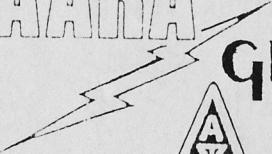


# PAARA



# GRAPHS

JANUARY 1990



# HAPPY

# 1990

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF THE PALO ALTO AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION  
AND  
THE MENLO PARK C.O. AGAVEUM RADIO CLUB



# PALO ALTO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



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Vice-President	Andy Korsak	VE3FZK	415-366-5228
Secretary	Cap Stubbs	KJ6KV	415-323-5079
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Club Historian	Rob Walker	KA6JLT	415-321-9981

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## PAARAGraphs Staff

Editor	Chuck Johnson	N6VFH	408-251-8536
Mailing	Bill McElhinney	KA6LZI	415-325-9808

## PAARA FUND-raISERS

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAGraphs. Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026

Club Net 147.45 MHz Mondays 8:30 PM

Meet at 7:30 PM on the first Friday of each month at the Menlo Park Recreation Center.

Send PAARAGraphs correspondence to:

Chuck Johnson N6VFH, EDITOR  
3309 Mt. Logan Drive  
San Jose, CA 95127

# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

HAPPY 1990!

NOW IS THE TIME FOR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS, SO LET US RESOLVE TO DO WHAT WE CAN TO MAKE THIS YEAR BETTER THAN THE LAST ONE! FOR AMATEUR RADIO PURPOSES, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE ALMOST ENDLESS. IT CAN AND WILL BE FUN TO TRY TO TOP '89, AND THE CLUB OFFERS MANY CHANCES TO HELP DO JUST THAT. GET INVOLVED & GET TO KNOW WHAT THE SERVICE PART OF THE AMATEUR RADIO SERVICE IS ALL ABOUT! HOPE TO SEE YOU AT WINTERFEST 90, CIRCUMSTANCES PERMITTING (MORE INFO INSIDE)! TAKE CARE, HAPPY NEW YEAR, & 73 DE YOUR EDITOR!

## **N6VFH** **SPEAKER OF THE MONTH**

SCHEDULED SPEAKER: CHUCK SMALLHOUSE

TOPIC: MOONBOUNCE / E-M-E

PRE-MEETING DINNER: SU HONG'S, EL CAMINO OFF RAVENSWOOD, MENLO PARK, AT 5:45 PM ON MEETING FRIDAY JANUARY 5, 1990!

DE ANDY VE3FZK, PAARA PROGRAM CHAIRMAN.

# PREZIDENT'S CORNER

WE ARE OFF & RUNNING FOR 1990! I TRUST EVERYONE HAD A PLEASANT HOLIDAY. I WANT TO THANK STEVE K6FS FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND WELCOME GILL KJ6TF AS AN INCOMING BOARD MEMBER. I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF EACH BOARD MEMBER WOULD MAKE UP A SHORT LIST OF PAARA ACTIVITIES WHICH WILL BE COMBINED AND PUBLISHED AS AN EVENTS CALENDAR FOR THE COMING YEAR. PLEASE NOTE ANY CONFLICTS TO AVOID, LIKE THE MAY PICNIC. PLEASE CONGRATULATE K6FS, K6URO, KB6OWG, AND PERHAPS OTHERS FOR SPEARHEADING THE NEW STATION AT THE VA BLIND CENTER. PRESUMABLY PAARA WILL HAVE THE MAY (12TH) FLEA MARKET AT FOOTHILL, SO TRY NOT TO BE A VENDOR THAT MONTH. IN SPITE OF TALKING ABOUT IT FROM TIME TO TIME WE ARE NOT VERY ACTIVE IN BRINGING NEW HAMS INTO THE CLUB. SOME OF OUR NOVICES/TECHNICIANS HAVE MIRACULOUSLY UPGRADED- CONGRATULATIONS!!! SO WE NEED FRESH NOVICE SUPPLIES FOR FIELD DAY. BE THINKING ABOUT ROUNDING SOME UP.

SUPER CONGRATULATIONS TO LILY ANNE N6PGM FOR SINGLE-HANDEDLY PROMOTING THE DECEMBER DINNER. I ARRIVED FROM LONDON ABOUT AN HOUR BEFORE IT STARTED SO I HOPE I DIDN'T APPEAR TOO OUT OF IT.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

de WA6LNV

# PAARA OFFICERS 1990

President: Gerald Tucker WA6LNV

Vice President: Andy Korsak VE3FZK

Secretary: Cap Stubbs KJ6KV

Treasurer: Lily Anne Hillis N6PGM

Board: Dusty Doster K6MPN

Board: Chuck Johnson N6VFH

Board: Gill Lane KJ6TF

## \*\*\*EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE\*\*\*

K6CMT GEORGE ICE CONTRIBUTED A MODEL 158 HF WAVE ANALYZER AND A MODEL 104AS CARRIER FREQUENCY VOLTmeter UNIT, AND SOME OTHER MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT. AVAILABLE TO INTERESTED PAARA MEMBERS AT A NOMINAL FEE, AND IF NO ONE IS INTERESTED, THEN WE'LL PUT IT ON THE FLEA MARKET. (VIA WA6LNV)

## The Phantom of the Prince of Wails -

I have a pair of non-ham friends who I take delight in hiking with occasionally. Bob, 8 years my senior, charges up the trail or cross-country, while Marge, with a knee which troubles her now and then, plods along at a slower pace. Sometimes there is a fork in the trail or some such deviation in the route which causes some confusion for those who try to follow Bob. I suggested that they try a pair of those 49 MHz belt-clip transceivers which have a range of 1/8 to 1/4 mi. to keep in touch. They had doubts about the capability of the radios, and so I declared that I'd buy a pair, and we could try them out.

I ordered a pair of 5-channel units from the DAK catalog, and they arrived in about 10 days. Of course, on unpacking them, I put batteries in them, and tested them. They seemed to work OK over short range, and so I started to idly flip from one channel to another. I was surprised to find a very strong carrier on one channel, and weaker ones on two others, which only intermittently broke the squelch. Then I heard a baby crying on the channel with the strong carrier. I had been introduced to the wireless intercom baby monitor! The child kept on crying, and I wondered whether the parents had turned off the receiver, or turned its volume down. After almost 5 minutes of crying, no one had come to investigate. So I pressed the PTT button on my radio, and asked "Can't you hear me crying?" Within 30 seconds, I heard an adult male voice, and a few seconds later, the crying stopped, and the child started to gurgle and coo. I keyed the radio up again and said "THERE -That's MUCH Better!".

I heard the carrier several days later, as well as cordless telephone conversations on the other channels. Evidently, the people with the baby monitor are oblivious to the fact that they've compromised their own privacy.

de Bill, AA6PA

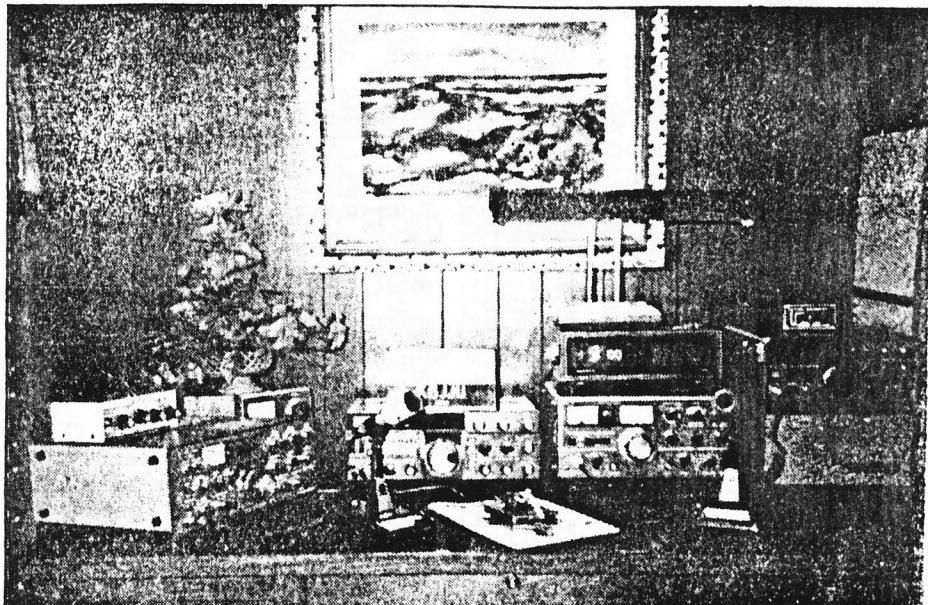


# STATION APPEARANCE

## DECEMBER WINNER

John Gordano K6JJU

*Send Worldradio a picture of your shack and the staff will choose a winner to receive a free one-year subscription! Stations will be judged by neatness (wires tucked away, etc.) and accessibility of equipment. Monetary value of equipment is not a consideration.*



This month's winner is John Gordano, K6JJU, of Redwood City, CA. John has been an Amateur for 35 years. He has operated VHF for about 25 years and HF the last 10. He worked WAS on 50 MHz and enjoys chasing DX and ragchewing.

Following is a description of his equipment:

From left to right the equipment consists of a Kenwood TS 830S transceiver, Kenwood AT-200 antenna tun-

er, Yaesu FT 102 transceiver, Kenwood 520 transceiver and Drake MS4 speaker.

Top left to right is a QF-1A all mode filter, Alliance HD rotator indicator, clock radio, Kenwood TS-700A 2M transceiver. On top of this is a KLM 2M 40W amp.

On the desktop are a ham key, Kenwood MC50 microphones and Worldradio magazine (a very politic move on John's part if I do say so. Wonder if this guy's a diplomat?). □

**Triumph is just umph added to try. — Orleans County ARC, Albion, NY**

# MONTEREY HAM FEST / FLEA MARKET

THE NAVAL POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (NPSARC) ANNOUNCES

WINTER FEST 90

THIS IS AN AMATEUR RADIO DEMONSTRATION AND ELECTRONIC FLEA MARKET AT THE MONTEREY FAIRGROUNDS (SALINAS HALL) IN MONTEREY CA, FROM 0900 UNTIL 1500 ON THE 20TH OF JANUARY 1990. THE ENTIRE AFFAIR IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

AMATEUR COMMUNICATION DEMONSTRATION STATIONS INCLUDE ATV/SSTV, PACKET, SATELLITE NAVY MARS, ARES/RACES, NTSC TRAFFIC, AND STATE OF THE ART COMPUTER OPERATIONS IN AMATEUR RADIO.

DART THROWERS CAN COMPETE FOR PRIZES ON OUR GUESS THE CALL SIGN PREFIX OF THE COUNTRY YOU HIT WITH YOUR DARTS, AND ESPECIALLY EMPHASIZED WILL BE HOW TO GET STARTED IN AMATEUR RADIO. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN SALINAS HALL. WE WILL ALSO BE JUDGING YOUR ABILITY TO SEND CW WITH YOUR LEFT FOOT.

FLEA MARKETERS WILL BE CHARGED \$1.00 PER SPACE, WITH TABLES COSTING MORE. THIS IS A NON-PROFIT EVENT FOR NPSARC, AND WE ARE CHARGING ONLY TO DEFER TO DEFRAY THE CONSIDERABLE EXPENSE OF RENTING THE FAIRGROUNDS EXPOSITION HALL. SELLERS ARE REQUESTED TO ARRIVE EARLY AND BE TOTALLY SET UP PRIOR TO 0900. YOU WILL DRIVE TO SALINAS HALL DOCK AREA, UNLOAD, AND THEN PARK YOUR VEHICLE IN PUBLIC PARKING. JUDGING FROM OUR PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE IN WINTER SEASON FLEA MARKETS, THIS WILL BE A GREAT SUCCESS!

TALK IN USING THE K6LY REPEATER SYSTEM ON 146.97 (-), 221.7 SIMPLEX, 444.700 (+), OR 28.475 USB.

THE MONTEREY FAIRGROUNDS IS AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 1 AND HIGHWAY 68 IN MONTEREY. FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO RESERVE A FLEA MARKET SPACE:

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# ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT AMATEUR RADIO

## WHAT IS AMATEUR RADIO?

Amateur Radio is primarily a noncommercial communications service of hobbyists worldwide. Amateur Radio operators, or "hams" experiment with equipment and new technologies. They build, test and operate new devices. Amateurs use special frequencies and are licensed to use their own stations to communicate by radio, TV and computer-based systems.

Amateur Radio operators perform critical public service during natural disasters or civil emergencies. These trained operators often provide the only reliable communications available into, within and out of disaster areas. Amateurs played important roles in the Mexico City, and Armenia earthquakes, Hurricane Gilbert and other recent, major disasters.

## IS AMATEUR RADIO AN EXPENSIVE HOBBY?

As in home computing, one can buy a top-dollar, all feature system, or can get on the air with simple equipment for less than the price of a typical home stereo. Used equipment is also popular since hams are allowed to fix and maintain it themselves. It's also cost effective to build it yourself.

## DO I NEED A LICENSE?

The government's concern about responsible use of the airwaves is why Amateur Radio operators must show they know operating rules and demonstrate a technical knowledge of their equipment. A Morse code requirement brings a skill to communicate using the most simple of radio circuits. Passing these tests allows the government to grant permission to transmit signals using up to 1500 watts of power if needed.

## HOW TOUGH IS IT TO GET AN AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE?

It depends on how interested and motivated a person is to earn all the operating privileges now available. Most people find it's *not* vital to have some previous technical knowledge—though it does help. Several levels of licensing let the newcomer pick how many

privileges to work toward. The TECHNICIAN class license permits the use of voice, code and data transmissions as well as Amateur television and satellite. Higher licenses require more study but bring more frequencies — especially on shortwave bands where foreign operators in exotic lands are likely to be found! A NOVICE license — the entry level — grants basic voice, computer and Morse code privileges.

## HOW DO I GET MY LICENSE?

Local clubs are often the best ways to learn about Amateur Radio. They hold licensing classes for the community. Interested persons should contact a local ham, or the local newspaper for information. ARRL Headquarters can provide lists of local clubs to prospective hams.

A study guide, such as the ARRL's *Tune In The World With Ham Radio* package covers privileges, requirements, technical theory and Morse code instruction. Code cassette tapes offer code practice.

## WHY IS MORSE CODE A LICENSE REQUIREMENT?

The code is an international language promoting contact with other countries and encouraging cultural exchange. Commonplace abbreviations permit Morse Code exchanges across language barriers. International radio rules have kept it a license requirement from the time wireless regulations were first established. Code also cuts through poor radio conditions better than other means, making it important in emergency situations. In practice, the use of Morse Code is but one of the many forms of communication Amateurs are allowed to use.

Prepared by:

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