



Lecture in Saratoga

The Origins of Silicon Valley: Roots in Ham Radio

– early 20th century, angel investments, tech development, new management practices, where innovation happens today ...

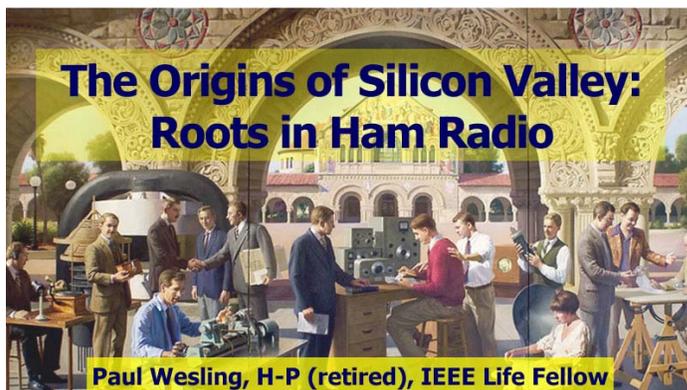
Speaker: Paul Wesling KM6LH, IEEE Life Fellow and Distinguished Lecturer (retired from H-P/Tandem)

When: **Wednesday, November 6, 2019** in Saratoga, CA **Sponsor:** Saratoga Amateur Radio Association (SARA)
Meeting/Lecture at 7:30 PM **Cost: none**

Location: Saratoga main firehouse, 14380 Saratoga Ave, Saratoga

Summary: Why did *Silicon Valley* come into being?

The story goes back to local Hams (amateur radio operators) trying to break RCA's tube patents, "angel" investors, the sinking of the Titanic, Fred Terman and Stanford University, local invention of high-power tubes, WW II and radar, William Shockley's mother living in Palo Alto, and the SF Bay Area infrastructure that developed – these factors pretty much determined that the semiconductor and IC industries would be located in California's Santa Clara Valley, and that the Valley would remain the world's innovation



center as new technologies emerged – computers, then software, mobile, biotech, Big Data, VR, autonomous vehicles and now blockchain – and it would become the model for innovation worldwide.

Paul Wesling, an IEEE Life Fellow and Distinguished Lecturer, has observed the Valley for decades as an engineer, executive, resident, and educator, and has presented this talk world-wide. In this non-technical presentation, he gives an exciting and colorful history of device technology development and innovation that began in Palo Alto, then spread across the Santa Clara Valley during and following World War II. You'll meet some of the colorful characters – Cyril Elwell, Leonard Fuller, Lee de Forest, Bill Eitel, Charles Litton, Fred Terman, David Packard, Bill Hewlett, Russ Varian and others – who came to define the worldwide electronics industries through their inventions and process development. You'll understand some of the novel management approaches that have become the hallmark of tech startups and high-tech firms, and the kinds of engineers/developers who thrive in this work environment – and handle an original Audion tube, designed by Lee de Forest at his lab in Palo Alto. Paul will end by telling us about some current local organizations that keep alive the spirit of the Hams, the Homebrew Computer Club, and the other entrepreneurial groups where geeks gather to invent the future.

"Excellent speaker!! Great grasp of materials and breadth of his knowledge." "The speaker was clear, the information was very interesting. It gave connections to companies' origins that I previously did not know about." "This was one of the best speakers we have heard in a long time. He covered the 'Silicon Valley' lecture with a perfect timeline and lots of good details."

Post-talk reviews submitted by Stanford Historical Society members

Open to all – Invite a friend

Non-technical (good for spouses, students)