



PAARA, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026

October 1994

Volume 42

PAARAGraphs Since 1937

Monthly Newsletter for the Palo Alto Radio Association

President's Message.....

Would you like to see this space filled?

Are you a *FIND-A-NEED-AND-FILL-IT* person?

This publication needs an editor/publisher, and may not survive without one.

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- *Fabulous journalistic opportunity
for creative person.*
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Contact the club President for immediate consideration to help preserve what is left of her sanity(?). Great rewards and deep personal satisfaction guaranteed!

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PAARA

Calendar of Events

- | | |
|---------|-----------------------|
| Oct. 7 | General Meeting |
| Oct. 8 | PAARA Ampex Auction |
| Oct. 19 | Board Meeting |
| Nov. 4 | General Meeting |
| Nov. 16 | Board Meeting |
| Dec. 2 | General Meeting |
| Dec. 7 | PAARA Holiday Banquet |

Field Day Oddessy 1994

Field Day for me practically ended before it began. In trying to move the PAARA trailer, I did in my back in a big time way (third lumbar). The result was a week in bed, and reduction to supervisor rank during the critical Friday setup. Friday did go fairly smoothly, although it was an unusually long day, lasting until after 6 pm for some of the crew. Joel, KA7TXV, came on as the second transmitter captain (allowing us to operate 2A), and was indispensable in the 20M tower setup. We were actually ready on Saturday, with the first contact made at 1807z. Transmitter #1 was initially dedicated to 20M, but when that closed around about 0100L, Koert, KC6WCI, and myself hastily put up

a 75M inverted vee and were immediately operating at "Full Speed." Meanwhile #2 transmitter had moved from 15M to 40M phone. Unfortunately, the traditional support for CW was not there this year and resulted in a score reduction of about 1200 points. Thanks must be given to Brad, NP4AI, however, for showing up early Sunday morning for about 6 hours of CW effort. I saw Kit, W6ISO; Vic, AB6SO, Mike, KD6PIW; Koert, KC6WCI; operating at my end of the trailer. Special mention should be given to Dave, WS6W, who was going through 15 and 20 meter phone like a hot knife through butter for much of Saturday night. Fred, K6YT, Joel and many others were at

the other end of the trailer. Joel, and Ron, KD6RFI, led the novice setup and Bill, AA6PA, and Bob, KD6KYT, seemed to be supervising most of the VHF operation. After much effort by Lars, AA6IW, and his son Kjell, disappointment struck the satellite effort when, due to orbit problems, nothing was heard from AO13 except the beacon. Lily Anne, N6PGM, aided by Kit, produced a fabulous 'President's' steak dinner on Saturday that has to rank with one of the best. Decommissioning went smoothly and after a pizza snack, more than one of us went home to crash. Congratulations to all thirty-two who showed up on the signup list. I hope you had a good time.

de WA6LNV, Field Day Chair

Pacificon 94...

will be held on Friday through Sunday, October 21-23, at the Concord Hilton Hotel (Diamond near Willow Pass, Concord, CA). Sponsored by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club, Pacificon 94 events will include technical sessions, a swap meet, vendor exhibits, T-hunt, VE testing, the Wouff-Hong Ceremony, foot and fanny contest, drawings and raffles, a bus tour and the Pacificon Banquet. Tickets are \$3.00 in advance at \$5.00 at the door.

For more information, contact:
Pacificon 94,

P.O. Box 272613,
Concord, CA 94527
(510) 932-6125

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Trips Around the Bay on Packet

*Excerpt from Worldradio, September, 1994
The Digital Bus by Bill Snyder, WOLHS*

....The following yarn started in a message exchange with Benjamin Young, KA6SIQ, in Milpitas, California. In his first message to me, Benjamin mentioned stereo FM propagation and that triggered my memory to recall two experiences of mine in New Guinea during the big war of the 1940s....

....Benjamin had sent me that bit about stereo FM, so I related the above story to him.

Here's part of his reply:

"On my message number one I got sidetracked into stereo FM and never got the the real story. I wanted to comment on the crazy pathways that messages take.

I just set up a packet station for a friend and sent a test message to myself. Her PBBS is Menlo Park (you can read that as Palo Alto/Stanford) and mine is Sunnyvale. This should have been a piece of cake. They are line of sight, less than 10 miles apart and on the same side of the bay.

This was not to be the case. Instead, the little message went out of the Menlo Park PBBS and north up the peninsula to Daly City (just short of San Francisco), across the bay to Berkeley/Oakland, down to Fremont and across the bay again to land in N0ARY in Sunnyvale. Now that should have taken 3 hours to make the hop, but it spent the sunny weekend in Berkeley for 40 HOURS.

It looks like the "pipe" going into Menlo Park is thru Daly City and the "pipe" into Sunnyvale is via Fremont. Now if we could just install a JUNK@ALLUS filter things would be nicer — not fixed, but nicer."

I agree with Benjamin whole heartedly. I sort of have it that way in my BBS. Because mine is now only a standby backup for the local club machine, I filter my incoming messages through the club station. They forward only those categories I want; plus, of course, any personal traffic for me. Instead of having thousands of messages in mine, my total stored traffic runs about 50 to 100 most of the time. I get all the AMSAT type traffic and those of local interest.

Works great....

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PAARA • PALO ALTO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, P.O. Box 911, MENLO PARK, CALIFORNIA 94026

Club meetings are held on the first Friday of each month at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA
The Club holds a Radio NET every Monday evening on 147.45 MHz at 8:30 PM • 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, California 94026

PROGRAM TO PAY TRIBUTE TO ACTIVIST, BROADCASTER

by Theresa Viloria, Mercury News Staff Writer

His monthly cable TV show featured interviews with East Palo Alto community leaders and politicians. George Nixon's documentary, "San Mateo County Pro-Choice," blended his strong belief in women's reproductive rights with his TV skills.

Nixon, 51, died July 1 at his home in East Palo Alto. Police say he committed suicide, although the case remains under investigation. His friends doubt the suicide verdict.

Regardless of how he died, Channel 6 in Palo Alto, East Palo Alto, Atherton, Menlo Park and Stanford will run "The George Nixon Memorial" Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. It will include four of his interview programs as well as "San Mateo County Pro-Choice."

"He made some terrific programs that made a lot of difference," said

Laura Lockwood, director of programming for Channel 6. "George did a lot of good for a lot of people."

Nixon grew up in Northern Ireland and lived throughout Europe before moving to San Francisco. He had owned the Shamrock Tax and Bookkeeping Corp. in San Francisco for the last 14 years.

Besides his cable TV work, Nixon was known for his activism in the pro-choice movement in Redwood City and his involvement in East Palo Alto. He served on the city's Community Services Commission and was a volunteer at East Palo Alto's 10th Anniversary and Juneteenth celebrations.

"He was very much involved with making the East Palo Alto community a better place," Lockwood said.

Nixon was an organizer of the Clinic Defenders of Redwood City

and was active in the Bay Area Coalition for Our Reproductive Rights. Until a couple of years ago, friends said, Nixon regularly would escort women into clinics where anti-abortion protesters had tried to block entrances.

"He was very much an activist, that's the only way to describe him," said his friend David Nebenzahl of East Palo Alto. "He didn't stand for situations he saw as unjust or oppressive. He was an enemy of fascism in all its many forms."

A couple of weeks before he died, Nixon celebrated a legal victory when a state appellate court lifted an injunction that had ordered him to stay away from a woman passing out anti-abortion leaflets at a Redwood City clinic.

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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 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.

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Tropical Storm ALBERTO

DR 444

**"Red Cross disaster aid is an outright gift. It is provided for by voluntary contributions from the American People.
ALL RED CROSS DISASTER HELP IS FREE."**

I am a Red Cross Disaster Services volunteer. I am not paid for my services. Besides my local disaster duties, I have volunteered to respond to disasters that occur elsewhere in the United States, a program the Red Cross calls "Disaster Services Human Resources" or dshr. I am not paid for these services either, though my legitimate travel and living expenses are covered by the Red Cross.

I had been home from the Sacramento Disaster Institute for just 23 hours when Eugene called. He asked me if I would respond to Georgia for the floods. He said out of American Red Cross - Bay Area's over 500 disaster workers qualified to respond, I was the only one that National Headquarters had asked for by name!

I was assigned as a Communications Specialist, reporting to the Communications Officer. How could I refuse? Friday, 15 July 1994 I was winging eastward. A short layover in Atlanta (pronounced: At laaa'nah) and hop to Columbus, GA, and I was there!

Red Cross Job Headquarters is a cavernous room that had, until recently, been the anchor department store of the Columbus Square mall. Here, bureaucracy was in full sway, and I didn't finish processing until after 10:00 pm local time. My Communications Officer (boss) had just enough time to assign a rental car to me and send me off to my motel.

The next day, I was sent to District Headquarters in Dothan, AL. My task was to list all the pagers and cellular telephones in use in Alabama and report back to

Headquarters the next day. I did as told, but the next day my instructions were to remain in Dothan and visit all the Red Cross disaster facilities in Alabama.

I visited arc facilities in Columbia, Slocumb, Geneva, Elba, New Brockton, Enterprise, Newton and Daleville. While in Daleville, I took a ride a mile up the road to see Fort Rucker's Army Aviation Museum — a fascinating place for an aviation buff like me!

Through all of this, I saw lots of 'clients' and could appreciate the immensity of their losses — but I saw little of the damage itself. Then I got a chance to see Riverside Drive in Columbia. The Chattahoochie River had been ebbing for over a week, yet it was still raging with dramatic force. Most of the houses and trailers were well above the current level of the river, but the damage and the tell-tale 'mud lines' that mark the upper limit of the flood waters provided ample evidence of the magnitude of the disaster Tropical Storm Alberto wreaked!

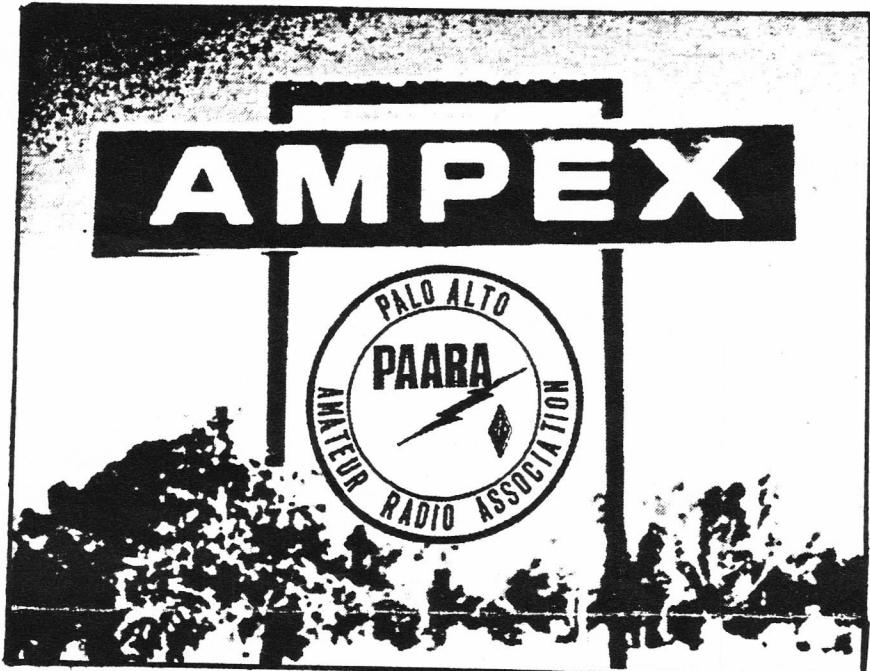
The following week I worked out of Job Headquarters in Columbus, GA. My duties kept me on the road visiting Red Cross facilities from 7:30 am to 8:00, 9:00 and sometimes 10:00 pm. Roberta, Macon, Perry, Americus, Albany, Leesburg, Cordele and Newton all had Red Cross operations that I had to survey for communications equipment. I can't be specific, because some of my paperwork was mailed home and has yet to arrive, but I put over 2,500 miles on that rented maroon Buick Skylark as I pursued my duties.

By the end of the second week, Communications had wound down to an accounting operation, and my services were no longer needed there. So I volunteered to transfer to Mass Care (the service that supplies food and other group assistance to clients). I was assigned to the Kitchen operation in Cordele, GA. Cordele Kitchen was serving over 1,500 meals a day to clients in Crisp and Sumter Counties, mostly in Americus and along the banks of Lake Blackshear. Eight 'Emergency Response Vehicles' (erv's) delivered lunch and dinner meals from Cordele Kitchen that operated from a Georgia National Guard Armory. It was a neat operation. The Red Cross provided the food, the Kilpatrick (GA) Baptist Association prepared it, and Red Cross erv's delivered that food to clients in the field, at Service Centers and at the fema Disaster Application Center. And I became the Red Cross base station radio operator coördinating these operations!

National Guard Armories aren't air conditioned. When temperature and humidity stay in the high nineties, things inside (including me) get really hot! The hours were long too. I was on duty from 8:00 am to the return of the last erv, which was usually around 8:00 pm. Yet knowing the people we were serving had lost nearly everything made my discomfort seem awfully minor.

The people of southwestern Georgia, southeastern Alabama and the Florida Panhandle have suffered tremendous losses. I am privileged, pleased and proud to have had a small role assisting in their recovery from this tragedy!

Bill SMITH, KE6CHQ



AUCTION &



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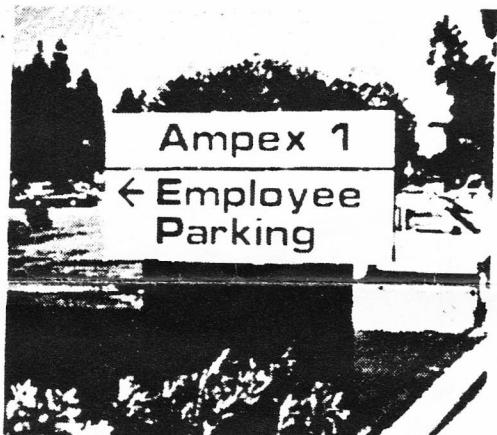
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325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park

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or see Ron, KD6RFI, at the meetings. Deadline for paid reservations—November 30

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&

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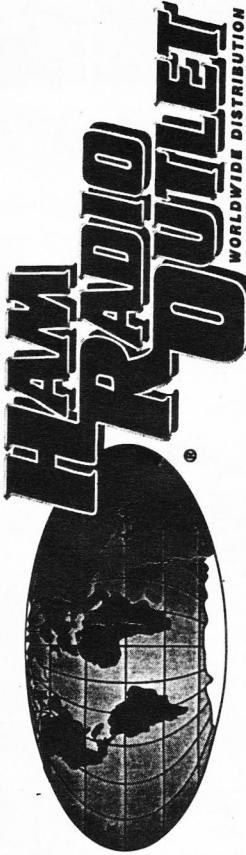
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