

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**Celebrating 83 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

## Contesting Live - How to Have (Even More) Fun in Ham Radio Contests


David A. Jaffe WD6T

Contesting is one of the most exciting and fun aspects of amateur radio. This talk covers how to get started in contesting, as well as offering tips for increasing your score and fun quotient. It concludes with a "live" contest, in which "QSOs" will be made on the fly by members of the audience.

David was licensed at age 12 and first operated an amateur radio contest a year later, winning 2nd place in the New Jersey QSO Party for Essex county. After a long hiatus from ham radio, he became active again in the 2000's on a wide variety of modes and bands from his home station in Berkeley, California. Since 2017, his casual interest in contesting exploded into a passion. He has participated in numerous contests from super-stations such as N6RO in Oakley and W6YX at Stanford University. In 2019, he travelled to the twin island nation of Antigua and Barbuda to join the V26B team in the CQ Worldwide SSB contest. The group made over 10,000 QSOs in two days, and he alone made over 3,000 in twenty-four hours of operating. He is a board member of the Northern California Contest Club and holds several contesting records, including a Pacific Division record for the ARRL IARU contest. Professionally, he has several careers as a computer music researcher with several patents, as Senior Scientist/Engineer for Universal Audio, Inc., and as a composer of contemporary classical music (jaffe.com).

**March 6th 7:00 PM, Cubberly  
Community Center Room H-6**

## Upcoming Events

Mar 6 April 3 May 1	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM Cubberly Community Center, Room H-6, 4000 Middlefield Rd, Palo Alto
Mar 18 April 15 May 20	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM Everyone welcome! March Location: West Coast Wiring, 2862 Middlefield Road, Redwood City 
April 11	PAARA sponsored Electronic Flea Market at Fry's in Sunnyvale.

## President's Corner

March 2020

For those who missed the February meeting, you missed a great presentation and demonstration by Joel, KD6W, on 3D printing for Hams. His talk consisted of very few PowerPoint slides and many pass-around projects that he's created all accompanied by insightful commentary on their creation. There was even a live demonstration of 3D printing by making a call sign plaque.



At the board meeting, we discussed adding a category to the web site for various project files to be available to others. Anyone in the club with a 3D printer will be welcome to add files they wish to share. Of course, the creator of the file will be credited with creating it. This also allows someone who doesn't have a 3D printer to contact the

*(President — Continued on page 2)*

## Explaining Ham Radio to Non-Ham Operators

Truman Lindsey, N6TRU

I have had many intriguing and fulfilling experiences within the Amateur Radio hobby. I'll first start with that. With such a unique hobby, however, comes the explanation of it to others. The Ham Radio people I've met tend to be very social, and willing to share their experiences in the hobby. People in radio love to share information about the hobby. Heck, there's Field Day (where visitors are allowed and encouraged), and emergency preparedness groups such as RACES and ARES (which as I believe cooperate with public service agencies), and so on. While it seems that local officials are certainly aware of the ham radio community, many non-officials (not involved in public service agencies and not hams) either know a good bit about it, or a small "smidgen" about the hobby.

Many of the people who I've met who do know a bit about the hobby (a good bit), tend to have (or previously had) relatives or acquaintances within the hobby. As for examples, my art teacher's grandfather was a ham radio operator, one of my good friends (who will likely be licensed soon) had a grandparent who was licensed a while back, and so on and so forth.

As for the people who have very light knowledge on the subject of ham radio (a smidgen), I often find it an interesting challenge to explain the hobby of amateur radio. While some explain ham radio with ease, I typically drift towards comparisons. And I believe this to be a rela-

tively solid approach. Many people who are unaware of ham radio, however, are aware of ham radio's "unlicensed siblings". Some of you might not like the comparison here, but I'll go about it anyway. By "unlicensed siblings" I mean CB and FRS/GMRS (Walkie-Talkies). Many people I've met, (and I don't blame them for this), think of ham radio as broadcasting or similar to it. Henceforth, I find it beneficial to describe amateur radio as similar to CB or FRS/GMRS, just adding on the fact that there's a different culture, and that it is a licensed system with restrictions.

However, this is how I go about explaining amateur radio. I would be curious to know how you, the reader, would explain ham radio to someone else who might not know much about the hobby. Feel free to send me a letter or tell me at the next PAARA meeting.

*(President — Continued from page 1)*

creator and negotiate to obtain one for themselves.

I reflect on a conversation, I recently had, when I was asked: "What was your first time like"? Now before your mind goes into the gutter, keep in mind were talking about amateur radio here. That simple question can result in a wide variety of answers as there are so many times in an amateur's life that can be classified as a "first" for a given activity. However, let us take the clock back to your first, first. The first time you learned that amateur radio existed and what it was like. How was it you tripped into finding out about the hobby? Was it a friend, relative, another ham, scouts, magazine, newspaper, or maybe a story on the radio or TV? What perked your interest in following up and learning more?

You study hard and earn your technician license, now what? That's likely the most common question that is asked of the new ham, even if your

*(President — Continued on page 3)*

*(President — Continued from page 2)*

one of the lucky ones that also takes the general or amateur extra tests all at the same time. Like lots of things in life, being book read somehow has to be applied to the real world. That was the question I helped a couple of new hams get passed a couple of years ago. Actually making that 1st contact using a couple of HT's. Using simplex, it was easier on their nerves than through a repeater as fewer people would be listening as they stumbled through the contact. Like most of us, they were grinning ear to ear after their exchange! Do you remember your first contact?

You got excited about making contacts through the repeater, maybe even participate in the 9 AM talk net or the PAARA net but want more. You take the plunge into the general study guide and get your general license. Guess what, your now back to the question, "now what"? Those that have followed before affectionately refer to getting your general license the \$1,000 upgrade, as now you need to invest in equipment that is more expensive. But gads, there are so many options, how do you figure out what to do?

I could go on for quite some time reflecting on firsts such as your first DX contact, contact with a new entity, busting through a pileup, participating in a contest, your first QRP contact or whatever. All of these firsts are exciting and generate excitement you want to share with someone besides your XYL's "that's nice" response. This is where a club like PAARA comes in. Not only to share one's achievements and successes with but to help you along the path to answer questions like, "what next" or "how do you...".

Rightfully, we call ourselves "the friendliest club around". We do have rather "social" meetings with people sharing their adventures in amateur radio among other things. However, I have received more than one comment that we are not doing a very good job at sharing the wealth of knowledge with hams just getting into the hobby or have taken that next step earning a higher-class license. Our club is comprised of roughly 50% amateur extra license holders along with another sizeable group of general license holders, all with decades of combined experience in every aspect of the hobby. When is the last time

you helped answer the question, "now what" or "how do I...?"

This is why the board is advocating the creation of the Elmer list to be added to our web site. I received a few names at the last meeting. I know there are more very capable hams in the club that could be on the list. If you can't make it to the next meeting or two, please send me an email with your preferred contact information and the area you'd be interested in helping someone learn more about. In conjunction with this list, we are taking a few of the rigs that were donated to the club and coming up with a loaner program. The idea being, an HF rig with Elmer would help get the new general or amateur extra past the question "what's next" and get them on the air. The HF radios and Elmer's would be available to club members so they too can enjoy their own "First". Please let me know if you are interested in being paired with a radio to help someone get started.

Trust me when I say, it's rewarding for the Elmer to see the excitement in a new ham's accomplishments and to know you were part of making it happen! In addition, at your next meeting, ask that new ham how they are finding the hobby and if they have any questions you might able to answer; they aren't that hard to spot. Remember, you too were in their shoes at one time!

73, Jim K6SV

Keep the airwaves alive by getting on the air!



**Take care when this sign is seen!**





## Hiller Aviation Museum Tour

### What:

- Join PAARA members for a docent guided tour of the Hiller Aviation Museum. Free time after lunch will allow you to tour on your own. See the engine collection and the unique aircraft, including a Lockheed Q-Star Silent Observation plane to Burt Rutan's personal Defiant push-pull twin. There also is a Cessna Cardinal and Aero Commander 500B outside that can be opened to allow visitors to sit in the pilot seat and see what modern general aviation aircraft are like (weather permitting). Reserve your spot now for the tour and lunch.

### Tour Details:

#### Where:

- Hiller Aviation Museum, 601 Skyway Road, San Carlos

#### When:

- Sunday, May 3, 10 AM, (please be about 15 minutes early to organize groups)

#### Cost:

- \$35, (includes tour, box lunch, free time)

- Last day to register for the tour is April 22, 5 PM

To register, go to the PAARA website, [www.paara.org](http://www.paara.org) and click on the link to the Hiller Aviation Museum tour. Please include your Name, Call Sign, and Lunch selection. Please make a separate order for each person attending.

- You may use credit card or PayPal on the PAARA website. You may also use cash or check if paying at club meetings.

### Box Lunch choices are:

- Classic Club — Deli Ham, Oven-roasted Turkey & Smoked Bacon, Lettuce, Tomato, Avocado Spread, on thick-sliced Sourdough
- Monterey Chicken — Grilled Chicken Breast, Monterey Jack Cheese, Avocado, Sprouts, Romaine Lettuce, Thousand Island Dressing, on California Crunch
- Veggie Supreme — Cucumber, Tomato, Alfalfa Sprouts, Julienne Carrots, Bell Peppers, Romaine Lettuce, Hummus Spread & Mayo, on Multi-Grain bread

### For more info, contact:

- Marty Wayne, W6NEV  
[mcwayne2@comcast.net](mailto:mcwayne2@comcast.net)  
 408-234-8023

## March Raffle Prizes

1st Place Prize — Yaesu FT-65R



2nd place Prize — \$60 Gift Card



(Raffle — Continued on page 5)



### February Raffle Winners

3rd prize Joe, WB6JOE, Heil foot switch

2nd prize John, K6JDS, ARRL Antenna Book  
Box Set

1st Prize John, KM6SKA, TYT DMR HT

5th prize Alan, AG6ZE, 20 Bin Portable Parts  
Container

Not Shown:

4th prize Herb, WY6G, Antenna Kit from QRP  
Guys

*(Raffle — Continued from page 4)*

#### 3rd Place Prize — Fluke Multimeter



#### 4th Place Prize — Rotary Ratchet



#### 5th Place Prize — Watt/Power Meter



## PAARA board Meeting Minutes

The PAARA February board meeting was held February 19, at Doug Teter's office in Redwood City. Present were Joel Wilhite, KD6W, Jim Thielemann (president) K6SV, Rob Korte (treasurer) KD6KYT, Doug Teter KG6LWE and Ric Hulett (secretary) N6AJS.

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 pm. A quorum was present.

Note: The March board meeting will be held at West Coast Wiring, 2862 Middlefield Road, Redwood City.

### President's Report

We've been experimenting with the meeting format, and asking the membership for their opinions. We've gotten some good feedback, and will be trying out different things in upcoming meetings.

We encourage members to draft PAARAGraphs submissions when they talk about an interesting experience. PDF newsletter list status

### Secretary's Report

We have 210 members including Mark Johnston, AF6DW, who joined this month. 120 members have renewed for 2020, but there are 90 PAARA members who have not yet renewed.

Renew your membership this month to ensure you receive your PAARAGraphs. Members who have not renewed will have a reminder sticker on their newsletter.

So far, 13 club members have signed up to receive PAARAGraphs by e-mail.

### Treasurer's Report

The treasurer reported that income and expenses in February was in line with previous years. We will write a check to the holder of the repeater site, to reimburse for the cost of internet and electricity. Jim will check the electric meter and determine what we owe. There was discussion on the topic of insuring the repeater site; gear, tower, and shed. Amount at risk \$6,000. We will review our current insurance coverage re: liability for injuries

or other events at the repeater site.

### VP / Program Chair Report

The board congratulates Joel Wilhite on an excellent presentation at the February PAARA meeting. More presenters like Joel would be a great thing. Joel said that he will post to PAARA website his .STL files for 3d printing

Next presenter is Dave, K6DAJ. His topic will be: "Contesting Live: How to have even more fun in Ham radio contests". Later this year, Joel will have an updated presentation on digital TV.

### Old Business

This year's PAARA field trip will be to the Hiller Aviation Museum –May 3rd @ 10 AM

We agreed to work with Gerry Tucker to assist him in organizing his storage of PAARA equipment.

PAARA loaner radios w/Elmer: Ric and Jim will build a proposal to furnish loaner HF radios for new General-class operators.

Club meeting format: We are still taking suggestions from members. The last meetings have had reduced front-end discussions, this seems popular.

Some members have suggested more hands on technical presentations, like perhaps a hackathon.

Also, we consider more interest items for newer hams: How do i...Jim: Not enough stuff for the newbie. How do I ..., or gather 'words of wisdom' from more experienced hams. 2nd Home Brew Night II in August

PAARA is operating the Electronics Flea Market (EFM) on April 11th, at Fry's Electronics in Sunnyvale. The Flea Market activity is in need of volunteer help for that Saturday morning. We really need to bring in some new volunteer manpower.

### New Business

We are in negotiations with a volunteer to take on accounting duties for the club, replacing Ron

*(Minutes — Continued on page 7)*





## Equipment For Sale

PAARA has been a repository for donated electronic equipment and ham gear for many years. We currently have a large number of radios and related equipment available to club members and others. Much of the gear is in good or better condition, some not so good. None have been tested.

There is a list of the equipment posted at [paara.org/pages/eqpt.html](http://paara.org/pages/eqpt.html). If any item piques your interest, please contact me and we can talk about it. Periodically, some of these will be brought to a club meeting. There will be pictures and descriptions in PAARAgaphs showing the equipment being brought to that month's meeting.

Marty Wayne, W6NEV  
[mcwayne2@comcast.net](mailto:mcwayne2@comcast.net)  
408-234-8023

(Minutes — Continued from page 6)

Chester, who has provided years of excellent service to the club.

The board discussed an audit of the club books so there is a clean transition to a new accountant. Joel proposes an audit committee who audits the presentation of the accountant. The new accountant can be on the audit committee.

Field Day Food volunteer: The club needs to find a field day food coordinator.

Check signing changes complete. Doug Teter and Jim Thielemann can sign checks for the club, as well as Rob Korte.

Cloud storage: PAARA needs to have secure, cloud-based file storage for our records, and such things as the membership database. Jim has evaluated various cloud storage facilities, which were discussed. The board accepted a proposal to try out a service at the 'free' tier of service.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ric Hulett N6AJS  
PAARA Secretary

## Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

### Officers

President .....	Jim Thielemann, K6SV	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Vice President .....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023
	w6nev@arrl.net	
Secretary .....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	energyconserved@sbcglobal.net	
Treasurer .....	Bob Korte, KD6KYT	408 396 4745
	bob@rgktechsales.com	

### Directors

Director ('19-'20) .....	Joel Wilhite, KD6W	408-839-5948
	kd6w@arrl.net	
Director ('20-'21) .....	Walt Gyger, K6WGY	408-921-5901
	walt@tradewindsaviation.com	
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	dteter@wawi.com	
Director ('21) .....	Darryl Presley, KI6LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@arrl.net	

### Appointed Positions

Membership .....	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database .....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	energyconserved@sbcglobal.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	
Asst. to the Treasurer....	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Badge Coordinator .....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wawi.com	
Historian Position .....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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Field Day Coordinator ...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
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	kk6isp@comcast.net	
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QSL Manager .....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023
Speaker Coordinator .....	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023

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	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](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 1st Thursday each month at 7pm in the Summit Room at the Sunnyvale Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale  
 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: [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 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  
[shensley@Novell.com](mailto:shensley@Novell.com)

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



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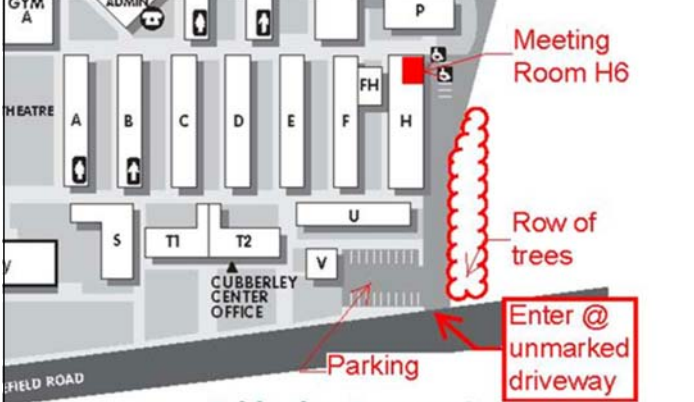
www.jameco.com

## 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>	John - W6JMK
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ric - N6AJS
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,



**Cubberley Community Center**  
 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303  
 650/329.2418  
 650/856.8756 fax  
 www.cityofpaloalto.org

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

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**Email: KARLDRESDEN@juno.com**

**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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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!

**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.

This space is available.



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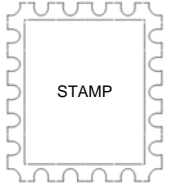
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# PAARAgaphs — March 2020

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