

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**Celebrating 82 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

## Ed Fong, WB6IQN


### The TBJ-1 – A tri-band base antenna

The May meeting speaker will be Ed Fong (WB6IQN). As many of you know, he is the inventor of the DBJ-1 and DBJ-2 antenna that was featured in the February 2003 and March 2007 QST. The DBJ-1 is a highly effective dual band VHF/UHF base station antenna and the DBJ-2 is the portable roll up version. The DBJ-2 won the QST Plaque of the Month Award. Both of these antennas are featured in the ARRL VHF antenna Handbook and also in the ARRL Antenna Classic Handbook. There are over 23,000 of these antennas in use today. His most recent antenna is the TBJ-1 – a tri-band base antenna that was published in March 2017 QST. This antenna covers 2mtr/220 Hz/70cm in one 6 ft ¾ inch pvc pipe and requires no radials.

Ed will give a history on how these antennas were developed and the theory on how and why they work so well. There is no “black magic” to antennas. He will explain in a non-mathematical manner to convince you for overall performance and simplicity his approach is one of the most practical.

*(Ed Fong — Continued on page 2)*

## Upcoming Events

May 3 June 7 July 5	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM Cubberly Community Center, Room H-6, 4000 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
May 15 June 19 July 17	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Everyone welcome! Location: Marty, W6NEV, QTH 

## President's Corner

May 2019

Unbelievably we are getting quite close to Field Day already. It's May and the flowers and trees are blooming and everywhere it's still green. I was flying myself down to King City today, and it was just green everywhere! I want to tell you about Visalia, and invite you to Dayton.



Field Day is just about 8 weeks away as I write this. That may seem like a long time, but it really isn't. PAARA has worked very hard to make our FD setup as repeatable as possible. A lot can happen to equipment in a year, though. In particular, antennas can corrode and mechanical connections can work loose. That's why we will be having a series of antenna parties to make sure everything goes together smoothly. Please consider helping out. Talk to Doug, KG6LWE, or Marty, W6NEV, about giving us a hand with this. In addition, we need operators for all of our stations. While the stalwarts will be there as usual, there are always slots to fill

*(President — Continued on page 2)*

## FIELD DAY 2019

The Field Day operator signup sheet is now active using Google Sheets. The link to the signup is <http://www.tinyurl.com/FieldDaySchedule>.

## ARRL Sweepstakes 2018 PAARA 113018o

or Ten Meters could generate a lot of easy Contacts

de Rich, W6APZ

I started out this sweepstakes by tuning the ten-meter band. I heard only static. During the contest I periodically rechecked Ten to see who was on. I also called: "CQ Sweepstakes" for several minutes each time I got on Ten. Yes, I know you are thinking: "at this point in the sun-spot cycle, ten-meters is dead." As has been said: "If everyone listens, but nobody transmits, the band will *seem* dead."

I had expected that during Sweepstakes people would naturally try to pick off easy local contacts on Ten and that the band would be active, but apparently everybody believed the myth that Ten was dead. That myth created the reality of nobody calling CQ Sweepstakes on Ten.

The thought came to me to check to see if I could hear any ten-meter beacons. The beacon band is

around 28.200 MHz, well below where most phone operators would normally tune. Sure enough, at 8:12 PM PST during Sweepstaks I heard a beacon from Salinas on 28.2179 MHz. Not bad for a station using just a vertical and only 4 Watts. I'm also using a vertical, so my station is modest.

If I could hear a 4-Watt Salinas station, I would have been able to hear hundreds of greater Bay Area hams, IF they had been on the air, since typically many hams, except QRPers, run 100 Watts or more.

You can find a list of ten-meter beacons at:

<https://www.qsl.net/wj5o/bcn.htm>

Details on the NCDXF/IARU International Beacon Project can be found at: <https://www.ncdxf.org/beacon/>. In only a few minutes of listening on 28.200 MHz you will hear the NCDXF beacon. The transmission consists of the call sign of the beacon, W6WX, followed by four one-second dashes.

The call sign and the first dash are sent at 100 watts. The remaining dashes are sent at 10 watts, 1 watt and 100 milliwatts. As you listen, you may hear up to 17 other DX stations identifying in a similar manner on this frequency. If you do, you will know the band is open to those areas.

Next time you want to know if Ten is dead, switch your receiver to CW and tune slowly across the "beacon band," about 28.00 to 28.30 MHz. You may be surprised at what you can hear. While these stations identify in CW, it is generally slow CW and very repetitive. Knowing the frequency from your receiver and with the aid of the qsl.net beacon list, you should be able to identify the station you are hearing, even if you are not a CW expert. Once you pick up a few beacons, you will know that the band is not dead, so get on the air and start calling: "CQ ten meters."

(Ed Fong — Continued from page 1)

He will bring a limited quantity of 10 antennas for sale at \$50 each.

### Bio:

Ed Fong was first licensed in 1968 as WN6IQN. He later upgraded to Extra Class (when 20 WPM was required) with his present call of WB6IQN. He obtained the BSEE and MSEE degrees from the Univ. of California at Berkeley and his Ph.D. from the Univ. of San Francisco. A Senior Member of the IEEE, he has 12 patents and over 40 published papers and books in the area of communications and integrated circuit design. Presently, he is employed by the University of California, Santa Cruz (previously with Berkeley from 1997-2010) as an instructor teaching graduate classes in RF design and high speed interface. In his 35 year career, he has done work for Stanford University, National Semiconductor, Advanced Micro Devices, numerous startup companies in the Silicon Valley.

(President — Continued from page 1)

up. CW always needs some help. If you are a good CW op and you are looking for some fun, let us know. It's fairly certain that propagation won't be too good on the high bands again this year. The lower bands still offer lots of great fun. Let's hope for a 15 meter opening, but it's more likely that 20m, 40m, and 80m will be our main bands. Beyond operators, we particularly need some help with NTS traffic handling. I know that NTS in the Bay Area has fallen on hard times. If you're interested in reviving NTS

(President — Continued on page 3)

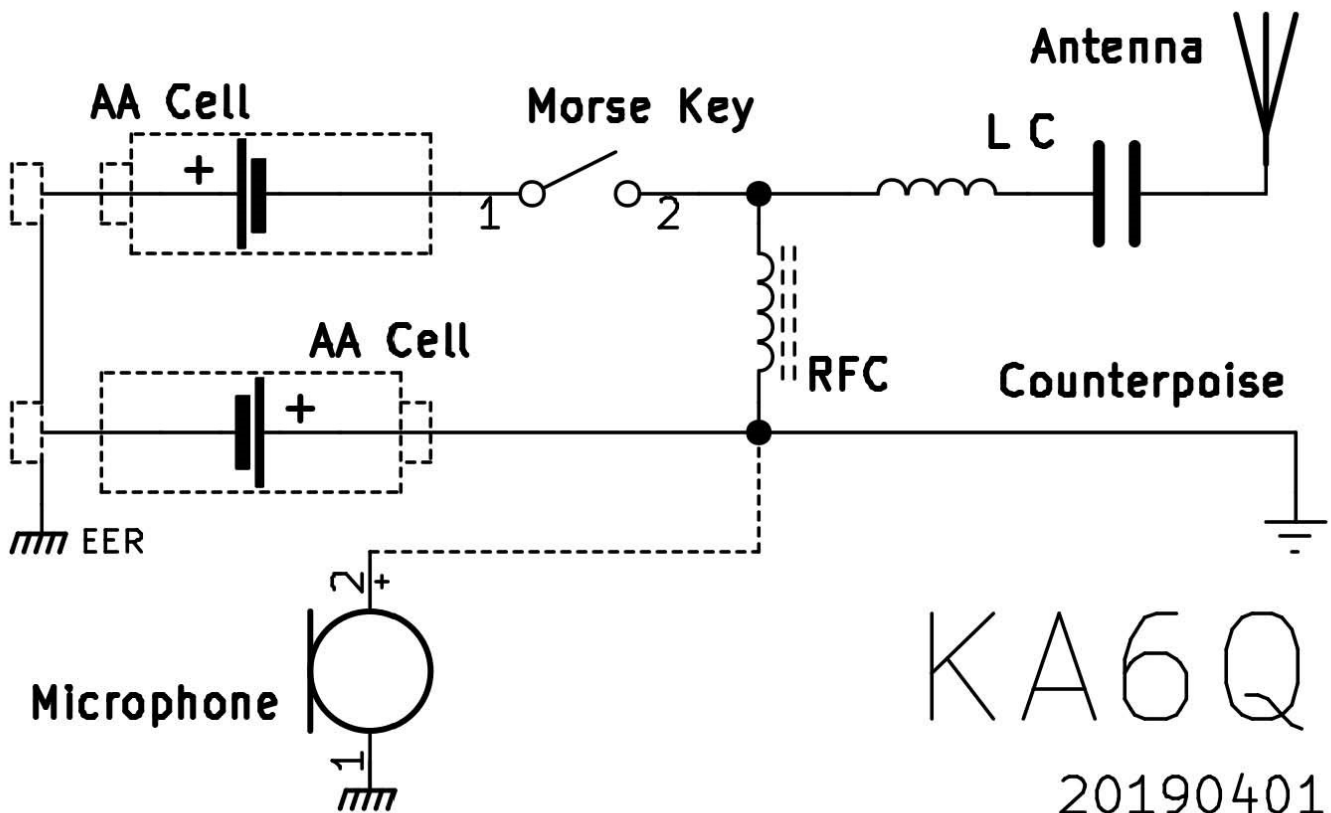
*(President — Continued from page 2)*

or at least can help out with traffic handling during FD, please let us know. We can put you in touch with the right people. So, make sure you get involved with PAARA Field Day by contacting any member of the PAARA Leadership Team or anyone else involved in FD. We look forward to having you on the team.

I recently returned from the International DX Convention in Visalia, sponsored this year by the Northern California DX Club. I'm only a recent attendee, but I've been really enjoying myself at this event. Last year was my first year at IDXC, and I mostly looked around, enjoyed talking to my friends, and chatted with the vendors. This year, I seemed to be everywhere at once. I gave a talk on Friday, attended the Contest Dinner, and was part of the YL Forum. Then I was the emcee for the Saturday Banquet and the Sunday Breakfast. I'm not sure how all that happened, but it was very fun. I got to talk to many friends through all of this as well as indulge myself with a few adult beverages. There were many great talks and panels. I particularly enjoyed the Contest Fo-

rum and a talk about the Northern California DX Foundation beacon project. Ned, AA7A, told us about his design for a double discone antenna that is band-agile, while still giving some gain for the beacons. This replaces the multi-band vertical that has been used for years at the sites. It was installed on Mount Umunhum for the W6WX beacon and showed marked improvement as measured by automated reception reports. There was also a fantastic raffle that included two IC-7610s. Amazing! Many people went home very happy. Coming home on Sunday was a real letdown after so much fun with my ham radio family.

The Dayton Hamvention (actually in Xenia, OH) is coming up fast. I will be there again this year. I hope you'll join me. It's the biggest ham radio convention in the world and features many great booths, talks, and gatherings of friends. Like last year, I will see many LOOK VPs there and also represent the ARRL. It will be a great time. I hope to see you there. But until then, 73 ES CU AT FD DAYTON AND MORE DE K6WX



## April 17, 2019, Board Meeting

The meeting was held at Marty's QTH, commencing at 7:18 PM on April 17, 2019. In attendance were Kristen McIntyre, K6WX (Pres), Marty Wayne, W6NEV (VP), Jim Thielemann, K6SV (Secretary/Membership), Ron Chester, W6AZ (Treasurer via videoconference), Darryl Presley, KI6LDM (Dir), Larry Rebarchik, N6DB (Dir, via videoconference). A quorum was present. Also present were non-board members Clark Martin, KK6ISP, (ASVARO Representative), Mikko Sannala, AB6RF, (Pacificon Special Event Station Coordinator), Ric Hulett, N6AJS, (PAARAgaphs mailing).

Kristen, (K6WX), opened the meeting by mentioning that she attended the DX International Convention in Visalia April 12<sup>th</sup> ~ 14<sup>th</sup>. She had a fun time meeting lots of hams that she's met over the years. She also gave a talk and was the host for the breakfast and the DX banquet. She was surprised how many people she talked to knew of PAARA and who spoke very positively that in their view, we live up to our mantra as the friendliest club around.

Vice President's Report: Marty, W6NEV, said he was sorry to have missed last month's speaker Sarah Mitchell, NF2S and Natalie King, KO2V who talked on "Making Waves at UCSC: From Ham Radio to SlugSats". He mentioned having heard many positive comments about their presentation. The next meeting we'll have a presentation by Dr. Ed Fong, WB6IQN, who will talk about his popular portable triband antenna for VHF and UHF. Marty did mention still needing speakers for August ~ November. A few suggestions were mentioned that he'll be looking into.

Secretary's report: Jim, K6SV, reported that the membership has increased from last month's 141 members and now stands at 164. As suspected, a percentage of members who were cut, due to not renewing, and received a postcard instead of PAARAgaphs did in fact renew.

Treasurer's report: Ron, W6AZ, reported the April income was a little higher than usual due to receiving an advertising payment and the raffle was more profitable than usual due to most of the prizes had been donated.

Under Old Business,

Marty, W6NEV, reported that he's still working on the next field trip which is being targeted for late Q3 to early Q4. He's reached out several times to the possible destination but hasn't received a reply from them yet. Stay tuned for developments.

Marty also mentioned having picked up Wally's, K6URO, donated Kenwood station. Marty plans on cleaning it up and bringing it to a meeting to auction it off.

The board also voted to spend no more than \$200 on a commemorative plaque. Stay tuned for its unveiling.

The board had a short discussion regarding finding a new Raffle coordinator. No one has stepped up yet. Please let a board member know if you have any questions about the volunteer opportunity or wish to take this important position on.

The other items on the agenda that haven't been worked on very much or weren't as critical will be topics for next month.

Under New Business:

Clark, KK6ISP, mentioned having not heard what ASVARO's decision is regarding the sponsorship of the June Electronics Flea Market. If you recall, PAARA offered to sponsor it if ASVARO can't find another club. He also mentioned the ASVARO board has a meeting on 4/22 at which time he feels a decision will be made.

Marty, W6NEV, provided a quick update as to the status of the preparations for Field Day. The 1<sup>st</sup> and likely only planning meeting was held last month. He mentioned that Doug is waiting for things to dry out a little at his QTH before scheduling an antenna work party. He also mentioned the station signup lists are online. Members can go to [www.tinyurl.com/FieldDaySchedule](http://www.tinyurl.com/FieldDaySchedule) to signup for an operating timeslot. All in all, the preparations for the June event are all in order.

The board wishes to thank Mikko, AB6RF, our new Pacificon Special Event Station Coordinator, for volunteering to coordinate PAARA's effort in hosting the station. He updated the board on his progress in getting things coordinated for the station October 18<sup>th</sup> ~ 20<sup>th</sup>. Good progress has been made in getting all the parts lined up for the event. Please see Mikko if you're interested in helping set up, tear down, or operate overnight.

The board meeting was adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Jim Thielemann, K6SV  
 Secretary/membership

Please welcome:

New member: Larry Bruguera KG6UVY

A few photos from the DX Convention  
Photos by N6TV ~ additional photos can be  
viewed at: <https://bit.ly/Visalia2019>



K6WX / AI6UI / K6YL

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K6WX

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K6WX speaks

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K3SLE / W6REK



### April Raffle Winners

#### From L to R:

- 2nd prize, 43 pc. screwdriver set  
Nick, KI6QQW
- 8th prize, ARRL repeater directory  
Jim, AI6VF
- 4th prize, Tooland 5 pc. plier set  
Ric, N6AJS
- 3rd prize, Shaxon pivoting power screwdriver  
Bob, KD6KYT
- 7th prize, iWork screwdriver set  
Doyle, KG6YUN
- 5th prize, a pair of Midland FRS radios  
KC6YDH, Ralph
- 1st prize, portable LCD digital microscope  
Truman N6TRU
- 9th prize, ARRL mini-log  
Truman, N6TRU
- Not shown:**
- 6th prize, Portable LED lantern  
Doyle, KG6YUN

### K6MM DX Convention CO-CHAIR



Photo by N6TV

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

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

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	K6RDM@yahoo.com	
Public Affairs .....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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Station Trustee K6OTA...	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager.....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Asst. to the Treasurer....	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
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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](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-September, 6am–12 noon  
 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)

**SCCARA**

**Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association**

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl  
 Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur.  
 Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.  
 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: [AAGT@ARRL.NET](mailto:AAGT@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](mailto:president@wvara.org)

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

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

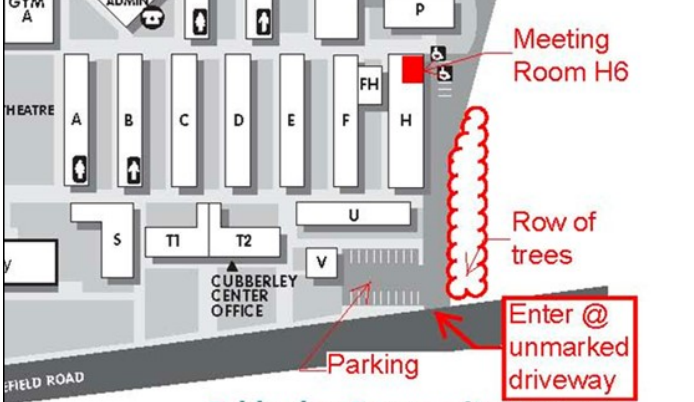
(Please send changes to [PAARAgaphs editor](#))



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 Sales Manager

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**Meeting Room H6**

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 www.cityofpaloalto.org

## PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session  
 every Monday evening at 8:30pm  
 on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater

Week	Control Operator
1 <sup>st</sup>	Joel KD6W
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Doug - KG6LWE
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jack - W1VSL
4 <sup>th</sup>	Rob - KC6TYD
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.

**Meeting Location — Middlefield Road between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road**

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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,  
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**ARV'S, WA6UUT (SK)**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**HAM RADIO**  
**LUNCHEON**  
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 Call in on the N6NFI Repeater, 145.230 MHz, PL® 100Hz

### PAARA Badges

You can order a \$20 badge from the PAARA web site or at a meeting through Doug Teter, KG6LWE, and usually pick it up at the next meeting.

Ron Chester  
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[Ron@taxhelp.com](mailto:Ron@taxhelp.com)


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PAARA W6OTX DMR Repeater Frequencies	
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440 – 444.475 up 5 MHz	DMR
1.2G – 1284.15 down 12MHz	Off line
1.2G – 1249.15 half duplex	Off line



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 Photos: jpg, png or tiff

Subscription Problems? Contact Database Manager: Jim Thielemann, K6SV, 408-839-6815, [thielem@pacbell.net](mailto:thielem@pacbell.net)

### PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). All ad rates listed are per issue.

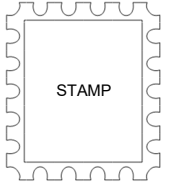
- Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
- For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$14.00-quarter page, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or 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 **Walt Gyger, K6WGY**.

# PAARAgaphs — May 2019

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

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HRO is family owned and operated by active hams!

- |                               |                                 |                                |                               |                                  |                                  |                                  |
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Contact HRO for promotion details. Retail store locations, hours and details. Call will be routed to the nearest store. All HRO 800 lines can handle you. If you have any call center, please, specifications and descriptions subject to change without notice.