

• PAARA NEWSLETTER •  
VOLUME 44 • NUMBER 6 • JUNE • 1995

# PAARAGraphs

Since 1937

Monthly Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



## Calendar

June 2, 1995 PAARA Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

Menlo Park Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park 7:30-9:30 PM

June 3, 1995 PAARA Picnic, 11 AM to 3 PM

at the Ron & Helga Panton home garden  
#5 Cedar Court, Menlo Park, (415) 854-4814

June 21, 1995 PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

Red Cross Bld. 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto

June 24-25, 1995 Field Day, area prep Friday afternoon.

Cooley Landing (bay end of Bay Road)

July 14, 1995 PAARA Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

Menlo Park Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park 7:30-9:30 PM

July 19, 1995 PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30 P.M.

Red Cross Bld. 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto

October 20, 21, & 23 1995 Pacificon '95

Concord, CA contact-Richard Schulze, AA6DL  
(510) 932-6125 (hotline)



## Program

June 2, 1995

Speaker: Alonzo Dallas, N6XME,  
"Photo Voltaic (Solar) Panels"



### DX (Convention)

The 46th annual DX Convention in Visalia is now history. 700 avid DXers attended, with over 12 from foreign countries. Interesting presentations with slides were given by BZ1HAM of China & JA1BK on their trip to Scarborough reef, local DXers on their trips to Syria, and NI6T to a rock called

Conway Reef in the Pacific Ocean. The ARRL is arranging a ham radio tour of China during which the Chinese DX Convention will be held. Sounds interesting, no cost mentioned so far. CW is not dead, despite what the U.S. Coast Guard may say. North Korea is teaching Morse code to their teenagers, and opening up North Korea to tourism. It will be interesting to see what changes are made in U.S. relations with that country.

As usual I won none of the very wonderful prizes that were given out. There is always next year, and the pleasure in meeting old friends and making new ones, makes the convention worth while to me.

Someone gave me a button which says "I love CW". True! The 9 year old girl who has a general license, and is an avid contester, made us all sit up and take notice. It is wonderful to see young people so interested in ham radio. I know how much it has enriched my life since I was 14.

73, Ron, W6VG

## Miscellaneous Dates

### Flea Market at Foothill (6AM - 2PM)

March .....	PAARA
April .....	The Perham Foundation
May.....	SCCARA
June 10.....	SPECS
July 8.....	EMARC
August 12.....	SVECS
September 9.....	American Red Cross (PA Chapter)

### PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

meets 1st Friday 7:30 each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,  
contact Jerry Tucker WA6LNV 415-961-3266.

### EMARC Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

Meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month,  
contact Sheldon Edelman 415-858-2176.

### NCDXC Northern California DX Club

Meets 2nd Friday each month, repeater for member info 147.360 each  
Thursday 8:00PM, contact John Troster W6ISQ 415-854-3939.

### NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club

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

### Perham Foundation

contact Sy Stein WA6ROM 408-734-4453

### SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

Meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 224.36, 440.80 MHz+  
contact Mike Hastings KB6LCJ, 408-243-6745 or 408-249-6909.

### Disaster Services, Palo Alto Chapter, American Red Cross

Meets 3rd Wednesday each month 7:30PM, HF, packet, BBS, ATV,  
OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite,  
contact Ruth Claypool 415-688-0423.

## Hamfests: thrill of victory, agony of "de feet"

I am a festaholic! As with any addiction, festaholism catches you in the end. My wife is the director of the rehabilitation center at our house.

As the dew on the knee-deep grass soaked my pants, I stumbled into Okeechobee Hamfest with a pocket of money and a glaze in my eyes. By the end of the day, the money was gone and my car loaded with "deals"-some genuine. But most belonged outside a hawsepope (on an anchor chain).

Being new at this, with my head filled with visions of kit building and home-brewing, I acquired a large assortment of VTVMs, signal generators, project boxes, microphones, and grab bags of components.

I was proud of the bargains I'd found. And I gained immense satisfaction from the bargaining process. After haggling over a \$25 Heathkit crystal-controlled two-meter rig for 20 minutes, for instance, we flipped a coin for the last \$5. I won and got it for \$20. I also discovered how well the "buddy system" works when making an offer. (My buddy makes a lowball offer before I approach with mine.)

The buddy system did backfire once, though. N4IJ embarrassed me when he called on simplex to arrange a low offer on a 4-1000 transmitting tube. At that very moment, I was standing next to the seller-who just grinned.

But it was such fun that I repeated the feeding frenzy at the Tampa Hamfest--in search of HF and VHF gear. I came home with empty pockets, an HF rig, a two-meter mobile, and more boat anchors.

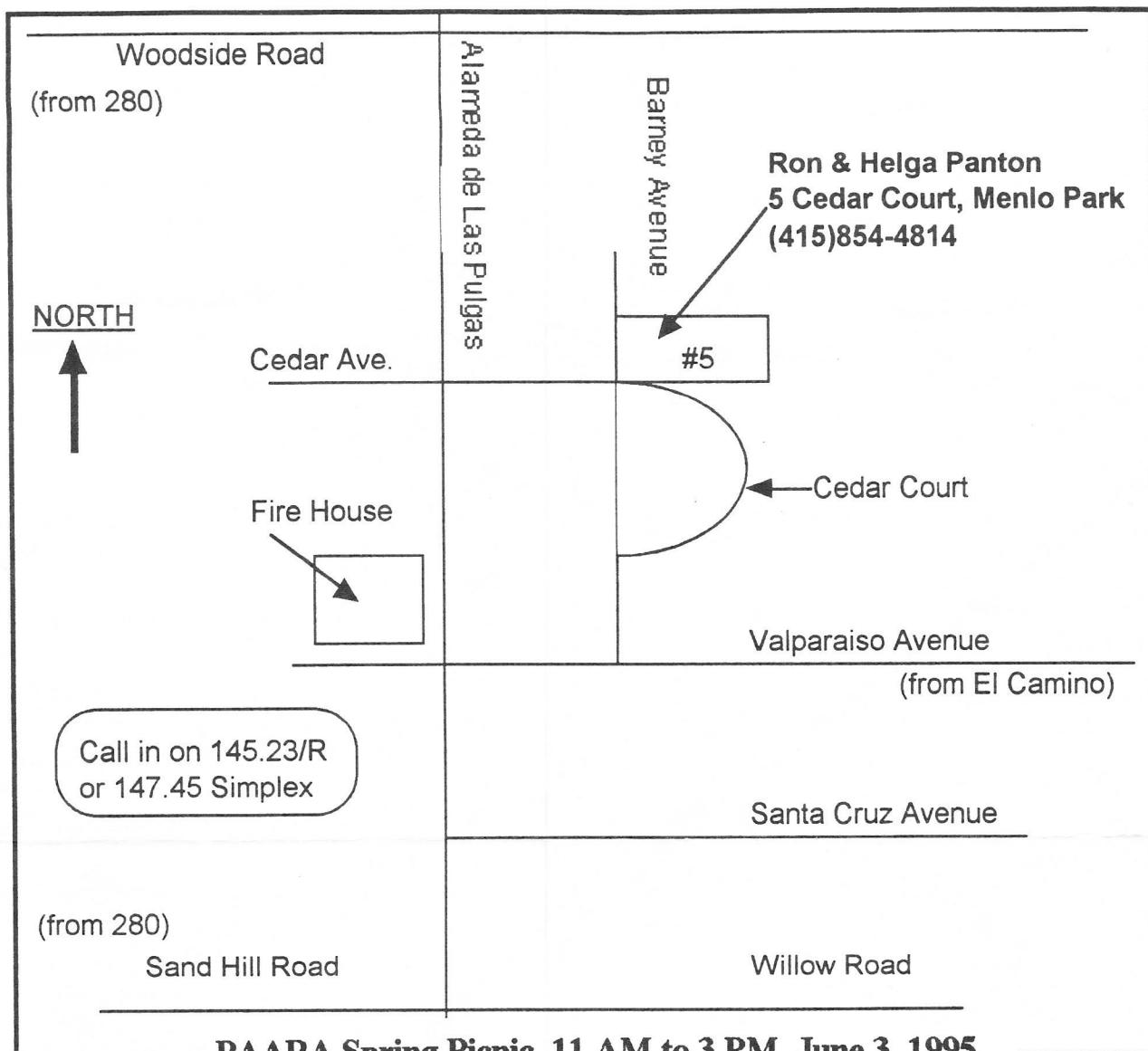
But I was on a roll. My next adventure was to storm the Orlando Fest with a well-planned list of things I needed (well, wanted and could justify). I quickly found a Kenwood 7400-series two-meter mobile that was in great shape. It would have made a perfect packet machine. But rather than pay the \$65 asking price, I let my \$50 offer ride for 20 minutes. I returned just in time to watch someone else counting out \$65 for the rig.

Later, I found an Atlas 350XL with matching power supply offered for \$350--the price I paid for one at the Tampa Fest without the power supply. I moped for 30 minutes, then decided to make an offer on it and sell the other one at the next hamfest. When I arrived back there, a guy had just bought it for \$330.

So I became frustrated, and my desperation led me to a mint-condition Kenwood TS440/AT with power supply and CW filter for \$750. I searched for my other buddy, KR4AQ, to lend me some cash (money being no object to addicts). But by the time I found him and wended my way back to that table, someone else was walking away with the rig.

That's why this festaholic is waiting, impatiently and with the DT's, for the next hamfest season to begin.

Carl Letter, KR4NR, Harris Amateur Radio Club



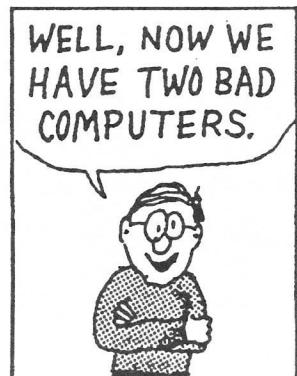
**PAARA Spring Picnic, 11 AM to 3 PM, June 3, 1995**

## Picnic

The PAARA annual spring picnic will be held, Saturday, June 3, at Ron & Helga Panton's house from 11 AM to 3 PM. The club will supply beer, cold drinks, charcoal, and a cold cut plate. Bring your own bar-b-que goods and something to share. We will have door prizes extraordinaire. Friends and guests are welcome.

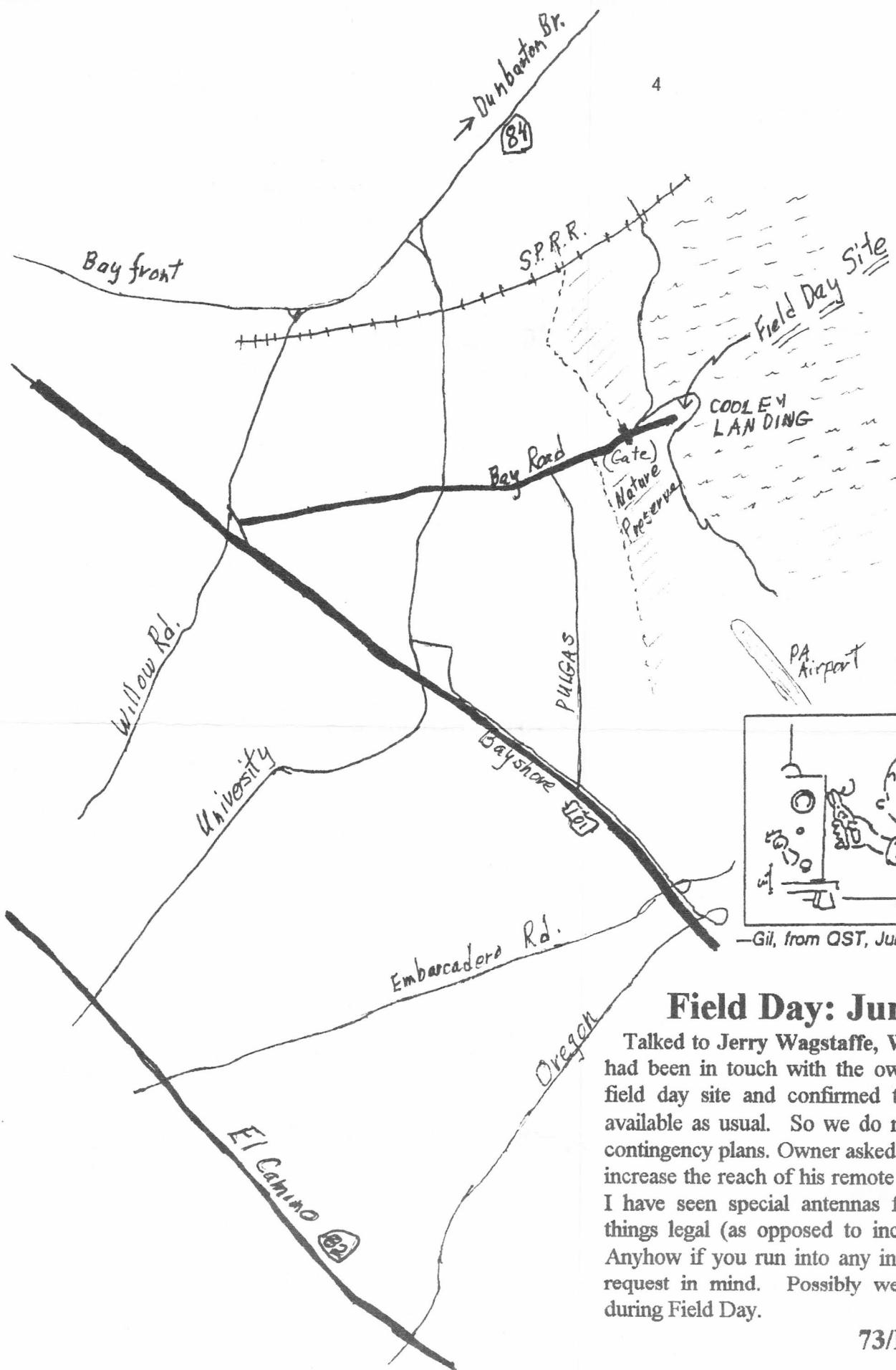
-Lilly Anne, K6PGM

**ELMER**



**By Rich Regent, K9GDF**

ARNS



## Field Day: June 24-25

Talked to Jerry Wagstaffe, W6NIR, today. He had been in touch with the owner of the PAARA field day site and confirmed that the site will be available as usual. So we do not have to draw up contingency plans. Owner asked for our assistance to increase the reach of his remote telephone. I believe I have seen special antennas for that which keep things legal (as opposed to increasing the output). Anyhow if you run into any info on that, keep the request in mind. Possibly we can help him out during Field Day.

73/Koert, KC6WCI

**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**  
**PO Box 911**  
**Menlo Park, CA 94026**

President.....	To Be Filled
VP.....	To Be Filled
Secretary.....	Vic Black, Jr., AB6SO (415) 366 0636
Treasurer.....	Dave Bailey, WS6W (408) 730 5215
Program Director.....	To Be Filled
Trustee/Property/Badges.....	Fred Canham, K6YT (415) 948 8238
ARES Officer.....	Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM (415) 325 5484
Club Historian.....	Steve Stuntz, K6FS (415) 322 4952
Raffle Chairperson.....	Sy Stein, WA6ROM (415) 967-0362

**Board of Directors**

Lily Anne Hillis,	N6PGM	(415) 325 5484
Koert Koelman,	KC6WCI	(415) 593 5613
Kit Kohlmoos,	W6ISO	(415) 366 7813
Dave Meacham,	W6EMD	(415) 369 2633
Chris Rempel,	N6VZD	(415) 341 7578
Bill Smith,	KE6CHQ	(415) 366 9173
Sy Stein,	WA6ROM	(415) 967 0362
Rich Stiebel,	W6APZ	(415) 494 0128
Bill Zaner,	WB6IYS	(415) 856 2089

**PAARAGraphs Staff**

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Editor.....	Wally Porter, K6URO (415) 494 7038
Database.....	Bill McElhinney, KA6LZI (415) 325 9808

**ADDENDUM to Internet Addresses (May)**

Harvard Wireless Club - W1AF:

"<http://fas-www.harvard.edu/~w1af/>"

from Kenneth S. Dueker, KB6BPM former PAARAGraphs Ed.

**PAARAGraphs Ad Rates**

PAARAGraphs accepts paid advertisements from non-members (short personal ads remain free for members in good standing).

All ad rates listed are per issue only.

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).

2. For Profit organizations and/or individuals:

\$5-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50-full page or back cover

These 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 interest of the Association. All fees are for "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads.

**WANTED**

**AMATEUR (HAM) RADIOS  
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Clint KM6UJ  
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Here & There

**ESSENTIAL "Q" SIGNALS**

(A short list, with shortened meanings)

**QRL** Is this frequency being used?

**QRM** Interference from another station

**QRN** Interference from static

**QRP** Low power

**QRQ** Send faster

**QRS** Send slower

**QRT** Stop sending

**QRU** I have nothing for you

**QRX** Wait

**QRZ** Who is calling me?

**QSL** Send confirmation, or: "Qsl card"

**QSO** Conversation

**QST** General broadcast to all, or: "Qst" magazine

**QSY** Move your (or my) frequency

**QTH** Location or address

courtesy Ron Panton, W6VG

**Procedural Signals for Morse Code**

(Prosigns)

**CQ** Calling any station (does any ham \*not\* know this one?)

**AR** "+" over, end of message

**K** go, invite any station to transmit

**KN** "(" go only, invite a specific station to transmit

**BK** invite receiving station to transmit

**R** all received OK

**AS** please stand by

**SK** end of contact (sent before call)

**CL** going off the air (clear)

ARRL info-service

**FOR SALE**

**H-P 5245L Frequency Counter**

w/plug-in measures frequency to 500 MHz - \$150

**H-P 5254B**

Plug-in extends range to 3 GHz. - \$40

Take both for \$185

Contact Rich, W6APZ, @ 415-949-0128 or via email at  
[442.5324@mci.net](mailto:442.5324@mci.net)

## DID YOU KNOW...

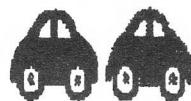
Have you worked LU1SM? Who is LU1SM, anyway? He is Carlos Saul Menem, the first incumbent President of Argentina to be re-elected since 1952. Menem won re-election May 14, because of his victories in the war on inflation. Maybe he was tired of paying high prices for his radio's. Remember you read it in PAARAGraphs months before CQ and SST.

Bill Rausch, AA6PA, has done a fine job of organizing a team of net control operators for the PAARA Net. Volunteers rotate net control duties weekly so each one gets the fun of being net control every 7 or 8 week. Besides Bill, the operators include Jim Price, KO6GM; Steve Stuntz, K6FS; Dave Meachem, W6EMD; Sy Stein, WA6ROM; Felix Conte, N6POH; and Paul, KE6PIJ. If you have ever thought about being net control, now's the time. Bill Rausch will provide a script and training. All you need is a handie-talkie as the Net meets on the W6APZ repeater, 145.23, minus offset, every Monday at 20:30 local time. The repeater PL Tone is disabled during the Net so you do not even need a PL. Be sure to check into the Net to hear announcements, to meet your friends, to welcome new members and visitors, and to participate in the swap net. See you there!

For quite some time, Andy Korsak, VE3FZK, has been sporting a vertically polarized 8-element 2 meter Yagi and 13-element 70cm Yagi on top of his Subaru station wagon. The entire thing can be rotated by hand from inside the car during hidden transmitter hunts. And, yes, it's balanced like a wind vane so as not to turn inadvertently while at speed. The innovation is a home-brew scissors jack made of door hinges and discarded wood strips. This allows the whole contraption to pop up jack-in-the-box style to clear the car by several feet. If you have not seen it, just ask. He would love to demonstrate it for you.

Kit Blanke, WA6PWW, Santa Clara Valley Section Manager for the ARRL, receives a monthly update of new Licensees in the section. Through the end of 1994 the section averaged about 100 new tickets per month. Since January 1995, the total is more than 300 new hams per month in the section.

**Vic Black, Jr., AB6SO**



**Here & There**

## Q Signals (other, not commonly used)

- QRG Tell me my exact frequency ?
- QRH Does my frequency vary?
- QRI How is the tone of my transmission?
- QRJ Are you receiving me badly?
- QRK What is the intelligibility of my signals ?
- QRO Shall I increase power?
- QRV Are you ready? I am ready.
- QRW Shall I inform \_\_\_\_\_ that you are calling on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz?
- QRY What is my turn? Your turn is numbered \_\_\_\_\_.
- QSA What is the strength of my signals ?
- QSB Are my signals fading? Your signals are fading.
- QSD Is my keying defective?
- QSG Shall I send \_\_\_\_\_ messages at a time
- QSK Can I break in on your transmission?
- QSM Shall I repeat the last message I sent you?
- QSN Did you hear me (or \_\_\_\_\_) on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz?
- QSP Will you relay to \_\_\_\_\_? I will relay to \_\_\_\_\_.
- QSU Shall I send or reply on this frequency?
- QSW Will you send on this frequency?
- QSX Will you listen to \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ kHz?
- QSZ Shall I send each word more than once?
- QTA Shall I cancel message number \_\_\_\_\_?
- QTB Do you agree with my counting of words?
- QTC How many messages have you to send?
- QTR What is the correct time?

*ARRL info-service*



**DON'T FORGET**



## TREASURER REPORT

Dave Bailey, WS6W

Revenues	JAN 95	FEB 95	MAR 95	APR 95	MAY 95	JUN 95	TOTAL 1995
Dues	12	42	126	354	38		572
Flea Market	0	0	1702	0	0		1702
AMPEX Auction	0	0	0	0	0		0
Total	12	42	1828	354	38		2274

Expenditures							
Stamps/Envelopes	32	0	0	0	0		32
DMV	43	0	0	0	0		43
State of CA	0	0	5	0	0		5
City of Menlo Park	150	0	0	0	0		150
Speaker's Dinner	0	10	0	12	13		35
Flea Market	0	0	789.22	379.47	0		1168.69
AMPEX Auction	0	0	0	0	0		0
Meeting Refreshments	0	14.79	16.01	13.79			44.59
PAARAGraphs	0	0	207.53	179.78			387.31
Misc.	0	50.06	35	0	19.97		105.03
Total	225	74.85	1052.76	585.04	32.97		1970.62

Checking      \$ 5,195.23  
Savings      \$ 17,386.25

## ARNS



"My report today is that I just passed Extra and I am off on a DXpedition to Pago Pago."

from the November '94 Electronic Museum ARC "EMARC Relay"—Omri Serlin, AA6TA, Editor

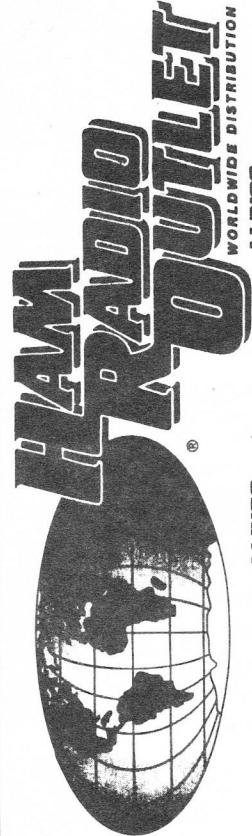
**PAARA-Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association•P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026-0911**

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA.

NET every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230-600 repeater Mhz, PL tone off•Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAGraphs® Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.

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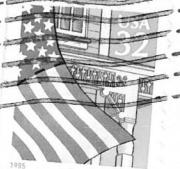
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Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.  
PAARGraphs Newsletter  
P.O. Box 911  
Menlo Park, California 94026

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Andy Korsak VE3FZK  
504 Lakemead Way  
Redwood City CA 94062-3919



My RDF antenna on the SC3A RU, p. 6  
June 1985