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PAARA

vol. 20
1976

GRAPHS



palo Alto
AMATEUR
RADIO ASSN.

MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

July 76

PAARAGRAPHS is the official organ of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assn, and the Menlo Park CD Radio Club.

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Volume 20 Number 7 July 1976

--PAARA and Menlo Park Radio Club Officers:

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Vice-President: Andy Korsak VE3FZK/W6 366-5228

Terry Conboy WB6GRZ Secretary

Paul Churchill W6QBY Treasurer

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Trustee of K6YQT and MP Radio Club Officer: Bob Allen W6WQD

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Ed Fairbanks W6AIN

Jerry Tucker WA6LNV

John Gomperts WN6ATL

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OUR ABSOLUTELY IMPECCABLE POLICIES :::

1. Membership includes PAARAGRAPHS subscription.

2. Dues are only \$4.00 a year, too cheap to last.

3. Cheap measely subscriptions only one Buck (\$1.00).

4. Pay up on a calendar year basis (Hint: January).

SEND cash, old coins, bicentennial bucks, all sorta jive to:
PAARA Box 911 Menlo Park Calif. 94025

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YOUR ISSUE BROUGHT TO YOU BY: (Ye PAARA STAFFE Below):

Editor-in-Chief: Richard Ferranti WA6NCX

Cover Designer: Sue Lindner

Printing, Labels, etc.: Ed Fairbanks, Fred Canham, etc.

VE7-bound Utica Six-Meter Fixer: Mike Eccles WA6LGJ/VE7

Yellowstone-bound Youthful Radio Compatriot: Gary WB6WNI

Plus a host of others too few to mention

Got anything to SEND me about newsy items around the shack/

home/job or other abode? RUSH same to Rick Ferranti

WA6NCX, 1234 Santa Cruz Ave Menlo Park, ca 94025

(415) 324-1539 eves for the summer

OUR NEXT MEETING: is on Friday, July 9, 1976, in the Menlo Park Recreation Center, near the Bicentennial Book Collection (library) and Police Dept. Meeting Starts at 7:30 PM--please note this is the Second Friday of the month for July only to avoid conflict with the crazy July 4th weekend this year.

AND THE PROGRAMME:

TO BE ANNOUNCED.

Dave Rets, SRI, on
FM radio
comm.

RAFFLE Coffee Tea Cookies Good Folk Gonk
Bring a Young Squirt and introduce 'em to Ham Radio!!!

The Board of Directors will meet on the usual Wednesday following the meeting, this time on July 14, 1976, in the wonderful PAARA W6OTX trailer, located in more or less one hunk at 333 Ravenswood Drive, SRI, MP.

Please note Andy Korsak VE3FZK/W6 has two phone #'s now, 366-5228 and 366-6124.

The PAARA Net meets every Monday night on 147.45 MHz FM Simplex at around 8:15 or so. Just hang around the frequency and push to blab when you want to. There's plenty of activity on every Monday--also, this channel will be monitored during Field Day, and is monitored by many club members nearly alla time. For the AM'ers we have a short net on 145.24 MHz at about the same time every Monday, but this is soon to be phased out. Get the HINT???

Congratulations to Terry Conboy, WB6GRZ/WA7DOX, who volunteered to do PAARAGRAPHS after the next issue when Ye Editor moves off to grad school Back East. This is excellent--Terry has written good stuff for us!!

ARRL/FCC Bulletine Skeds and Code Practice

The W6ZRJ Bulletine Schedule is as follows (Tuesday eves)
 7:30 PM on 3590 and 7129 KHz A-1 at 15 and 20 WPM,
 8:30 PM on 3615 KHZ and 146.0 MHz F1/F2 RTTY 850 Hz
 9:00 PM on 3815 KHz on SSB

Each week a new propogation forecast and summary will be given on each of these schedules, with latest ARRL bulletin information. W6ZRJ will stand by for QSO's so you can comment or ragchew. Give a listen!

Other goodies:

W6ZF: Pacific Division Bulletins, first and third Mondays of each month on 3540 KHz, CW at 8:00 PM.

K6DYX: Each Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM on 3590 KHz and 7129 KHz CW at 20 WPM. Each Monday eve. at 7:30 PM and 9:00 PM on 3620 KHz RTTy 850 Hz Shift followed by 170 Hz shift. High speed code practice , Sunday at 7:30 PM on 3690 and 7025 KHz. Also, see QST.

WB6HVA: Code Practice bulletins Monday and Friday at 7:30 PM on 3590 KHz at various speeds.

WA7BEU: Each Wednesday evening at 7:30 PM on 3620 KHz, RTTY on 850 Hz shift.

W6QIE: This is the most popular code practice station: Code practice at 8:00 PM on 3590 KHz with speeds from 5 to 30 WPM in progressive steps. One and one half hours of code practice daily except Monday,

K6TX: Each Sunday afternoon at 4:30 PM on 14.280 MHz SSB, with Pacific Division Bulletins.

W6CIP: Code Proficiency as announced in QST.

We welcome I.M. Gottlieb, W6HDM, 931 Olive Street, Menlo Park to the club, as our latest New Member.

MORE PAID-UP MEMBERS: WA6DVI, WA6BQY, and WB6RNO. Have you sent in your \$4.00 this year???

The SF Chronicle for June 17, 1976 lists the obituary of Harald Friis, who was a resident of Palo Alto, and "a pioneer in the development of radio communications, microwaves, and radio astronomy." According the paper, he designed the first super-het receiver in the 20's. Mr. Friis was 83.

PAARA PICKIN'S ---- GOOD STUFF TO KNOW

11-meter Joke of the Month (Ye Editor takes no credit for this)
 The stout hill-billy lady went to the local clinic "for one
 of them diets." The young internist tried to convince
 her the weight problem was from her expecting and not
 from over-eating. Finally the young doctor, to prove
 his point, had her put on the earphones of his new
 pulse detector to hear the fetal heart beat. Just then
 a CB'er drove by, and the following RFI came through
 the detector: "Big 10-4, good buddy -- over 9 pounds
 in here. This is from Hammerhead."

The patient jumped off the examining table and fled the
 clinic in one swift movement. Later, she told her
 girl-friend: "It's a real weird place and I ain't goin'
 back. The young un's real friendly, though. Told me
 his weight and even his father's name."

Here's an ad hot off the teletype (someone else's -- remember
 Ye Noble Editor sold all his goodies last month!)

FOR SALE: *HW-32 SSB 40 meter transceiver, AC supply (HP-23)
 and DC supply (HP-13). One package.

*2 Meter power amplifier, 75 watts continuous
 duty, and power supply with cabling and plugs;
 good for a repeater or remote station.

*Teletype Model 19 with table, REC 13 power supply,
 Model 14 TD, Model 14 non-typing reperf, all
 mount on table with model 19, one package.

Interested?? Call Bill Burris, WA6CXJ, at 591-4592,
 605 Hiller St., Belmont, Calif. 94002. (via Mike FFC())

SPEAKING of which, ads are FREE here--send me dope on your
 unused and lonely equipment. Y.N. Ed. uses this service
 on occasion, as you may notice.

For the good of the Order: It was reported that Novices or
 prospective Novices should contact WB6ZFZ. Classes are
 held on Saturday morning in Fremont (QTH on Callbook is
 OK, but I don't have one!!!). ---CCRC Circle.

GANDER directly on the next pg. for full details on PAARA's
 FIELD DAY effort, which you should all partake inupon.

Here it is.....

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 (get it???)

DATE DATE: June 26 and 27, 1976

TIME TIME: 7:30 AM to around 1 PM the next day

Actual operating time: 10 to 10, Sat to Sun (24 hrs)

This year PAARA is having another great Field Day, and we need operators, loggers, tent-putter-uppers, antenna rasing crews, people to talk to, shoulders to cry on, and/or etc., etc.

OUR beloved Place where It's AT is indicated in lovely NCX-Scawl on the facing page, if but you unglue your eyeballs from these very words and Gander Rightly----

Notice, this is the same place we had it last year.

WE NEED YOU---it's awful nice to have helpers in the morn to put up the stuff and start the operations. MOST importantly, WE NEED YOU to help take all this gorp DOWN when everyone is all tuckered out on Sunday after 10:00 AM. Show up!!!!

NO NEED for any kind of schedualed times, but do show up and have fun with all the wild contacts, QRM, weird food, and even stranger company (moths, ants, etc.).

DO YOU LIKE WEEDS??? Then you'll LOVE the hill site!!!

If you plan to fondle the flora please be forwarned that these are the stickler kind, so wear suitably

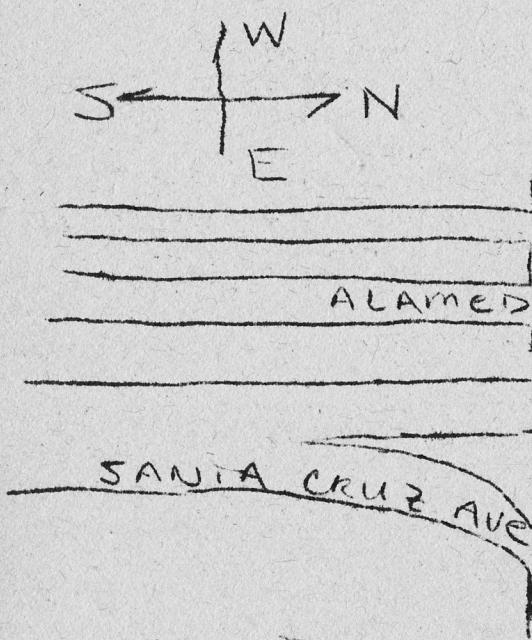
armour-plated footgear.

THERE is a gate at the end of LA LOMA Drive where we enter. The stupid thing is locked, but we have a key. IF you get there and no one's around to open it for you, CALL us on 147.45 MHz FM (the club freq., remember?) 'cuz there'll be at least one FM rig on the hill set there and waiting for your golden voice. Alternately, you can just jump over the stupid thing and walk the 100 feet to the site (Whatsamatter, you lazy??). Or bring bolt cutters, dynamite, or your M-16 but this isn't recommended. Got it???? BE THERE!!!!

100% Certified MAP of
Where We Will Be AT

THE HILL
PAARA's FD SITE

All dirt roads off La Loma lead
to the 1976 FD Site



Directions so you can Get Lost easier.
Go down Santa Cruz Avenue, keep right and you automatically end up on Avy Ave. Turn right on Bellair and thereupon left onto La Loma. Keep right, and there will be the Gate looming up on your right. Drive through the gate (it would be nice if you called on .45 first and had it opened!) or park your wheels somewhere and hippity hop on up. You can see the whole blasted BAY AREA from this place. So COME JOIN US ON FIELD DAY 1976

Field Day PAARA 1976

PAARA 1976

Field Day PAARA 1976

Field Day 1976 PAARA

Field Day

Field Day 1976 Have Fun with PAARA and the GANG!

PAARA Pickin's---More Good Gonk & Gorp

Last month Ye Editor reported on the use of mineral oil in transformers instead of regular transformer oil-- this was later corrected in QST.

The only transformer oil that is poisonous and dangerous to use or even get on you is the pyranol-everteen-askarel non-flammable type. This is used less than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1% of the time.

Regular transformer oil has none of these dangerous characteristics.

Paul Churchill W6QBY, writes that QST should be strongly censured for printing the first letter -- it could have been checked by phoning the distribution engineers of any electric utilities plant. I agree with Paul-- the original letter has been reprinted many times and the correction probably will not be.

Ed Fairbanks, W6AIN, also wrote me about this and referred to the full explanation of this oily mess in the June issue of QST, right there on pg. 59. If in doubt, use mineral oil in your dummy loads.

Our ever-faithful president, Fred K6YT is to again head the Field Day plaque committee with W6CTH and K6RTU assisting. Rules governing the previous FD's will be in force; basically ARRL rules will be followed with the exception that the square root of the number of transmitters in use will be the multiplier. (CCRC Circle)

The license fee hassle was resolved when the ham license plates and fees were dropped from the proposal. This means you'll still be able to get your plates for \$3, not \$25 as the bill would have allowed.

Dixie Jones' Owl Juice from QST, April 1936

This here species of mammal known as pithecahammicus erectus which closely resembles the human type but is distinguishable by its shrill cry, "See Kew See Kew," which it emits when excited, is in grave danger of becoming extinct. There are three generic classifications of this here faunal specimen, to wit: (1) young squirts, (DX'ed on to the next pg.)

Owl Juice, con't.....

which was born that way, (2) Ex-squirts, which somehow survived the age of squirthood, and (3) Old guys who got that way after growin' up normal. This here editor is in Class 3, and the reason why our ranks is becoming depleted and we'll soon go and join the dodo, the frizzly auk and the duck-billed platypus, is because as follows: Take young squirts, fir instance, that's just beginning to learn how to think. They will hump over their haywire alll night, every night, and they don't git no sleep, and it undermines their stamina and purty soon they become extinguished and fill a early grave without ever having had either the ability or the opportunity to comply with certain Biblical instructions with reference to the procreation of their species.

Older guys in Class 2 and 3 could, or might could, if they would but ain't got no time. His OW can look like the Queen of Sheeby and he don't see it. She can spend hours and hours gettin' fluted and frilled and tinted and curled and sprinkled with smell-goodie, but it don't do no good. He barges right past her (assuming that he's been out halfway holding some kinda job) and plops down at the haywire and there he sets and she can't prize him loose to eat or anything else. Ten o'clock comes, midnight comes, and she gets up offa the sofa where she's been settin' lookin' at the carpet, and trundles off to bed, a dejected picture of wasted sweetness.

When she gets her divorce there ain't nobody left to feed him so he just sets there and hams and hams until he starves to death. If we don't watch out, in about a hunnert years, they'll have the last one of us stuffed and in a glass case with a tag on it saying: "Pitheca-hammicus Erectus, Now Extinct. He hammed ALL the time." --W4IR of the "Dixie Squinch Owl", and QST, 4/36.

Some notes on NICAD BATTERIES..... From Bob W6BFH
You remember the stuff on ni-cads which Y.N. Ed. printed
a few months back? Well, good old Bob up there
sends more info on these cuties....read on-----
Don't Forget Field Day 1976

Nicad Notes.....

Increased use of solid state gear has prompted many to turn to Nickle-Cadmium cells as a portable power source.

If comments heard on the air are indications, the care and feeding of these cells are not well known. The cells can be damaged by excessive charging and discharge currents.

A "discharged cell" has an output of 1.1 volts as read on a high resistance voltmeter. A cell immediately after charging will have an output of 1.4 to 1.5 volts. This will slowly decrease and stabilize at 1.26 volts.

Charging current should not exceed 50% of the ampere-hour capacity of the cell. At this rate the cell should reach 1.5 volts after about two hours of charge. At 20% cell capacity 1.5 volts should be reached after 5 hours; at 10%, 10 hours, and at 5% after 21 hours. Unvented cells should be charged at the 5% to 10% rate. A rapid rise in cell voltage toward the end of the charging cycle indicates a fully charged condition. A cell reading 1.6 volts at the end of the charging cycle has been overcharged.

A fallacy regarding Ni-Cad cells is their long life storage. At 0°C they retain 90% of their capacity 90 days; at 20°C they retain only 25% of their capacity for a like storage period, and at 50°C (122F) they will be discharged after only 52 days. (Y.N. Ed. notices this very much with his monster nicad packs).

Cells are made to operate at 20°C but at 0°C and 35°C their output drops to 95% of their rated capacity.

The electrolyte is a 30% solution of potassium hydroxide, specific gravity 1.29, which remains constant (nearly) through the charge and discharge cycle. If any water need be added to a cell, add it to the full mark in the discharged condition only. Use distilled water only, not automotive battery water which may have traces of sulfuric acid which can ruin a cell.

For further references on Nicads, see Edmund Scientific Co., Information and instructions No. 71118.

-----Bob W6BFH

Rebuilding/Revamping Grand Old Receivers Part 1
--Rick Ferranti WA6NCX

To my rather esoteric 22-year old eyeballs, nothing brings back the mystery, lore, and beauty of "radio" than an old (preferably pre-WWII) all-wave receiver, complete with the cheery warmth of vacuum bottles and those fantastic back-lit yellow dials. In the last four years, whilst even opening a book or two at my undergraduate institution, I have had the pleasure of restoring an SX-71, S-38, SX-24 (still in process, right, Fred??), NC-183, and my latest and best 1937 model Hammarlund Super-Pro receiver. All these receivers most likely work better than new now (although I wasn't around when they were new!) due to some judicious parts replacement. More on this later.

Having a good general coverage receiver around the shack is quite useful for snooping around commercial, air, and military frequencies, (my interests), and also the dull old shortwave bands and, of course, CB. What's even better is resurrecting a 40 year old monster and putting it into regular service at the station.

So, first, you have to find a receiver. Mine came from friends and acquaintances who thought I would like such a thing (especially since they had 4 inches of dust on them, didn't work, were missing dial strings, and were otherwise discards). Or I traded them for other goodies. Or, I fixed an S-38 and got the SX-24. Or I bought 'em. Look around, ask around. Keyword: Patience.

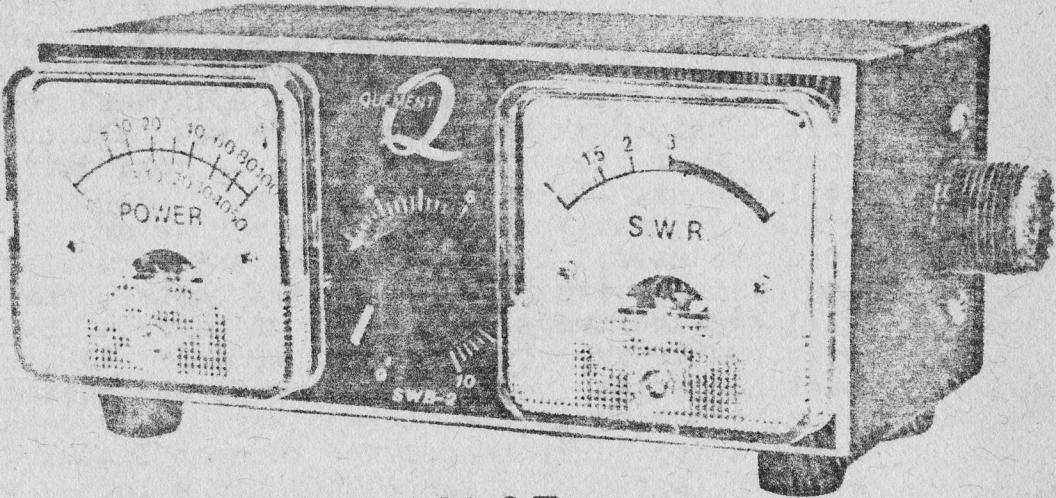
Be picky. Make sure it has an RF stage, and unless it's very old, it should be a superhet. Crystal filters are nice but if its got 2 or 3 IF's at 455 KHz it is not absolutely necessary to have the filter. Bfo, yes.

When you get your prize, take courage, a spare fuse, and plug it in. If it works on at least one band, it'll probably function well when you finish cleaning the mess up. It's nice if it does work at least a little, if not, clean it up first and then fix it electrically.

Continued next issue....

Typed on a chain-sawed Father's Day whilst sipping a bit of Champagne and listening to Froberger and Bach. Ymmmm.

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