

K6YQT

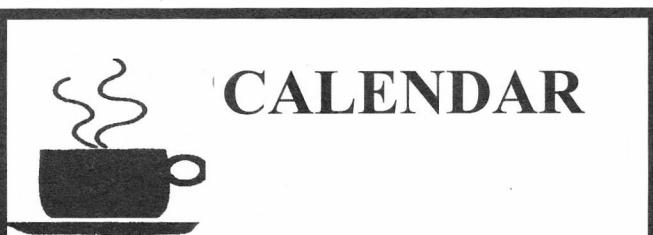
PAARA NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 52 NUMBER 7, July 2003

W6OTX



# PAARAGraphs

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



## CALENDAR

- June....28-29      **Field Day** (*see page 64*)  
July.....11      **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30 (*July 4th Holiday*)  
                      Menlo Park Recreation Center  
                      700 Alma Street, Menlo Park  
July.....16      **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30  
                      Red Cross Blvd., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto  
July.....26      **PAARA Picnic** (*see page 57 & 60*)  
August.....1      **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30  
August.....6      **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30  
September...5      **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30  
September,10      **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30

The ARRL has a code practice:  
URL <http://www.pcpractice.com/CW/>  
-Don KF6JMQ



## PROGRAM

July 11, 2003 7:30 P.M.

Kevin Gehrke KG6D  
and  
Tiny Gehrke ON4CAT (KT6YL)

### "All About QSLing and Women DXers"

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

## PAARA Annual Picnic

Saturday, July 26, 2003  
11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

**Picnic:** 11a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Rice's home  
416 Vista Verde Way, Portola Valley, (650) 851-2274

**Who can attend:** PAARA Members and Family

**RSVP:** If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Jim or Lisa Rice no later than Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at [k6ak@arrl.net](mailto:k6ak@arrl.net) or (650) 851-2274. RSVP by email is preferred. When you RSVP, please let Lisa or Jim know if you can arrive early to help with food preparation and set up.

**Carpooling:** Carpooling to the Rice's home is encouraged, as parking is limited.

**Directions:** Please see the map on page 61. If you get lost try N6NFI repeater 145.23 (-600 PL 100).

*Bring your "radios" and check out the propagation at 1900' elevation!*

July 11<sup>th</sup> Program:

### All About QSLing and Women DXers

Kevin Gehrke KG6D and Tiny Gehrke ON4CAT (KT6YL), will enlighten us on what it is like to be QSL managers, ARRL inbound card sorters, and participants of the Lybian and Flatey Island / Iceland DXpeditions.

Our July speakers met "On the Air" when the H.F. radio waves spanned the correct path from Manteca, CA to Belgium. Kevin and Tiny will never forget their "First Chance Encounter."

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

~Jim, K6AK

## Miscellaneous Dates

### ELECTRONIC FLEA MARKET @ Foothill College

Second Saturday of month, March -October, 6 AM-2PM  
*Perham Foundation Sponsorship has discontinued.*  
*The Flea Market will continue under a new sponsor.*

### PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

meets 1st Friday 7:30 each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,  
 contact: Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843

### FARS Foothills Amateur Radio Society

meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month,  
 contact: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>.

### NCDXC Northern California DX Club

meets 2nd Friday 7:30 each month,  
 repeater for member info 147.360, Thur 8:00PM,  
 contact: Bob Mammarella KB6FEC 408 729 1544.

### NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club

meets 1st Sunday each month,  
 contact: Jim Cates 3241 Eastwood Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821.

### Perham Foundation (discontinued)

### SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz, [www.specsnet.org](http://www.specsnet.org)  
 contact: Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441 [specs@svpal.org](mailto:specs@svpal.org)

### SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

meets 3rd Thursday 7:30 each month, San Carlos City Hall.  
 Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL -100) 7:30 Monday evenings.  
 contact:

### SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.385+(pl 114.8)  
 Nets: 2m, 7:30 Mon, 70cm, 442.425+(pl 107.2) Thur.  
 Web site [www.qsl.net/seccra](http://www.qsl.net/seccra)  
 meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.  
 contact: Clark Murphy KE6KXO 408-262-9334  
 ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-243-8349

### SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates WB6ADZ repeater (146.115 MHz+)  
 contact: Lon Sterner WA6QYS 408 241 7999

### WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association

operates W6PIY repeater 147.39+, 223.96, 441.875, 1286.2  
 meets 3rd Wed every month.  
 contact: Glen Lokke Jr. KE6NBO at 408 971 8626, or [glokke@pacbell.net](mailto:glokke@pacbell.net)

### Disaster Services.

PALO ALTO CHAPTER, American Red Cross, [www.paarc.org](http://www.paarc.org)  
 400 Mitchell Lane  
 Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM.  
 HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite.  
 contact: Mac Millian 650-688-0423. [MACM@paarc.org](mailto:MACM@paarc.org)

SAN JOSE CHAPTER, American Red Cross

contact: Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924, [FSHENSLEY@NOVELL.COM](mailto:FSHENSLEY@NOVELL.COM)

### VE Exams

3rd Saturday each month, 10:30AM, 145.23 - PL=100Hz  
 Redwood City Main Library..Community Conference Room  
 1044 Middlefield Road, RedwoodCity, CA

contact: Al WB6IMX@att.net

### Swap meet

,LosPositas College, Livermore, 1st Sunday each month.  
 Contact: Cliff Kibbe (209) 835 6715 or Eliot Ross (925) 606 7710

(please send changes to PAARAGraphs editor: [k6uro@arrl.net](mailto:k6uro@arrl.net))

### Instructions on how to subscribe to PAARA mailing list

#### Here are the steps in the long form:

- 1) go to <http://mailman.qth.net/>
- 2) click on: "To Subscribe to Lists Click Here!"
- 3) Find PAARA on list and click on it
- 4) enter your email address and pick a password
- 5) hit the "Subscribe" button

#### The short form of the instructions are:

- 1) go to <http://mailman.qth.net/> and follow the instructions.

Andreas, N6NU

### Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

#### PO Box 911

#### Menlo Park, CA 94026

President	Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843 <a href="mailto:n6nu@arrl.net">n6nu@arrl.net</a>
Vice President	Jim Rice, K6AK.....(650) 851 -2274 <a href="mailto:k6ak@arrl.net">k6ak@arrl.net</a>
Secretary	Terry Finn, AF6TF.....(650) 366 -9111 <a href="mailto:terry@incognitoservices.com">terry@incognitoservices.com</a>
Treasurer	Carol Randall, W6GEM .....(510) 656 9468 <a href="mailto:c_rosrandall@yahoo.com">c_rosrandall@yahoo.com</a>
Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO.....(650) 366 0636 <a href="mailto:ab6so@smrn.com">ab6so@smrn.com</a>
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W6OTX Station Trustee	Gerry Tucker, N6NV.....(650) 326 4908 <a href="mailto:tucker_gerry@ssd.loral.com">tucker_gerry@ssd.loral.com</a>
K6YQT Station Trustee	Gerry Tucker, N6NV.....(650) 326 4908 <a href="mailto:tucker_gerry@ssd.loral.com">tucker_gerry@ssd.loral.com</a>
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Badges	Don Trask, KF6JMQ.....(408) 251 6494 <a href="mailto:trask@arrl.net">trask@arrl.net</a>
Ticket Master	Kyle Rice, KG6MSK <a href="mailto:kyle@arrl.net">kyle@arrl.net</a>
ARES Officer	Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM .....(650) 325 5484 <a href="mailto:lilyanne@arrl.net">lilyanne@arrl.net</a>
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Webmaster	Curt Kolovson, AE6EJ .....(650) 494-6256 <a href="mailto:ae6ej@arrl.net">ae6ej@arrl.net</a>

#### Board of Directors

Gerry Tucker, N6NV	(650) 326 4908	'03
tucker_gerry@ssd.loral.com		
Rolf Klibo, N6NFI	(650) 856-2748	'03
klibo@earthlink.net		
Adrianus Schrauwen,W6AJS	(650) 494-6256	'04
hagenees@att.net		

(see "Calendar" for Board meeting times, visitors welcome)

#### PAARAGraphs Staff

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Database	Lisa Rice, KG6KQS.....(650) 851-2274 <a href="mailto:lisarice@earthlink.net">lisarice@earthlink.net</a>
Columns	Vic Black, AB6SO.....(650) 366 0636 <a href="mailto:ab6so@smrn.com">ab6so@smrn.com</a>
	Jay Melvin, WA6SBO.....(650) 726 4361 <a href="mailto:wa6sbo@arrl.net">wa6sbo@arrl.net</a>
	Terry Finn, AF6TF.....(650) 366-9111 <a href="mailto:terry@incognitoservices.com">terry@incognitoservices.com</a>

#### PAARAGraphs e-mail address: [k6uro@arrl.net](mailto:k6uro@arrl.net)

Submit material for PAARAGraphs by the 15th  
 Use WORD, rich text, ascii, .pub, or jpg, zip pictures as attachments.

PAARA Website: [www.paara.org](http://www.paara.org)

### PAARA WEB

Thanks to **Andreas Junge, N6NU**

and

**Curt Kolovson, AE6EJ, Webmaster**

PAARA has a new web site. Check it out.

**www.paara.org**

## PAARA Board of Directors News.



Our President, **Andreas Junge**, N6NU, has announced the appointment of **Terry Finn, AF6TF**, to the position of Association Secretary. Mr. Finn will serve at the discretion of the Board of Directors until the next election.

This appointment becomes effective immediately as the former Secretary, **Jay Melvin, WA6SBO**, has become overwhelmed by other commitments, including attending law school.

The regular Board of Directors meeting was held on Monday, May 19/03 at the Round Table Pizza location in Menlo Park as the Red Cross Offices in Palo Alto were not available that particular evening. The meeting convened at 19:55 hours.

In attendance was President **Andreas Junge**, N6NU; Vice President **Jim Rice**, K6AK; new treasurer **Carol Randall**, W6GEM; old treasurer **Bob Korte**, KD6KYT; Secretary **Terry Finn**, AF6TF; Board members, **Gerry Tucker**, N6NV; **Vic Black**, AB6SO; **Adrianus Schrauwen**, W6AJS and Association member guests; **David Cooper**, KE6PFF and **Dave Rogers**, K5DKR.

The new generator committee made up of **Vic Black**, AB6SO and **Terry Finn**, AF6TF reported that after extensive technical research and price comparisons, it was decided to purchase a new 1000-watt Honda portable generator. This unit is quiet and light in weight and only cost PAARA a total of \$629. The generator committee will formally present it to PAARA at Field Day where it will really be put to the test!! This is new technology where a DC generator provides current to a built in inverter for clean AC output capable of running even sensitive things like computers or expensive radios.

The Board decided to donate \$500 to the organization known as Handi-Hams who assist people with learning disabilities. This group has a long track record in helping new comers to the hobby learn the necessary skills to become licensed hams. This has come about due to the input from **Kitty Hevener**, WB8TDA.

Vice President **Jim Rice**, K6AK, provided an interesting report detailing the success of the monthly raffle at the Club meetings. This activity has netted the Club slightly more than \$500 in revenue (after expenses) since its inception. Also noted was the fact that PAARA only contributes \$50 per month to the raffle prize committee. Since February nine Club members have won radios. This month there will be three radios available in the raffle!!

**Terry Finn**, AF6TF, will be making arrangements with the publisher of World Radio magazine to have eight new magazine subscriptions available for the raffle. The Board authorized an expenditure of \$65 for this rather novel promotion.

The President appointed the following Club members to a new committee that will consider the type, style and cost of special awards or certificates to be presented at the annual Christmas party. **Andreas Junge**, N6NU; **Gerry Tucker**, N6NV; **Jim Rice**, K6AK; **Terry Finn**, AF6TF; **David Cooper**, KE6PFF; and **Carol Randall**, W6GEM.

Field Day is right around the corner as outlined by **Gerry Tucker**, N6NV. He and **Andreas Junge**, N6NU, will be coordinating everything and they need as many volunteers as possible to assist with the transportation, set up, and tear down of equipment. There will be several ad hoc meetings in the weeks & days prior to Field Day.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:45 hours.

*Terry Finn, AF6TF, PAARA Secretary*

### New Friends on the Radio”

*by Kyle Rice KG6MSK (age 9)*

I am having fun talking to other kids on the radio. I recently met three new friends on the Stanford repeater. Their names are **Billy** (age 9), **Frank** (age 15), and **Megan** (age 11). We have many things in common we like to talk about. I hope that more kids get their licenses and get “on the air.”

## ECOMMWEST 2003

On Saturday, May 31/03, I had the opportunity of attending the annual ARRL Pacific Division Operating Specialty Convention commonly known as ecommwest, which is short for the real name of Emergency Communications. This event is sanctioned by the ARRL and is specifically oriented toward hams involved with any type of emergency communications in the western States.

This group has been active since 1999 and the numbers of attendees at the convention has doubled every year. More info can be found at: [www.emcomm.org](http://www.emcomm.org) or by contacting this years event coordinator, **Paul Cavarar**, NN7B at [nn7b@arrl.net](mailto:nn7b@arrl.net). This year, the Sierra Nevada Amateur Radio Society helped to sponsor the event and by all accounts it was a roaring success.

The convention itself was held in a huge church in Reno, Nevada. The featured speakers included officials from the ARRL, ARES, RACES and leaders from various ham communication groups. Many States were represented, including Washington, Oregon, Arizona, Idaho and California. I did not see or meet anyone from the greater San Francisco Bay Area other than several former residents who have since retired and moved to Nevada. There were a number of excellent presentations by people representing the served agencies such as the American Red Cross; Salvation Army, VOAD, National Weather Service, etc.

The primary reason for my visit to this convention was to observe the various communication vehicles that have been developed and are operated by Clubs. The event even had an emergency communications vehicle competition with prizes available. I was attempting to pick up some ideas of what our Club might be able to do when our really old field day trailer just can't make it anymore. There were a number of rather interesting mobile communication vehicles on display.

I learned that the event planners are considering a two-day convention next year in conjunction with the local radio club flea market. They plan on having the event in a place where visitors coming from a distance will be able to park their RV's or tents and stay on site for the convention.

Overall, I was impressed with the event and would certainly return to another one, especially a two-day event. I was a little disappointed that they did not have more communications vehicles that were designed and built specifically for emergency communications. I would encourage anyone with an interest in or working knowledge of emergency communications to attend this event in the future. The networking was terrific, the weather cooperated and it was nice to get away for the weekend.

*by Terry Finn, AF6TF.*

## PAARA Membership dues.

If you are wondering why you did not receive this months edition of our excellent Club newsletter, it is because we have not received your annual membership dues !! Should you stop to consider this for a moment, you may realize that the twelve dollar annual cost of supporting your Club is still the best financial deal in northern California.

For example, PAARAGraphs costs \$1.80 cents per copy just to publish and another thirty seven cents or more to mail, depending on the weight. The information and special features contained in our Club newsletter is considered by some to be the best available today in the ham radio club community.

We would ask you to make sure your dues are paid and go out of your way to encourage others to join our Club. Please check with **Lisa Rice**, KG6KQS, to determine your membership status and correct mailing address. Kindly submit your funds in cash or check to the treasurer, **Carol Randall**, W6GEM.

As you are aware, our Club is not only the oldest active ham club in the area, we are by far the most advanced, happy and progressive membership of any ham club in northern California. To stay this way and maintain our incredible activities, we must have a strong membership base that involves as many hams as possible.

I would ask each and every one of you to reach out and encourage other hams to become a member of PAARA. Let us do this together over the summer. Not just for the outstanding articles published in our PAARAGraphs newsletter, but for the great speakers we have at meetings, the radio raffle prizes, the learning experiences and the social networking with other bright and exciting ham radio enthusiasts. *Terry Finn, AF6TF, PAARA Secretary*

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



## Presidents Corner

Dear Members,

Attendance to our meetings has been exceptional. We had at least 3 meetings in a row with 70+ people and in one case we ran out of room and chairs. I am glad to see all the new "faces". As you might know, I like to be able to address all of you with your first name and callsign, but I still have to keep up with all the call sign changes. So be patient with me if I keep asking for your name and callsign over and over. I'll learn it eventually.

I want to thank everybody for making our guests and new members feel welcome. I think it is the friendly family style atmosphere and that sets PAARA apart from other clubs. We will have more guest badges available for the next meeting. If you see somebody wearing one of those badges please stop for a moment and say "hello". Let's keep it up and hope the club will grow even more.

Do not forget to bring your favorite QSL card to the next PAARA meeting. We are looking forward to hear your story and why you picked it. I believe that EVERY QSL card has a story to it.

See you at the next meeting!

73 Andreas, N6NU

Jim and Lisa Rice  
 416 Vista Verde Way  
 Portola Valley, CA  
 (650) 851-2274

From 280  
 Take Alpine Road exit (west);

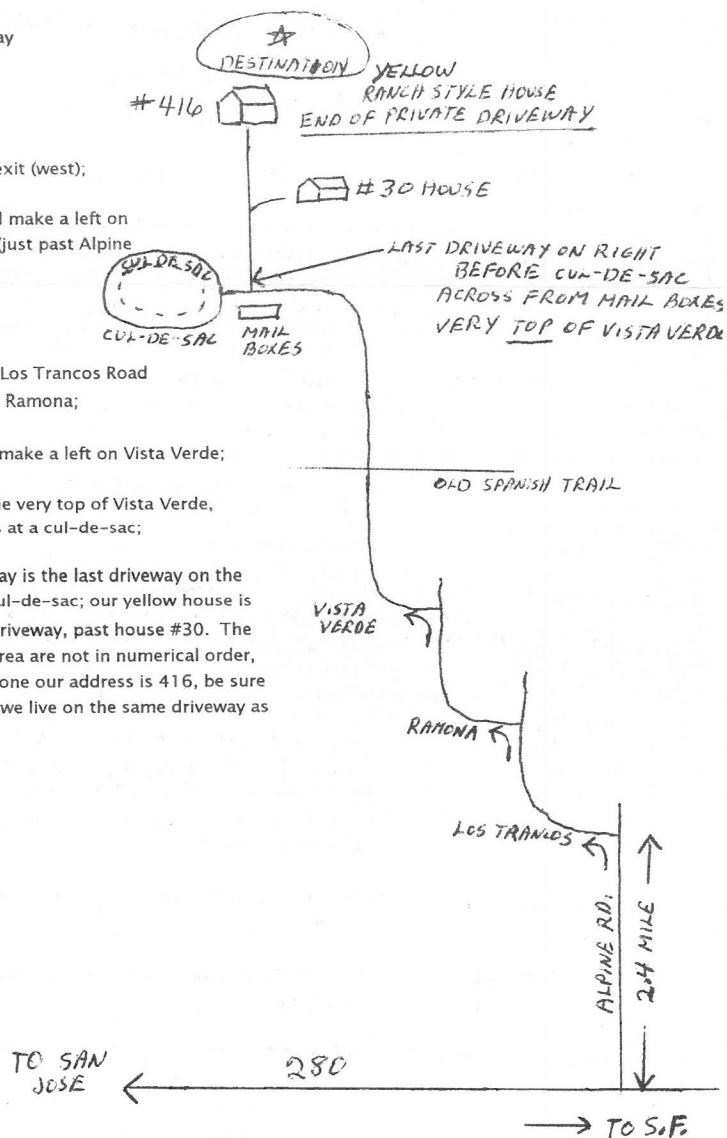
drive 2.4 miles and make a left on Los Trancos Road (just past Alpine Hills Tennis Club);

drive 1.9 miles up Los Trancos Road and make a left on Ramona;

drive .6 miles and make a left on Vista Verde;

drive .8 miles to the very top of Vista Verde, where it dead ends at a cul-de-sac;

**NOTE:** Our driveway is the last driveway on the right *before* the cul-de-sac; our yellow house is at the end of the driveway, past house #30. The addresses in our area are not in numerical order, so if you tell someone our address is 416, be sure and also tell them we live on the same driveway as house #30.



# PAARA ANNUAL PICNIC

11-3 p.m.

Saturday

**July 26**

**2003**



## PAARA HONORS ANDY, KR6DD

by Terry Finn AF6TF

### DOCTOR DUCKTAPE.

When this writer first met ANDY KORSAK, KR6DD, at a SCARES meeting in San Carlos during the late 70's, he struck me as an eccentric, mad scientist type. You really couldn't help thinking that, as you observed him all decked out in his portable radio equipment and wearing that green, plastic sunshade over his forehead. At that time in his life he was still a Canadian and was using the call VE3FZK, so I basically accepted him as just another oddball ham, like me, who was part of the classic 'brain drain' from Canada.

Since then however, I have come to admire and appreciate Andy as he is one of the brightest, friendliest, and most helpful hams that I have had the pleasure of associating with over the years. Allow me to take some of your valuable time and tell you a little bit more about our very own **Andy, KR6DD**.

**Andrzej John Korsak** was born on September 27, 1936 in Warsaw, Poland. His father, Kazimierz Korsak, was an experienced, well-educated aeronautical engineer who left Poland on a bicycle in 1939. The invading Nazi's who were executing all military age men or well educated intellectuals at that time would have arrested Mr. Korsak senior. Kazimierz escaped through Czechoslovakia to Romania and then to England where he worked for a while in the aircraft industry. In 1941 he was able to immigrate to Canada by himself.

Andy's Mom, Barbara, was a medical Doctor who was working as an intern in Warsaw while raising Andy and his twin sister, Krystyna. She did not want to abandon her people or her Country during the war and knew that the Nazi's would basically leave her alone because she worked in the hospital. However, Barbara contracted typhus from the patients while working in the over crowded hospitals and passed away in 1945.

Krystyna, Andy's twin sister, and he, attended elementary school at first in Warsaw but when the Nazi's bombed it heavily they were moved to a village south of Warsaw. When the war ended, they lived with relatives in the small town of Zakopane in the Carpathian Mountains near the Czech border. They were taught some French by a tutor in preparation for escaping from Poland. Andy's father, Kazimierz, was in constant communication with his kids, other family members, friends and members of the Polish underground or resistance movement. As a result, he was able to arrange for both Andy & Krystyna to be transported across the border, which had been sealed closed by the communists in 1946. With a lot of assistance, the children were provided with false passports and transportation documents indicating that they were returning to their home in France as their father had been killed during the war.

It should be noted that Andy & his sister were only ten years old at this time and had to play along with the charade, as it was rather serious business. They were coached on what to say in French if they were questioned at any of the borders that they had to cross. It was almost impossible to get out of Poland at that time due to the aggressive Soviet position on refu-

gees. The kids lay in the back of a truck with several others and traveled at night through the borders of Austria, Germany, Italy, Switzerland and France. They took a train from Calais, France, on the English Channel shore and then boarded a ferryboat to England. Then they actually rode on the Flying Scotsman's train to Edinburgh, Scotland, from a place near the Leeds Royal Air Force Base. Prior to that they had been on an old steam locomotive train from Grimsby, a small town near London, England.

Now, just try to visualize this folks, as these kids were only ten years old and they were basically running for their lives without the direct help of their parents. Obviously it was a rather maturing experience that they will never forget. Behind the scenes however, was their father, Kazimierz, who from his new home in Canada had been instrumental in making all of the arrangements for this fantastic journey. He had been able to coordinate just about everything through the communication he kept with the relatives, friends and various other Polish immigrants who were escaping from their home country.

While living temporarily in Edinburgh, Scotland, at a Polish refugee camp, both Andy and Krystyna completed several eye surgeries to repair a crossed eye defect. These surgeries were provided at no cost by a Polish surgeon who was also living in the camp. Prior to the surgery, neither Andy nor his sister had binocular vision, as their eyes were badly divergent!! Although that problem was resolved, Andy still sees with double vision to this day. He was also able to have a hernia repaired by another Doctor in the camp. He sustained the hernia during some rough housing with a friend when he was only eight years old and had suffered with this for years as his mom had been too busy treating soldiers at the Polish hospital.

In May 1947, Andy & Krystyna boarded the passenger ship, 'Aquitania' at Southampton, England and sailed for Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. There is a Korsak family rumor that the mischievous rascal Andy actually caused the ship to be stopped in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean by plugging hair pins into electrical outlets. (He had not yet learned about duct tape).

Upon their arrival they took a train to Montreal, Quebec, Canada, and subsequently flew on a DC-3 aircraft operated by the then Trans-Canada Airlines all the way to Edmonton, Alberta. Their father, Kazimierz, was waiting for them at the airport, as he had not seen them for eight years. Finally, they were able to be together again and start their lives over again. What a wonderful reunion for all.

Kazimierz was working for an aircraft building company in Edmonton as an engineer. He immediately placed his kids in school where they had to learn the English language rather quickly if they were going to fit in and make it in the new world. Andy remembers always being about one year older than the other kids who were in his classes. However, he also recalls being promoted from one grade to the next in rapid succession because he was a quick learner and enjoyed the new language and environment.

In 1950, the family moved to Toronto, Ontario, Canada, where Kazimierz took a job with Avro Canada and was an engineer on the now in-famous 'Avro Arrow' military jet project. (A well-known piece of Canadian history and political struggle). Andy attended Downsview Collegiate and graduated high school in 1956. Andy had such good grades that he was accepted on a full scholarship to the University of Toronto to study mathematics. He graduated number 3 in his class with a BA in Math in 1960. Andy stayed on campus and was accepted to the U of T Masters postgraduate program in math where he graduated in 1961. Just for those who may be interested, his Master's thesis was entitled: 'Topics in Conformal Geometry'. Andy applied to the Ph.D. math programs at MIT, Princeton and UC Berkeley. He was offered teaching assistant jobs at MIT and UC Berkeley, so he decided to move to California in September 1961. Andy worked hard at his part time teaching and research jobs while earn-

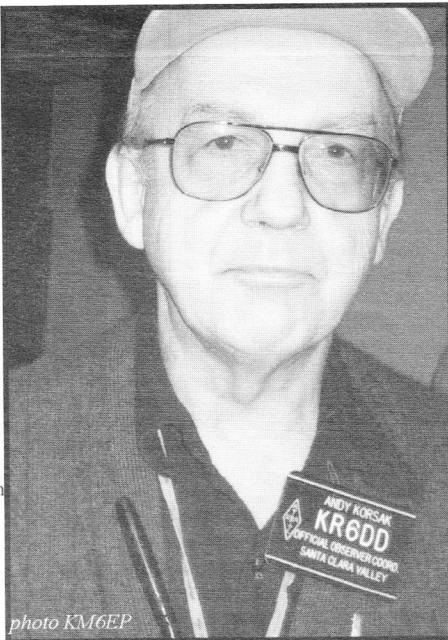


photo KM6EP

(Continued on page 62, Andy Korsak, KR6DD)

## PAARAgraphs July 2003

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

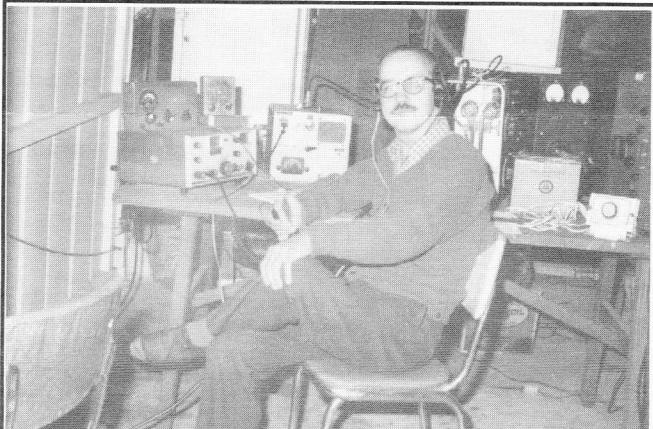
*(Continued from page 61, Andy Korsak, KR6DD)*

ing his Ph.D. in mathematics from UC Berkeley where he graduated in March 1966. His graduate thesis was entitled: 'Perturbed Optimal Control Problems'.

While attending UC, Andy had the good fortune to meet and fall in love with the lovely and talented Rosa who just happened to be visiting her brother who was also a student at UC. They were married in December 1963. It should be noted that Rosa could remember Andy taking her out to dinner at the UC weekend dinner events that cost fifty cents per person. Andy was pinching pennies even then!! In December 2003, they will have been married for 40 years!! They bought their home in the Emerald Hills of San Mateo County in 1972 and are still there today. Congratulations to you both!!

In April 1966 Andy went to work for SRI in Menlo Park. In those days it was known as the Stanford Research Institute. He worked as a research mathematician for ten years, but like so many other math experts, he slowly became a software engineer, whether he wanted to or not. In 1976, Andy went into private practice, so to speak, and became an independent contractor of sorts. As an experienced software engineer with a math background, he became involved in many varied projects over the years. Some of those included: embedded systems firmware; data acquisition & analysis; electronic access control; heads up display for helmet and aircraft windshield applications. He even spent time at the Warner-Robbins Air Force Base in Macon, Georgia, designing and building the most sophisticated ground control approach radar software available at the time. Prior to officially retiring from paid work in January 2002, Andy was the test engineer at the hard disk drive manufacturer known as Read-Rite in Milpitas, CA.

Andy was warned by **Rich Stiebel, W6APZ**, that when he retired he would become even busier than he was when he was working. Andy be-



lieves that has come to pass!! For those of us in the amateur radio community who monitor repeaters, it is rather obvious that Andy is a really busy ham who is the current OO (official observer) coordinator for the Santa Clara Valley Section. The OO operators are appointed by the ARRL section manager under the Amateur Auxiliary, Official Observer Program, which is basically an advisory function arranged by the ARRL and the FCC. Now please do not get too excited. This does not mean that Andy has become one of those big brother types, yet!! The ARRL OO's have absolutely no enforcement authority. He was appointed in January 2003, but he has been an active rabbit (also known as fox) transmitter hunter for years. If you do not know of this program or how it works, please do not hesitate to ask Andy personally when you see him at the meetings or you can check with **Glenn Thomas, WB6W**, who is the ARRL Section Coordination Manager for the Santa Clara Valley Section.

Andy's current project is a bay area wide repeater jammer network locator system that works with Doppler antennas and a unique software program that uses the Internet. This is a classified project involving several licensed hams that have a mission of locating, identifying and reporting the jammers or abusers. Unfortunately, I am not at liberty to discuss this project any further at this time.

By the way, just for your information, Andy's twin sister Krystyna is now a traveling geriatric psychiatrist who fills in for other psychiatrists

who are on leave for several weeks. Based in Oregon, she has been traveling all over the U.S. and really enjoys her work. She and Andy communicate via e-mail as she is not a ham.

It was 1954 in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, when Andy qualified for his first amateur radio license and was issued **VE3DVN** for Morse code on HF and voice at 30 MHz and above. It should be noted that his interest in radio was peaked while still living in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. His father, Kazimierz, gave him a pair of earphones, fahnestock clips, some wire and a galena crystal in a holder with a 'cat whisker' connector. With some help from his father, Andy wound the wire around a depleted toilet paper roll and scratched off insulation to build his first radio receiver that included a home made sliding contactor for tuning the coil. He used to lie in bed at night listening to, 'The Great Gilbersleeve', 'Dragnet', 'The Shadow' and 'Amos and Andy', etc. He joined the Royal Canadian Air Force Auxiliary, (now known as the Royal Canadian Air Cadets) and learned even more about electronics.

His first ham license expired in 1961, so in 1964 Andy returned to the offices of the Canadian Department of Communications and earned by exam the highest amateur radio license class, known as the advanced amateur radio license. He was issued call **VE3FZK** which he used until 1999 when he became a proud, new American citizen. At that point, he took the required FCC exams to earn his advanced class license and was issued **KR6DD**, which is the call sign we have all come to know and enjoy on the air. Before the FCC dropped the code speed requirement, Andy took the extra class test and passed with ease. He just wanted to do it "for the heck of it" in 2000.

When Andy arrived at SRI in 1966, they were located in an old World War II building near the civic center. He noticed the PAARA field day trailer at that location and soon became an active member of the local ham club known as PAARA. Andy has indicated that he is actually in possession of almost every single copy of our newsletter, PAARAgraphs that was ever published since 1966. He assisted with the hand cranking of the old mimeograph machine that produced the earlier versions of this fine publication. He has even suggested that when the time comes, he may donate that collection to PAARA for our archives.

Due to the efforts of **Vance Wardlow, W6FLE**, who was very active in the club during that time, Andy claims he was railroaded into becoming the PAARA President for one year. This was during the turbulent 60's and Andy later continued to serve PAARA as the Vice President "sidekick" for President **Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV**, (now N6NV), for about ten years as nobody wanted the job. Finally, **Lilly Anne Hillis, N6PGM**, stepped in for several years and really 'kicked butt'. She was able to delegate duties and organize things so that many other ham members could get involved in the organization. Andy really enjoyed arranging for speakers and experimenting with fast scan TV. In one of the photos, that Andy provided for this interview, is the hand cranked generator that was used for field day in the 60's. They used to use a location up in the hills known as the Valley of Paradise, located at the west end of Valparaiso. This area is now completely developed with rather expensive homes. Before the popular UHF repeaters were up and running, Andy used to experiment with fast scan TV on 440 MHz. He made video contacts as far away as Hamilton Air Force Base in Marin, San Jose and the east bay.

Andy is well known for his knowledge and use of ducktape as he claims it can be used for just about anything. However, since he has had many years of experimenting experience with this product, he warns that some brands of ducktape are partially conductive and will absorb RF energy. Constant exposure to the sun will ultimately destroy the tape and it leaves a cruddy mess. After much interrogation, Andy finally admitted that he does use regular black electrical tape now in some applications.

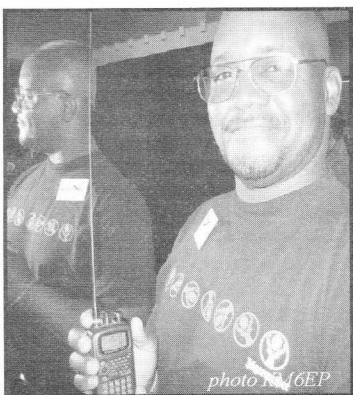
**Andy, KR6DD**, is very active with the rabbit-hunting hobby (also known as fox hunting).

He is also known to associate with other weird project builders or eccentric experimenters.

Many of these unusual folks seem to frequent the 147.300 repeater (plus 600 and PL 100). This is a midnight Friday net known as the Mad Scientist Club. Years ago, Andy had founded a group known as the High Tech Experimenters Society, as interest had faded for activities with another group known as the Pacific Packet Radio Society. This had come about because

*(Continued on page 63, Andy Korsak, KR6DD)*

### New Member Profile.



The photo of a fairly new member that accompanies this article does not reflect a dual personality, only the mirrored image of Eddie. Many of you will recognize Eddie as he has been attending meetings since 2000 when he really became interested in ham radio. He had been a CB'er, but through the efforts of his elmer, Rick N6DQ, he finally qualified for his new license in August of 2000. Eddie mentioned that it was Andreas N6NU, who really made him feel welcome and comfortable at the PAARA meetings.

Eddie spent six years serving in the U.S.Navy as a diesel mechanic, specializing in beach landing craft. He worked for almost twenty years at the West Bay Sanitary District in mechanical maintenance. He is now enrolled in computer training classes in San Jose. Although Eddie is a rather quiet and unassuming person, I am sure that if you had questions about where things go when the toilet is flushed, he could give you a rather detailed and informative explanation. Please say hello to EddieKG6ENH, when you see him at the meetings.

*Submitted by: Terry Finn. AF6TF.*

### New Member Profile.

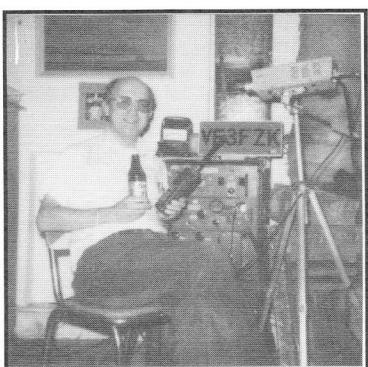
This photo of Doug carrying in a microwave dish antenna at one of the PAARA meetings does not reflect



his current interest in ham radio. He is just one of those members who really enjoys helping out in whatever way he can. Doug earned his Technician license KG6LWE in June 2002. Doug had been a CB'er, however, through the efforts of his elmer, Al Montoya, WB6IMX, he was able to qualify for his new hobby. Doug attended the PAARA field day exercise in 2002 and became so excited that he just had to get involved with the Association. It should be noted that Doug's first radio contact on VHF, when he received his license, was with Vic Black, AB6SO.

Doug owns and operates West Coast Wiring Inc., of Redwood City. He has a C-7 California State Contractors license for low voltage and many years of PBX installation and wiring experience with various telephone service providers. By the time that you read this profile, you will know that Doug took on the duties of supervising the generators at the PAARA field day exercise of 2003. It should also be pointed out that Doug was extremely helpful with the preparation of the PAARA field day trailer project during the months prior to the event. Please say hello to Doug, KG6LWE at a PAARA meeting.

*Submitted by: Terry Finn. AF6TF*



*(Continued from page 62 Andy Korsak, KR6DD)*

of the commercially available TNC's and their popularity. Andy had actually written a software program using his Apple II that allowed communication without a TNC. Andy lamented that when things become easy to purchase or locate, then the experimentation or home brew activities stop or move on to other projects. Andy was the secretary-treasurer of, 'The Project Oscar', which was based at Foothill College and was responsible for Oscar 6. Andy can recall rubbing shoulders with the likes of the Presidents of SRI, Lockheed, etc. Those were the busy and fun days.

Andy is also an accomplished pianist and took lessons for over ten years. He can sight read and play music such as the 32 Beethoven Sonatas. He has played chamber music with a cellist, Tom Diskin, N7TD, and a violinist, Norm Gordon, WA6NFM (SK).

Folks, this PAARA member is a real piece of work. We are so honored and pleased that he is an active member of our organization. Please do not miss an opportunity to meet him or join in on a radio conversation with our very own: **Andy Korsak, KR6DD**.

*~Terry Finn. AF6TF.*

### Soap Box Operations ~Jay, WA6SBO



### Hamvention 2003

New sports, old friends, ancient radios, high tech, and unusual collections of hams highlighted my first trip to Dayton.

Ray, W6TYB, my friend from La Honda and I flew from SFO via ORD to Dayton, and back. Some 24,000 hams were also there and though rain all day Saturday dampened the flea market, the place was crowded. There were whips on cars everywhere. One forum I dropped in on, YLRL, had over a hundred YLs in attendance – more women hams than I'd ever seen over the last forty years – that was more interesting than those Collins KWM-2s and -380s I drooled over.

The Contesters caught my attention. Thursday from 10 P.M. to 5 the next morning we partied and I got to hear the Society of Midwest Contesters sing together in harmony. Tree N6TR, the ARRL Amateur Of The Year, explained to me Sprinting, where the answerer of a CQ stays on frequency to make the next call while the caller moves on after the QSO to some other frequency. This keeps everyone's hand on the VFO knob. Breathlessly. The next night two other Contester groups hosted an open house in the ballroom of the hotel. Several hams advised me to just jump in and join in the Sprinting but another suggested that Field Day was the best time and place to whet one's appetite in Contesting.

The rendezvous with my Elmer, Jim K4JPM, from Birmingham was wonderful. T'was 28 years since we'd eyeballed.

To top the socializing off, while Jim, Ray and I were draining 807s (a beer bottle shaped vacuum tube) in the hotel bar, David K1ZZ and his XYL Linda KA1ZD joined us for a rag chew and the ARRL CEO treated us to dinner at the nearby Spaghetti Factory. More wonderful time in good conversation. Friday evening Ray and I attended the TAPR banquet where we heard Gerald AC5OG discuss his Software Defined Radio.

A number of hams told me how many years they'd attended Dayton; some years in the future I'll enjoy bragging along with them. Yes, I will do it again.

73, - Jay, WA6SBO@ARRL.NET

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

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 Kyle and I are having a lot of fun. THANKS AGAIN  
 FOR MAKING THE MEETINGS VERY EXCITING!

Jim.K6AK

Contact Kyle, KG6MSK for tickets

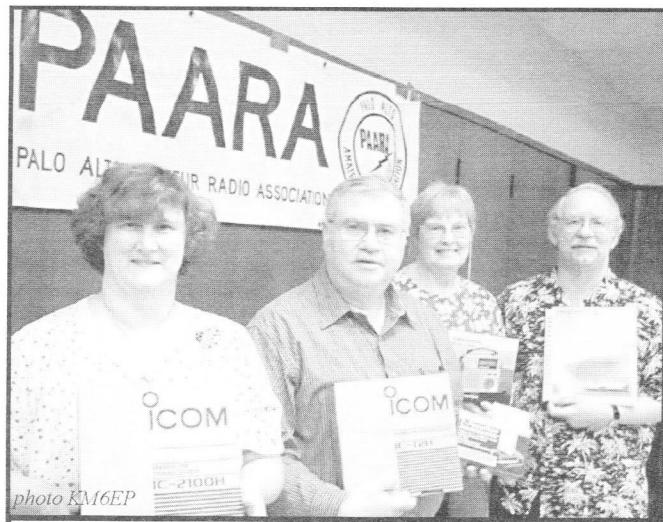
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**1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Lynn Genrty KG6JPV**

**Icom IC-2100H / 2m / 55w / Mobile Transceiver**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: John Kohli KF6KYL**

**Icom IC T2H / 2m / 6w / HT**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Verna Hansen KB6DHC**

**Grundig FR200 AM/FM/SW Radio**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize: John Kohli KF6KYL**

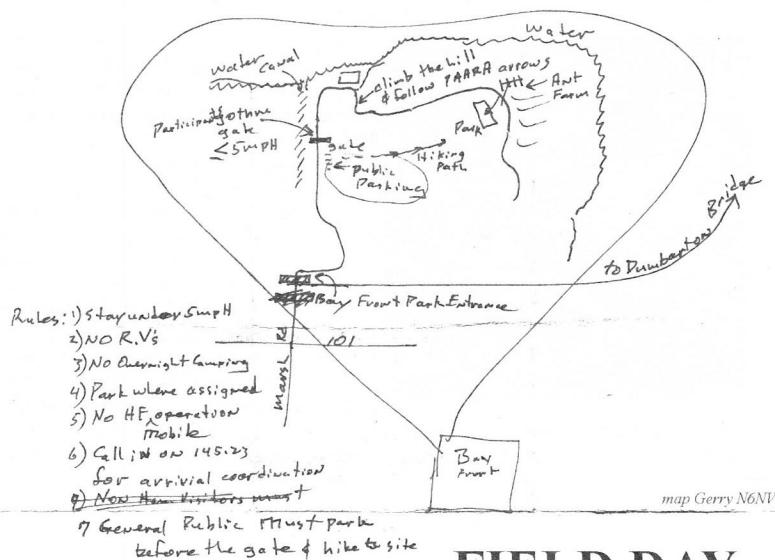
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**FIELD DAY**



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Marsh Road intersection with Haven Ave in Menlo Park  
(see map page 64)

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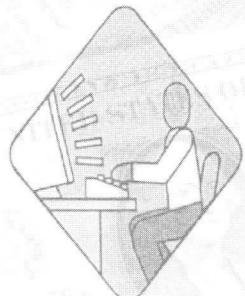
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- PAARA · Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association · P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 940260911**
- Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA•
  - Radio NET every 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).  
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2nd Mon N6NU, Andreas Junge  
3rd Mon AD6FX, Jon Zweig  
4th Mon AA6PA, Bill Rausch  
5th Mon tba

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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).

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# PAARAGraphs July 2003

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
 PAARAGraphs Newsletter  
 P.O. Box 911  
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## FIRST CLASS MAIL

### PAARA FIELD DAY June 28-29

Marsh Road intersection with Haven Ave in Menlo Park  
 (see map page 64)

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

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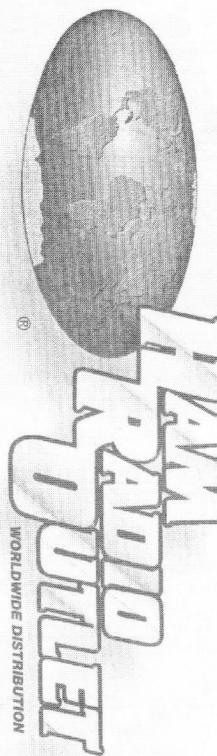
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