

JULY 94

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association Inc., July 1994 Volume #40
PAARA, P.O.Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026
Monthly Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association Since 1937

PAARAGraphs



WA6LNV XYL photo

Gerry Tucker, field day chairman WA6LNV

Field Day!

Believe it or not, this is the time to start thinking about the things that can be improved for next years event, now when the ideas are fresh in our memories. Planning never hurts when it comes to a big production like field day. Take this newsletter (please) for instance. There is no way I could have

anticipated the little problems that cropped up during the production of this edition of the PAARAGraphs newsletter but that is what makes life and this issue of PAARAGraphs so interesting! Included in this issue is the long awaited club **roster** along with picture scenes from the club picnic.

We hope to hear from the writers in the club that have something to add to our hobby. We would like to see both original, and news tidbits that our other members

would like to share as well as regular columns on whatever topics you think our readers will enjoy.

So sit back and relax and enjoy this issue and as usual, we welcome your comments. This issue represents yet another **new** version created on a completely different computer system which means that most of this installation of PAARAGraphs was typed and reformatted from scratch. More on that later. It is our hope that as we produce more issues of PAARAGraphs that we continue to improve our look to everyone's satisfaction and that you will continue to enjoy this service.

Event Calendar

July

8 Regular Meeting
20 Board Meeting

August

5 Regular Meeting
13 Reno Hamfest
17 Board Meeting
26-28 Southwestern District Convention

Letters to the Editor

Madam Editor,

We note that on page 8 of the June PAARAGraphs, the "club rooster" list will be published in the July issue.

Be aware of the great risk of litigation for sex/gender discrimination by listing only the club roosters and ignoring our hens. As a matter of fact, human nature, being what it is, many of us would appreciate the calls, telephone numbers, and addresses of the pullets who are club members. Years ago, ham bulletins listed bargains in "Pull-outs." Are these related to Pullets? Is there a connection between all this and chicken cordon-bleu?

s. Puzzled Reader

Dear Puzzled Reader,

Come out wherever you are! We need you to be our proof reader. If you choose to remain anonymous, please keep writing. We can use your sharp eyes and sense of humor.

de Lily N6PGM

To the Editor in Chief,

We would like to thank ALL the members who helped us so much before, during and after the picnic on Saturday. Special thanks to Joan and Wally Porter, not only for taking the chore of dreaming up and

chasing down the prizes off my hands, but also for the tremendous help in cleaning up afterwards. Lily Anne did her usual excellent planning job. Bill Smith did an incredible job of moving heavy redwood furniture both before and after. Jeff Wilson was an enormous help in putting our yard back to its "normal look" and he kept finding more things to help with. Gerry Tucker, in his usual way, worked like a beaver and all of these people were so very supportive and made our day even more enjoyable than usual!

Thanks, Helga



N6PGM photo

Thank You Helga!

President's Message



June was an active month for PAARA in many ways. We started with an entertaining and informative talk by Wayne

Burdick, N6KR, on QRP. (See story by Steve, K6FS.) For those of us who have not mastered the code at 13 words per minute (who me?) Vic, AB6SO, has the solution. Publish, Vic, publish!



KA6SIQ photo

Vic, AB6SO, shielding himself from stray emissions at the picnic.

The PAARA picnic was held the very next day in the luscious garden of Helga and Ron Panton, W6VG. Attendance exceeded the previous years, the weather was perfect, food and drink were plentiful, and old friends and new had a chance to connect in a warm and friendly setting. We even had a spontaneous transmitter hunt, thanks to our very own Andy, VE3FZK. Congratulations to Helga and Ron and everyone who pitched in to make this such a special day.

Field Day will take place on the 25th. We will bring

you all the details in the next issue.

This is a reminder to those who would like to have a PAARA name and call badge. Please pay Ron, KD6RFI. Then take your receipt to Fred, K6YT. Presto, you will have your badge at a later meeting.

And speaking of our previously mentioned illustrious treasurer, Ron, please direct all inquiries regarding money, such as receipts, bills, dues, donations etc., to Ron Carmichael KD6RFI, at (415) 594-9100 or write to

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Attn.: Treasurer

Join me and give a warm welcome to the new PAARAGraphs editor, Joel Wilhite, KA7TXV. Please send your comments, editorials, articles or just plain diatribe to him at the same address listed above Attn. Editor. He will gladly accept typed or legible hand written material but the system of choice will be on packet radio via NOARY or over Internet (jwilhite@raynet.com). A secondary format will be to exchange 3.5 inch floppy disks in either DOS or Macintosh format. The PAARAGraphs is edited and produced with Microsoft Word 5.0 on a Macintosh Power PC 7100. If disk copy is to be submitted written by programs other than MS

Word, please save the file in ASCII or PLAIN text format. Call Joel at (415) 325-8239 for any other questions about submitting material.

We are thrilled to have Joel aboard, and again, many thanks to Peter, KC6WCB, for getting us started with the new format of PAARAGraphs.

We are soliciting ads for PAARAGraphs and our rates are published elsewhere in this issue.

A most hearty welcome to Bill Smith, KE6CHQ, who has been appointed 2nd Vice President/Executive Officer. His purpose is to help take the heat off the president. You can contact him at (415) 366-9173 or on Internet at, WingRidier1@aol.com. Bills' home bbs is at KA6JLT-2.

Please remember our July meeting will be held Friday, July 8th **not** July 1st. The board meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 20th at 7:30 p.m. The last day for submitting to PAARAGraphs is July 17th. Have a safe and sane July 4th.

C U at the meeting.

de Lily N6PGM



N6PGM photo

Is this how Mason/Dixon got started?

Program Review

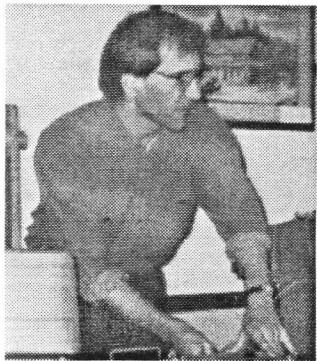
by Steve Stunz K6FS

June's program was a rare combination of unanticipated "Show and Tell" and of formal presentation by the speakers of the evening.

For "S & T", Vic Black, AB6SO, described and demonstrated an ingenious way of self-teaching Morse code, based on a method of speaking polysyllabic words, each word beginning with the alphabet letter under study, and pronounced with emphasis replicating the dot and dash structures of that letter's Morse symbol. Vic proposed a "dictionary of magic words" using the entire alphabet, drawing inspiration from thoughts surfacing while driving to and from work. By example Vic showed how easily the code can be acquired in short time and with

minimal effort! Shades of the World War 2 Keller "Code-Voice" teaching method!

The featured speaker of the evening was Wayne Burdick, N6KR. His presentation was truly a triple threat effort. His chosen title for the evening was "Why QRP?"



N6PGM photo

Wayne is a prime mover in the NorCal QRP Club and a dedicated QRP operator for two reasons. Wayne is an enthusiastic mountain country back packer, so he expounds the necessity to "keep it light, compact and portable". Secondly, recognizing the scarcity of ready made or kit form radios to meet his criteria, Wayne designs and builds individual transmitters, receivers and transceivers for low power, and easy transport.

Developing his theme, Wayne offered three answers: 1. Response to a challenge by developing special listening and calling skills, including "hill topping", paraphrased as "If the place is there, and you can get to it, operate from it!" 2. Conserving energy both to drive the

radio, and to lug it to the chosen location. 3. Cultivate patience when attempting QSO's (and tolerance for ionospheric vagaries, based on occasionally checking WWV - Ed.).

To exemplify the extent of his commitment to low power hamming, Wayne showed and passed around for audience inspection, several home brewed miniature rigs, both transmitters and receivers designed around state of the art components for various CW bands. The highlight of the evening was the unveiling of the handsomely crafted home-brew CW only multiband transceiver the Sierra. The hand size unit used band modules to switch between the bands. Changing the band board meant swapping a board from a slot connector on the inside. To supply power, a small gel cell battery was used. The entire station, including a roll of antenna wire and mini tuner, fit into a small aluminum Halliburton carrying case .

To round out his talk, Wayne detailed the history of QRP operation in the U.S., and showed by calculation that as far as communication value goes, there is little practical value to HIGH (i.e. 1+ kW) power in amateur radio. No mention of FCC Rule 97.313 was made. P



N6PGM photo

The future of our hobby.

A Word of Caution

Vic caught this amusing tidbit off the Internet.

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to your written request for additional information about my recent accident. In block No. 3 of the accident report form, I put "Poor Planning" as the cause of the accident. You stated in your letter that I should explain more fully; I trust the following details will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator. On the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80-foot tower antenna. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and hardware down the tower in several trips by hand, I decided to lower the items in a small barrel by using a pulley which,

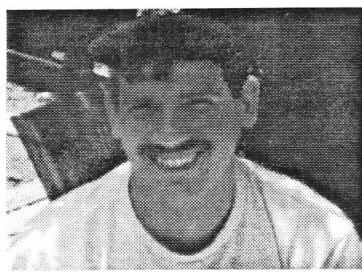
fortunately, was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at the ground level, I went up to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and hardware into the barrel. I then proceeded back to the ground and untied the rope, holding tightly to ensure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools and hardware. You will please note block No. 11 of the accident reporting form where I entered my weight as being 155 pounds. Due to my absolute surprise at being so abruptly jerked off the ground, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level I meet the barrel, which was coming down. I trust this will explain my fractured scull and broken collar bone. Slowed only but slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold tightly to the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel impacted on the ground, and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools and hardware, the barrel now weighed 20 pounds. I refer you again, to my weight in block No. 11. As you might imagine, I began an extremely rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40

foot level, I again met the barrel, which was now coming up. This will account for the two fractured ankles and multiple lacerations of my lower body. The second encounter with the barrel slowed my descent enough to lessen my injuries when I next fell on the pile of tools and hardware. Fortunately only three vertebrae were cracked. However, I am sorry to report that while in pain, unable to move, and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind and let go of the rope.

s. "Anonymous"

Physics can be wonderful! Just don't forget a well staffed ground crew, so they can witness such an event. P

From the Editor's Desk



I watched with spine tingling excitement like millions of other viewers as we watched Al and O.J. casually drive North through L.A. wondering what was going to happen next. Isn't it great in this day and age that we can observe such obscure and

bazaar events without leaving the comfort of our living rooms. Too bad the images from the aircraft were marred by severe drop outs. If they would have used FM video carrier, imagine how much better the pictures could have been.

I can remember reading an article some time ago about a British ham group that had developed an FM ATV transmitter from a chip made by Plessey. With the size of portable TVs today, I'm surprised that ICOM or Kenwood (SONY?) hasn't whipped up some snappy looking handy "lookie" radio. What the heck, why wait for the Japanese. I'll bet somebody will figure out that they can transmit the picture on one frequency and monitor the output of the ATV repeater to watch your uplink.

Can you imagine the excitement created by the radio amateur able to transmit pictures of some obscure event across the world. I could get into QSO from anybody from Bosnia, Haiti, or South Korea. The only problem is that the other party has to have a similar set of equipment. Small detail.

I'm sorry slow scan fans, real time is where the fun is. I used and played with slow scan for a while and had lots of fun and success (after buying and trading ROBOT slow scan equipment). Considering the advent of digital communications though, packet pictures is a heap

more efficient and less complicated to implement new features. The sophistication with slow scan is based on analog standards created many years ago. Digital modes have revolutionized the way we send data (i.e.: G-TOR) and for video as well. That's a whole different topic though.

So here I sit, wondering why so few hams are taking advantage of what the military has known for years. FM video links are superior to VSB carrier video. I want to know why the heck isn't anybody (commercial or amateur) using FM video? Not that FM video doesn't exist at all, my comment is directed mainly at a population of experimenters. I have read one article from an old CQ magazine about FM video. That's it. Is that all there is to know? Could it be there is something more than meets the eye or did I just off a boat yesterday. Don't answer that.

From my experiences, FM video picture detail is crisper than Vestigial Side Band video. VSB is more power efficient than FM video but who cares when we live in the age of cable television! So the picture has a little more snow than normal, that's what we make amplifiers and gain antennas for or at least we did the last time I checked.

The cliché, 'A picture is worth a thousand words' is so true, but a crisp FM video image during a disaster is priceless. The

value added by sending video pictures for command and control during emergency conditions (we are due for one, aren't we?) are well understood by those who ask the amateur community to lend a hand during a crisis. We already know that live video broadcast from aircraft to the ground makes damage assessment for the authorities a snap so they can decide where the help is needed most. The quality can be greatly improved though with FM.

Let us not forget what field day is all about, well mostly. I submit to you the members of the PAARA club, a quest if you will. To make FM video transceivers a reality. Who knows, we just might start a trend.

73 de Joel KA7TXV

Enclosed, you will find the 1994 PAARA Amateur Radio Club roster. The information contained on the roster is meant for the private use of the members of the club as a means to contact each other about club and other personal matters.

If you find an error in the roster, please contact Bill Mc Elhinney, KA6LZI and inform him of the corrections so that we can keep the roster accurate and up to date.

PAARA Club net operates every Monday at 8:30 P.M. on 147.45Mhz simplex. All licensed amateurs are welcome. Club membership dues are \$6 annually and includes free subscription to PAARAGraphs.

Swap Shop

Swap shop entries must be turned in by the third Friday of every month to the Editor. Send your information to KA7TXV via NOARY or put the information on a 3x5 post card and mail it to...

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Attention: Editor

PAARAGraphs Ad Rates

All ad rates listed are per issue only.

A.) 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

B.) For Profit organizations and or individuals

- \$5 for business card size
- \$25 for half page
- \$50 for full page

The above fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or to its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the Association. The PAARAGraphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interests of the Association. All fees are for "scanner-ready" copy or text only ads. If you need artwork prepared, contact us to negotiate additional charges.



Andy's old fox mobile

N6PGM photo

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An ARRL affiliated club

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