

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 63, NUMBER 7, July 2013

K6OTA

K6YQT



PAARAGraphs

The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

Celebrating 76 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

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

ARRL Centennial Celebration



NOTICE: The next PAARA meeting will be on JULY 12th and NOT July 5th as previously published.

See everyone on:

**July 12, 2013
7:00 pm
Cubberley Community Center
Room H-6
4000 Middlefield Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303**

Bob Vallio will tell us about the upcoming ARRL Centennial Celebration which will be held Hartford CT, July of 2014. He will also be attending the upcoming Board of Directors and of course will take questions about this and other ARRL issues.

Bob earned his Novice license in 1952 as WN6RGG. In 1953 he upgraded to General and dropped the N, now W6RGG then upgraded again to Extra in 1968. Bob is an accomplished DXer and contester. He has also participated in several DXpeditions including FO0XX (Clipperton Island), XF4L (Revillagigedo), 6Y5BF (Jamaica), 5W1AZ (Western Samoa), KP2A (Virgin Islands), 4U0ITU (ITU HQ in Geneva), VP5VW (Turks & Caicos Islands), 5V7A (Togo), HC8N (Galapagos Islands), OJ0/W6RGG (Market

(Continued on page 2)

President's Corner

July 2013

Another wonderful PAARA Field Day is in the log. I hope you all had a great time. I know I did, and I'm sure our guests did as well. Propagation was, in a word, interesting, but at least most of our stations went up smoothly. We have a couple of fun PAARA events coming up as we finish off the summer too.



Prior to Field Day, we had our Network Day where we set up all of the rigs and computers to be sure that everything played together nicely. All of the station captains were in attendance, and everything went together smoothly. We also put together the 20m monobander that we received as a donation from

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

Reef), OH0/W6RGG (Aland Islands), and BS7H (Scarborough Reef). Bob is a long time member and past president of NCDXC and NCCC and was elected to the CQ DX Hall of Fame in May of 1997. He has also been active in Emergency Communications with Alameda County RACES since 1975.

Bob was elected Section Communications Manager, and Section Manager of the ARRL East Bay Section from 1978 to 2000, and Vice Director of the ARRL Pacific Division from 2000 to 2003. He has served on every committee of the ARRL Board of Directors, most recently being elected by his fellow Directors to the Executive Committee.

Third time is a charm!

Hard to believe, but after 2 attempts over the last 3 years to find the time to study for the Extra test, I found a way to succeed. For me, reading through the ARRL's extra exam book wasn't helping me get though the information such that I could make it all the way to a successful conclusion. Now there is nothing wrong with the book as it had served me well for my Tech & General exams. I did find that Gordon West's, KB6NOA, book was of extra assistance in studying for my General. As the test questions changed from the 2nd time I tried, I opted to just purchase Gordon's book for my 3rd swing at this. Once again I tried to get through the book and once again I struggled to find the time to read through all the content. As I made it further through the information the 3rd time, I found myself looking for alternatives so I could cross the finish line.

The options aren't many as there haven't been many extra classes to attend and when there was one, it wasn't close or at a time that would work. Then there were the audio disks by Gordon West. Realizing that I had 40 minutes or more every day when returning home from work which I could listen to Gordo's disks, I wondered if they could help. During Pacificon last year I spent a few minutes talking with Gordo about his

audio disks trying to learn how the content was presented.

For the next 1 ½ months I listened to the disks on my way home. I even ripped them onto my iPhone so I could listen to them most every day when I took my 30 minute lunch walk. For me, Gordo presented the info in a manner that kept me interested with the content sinking in even though I wasn't looking at his book when I was listening.

During the 1 ½ months, I'd spend some spare time looking through his book and trying to answer the questing without looking at the answers. This approach helped sink the visual component into my mind and also let me see what all the possible answer choices were (you know, the ones that trip you up) not just the answers which is the way it's presented in the disks.

Along the way, I found an iPad app called "Exam Prep" by Patrick J Maloney, LLC. What an easy way to work through all the questions! You can read the question by group with the answer showing or have to select what you think the answer is and get immediate feedback. You can take practice exams and choose if you want immediate feedback or not. The app tracks each time you take the practice exam and provides you information on your percentage of correct answers by group so you can see what group you may need to spend more time on. You can even review each test and only look at the questions you missed. Now I used some programs similar to this on the computer when working toward my other licenses, but they lacked the tracking this app has. With it being in a portable device, I could work on the questions whenever and where ever time presented its self.

I suppose this sounds like an ad for the products I used and I know others have taken a similar approach, but I also know others who also have been challenged to get through the contend or had problems finding the time to get through it. I'm happy to say that this worked for me and it might just work for you. Catch you on the Extra bands!

Jim Thielemann KI6KVW\AE

June 2013 Board Meeting Minutes

No board meeting was held in June due to it being scheduled 2 days before Field Day.

Badges Ready for Pick-up:

K6FTF	Mark	San Jose
KJ6GBE	Sreendish	Redwood City
KI6GYY	Art	San Jose
N6JCY	Joani	San Jose
KI6JLS	Joanne	Palo Alto
KG6QKN	Francis	Palo Alto
KG6QKO	Kali	Palo Alto
KJ6SGT	Xiande	Campbell
KF6SRD	Chuck	Palo Alto
K6TSR	George	Portola Valley
K6VVK	Vincent	Palo Alto
KK6CCJ	Nancy	
KJ6POG	Rob	
K6WRU	Walter	
KI6QWM	Scott	
KM6WP	Michael (Mr. Mike)	

(President's Corner - Continued from page 1)

Kevin, AD6Z (Thank you!). After getting all of the CW keyers programmed with the appropriate FD messages, we all grabbed a burger or two and discussed strategy.

The event itself began earlier this year, on Thursday, because of a change in the rules. With a bit of extra setup time, Doug, KG6LWE, and his tower crew were able to get everything set up well in advance of FD start time of 11 AM on Saturday. Rick, N6DQ's new military towers made putting up several of the stations a real breeze. For the first time we didn't have to use Gerry, N6NV's truck to lever up any towers; a very scary operation indeed! By the time I arrived on Saturday morning, the U-Haul truck was in place and ready to go. All I had to do was get my gear out of the vehicle, and plug everything together. We had a slight hitch with the length of the coax to my station, and some minor computer setting issues, but with 10 minutes to spare, I was ready to go. The tribander on top of the 40m beam was a bit twisted, but it didn't matter. It was close

enough. The rotator compensated for the twisting.

The 40m / 15m CW station wasn't the only station I had to get ready, however. I also had to get the GOTA station set up. I ran down the hill with the rest of the gear and got that going.

Then we were truly on-the-air. The rest of the day was filled with running around for me, talking with visitors, and with other hams. We had visitors from CMU West, courtesy of Bob, W6EI, and the press was there from the San Jose Mercury News. We had a nice article that appeared both on the website and in the print edition. The GOTA station was so busy that there was a long line of people wanting to operate. It was great to see. Joel, KD6W, made a number of satellite contacts, despite an early failure of a switch in his rotator controller. The 20m / 80m CW station, and the two phone stations cranked out the Qs all day and into the night. It was glorious.

I had an interesting night on 40m. The band started very long, with contacts starting into the East Coast, and then it shortened up as the night wore on. This is the reverse of its usual behavior. I worked DX into Japan. In the morning, 15m was great, and I had a steady flow of contacts, including DX into HK and ZF. I was busy all night long. There really were no significant lulls. I also made a number of natural power Qs, and that activity was captured by Jim, KI6KWW. Dave, K6WA, kept me company until 2 AM, and Frank, AF0XX, kept the caffeine flowing.

All in all, it was a fantastic Field Day. We'll be processing the logs and report our score to you soon. Propagation was poor at best, and we weren't the only ones reporting this, so expect the score to be down a bit.

We have two events coming up - a PAARA trip to KRE on July 20th, and the PAARAShoot at the 10th Street Range. More details on the website at paara.org.

CU AT PAARA JULY 12 DE K6WX.

Contesting Resources

There were several requests for more information about contesting that arose from Rick Tavan's June 7th PAARA. Here is the list of resources from his talk.

- ARRL – NCJ, QST, Contest Update, Web sites
- CQ Magazine, Web sites
- Contest Academy (Visalia), Contest University (Dayton)
- www.contesting.com, cq-contest email reflector
- NCCC and www.nccc.cc
- Wikipedia –Contesting
- www.hornucopia.com/contestcal
- www.radio-sport.net
- www.qth.com/ka9fox
- sites.google.com/site/rtavan/radiocontesting



Gerry Tucker, N6NV, looking at himself in Sundays SJ Mercury Newspaper and the PAARA Field Day story.

PAARA 6/7/13 Raffle Prize Winners

1st Prize / Joel Wilhite / KD6W / MFJ-1919EX Heavy Duty Antenna Tripod

2nd Prize / Hiro Kato / AH6CY / MFJ-4230MV 30 Amp Switching Power Supply

3rd Prize / Dean Miller / KJ6IWI / Alpha Delta Two Position Coax Switch with Lightning Arrestor

4th Prize / Kristen McIntyre / K6WX / Two West Mountain Amplified COM speakers

5th Prize / Kristen McIntyre / K6WX / LF01 LED Lite Flare

6th Prize / Mike Gold / KJ6ZOM / ARRL Repeater Directory

7th Prize / Mike Gold / KJ6ZOM / Coax Wrap Silicone Tape



PAARA July 12, 2013 Raffle Prizes

1st ICOM / IC-V80-25 / 2m / Extended Receive HT

Includes: BC-192 slow NiMH wall charger / BP-264 NiMH Battery Pack (7.2 VDC 1400 mAh)

Belt Clip, BNC Flexible Antenna and *Owner's Manual*.

- Wide / Narrow channel spacing
- 207 Memories
- Scanning
- Power Save
- Three RF Levels 5.5/2.5/0.5W
- Encode/Decode Built In
- Time Out Timer
- 16 DTMF Memories



2nd Uniden BC345CRS Scanner /AM-FM Radio/ Alarm Clock / Weather Alert

Product Features:

- 500 channels -10 banks • Clock/Alarm • Service search • volume/squelch control • full frequency • LCD display • lockout, priority channel • AM/FM radio with presets • 25 -54, 108-174, 406-512 MHz Low, Air, High, and UHF bands
- Dimensions: 8 1/4"W x 6 1/8"D x 3 1/8"H

Included in the Box:

- BC345CRS Scanner • Telescopic Antenna • AM Loop Antenna • AC Adapter • Owner's Manual



3rd The Weather Channel Wireless Weather Station

Solar Powered Wireless Temperature Sensor with 200 Foot Range

4th Two Uniden FRS/GMRS Radios with Batteries / 16 Mile Range

5th ARRL Repeater Directory

6th Plastic Coax Seal

7th Bongo Ties

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

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Appointed Positions

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Public Affairs	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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Station Trustee K6OTARon Chester, w6az		
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	bob@rgktechsales.com	
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	dteter@wcwi.com	
HistorianPosition	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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	n6nfi@arrl.net	
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	jdsinger@sbcglobal.net

Future PARRA Meeting Dates

July 12th, Aug 2nd, Sept 6th, October 4th

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 AI, 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/>

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.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.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

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.norcalgrp.org>

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, 442.425+ (pl 107.2) Thur.
 Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.
 Contact: <http://www.gsi.net/scarra> 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: A6GT@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 1280 repeaters are linked.
 VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF:
 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss
 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss
 Meetings are 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 fshensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to PAARAGraphs editor)



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Badges are ready for pickup.

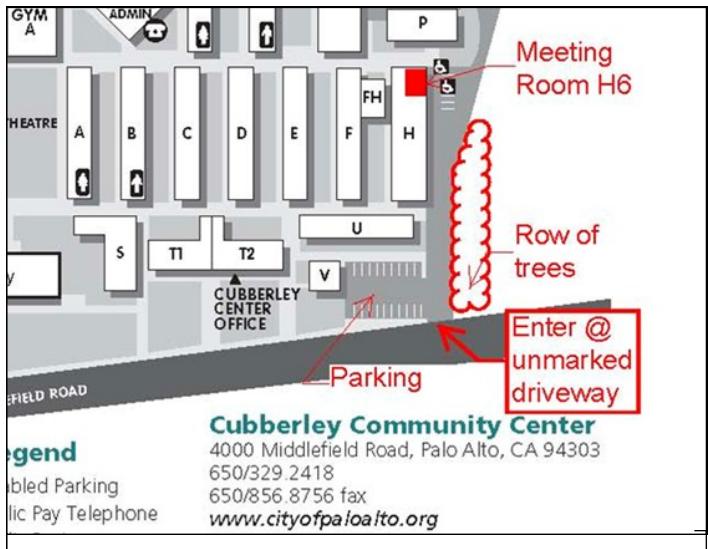
If you would like to order a badge, see
Doug Teter, KG6LWE.

PAARA Weekly Radio Net

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

Week	Control Operator
1 st	Open
2 nd	Doug - KG6LWE
3 rd	Jack - N1VSL
4 th	Marty - W6NEV
5 th	Up for Grabs!

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots o' fun! Give it a try.



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

<http://www.foto.mail.ru/list/shkurkin>

Vladimir Vladimirovich

SHKURKIN

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English-Russian-English

shkurkin@ix.netcom.com

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association
P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park
California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

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

Membership in PAARA is \$20.00 per calendar year, which includes one subscription to PAARAGraphs \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).

Make payment to the
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W6AZ



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(Corner of Lawrence Expwy and El Camino)

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Text: .doc, .rtf, or .txt
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Subscription Problems? Contact Database
Manager: Rick Melrose K6RDM,
888 725-1895, k6rdm@arrl.net

PAARAGraphs Ad Rates

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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).

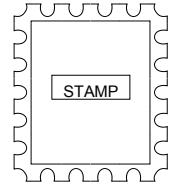
2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

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

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

1