

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

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

## Transceiver Performance for the HF - DX Operator

**Rob Sherwood, NC0B**

How good is your receiver in today's operating environment? What should I look for when researching a new receiver or transceiver? Rob will give us some performance items to consider when looking for a replacement receiver or transceiver for our shack.

### Bio

Ham radio began for me in 1961 in Cincinnati, Ohio, as both a novice and general-class operator. After graduating college in 1969 with a degree in physics, I moved to Denver and worked for KOA radio as an engineer until 1987. While at KOA, I maintained their 50 KW AM and FM transmitters, microwave links and studio equipment.

1974 saw the beginning of Sherwood Engineering, offering roofing filters and upgrade kits for the Drake R-4C. In 1976 I started measuring receiver performance on dozens of radios, since reviews in QST did not correlate with actual on-air observations at crunch time in CW contests. In 1977 "ham radio magazine" published the first of several of my articles on receiver problems and cures, vertical antenna ground systems and mobile antenna efficiency. Those articles are available on my web site as PDF files. Receiver test data is now web based with over 100 transceivers included at [www.nc0b.com/table.html](http://www.nc0b.com/table.html).

Rob has give talks at several Ham Conventions

*(Speaker — Continued on page 3)*

## Upcoming Events

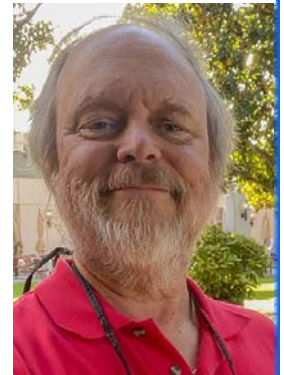
|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Aug 7<br>Sept 4<br>Oct 2    | PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM<br>Zoom Meeting, see article for details                 |
| Aug 19<br>Sept 16<br>Oct 21 | Board Meeting, 7:00 PM.<br>Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details! |
| Aug                         | Electronic Flea Market Cancelled  |



## President's Corner

August 2020

I hope this issue of PAARAgraphs finds everyone in good health and spirits. Seems that summer is about one half to two thirds over depending on how you look at the definition of a



"summer". I trust everyone that worked Field Day submitted their logs before the deadline and listed PAARA as their club. We all hope that next year will return closer to what was normal though, at this point, it's anyone's guess. We are knee-deep in contest 'season'. I know there's a contest out there for you to enjoy even if it's to only make a few contacts. How many worked the 13 colonies contest?

*(President — Continued on page 3)*

## PAARA CALL SIGN HISTORY

### Marty Wayne, W6NEV

PAARA has four club call signs; W6ARA, W6OTX, K6YQT, and K6OTA. PAARA has used several calls as club calls over the years. The most frequently used calls were W6ARA (of course), W6OTX, K6OTA, K6YQT. For Field Day, PAARA also use individual hams calls occasionally and, once N6NFI was used.

For this article, I will focus on W6ARA. You will recognize W6ARA as our club call. It is the call sign used by PAARA for club outings such as Field Day. Where did W6ARA come from and how did PAARA get the call? My curiosity was piqued and I began researching the history of W6ARA.

The easy part was finding the mundane info like when the call first issued, who held the license grants, and for how long. This was easy because of the web site, [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org), my main source for this data. This source has most Amateur Radio Callbooks from 1913 thru 1997. There are some other resources such as the FCC database, [www.silentkeyhq.com](http://www.silentkeyhq.com), and others but these also only give statistical data. What's missing is who, what, and how W6ARA was issued to PAARA.

I received input from, Gerry Tucker, N6NV, Ron Chester, W6AZ, and Chuck Johnson, N6VFH. I've researched PAARAgaphs and along with info from those listed above, learned how W6ARA, the call PAARA now use, was determined. Let's see what has been found so far.

**NOTE:** The dates given below are the publish dates of the Radio Amateur Callbooks. Because of the delay getting information from the FCC grant issue date to the Radio Amateur Callbook publisher, the actual grant and cancellation dates are about one year earlier than the callbook date.

### **W6ARA**

Per the Amateur Radio Callbooks, the 6ARA license grant was first issued to G. F. Zobel in San Francisco CA in 1921. At that time, calls

with letter prefixes weren't used therefore, the license was issued as 6ARA. The 1922 callbook still shows the same G. F. Zobel. In 1923 thru 1926, the name changed to Jerome F. Zobel, in San Francisco but still as 6ARA. In 1927, under new FCC rules and regulations, the W prefix was added. Now W6ARA, the call was held by Jerome F. Zobel until 1929.

W6ARA doesn't appear in the 1930 callbook. In 1931, the license grant was issued to Robert S. Baldwin of San Francisco CA. He held the call until 1951. Note: there were no Radio Amateur Callbooks published during the war years 1942 through 1945 but because Robert S. Baldwin still had the call in 1946, it's can be assumed he held that call throughout that time. From 1952 thru 1964, there was no callbook listing of W6ARA. In 1965 the license grant was issued to Stanley L. Greissman of Sacramento CA. He held W6ARA until the Spring of 1968. The call again disappears from the callbooks from 1969 through 1977. Then, in 1978, the license was granted to Jerome F. Zobel, Palo Alto CA (second time around) and was in his name until 1997. The callbooks from 1998 through today aren't in the archives so the grant may (and per a Gerry Tucker, N6NV article in the February, 2006 issue of PAARAgaphs) did extended until 2005.

Jerome Zobel was a PAARA member for a number of years. He passed away in 1999. According to Ron Chestier, W6AZ, club call was requested from the FCC. With a bit of serendipity and excellent timing, on January 10, 2006, W6ARA call was assigned to PAARA and voila, the rest is history.

The call (W)6ARA has had a long and varied history in amateur radio. If you look at January, 2006 PAARAgaphs letterhead, only W6OTX, K6OTA, and K6YQT are listed. On the February, 2006 letterhead, W6ARA, W6OTX, K6OTA, and K6YQT are listed.

For more information about Jerome Zobel and how PAARA got the call, see the Gerry Tucker, N6NV, article in the PAARAgaphs February, 2006 issue, page 4.

de: Marty, W6NEV

*(Speaker — Continued from page 1)*

over the years including Dayton, Visalia, Cosy Wyoming HamCon, Duke City Hamfest, and many others.

Thirteen years ago, my XYL encouraged me to build my dream contest station on 10 acres east of Ft. Collins, Colorado on the Pawnee Grassland. This has made it possible to evaluate top transceivers in major contests in a real-world environment to augment my laboratory data. This rural setting has allowed me to focus my interest on effective antennas. Six towers support 9 mono-band HF yagi antennas, plus 6 and 2 meters, and several wire antennas on 160, 40 and 30 meters. A 70cm yagi was added in the fall of 2019.

My most recent new project has been making contacts on the new 630m band with a transverter from Australia. An IC-7300 on 160 meters handles receiver and transmit on 630m. I use my 160-meter Marconi T antenna with a separate tuner.

### **Cubberley Community Center Status**

A recent email from the City of Palo Alto confirms that Cubberley Community Center will be closed through the end of August; therefore, the August meeting will be held on-line. There was no mention about September; however, with the continued acceleration of Covid-19 virus infections, I suspect this may be the norm for some time to come. The monthly meetings will continue be held on-line until further notice. Check the PAARA web site each month for a link to the Zoom meetings.

Marty Wayne, W6NEV  
PAARA Vice President

*(President — Continued from page 1)*

Though a bit more like a state QSO party, it's a fun one to work by trying to collecting all the colonies.

Even with the Covid-19 situation and most all DXpitions canceled, there's plenty of DX to keep you interested. Most days see lots of activity on 50 Mhz across Europe and the US and occasionally between the two. 10 M has even opened up on occasion also in Europe and the US as well to other destinations around the globe. Interestingly, a lot of the contacts have shifted from SSB to digital. If you haven't tried one of the digital modes, you should as you can make contacts using a digital mode that aren't possible otherwise, unless you're a CW guy which I'm not. Though many refer FT8 as a "point and cluck robot mode", I still have lots of enjoyment making contacts to DX entities that I haven't even heard on SSB before! Even with a modest station, you can still make contacts in less than optimum band conditions.

Hopefully, everyone noticed the announcement of the 1st on-line Virtual Ham Radio Expo which will be August 8th & 9th. This is a free event so there's no cost to you but your time. If you didn't notice it, you can still signup at [www.qsotodayhamexpo.com](http://www.qsotodayhamexpo.com). There are around 70 presentations most by people we don't normally see or hear. Our "own" Joel, KD6W, will be presenting on "Digital Amateur Television and Social Distancing". As there's a wide range of topics, there must be something of interest to everyone. The best part is the ability to watch a presentation after the fact. So if there are two interesting topics at the

*(President — Continued on page 4)*

*(President — Continued from page 3)*

same time, you can view one live, the other at another time, up to 30 days after the event. Vendors will also have a presentation area. I'm not sure how that will work but I know we'll find out shortly.

As you will note in PAARAgaphs, we'll have another Zoom meeting for August. We have a great speaker lined up this month that should interest every member of the club. He's been testing and publishing the results of receivers for years. There is a wealth of info on his web site: [www.nc0b.com/table.html](http://www.nc0b.com/table.html). If your interested in how your receiver's real-world specifications rank with respect to others, his site is the place to find out. Please spread the word to other hams, even if they aren't a PAARA member, there more than welcome to join us.

On 7/19, our repeaters were finally put onto a large UPS. Joel, KD6W, salvaged an almost new ADC UPS with more than enough capacity to back up the repeaters for many hours should the power fail. This upgrade has been in the works for quite some time but finding the best solution to meet requirements has been elusive. The next step is to get the 900MHz repeater on the air. The project is underway and getting closer to completion.

In the process of drafting this letter, I received an email advising me that Gerry, N6NV, Rebar, N6DB, and Doug KG6LWE, went to the site to work on getting the 900MHz antenna installed along with the feed line. Seems that upon arrival, they found the whole area had "turned" pink! There was a fire near the repeater that came within a few thousand feet of the site. Thanks to the hard work of fire-

fighters, the flames were abated by on the ground forces and through the use of air-dropped fire retardant turning the tower, antennas, shack, and trees pink. Having them pink is much better than the fire engulfing the area! The good news, thanks to their hard work, the 900MHz repeater is getting closer to being on the air.

73, Jim K6SV

Keep the airwaves alive by getting on the air!

### **July 2020 Board Meeting Minutes**

The July Board meeting was a virtual meeting, conducted over Zoom.

#### **Attending**

Jim Thielemann K6SV, President; Marty Wayne W6NEV, Vice President; Ric Hulett N6AJS, Secretary; Bob Korte KD6KYT, Treasurer; Walt Gyger K6WGY, Joel Wilhite KD6W, Doug Teter KG6LWE, and Darryl Presley KI6LDM, Directors.

Meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. A quorum was present.

#### **Key Items**

The August PAARA general meeting will again be virtual, via Zoom. See the PAARA website for more information.

A recent email from the City of Palo Alto confirms that Cubberley Community Center will be closed through the end of August; therefore, the August meeting will be held on-line. There was no mention about September; however, with the continued acceleration of Covid-19 virus infections, we suspect this may be the norm for some time to come. The monthly meetings will continue to be held on-line until further notice. Check the PAARA web site each month

*(Minutes — Continued on page 5)*



(Minutes — Continued from page 4)

for a link to the Zoom meetings.

We still need members to write stories for PAARAgaphs: Consider writing up ham radio experiences, projects, or anything ham-related. How has the virus affected your ham operations? What was your FD experience?

### President's Report:

QSO Today has announced a virtual hamfest for August 8 and 9. Sign up before July 24 for a free entry. There will be about 70 presenters. This should be an interesting 'meet', and hams who 'attend' will be exposed to a bunch of interesting topics. I hope everybody will take a look at the website: [qsotoday.vfairs.com](https://qsotoday.vfairs.com)

Joel Wilhite gave an informative talk (part 2) about Amateur TV at the PAARA July meeting. Joel is repeating his presentation for MDARC this month.

### Secretary's Report

Membership remains at 174. No new members or renewals were received in the last month. Fourteen club members have elected to receive PAARAgaphs by e-mail. Any other members who wish to use this option can send an e-mail to [PAARAPAY@gmail.com](mailto:PAARAPAY@gmail.com)

### Treasurer's Report

Transactions last month were on a par with the last few months due to the current conditions we're all living through.

### VP / Program Chair Report

We have no planned trips / tours / field trips until TBD. The club meeting Speaker for August is Rob Sherwood, NCOB. His topic is: Receiver Performance for the DXer.

Darryl made contact with Rob on 20M to arrange this presentation. We've received significant money from the sale of donated equipment. One sale, the Collins 51S1, was declined by the eBay buyer, and will be relisted.

### Old Business

Backup power for the repeater has been ob-

tained and is 'on the truck' awaiting installation.

Marty W6NEV has updated the list of club-owned equipment for sale on the website.

We will be videoconferencing the next club meeting on August 7th. Need to get the word out on our presenter for August.

Future Board Meetings via zoom: A decision is on hold until we have a choice. It may make it easier to recruit board members if there aren't physical meeting requirements. We discussed meeting in person 2 to 4 times per year, the rest of the time on Zoom.

### New Business

So far, we have ten entries to the Field Day listing Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association as the club. A little less than we had hoped. There are still a couple of weeks to get your entries in, by July 27.

Darryl played us a radio spot that was broadcast on radio, describing the Cupertino ARES FD effort.

Darryl reported on his FD effort – lots of strong stations, it was difficult to make QSOs with east-coast stations with 100 watts.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ric Hulett N6AJS

### Topic: PAARA Club meeting

Time: Aug 7, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87015555822?pwd=UkNxOXJaSFFKeJlBENkUTR6dTVZUT09>

Login: Name and Call sign

Meeting ID: 870 1555 5822

Passcode: 856701

One tap mobile

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# US (San Jose)

## 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 |              |
| Director ('21) .....     | Doug Teter, KG6LWE          | 650-367-6200 |
|                          | dteter@wci.com              |              |
| Director ('21) .....     | Darryl Presley, K16LDM      | 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, W6ARA.... | Gerry Tucker, N6NV            |              |
| Station Trustee K6YQT...         | Doug Teter, KG6LWE            | 650-367-6200 |
| 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@wci.com                |              |
| Historian Position .....         | <i>Position Vacant</i>        |              |
| Raffle Coordinators .....        | Rob Fenn, KC6TYD,             | rtyd@aol.com |
|                                  | Shrikumar, KA6Q               |              |
|                                  | shri.paara@enablery.org       |              |
| 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

|                       |                             |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|
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|                       | Bob Van Tuyl K6RWY          | Kristen McIntyre K6WX |
|                       | Ron Chester W6AZ            | Vic Black AB6SO       |
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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://nodxc.org> or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

## 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)

## SCCARRA

### 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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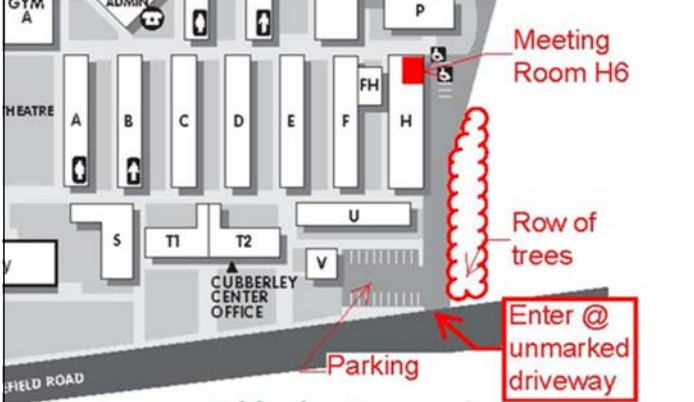
www.jameco.com

### 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, 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**

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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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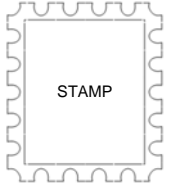
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# PAARAgaphs — August 2020

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