

W6OTX

W6ARA

PAARA NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 60, NUMBER 4, April 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

APRIL 2, PAARA Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Menlo Park Rec Ctr
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park



April 21, Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

Palo Alto Red Cross
400 Mitchell Lane

April 21, 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

President's Corner

Spring is here and the contest season is in full swing. With improved propagation, getting in on HF contesting with your favorite mode is more fun than it's been in quite a while.



The ARRL DX CW and Phone contests have both just passed as of this writing. While I didn't have any time to work the Phone contest (I've been a bit busy at work), I did have a chance to hand out some points during the CW weekend at the end of February. I only worked about 50 stations, but I sure had fun doing it. The best part was that 15 meters was open all day long. It's been a while since I was able to spend an entire day on 15 from my little squirt gun station. I was hoping for a new country or two, but there was no such luck to be had. I was, however, able to work into Europe, Russia, the Caribbean, South America, China, and, of course, Japan. I spent some time on 20 meters too

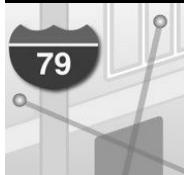
(Continued on page 33) Pres Corner



You won't want to miss our next meeting!

APRIL 2, 2010

Our speaker will be...



...Bob Iannucci ~ W6EI

FoxHunt™ for iPhone

Bob is one of the founders of RAI Laboratory LLC, a startup pursuing opportunities in amateur radio hardware and software. Formerly, Bob was senior vice president and CTO of Nokia. There, he played a defining role in reshaping the company's long-term R&D strategy. Challenging traditional management thinking, he brought open innovation to Nokia and built a research environment suited to Internet ways of working and systems-level thinking. With three decades in the IT industry — first at IBM during the mainframe days, then at Digital with its minis, and next at Compaq in the 1990s, plus three startups — he brings insights in reshaping mature businesses into growth businesses and tackling the so-called Innovator's Dilemma. Bob holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and is the author and co-author of two books and several academic papers. He holds five patents.



Welcome New PAARA Members!

Greg Miller	W6YP
Phillip Spalletta	K1PAS
Bernhard Hailer	AE6YN

RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

This is the **last issue** of PAARAGraphs you will receive if you have not yet renewed for 2010. **Renew now!**

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://specsnets.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 & 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.qsl.net/seccara/> 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:	441.35 (+5.0 88.5) ctess
	147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctess		1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctess
	223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 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 2010 membership dues so
 you can keep receiving your
 PAARAGraphs.**

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

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President	Kristen McIntire, K6WX	510-703-4942
	kristen@alum.mit.edu	
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	ron@taxhelp.com	

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	kd6w@arrl.net	
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Director ('11)	Byron Beck KG6UOB	408-735-8604
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Director ('10)	Mark Cohen K6EF	
	markc@binaryfaith.com	
Director ('10)	Larry Rebarchik N6CCH	

Appointed Positions

Membership.....	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
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	kg6tmd@arrl.net	
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Station Trustee	W6OTX, K6YQT, W6ARA....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV
Station Trustee	K6OTA....	Ron Chester, W6AZ
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	bob@rgktechsales.com	
Badge Coordinator.....	Lynn Gentry, KG6JPV	
Historian.....	Christopher McIntyre, KG6SVI	
Raffle Coordinator.....	Jim Rice, K6AK	650-851-2274
Ticket Master	Kyle Rice, KG6MSK	
Field Day Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	
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	markc@binaryfaith.com	
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	ki6inr@arrl.net	
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	dteter@wcwi.com	

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	jdsinger@sbcglobal.net	

PAARAGraphs—April 2010
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(Continued from page 31)

and worked some of the same stations again as well as several new ones. Trying 10 meters, the band didn't seem open from my QTH. What little time I did have was filled with listening through the static for that elusive contact while watching the meters bounce and the steady glow of the tubes. For me, there is nothing quite like that experience. If you haven't had a chance to try one of these contests or to try a little HF, maybe even work some DX, I hope you can find a fellow ham who can make his or her station available so that you can give it a try. I think it's the best fun that radio has to offer.

Our last PAARA general meeting featured a talk by Rick, N6DQ, analyzing PAARA's 2009 Field Day performance. Rick came with graphs of our QSO performance as a function of time, bands, and operators. Taking a careful look at these data is essential to improving our performance in Field Day 2010. I think that with some adjustments of what bands are available to which operators at various times, and making sure that we have a nice, solid operator schedule, we will bring our score up to a new all-time high. Our club has always had a very competitive Field Day team, made up of the best equipment riggers of any Field Day operation I've seen, and some great contest operators. Just imagine what we are going to do with this year's sure to be improved propagation. Field Day this year is June 25th through June 27th. I hope you'll consider signing up to help with the setup, teardown, and, of course, operating! Please contact the PAARA Vice President, Doug Teter, KG6LWE, for information and to volunteer your time.

For those of you who pay attention to the goings on of the engine of propagation, our Sun, there is a new instrument that will give us greater insight than ever into its inner workings. NASA successfully launched the Solar Dynamics Observatory, or SDO, on 11 February. To quote from the SDO website at <http://sdo.gsfc.nasa.gov/> "SDO's goal is to understand, driving towards a predictive capability, the solar variations that influence life on Earth and humanity's technological systems ..." This device has the potential to give us even better propagation prediction than we have currently. First images are expected in mid-April.

Thanks to each and every PAARA member for your continued support of our club. It is all of you who make PAARA what it is. If you ever have any problems, concerns, or even kudos (yes, we'll take those too!), please don't hesitate to tell me or any board member.

Until next month - 73 ES GUD DX DE K6WX.

Board Meeting Minutes
3/17/10

The Board Meeting was held at the Palo Alto Red Cross building, commencing at 7:15 PM on the 17th of February 2010. Attending were Kristen McIntyre K6WX (Pres), Rick Melrose K6RDM (Sec, Database), Ron Chester W6AZ (Treas), Larry Rebarchik N6CCH (Dir), Mark Cohen K6EF (Dir), Robin Yee KI6YTA (Editor) and Vic Black AB6SO (Membership). A quorum was present.

Secretary's Report: Rick K6RDM reports that the minutes of the 17th of February Board meeting had been previously submitted and approved.

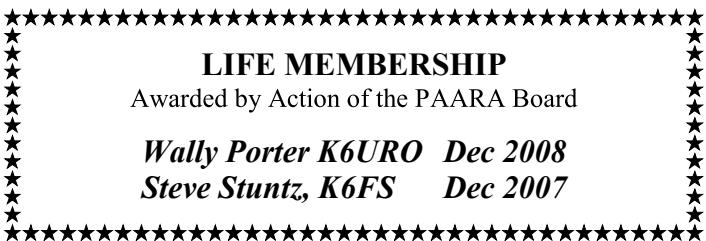
President's Report: Kristen K6WX reported that the Speaker for the March general meeting will be Bob Iannucci W6EI, who will be speaking about software he has developed for use in transmitter-hunts (t-hunts). They are great fun and are a real opportunity to hone operating and direction finding skills.

Vice President Doug KG6LWE was unable to attend but Larry N6CCH reported that he and Doug had made good progress on the projects to upgrade the club's KT-34 beam (75% complete). The Force 12 C3S beam damage has been assessed and replacement parts are being acquired to bring this antenna back to a functional state.

Treasurer's Report: Ron W6AZ reported that raffle proceeds and sales of equipment at the first Electronics Flea Market of the year on 13 March, have done quite well. Contributions to thank the Red Cross in appreciation for our antenna trailer are coming in, albeit slowly. The campaign needs to be mentioned in PAARAGraphs and at the upcoming general meeting. Also, membership renewals are doing well and the club membership is reminded April will be the last month that PAARAGraphs will be sent to members who have not yet renewed for 2010.

Mark K6EF reported on the situations needing attention on our PAARA website. Plans are in progress update the

(Continued on page 34)



(Board Meeting Minutes—Continued from page 33)
current site while preparing to relocate the hosting for the
site.

The board discussed a range of topics including contacting station captains for Field Day and the opportunity for the club to prepare and distribute literature (do we have a writer?) promoting amateur radio, and specifically PAARA, at the Maker Faire coming up in May, where Kristen is planning to set up an oscilloscope demonstration that will display the speed of sound. There are a variety of contests and hamfests coming up – it was determined that provision will be made to keep the membership abreast of these with mentions in an events calendar in PAARAGraphs.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM

**Congratulations to the winners
of the March 2010 Raffle!**



**1st Prize: Tina Sedano / KJ6EOP
IC-V80 / 2m / 5.5W / HT**

- 2nd Prize: Nick Conrady / KI6QQW / Samlex 30 Amp Switching DC Power Supply
- 3rd Prize: Dan Curtis / N6WN / Two Cobra FRS / GMRS Radios with Batteries and Charger
- 4th Prize: Bill Young / K6VWO / Kill A Watt / AC Electricity Usage Monitor
- 5th Prize: Bill Young / K6VWO / Pocket Reference / Thomas Glover
- 6th Prize: Lynn Gentry / KG6JPV / 9 LED Flashlight
- 7th Prize: David Ungar / W6DH / Yaesu Log Book
- 8th Prize: Bill Parsons / AF6AE / 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."

For more information, contact
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!

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



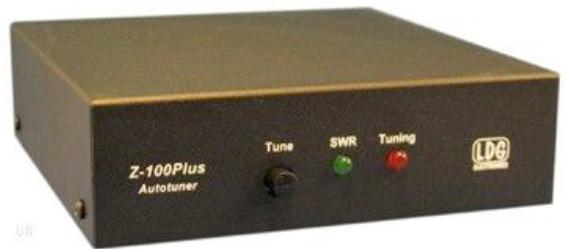
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PAARA “The Friendliest Club Around”

April Raffle Prizes

FIRST PRIZE: LDG Z-100 Plus Antenna Tuner

- Continuous coverage 1.8 to 54 MHz
- Power rating HF (1.8 to 30 MHz): 0.1 to 125 watts
- Tuning time: 0.1 to 6 seconds, 3 seconds average
- 2000 fast memories
- Latching relays, holds tune position forever.
- Power requirements: 7 to 18 volts DC @ 100 mA max



SECOND 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)

THIRD PRIZE: Deltran Battery Tender Junior / 12V / 750 mA / Charger

FOURTH PRIZE: Two Uniden FRS / GMRS Radios with Batteries

FIFTH PRIZE: Rotary Tool / 35 Pc. Accessory Kit /Polish /Grind /Cut /Shape /Sand

SIXTH PRIZE: 9 LED Flashlight

SEVENTH PRIZE: Yaesu Log Book

EIGHTH PRIZE: Icom Band Plan

Since February 2003, **172 Radios**, including THREE Elecraft K3's, a Yaesu FT-847, an Icom 706 MK IIG, a Yaesu FT-897D, and TWO Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams,
THANKS TO YOU!

Special Thanks to Bob, Howard, Dan, Mark, and everyone at HRO for their continued support!
K6AK Jim

Auction Item: HP 1631D

PAARA recently received a very generous donation from club member **Mark Miller, AA6TT**, of a Hewlett-Packard 1631D. Designed to meet the needs of digital design and test engineers, the 1631D is a 50 MHz digitizing oscilloscope and complete logic analyzer in one instrument. It comes with probes and full documentation on disc.

The HP 1631D will be on display at the April meeting and up for auction at the May meeting.



HP 1631D, Logic Analyzer and Oscilloscope to be auctioned at the May meeting.

Thank you, Mark, for your ongoing support of PAARA.

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Net Control Opportunity!

We have an opening for a Net Control operator on the Monday night PAARA net. If you would like to take a shot at net control, contact Doug Teter, KG6LWE, at dteter@wcwi.com.

New Youth Net on N6NFI

Every Saturday (starting in April) at 14:00 local time on the N6NFI Repeater, 145.230 MHz, negative offset, and PL 100 Hz. Echolink nodes will be KR6DD-R (271122) or N6WN-R (477737).

Please contact Ryan, K3SFG, at rc196@pacbell.net for start date.

This net is for all hams age 18 and younger. If you have sons or daughters who are hams, please let them know about this net. If they are not yet hams, encourage them to listen to the net and get their ticket. 73!

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.**

You can give your check to any club officer at the next PAARA meeting, or you can mail it 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



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

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YOUR AD HERE
See the next
page for details

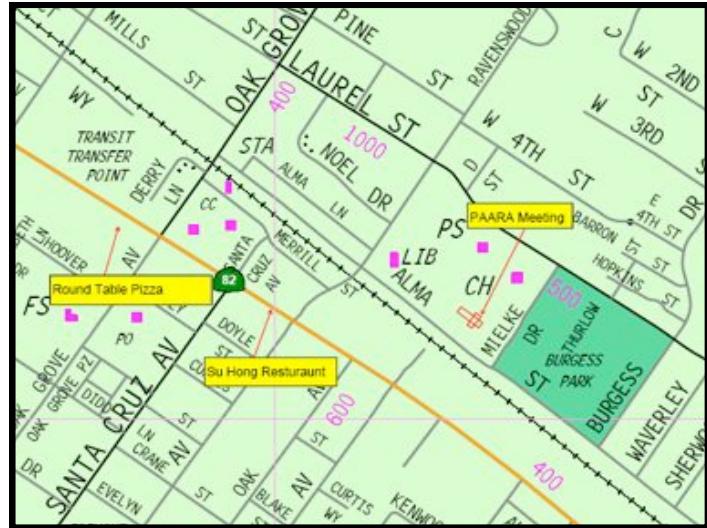
Where's your badge?

If you ordered a badge but
have not yet picked it up,
or if you would like to
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	AVAILABLE—Contact Doug Teter
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,
P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911

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DON'T FORGET!

Amateur Radio Technology Day

April 24th,
2010

8AM to
9PM

at the SLAC
National
Accelerator
Laboratory

Ilse Beck, E. A., KI6IBM

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Vladimir Vladimirovich

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kd6w@arrl.net

Submit material for PAARAGraphs by the 15th

Text: MSWORD, RTF, or TEXT

Photos: JPEG or TIFF raster images

Missing PAARAGraphs, too many copies, wrong name or
call on label? Contact Database Manager:

Rick Melrose K6RDM, **1-888-725-1895**, k6rdm@arrl.net

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.**

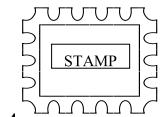
1. Not-for-profit ads by association members for ham-related items and wants. No cost for business card-size ads (additional space at \$2.50 per business card size per issue).
2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals: \$5—business card size, \$25—half page, \$50 full page or back cover per issue.

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

PAARA *graphs* — April 2010

Accept no substitutes. Produced and printed in California USA — Since 1937



4v

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

A collage of various amateur radio equipment and accessories from different manufacturers, including Kenwood, Icom, Alinco, Yaesu, and TM-DJ Doma. The collage includes handheld radios, mobile transceivers, and accessories like antennas and power supplies. A globe graphic is visible in the background.