

PAARA



GRAPHS

MAY 1990



PAARA PICNIC

W6VG QTH

SAT. MAY 19th

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE PALO ALTO AMATEUR
RADIO ASSOCIATION
AND

THE MENLO PARK C.D. AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

PAARA

PALO ALTO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION



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PAARA POLICIES

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
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San Jose, CA 95127

VOLUME 33

MAY 1990

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

MAY IS HERE! FIRST OF ALL- PLEASE BE SURE TO VOLUNTEER YOUR HELP AT PAARA'S MAY 12 FLEA MARKET EFFORT! IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, LEND A HAND TO MAKE THE DAY A GREAT ONE! AS WITH ALL CLUB FUNCTIONS, YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! SECONDLY- AS THE COVER SHOWS, THE W6VG PICNIC IS ON FOR MAY 19TH (MAP INSIDE). THIS IS A WONDERFUL CLUB TRADITION AND IS ALWAYS A FINE GET TOGETHER WITH OUR HOSTS RON W6VG & HELGA PANTON! THIRDLY- THIS ISSUE IS YOUR OFFICIAL NOTICE FOR PAARA FIELD DAY 1990. IF YOU READ THIS CONSIDER YOURSELF VOLUNTEERED TO DO YOUR PART. PAARA FIELD DAY WANTS YOU! TIL JUNE (PAARA FIELD DAY MONTH), 73 DE YOUR EDITOR ----

N6VFH

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

SPECIAL TECHNICAL FEATURE:

EQUIPMENT CALIBRATION NIGHT

BRING IN YOUR HF/VHF EQUIPMENT FOR

CALIBRATION AT THE MAY 4TH MEETING!

(REQUESTING A SPECTRUM ANALYZER TO BE

AVAILABLE. CONTACT ANDY VE3FZK A.S.A.P.)

---DE ANDY VE3FZK, PAARA PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

PAAREGIMENT'S COMMUNIQUE

MAY IS CRUNCH TIME! PAARA HAS SO MUCH FUN SCHEDULED FOR MAY IT WILL BE A WONDER IF WE GET ANYTHING ELSE DONE. FIRST THERE IS MY BIRTHDAY AND THE START OF THE TUCKER NEW YEAR. THEN AN EXCITING MEETING SCHEDULED FOR THE 4TH, FOLLOWED BY THE BOARD MEETING ON THE 9TH, WHICH WILL ORGANIZE LAST-MINUTE DETAILS FOR THE FLEA MARKET MAY 12TH. WE WILL RECOVER JUST IN TIME FOR THE YEARLY SPRING BASH & GET-TOGETHER AT RON W6VG & HELGA'S HOUSE ON THE 19TH! INCIDENTALLY, THE RELAXED ATMOSPHERE OF THE PANTON'S BACK YARD MAKES THE PERFECT TIME TO SHOW OFF ANY NEW PORTABLE EQUIPMENT YOU MAY HAVE ACQUIRED RECENTLY. AND DON'T FORGET WE WILL BE GIVING OUT ABOUT \$100 WORTH OF DOOR PRIZES AT THE PICNIC, SO PLAN ON MAKING IT. BRING A SPOUSE, OR A FRIEND OR TWO, YOUR OWN HOTDOGS, AND PAARA WILL PROVIDE ALL THE LIQUID REFRESHMENTS AND CHARCOAL.

I WAS READING AN ARTICLE FROM THE BOSTON SUNDAY GLOBE FOR JANUARY 18, 1948, ABOUT T.R. McELROY, THE THEN WORLD RECORD HOLDER FOR RECEIVING RADIO CODE. DOES ANYONE KNOW WHO IS THE CURRENT RECORD HOLDER AND WHAT THE RECORD SPEED IS?

THINK FIELD DAY WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO THINK ABOUT. HOW IN THE WORLD ARE WE GOING TO PULL THIS OFF THIS YEAR? VOLUNTEER BY GETTING IN TOUCH WITH ME.

---DE WA6LNV---

PAARA FIELD DAY



**I WANT YOU
FOR FIELD DAY**

NEAREST RECRUITING STATION

W6OTX

***** VOYAGER INFO UPDATE *****

JOHN KD6ZL NOTES THE SOURCE FOR
MORE INFO ON THE VOYAGER ENCOUNTER
AS CITED BY DR. DAVID CHENETTE AT
THE APRIL MEETING: SEE SCIENCE
MAGAZINE FOR DEC. 15, 1989. (DE KD6ZL)

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11 AM - 3 PM

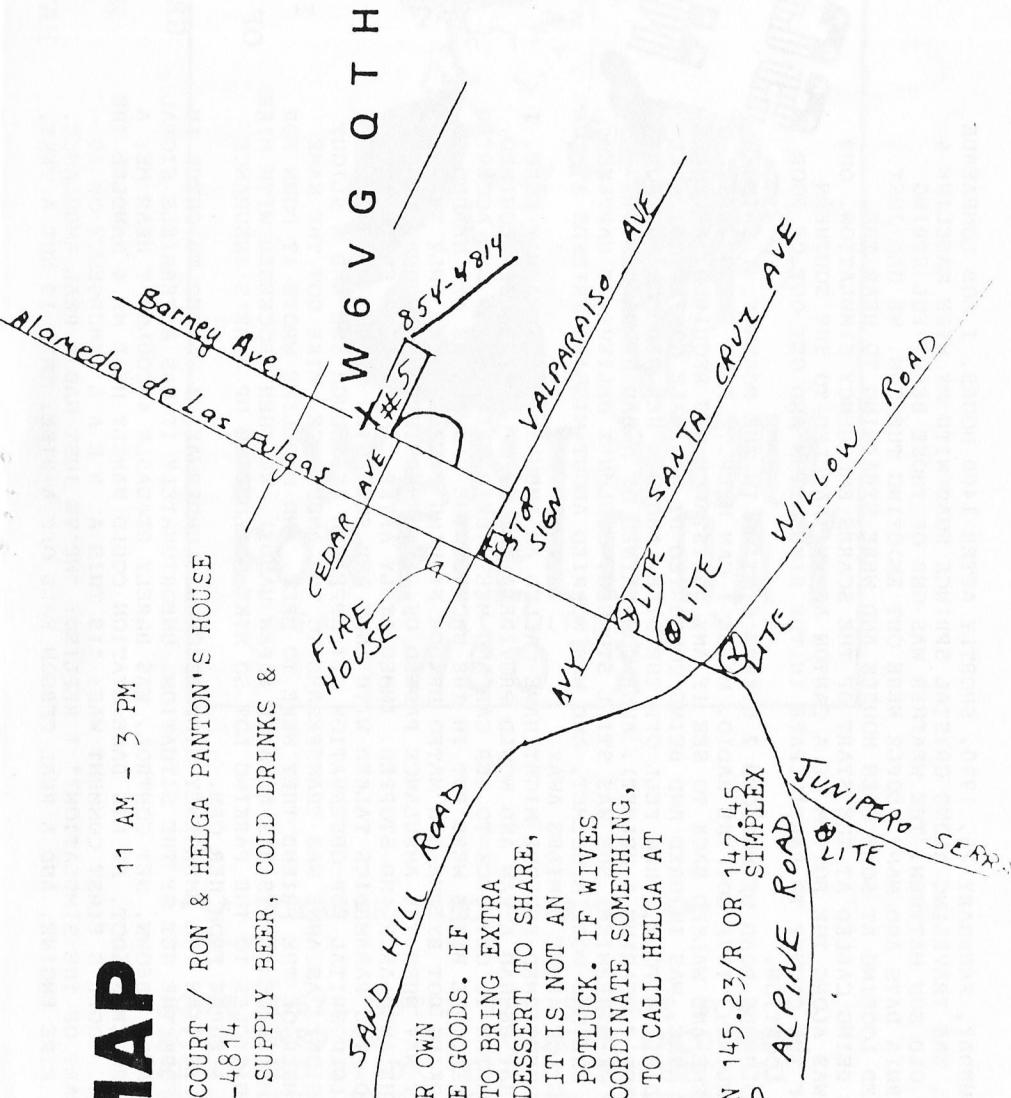
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ORGANIZED POTLUCK. IF WIVES
WISH TO COORDINATE SOMETHING,
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ON SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1990, SHORTLY AFTER 1400 HOURS, I BOB LOMBAERDE WB6WGM, WAS TRAVELING ALONG CRYSTAL SPRINGS ROAD WITH MY WIFE MADELINE & 5 YEAR OLD SON MATTHEW. THE WEATHER WAS ONE OF THOSE BEAUTIFUL SPRING CALIFORNIA DAYS AND MANY PEOPLE WERE OUT ENJOYING THE SUN. WE HAD JUST FINISHED LOOKING AT SOME OPEN HOUSES AND WERE STRAINING TO HEAR THE ROSTER BEING CALLED AT THE START OF THE SCARES EMERGENCY SIMULATION. OUR ROUTE WAS ALONG THE BOTTOM OF A CANYON AS WE TRAVELED TO THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE COUNTY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SIMULATION AND GET OUT OF POOR SIGNAL LOCATION.

AT POLHEMUS ROAD WE NOTICED 2 BIKERS SITTING IN THE ROADWAY. I SAID TO MADELINE, "I'VE GOT THE RADIO, MAYBE I CAN HELP....". I PARKED PAST THE SCENE AND WALKED BACK TO SEE IF ANY ASSISTANCE WAS REQUIRED. A FEMALE BIKER, ANNE, WAS INJURED AND BEING COMFORTED BY HER MALE COMPANION, MIKE. SHE HAD HIT A POLE, THEN FELL OFF THE BIKE, AND HIT HER HEAD ON THE ROAD (SHE WASN'T WEARING A HELMET). ANNE COMPLAINED OF A BAD HEADACHE BUT SEEMED OK OTHERWISE; SHE WAS STILL STUNNED, COULDN'T BELIEVE IT HAPPENED, WISHED SHE HAD WORN A HELMET, AND WAS WORRIED ABOUT MISSING FRIENDS AT THE PARKING LOT ABOUT 5 MILES AWAY.

MIKE MENTIONED SOMEONE MIGHT HAVE CALLED AN AMBULANCE, BUT WASN'T SURE. I SAID THAT WE HAD A VAN AND WOULD PROVIDE ANY KIND OF ASSISTANCE REQUIRED. ANNE WANTED TO GET BACK TO HER CAR AND MEET THEIR FRIENDS, SO SHE ACCEPTED OUR OFFER. THE BIKES WERE PUT IN THE BACK OF THE VAN AND WE ALL HEADED TO THE PARKING LOT BY THE SAN MATEO BRIDGE FISHING PIER. WE HAD ONLY TRAVELED A SHORT WAY WHEN THE AMBULANCE PASSED US. I TURNED THE VAN AROUND, FLAGGED DOWN THE AMBULANCE AND STOPPED. IMMEDIATELY AFTER, A CDF FIRE ENGINE ARRIVED. THE PARAMEDICS TALKED WITH ANNE AND SUGGESTED SHE GO WITH THEM TO MILLS HOSPITAL FOR OBSERVATION (IT APPEARED AS THOUGH SHE HAD A SLIGHT CONCUSSION). AS ANNE WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE AMBULANCE, MIKE GOT THE NAME AND NUMBER OF THE FRIEND THEY WERE TO MEET, AND MADELINE WROTE IT DOWN FOR MIKE (MADELINE ALWAYS HAS A PAPER & PEN HANDY). WE THEN PROCEEDED WITH MIKE & THE BICYCLES TO THE PARKING LOT SO MIKE COULD PICK UP ANNE'S INSURANCE PAPERS & PURSE FROM HER CAR.

BY THIS TIME THE EMERGENCY SIMULATION WAS UNDERWAY; I WANTED TO CHECK IN AND INFORM THE NET OF THE SITUATION. UNFORTUNATELY IT WAS A TERRIBLE SIGNAL AREA. LARRY KB6GOW, NET CONTROL, WAS BARELY READABLE & COULDN'T HEAR ME; A RELAY, ROGER WD6DGT, AT HIS BASE STATION COULD BARELY HEAR ME & HANDLED THE TRAFFIC. ROGER'S FIRST COMMENT WAS: "IS THIS A REAL EMERGENCY OR IS THIS PART OF THE SIMULATION?" I REPLIED: "WE'VE JUST HAD A REAL AMBULANCE, A REAL FIRE ENGINE, AND A REAL PERSON FALL OFF A BIKE. THIS IS NOT A TEST,"

< A FIRST PERSON ACCOUNT
OF AN
UNFORGETTABLE
INITIATION
INTO THE WORLD
OF AMATEUR RADIO.

GREAT WORK, BOB!
WE'RE PROUD TO
HAVE YOU ABOARD!

"THIS IS REAL." THIS WAS MY FIRST EXPERIENCE IN A REAL, EMERGENCY SITUATION; I HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF THE NET FOR ONLY A FEW MONTHS AND HAD HELPED RUN NET CONTROL BUT HAD NEVER DEALT WITH A SITUATION LIKE THIS BEFORE. ADRENALIN KEPT EVERYTHING MOVING AT A QUICK PACE. POOR RECEPTION IN THE CANYON, WINDING ROADS, THEN DRIVING IN CITY TRAFFIC WHILE TALKING ON THE HANDHELD (WITH EXTERNAL ANTENNA) MADE FOR AN EXCITING TIME IN THE VAN FOR ME. IT WAS ONLY AFTER WE GOT OUT OF THE CANYON AND INTO A BETTER SIGNAL LOCATION THAT THINGS SEEMED TO CALM DOWN A BIT. I ASKED ROGER IF IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE FROM SCARES TO MAKE A PHONE CALL. ROGER'S RESPONSE: "ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE". MADELINE CONFERRED WITH MIKE ON THE MESSAGE FOR HIS FRIEND & GAVE ME THE WRITTEN INFORMATION READY TO BE TRANSMITTED TO ROGER.

IT WAS IMPORTANT TO REACH HIS FRIEND OR HIS ANSWERING MACHINE BEFORE HE GOT HOME OR WHILE HE WAS AT HOME SO THAT HE WOULDN'T HEAD OFF FOR THE PARKING LOT AND NOT KNOW WHERE TO GO OR WHAT TO DO WHEN HE GOT THERE. WD6DGT PLACED A PHONE CALL & LEFT A MESSAGE & RETURN PHONE NUMBER ON THE ANSWERING MACHINE FOR HIM. WE ARRIVED AT THE PARKING LOT & TRANSFERRED THE BICYCLES AND MIKE GOT ANNE'S PURSE. BEFORE LEAVING MIKE I CHECKED WITH ROGER ONCE MORE TO SEE IF THEIR FRIEND HAD CALLED BACK. HE HAD NOT. (LATER DURING THE AFTERNOON ROGER RECEIVED A CALL FROM HIM SAYING HE GOT THE MESSAGE & WAS ON HIS WAY TO THE HOSPITAL.)

DURING THE DRIVE WE HAD EXPLAINED TO MIKE THAT WE HAD PLANNED TO BE IN THE SIMULATION & THE PURPOSE OF SCARES. WE ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE ROLE HAMS PLAYED IN PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS ESPECIALLY AFTER THE OCTOBER 17, '89 EARTHQUAKE. MIKE THANKED US SEVERAL TIMES FOR THE ASSISTANCE.

I NORMALLY CARRY MY 2 METER HT WITH ME AS I COMMUTE TO WORK ON THE TRAIN. MADELINE & I THOUGHT IT WOULD PROVIDE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS IN THE EVENT OF ANOTHER BAD EARTHQUAKE. I OCCASIONALLY HAVE IT ALONG IN THE CAR WITH THE FAMILY, BUT AFTER THIS EXPERIENCE MADELINE SUGGESTED I TAKE IT ALONG ALL THE TIME. WE REALIZE NOW THAT WE JUST NEVER KNOW WHERE OR WHEN WE'LL ENOUNTER A SITUATION WHERE SOMEONE NEEDS HELP. FROM NOW ON THE PLAN IS TO ALWAYS HAVE THE RADIO AVAILABLE KNOWING THAT SCARES MEMBERS MONITOR THE FREQUENCY READY TO GIVE ASSISTANCE.

EVEN THOUGH I HAVE ONLY BEEN A MEMBER OF SCARES FOR A SHORT TIME AND DON'T KNOW ALL THE MEMBERS, I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GET ACQUAINTED WITH THE LOCAL HAMS IN MY TOWN (MY SON IS IN KINDERGARTEN WITH THE SON OF ANOTHER MEMBER), AND I FEEL VERY POSITIVE ABOUT BEING IN A GROUP PROVIDING SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY. I'VE FELT WELCOMED AND A PART OF THE NET FROM THE BEGINNING & REALIZE THERE IS A COMMON TRUST BUILT UP AMONG THE SCARES MEMBERS: IF ONE ASKS FOR HELP, THE OTHERS WILL RESPOND WITH: "ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE". ----- WB6WM Bob Lomhaerde-----

de Lily N6PGM,

PIO - SCARES >

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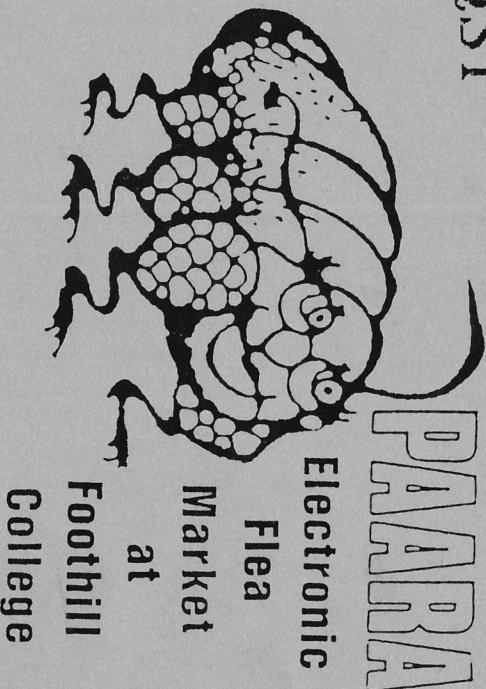
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