

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the  
**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**

The Friendliest Club Around

Celebrating 87 years as an *active* amateur radio club—Since 1937

<http://www.paara.org/>



## HOMEBREW NIGHT

From hardware to software, simple to complex. It doesn't matter. If you put your heart and soul into it then show it off! It is strongly suggested that you make your presentation in person to facilitate a better viewing experience.

If you present via Zoom then it may work better if you make a PDF file of pictures and any supporting text and share that so you don't have to fumble trying to get the item(s) in the camera view.

Presentation time may be limited due to the number of presenters so be prepared to keep your presentation under 6 minutes.

Email Rob at [kc6tyd@gmail.com](mailto:kc6tyd@gmail.com) to get on the list.

Please add Subject: Homebrew and state if you will be presenting on Zoom

**This meeting will be a  
Hybrid Meeting  
Zoom and In Person**

Time: April 5, 2024 07:00 PM Pacific Time  
Please check <https://www.paara.org> for  
Zoom Details

## Upcoming Events

Apr 5*** May 3 June 7	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM *** Zoom and In Person Meeting
Apr 17 May 15 June 19	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details!



## President's Corner

April 2024

Don't forget Home Brew Night is during the April 5th meeting. Let's get those projects finished so you can show everyone what you've been brewing in your spare time. Please let Rob, KC6TYD, know if you plan on bringing something to show so he has an idea of how much time is needed.



By the time you receive this, my XYL and I will be driving to Texas to witness the total Eclipse of the Sun on April 8th. Several other PAARA members are also making the trek to TX for the event. It will be interesting to learn of everyone's ex-

*(Pres — Continued on page 3)*

## Question of the Month

Who is Eli the Iceman?

### **Ten-Meter Contest, or What is Possible with Only 12 Watts Rich Stiebel, W6APZ**

In my early years on phone, I discovered the 10-meter band. I could communicate by phone virtually anywhere in the Chicago area with less than 15 Watts output.

Ever since then, I've had a soft spot in my heart for 10-meters. Unfortunately, the sun-spot cycle also goes down. Experienced hams do not use 10 very much when the cycle is low, so calling CQ on 10 when the cycle is low is virtually useless; nobody is listening! However, the band is NOT necessarily dead!

Knowing that contests bring people out of the woodwork, I decided to try my hand at the Ten-Meter Contest the weekend of December 10th and 11th, 2022. My rig nowadays is an Elecraft KX3 with the magnificent output of about 11 - 12 Watts, and the antenna is a GAP Titan vertical. To paraphrase Tom Schiller, N6BT, multi-band vertical antennas are adjusted to produce low VSWR on the bands for which they are designed, but are otherwise dummy loads, so I did not expect fantastic results. Noting that my KX3 output was about the same as the 6L6 rig I used in the 1950s, I thought it was worth a try.

I got on the band Saturday afternoon for a few hours. Reception was generally poor and the only station I worked was W6YX, the local Stanford radio club station.

I had much better luck Sunday morning between 8 and 9 AM when I worked stations in Tennessee, Michigan, Maryland, Texas, Indiana, and yes, even some local California stations.

Later that day, between 3 and 4 PM, I

worked Ohio, Tennessee, Georgia, California, and I also worked a JA9PPC in Japan. I initially thought that QSB prevented us from completing the exchange, though I did get his contact number of 314. Later, checking QRZ, I saw that Yosi has his contest log posted, and W6APZ is in it! He is using a 5-element Yagi on ten about 40 feet up on a tower. Being close to the end of the contest, many stations had gone off the air, so my weak signal was audible in Japan.

Aside from working those stations, I heard several other JAs, PX2A in Brazil, LP1H in Argentina, CE4JZO in Chile, AL2F in Alaska, and YE9BJM in Bali, Indonesia, so my receiver was working well, but 12 watts to a vertical just is not sufficient to make a lot of contacts when the band is busy, as it was. Looking at QRZ, I see why the Indonesian station did so well. He is located near the water with a 4-element stepper beam on a tower that is close to 100 ft tall and he has an RF power amplifier.

Several strong stations were calling CQ and giving their call while speaking very fast. I'm sure they thought that their fast speech would result in more contacts. In reality, after listening to several such stations call CQ and give their calls multiple times, I could NOT decipher their calls due to their fast speech! Had they spoken at a normal rate, I might have been able to work those stations as well.

After 4 PM, the end of the contest, I tuned around just to see what was happening; NOTHING! One might think that the band was dead, i.e. not open. In reality, one heard nothing because hams believed that there would be nobody to talk to, so everyone shut down! So contests do make it possible for the band to come alive.

**Be an Elmer!**  
**Stiv Ostenberg, K9STV**

Ham Radio is more than a hobby. The breadth of options of things to learn is more than anyone could fully explore in a lifetime. The way much of the knowledge is passed on is through the time-honored role of the Elmer. Elmers share their knowledge with new hams and build relationships that endure. They ensure that the hobby will live into the future.

What does it take to be an Elmer? To be honest, it is mostly the courage to step forward and offer to aid another ham. Many potential Elmers do not know where to start, and Seekers (my term for people who want to learn) are also shy. That said, let me offer a few tips to those who would become Elmers.

1. Don't belittle yourself. If you know something useful and are willing to share, you CAN be an Elmer. I started Elmering with no more than a technician license and knowing how to send a packet through Outpost. Ask yourself or hams you know "What do I know that somebody else may be interested in?"
2. Keep it simple. Instead of overwhelming somebody (and yourself) with trying to cover the entire topic of, say, Digital Modes, create a short exercise with a clear goal that demonstrates one aspect of a subject. (Example: Make a contact using FT8. Connect to a Winlink node.....) The packet exercise I hosted was simply sending a packet check- to the County site. The exercise provides a single working example of how to do something they may want to try later. Beyond the exercise, the event becomes a great opportunity for networking and further

Elmering and this is where the real magic happens.

3. Don't take it personally. There is no guarantee people will show up. I know this terrified me! The secret is to try to make your Elmer event something you would do anyway. Do your packet check-in, activate a POTA park, and tune your antenna. Make this your focus, and let people showing up be the icing on the cake!
4. Don't be afraid to ask for help. This is one of my biggest hardships, I hate imposing on people. By and large though, once you overcome your fear, many people are happy to help. For example, if you have an idea for an Elmer event, talk to your club officers (or me) to help organize it.
5. Have fun. Seriously, Elmers are the ambassadors of the future for ham radio. If you are having fun, other people will have fun, and that is what will bring new people in.

*(Pres — Continued from page 1)*

perience as we're not going to the same locations. You are encouraged to participate in the event by using your HF radio to assist in the study of what happens to the Ionosphere during an Eclipse. Go to <https://hamsci.org/eclipse> for more information on how you can help. One way you can experience the eclipse without being there is to watch one of the live streams such as the one at: <https://www.exploratorium.edu/eclipse>. Thanks go to Rob, KC6TYD, for running the April meeting on my behalf!

Volunteers are still needed for the PAARA sponsored Electronics Flea Market (EFM) on May 19th. I sent out an email to those who have assisted in the

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past. Please email me if you're interested in assisting with this event. Activities include, but aren't limited to: setup/takedown of the food sales area, selling food and collecting money, purchasing drinks, ice, and doughnuts, and getting the equipment for the event from the EFM locker and returning it. There are other activities but those are the largest ones. This is an important event for the club as it's the major fundraiser that helps cover the costs of Field Day, PAARA in the Park, and other activities. Please remind your friends that the event is being held on the 3rd Saturday of the month due to Mother's Day being on the usual EFM date. By the way, the EFM is using 146.55 simplex to talk around the site.

Another PAARA in the Park date is quickly approaching. On April 20th we will all gather in Cupertino Memorial Park for a day of chatting with others, working a bit of HF, having lunch, and possibly building an antenna. Concerning the antenna build project hosted by Darryl, KI6LDM, the cutoff date for ordering an antenna is April 7th. Thus, if you want to build the vertical antenna at the gathering, reach out to Darryl before the 7th. Visit our website, [www.paara.org](http://www.paara.org), for more information.

Planning has started for Field Day 2024 which is on June 22nd~23rd with set up starting on the 21st. This year's slogan is "Be Radio Active". We'll be in the 2A class again unless we can find another station captain. We'll also need people interested in attending the antenna parties to prep the antennas for the event. We'll also need volunteers to set up the towers and antennas on 6/21 and take them down on the 23rd. Once again, Doug, KG6LWE, is coordinating all the efforts to make this special weekend a

success. He already filed the permit with the city and reserved the trucks. Please reach out to him to let him know what you'd be interested in helping us with. If you aren't sure what Field Day is all about, check out our website at: <https://www.paara.org/pages/fieldday.html>. Additional information can also be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

As mentioned at the March meeting, I refiled the Raffle Paperwork. I received yet another letter from DOJ stating they need yet another form. That form is now in the mail to them. I truly hope this is the end of what they "need" In the meantime, raffles are still on hold.

Rob looks forward to seeing everyone for the April Home Brew Night meeting. I look forward to seeing all the smiling faces at the May 3rd meeting. The meeting will be both an IRL and Zoom meeting.

73, Jim K6SV

Get on the air to keep the airwaves alive!

### **March, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes**

Present were President Jim Thielemann K6SV, Vice President Rob Fenn KC6TYD, Secretary Ric Hulett N6AJS, Treasurer Margaret Cooper K6WEK, and Directors Darryl Presley KI6LDM, Bob Ridenour KN6YGN and Doug Teter KG6LWE. Also present was Clark Martin KK6ISP, our ASVARO and EFM Liaison.

A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 7:16 pm.

- President's Report: Welcome to Spring! Yesterday was the first day of Spring. The weather has led the way. Bob Vallio W6RGG has been named honorary ARRL Vice President. Congratulations! At least three of our club members are travelling to see the eclipse next month. Our members can go to [hamsci.org](http://hamsci.org) and participate in eclipse science projects.
- Secretary's Report — Our roster of paid

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(and complementary) club members is 156. A few who have not renewed will receive postcards instead of PAARAgaphs for April.

- Treasurer's Report — We are working with our accountant on the reporting process. The 2023 books are reconciled and closed, including year-end balances. Going forward, a monthly report will be sent, with income, expenses and balances. We discussed using Quicken online for tracking. This was approved by the board.
- VP / Program Chair Report —The April meeting is "Homebrew Night". So far, six members have offered to show off their projects. We will have a small gift card for participants. We will need some help for this meeting as a few key folks will not be present. Speak to Rob if you can help out.

#### Old Business

- Raffle adventures are ongoing: We still have a few forms to update with the State.
- We need your articles for the newsletter! Remember it's member stories that make PAARAgaphs, PAARAgaphs. Take a few minutes to type up your ham radio experience. See your work in print! We do have a story for April but not for May.
- Education Committee:
  - ◆ April's question: Who is ELI the ICEman?
  - ◆ Another future question: What is working split and when is it used? How do you know when someone is working split?
  - ◆ PAARA in the Park: Mark your calendar for Saturday, April 20th. We'll meet in the morning at Cupertino Memorial Park, as before. Our educational activity is building a highly portable HF vertical antenna. Thanks to Connie W6EFI for this design idea. The cost for parts is \$50 (before April 7), or \$60 on the day of the event, if available. Send an email to Ric [N6AJS@arrl.net](mailto:N6AJS@arrl.net) if you want to buy a kit.
- PAARA flyer: A new-ham flyer and a postcard with info on PAARA have been designed. We sent 72 postcards to new hams in the area. The flyer is ready for distribution.
- We have been contacted by a Silent Key's

estate, this one in Redwood City. Rob KC6TYD will travel to the site this week to evaluate gear and possibly remove the antenna.

- 900 MHz repeater status: We still have work needed at the repeater site, including new batteries for the UPS, and general site cleanup.
- We decided to update the PAARAgaphs editorial board. The editorial board members are: Bob Van Tuyt K6RWY, Jim Thielemann K6SV, Doug Teter KG6LWE and Bob Ridenour KN6YGN.
- PAARA Field Trip: The next club field trip will be to the Computer History Museum in Mountain View, in August. KC6TYD will look in to arranging a group rate and docent.
- Electronic Flea Market (EFM). PAARA is the event sponsor on May 19th! We need to help get the word out that the date has changed due to Mother's Day being on the 12th. We need some club members to volunteer in support of EFM. If interested, send an e-mail to Jim, [thielem@pacbell.net](mailto:thielem@pacbell.net).
  - ◆ An email was sent to the "usual" supporters, with volunteer positions listed.
  - ◆ The EFM Invoice for \$1,000 has been approved and paid.
- We need a new provider for club liability insurance before the end of April. We have quotes from Philadelphia Insurance Companies, and from risk-strategies.com, which is ARRL sponsored. We will review the coverages and make a decision before the deadline.
- Groups.io: We have set up a board members' mailing list on groups.io. It is working well.

#### New Business:

ARRL Field Day, June 22 and 23. KG6LWE is again our trusty coordinator: We will need to organize: City permit, antenna parties, truck rental, blue loos. We discussed whether to plan a class 2A (2 transmitters + GOTA) or class 3A operation.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ric Hulett N6AJS

# PAARA-In-The-Park

**April 20, 2024 Cupertino Memorial Park**

**10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.**



**Build a Vertical Antenna!**

Reserve yours now:

1. Make check out to PAARA and mail to Darryl Presley, 7536 Shadowhill Ln, Cupertino, CA 95014
2. Email Ric at [n6ajs@arrl.net](mailto:n6ajs@arrl.net) for a PayPal invoice.
3. Pay by cash at the March or April meetings.
4. Day of event purchase will be \$60 *while supplies last.*

## 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.....	Rob Fenn, KC6TYD	650-888-9060
	kc6tyd@gmail.com	
Secretary.....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	n6ajs@arrl.net	
Treasurer .....	Margaret Cooper, K6WEK	
	k6wek@arrl.net	

### Directors

Director ('24-'25) .....	Bob Ridenour, KN6YGN	650-575-4528
	bob_ridenour@yahoo.com	
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	wgyger@ix.netcom.com	
Director ('24) .....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
	dteter@wcv.com	
Director ('24) .....	Darryl Presley, KI6LDM	650 255-2454
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### Appointed Positions

Membership .....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	N6AJS@arrl.net	
Database.....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	N6AJS@arrl.net	
Station Trustee.....	K6OTA Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager .....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	
Badge Coordinator.....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
	dteter@wcv.com	
Historian Position .....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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	kc6tyd@gmail.com	
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Field Day Coordinator.....	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-743-7892
ASVARO Rep .....	Clark Martin, KK6ISP	
	kk6isp@sonic.net	
Webmaster.....	Shrikumar, KA6Q	
	webaron@gmail.com	
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QSL Manager.....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
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Member Profiles .....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Technical Tips.....	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	
Photographer .....	<i>Position Vacant</i>	

## VE Exams

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>

## Electronics Flea Market (EFM)

Sponsorship: Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations (ASVARO). The Electronics Flea Market is held at West Valley College, 14000 Fruitvale Ave, Saratoga.  
 Website: <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 website at <http://www.paara.org>. For more information. 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 7:00pm at Covington School, Los Altos.  
 Website: <http://www.fars.k6va.org>

## NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:00pm each month,  
 Repeater for member info 147.360. Contact [president@ncdxc.org](mailto:president@ncdxc.org). Website: <http://ncdxc.org>. YouTube content: "The Northern California DX Club Official Channel". Cohost of the International DX Convention.

## The 50MHz & Up Group of Northern California

This organization specializes in vhf + wak signal and microwave activities. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Time is usually 5pm for in person meetings, and 7pm for Zoom only meetings. In person meetings are held Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale. Always check the website, <http://50MhzandUp.org>, for correct information. Zoom information is also there.

## San Mateo Radio Club W6UQ.ORG

Meets, 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, January through November.  
 Tuesdays & Thursdays, [Directed] Net, 7pm, N6ZX 145.370Hz, -600KHz, PL107.2Hz  
 Contact: [SanMateoRadioClub@gmail.com](mailto:SanMateoRadioClub@gmail.com), Website: <http://W6UQ.org/calendar>

## SPECS

### Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System users Group

Meets each Monday 7:30pm and 8:00pm.  
 See: <https://specsnet.org/monday-night-net> for more info.  
 Contact: <https://www.specsnet.org/contact> or [board@specsnet.org](mailto:board@specsnet.org)

## 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+)  
 Website: <http://www.svecs.net> or contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

## 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.

Website: <http://wvara.org>. Contact: [info@wvara.org](mailto:info@wvara.org)

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



### 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>	Doug - KG6LWE
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Doug - KG6LWE
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

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

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777 Woodside Rd., Suite B, Redwood City, CA 94061

**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).

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UHF DMR	444.475 MHz +5 MHz CC1	Slot 1: Dynamic Slot 2: NorCal BM (31068)
33cm FM	927.225 MHz -25 MHz	PL 100 Hz

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## PAARA Badges

Badges can be ordered through our web- site <https://www.paara.org/pages/members-current.html>. Scroll to the bottom of the page and fill out the info. All badges will be mailed.

The cost for a badge is \$25.00.

### PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

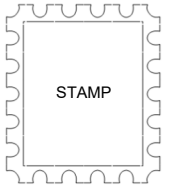
PAARAgaphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members. (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing). All ad rates listed are per issue.

- 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).
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# PAARAgaphs — April 2024

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 PAARAgaphs Newsletter  
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