

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 73, NUMBER 7, July 2022

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAGraphs



The Official Newsletter of the
Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
Celebrating 85 years as an active amateur radio club—Since 1937



Software Antenna Modeling

Fred Cirera, W6BSD

In this presentation, Fred will demonstrate the software he uses to design or learn how antennas work. During the presentation, we will build an antenna and see how changing some parameters affects the antenna's radiation pattern and impedance. Using different software, we will figure out the most efficient way to send all the power from the radio to the antenna.

Fred (W6BSD) is a recently licensed ham; he got his general and extra license in 2017. His ham radio interests range from rag-chewing on HF to digital radio. Fred enjoys tinkering, building, and experimenting. Since day one, ham radio has been a constant learning journey about electronics and antennas.

This meeting will be a Hybrid Meeting Zoom and In Person

Time: July 8, 2022 07:00 PM Pacific Time
Please check <https://www.paara.org> for
Zoom Details

Upcoming Events

July 8***	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM In-Person and Zoom Meeting *** Zoom & IRL Meeting
Aug 5	
Sept 2	
July 20	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details!
Aug 17	
Sept 21	
Cancelled	Electronic Flea Market

President's Corner

July 2020

As I sit here trying to pack for my trip to Las Vegas, as mentioned last month, I realized I need to get this column done during the early part of my trip so I better get a head start on drafting it. You'll have to wait until next month to see how the trip turned out. In the meantime, here is a tease....



Unless you've been under a rock, you'll know June 25-26th was Field Day weekend. By the time you read this issue of PAARAGraphs, the event will be, as they say, in the bag. I hope everyone had a great time getting on the air from wherever you were.

(President — Continued on page 3)



PAARA Tower Team In Action Again

Doug Teter, KG6LWE

As most of you know, our former Pacific Division Director, Jim Tiemstra, K6JAT, passed away unexpectedly at the end of October 2020. His passing elevated our own Kristen McIntyre, K6WX to Pacific Division Director.

As the unofficial lead of PAARA's ad-hoc tower team, I received an e-mail in the middle of July of last year from Kristen, K6WX, writing from the ARRL board meeting in Newington.

Jim's widow Lilah Greene, KE6EHD had visited the ARRL board, and in the course of that visit, she discussed dismantling Jim's station with Kristen. She mentioned needing to take down his tower and Kristen suggested that we might be able to help, putting her in touch with me.

I exchanged e-mails with Lilah, who was grateful and relieved to have somewhere to turn for this. I had several things going on at that time, and Lilah wasn't in a hurry, so we agreed to put the job off for a while.

As spring of this year rolled around, Lilah contacted me again, and we agreed to find a date in late March that worked. I

contacted "the usual suspects," mostly the group I call the "Field Day Faithful," the guys that work on our antennas and put them up for Field Day.

Following a tradition established many years ago by Gerry, N6NV, this team has taken down many towers and antennas in similar situations and has become quite proficient at the process.

After a bit of back and forth, we agreed on Saturday, March 19th. Of course, after watching the weather all week, it looked very unfavorable for our planned day, so we postponed it until April 23rd.

That Saturday, the team, consisting this time, of Jim, K6SV, Rebar, N6DB, Gary, KI6HIG, Clark, KK6ISP, Mikko, AB6RF, Christopher AI6KG, Darryl, KI6LDM, and I all made the trek to Jim and Lilah's QTH in the Oakland hills.

Jim's tower is a US Tower Model TX438, a 2-section triangular, a little more than 20 feet tall when fully nested. On top was a 5-element Mosely TA-54-XL tri-bander with a discone above it, and a small log periodic below it.

While I positioned my truck and trailer on the grass-covered hillside, with the help of Jim and his new

(Take Down — Continued on page 3)



Fig. 1 — Lowering the Tower



Fig. 2 — Removing the Antennas

(Take Down — Continued from page 2)

Bronco and a tow strap, Clark set to work with his battery-powered weed whacker to clear the knee-high weeds from around the concrete tower base.

In relatively short order, we had loosened the bolts holding the tower upright, and lowered it with the raising fixture's hand-crank winch, to the point we could reach the antennas while standing on the trailer. This lined up so well that none of the ladders I brought even came off the truck.

We proceeded to disassemble the lower elements of the beam, which allowed us to lower the tower to the point where we could reach the boom to mast clamps and the other two antennas, all of which we removed from the mast before lowering the tower onto the trailer.

After that, we wrestled with the BIG bolts holding the tower base and the raising fixture to the concrete block that kept the tower upright. To finish the job, we cut the half-inch bolts flush with the concrete and lashed everything down for transport.

Thanks to the skill of the team, and the fact that the tower was in good shape, and very well installed, we had everything safely down and ready to tow away in a little more than 3 hours, without any significant problems. Well done guys! Another fun day in the sun for the PAARA Tower Team.

We'll be back in action soon to answer a request from a ham in San Jose. Watch for more on that as we get closer.

If you'd like to join us for one of these projects, please contact me at dteeter@wcwi.com. We're always looking for good hands.

Thanks again to the rest of the team.

de KG6LWE

(President — Continued from page 1)

I also hope there was a large turn out at our event in Ringstorf Park. Please join me in congratulating Rob, KC6TYD, for working hard to find a place where we could have an event like this! I guess, the third time's a charm with respect to finding a location we could use for Field Day. If you did work Field Day, please remember to show the "Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association", not PAARA as they will not know what group that is, as your club when you file our online form with the ARRL. That way, PAARA will receive points for your participation in Field Day.

As for myself, I was still in LV camping and wheeling offroad. Again, you'll have to check next month's column to see what I ended up doing. I can say that my IC-7100 and antennas made the trip with me to LV.

I had a lengthy conversation with Gerry, N6NV, earlier in the month. Sadly, Gerry reported that Bob, one of his brothers, passed away in early June. For those who don't know Bob, he was the primary brother at the "farm" where lots of PAARA equipment removed from various SK's has been kept over the years. His big love was of Jaguar cars. He knew them inside and out and amassed quite the collection of cars and parts. As I did, please give Gerry your condolences for his loss. Bob was a good friend of PAARA and will be missed.

Did you know that registration for Pacificon 2022 is open? In fact, it's been open for a month or so. The event runs October 14th through 16th at the San Ramon Marriott. Information and registration can be found at <https://www.pacificon.org/home>. As some may not know, Pacificon is the only Hamvention in the area and well worth attending, especially on Saturday, though there's an all-day antenna forum on Friday. As in the past several years, PAARA is hosting the special event station. We'll need lots of members to help setup, run, oversee the operations, and take down the station on Sunday. Please reach out to Mikko, AB6RF, to lend your assistance to this important event. I hope to see everyone there!

73, Jim K6SV

Get on the air to keep the airwaves alive!

June 2022 Board Meeting Minutes

Present: President Jim Thielemann K6SV, Vice President Rob Fenn KC6TYD, Secretary Ric Hulett N6AJS, Treasurer Bob Korte KD6KYT, Board Members Darryl Presley KI6LDM, Joel Wilhite KD6W, Doug Teter KG6LWE, Walt Gyger K6WGY. A quorum was present.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm

President's Report: I am really pleased by the number of people who have stepped up to fill our open positions. Congratulations to the club membership for taking on these tasks. It is the members who make the club, and we have some great people. Jim leaves for Las Vegas NV tomorrow. Who knows when he will return? He is retired, and doesn't have a hard and fast appointment any time soon. Rob KC6TYD will conduct the July meeting.

Secretary's Report: We added new PAARA members Ben Glick K6UBF and Alexander Kreis N6WDY. Welcome to the club!

Treasurer's Report: We have made payments to Eagle Signs (badges), Ric Hulett (Postage), and Shiela Foley (accounting), and received funds from equipment sales, and raffle ticket sales.

VP / Program Chair Report: Next guest speaker is Fred Cirera, W6BSD. Check the PAARA website for more information

There was no raffle at the May meeting.

Old Business.

Members: We have an ongoing need for PAARAGraphs articles! Your fellow club members want to know what you have been doing with Ham Radio. Please pen an article, even a brief note,

and send to Jim K6SV, our intrepid editor.

Storage at Gerry N6NV QTH: We will make a work party at Gerry's when he is ready for us. Significant amount of PAARA items are stored there. We are waiting for Gerry's signal to visit the site with a work party.

PAARA equipment sales: No new sales this month, some prices will be adjusted. Check the PAARA website to see what we have available.

Field Day: June 25, Rengstorff Park, Mountain View, 9:00 AM until Sunset.

We discussed the Field Day event at some length. We will have two stations (Class 2A) with a GOTA station planned. Burgers, hotdogs and sodas/water will be provided.

Our gear complement will be: IC7300, two K3S, Buddipole, BuddiHex, and a longwire for the GOTA.

We will work to gain bonus points: QSOs on battery power, copying the ARRL Field Day message, etc.

Please confirm your attendance plans with Rob KC6TYD@gmail.com.

New Business

We discussed acquisition of video equipment for the Zoom portion of club meetings.

Joel KD6W has a camera, switch and HDMI cables. The board voted to acquire this gear from Joel. The board also voted to purchase an HP laptop as the computer for the Zoom meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
 Ric Hulett N6AJS
 PAARA Secretary

July Raffle Prizes

1st Place PackTenna 9:1 UNUN Random Wire Antenna



2nd Place RF Adaptor kit



3rd Place Compact First Aid Kit



4th Place Pocket Note Book



PAARAGraphs — July 2022
Celebrating 85 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937

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
	energyconserved@sbcglobal.net	
Treasurer	Bob Korte, KD6KYT	408 396 4745
	bob@rgktechsales.com	

Directors

Director ('21-'22)	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	650-743-7892
	dteter@wcwi.com	
Director ('21).....	Darryl Presley, KI6LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@arrl.net	

Appointed Positions

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	energyconserved@sbcglobal.net	
Chaplain	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
	K6RDM@yahoo.com	
Public Affairs	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Station Trustee W6OTX, W6ARA....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Station Trustee K6YQT..	Doug Teter, kg6lwe	650-743-7892
Station Trustee K6OTA...	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Badge Coordinator	Doug Teter, kg6lwe	650-743-7892
	dteter@wcwi.com	
Historian Position	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Raffle Coordinators	Rob Fenn, KC6TYD,	rtyd@aol.com
	Shrikumar, KA6Q	
	shri.paara@enabletry.org	
Field Day Coordinator ...	Doug Teter, kg6lwe	650-743-7892
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	Rob Fenn, kc6tyd	650-888-9060

PAARAGraphs Staff

Editorial Board		
Bob Van Tuyl K6RWY	Kristen McIntyre k6wx	
Ron Chester w6AZ	Vic Black AB6SO	
Joel Wilhite, kd6w	Jim Thielemann k6sv	
Editor	Bob Van Tuyl, K6RWY	408 799-6463
	rrvt@sw.com	
Back Up Editor	Jim Thielemann, k6sv	408-839-6815
	thielem@pacbell.net	
Advertising.....	Walt Gyger, K6WGY	408-921-5901
	walt@tradewindsaviation.com	
Member Profiles	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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

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.electronicsfleamarket.com/>

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st 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.para.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.k6ya.org>

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month,
Repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM
Contact: <http://ncdx.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>

San Mateo Radio Club W6UQ.ORG

Meets, 3rd Friday, January through November
Tuesdays, [Directed] Net, 7pm, N6ZX 145.370Hz -600KHz PL107.2Hz
Contact: <http://W6UQ.org/calendar>

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 3rd 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

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 2nd 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

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 ctss UHF:
147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctss 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctss
223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctss

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

**American Red Cross,
Santa Clara Valley Chapter**

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

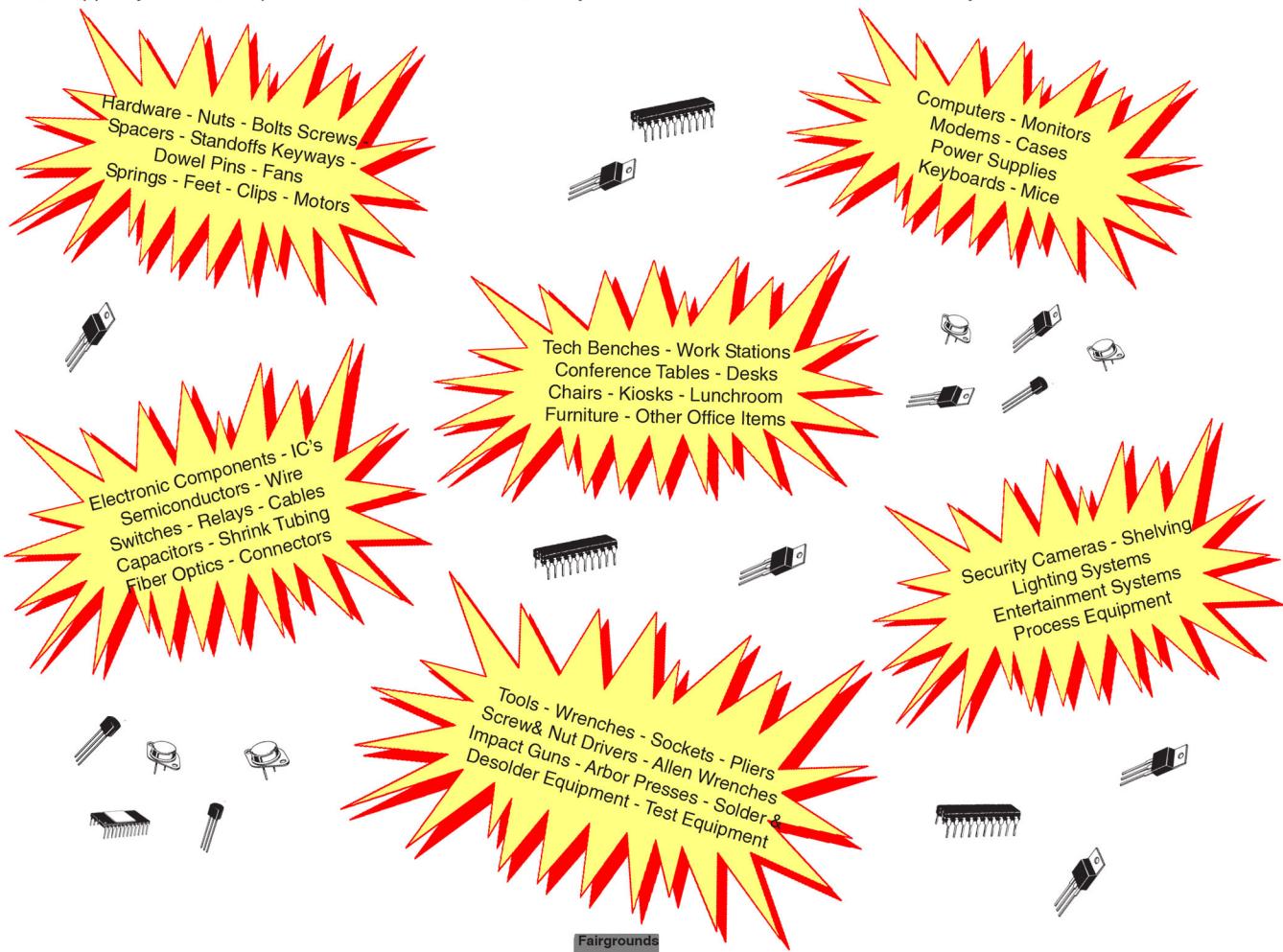
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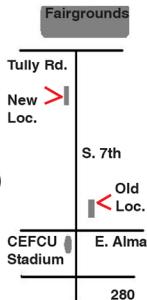
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2 nd	Vacant
3 rd	Ric - N6AJS
4 th	Rob - KC6TYD
5 th	Rob - KC6TYD

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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 PAARAGraphs \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).

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PAARA Badges

In the absence of in person meetings, you can still order a badge from the Club's website, PAARA.org. Go to the bottom of the membership page to order. Badges will be mailed to purchasers, at an additional cost of \$4.95 until we can meet face to face again.

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.**

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 per issue).

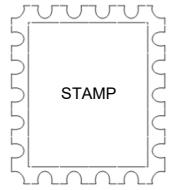
2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$14.00-quarter page, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

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 Walt Gyger, K6WGY.**

PAARGraphs — July 2022

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA



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PAARGraphs Newsletter
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