, Doug KG6LWE
- 8th prize, 6-piece, ball-ended allen wrench set, Alan, AG6ZE
- 2nd prize, Baofeng UV-5RV2 HT, Joel, KD6W (Thanks Kristen)
- 4th prize, PNY portable power pack, Joel, KD6W
- 1st prize, Arrow Yaggi, Darryl, KI6LDM
- 5th prize, Heil HT headset, Darryl KI6LDM (Thanks Kristen)
- Joel & Darryl swapped prizes
- 9th prize, 5-pak, portable organizer, KG6UEF, Shekhar
- 6th prize, General lighted inspection mirror, Mike, N6WGY

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Kristen McIntyre, K6WX	510-703-4942
	kristen@alum.mit.edu	
Vice President	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023
	w6nev@arrl.net	
Secretary	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Treasurer	Ron Chester, W6AZ	408-243 2221
	ron@taxhelp.com	

Directors

Director ('17-'18)	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	408-839-5948
	kd6w@arrl.net	
Director ('18-'19)	Walt Gyger, K6WGY	408-921-5901
	walt@tradewindsaviation.com	
Director ('18).....	Larry Rebarchik N6DB	650 465-8210
	n6db@arrl.net	
Director ('18).....	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@wci.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	408-234-8023
Speaker Coordinator	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023

PAARAgaphs Staff

Editorial Board		
	Bob Van Tuyl K6RWY	Kristen McIntyre K6WX
	Ron Chester W6AZ	Vic Black AB6SO
	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	
Editor.....	Bob Van Tuyl, K6RWY	408 799-6463
	rrvt@swde.com	
Back Up Editor	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Advertising.....	Walt Gyger, W6WGY	408-921-5901
	walt@tradewindsaviation.com	
Member Profiles	Diana Lloyd, KK6YGM	650-988-8882
	dianalloyd76@gmail.com	
Technical Tips	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	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-September, 6am–12 noon
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.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 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 KB6UOJ, (408) 967 7924
fhensley@Novell.com

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



James Farrey
 Sales Manager

James Electronics Ltd
 1355 Shoreway Road, Belmont, CA 94002
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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
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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>

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 \$25.00 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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 → WEDNESDAY ←
HAM RADIO LUNCHEON
 Our 11th year!
 - Starting February, 2018 -
BLACK BEAR DINER
Sunnyvale, California
 415 East El Camino Real
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 Website: www.blackbeardiner.com

Many food choices available from the breakfast, lunch or dinner menus. Ample parking is available. Walk in & "bear" left for our location in the restaurant!



NOT A CLUB, CLOSED GROUP OR CLIQUE; AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS AND FRIENDLY PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!
 Call in on the N6NFI Repeater, 145.230 MHz, PL® 100Hz

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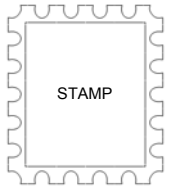
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- Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
- For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half 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 — March 2018

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 PAARAgaphs Newsletter
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TM-V71A
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TM-281A
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TH-D74A
2M/20/440 HT

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- PHONE - Toll-free phone hours 9:30AM - 5:30PM
- ONLINE - WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
- MAIL - All store locations

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