

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 61, NUMBER 4, APRIL 2011

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAGraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 74 years as an *active* amateur radio club—Since 1937

CALENDAR



April 1, PAARA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

*****Location Change!*****

MENLO PARK COUNCIL CHAMBERS
701 Laurel ST., MENLO PARK

April 20, Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

All are welcome!

Palo Alto Red Cross
400 Mitchell Lane, Palo Alto

April 20, DEADLINE for
PAARAGraphs submissions.
Send items w/subject "PAARAGraphs" to
Robin Yee, KI6YTA@ARRL.net



**Don't miss
our next meeting!
APRIL 1, 2011**

*No Foolin' ~ We have a
great program lined up!*

PAARA's very own Website Manager

John Miller, K6MM

on his Dxpedition to St. Martin Island (PJ)
in the Caribbean Sea.

*(He may also give us an update on our
beautiful new website!)*

President's Corner

It's Spring at last, and we have just logged another successful Electronics Flea Market for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association. In addition, the Sun has been making lots of good UV for our ionosphere, leading to significantly improved propagation on HF.



Before getting to the usual business of these columns, I wanted to take a moment to talk about the earthquake and tsunami in Japan. As I write this, they are still in the midst of crisis on all fronts. There are often natural disasters around the world that affect millions of lives. This one, however, affected me in some personal ways. As many of you know, I have a long association with Japan, and I have many friends over there. For that reason, this has hit me hard, and I find myself scouring for news while I try to keep on top of the nuclear power plant failures in Fukushima. I can only imagine what it must be like being in the midst of that situation while aftershocks, some as large as magnitude 6, continue to roll through. When I spoke with my colleagues over there, they seemed very unclear on what their future might be like. Everyone I know over there is safe and accounted for. I'd like to ask you to keep Japan and her citizens in your thoughts and prayers as they try to put back the pieces of their disaster-ravaged country.

As I write this, we have just completed another successful PAARA sponsored ASVARO Electronics Flea Market at

(Continued on page 37) Pres Corner

**Be sure to check out the
ALL NEW PAARA WEB-SITE!**

www.paara.org

VE Exams, 3rd Saturday each month, 10:30AM, 145.23—PL=100Hz
 Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room
 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA
 contact: <http://amateur-radio.org/> or Al, WB6IMX@att.net

ELECTRONICS FLEA MARKET

Sponsorship by A.S.V.A.R.O.
 (Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations)
 Second Saturday of month, March–October, 6am–2pm
 Howard M. Krawetz, N6HM 650-856-9761
 Contact: <http://www.electronicsfleamarket.com/>

LIVERMORE SWAP MEET. Now in Robertson Park, Livermore, every first Sunday of the month. 7 am to 11:30 am. Free admission for buyers. For further info, see: www.larkswap.com or contact Ian Parker, W6TCP at swapmeet@livermoreark.org

PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Menlo Park Rec. Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See our website at <http://www.paara.org/> for more information.
 Or contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, KD6W@ARRL.NET, 650-325-8239

FARS Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:30pm
 contact: <http://www.fars.k6va.org/>

NCDXC Northern California DX Club

meets 2nd Friday 7:30pm each month,
 repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM
 contact: <http://ndxc.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

NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club

meets 1st Sunday each month
 contact: <http://www.norcalqrp.org/>

SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System
 meets each Monday 8:00pm on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz
 contact: <http://specsmnet.org/> or Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441

SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, San Carlos City Hall.
 Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.
 contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265(D), 650-595-5590 (N)

Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org

SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & WGUU/R, repeater 146.985-pl
 Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 442.425+ (pl 107.2) Thur.
 meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.
 contact: <http://www.qsl.net/sccara/> or Clark Murphy KE6KXO 408-262-9334
 ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)
 contact: <http://www.svecs.net/> or Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

TEARS The Elmer Amateur Radio Society

Dedicated to operational training, knowledge building &
 FCC exam testing. KV6R repeater under construction.
 Contact AA6T@ARRL.NET. Most members are Extra
 class or VE's. See QRZ dot com/kv6r for class info

WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223, while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.

VHF:	52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctess	UHF:	
	147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctess		441.35 (+5.0 88.5) ctess
	223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctess		1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctess

Meetings are 3rd Wednesday of every month.

contact: <http://wvara.org/>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, N6FFC@Juno.com, or N6FFC@ARRL.NET

American Red Cross, SANTA CLARA VALLEY CHAPTER

contact: <http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org/> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924
fhensley@Novell.com

(please send changes to PAARAGraphs editor: KI6YTA@arrl.net)

**Please contact Rick Melrose to
 settle your 2011 membership dues so
 you can keep receiving your
 PAARAGraphs.**

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Kristen McIntyre, K6WX	510-703-4942
	kristen@alum.mit.edu	
Vice President	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Secretary	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070

Treasurer	Ron Chester, W6AZ	408-243 2221
	ron@taxhelp.com	

Directors

Director ('12)	Rob Riley, KI6INR	650 799-1607 (cell)
	ki6inr@arrl.net	
Director ('11)	Byron Beck KG6UOB	408-369-1913
	kg6uob@arrl.net	
Director ('11)	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-246-7531
	w6nev@arrl.net	
Director ('11)	Larry Rebarchik N6DB	650-465-8210 (cell)
	n6db@arrl.net	

Appointed Positions

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
	k6rdm@arrl.net	
Chaplain	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Public Affairs	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Station Trustee W6OTX, K6YQT, W6ARA....		Gerry Tucker, N6NV
Station Trustee K6OTA....		Ron Chester, W6AZ
Property Manager	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Fund Raising Coordinator ..Bob Korte, KD6KYT	bob@rgktechsales.com	408 396 4745
Badge Coordinator ..Lynn Gentry, KG6JPV		
Historian	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinator ..Jim Rice, K6AK		650-851-2274
Ticket Master	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Field Day Coordinator ..Doug Teter, KG6LWE		650-367-6200
ASVARO Rep ..Rolf Klubo, N6NFI	n6nfi@arrl.net	650-856-2748
Webmaster ..John Miller K6MM	webaron@gmail.com	
Technical Coordinator ..Joel Wilhite, KD6W.....	kd6w@arrl.net	650-325-8239
QSL Manager ..Rob Riley, KI6INR (cell)	ki6inr@arrl.net	650 799-1607
Speaker Coordinator .. <i>Position Vacant</i>		

PAARAGraphs Staff

Editorial Board

Robin Yee KI6YTA	Kristen McIntyre K6WX
Ron Chester W6AZ	Vic Black AB6SO

Editor	Robin Yee, KI6YTA
	KI6YTA@arrl.net

Advertising	Ron Chester, W6AZ	408-243-2221
	ron@taxhelp.com	

Member Profiles	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Technical Tips	Vic Black, AB6SO

Photographer	Bill Young, K6VWO
	jdsinger@sbcglobal.net

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DeAnza College. (See photos on Page 41.) Our effort in March came quickly on the heels of the flea market we sponsored last October. We stocked up on more donuts than last time (three extra dozen!) and still sold out everything. While we did not sell out all of the spaces, we came very close, and we did very well selling our accumulated equipment donations as well. All-in-all we did very nicely. I'm looking forward to hearing the totals from our Treasurer, Ron W6AZ. This was also the first time we were required to collect sales tax information from the sellers, and that process went surprisingly smoothly. While it's not clear what the future obligations of the flea market staff will be in that area, it appears that we successfully cleared this first hurdle. I want to especially thank all of those who helped out, including Robin KI6YTA, Gerry N6NV, Byron KG6UOB, Doug KG6LWE, Ron KG6RLG, Ron W6AZ, Joel KD6W, Rolf N6NFI, Doña KI6DAR, Jim KI6KVV, Tom KF6LWZ, Svend KF6EMB, Seth KF6UZX, Clark KE6KXO, Marty W6NEV, Rebar N6DB, Leigh WA5ZNU, Yuki K6YUU, and Don KE6CFX. An additional thanks to Mikel KN6QI, president of ASVARO. If I missed your name, please just let me know, and I'll include you next month.

The solar activity we've seen recently is really great and we can expect even more. I've read reports of 10 meter FM contacts across the Pacific and into the Pacific Northwest from our area. SSB on 10 meters has also been working quite well with many people reporting nice DX contacts spanning several hops, implying F-layer propagation. We've also seen a solar flux index up in the 120 range and sunspot numbers in the hundreds. As I write this, the sunspot number is 47 and the solar flux index is 95. These numbers will be decreasing as a large sunspot group rotates out of view. I think that we can look forward to some good high frequency propagation for Field Day this June.

Speaking of Field Day, we had our first organizational meeting a couple of weeks ago at Doug KG6LWE's house. We plan to have some antenna work parties soon, and perform some inter-station interference testing at an upcoming Am-Tech Day. Stay tuned for more information about volunteering, or contact our FD coordinator, Doug directly.

Well, that's it for this month. I'm hoping to see you all at the April PAARA meeting, still at the Menlo Park City Council Chambers. Hopefully I'll be able to update you on the construction at our usual venue soon. Until then, take care.

73 ES GUD CONDX DE K6WX.

Board Meeting Minutes

16 March 2011

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:25 PM on the 16th of March, 2011. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Sec, Database), Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas), Rob Riley KI6INR (Dir), Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir), Larry Rebachik N6DB (Dir), Marty Wayne W6NEV (Dir), Vic Black AB6SO (Membership), and Robin Yee KI6YTA (Editor). A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report: Rick K6RDM reports that the minutes of the 16th of February, Board meeting had been previously submitted and approved. Rick had to be out of town the night of the March meeting. Marty W6NEV did a great job of covering the database post (and ticket and badge sales as well!) and reports that there were 2 new hams, several visitors and 6 new member sign-ups (and 7 renewals – he was busy!).

President's Report: Kristen K6WX reported that the March General Meeting went well, and likewise, the first ASVARO Electronics Flea Market of the year, which was sponsored by our club, was well attended and generated some income that will be very helpful for future projects. The Board wishes to thank all who lent a hand in setting up, monitoring and taking down the Flea Market. It's much appreciated.

The April 1st General Meeting will feature a presentation by our Website Manager, John Miller K6MM, on his Dxpedition to St. Martin Island (PJ) in the Caribbean Sea. No doubt he will also give us an update on our website and perhaps answer any questions the membership may have about it. Kristen went on to inform us of additional speakers scheduled for May and various months through the Fall.

The renovations to our meeting space at the recreation center are continuing so once again, the April meeting will be in the Council Chambers as in recent months.

We need to remind our members, if haven't already renewed for 2011, now's the time as this April issue will be the last Issue of PAARAGraphs that will be sent out to the 2010 roster without renewal.

Conversation turned to this year's Field Day – which is about 2-1/2 months away – not all that long when you consider how much planning and preparation has to go into it. Also, the Maker Faire is coming up in May and PAARA will be represented again this year, with a demonstration of modulation

(Continued on page 38)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Awarded by Action of the PAARA Board

Wally Porter K6URO Dec 2008
Steve Stuntz, K6FS Dec 2007

modes, transmitting CW, PSK31, RF and Audio across the room, all to be tested at AmTech Day upcoming.

At this writing, and barring further changes, July 31st appears to have been firmed up as the date for this year's PAARAShoot at the Santa Clara County Field Sports Park. Keep in mind that it will be a potluck and some coordination on what to bring will be appropriate.

Rebar N6DB mentioned that Stuart Phillips K6TU is putting together a noise-abatement team for PG&E. These are grass roots radio operators that will assist PG&E regarding power poles that are causing problems. Kristen pointed out that she and Kit Blanke, WA6PWW, are ARRL Tech Coordinators for this area and will be interested in developments in this program.

Byron KG6UOB told us that the San Jose State College's Amateur Radio Club W6YL (since 1929), is reactivating and runs a 75 meter net on the 2nd and 4th Sundays at 3815 kHz. Check in and they will QSL. And evidently Jack Burris K6JEB is trying to reactivate the ham club, K6BB, at UC Berkeley, and Kristen mentioned that W1MX at MIT is reactivating as well. Looks like a nice trend.

Treasurer's Report: Ron W6AZ reported that the March raffle did well and sales of club owned electronics at the Flea Market were excellent. So these along with membership renewals have put the club in good condition to participate in Field Day and other projects in planning and in progress.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM

Tri-City VE Group 2011 Test Sessions

Where: Hurricane Electric
48233 Warm Springs Blvd
Fremont, CA

When: Tuesday, April 12, 6:30 p.m.
Saturday, May 14, 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact
Rita, KI6SSQ@arrl.net, (510) 703-7090
or
Bernhard, AE6YN@arrl.net, (510) 364-0611
or visit
www.sbara.org.

Congratulations to the winners of the March 2011 Raffle



- 1st Prize: Bill Parsons / AF6AE / SignaLink USB Sound Card / Radio Interface
2nd Prize: Pat Sullivan / W6ABA / Yacht Boy 550PE / AM/FM Stereo / Shortwave Radio
3rd Prize: Kristen McIntyre / K6WX / Arrow VHF/UHF Yagi Backpack Antenna
4th Prize: Carl Costa / W6KGO / ICE Coaxial Lightning / EMP Suppressor / Thanks ICE!
5th Prize: Rita Derbas / KI6SSQ / Two FRS / GMRS Radios
6th Prize: Pat Sullivan / W6ABA / Clip-On Super Bright LED Light
7th Prize: Pat Sullivan / W6ABA / Stereo Headphones w/Deep Bass
8th Prize: Dan Curtis / N6WN / Pie #1 / Thanks Lodema!
9th Prize: Steve Stearns / K6OIK / Pie #2 / Thanks Lodema!

~~~~~  
**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT  
of PAARA's exciting monthly raffles!**

PAARA had a remarkable year in 2010! If you are not yet a member, please join PAARA now and experience fun 2011 events with the "friendliest club around."

K6AK Jim

## PAARA Exemplary Service Award

Gerry Tucker, N6NV 2005  
Rice Family 2006  
Jim K6AK, Lisa KG6KQS, Kyle KG6MSK  
Wally Porter, K6EURO 2007  
Vic Black, AB6SO 2008  
??? - 2009



**PAARAGraphs—April 2011**  
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## PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”

### April 2011 Raffle Prizes

#### FIRST PRIZE:

**Buddipole 4S1P Li-ion Nanophosphate**

**13.2 Volt / 2.3 Amp Hour Battery Pack    and    Cellpro Multi4 Charger**



- Lightweight Battery Pack with Power Pole Connectors
- Hours of Low Power Operation or 40 minutes at 100 Watts
- Internal Self-Resetting Polyswitch (to prevent short-circuits)
- Dimensions: 4.25" X 1.2" X 2.95" • Weight: 13 oz

Special Thanks to Chris & Budd  
of Buddipole for their help!



- Up to 4 Amp Charge Rate / New Powerful Microcontroller
- Firmware Offers Virtual Unlimited Access to Charging Parameters
- Highly Accurate Cell Monitoring and Balancing During Charging
- Input 10-16VDC / Backlit LCD Display / Power Pole Connectors
- Free Internet Upgradable Charge Control Software
- Includes 2 Wire Adapter for NiCd/NiMH/Pb Batteries
- Dimensions: 4.6" X 3.6" X 0.83"

#### SECOND PRIZE: Mirage B-34-G 2-Meter Power Amp



- Max Output Power 35 Watts / All Mode Compatibility (FM/SSB/CW)
- Drive Power / One to Eight Watts
- GaAsFET Receive Preamp 18 dB
- All Mode Compatibility (FM/SSB/CW)
- Supply Voltage 12-15 Volts DC / Fuse Fast Blow 8 Amp

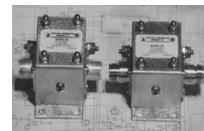
#### THIRD PRIZE: Rechargeable Desktop Label Maker



- Rechargeable Li-ion Battery with Cable
- Print Labels Horizontally or Vertically
- Customize Labels / Styles / Fonts / Box Styles / Underline
- QWERTY Keyboard Speeds Text Entry
- Prints Up to Ten Copies of a Label

#### FOURTH PRIZE: ICE / Coaxial Lightning / EMP Suppressor / HF / SO-239

*Donated by ICE COMMUNICATIONS — Many Thanks, ICE!*



#### FIFTH PRIZE: Two Uniden FRS/GMRS Radios w/batteries

#### SIXTH PRIZE: LiteFlare Emergency Roadside Flasher / 400 Hours

#### SEVENTH PRIZE: Super Bright LED Keychain

Since February 2003, **207 Radios**, including FOUR Elecraft K3s, a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1s have gone to Fellow Hams.

**Special Thanks to Bob, Howard, Jon, Mark, and everyone at HRO for their continued support!**

## June 25-26, 2011

### What is Field Day?

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

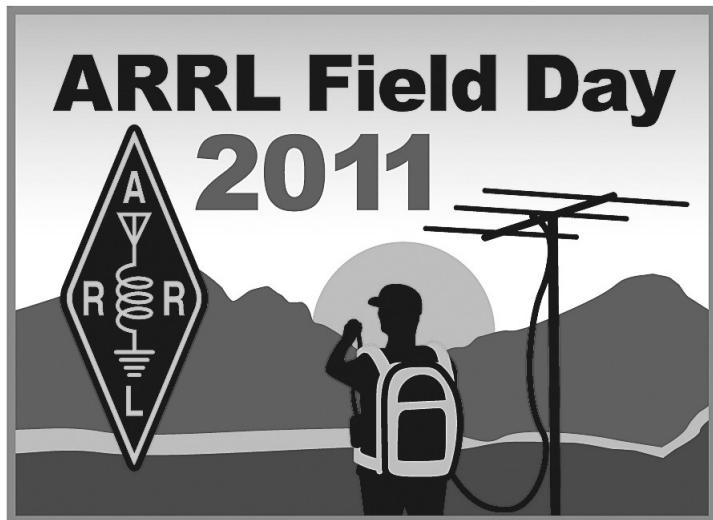
ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, more than 35,000 radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.



**www.arrl.org**

### What is the ARRL?

The American Radio Relay League is the 156,000+ member national association for Amateur Radio in the USA. ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

### What is Amateur Radio?

Often called “ham radio,” the Amateur Radio Service is a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. It is made from people who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but create whole new ways to do things.

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**SUNRISE... March 12th ASVARO Flea Market**

photos courtesy of Kristen McIntyre, K6WX



**SUNSET... March 5th Fremont Fox Hunt**

photo courtesy of Pamela Klivo, KG6EDX



## **Board Meeting Minutes**

**16 February 2011**

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:20 PM on the 16th of February, 2011. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Sec, Database), Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas), Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir), Larry Rebarchik N6DB (Dir), Marty Wayne W6NEV (Dir), Robin Yee KI6YTA (Editor), and Doug Teter KG6LWE (former VP). A quorum was present.

**Secretary's Report:** Rick K6RDM reports that the minutes of the 19th of January, Board meeting had been previously submitted and approved.

**President's Report:** Kristen K6WX reported that the February General Meeting was well attended and that the presentation by Tom Schiller N6BT regarding his antenna experiences proved to be of considerable interest, especially with the traditional Spring antenna season nearly upon us. The signing of his book, *Arrays of Light*, was also much appreciated.

Once again, **the post of Speaker Coordinator is still open** and we would like to find someone to wear the hat. But even so, Kristen has scheduled presenters from the March through May and September PAARA Meetings.

She mentioned that Hans Dieter, HB9EHP made a donation to the club in appreciation for her recommendation of Pacific Grove for a base of operation. It worked out very well for him and he was able to operate and make numerous contacts during his visit.

Kristen has been tracking the renovations to our meeting space at the recreation center and they seem to be progressing well and may even be ahead of schedule. In the meantime, our March meeting will again be in the Council Chambers where the February meeting was held.

Our readers are reminded to renew your membership for 2011 if you haven't already as the last Issue of PAARAGraphs that will be sent out without renewal is coming up.

PAARA will be the sponsor for the March 12th ASVARO Electronics Flea Market coming up. As the first-of-the-season flea market, and weather permitting, we can expect it will be very well attended. So if anyone has things to sell, they had best be gathering them together, as it is not far off. The board discussed the various tasks involved and who would be doing what. Kristen indicated that she could still use some help, so contact her if you can lend a hand. Similarly, the board noted that this year's Field Day is not too far off to begin preparations, and an overview of preliminary targets was discussed.

A provisional date, the 31<sup>st</sup> of July, has been selected for this year's PAARAShoot at the Santa Clara County Field Sports Park. It will be a pot-luck this year. Who will bring what will be coordinated when the event gets a little closer and a firm date is selected but one should mark the date on the calendar if planning to attend.

**Treasurer's Report:** Ron W6AZ reported that the January and February raffles could have used some more ticket sales but income from membership renewals helped to make up the shortfall.

PAARAGraphs is now appearing on our PAARA.org Club website , thanks again to John Miller K6MM.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

**Don't be an April Fool! Check out April's  
TERRIFIC RAFFLE PRIZES!**

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**Battery Advice from Don Frevert, KG6GLU**

My battery charger design worked well until one customer let the system sit many months in a warehouse. The battery was a sealed lead-acid type. The battery voltage sense circuit drawing millamps discharged the battery completely. Then the system was installed but the battery would not accept a charge. I called the head engineer at the battery company and learned that when a lead-acid battery is deep discharged the electrolyte is converted to water. **This is a non-reversible condition.** Nothing can be done to restore the batteries. So keep your batteries charged and do not discharge a lead-acid battery lower than 2 volts per cell.



**IDXC 2011 Is Nearly Here!**

The 62nd Annual International DX Convention sponsored by the Northern California DX Club will be held at The Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center in Visalia, California from April 15 - 17, 2011.

If you're a DXer or interested in any aspect of Ham radio, then IDXC is the place to be. Top DX operators from around the world will be there. You'll match those familiar callsigns with new faces, and shake hands with the person you have had a sched with for the past 10 years but never met.

Learn the secrets for big signals on top band. How to have fun adventures chasing IOTA, attend the contest forum, antenna forum, DX forum, or Contest Academy. There are seminars for everyone from the seasoned pro to the beginning DXer. Visit the Exhibit Hall, where you can talk to the people who design and use the best DX equipment. There will be great raffle prizes the likes of which top even the famed Dayton Hamvention. We're even planning to have an old-fashioned Swap Meet! And don't forget the YL's — we will have something special for them as well.

For more information, visit <http://www.dxconvention.org/>.

We'll be seeing you soon!

Your 2011 IDXC Co-Chairs,

John Miller, K6MM

Kevin Rowett, K6TD

**P.S. If you would like to help out with Raffle Tickets, Registration Table, Hospitality Suite, Magic Card Tricks, etc, contact John K6MM at [webaron@gmail.com](mailto:webaron@gmail.com).**



James Farrey  
Sales Manager

James Electronics Ltd  
1355 Shoreway Road, Belmont, CA 94002  
Tel: 650•592•6718 x 350 Fax: 650•802•1520  
Direct: 650•802•1511 jfarrey@jameco.com

w w w . j a m e c o . c o m

**YOUR AD HERE**  
**See the next**  
**page for details**

**The following badges are  
ready for pickup:**

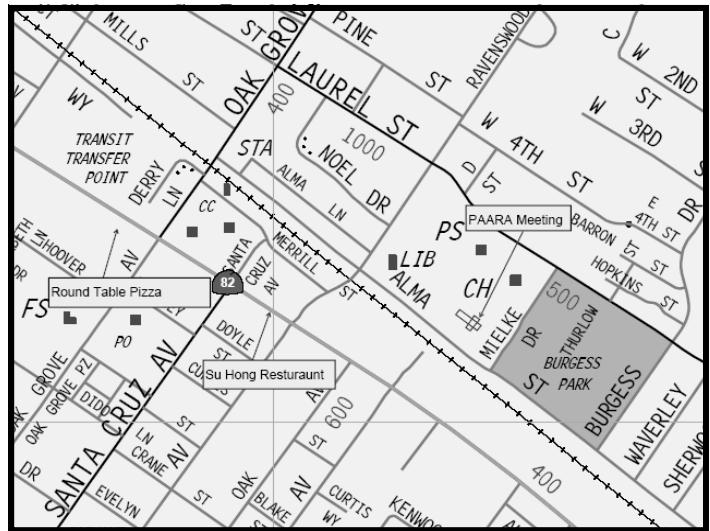
**KG6GYY Art; KF6SRD Chuck;**  
**KG6QKN Francis; K6FEW Frank;**  
**K6TSR George; N6GYR George;**  
**KG6ZWQ Henri; N6JCY Joani;**  
**KG6QKQ Kali; K6FTF Mark; K4AZY Mike;**  
**KJ6GBC Tony; & K6VVK Vincent**

If you would like to  
order a badge, see  
**Lynn Gentry, KG6JPV.**

## **PAARA Weekly Radio Net**

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

| <u>Week</u>     | <u>Control Operator</u> |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 <sup>st</sup> | Doug Teter - KG6LWE     |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> | Robin Yee—KI6YTA        |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> | Jack Pines - W1VSL      |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> | Marty Wayne - W6NEV     |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> | Mike Bray - N6MEB       |



**Directions to PAARA meeting:**  
<http://paara.org/meetings/>



Join us for pre-meeting eyeball  
**Eye Ball QSO**  
**gab & gobble**

Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own food order.  
**5:30 pm—at Su Hong Restaurant**  
**1039 El Camino Real**  
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*across from Kepler's Book Store  
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Walking distance from Caltrain!*

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 Menlo Park Rec Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$20.00 per calendar year,  
which includes one subscription to PAARAGraphs  
\$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).  
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Celebrating 74 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*

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#### Amateur Radio Technology Day

##### 2011 DATES

|           |    |
|-----------|----|
| APRIL     | 16 |
| MAY       | 14 |
| JUNE      | 11 |
| JULY      | 16 |
| AUGUST    | 27 |
| SEPTEMBER | 17 |
| OCTOBER   | 22 |
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| DECEMBER  | 10 |

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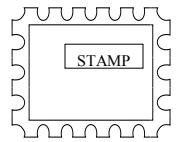
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# PAARAGraphs — April 2011

**Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA**



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PAARAGraphs Newsletter  
P.O. Box 911  
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