

K6YQT

PAARA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 52 NUMBER 1, January 2003

W6OTX



PAARAGraphs

Celebrating 66 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*
Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



CALENDAR

- January.....3, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- January.....8, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- January....17, **PAARA –FARS WINTER PARTY**
(see page 5)
- February....7, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- February...12, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
- March.....7, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- March.....12, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30

The ARRL has a code practice:

URL <http://www.pcpractice.com/CW/>
-Don KF6JMQ



PROGRAM

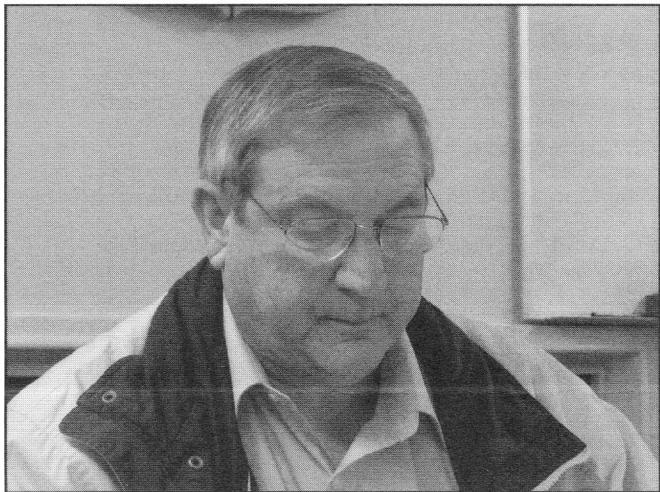
January 3, 2003 7:30 P.M.

program not known at press time

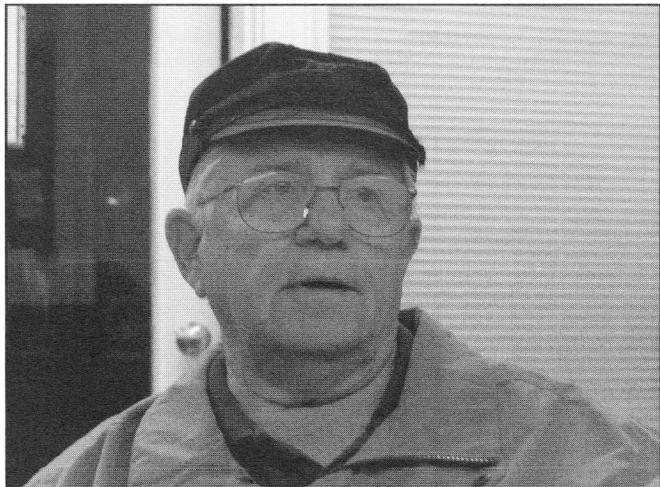
Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

at Su Hong Restaurant , 1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park
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 order and bill.

—PAARA Radio NET every Monday evening at 8:30 P.M., local time—
on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off



Continuing Treasurer
Bob Korte, KD6KYT



Continuing Board Member
Adrianus Schrauwen, W6AJS

Miscellaneous Dates

ELECTRONIC FLEA MARKET @ Foothill College

Second Saturday of month, March -October, 6 AM-2PM
(Perham Foundation Sponsorship has discontinued. Continued Flea Market will depend on finding a new sponsor)

PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

meets 1st Friday 7:30 each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,
 contact: Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843

FARS Foothills Amateur Radio Society

meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month,
 contact: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>.

NCDXC Northern California DX Club

meets 2nd Friday 7:30 each month, repeater for member info 147.360, Thur 8:00PM,
 contact: Bob Mammarella KB6FEC 408 729 1544.

NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club

meets 1st Sunday each month,
 contact: Jim Cates 3241 Eastwood Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821.

Perham Foundation (discontinued)

SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz, www.specsnet.org

contact: Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441 specs@svpal.org

SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

meets 3rd Thursday 7:30 each month, San Carlos City Hall.
 Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.
 contact:

SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU repeater 146.385+ Nets: 2m, W6UU, 7:30 Mon; 10m,
 28.385, 8:00 Thur. meets 2nd Mon each month.
 contact: Barbara Britten, KD6QEI at 293-3847

SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates WB6ADZ repeater (146.115 MHz+)
 contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association

operates W6PIY repeater 147.39+, 223.96, 441.875, 1286.2
 meets 3rd Wed every month.

contact: Glen Lokke Jr. KE6NBO at 408 971 8626, or glokke@pacbell.net

Disaster Services.

PALO ALTO CHAPTER, American Red Cross, www.paarc.org

400 Mitchell Lane
 Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM,
 HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite.
 contact: Mac Millian 650-688-0423. MACM@paarc.org

SAN JOSE CHAPTER, American Red Cross

contact: Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924, FSHENSLEY@NOVELL.COM

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: Al WB6IMX@att.net

Swap meet

LosPositas College, Livermore, 1st Sunday each month.

Contact: Cliff Kibbe (209) 835 6715 or Eliot Ross (925) 606 7710

(please send changes to PAARAGraphs editor: k6uro@arrl.net)

Instructions on how to subscribe to PAARA mailing list

Here are the steps in the long form:

- 1) go to <http://mailman.qth.net/>
- 2) click on: "To Subscribe to Lists Click Here!"
- 3) Find PAARA on list and click on it
- 4) enter your email address and pick a password
- 5) hit the "Subscribe" button

The short form of the instructions are:

- 1) go to <http://mailman.qth.net/> and follow the instructions.
 Andreas, N6NU

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911

Menlo Park, CA 94026

President	Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843 n6nu@arrl.net
Vice President	Jim Rice, K6AK.....(650) 851 -2274 k6ak@arrl.net
Secretary	Jay Melvin, WA6SBO.....(650) 726 4361 wa6sbo@arrl.net
Treasurer	Bob Korte, KD6KYT.....(650) 595 1842 RGK4U@aol.com
Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO.....(650) 366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com
Membership	Lisa Rice, KG6KQS.....(650) 851-2274 lisarice@earthlink.net
W6OTX Station Trustee	Gerry Tucker, N6NV.....(650) 326 4908 tucker.gerry@ssd.loral.com
K6YQT Station Trustee	Gerry Tucker, N6NV.....(650) 326 4908 tucker.gerry@ssd.loral.com
Property	Gerry Tucker, N6NV.....(650) 326 4908 tucker.gerry@ssd.loral.com
Badges	Don Trask, KF6JMQ.....(408) 251 6494 KF6JMQ@arrl.net
ARES Officer	Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM(650) 325 5484 N6PGM@arrl.net
Club Historian	Vacant?
Advertising	Bob Korte, KD6KYT.....(650) 595 1842 RGK4U@aol.com
Webmaster	Curt Kolovson, AE6EJ..... ae6ej@arrl.net

Board of Directors

Gerry Tucker, N6NV	(650) 326 4908	'03
Rolf Klubo, N6NFT	(650) 856-2748	'03
Adrianus Schrauwen, W6AJS	klibo@earthlink.net	'04

(see "Calendar" for Board meeting times, visitors welcome)

PAARAGraphs Staff

Editor	Wally Porter, K6URO.....(650) 494 7038 k6uro@arrl.net
Database	Don Trask, KF6JMQ.....(408) 251 6494 KF6JMQ@arrl.net
Columns	Vic Black, AB6SO.....(650) 366 0636 ab6so@smrn.com
	Jay Melvin, WA6SBO.....(650) 726 4361 wa6sbo@arrl.net

PAARAGraphs e-mail address: k6uro@arrl.net

Submit material for PAARAGraphs by the 15th
 Use WORD or rich text, ascii, .pub, .ps, or .jpg,

PAARA Website: www.paara.org

PAARA WEB

Thanks to Andreas Junge, N6NU

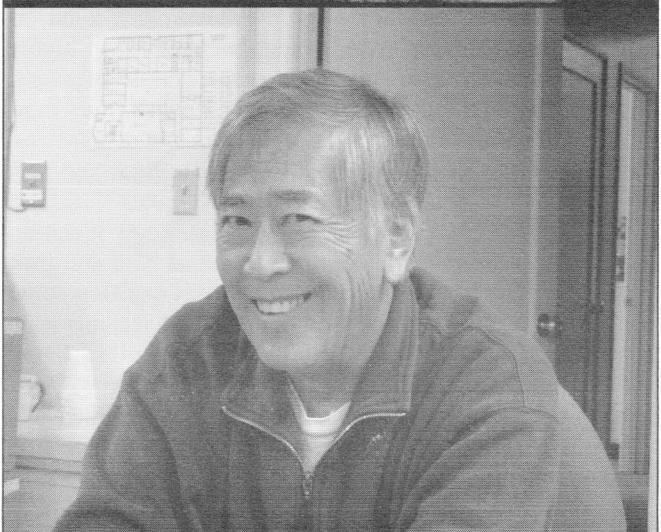
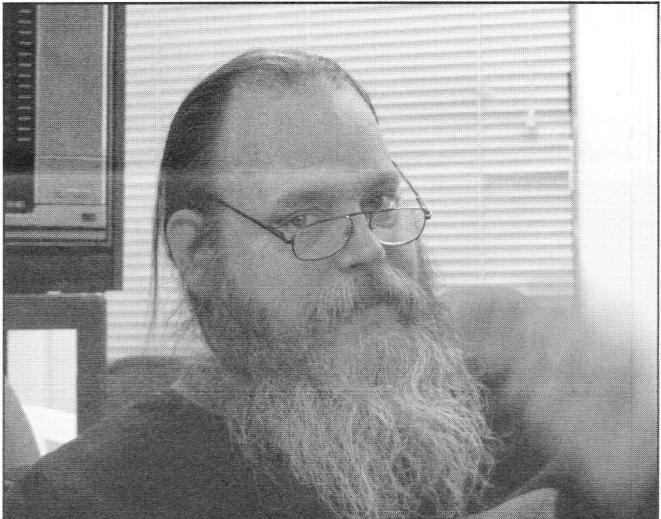
and

Curt Kolovson, AE6EJ, Webmaster

PAARA has a new web site. Check it out.

WWW.paara.org

visitors
to
December Board Meeting



"ARRL The Early Years" -

(Reprinted courtesy February 1964 QST)

submitted by Don Trask, KF6JMQ

How was it to operate an amateur station in 1914? There were few rules, broad spark signals, limited range -- but a world of enthusiasm. Once the first crude receiving equipment showed some response, it was quite an occasion to call in the family to hear the new scientific wonder. Equipment was hard to come by, and putting a transmitter together for the first two-, ten-, then thirty-mile contact was a signal accomplishment. But we amateurs were masters of a new art, explorers in a new realm of communications. There was a challenge, as today, to find and work new stations, and the aim was success in contacts just beyond the very limited local horizons.

Until the formation of the League, early amateur operating appears to have been largely without direction. There was some ragchewing, some experimentation, some sending of messages, the inevitable search for DX. But there was no unity of purpose, no useful organization of amateurs beyond the horizons of the local radio club.

At the urging of Hiram Percy Maxim, 1WH, the Radio Club of Hartford voted at its April 6, 1914 meeting to create a "relay committee," the members to be named by the club president, David L. Moore, 1WK. Though the minutes are not specific, this committee likely consisted of Maxim, Clarence D. Tuska, 1WD, William W. Howe, "SNK", and Moore, with R. C. Palmer, "HKG," being added later. Maxim's concept was that of a national association of competent amateur operators, joined together to relay messages beyond individual station range. Accordingly, the original name suggested, "The American Amateur Radio League," was passed over and "The American Radio Relay League" was adopted. The committee set right to work, and at the club meeting of May 18, 1914*, passed around application forms for membership in the new organization. These forms were also sent to every amateur in the country of which the committee could obtain knowledge. Response was overwhelming. By August there were two hundred members from all sections of the country, and by October, four hundred.

ARRL was thus born on the relay principle. By August 1914, the earliest successful relay routes were formed -- Hartford to Buffalo, and Boston to Denver. Soon they covered much of the eastern United States. The success of these relay routes was in no small measure due to the availability of a special 425-meter wavelength secured from the Department of Commerce by Mr. Maxim on behalf of the League with its use granted under special authority to selected amateur stations. Applications were screened by the League; if the applicant had good apparatus and operating techniques, and appeared to be an asset to the relay system, his request was endorsed and forwarded to the Department. "ARRL The Early Years" - (Reprinted courtesy February (Continued on page 7, Early Years)

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Soap Box Operations

by
Jay Melvin, WA6SBO

CW (Continuous Wave), also known as the International Morse Code, has always been central to HF, contest, and weak signal communications. But because it is so difficult to master, learning it as part of the code requirement has also always been controversial.

I remember my Elmer, the late Phil Beisel K6PG, told me how he taught sailors CW before WWII. A large diagram of a QWERTY keyboard was shown on a pull down chart at the head of a classroom full of new recruits. Each student had a typewriter in front of him. By design, the students had no touch typing or CW experience, but the really odd thing was that there were no characters inscribed on any of the keys and there was no description of any kind available for the CW code. The students sat at their typewriters, wore earphones and heard a machine generating CW. Phil stood beside the QWERTY chart with a pointer in his hand, and when the students heard a letter, say "P," he pointed to that key on the chart and told the class to hit that key on their typewriters (in the case of a "P," with their right pinkies). After three weeks of such drill, students graduated as touch typists with code speeds of 40 to 60 Words Per Minute. The problem was that those CW operators had to read the typed page to learn what they'd copied, and since five-letter encrypted (non-plain text) groups were the order of the day, there wasn't much incentive to use their newly acquired skills to become Hams. In the military, those pages of encrypted nonsense were passed on to decryption technicians and the need-to-know limitation was sustained. But after three weeks of drill, wouldn't we all like to copy at 50 WPM?

My earliest CW learning tactic was bad. I'll tell you what it was, but please don't copy me. From the printed page of my Cub Scout manual I memorized that the letter S was three dots (I probably said, "dits") and T was dash or dah and so on. Then when I heard "ST" in CW over my

receiver, my translation process involved thinking that dit space dit space dit space space dah space was "ST". Laborious, tedious and slow and boring.

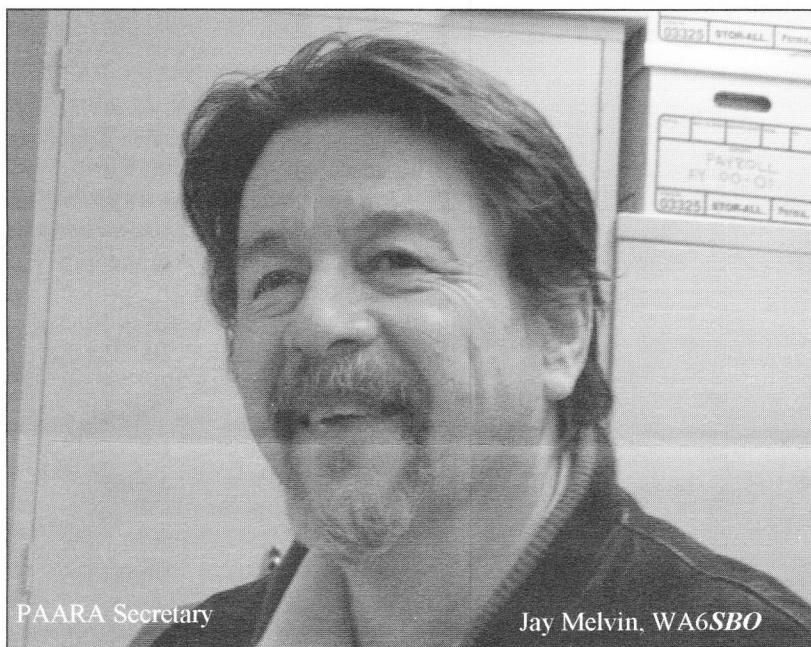
When I was trying to upgrade my CW skills in the 1960's, the Farnsworth Method was presented on a pair of 78 RPM phonograph records. With that I learned Morse Code at eighteen words per minute, slowly spaced at a throughput rate of about eight WPM. Those exercises with the Farnsworth Method finally brought my CW up to speeds required to pass the Extra Class test of 20 WPM, which I took at the Tesla Institute's Amateur Radio Club in Colorado Springs in 1995 (subsequently, the Extra Class CW requirement has been reduced to 5 WPM). No one said CW was easy, at least it wasn't for me. But then, after finally getting to 20 WPM, something strange happened. I began to hear "words," not code, and that was a monumental conceptual breakthrough.

I suspect that today, a modified approach to learning CW with the Farnsworth Method would be better. What if Hamics (Ham mnemonics) like QTH, QRZ and QRU, as well as State name abbreviations and conjunctions like ES and so on, were

taught at sixty WPM and literally heard as "digitally spoken words?" This might be a much better way to learn. After all, we are genetically endowed with the ability to learn speech aurally as sounds, phonemes and syllables. CW then, as canned QSOs, contest style, could be learned at higher speeds, just as we learn to converse in natural languages. After all, CW is a language like spoken English, only digitized, and it seems to me that it should be taught at conversational speed, not so slowly that it becomes tedious and boring.

As old as the CW code is (over 100 years, now), it continues to be controversial as learning it remains hard and time consuming. But how come? Please give this question some thought and consider sharing your opinions and insights with the readers of this column by helping me to compile a list of pointers and techniques for successfully learning CW. Briefly, tell us about your experiences, what worked and what didn't. I hope this conversation becomes an interesting on going topic for this column's readers.

WA6SBO@ARRL.NET



Twelve Reasons to go to the PAARA/FARS HOLIDAY PARTY

Date: Friday, January 17, 2003

Time: (6 p.m.-No host bar opens) (7 p.m.-Dinner served) (8 p.m.-Program begins)

Where: Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 No. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View, CA Phone # 650-962-1014

1. Tom Schiller, N6BT (Dxpedition and Force-12 Antenna Guru) is the speaker. He is a World Class Dxpedition leader, and designs some of the best antennas available. His talk will include highlights of exotic DX locations and travelogue (with full screen pictures), antennas, contests and operating tips. DO NOT MISS THIS PRESENTATION, because you WILL be hearing about it for a long time to come.
2. If you are a member and entered your call sign on the food selection form (below) you will automatically be entered in the drawing for \$600 worth of prizes.
3. The food was great last year, and with a choice of: (B) Prime Rib of Beef au jus, (S) Broiled Salmon Lemon Beurre Blanc, (C) Breast of Chicken Florentine, or (V) Vegetarian Dish--what could be better!
4. You may meet someone that becomes one of your best friends, and do lots of activities with them throughout next year. This happened to our family! The 6-7 p.m. open bar chat period and 7-8 p.m. dinner will give you this opportunity.
5. Work some DX from Michael's parking lot. The salt water is not far away!
6. It is a good opportunity to show your support to PAARA and the officers, directors, and volunteers that help make our club SPECIAL.
7. Get your New Year off to a FUN start!
8. Enjoy a safe, fun, and relaxed night out with your loved one.
9. Challenge the youngest PAARA member to an arm wrestling contest.
10. No regrets for having missed the best HAM party of the year.
11. We want to see ALL of our members attend! **RSVP by January 9!**
12. PAARA and FARS members are really nice people, sharing a common interest.
PAARA+FARS+Schiller+Food Drink+Prizes+YOU=FUN.

All we need is YOU!

73 de K6AK Jim

PAARAGraphs January 2003
 Celebrating 66 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*

PAARA-FARS

Winter Banquet

The date of the banquet is

January 17, 2003.

Michael's at Shoreline, 2960 No. Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View, CA Phone # 650-962-1014

The charges for the three entrees will be:

- (B)Roast Prime Rib of Beef, au jus \$31.50;
- (S)Broiled Salmon, Lemon Beurre Blanc \$28.50;
- (C)Breast of Chicken, Florentine, \$26.50.

All the costs worked out to be over an even dollar and rather than go up a full dollar, it was decided to round up all prices to \$.50 for simplicity in calculations. Incidentally there is a vegetarian dish (V) available for \$21.00.

We will have Cheese Cake for dessert the same as last year.

Each entree is served with seasonal greens, "intermezzo" pasta, fresh vegetables, potato du jour, french rolls and coffee. This is the same as last year.

Door prizes will be available to Hams, i.e. only Hams will get tickets for the drawing.

If more information is needed, please contact

Mark Hardy, KG6GRR by email mhardyca@attbi.com or phone at 408-243-0701 or you can contact Dick Baldwinson N6ATD@arrl.net.

The signup sheet follows:

For a map and update information go to: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org/events/banquet.shtml>

Winter Banquet 2003 Signup

Please fill in all names so we can avoid listing them as "Unnamed Person, Beef."

Name and Call

Meal Choices	Amount
(B,S,C,V)	

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Total

Send your check payable to FARS, to:

FARS, c/o Frank Weiss K6FCW, 109 Stratford Court, Mountain View, CA 94040

PAARAGraphs January 2003
Celebrating 66 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

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(Continued from page 3, Early Years)

1964 QST) Part II: ARRL Goes Independent As has been reported, the League and the Hartford club came to a parting of the ways in January 1915, in a dispute pinned to expenditures of funds by the League -- but perhaps due more to the fact that the tail was now starting to wag the dog. At the February 1, 1915, meeting of the club, Maxim and Tuska resigned their memberships, and Moore resigned as club president; Maxim announced that he had removed the League from all influence of the Club. And indeed, he had. On January 29, 1915, the Connecticut Secretary of State recorded the incorporation of the League under the following three articles:

"Article 1. The name of said corporation shall be The American Radio Relay League Incorporated.

"Article 2. The purposes for which said corporation is formed are the following, to wit: The promotion of amateur radio telegraphy, the organization of amateur radio telegraph stations, the promotion and regulation of amateur radio inter-communication, and the relaying of messages from station to station, and the printing and publishing of documents, books and pamphlets necessary or incidental to any of the above purposes.

"Article 3. The said corporation is located in the town of Hartford and State of Connecticut. Incorporators were Maxim, Tuska and an attorney, Lawrence A. Howard.

Early records are sketchy, to say the least, but it appears that the original committee, with the addition of Howard, formed a self-perpetuating Board of Directors which managed the League until the adoption of a formal constitution in 1917. True, there was a bulletin to members in early 1915 which proposed the formation of a board of control with one to four representatives from each state (depending upon the number of members in each); but no evidence can now be found that this plan ever developed, and later references to decisions of the League always mentioned the "directors at Hartford."

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Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

QSO January 7th
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 order and bill.

6 pm— at Su Hong Restaurant
1039 El Camino Real
Menlo Park
—across from Kepler's Book Store—

PAARA Radio NET
every Monday evening
8:30 P.M., local time
on the

145.230 -600 MHz repeater

PL tone off

control operators

1st Mon KG6ILA, Pinkney Foster
2nd Mon N6NU, Andreas Junge
3rd Mon AD6FX, Jon Zweig
4th Mon AA6PA, Bill Rausch
5th Mon tba

PAARAGraphs Ad Rates

PAARAGraphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members.
(short personal ads remain free for members in good standing).

All ad rates listed are per issue only.

1. 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).

2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association.

The PAARAGraphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association. All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. Give payment and copy to Bob Korte

PAARA · Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association · P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 940260911

• Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA•
• Radio NET every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230-600 MHz repeater, PL tone off•

Membership in PAARA is \$12.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAGraphs, \$6 for additional family members (no newsletter).
Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.
Permission is granted to reprint from this publication with appropriate source credit.

PAARAGraphs January 2003



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

WINTER BANQUET

January 17th

Korsak, Andy KR6DD
504 Lakemead Way
Redwood City, CA 94062-3919

Webb site for propagation information:
www.arrl.org/w1law/prop/

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