

K6YQT

PAARA NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 52 NUMBER 8, August 2003

W6OTX



# PAARAGraphs

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



## CALENDAR

- August.....1 **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30  
Menlo Park Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- August.....6 **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30  
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- September....5 **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- September..10 **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
- October.....3 **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- October.....8 **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30

The ARRL has a code practice:

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



## PROGRAM

August 1, 2003 7:30 P.M.

### Speaker:

Dave Ficklin, N6BOH

## "SLAC"

as seen by

**Dave Ficklin, N6BOH**

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

## "SLAC"

as seen by *Dave Ficklin, N6BOH*

**Dave Ficklin, N6BOH** takes us "behind the scenes" of the Stanford Linear Accelerator. SLAC physicists pioneered the technology of Linear Accelerators and Colliders to help understand the behavior of matter and the origins of the Universe. **Dave N6BOH** is one of the electronic engineers working in the Klystron and Microwave Department, with twenty-eight years experience at SLAC. Only a small part of the presentation will be technical, and we may learn what it is like working with "high power Klystrons". For you Star Trek fans, this is NOT a Klingon battle cruiser weapon nor is it any inhabited planet known to mankind! \*

Attention members and guests: time permitting, we will have a "show and tell" of home built particle accelerators, so bring one or two of your favorites to share.

~Jim,K6AK

\*Klingon battle cruisers used phase disruptor armament.

*Dave started his employment at SLAC as an Accelerator Operator in October 1975. In June 1978 he joined the Digital Maintenance Group working in MCC (Main Control Center) as a Principal Technician with the responsibility of maintaining all aspects of the accelerator computer control system. With the advent of SLC (Stanford Linear Collider) he was chosen as a Field Support Technician in July 1983 to work on the CAMAC (Computer Automated Measurement And Control) and Multibus Systems. In July of 1988, an engineering position opened up in the Accelerator Department procuring and testing thyratrons. He moved up with this job when the Accelerator Department spun off Power Conversion, and when the responsibility for thyratrons was integrated with klystron production, he moved to the Klystron Department. He continues to have the responsibility for thyratron testing, and he coordinates the klystron testing and klystron changes in the SLC gallery*





## PAARA HONORS

**HOWARD CALIFF.  
KE6PWH.**  
*by Terry Finn AF6TF*

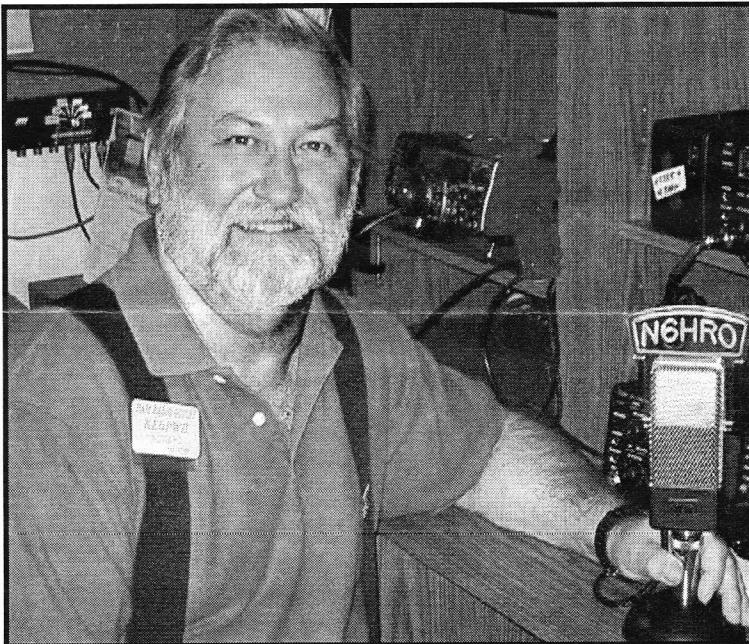
### WHO RUNS THE CANDY STORE ?

When you think of the Candyman, do you remember the scary movie that featured that horrible person, or do you simply think of your local drug dealer ? Whatever the case, let us remember NOT to call this PAARA member the candyman, because he is neither of those. In fact, **Howard Califf, KE6PWH** is one of the nicest, softest spoken, avid hams that you or I will have the pleasure of knowing and dealing with in our hobby.

**H o w a r d C a l i f f,** (pronounced Kalif, like the Kalif of Baghdad) claims that he is 50% Norwegian, and 40% English, with a little Cherokee Indian blood. He, like many of us, was a baby boomer born October 9, 1946 in Portland, Oregon. His Mom, Harriet, was a domestic engineer raising a whole brood of brothers and sisters, while his Dad, Howard, worked in the shipyards during the War. His Father was considered too old for the military, so he did his part by building and maintaining the ships that were used during that time.

Howard had two older brothers, one older sister and one younger sister and brother. He was the fourth child to be born into this big family, but you mathematicians knew that, didn't you ?

When Howard was about five years of age, the family moved to Irrigon in eastern Oregon so Howard, Sr., could work on the McNary Dam project. The town had a population at that time of 202 residents. Howard can remember attending High School in Umatilla, Oregon, located at the confluence of the Umatilla and Columbia rivers. Although the towns were only about eight miles apart, they were located in two different Counties. The school bus ride for him was about 18 miles to school in the morning and about 45 miles to home in the afternoon as he was the farthest away from the High School. Howard joined the Naval Reserve in 1963 while in High School and actually spent the Christmas break attending boot camp in San Diego. He became a



SWL during this time in his life and started playing with radios. He graduated High School in May 1964.

Howard really enjoyed living in this small community and worked on various farms and ranches from the time he was eight years of age. He especially enjoyed raising animals (which the family used for food) and had many varied experiences with milk cows; milk goats; pigs; chickens; ducks and rabbits. The family had been using an outhouse right up until 1960 when they moved into a home that actually had indoor plumbing, which was a real treat. Howard's older brother had joined the U.S. Navy and became a sonar operator (this is the pre computer days) as he had perfect pitch and could really hear and understand the 'pings'. Howard soon learned that electronics was a fun, clean type of work that didn't require a lot of hard physical work.

In June 1964, right out of High School, Howard traveled to Treasure Island in the San Francisco Bay to attend ET-A

school (electronics training) for nine and half months. He learned all about radar, however, he never touched another piece of radar equipment again in his whole Navy career !! He graduated as a Navy Seaman apprentice in 1965 with an earned ET striker badge and was assigned to duty at Submarine Squadron 14 in Holy Loch, Scotland where he proudly served from July 1965 to August 1967. He worked on classified radiation detection equipment and reactor control instrumentation, something that he was never trained

to do, during his tour of duty !! He was actually stationed on board special repair vessels, the 'USS Hunley, AS-31', and the 'USS Simon Lake, AS-33'.

During this time, Howard had the good fortune to meet Anna Smyth, a 16 year old Scottish Lass, who had graduated High School at age 15. She was working in a playtex factory that made bras and girdles. She was the model who actually wore the items for the designers and manufacturers. Obviously, there is much more to this part of Howard's life, however you will have to know him really well before he will reveal any further details or secrets. Howard and Anna were married on August 23, 1966. By the way, their primary mode of transportation during that time in their lives was a 1954 BSA 650 motorcycle. Howard later owned a 1959 Triumph 500.

Howard and Anna were the proud parents of their first  
(Continued on page 70) Howard

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

(Continued from page 69) Howard

born, Jacquie in 1970. She now lives in Lakeland, Florida, with her husband who is an electrical control engineer. Their second born, Jeff in 1972, has just moved away from the Bay Area to be with his girlfriend in Michigan. He is an experienced auto mechanic and plumber. Howard and Jeff are very close, so he is already missing their family relationship.

When Howard left the Navy in August 1967, he and Anna moved to Pendleton, Oregon, where Howard attended Blue Mountain Community College from September 1967 to June 1969 and earned a AS in electrical engineering technology. Although there was a ham club at the college, Howard had such an academic load and so many part time jobs that he could not really get interested in earning an amateur license. For example, he worked 15 hours a week at the college as a teaching assistant; another 15 hours a week at a local telephone company installing telephone poles and repairing circuit boards as well as another 15 hours a week at a local produce company re-packaging produce for retail sales. The family car during this time was a 1963 Volkswagen bug !! Does that mean that Howard was a hippy ?? Anna worked at the local hospital for the Irish Catholic Nuns as a nursing assistant, then transferred over to the Oregon State Hospital as a psychiatric nursing assistant.

Howard and Anna moved from Pendleton to the San Francisco bay area when Howard was hired by Hewlett Packard as an electronic technician in production. He soon was promoted to the production supervisor in engineering and actually was responsible for a product known as the original HP 3000 computer which he brought from the research lab to the production floor. Howard worked at HP for 24 and one half years before he retired in 1992.

Howard became interested in CB in 1969 and actually developed and built some elaborate beam antenna's and worked some single sideband with 15 watts into Brazil and Canada. He was also rather active with a four wheel drive club during this time as well. However, it was not until the fall of 1992 when he and his brother took an extended RV trip throughout the south west that he became interested in amateur radio licensing. It should be noted that Howard and Anna divorced and Howard was sort of at loose ends and retired, so he wanted something to do with his knowledge and time.

What better person could prod him along than his very own brother (who is also his elmer) **Mike Califf, AB7OC**. (remember, the former Navy sonarman). Mike is an extra class ham living in Pendleton, Oregon who just happens to be the OOC for the State of Oregon and an active VE. As a result, Howard earned his technician license in September 1995 and received his call **KE6PWH** in January 1996. Howard currently operates his personal station with an Icom 746 and MFJ 1796 vertical antenna. He also uses a KMA 5054, five element log periodic antenna on 6 meters and an M2-2M12 on 2 meters. He has Kenwood 742a &

331 mobiles. Howard is the EC/RO with the City of Santa Clara and is on the Board of Directors of the West Valley ARA. He is a member of ARRL; ARES & RACES; and is an active member of FARS and PAARA. Howard is also a member of the Western States Weak Signal Society, although he is NOT a member of SWAT (side winders on two). He is active on 6 and 2 meters and has worked 37 States, Japan and the whole eastern seaboard from Newfoundland to Puerto Rico.

For over twenty five years Howard has been active in competitive soccer as a player, coach and referee. You just do not want to mess with him on the soccer field folks. As soccer seems to run in his family, Howard has been a board member of various semi professional soccer associations, youth and adult leagues. He had to stop playing a few years ago due to a bone spur on his left heel, however he is still a big fan of all forms of soccer.

Howard was asked to take the job of shipping supervisor at Ham Radio Outlet in February 2002. He did such a good job and was so well liked by the staff and customers that he was promoted to manager of the Sunnyvale HRO store in July 2003. Congratulations Howard.

For those of you who do not yet know **Howard, KE6PWH**, I would encourage you to speak with him at the candy store sometime. I think that you will find him rather knowledgeable about electronics; radio theory and ham equipment in general. The members of PAARA and the other local clubs are proud to know you and commend your activities within our hobby.

~Terry Finn, AF6TF.

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

**QSO August 1**  
**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—

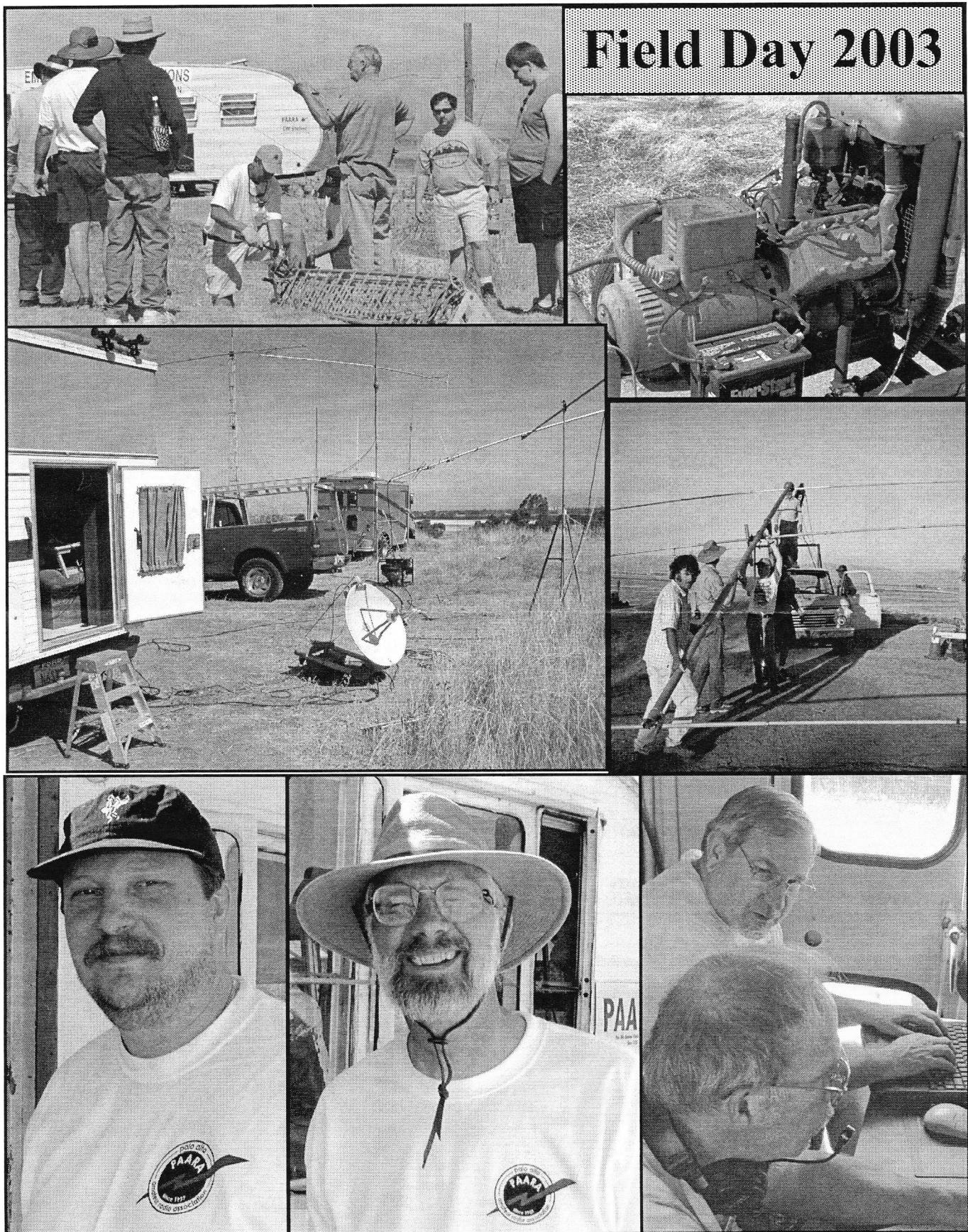


**President's corner**

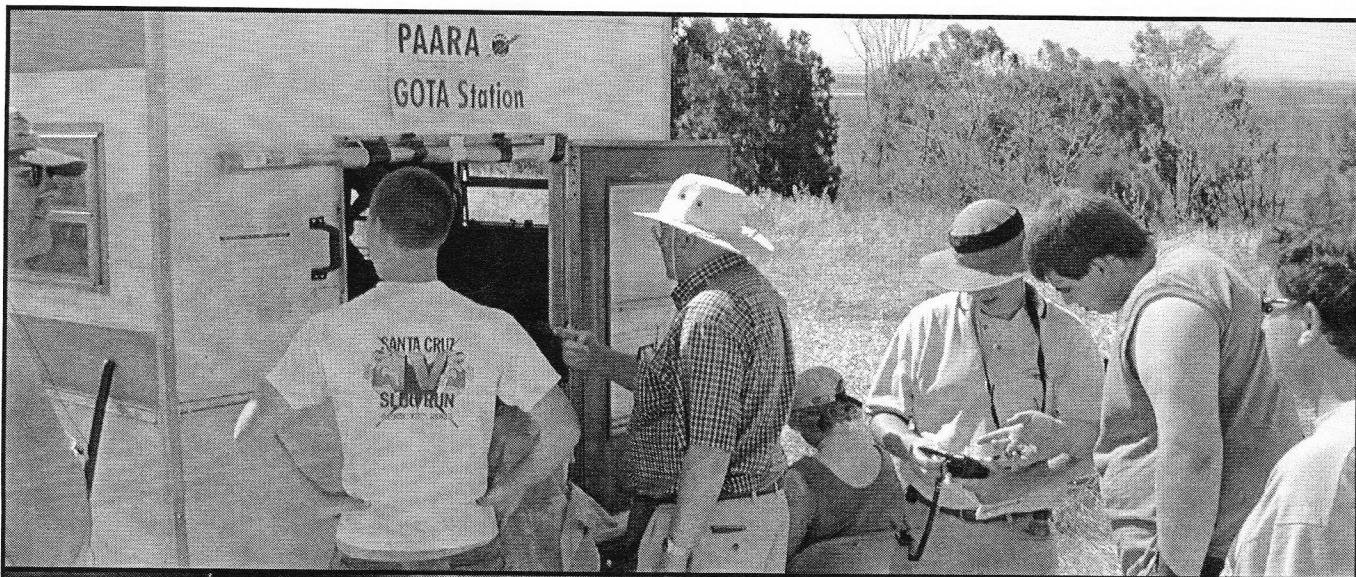
I just installed a forum on the PAARA web server. Please have a look at it and let me know what you think. It is a better tool to make announcements and keep the members informed than just regular email. Feel free to post there and play with it. Feedback is appreciated. Check it out at:

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





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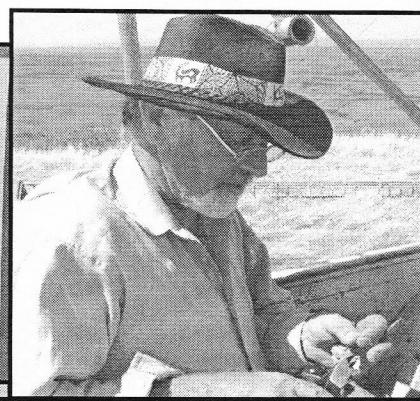
**The new Field Day signs.**

Did you notice all the great display signs in and around the field day site? You could not have missed them if you were there, because they were great! They were very professional and colorful.

PAARA members **Stephen Brune, KG6OUB**, and his son **Ian, KG6QKP** were responsible for all of those signs. Thank you both!

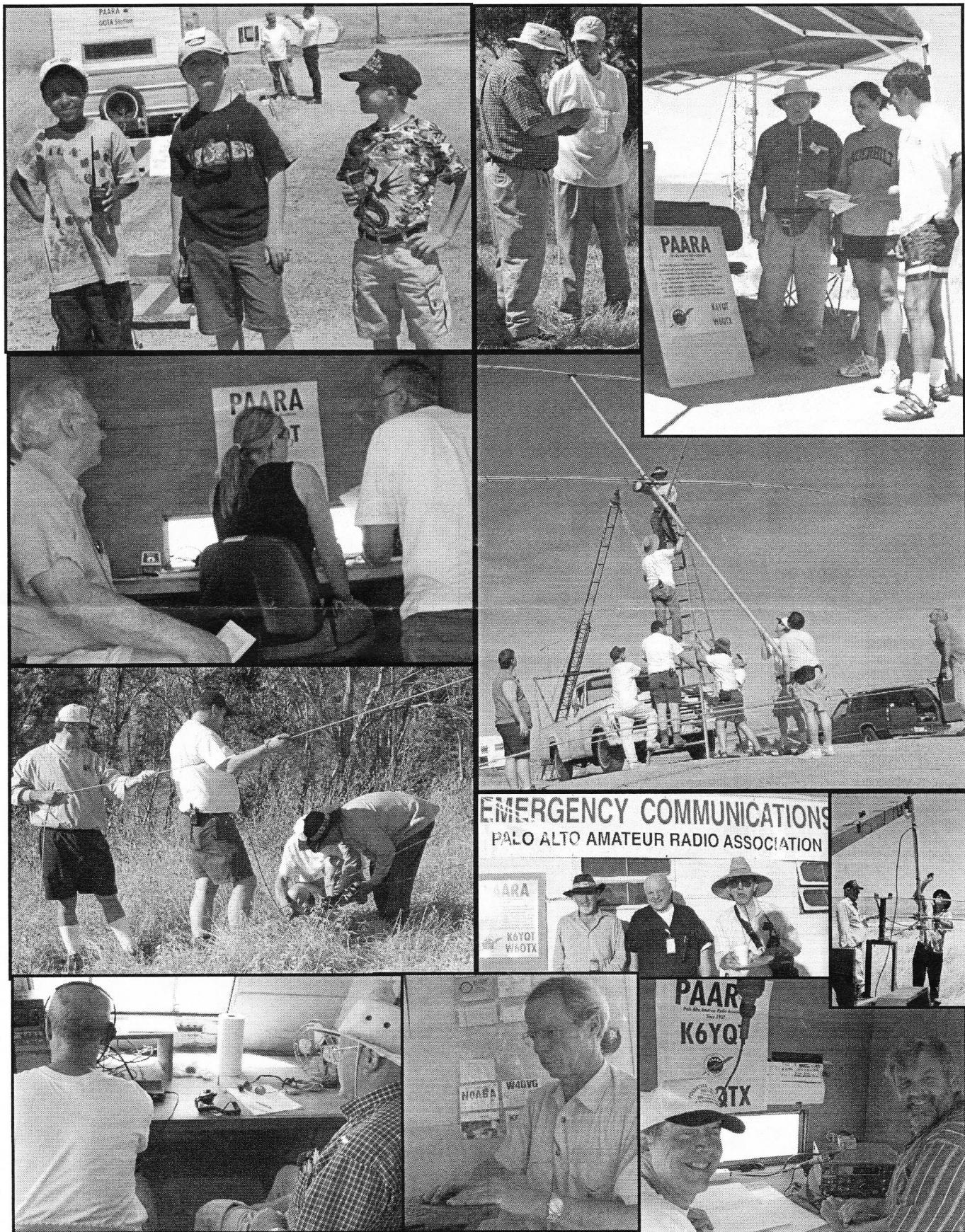
The signs were made by Stephen at his office where he specializes in producing this type of thing. They are covered in plastic for protection from the elements and have Velcro on the back for ease of mounting. All of the wooden stakes for mounting the signs were provided by the Brune's as well, so we can continue to use the signs for years to come. Each of the operating station positions also had two signs each with other signs identifying the call signs of our Club. There were also two information signs produced with information for the news media or interested visitors to the field day operating site.

PAARA continues to be supported by its membership of highly qualified, experienced and all around good guy volunteers. ~Terry Finn. AF6TF

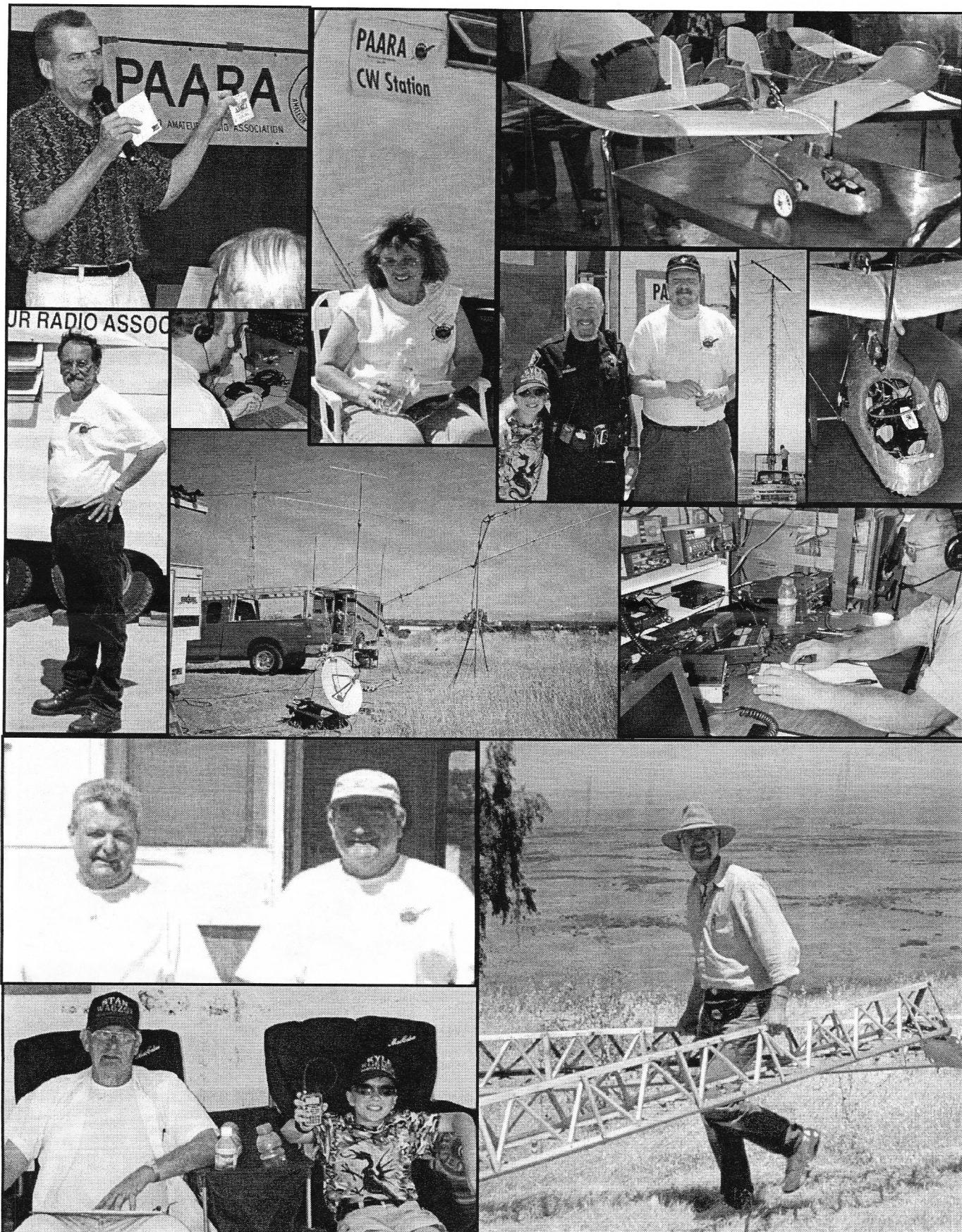


**PAARAGraphs August 2003**  
Celebrating 66 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*

73



**PAARAGraphs August 2003**  
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## New Member Profile



### Mark Cohen, KG6RQL.

Mark is a 32 year old who earned his technician license in June 03 and joined PAARA in July 03. Originally from the San Fernando valley area, Mark has lived in the greater Bay Area since 1989. He is also a member of LARK (Livermore Amateur Radio Klub) and plans on upgrading his license soon. Mark enjoys the hobby and currently operates a Yaesu HT VX7R and a F100D. His interests include integrating electronics and communications while learning everything he can about DX, and rabbit (or fox) hunting (radio direction finding).

Mark is currently the Unix system administrator (or as he puts it, the server room janitor) for Looksmart.com, a search engine where he has been for the past four years. He earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in photography from the College of Arts & Crafts in Oakland and spent one year learning how to cook at the California Culinary Academy. Mark has also worked for a number of Bay Area dot coms over the years, including epit.com; grassroots.com; quote.com; etc.

Mark states that his Elmer's in ham radio are **Mikey Furman, KD6OCS** and **Greg Strambach, KD6VEN**. Please welcome **Mark Cohen, KG6RQL** to PAARA and the various activities.

~Terry Finn, AF6TF.

## New Member Profile



### Mike (mikey) Furman, KD6OCS.

Mike is lovingly referred to as 'Mikey' by his friends & associates. He is a 26 year old who earned his technician license in 1992 and his General class license in 1996, then joined PAARA in July 03. He lives in Sunnyvale and is currently a full time student at DeAnza College where he is majoring in computer science. Mikey really enjoys the ham hobby and states that he wants to attempt everything that the hobby has to offer, at least once. He claims that his Elmer

in the hobby has been **Vic Black, AB6SO**.

Mikey has worked as a network engineer for many years and is considered by some to be an expert in 'internet backbones'. You will have to ask him what that means specifically. He has worked for a number of dot coms in the greater Bay Area, including: ACE Technologies; Sholink; Net VMG; Global Center; Global Crossing and Cisco Systems.

**Mikey KD6OCS** owns, operates and maintains two repeaters. The 1.2 Ghz machine is 1285.650 minus offset with a PL of 110.9 and an ID of **K6MOW**. The two meter machine is 145.310 minus offset with a PL of 127.3 and an ID of **KD6OCS**. As a result of his extensive knowledge and experience, Mikey has agreed to assist the PAARA repeater committee as they move ahead with plans for a club repeater. Thank you Mikey.

Mikey is currently the ham elmer for **Billy Tiemann, N3GRO** and **Mark Cohen, KG6RQL**. You will hear Mikey frequently on the various repeaters as he enjoys operating as bicycle mobile and occasionally as a QRP station. Please welcome Mikey to the PAARA functions.

~Terry Finn, AF6TF.



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## PAARA Board of Directors

June 11, 2003

The regular meeting of the PAARA Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, June 11/03 at 1930 hours at the Red Cross facility in downtown Palo Alto. In attendance was President Andreas Junge, N6NU; Vice President Jim Rice, K6AK; Secretary Terry Finn, AF6TF; PAARAGraphs editor Wally Porter, K6URO; and board members Gerry Tucker, N6NV; Adrianus Schrauwen, W6AJS and Vic Black, AB6SO. Missing in action was the old treasurer Bob Korte, KD6KYT (as he was vacationing again) and the new treasurer Carol Randall, W6GEM (as she was working late).

It was determined that the \$500 donation to Handihams will be made to their specific address at 3915 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota. This group has been assisting people with disabilities since 1967 and specializes in developing new ham operators. Our member Kitty, who is leaving the area, had suggested this organization.

The Board decided that we should continue experimenting with a portable public address system for the meetings as attendance was increasing.

The Board decided that a greeter should be set up at the monthly meeting to check in members and guests. This would facilitate confirming memberships and allow guests to be issued a name tag for identification & socializing.

The Board decided to provide more assistance with the raffle sales operation to facilitate security of the prizes and increase the flow of ticket purchasers.

The Board determined that the annual club picnic will be on July 26 between 11 am and 3 pm. The site will be the home of Jim & Lisa Rice. Details TBA.

Much discussion was had regarding the up coming field day.

The meeting was adjourned at 2200 hours.

~Secretary Terry Finn. AF6TF.

## PAARA Board of Directors

July 16, 2003

The regular meeting of the PAARA Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, July 16, 2003 at the Red Cross building in Palo Alto. The meeting was called to order by President Andreas Junge, N6NU at 1958 hours. In attendance was Vice President Jim Rice, K6AK; PAARAGraphs editor Wally Porter, K6URO; Treasurer Bob Korte, KD6KYT; Secretary Terry Finn, AF6TF; Board Member Vic Black, AB6SO; Financial Consultant & Auditor Ron Chester, W6AZ; and Red Cross representative Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ.

Member Ron Panton, W6VG was officially recognized as a life member of PAARA and will no longer pay annual dues. You may recall that he hosted the PAARA picnics for years and contributed to the club in many other ways. He was publicly recognized at the last PAARA meeting. Member Vic Black will provide special certificates to be printed for other presentations that the club may make in the future. President Andreas Junge will bring sodas to future PAARA meetings for those who do not drink coffee.

The Board agreed to pay \$120. for the ISP host that provides the PAARA web site. The President appointed Bob Korte to the position of treasurer to fill the position that was just vacated by Carol Randall. She resigned due to a heavy work load at her place of employment. The President also appointed Ron Chester to the Board of Directors to serve at the discretion of the Board.

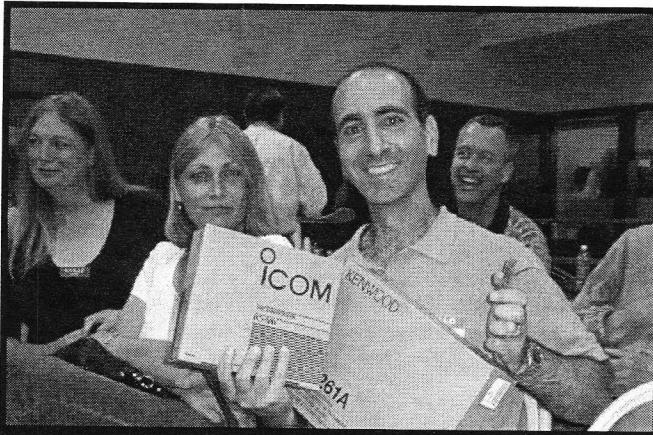
Ron Chester gave an excellent presentation of the club financial status after spending many hours and days auditing the books. He also completed the new California Attorney General raffle registration documents for the club.

The President assigned himself and Terry Finn to the new repeater feasibility study committee. Jim Rice gave a rather informative report on the raffle. The meeting was considered a success as all of the issues were handled. It was adjourned at 21:52 hours.

~Terry Finn, AF6TF, PAARA Secretary.

## Webb site for propagation information:

www.arl.org/wlaw/prop/



### Congratulations:

#### PAARA Raffle Prize Winners / July 11<sup>th</sup> 2003

##### 1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Paul Jemelian KG6JLE

TM 261A Kenwood 2m / Mobile Transceiver

##### 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Paul Jemelian KG6JLE

Icom IC V8 / 2m / 5.5W/ HT

##### 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Michele Patin KG6QXL

Grundig FR200 AM/FM/SW Radio

##### 4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Curt Kolovson AE6EJ / QRP Book

##### 4<sup>th</sup> Prize: John Larribeau KR6MR / Multimeter

##### Bonus Prize: Paul Lufkin K6PML /

1 year subscription to WORLDRAADIO

##### Framed Icom Band Plan Prizes:

##### Jeff Wilson N6WLA & Mike Gavin W6WZ

Congratulations to very lucky New PAARA Member Paul Jemelian KG6JLE who joined PAARA before the drawing!

### Attention Members and Visitors:

#### Raffle Prizes for the August 1<sup>st</sup> PAARA Meeting:

**TWO RADIOS + "SUPER" Third place PRIZE + Two**

**FOURTH place PRIZES + BONUS PRIZE**

**The PAARA raffle IS the BEST RAFFLE in**

**AMATEUR RADIO!**

**This is the TRUTH!**

**Because of YOUR generous participation in the AMAZING /**

**RECORD BREAKING / PAARA RAFFLES,**

**two to three radios EACH MONTH are in the hands of fellow Amateur Radio Operators!**

**This makes a big difference to them and if you haven't won yet, your turn may be next!**

**Come try your hand at winning the**

**FIRST PRIZE, Icom V8, 2 meter, 5.5W, HT;**

**SECOND PRIZE: Icom IC-T2H, 2 meter 6W, HT;**

**THIRD PRIZE: (choice of 1) PS 2, 7Ah Power Station or PowereX Rapid Charger with EIGHT NiMH/1800 mAh AA batteries.**

**Don't forget about the TWO**

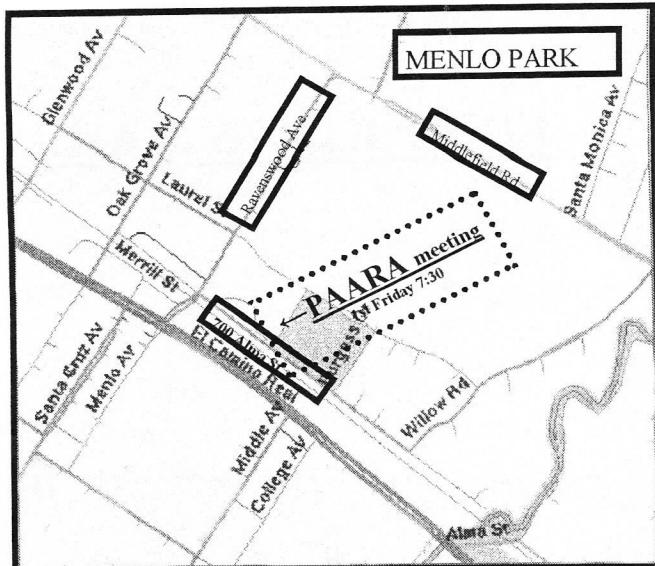
**FOURTH place raffle prizes plus**

**Bonus Prize of a 1 year subscription to WORLDRAADIO.**

**Enjoy our fabulous speakers, free refreshments, chatting with your friends, and the chance to take home an unbelievable prize. See you at Round Table after the meeting! Kyle and I are having a lot of fun. THANKS AGAIN FOR MAKING THE MEETINGS VERY EXCITING!**

~Jim, K6AK

Contact Kyle, KG6MSK for tickets



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**Want and For Sale ads in  
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**are FREE to members**

(Submit by e-mail or letter before the 15th of the month)

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234 Marshall Street, UPSTAIRS #3 Redwood City, CA 94063-1550

## 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

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### 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, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026 -0911

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