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PAARA

vol. 25
DECEMBER 1982

GRAPHS



**Palo Alto
AMATEUR
RADIO ASSN.**

MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

PAARAGraphs is the official organ of
The Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association & the Menlo Park Civil Defense Radio Club

1982 CLUB OFFICERS

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|--------|----------|-----------|----------------|--------|
| President | : | Gerry Tucker | WA6LNV | 326-4908 | Chairman: | Gerry Tucker | WA6LNV |
| Vice-Pres. | : | Kevin Lapp | WA6FAC | 364-2654 | Members : | John | KD6ZL |
| Secretary | : | Gerry Wagstaffe | W6NIR | 325-4670 | | Buonocore | |
| Treasurer | : | George Nixon | GI3OEN | 854-6445 | | : Wally Porter | K6URO |
| Trustee, K6OTX | : | Fred Canham | K6YT | 948-9238 | | : Clif Keely | KA6JWA |
| Property | : | Ed Fairbanks | W6AIN | 322-0319 | | : Ed Fairbanks | W6AIN |
| Co-Property | : | Fred Canham | K6YT | 948-9238 | | : Bill | KA6LZI |
| ARES Officer | : | Steve Stuntz | K6FS | 322-4952 | | McElhinney | |
| Club Historian | : | Jerry Zobel | W6ARA | 322-0063 | | : Bob Wheeler | K6SEM |
| Club nets | : | 147.45 MHz, Monday 8:30 pm L.T. & 14.287 MHz, Monday 9:00 pm L.T. | | | | | |

PAARA POLICIES

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year (payable in January), which membership includes a subscription to PAARAGraphs. Freebee distribution to those who indicate an interest in the Club, and as an inducement to their becoming members, and is subject to change with changing interests in the Club. Make payment to: PAARA, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | | |
|---------|---|---------------|--------|
| Editor | : | George Nixon | GI3OEN |
| Advert. | : | Swede Swenson | N6CHL |
| Mailing | : | Bill | KA6LZI |
| | | McElhinney | |
| | | Sue Lindner | LØVLY |

PAARAGRAPHS STAFF

Written contributions to the P.O. Box above, or to the Editor, 1140 Sherman Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Tel. 854-6445. Deadline is two or three days after the Board of Directors meeting.

Friday, December 3, 1982

7:30pm

R E G U L A R M E E T I N G
FOX HUNTING TECHNIQUES
or
HOW TO FIND A TRANSMITTER IN A HAYSTACK

by

Marc Kaufman, WA6ECE

Learn the methods of Smiley's People and the gang at Cheltenham at this topical PAARA meeting. Be there!

Meeting to be held at the Menlo Park Recreation Centre, Alma at Mielke, Menlo Park. Future meetings: January 7, 1982; February 4, 1982.

Circle the Date

December 3, 1982.

-3-

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Monday, December 13

RICK'S SWISS CHALET

El Camino Way & Meadow
Palo Alto

No-host Cocktails at 6:00 pm

Dinner at 7:00 pm

Bring a gift, value about \$2.00, for OM or YL/XYL and participate in the gift exchange.

MENU

ROAST CROSS RIB OF BEEF

or

CHICKEN CORDON BLEU

(Cost of either \$9)

Last date for signing up: December 3

PRESIDENT'S CORNER: If you went back to the shack and deep cycled your NiCads after the last meeting, I'm sure you were among the many who enjoyed Steve Andrue's talk. I neglected to acknowledge Alan Larson, WA6AZP's effort in rounding up our Speaker. By the way, Steve was selling batteries at the Auction, and you might look for him at future Flea Markets if you need advice. It was great to hear Kevin Lapp, WA6FHC check into last Monday's net! If George Nixon, GI3OEN, would get a 2 metre rig, we could get all the officers on the net by the end of the year! (It wouldn't help, Gerry, I go to a sports club every Monday and Thursday night, 6:30pm to 10:00pm. - Ed.) I suppose this is the issue where great philosophical reflections are made on the past

year. I don't have any great thoughts in this area, but it does seem that PAARA is still financially strong containing members who are active and aggressive in the Ham community, and that PAARA provides a reasonably good focal point for their energies. One last event for 1982 is the December 13 Christmas Dinner. You must send George, GI3OEN, or myself, your money for this event, or come to the December 3 meeting ready to sign up. We have had a low turnout at some events this year, but this event is always enjoyed by those who go, so let's have a big turnout. December 4 is the date by which I have to commit numbers to Rick's. Check on details elsewhere in this issue. Another reason to come to the next meeting is to hear Marc Kaufman, WA6ECE, speak on directional antennas for finding hidden transmitters. We are going to have more hidden transmitter hunts in the future so fore-warned is fore-armed!

de Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV.

CLUB MEETING REPORT: The Club meeting of November 5, 1982, Guy Fawkes' night in England, was held in the Menlo Park Recreation Centre with a good crowd in attendance. In view of the fact that the evening's talk was on the potentially explosive subject of NiCads and their charging, your Editor approached the Recreation Centre with trepidation. Was there some disgruntled conspirator under the Rec Centre, planning to blow up PAARA, as Guy Fawkes had planned to blow up the King and both Houses of Parliament in England? Your Editor was only partly reassured by the fact that the Rec Centre is built on a concrete slab, and has no cellars underneath!

Your Editor entered the meeting as Chris Schellenberg, WB6WBK, was being congratulated on his success at the Auction. Our President, Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV, then talked about the Christmas Dinner. As in previous years, the Club will pay for the wine out of the Auct-

ion proceeds. Gerry Tucker then spoke of PAARA operating a Flea Market on the 2nd Saturday in July at the Parking Lot at Foothill College, similar to the Flea Market put on by FARS. Extra revenue-generating activities would be a good idea, said Gerry; the Club, in some respects, flies on a wing and a prayer financially. The Club depends a lot on having a free meeting hall at the Rec Centre, and having free parking for the Club Trailer at S.R.I. If we should ever lose these privileges, and had to pay for a meeting place or a parking space, we would be very glad of our financial reserves. Gerry asked the membership at the meeting if they favoured holding a Flea Market, and the membership replied "Yes" unanimously.

The next item concerned our winning the 4A Class in Field Day nationwide for the fourth year in a row. As Fred Canham, K6YT, said, the Foothill Amateur Radio Association had all the advantages, more operators, more equipment, more space, but, in the end,..... less performance! FARS' computer was on the blink, also; the score they sent into the ARRL was 1,000 low, the figures given in last month's PAARAGraphs were the correct ones, however, and PAARA still beat them!

In reply to a question as to where the FARS Field Day site was, Fred Canham gave a series of directions which started: go to the intersection of Route 280 and Highway 92, enter the Skyline Cemetery, go 1 mile north, pass some offices,..... As your Editor could not write fast enough, the directions end here. However, Fred said that the site was perpetually fog-enshrouded, and your Editor can remember from previous years, that the site was full of rogue cows!

The Nominations Committee then requested nominations for the post of Director to replace Bob Wheeler, K6SEM,; John Buonocore, KD6ZL,; and Bill McElhinney, KA6LZI, wh whose terms had expired. As John and Bill wished to run again as Director, that left one real vacancy. Les

Vickery, W6AKR, was proposed by the Nominating Committee and Paul Thekan, WA6IJP, and Alan Larson, WA6AZP, were proposed from the floor. Another change in posts mentioned at the meeting was that Clif Keely, KA6JWA, Director, and Kevin Lapp, WA6FAC, decided to resign their posts and run for each other's. Anyone who is confused by all of this can understand how our President, Gerry Tucker felt. Anyway, nominations can be made at any time up to the actual election on December 3. The incoming Officers and Directors will be installed at the Christmas Dinner bash!

With regard to the inter-Club Sweepstakes contest between PAARA, FARS and SPARKS, Alan Larson will run the contest for PAARA, so send your scores to him.

Steve Andrues was the Speaker for the evening, and he spoke on NiCad batteries, their charging and their care. NiCads have a 1.2 volt nominal output, and under charge, can reach between 1.42 and 1.7t volts. Short cycling tends to raise the self-resistance of NiCads, said Steve, so it is best to totally discharge and then fully charge them a few times if you suspect a high self-resistance. It is a matter of grain size, said Steve. If you put 140% of rated capacity into a NiCad, you can draw out 100% of rated capacity, making them an efficient storers of energy. Nicads can last as long as sixteen years; Steve told of the mechanics who found a NiCad battery in an Air Cal Electra that had been functioning happily for years without the mechanics even knowing it was there. The big danger with NiCads was that if they were overcharged, they tended to explode. When heavily overcharged, first the cell heats up, then current starts to flow internally. This further heats up the cell, which in turn further increases the internal current. The process being cumulative and regenerative, the NiCad explodes! Shades of Guy Fawkes!

After Steve's initial presentation, there was a long question and answer session, during which everyone got

their questions answered. The meeting then closed, with many members going over to the Village Host for some elbow-bending and good conversation.

The Board Meeting of November 10, 1982, was held at the Club trailer, and present were: Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV; Gerry Wagstaffe, W6NIR; John Buonocore, KD6ZL; Bill McElhinney, KA6LZI; Wally Porter, K6URO; Kevin Lapp, WA6FAC; Clif Keely, KA6JWA; Alan Larson, N6FAQ; and George Nixon, GI3OEN. Gerry Tucker chaired the meeting.

The proposed July next-year Flea Market was discussed first. The Board approved the resolution that the Club undertake to hold a Flea Market at the parking lot in Foothill College next July and Fred Canham, K6YT, was authorized to negotiate the best deal possible. Giving Novice tests at the Flea Market and having a call-in radio were suggested. On the subject of the food concession at the parking lot, it was mentioned by someone that, although the regulations seem to ban a food concession, in practice, this restriction is not enforced, and that we should have a food concession for the extra income that would be generated.

On the subject of the recent Auction, Treasurer George Nixon, GI3OEN, who had the Auction income and expenses recorded in a form that only high-powered accountants could understand, was asked to rewrite the amounts in a more intelligible form. Gerry Tucker requested a greater effort to obtain donated equipment for next year's Auction from such local firms as Lenkurt, Ampex, Varian, S.R.I. and H.P. Only \$10 of donated equipment made it to the auction this year, although there may have been some more on the PAARA table. Bill McElhinney offered to redo the Auction flier for next year to include a call-in frequency and an appeal to the Flea Market table sellers to consider auctioning some of their big-ticket items.

The appropriate charge for Flea Market tables for next year was discussed. The charge at the recent Auction was \$5, and as our Auction commission for items auctioned is 10%, your Editor felt that persons having more than \$50 of gear to sell were renting Flea Market tables rather than putting the gear up for Auction. The pattern of the last Auction was that we did not have enough Flea Market tables to accomodate all of the prospective sellers, but we had relatively little gear to auction. This seemed to be an example of Gresham's Law in practice, and your Editor suggested raising the Flea Market table charge to \$7.50 or \$10.00 to restore the balance between Flea Market tables and auction sales.

"Nonsense", said Gerry Wagstaffe, "Your reasoning is wrong. It has been proved time after time that items of over \$50 do not sell on the Flea Market tables. The sellers know that, and that is why they start entering their big-ticket items into the auction after a few hours. The excitement of the auction process gets significantly higher prices for gear, the extra amount more than covering the auction commission." As Gerry is our Flea Market expert, arriving at most of them before the sellers, the Board deferred to his judgement. However, as stated earlier, Bill McElhinney will write into next year's flier an item explaining this reasoning to sellers.

An ongoing need is that for speakers, and suggestions were solicited from the members at the meeting. Incidentally, if any PAARA member knows of a good speaker on a radio-related subject, they should contact Kevin Lapp. Suggested were talks on HF antennas, towers, confidential communications (someone wondered if the Happy Flier would consent to giving another talk), the new Heathkit SS9000 and phone patching. The discussion then turned to getting the most out of your monthly Pacific Telephone service charge.

On the subject of the Inter-Club prize for the best

Sweepstakes score, Alan Larson said that he had received two reports for the CW portion of the contest, one from Steve Stuntz, K6FS, and one from Rob Taylor, KA6 NAN. Post 599, the Explorer Scouts, are starting their Novice class and have 11 students signed up. The Post would like some \$25 receivers to sell to the students to listen to code on the air. Perhaps the Post could establish a Novice slow-speed net for the Club in which PAARA members, whose CW is rusty, could participate as well as Novices. If next June is like last June, the Club will need all the Novice operators for Field Day that it can get. Even Bill McElhinney, KA6LZI, has promised to work on his code and be there at the Novice tent next Field Day! Remember, last June, the Novice station was only on the air for part of the time; with the Novice multiplier, we would like to have the Novice station on the air throughout the contest. Perhaps the Post could make it clear to their students that their duty lies in getting their Novice licence as quickly as possible, then getting on-the-air experience, then working in the Novice tent on Field Day, and then getting their General licence in July! This being the last item for discussion, the meeting then broke up.

Long-time readers of PAARAGraphs will remember a time when we had regular Post 599 reports. Well, hold on to your hats, we have:

FROM POST 599.

Previews of coming attractions -

- (1) Post garage sale at the clubhouse (St. Thomas Aquinas Roman Catholic Church, Homer and Waverly in Palo Alto). Lots of goodies. Listen to the Club net for a date.
- (2) Transmitter hunt with prizes.

(3) Novice Instructional Class. See Rob Taylor, KA6 NAN at the meeting (2nd and 4th weeks in the month, Thursday?) or call him.

Post 599 wishes to thank Western Wheelers for their generous contribution to the Post. The Post participated last June in providing communications for their Club's Annual Biking Event. The Post is looking forward to again assisting them with communications next year.

From October 1982 Radio Communication, a report on the British National Field Day 1982.

Of the 100-plus stations that entered the contest, 14 were unable to finish because of equipment or station damage caused by the severe storms that swept across much of the UK during the 24 hours of the event. Apart from thunderstorms, some areas experienced gale-force winds and monsoon-like rain, which flooded a number of sites. From information given in comments from competitors, 61 stations experienced some form of problem and 42 of these were forced to close down for a period. Many sites had near or direct lightning strikes, which took out front-ends of transceivers, welded coax, etc. On one site a FT1OLZD caught fire, on another the generator was struck, while on yet another, two of the operators suffered minor burns when their station antenna was struck. Generator failures were legion, as apart from electrical and mechanical failures, a common problem was that rain was sucked into the air intake. A few groups anticipated trouble and used grounded shunt-fed antennas or connected $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength earthing stubs to their open wire feeders. Those who took precautions were the exception rather than the rule, and the majority of entrants had no protection at all. There were a number of lucky escapes and the HF Contests Committee congratulates all those groups who completed the contest under such adverse conditions.

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