

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 60, NUMBER 3, March 2010

K6OTA

K6YQT

PAARAGraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 73 years as an *active* amateur radio club—Since 1937

CALENDAR



March 5, PAARA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Menlo Park Rec Ctr
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

March 17, Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Palo Alto Red Cross
400 Mitchell Lane

March 17, DEADLINE for April PAARAGraphs submissions

Send items for publication to Robin Yee, KI6YTA,
at KI6YTA@ARRL.net, or Paul Petach, KI6QXV,
at paaraeditor@gmail.com

Support the Red Cross— They support us!

As a thank you to the Bay Area Chapter of the Red Cross, who gifted PAARA with a fabulous Tower Trailer, won't you please consider making a donation to the Red Cross? Ron Chester has agreed to match the first \$150 donated with his own check of \$100. Checks should be made out to "**American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter**." In the memo line write **For: Response Communications**.

Give the check to a club officer at the meeting or mail to **Aaron Litwin, American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter, 85 2nd St. 8th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94105.**

Send a note to Ron regarding your donation and we will see what happens. Thanks one and all!! de, Gerry N6NV

President's Corner

February is fading quickly and giving way to early spring, and with the change in weather that will soon be here, we should see better propagation and more DX stations on the air.



As I write this column, it is the weekend before the ARRL International DX Contest, CW. This, along with the CQ World Wide DX Contest, is one of my favorites. You can find the contest rules at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2010/intlidx.html> on the ARRL website. While you are almost certain to read this after the CW version of the contest, the Phone version is coming up on March 6-7, starting in the late afternoon (0000 UTC), just before the next PAARA general meeting. This is an HF, "all band" contest, with an easy exchange for us of a signal report followed by your state. The DX station sends their signal report and power in Watts. I always think of this as the "59-kilowatt"

(Continued on page 23) Pres Corner



Welcome New PAARA Members!

Lee Carlton, KG6EPQ, San Jose
Harry Cline, AI4ZI, Sunnyvale
Daniel Curtis, N6WN, Newark
Rita Derbas, KI6SSQ, Newark
Ralph Hunt, AG6Q, Mountain View
Doyle Kisler, KG6YUN, Gilroy
David Ranch, KI6ZHD, Santa Clara
Steve Stearns, K6OIK, Mountain View

VEF —, 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. Krawitz, 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 Willite 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://ncdxc.org/> or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

LAARC Los Altos Amateur Radio Club

meets 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM at the Century Wireless Association
 location: 10000 El Camino Real, Suite 100, San Bruno, CA 94066, Cafrau in Redwood City @ 11:30 AM.
 Contact: www.laarc.org or 650.361.46850 MHz, PL 114.8

Marin Radio Club MRCP Club

meets 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM

Sierra Communications Club Sierra Communication System

meets 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM

SCC

meets 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM
 News: www.scc.org
 contact: scctech@arrl.net

SCCA

Operates AA6BY repeater
 Meets: 2m, 70cm, 23cm, 1.25m, 6m, 20m, 40m, 80m, 160m
 meets 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30PM
 contact: <http://www.scca.org>

SVECS

Operates AA6BY repeater
 Meets: 2m, 70cm, 23cm, 1.25m, 6m, 20m, 40m, 80m, 160m
 contact: <http://www.svecs.org>

TEARS

The Electronic Amateur Repeater Association of San Francisco
 Dedicated to operating repeaters and providing amateur radio services
 FCC exam testing, K6TAF, 650.361.46850 MHz, PL 114.8
 Contact AA6T@ARRL.NET or 650.361.46850 MHz, PL 114.8
 Class or VE's. See QRZ.COM for details

WVARA

West Valley Amateur Radio Association
 W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58 (-500) PL 114.8

and 1286 repeaters are linked to the West Valley system
 VHF: 52.58 (-500) PL 114.8
 147.39 (+600) PL 114.8
 223.96 (+1000) PL 114.8

Meetings are 3rd Wednesday of the month at 7:30PM
 contact: <http://wvara.org>
 N6FFC@ARRL.NET

American Repeater Test

contact: <http://samradio.org>
 fshensley@Novell.com

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Officers

President	Kristen McIntire, K6WX	510-703-4942
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	k6rdm@arrl.net	
Treasurer	Ron Chester, W6AZ	408-243 2221
	ron@taxhelp.com	

Directors

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	kd6w@arrl.net	
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	john.tucker@arrl.net	
Director ('17)	John Chester W6AZ	408-361-3636
	john.chester@arrl.net	

Please
 settle your
 you can

PAARGraphs—March 2010
Celebrating 73 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*

(Continued from page 21)

contest, as that's what you hear most often when you find an interesting DX station. Remember that you can only work DX in this contest (no W/VE). Even if you are new to contesting, I hope you'll take this opportunity to give it a try and hand out a few points. I think you'll find it fun and interesting. You might even get a few new countries in the log.

Our PAARA general meeting for February featured Denice Stoops, KI6BBR, who gave a great talk about her experiences aboard the museum ship SS Lane Victory in Los Angeles. Along with the standard tour and activities aboard ship, she also is licensed to operate the commercial radio and so she took a turn at the RCA console, the bug, and the mill. For those who are unfamiliar with Denice, known as DA on the air, she was the legendary first female morse operator at KPH in Bolinas, CA. You can also find her on the museum ship SS Red Oak Victory in Richmond and at KPH. As many of you may recall, there was a wonderful PAARA sponsored tour of the KPH receiving and transmitting sites that was arranged by Elaine, WA6UBE, a few years ago.

Field Day is always an exciting time for hams around the Bay Area, and especially at PAARA. Again this year, we plan to have a KB (that's Kick Butt, if you are new to the hobby) FD operation. Doug, KG6LWE, is already working hard on getting the antennas ready and making plans. As we approach June, you will hear more and more details and you can be sure that we will be asking for your help. I hope that we can count on your support. PAARA is one of the top Field Day scoring clubs in the nation each year, and we want to be number one this year. With improving propagation and a refined operation, I think we'll do better than ever. Personally, I'm looking forward to my usual all night shift on 40m CW.

As an avid follower of propagation and solar activity, I was pleased to learn about a new iPhone app this week called 3D Sun. Pink, K7ILA, mentioned it on the 9am Talk Net e-mail list. This application was written by a team of programmers led by Dr. Tony Phillips to display NASA STEREO satellite data, pictures, and movies. It features a 3D rendering of the sun that can be rotated so that the entire solar surface that is visible to the STEREO satellites can be viewed as if you were viewing it from space in various ultra violet wavelengths. It appears to be a very useful tool for propagation analysis. You can find it in the iTunes Store for free by searching for "3D Sun."

I hope you all get a chance to get on the radio and enjoy all that Amateur Radio has to offer. Our hobby is, I believe, unique in the breadth and depth of exploration possible across a wide spectrum (pun intended) of human endeavor. I look forward to hearing you on the air.

73 DE K6WX.

Board Meeting Minutes

2/17/10

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:30 PM on the 17th of February 2010. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Doug Teter KG6LWE (VP), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Sec, Database), Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas), Larry Rebarchik N6CCH (Dir), Byron Beck KG6UOB (Dir), Mark Cohen K6EF (Dir) by phone, Joel Wilhite KD6W (former Pres), Gerry Tucker N6NV (Property Mgr.), Robin Yee KI6YTA (Editor), Vic Black AB6SO (Membership), and Michael Pechner NE6RD Maker Faire representative. A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report: Rick K6RDM reports that the minutes of the 28th of January Board meeting had been previously submitted and approved.

President's Report: Kristen K6WX reported that the presentation by Denise Stoops at the February 5th general meeting was very well received. Webmaster Mark Cohen K6EF was unable to attend the Board Meeting in person but during the course of the meeting Kristen was able to raise him by phone regarding progress toward solutions for situations needing attention on our PAARA website.

Vice President's Report: Doug KG6LWE reported on speakers scheduled for the next few PAARA meetings. The 5th of March general meeting will feature an analysis by Rick Huisman N6DQ of our 2009 Field Day performance and proposals for strategies for this year's event. Along with Larry N6CCH, Doug spoke about plans to begin work this weekend, Sunday, February 21st, at his shop on the projects to upgrade for the clubs KT-34 beam and to repair and refurbish our C3S beam and other antennas.

Treasurer's Report: Ron W6AZ reported that raffle proceeds and membership renewals are doing well and the club membership is reminded that it's time to renew for 2010.

The board discussed wide ranging planning for Field Day

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LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Awarded by Action of the PAARA Board

*Wally Porter K6URO Dec 2008
Steve Stuntz, K6FS Dec 2007*

(Board Meeting Minutes—Continued from page 23)

in some detail, including setting up our GOTA station, antenna installations and various other aspects, with the realization that with the amount of planning required, we can't begin too soon.

Mike NE6RD spoke with the board about opportunities for the club, and ham radio in general, at the Maker Faire coming up in May at the San Mateo County Expo Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

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

Hope to see you soon!

Congratulations to the winners of the February 2010 Raffle!



- 1st Prize:** Bob Shelton / K6TGR / IC-V80 / 2m / 5.5W / HT
2nd Prize: Bernhardt Hailer / AE6YN / Yaesu FT-2800M / 2m / 65W / Mobile
3rd Prize: Kristen McIntyre / K6WX / Deltran Battery Tender
4th Prize: Phil Stripling / KG6ILU / Rotary Tool w/35-Pc. Accessory Kit
5th Prize: Pat Sullivan / W6ABA / Power Pole Connectors
6th Prize: Steve Stearns / K6OIK / Pocket Reference / Thomas Glover
7th Prize: Rob Krensky / KI6GCL / Colby Stereo Ear Buds
8th Prize: Tony Kooij / W6AWK / Icom Band Plan / Yaesu World DX Map

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

PAARA had a remarkable year in 2009! If you aren't a member, please join PAARA now and experience fun 2010 events with the "friendliest club around."

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



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PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”

March Raffle Prizes



FIRST PRIZE: Icom IC-V80 / 2m / 5.5W / HT

- Rugged / Water Resistant / 750mW of Loud Audio
- NiMH / 1400mAh Battery Pack / 13 Hours Operating Time
- Drop-In Charging Base
- PC Programmable with Optional CS-V80
- WX Channel and Weather Alert Function (USA Version Only)
- Transceiver-to-Transceiver Cloning (Optional)

SECOND PRIZE: Samlex 30 Amp Switching DC Power Supply

- 30 amps continuous / 35 amps peak
- Voltage and Current Meters
- 13.8 VDC / Adjustable 11.5 V to 15.5 V with Internal Potentiometer
- 85% Peak Efficiency
- Dimensions: 8.4”L x 7.1”W x 2.4”H
- Weight 3.4 lbs



THIRD PRIZE: Two Cobra FRS / GMRS Radios with Batteries and Charger

FOURTH PRIZE: Kill A Watt / AC Electricity Usage Monitor

FIFTH PRIZE: Pocket Reference / Thomas Glover / Third Edition

SIXTH PRIZE: 9 LED Flashlight

SEVENTH PRIZE: Yaesu Log Book

EIGHTH PRIZE: Icom Band Plan / Yaesu World DX Map

Since February 2003, **169 Radios**, including THREE Elecraft K3's, a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams.

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

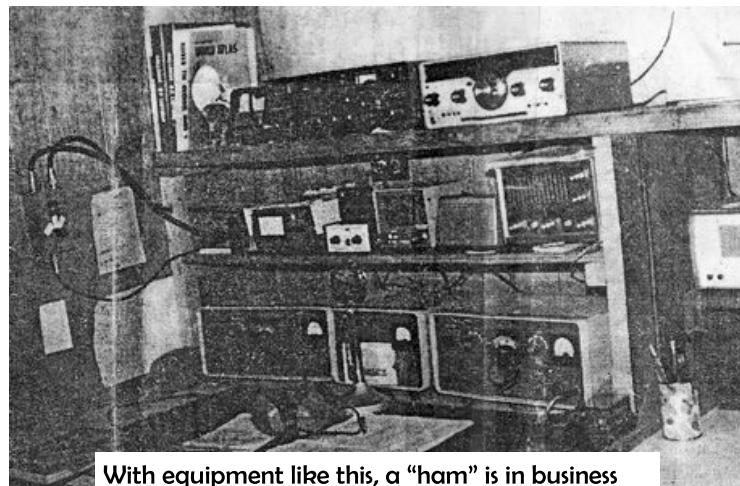
K6AK Jim

Calling CQ...

Ham Radio Operators Talk Around The World

**By BOB GOLDER
WA2CFN**

(Reprinted from THE POST-JOURNAL, Saturday, February 24, 1979)



With equipment like this, a "ham" is in business

EDITOR'S NOTE: Bob Golder has been a licensed radio amateur since 1961. He is active in the Southern Tier Amateur Radio Klub, Radio Amateur Civilian Emergency Services (RACES) and in VHF communications, and has an advanced class license. He is a resident of Killbuck.

The CB boom is fading. With well over 12,000,000 sets in use, the market has slowed considerably. The almost half a million applications per month to the Federal Communications Commission of two years ago has dwindled down to a few thousand per month at the end of 1978. Hundreds of thousands of CB operators are disillusioned with the operating capability of their equipment.

Because of the sunspot caused "skip" conditions, and the many stations all trying to use the same channels at the same time, operating sometimes becomes impossible. Add to that the band splatter from powerful and illegal stations jamming the air and it is no wonder some of the operators are disappointed in their efforts to use the radio.

However, amateur radio operators, are now enjoying a boom of their own, as CB operators are discovering the many benefits of amateur radio. More than 60,900 a month are now taking the test to become licensed amateur radio operators.

"Ham," or amateur radio operator, is a title proudly worn by more than 600,000 people all over the world. People from 7 to 70, from all walks of life, spanning all ethnic, language and income barriers, "hams" talk to each other on various bands or frequencies daily. In Chautauqua and Cattaraugus counties, there are perhaps 1,000 ham operators.

Using regular transmissions, or Morse Code, with liberal doses of "home brew" amateur TV, and radioteletype, helped at times by amateur reporters, and "ham" satellites that are at this moment circling the earth, they communicate every minute of every day. The frequencies that they use are allocated by international radio law, and strictly governed by the

Federal Communications Commission in the United States.

The conversations range from exchanging signal reports with a station in Brazil, to a station in the Union of South Africa giving a New Yorker a special recipe for pastries; and from a balloon crossing the Atlantic on an historic flight needing weather reports, to a doctor in Ecuador requiring a special medicine for a patient.

Recently a Salamanca

woman, worried because she had not heard from her daughter, asked a local ham to contact the young woman in Guam. The operator obliged and a radiogram was sent to the daughter, who then wrote to her mother. Now the mother is planning to take a novice radio course that is being organized.

Hams and their forerunners gave the world radio as we know it today. Marconi, himself, was one of the first amateur radio experimenters.

The television that we watch the Sunday football games on was at one time an amateur radio experiment, and TV signals were being sent across the Atlantic while Americans were listening to "Stella Dallas, Backstage Wife" on the radio.

Radar for our fighting forces in World War II was first played with by amateurs in the early 40s. Those same hams later served as radio operators, and communication specialists for Uncle Sam. In fact, many of the electronic goodies that we use daily were first brought into the world by those "tinkering hams."

What exactly do they do?

On almost any day, you might hear something like this: A U.S. Navy vessel in the Indian Ocean that has a ham on board (he's usually the regular radio operator as well) calls for a station near Woonsocket, Rhode Island. After two or three calls, he is answered by WA1XYZ in Slattersville, only seven miles away. "Can you run a patch for us?" asks the Navy, explaining that a sailor who is on board would like to speak to his father, who is very ill. "Sure thing," replies the New Englander, "give me the number, and a second or two." Within seconds, the sailor is talking to his dad in a hospital in Rhode Island, halfway around the world, ... courtesy of ham radio, and free of any charge.

We change frequency bands, and a little later we listen to OSCAR 7, the seventh amateur radio satellite as it comes into acquisition of signal (AOS) just over the horizon.

A doctor in Kenya, South Africa, is treating a little boy from a local village who is very ill, and without modern medical equipment to help, the doctor needs consultation with a specialist.

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A ham in Buffalo calls Buffalo Children's Hospital, and in seconds a specialist in that hospital has a strip of electrocardiogram and sends his advice. The boy is alive and well today, thanks to OSCAR (Orbital Satellite Carrying Amateur Radio) and a ham in Buffalo.

Late afternoon finds the ham in a central Ohio city pressed into service during a flash flood. Using hand-held two-meter VHF transceivers (walkie-talkies), and a local repeater, they give precise and interference-free communications. The Red Cross and the Civil Defense now know the amateur very well.

Early evening and conditions change again. So, we do the same, and using again another band of frequencies and a long wire type of antenna, we find a ham in England sitting in front of a home-built wooden console. Using a television camera he has built himself, he is kidding with a ham in California who has similar amateur TV gear. They joke, and tell each other how good they look, and before they are through, exchange Christmas cards printed by radioteletype equipment discarded years before by Western Union as unusable.

Sound far fetched? Well, it does happen, to varying degrees, every day of the year.

In western New York also, amateur radios are ready to help in emergencies. In this area, a nightly training exercise involving 100-150 operators is held to enable them to react more efficiently in case of flood, tornado, snow emergency or power cutoff. The exercise involves an area embracing Chautauqua County, Buffalo, Olean, Limestone, and Bradford, Columbus, and Erie PA.

Recently area operators took part in a simulated emergency test. This is run annually and involves amateurs throughout the U.S. who communicate by UHF. Using the same procedures as are followed nightly, Wanda Gustafson, Chautauqua County civil defense director, was able to get the exact water level in Russell, PA, in less than 25 minutes. The message was carried through Fredonia, to Salamanca and then to the monitor at Russell who went out and noted the water level.

Amateur radio operators include a U.S. Senator from Arizona, TV personalities, baseball's Joe Rudi, and maybe your local grocer. They all have the same basic goal... to communicate... and communicate they do.

They use equipment that ranges in price from a few dollars to many hundreds, and from converted World War II tank radios to completely homemade "breadboard" transmitters, built in the basements of the world. Regardless of the money spent, they put up homemade wire antennas and talk to the world.

Ham radio has been blessed of late with people who have gotten their start in radio via CB, or Citizen's Band Radio. Some of these people have gotten the desire to talk a little farther, to be able to change and modify, to have a little more room to flex their curiosity. They have been welcomed with open arms, and open hands by the amateur fraternity.

CB or Citizen's Band Radio is a restricted, short

range service. It is limited in the number of channels, the time and distance the operator can use, and the age of the operator.

On the other hand, amateur radio operators are allowed up to 1,000 watts of power (compared to the five watts allowed on CB), have no time, age, or distance limitations, and they are actually encouraged to modify the equipment they use.

Many elementary school students have passed their novice license tests, and each month, hundreds more join the ever-growing ranks of amateur radio operators. Neither the code requirement, nor the theory is a substantial hurdle. Almost anyone interested in becoming a ham can obtain a license with a few weeks of study.

Most hams start with the novice class of license, and from that point upward it's only a matter of what each person desires to do.

One of the better ways to obtain more information, and a complete study guide that fully explains the privileges, requirements and theory is the publication, "Tune In The World." It should be available at your local electronics store.

Or, you may want to contact a local amateur radio club, or maybe you, or a member of your family, knows of an amateur radio operator near you.

Amateur radio clubs in the area are:

The Chautauqua County Amateur FM Association, 208 Shadyside Ave., Lakewood

The Northern Chautauqua Amateur Radio Club, Box 455, Dunkirk

Southern Tier Amateur Radio Klub (STARK), Box 262, Killbuck

This article was first published in the Saturday edition of THE POST-JOURNAL on February 24, 1979. Thanks to Bob WA2CFN for sharing it with us!



James Farrey
Sales Manager

James Electronics Ltd
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See the next
page for details

Where's your badge?

If you ordered a badge but
have not yet picked it up,
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order a badge, see
Lynn Gentry, KG6JPV.

PAARA Weekly Radio Net

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

Week	Operator
1 st	Doug Teter KG6LWE
2 nd	Paul Petach KI6QXV
3 rd	Peter Sheerin K6WEB
4 th	Doña Kerns KI6DAR
5 th	Mike Bray N6MEB



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



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
Menlo Park**

*across from Kepler's Book Store
on El Camino Real
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).
Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association,
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**Amateur
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March 6th,
2010

8AM to
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at the SLAC
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Ilse Beck, E. A., KI6IBM

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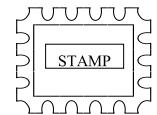
1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

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 Ron Chester, W6AZ

PAARAgraphs — March 2010

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA



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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

The advertisement features a large, stylized globe graphic in the upper right corner, with the words "Radio Outlet" written across it in a bold, blocky font. Below the globe, the text "WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION" is printed. The left side of the page is filled with several displays of amateur radio equipment, including transceivers, handheld radios, and accessories, arranged in a grid-like fashion. Each display includes a brand name (e.g., KENWOOD, ICOM, ALINCO) and a brief product description. The overall layout is clean and professional, designed to showcase the variety of products available through Radio Outlet's distribution network.