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PAARA

vol. 25
JUNE, 1982

GRAPHS



**palo alto
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Friday, June 4, 1982

7:30pm

REGULAR MEETING
CONTESTING - CW OPERATING TECHNIQUES

by

Tom Schiller, N6BT.

This talk is particularly appropriate with Field Day fast approaching. All those who have ever used a key, at any speed, should find this meeting interesting. Be there!

Meeting to be held at the Menlo Park Recreation Centre. Future meetings: July 9; August 6, 1982.

Circle the Date.

June 4, 1982.

PAARagraphs is the official organ of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association and the Menlo Park Civil Defense Radio Club.

1982 CLUB OFFICERS:

President	:	Gerry Tucker	WA6LNV	326-4908
Vice-President	:	Kevin Lapp	WA6FAC	364-2654
Secretary	:	Gerry Wagstaffe	W6NIR	325-4670
Treasurer	:	George Nixon	GI30EN	854-6445
Trustee, K6OTX	:	Fred Canham	K6YT	948-9238
Property	:	Ed Fairbanks	W6AIN	322-0319
Co-property	:	Fred Canham	K6YT	948-9238
ARES Officer	:	Steve Stuntz	K6FS	322-4952
Club net	:	147.54 MHZ, Monday,	8:30pm local time	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Chairman	:	Gerry Tucker	I4QRA	WA6LNV
Members	:	John Buonocore		KD6ZL
	:	Wally Porter	W6KTC	K6EURO
	:	vacant		
	:	Ed Fairbanks		W6AIN
	:	Bill McElhinney		KA6LZI
	:	Bob Wheeler	W6OT	K6SEM

PAARAGRAPHS STAFF:

Editor	:	George Nixon	KG130ENB
Advertising	:	Swede Swenson	N6CHL
Mailing	:	Bill McElhinney	KA6LZI
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PAARA POLICIES:

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year (payable in January), which membership includes a subscription to PAARAGraphs. Freebee distribution to those who indicate an interest in the Club, and as an inducement to their becoming members, and is subject to change with changing interests in the Club. Make payment to: P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Written contributions to the P.O. Box above, or to the Editor, 1140 Sherman Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Deadline is two or three days after the Board of Director's meeting.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Sorry I couldn't make it to the net of May 10. With five minutes notice, Fred Canham, K6YT, stepped in for me, and made the first public announcement of the birth of Paula-Marie ten minutes earlier. She makes her own public announcements now! Speaking of speakers, if you have a speaker or subject in mind, pass it on to your V.P., Kevin Lapp, WA6FHC.

The excitement (and work) of Field Day is upon us. Competition is going to be fierce this year so be sure to respond to the pleas of Fred Canham, K6YT. We will be celebrating the results of our labor at the July picnic (at the Miewok Shelter, Huddart Park, Woodside, on Sunday, July 25. Ed.) so make plans now. Maybe we can get a mini transmitter hunt, organized by Post 599, with handi-talkies. Personally, I like the new publishing format for PAARAGraphs; I hope everyone does. (tnx - Ed.) You may want to take notes during the coming meeting. I understand that a lot of well-developed techniques on contesting will be revealed. See you then!

de Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV

CLUB MEETING & BOARD MEETING REPORTS: The Club meeting of May 7, 1982, was held in the Menlo Park Recreation Centre with a good crowd in attendance.

First, a report was given on the highly-successful transmitter hunt organized by Post 599. The transmitter was hidden up at a park off Arastradero, near the Foothill expressway, and due to their being only one way into the park, many hunters drove around in circles trying to find the entrance. Several hunters found that when they were close to the transmitter, their receivers overloaded and they couldn't get any null. Others found that the reflections off the Foothills fooled them. Rumour has it that one member nearly ran out of gas up on Skyline.

All in all, everyone had a good time. Some lessons for next time are that either a lower-power transmitter be used (the one used was 5 watts), or that the hunters have an attenuator in their antenna. The winner was Paul Thekan, WA6IJP. Congratulations, Paul, and everyone's thanks to Post 599 for a good event.

Back to the regular Club Meeting, Paul Thekan, being already on his feet accepting the plaudits of the PAARA members for winning the transmitter hunt, was asked about the Roseville Flea Market, probably the largest in Northern California. Paul said that he arrived there at 7:15 am, after a couple of hours drive, and the PAARA members gasped. Reports that Gerry Wagstaffe, W6NIR, had already come and gone by that time were denied by W6NIR himself. At the Roseville Flea Market, the number of attending amateurs is so large that the buyers move diode-like around the tables. Anyone attempting to move counter to the flow disappears into the Heisenberg Uncertainty Principle. If you fail to buy a desired item as you pass that seller's table, you have to wait until the flow carries you back again.

Sy Stein, WA6ROM, also attended the Roseville Flea Market and made an astonishing find. Feeling in need of a haircut, he went to the local house of coiffure, and noticed there a red windbreaker that he recognized immediately. It was Eric Edberg's famous red jacket, left there during a previous Flea Market! At least, this was the story as your Editor understood it!

Fred Canham, K6YT, passed out name tags and reminded us that badges were now being ordered four times a year, rather than every month as formerly.

The advertised speaker was Tom Schiller, N6BT, on CW Operating Techniques, but Tom was in Hong Kong, that most exciting city/country in Asia, on a business trip, at the time of the meeting, so Fred Canham, K6YT, and Bob Wheeler, K6SEM, quickly put together a slide show

and talk on previous Field Days. Cam Pierce, K6RU, was in the front row to assist when memory failed. (For the record, the Club's Field Day effort is run by: Fred Canham, K6YT, General Factotum; Cam Pierce, K6RU, CW Captain; Bob Wheeler, K6SEM, phone Captain; and Paul Thekan, WA6IJP, Novice Captain.)

Back to the meeting, the slides showed the present QTH, the boatyard, and the old QTH, up in the Foothills.

Seeing many old faces once again, some now silent keys, took the Club members back through the years. All in all, it was a very enjoyable meeting and everyone left with a sense of continuity with the Club members in the past who made the Club what it is today through their efforts.

After the meeting, your Editor made it to the Village Host for pizza, for the first time in months, and he re-discovered the lively art of conversation over beer and pizza. Patty Winter, N6BIS, is co-editor of an astronomy club magazine, and the space shuttle, the Aurora Borealis, radio astronomy, were all discussed. Perhaps, someone could come up with a talk or an article on radio astronomy. Kevin Lapp, WA6FAC, that's a hint!

The Board meeting of May 12, 1982, was held at the Club trailer, and present were: Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV; Gerry Wagstaffe, W6NIR; Ed Fairbanks, W6AIN, Fred Canham, K6YT; Bill McElhinney, KA6LZI; John Buonocore, KD6ZL, and George GI3OEN. Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV, chaired the meeting.

The first item for discussion concerned a matter as old as amateur radio, probably the ancient Greeks had the same problem with their flashing mirrors. In older days, the problem of a new net trying to seize the frequency of an older, longer-established net. Today's version concerns 2 metre repeater frequencies.

Gerry Wagstaffe, W6NIR, had been telephoned by a Club

member concerning the frequency used by the Post 599 repeater. Gerry asked the caller if the frequency of his repeater have been approved by the N.C.R.C., for the Post had been approved for the frequency quite a few years ago. When cross-examined further, the caller said that he had a remote base repeater, linking Monterey with Treasure Island.

After much discussion, the Directors decided that: (1) as the Post had applied for the frequency in the correct manner before the telephone caller, and (2) as remote base repeaters are supposed to be above 147MHZ; therefore, the Post had demonstrated a *prima-facie* case for their retention of the frequency.

The next topic concerned the various calls used by the club through the years. They were: K6OTX, K6OTR and K6YQT. These calls were transferred between the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assn.; the Menlo Park Civil Defense Radio Club, the Post 599, Fred Canham, Steve Stuntz, the Red Cross, and others, in a way that you Editor does not even pretend to follow. Anyone wanting a better explanation should contact Fred Canham.

The final topic was, of course, Field Day. Fred Canham, K6YT, described the situation as grim, but not seriously so, i.e. that all catastrophies would be overcome. A discussion of Field Day tactics followed, contents classified, and a discussion of the strengths and weaknesses of our opponents, also classified, followed that. However, the Club could still use a few good novice operators. Apply to Fred Canham, K6YT, or Paul Thekan, WA6IJP.

Conscious of having done a good job, and with a desire to let our President, Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV, get back to his nursing duties, your Directors closed the meeting at that point.

Note: The Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Flea Market will be held on June 6, 1982, at the Quement Parking Lot on Bascom Avenue in San Jose. Space rental is \$5.00 per space. Now is the time to acquire items for sale at PAARA's auction in October!

POST 599 CORNER:

Well, K60TR/R 2 metres is back on the air as of Thursday, May 6. It is still at its most recent site (Sequoia High School in Redwood City) and is, presently, very low level as far as getting into it is concerned. You can't miss hearing it; it's putting out close to 60 watts. The Post is preparing it for its new home: on top of Northern California Savings in sunny downtown Palo Alto. It should be up there within the next month or so, so listen for it on 145.17 (-600).

K60TR/R 450 is running smoothly on 442.8 (plus 5). It covers the entire north, east and west Bay area like a blanket. We are having some interference with another repeater in Sacramento, so we will be changing frequency in the near future.

And now... the news you've been waiting for... yes, our transmitter hunt was a great success! Well, a moderate success. Russ, KA6IZZ, and I hid the transmitter in a secluded little section of South Palo Alto near Veteran's Hospital. It took an hour and a half for the first... and only... people to find us using their VHF beam mounted on an ex-army jeep. The rest had to be guided in by clues as to what rhymed with the name of the street we were on, etc. The winners were Paul, N6FEG, and Gary, WB6WNI. Not many PAARAsites showed up at all, surprisingly. We purposely went overbudget to advertise this event. The only member not immediately affiliated with the Post was Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV, PAARA's president.

But enough of that. The participants in the event were:

Paul, N6FEG; Gary, WB6WNI; Rob, KA6NAN; Alan, WA6AZP; Chris, WB6WBK; Les, WD6ERS; Mark, KA6RMA; John, KD6ZL, Patty, N6BIS; Gerry, WA6INV; Billy, KD6ZI; Jim, WA6ABQ; Russ, KA6IZZ, and yours truly, Art, KA6POV. Sorry if I left anyone out. I'm just trying to remember the faces that were gathered at the Village Host afterwards.

We are still looking for a place to hold our meetings. Suggestions would be appreciated.

And last, but definitely not least, the Post would especially like to thank Paul, N6FEG, for his excessive and much appreciated help in getting K60TR 442.8 on the air.

So, 'till next time,
73, Art, KA6POV.

During the month of May, Armed Forces Day occurred. Probably, some PAARA members went to the Air Show at Moffett Field. Your Editor thought that we should thank our Armed Forces members for their unselfish protection that they give us.

One of the big differences between attitudes in Britain and the United States is that, in Britain, the Armed Forces have always been held in high regard. More young people apply to the Armed Forces than are needed; thus, in Britain, the Armed Forces can select from the bravest and cleverest people. Hopefully, attitudes in the United States are changing away from the picture of our Armed Forces as portrayed by Vietnam War protesters to a more balanced picture.

THE WAY WE WERE:

Your Editor, faced with a dearth of material for PAARA-graphs, has decided to publish a small sample of his

reminiscences. Persons wishing to protect themselves against further installments should write an article for inclusion in PAARGraphs!

Our story takes place in Newcastle, a small seaside resort town (population 2,000) in County Down, Northern Ireland. Newcastle is sandwiched between the Irish sea and the Mourne mountains. Despite its small size, Newcastle is the largest town in the area bounded by, to the North, Downpatrick, the county seat, where Saint Patrick is buried at the Church of Ireland Cathedral, about fifteen miles from Newcastle; to the South, Newry, on the border with the Republic of Ireland, about twenty five miles away; and to the West, Banbridge, across the mountains, about twenty miles away.

Newcastle is thirty-five miles south of Belfast, the capital of Northern Ireland. Newcastle faces the Isle of Man and Liverpool, and is on the edge of the Anglo-Norman Barony of Iveagh, about half a mile from the barony and ancient kingdom of Mourne. The earliest settlements in the area date from 3,500BC and there are prehistoric stone works, graves, etc. in the area.

The new castle was built in 1588 by the head of the local Magennis clan and is no longer standing. The old castle, on the same site, was built to command a strategic river ford, and also is no longer standing. However, there is a ruined Norman castle at Dundrum, about five miles away; and, further away, at Carrickfergus, in County Antrim, is everyone's idea of a Norman castle. It was never overrun, and when seen, one can see why.

Newcastle is largely a seaside resort town, with sheep farming in the mountains behind the town, and fodder-growing in the rolling downs that run from the foothills of the Mourne mountains north to Belfast.

Although on the coast, the fishing industry does not use Newcastle Harbour much, due to its lack of shelter,

preferring the towns of Ardglass to the north, and Annalong and Kilkeel to the south.

The Mourne mountains behind the town are of old, hard, granite, heavily glaciated and rounded off. There are few cliffs or crags away from the coastline. The stone is quarried and is used for curb-stones, headstones and heavy masonry construction. It is a pleasing speckled grey colour.

The distinctive local styles of architecture are: (1) for better construction, stone masonry using the local granite, two-stories, with tall narrow windows and slate roofs, and (2) along the coast and among the hill farms, white-washed stone masonry houses. There is, of course, a large number of modern suburban houses, such as are found throughout Britain, and, of course, steel-and-concrete monstrosities.

In centuries past, Newcastle was famous as a smuggling centre, due to its proximity to the Isle of Man, GD, which even then was a tax haven. French brandy was imported to the Isle of Man, free of Customs Duty, and then smuggled by boat at night to the outskirts of Newcastle, then taken by horse and cart along a rough track through the Mourne Mountains to Banbridge. This track, still in existence, is called the Brandy Pad, and is popular with hikers in the Mountains.

Your Editor first developed his interest in amateur radio as a schoolboy. Like many homes in fishing areas, my home radio had the trawler band and short-wave bands, and between listening to the short-wave broadcasting bands, and the local trawler band, I would hear the local amateurs on top-band and on forty metres.

My first receiver was a two tube Ovl, using two EF50 tubes, and my first transmitter was a 6J5 and a 6V6, VFO rig in a TU unit, covering top-band, CW only.

The antenna was about five hundred feet of wire, fed against the ground, sloping upwards from the roof of my home (two story), running across the back garden, across a trout river, across a corner of a field to the top of a large tree, about sixty feet up.

I learnt radio theory from a correspondance course and morse code from Alfie Kenmuir, GI3IOS, who lived about fifteen miles south of Newcastle, in Kilkeel. I cycled there in the fine weather and took the bus in wet weather.

To be continued.

BIRTHS:

Monday, 10th May, 1982, at 7.03pm, a daughter, Paula Marie, to our President, Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV, and his XYL, Jaqueline. Paula Marie is the first child of Gerry and Jaqueline Tucker, and daughter, mother and father are all doing well.

Best wishes to the happy trio from all in PAARA.

NEW MEMBERS:

Irvin W. Goldstine, W6PRG, & Lee Goldstine, 20 Tuscaloosa, Atherton, CA 94025.

Jim Shovlin, W6WQX, 273 Catalpa Drive, Atherton, CA 94025.

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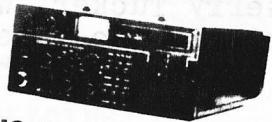
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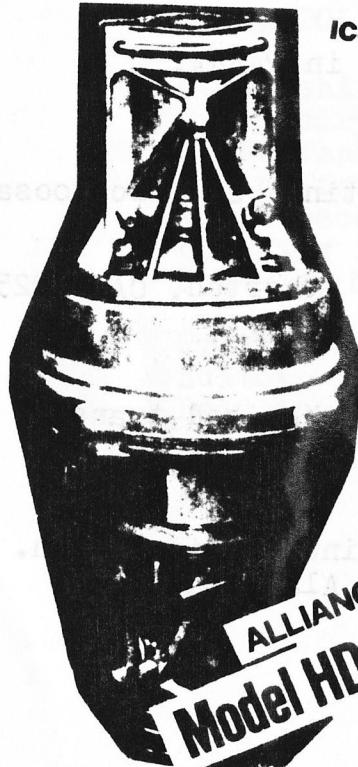
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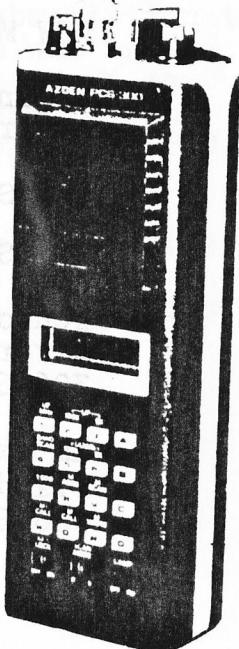
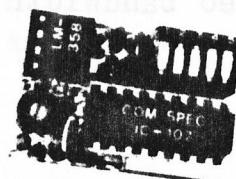


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