

# PAARA GRAPHS



SEPTEMBER 1990

*Presenting*

# AMPEX AUCTION

SATURDAY OCTOBER 13TH

&



"PACIFICON '90"

OCTOBER 12-13-14



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF THE PALO ALTO AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION  
AND

THE MENLO PARK C.D. AFRAYEH RADIO CLUB

# PAARA

PALO ALTO AMATEUR RADIO  
CLUB ASSOCIATION



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Club Historian			

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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  
3309 Mt. Logan Drive  
San Jose, CA 95127

VOLUME 33

SEPTEMBER | 1990

# FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

AS THE COVER SHOWS US, IN THE HAM RADIO EQUIVALENT OF AN ECLIPSE, NEXT MONTH WILL AFFORD US A DOUBLE HAMFEST OPPORTUNITY WITH PAARA'S AMPLEX AUCTION AND PACIFICON '90! BE SURE TO SEE THE ADVANCE DETAILS IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE. AS TO THE AUCTION, NOW IS THE TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP AND/OR CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING. CONTACT WA6LNV TO NOTE YOUR AVAILABILITY AND BESTOWALS! ALSO SEE THE DISPATCH FROM PERHAM FOUNDATION'S JIM WELDON ON THE FOOTHILL ELECTRONICS MUSEUM LITIGATION. MORE TO FOLLOW ON THAT SUBSEQUENTLY. THIS IS A BUSY AND FUN TIME FOR HAM RADIO IN OUR AREA, SO DO WHAT YOU CAN TO PARTICIPATE AND DO YOUR PART! TIL NEXT MONTH, 73 DE YOUR EDITOR!

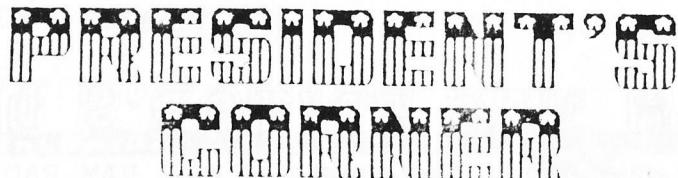
# SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

\*\*\*\*\* AS ADVERTISED \*\*\*\*\*

TRISH GIBBONS WA6UBE, SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS

TECHNICIAN, CITY OF SAN JOSE, COLLECTOR EXTRAORDINAIRE OF OLDE MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. TRISH WILL BRING ALONG A TRAILER CHOCK FULL OF WW2 & OTHER MILITARY RADIOS. THIS IS AN EXPERIENCE NOT TO BE MISSED, EITHER BY OLDE TIMERS, COLLECTORS, OR THOSE COMPLETELY UNFAMILIAR WITH RIGS OTHER THAN THE LATEST RICE-BOXES. THIS WILL BE AN EYE-OPENER FOR ONE AND ALL! OF COURSE, FRED K6YT WILL SAY "I USED ONE OF THOSE!" PAUL N6FEG WILL SAY "I RESTORED ONE OF THOSE!"

DINNER WITH SPEAKER, SU HONG'S, EL CAMINO OFF RAVENSWOOD, MENLO PARK, 5:45PM OF MEETING FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH. --DE ANDY VE3FZK, PAARA PGM CHAIR



MOVING RIGHT ALONG, HERE IT IS SEPTEMBER. SCHOOL IS READY TO START AND THE PAARA AMPEX AUCTION IS NEXT MONTH. IT WILL BE THE SECOND SATURDAY OF COURSE, AND WE STILL HAVE THE OCTOBER MEETING TO PULL THE AUCTION DETAILS TOGETHER. AND SINCE WE SEEM TO MAKE IT RUN SO SMOOTHLY I WILL WAIT UNTIL NEXT MONTH TO SET UP DETAILED WORK ASSIGNMENTS. IF YOU HAVE SOME CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PAARA TABLE, MENTION IT TO W6NIR. IF YOU CAN'T BRING IT YOURSELF, WE WILL ARRANGE PICK-UP.

I HAVE ALWAYS BEEN A LITTLE SUSPICIOUS OF GROUPS THAT STEAL THE THUNDER OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS IN AN EFFORT TO GLORIFY THEMSELVES. HOWEVER, I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT ONE OF PAARA'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO SOCIETY IS IN PROVIDING A POWER BASE FOR SUCH INDIVIDUALS AS K6FS ET AL IN THEIR WORK AT THE V.A. CENTER; N6PGM IN HER WORK AS MENLO PARK E.C.; AND GILL KJ6TF IN HIS ORGANIZATION OF ELECTRICITY AND RADIO CLASSES FOR A LOCAL SCOUT TROOP. IF ANY OF YOU ARE INSPIRED TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION TO HAM RADIO, LET PAARA KNOW HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOU. WE HAVE SUPPORT PERSONNEL AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT. ALL WE NEED IS YOUR LEADERSHIP. TALK UP YOUR IDEAS AT THE NEXT MEETING.

PLEASE PASS THE WORD ON THIS MONTH'S MEETING SUBJECT. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME NEW FACES OF OLD TIMERS THIS MONTH ENJOYING THE TALK BY TRISH WA6UBE!

--DE WA6LNV--

Dear PAARA Members,

On behalf of the Northern California Contest Club, I would like to thank you for your sponsorship once again of a plaque for the 1989 California QSO Party.

The award you sponsored, to the Top Club in California, was won by the River City Contester Club, a small, enthusiastic group of contesters from the Sacramento area, with a total score of 645,750 points. No less than three other California clubs also fielded the five entries needed to qualify for the PAAFA trophy, making this the most successful year ever for CQF club competition.

Many thanks to PAARA for helping to promote activity and competition among California clubs. We appreciate PAARA's help in maintaining the Cal QSO Party as the premier state QSO party or the calendar!



73,

Gary Caldwell WA6VEF  
1989 NCCC CQP Co-Chairperson

[TNX TO FRED K6YT FOR THIS QST! -ED.]

[CQP '90 INFO AVAILABLE AT HRO. -ED.]

1952

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SCARES UPDATE BY LILY N6PGM

## SAN MATEO COUNTY FAIR & FLORAL FIESTA

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15 SAW SCARES MEMBERS EXHIBITING A DISPLAY OF AMATEUR RADIO AT THE SAN MATEO COUNTY FAIR. LARRY KB6OWW ORGANIZED & MANAGED THE EVENT ADMIRABLY. HE WAS ASSISTED BY BOB KB6WGM, CLAIRE N6VOJ, MELODYE N6YUM, STEVE N6YUE, DAVE AA6WT, JAMES KC6GJM, LARRY KC6MJT, & LILY N6PGM.

REMEMBER ON SEPTEMBER 20TH OUR MONTHLY SCARES MEETING WILL AGAIN BE HELD AT THE MENLO PARK COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 7:30 P.M. WE WILL START THE MEETING WITH A TOUR OF THE EOC.

SEE YOU ALL THERE,  
LILY N6PGM



# Master of Morse code Don Johnson

## 86-year-old ham radio instructor in SSF

By EDWIN GARCIA

Times Staff Writer

### SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO

— When 86-year-old Don Johnson transmits over the amateur radio waves, everybody listens. Or so it seems.

For more than 50 years, Johnson has been airing Morse code from his South San Francisco house to thousands of listeners worldwide and hundreds of students locally in his back room ham radio school.

"He's known all over the world. I hardly ever talk to a ham who doesn't know W6QIE," said Lee Savage of Millbrae, who was taught Morse code by Johnson in 1937.

Knowledge of Morse code, an alphabet of only dots and dashes that sound like *dits* and *dahs*, is required for amateur radio licensing under Federal Communications Commission rules.

Code, known as CW in ham radio circles, or phonetically as Charley Whiskey, is burdensome for many to learn. But when local residents are preparing for an FCC test, they turn to Johnson. His students' passing rate is quite successful.

"I think Don has become an institution," said Mike Henson, a salesman at Burlingame's Ham Radio Outlet.

The store has a perfect solution for customers who are unsuccessful at learning Morse code through audio tapes or books.

"I send them over to Don's place. I do it all the time," Henson said.

"As a matter of fact, we have his telephone number etched into our counter to refer people to him."

Johnson refuses to charge for teaching others his only hobby.

And Johnson can't think of anything he'd rather be doing. "It keeps me busy. Otherwise I would be sitting there twiddling my thumbs."

Johnson retired from a 20-year-career with the U.S. Navy in 1943. "I've been retired a hell of a long time," he said while

standing in a room containing 11 radios connected to nine antennas behind his house on Alta Vista Drive.

Johnson was a code teacher in the Navy, stationed aboard ships in the South Pacific or on Treasure Island.

A few years before retiring from Treasure Island, he began a radio school for military personnel and civilians. But when he retired, he left the school, only to start it again, after receiving letters from listeners around the globe who missed his transmissions — listeners he didn't even know existed.

He continued the on-the-air school and hasn't wanted to stop.

"I just got started and I can't quit. I tried to help these guys get started and I got going on it, so I took another one or two and it just got going," Johnson said.

"I'm limited to how much I can do physically, so I can do this without much physical exertion so it works out pretty good," said the master of Morse code.

Johnson spends at least six hours each day preparing code tapes to air over three bands. He no longer uses a Morse code keyer. Instead, he records his programs by typing paragraphs out of ham radio journals and into a computer program.

Once entered, he can adjust the transmission speed from the 5 words per minute required to pass the FCC novice test, up to the 20 words per minute needed for the extra class license.

The lessons can be heard nightly at 8 o'clock on 3.590 MHz.

Johnson also teaches code in person, along with radio theory, in a large classroom he built. The class meets Tuesday and Thursday nights for two hours.

Three other groups also meet in the room equipped with dozens of headphones and several cassette players.

The North Peninsula Electronics Club holds meetings once a month; a Bay Area emer-

gency communications group gathers every three months; and volunteer test examiners administer FCC morse code tests there.

Johnson loves opening his doors to new and old students.

"He just has this incredible interest in even the new technology," said Henson of the Ham Radio Outlet. "I've gone down to his club several times, this guy is as interested in it as the young guys are. It's not just his drive to get people interested in the hobby, he's got his own internal drive, it's amazing."

Johnson, who doesn't mind a lifetime of hearing beeping dits and dahs, wants to keep teaching code as long as he can.

"Eventually I'll have to quit," he said. "I'm 86-years-old. I can't keep going forever."

His listeners, wherever they are, would certainly like him to.

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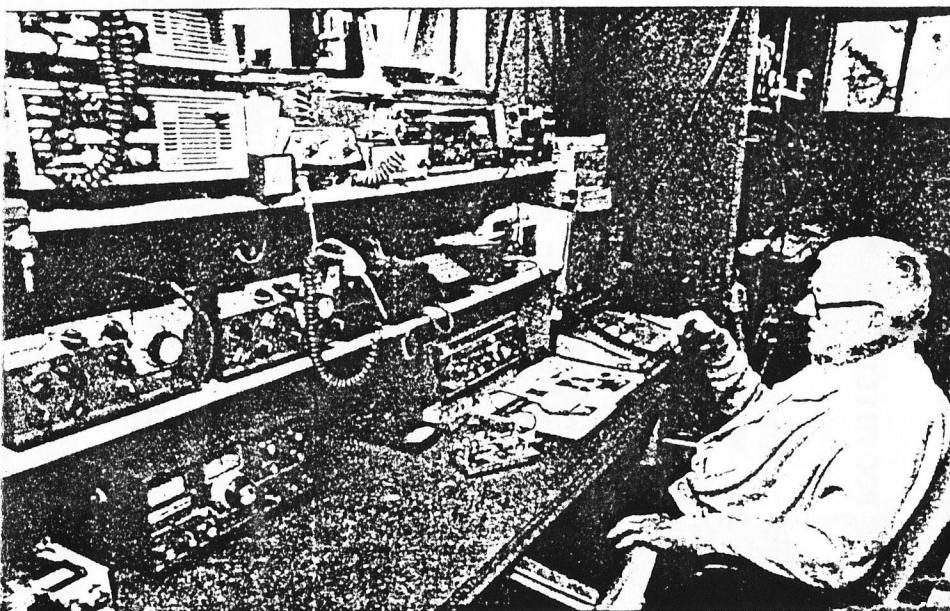
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# Johnson keeps on transmitting



SCOTT BUSCHMAN The Times

Don Johnson, W6QIE, transmits Morse code to thousands of listeners from his radio shack.

# The Times

San Mateo County's Daily Newspaper

San Mateo, California, Friday, August 10, 1990

25c per copy

TNX TO MY FATHER, DON JOHNSON,  
TION TO W6QIE) FOR FINDING THIS FOR ME! -ED.

# Electronics

# museum battle

MUSEUM WINS ANOTHER ROUND IN BATTLE WITH FOOTHILL COLLEGE  
BY JIM WELDON

LOS ALTOS, AUGUST 19, 1990-- THE PERHAM FOUNDATION, WHICH OPERATES THE ELECTRONICS MUSEUM AT FOOTHILL COLLEGE, HAS WON ANOTHER ROUND IN ITS BATTLE TO STAY OPEN DESPITE THE FOOTHILL COLLEGE'S EFFORTS TO SHUT IT DOWN. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 15, THE FOOTHILL-DE ANZA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT'S LAWYERS APPEARED IN NORTH COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT IN PALO ALTO FOR THE THIRD TIME. SANTA CLARA COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT JUSTICE DIANE NORTHWAY PRESIDED. JUDGE JEREMY FOGEL, WHO HEARD THE PERHAM FOUNDATION'S ORIGINAL PLEADINGS AND SCHEDULED A HEARING FOR SEPTEMBER 6 OF THIS YEAR, IS ON VACATION. THE DISTRICT'S LAWYERS PRESENTED A "MOTION FOR JUDGMENT ON THE PLEADINGS," IN EFFECT ASKING JUDGE NORTHWAY TO CANCEL THE HEARING SCHEDULED BY JUDGE FOGEL AND THROW THE CASE OUT. AFTER ONLY A BRIEF HEARING, JUDGE NORTHWAY DENIED THE DISTRICT'S MOTION. SHE SAID THAT THE PERHAM FOUNDATION'S COMPLAINT HAD SUFFICIENT MERIT TO BE HEARD.

THERE WAS A GOOD TURNOUT OF RADIO AMATEURS, ANTIQUE RADIO COLLECTORS, AND OTHER FRIENDS OF THE MUSEUM. NEARLY EVERY SEAT IN THE COURTRoom WAS FILLED WHEN JUDGE NORTHWAY CONVENED THE COURT AT 9:40 A.M. ALTHOUGH SOME HAD TO LEAVE BEFORE THE CASE WAS HEARD, THE JUDGE COULD NOT HAVE MISSED THE FACT THAT MOST OF THE GALLERY WAS THERE TO SUPPORT THE PERHAM FOUNDATION'S CASE.

THE PERHAM FOUNDATION FILED SUIT ON JANUARY 24, ALLEGING THAT THE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES WRONGFULLY ORDERED THE CLOSING OF THE MUSEUM AT ITS JANUARY 22 MEETING. JUDGE FOGEL AT THAT TIME ORDERED THAT THE MUSEUM BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN OPEN FOR BUSINESS AS USUAL UNTIL A HEARING COULD BE SET. ON MARCH 7TH HE ISSUED A PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION, EXTENDING THE MUSEUM'S RIGHT TO STAY OPEN, BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT'S LAWYER SAID SHE NEEDED TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE HEARING. THE PERHAM FOUNDATION WAS REQUIRED AT THAT TIME TO POST A \$150,000.00 BOND. THIS WAS BECAUSE THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT'S LAWYER CLAIMED THAT THE COLLEGE WAS LOSING INCOME THAT IT COULD OBTAIN BY USING THE BUILDING.

MEMBERS OF THE PERHAM FOUNDATION'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS PUT UP THE BOND. THEY HAVE RETAINED SAN FRANCISCO LAWYER BART LEE, AN ANTIQUE RADIO COLLECTOR AND SPECIALIST IN PUBLIC-INTEREST ORGANIZATION LAW, AND ARE QUITE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OUTCOME OF THEIR SUIT. THEY HAVE MOUNTED A CAMPAIGN TO RAISE FUNDS TO COVER THE NOT UNCONSIDERABLE LEGAL COSTS OF CONDUCTING THEIR LAWSUIT, AS WELL AS THE COSTS OF OPERATING THE MUSEUM ON AN ONGOING BASIS. IT IS CLEAR THAT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO PROVIDE ANY SUPPORT WILLINGLY IN THE FUTURE. THE FOUNDATION WELCOMES ANY CONTRIBUTION, LARGE OR SMALL, WHICH MAY BE SENT TO: THE MUSEUM FUND FOR JUSTICE, THE PERHAM FOUNDATION, 101 FIRST STREET, SUITE 394, LOS ALTOS, CA, 94022.

[ THANKS VERY MUCH TO JIM WELDON WHO PROVIDED THIS QST SPECIAL TO PARAGRAPHS! -ED.]

# HOLIDAY BULLETIN



## FROM LILY N6PGM

DUE TO REQUESTS FROM FOOTBALL FANS WE HAVE CHANGED OUR HOLIDAY CELEBRATION AND OFFICER INSTALLATION TO TUESDAY DECEMBER 11. IT WILL BE HELD IN A PRIVATE DINING ROOM, THE MACON ROOM, AT THE OFFICER'S CLUB, NAVAL AIR STATION, MOFFETT FIELD. THERE WILL BE A NO HOST COCKTAIL HOUR FROM 6:30 TO 7:30 AND DINNER WILL BE SERVED AT 7:30.

CHOICES OF ENTREES ARE:

- 1) PRIME RIB OF BEEF AU JUS -- \$18.00
  - 2) ROCK CORNISH GAME HEN A LA 'ORANGE - \$14.50
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- DINNER INCLUDES SALAD, POTATO, VEGETABLE, ROLLS, ICE CREAM OR SHERBET, COFFEE & TEA. THE CLUB WILL PROVIDE WINE WITH DINNER.

MAIL CHECKS AND ENTREE CHOICES TO ME AT P.O. BOX 911, MENLO PARK, CA, 94026 -- OR SEE ME AT THE MEETINGS.

DUE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF MOFFETT FIELD I MUST HAVE ALL RESERVATIONS BY DECEMBER 4.

SEE EVERYONE THERE!

LILY N6PGM



\*\*\*\*\* QST QST QST QST QST QST \*\*\*\*\*

1ST WIRELESS STATION DEDICATION  
[QST VIA ANDY VE3FZK]



RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY, BARBECUE, MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT AT DEDICATION OF K-E-T AT MARCONI CONFERENCE CENTER IN STATE HISTORIC PARK, SAT. SEPT 8TH 1-5PM. GO WEST TO HWY 1 FROM PETALUMA, TO MARSHALL CA. BARBECUE \$7.50 (\$3.50 CHILD), WILL SHOW RARE PHOTOGRAPHS, HISTORICAL DISPLAYS.

SPONSORED BY FOOTHILL WIRELESS MUSEUM (FOOTHILL COLLEGE) AND SOCIETY OF WIRELESS PIONEERS. --DE JIM WA6QCX, CURATOR OF THE AMPEX MUSEUM.

PACIFICON 90 - OCTOBER 12, 13, 14, 1990 IN SAN JOSE, CA  
THE ARRL PACIFIC DIVISION CONVENTION

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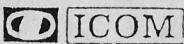


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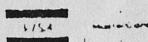


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WB6QPV, W6VGF, W6LTI, K6MPN (AS NOTED  
WB7TEM, KA6LZI & N6VFH (AS  
IN JUNE, PRESIDENT, S CORNER)! YOU ARE  
CORDIALLY INVITED TO A PAARA Foothill  
FLEA MARKET VOLUNTEER PIZZA PARTY AT  
THE ROUND TABLE AT EL CAMINO & OAK  
GROVE MENLO PARK ON WEDNESDAY, SEPT  
12TH AT 5:30 P.M.! SEE YOU THERE!!

IF YOU DON'T  
GET HERE SOON  
I'LL EAT IT  
MYSELF!

**UNI  
Round Table  
Pizza**

# First Class Mail

Andy Korsak  
504 Lakemead Way  
Redwood City CA 94062  
VE3FZK 90

