

# PAARA Graphs

MAY 1988



PAARA  
PIGNIC  
SUNDAY  
MAY 22  
W6VG QTH



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF THE PALO ALTO AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION  
AND

THE MENLO PARK C.Q. AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# PAARA



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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 on the first Friday of each Month at the Menlo Park Recreation Center at 7:30 PM,

Send PAARAGRAPHS correspondence to:

Chuck Johnson, EDITOR  
3309 Mt. Logan Drive  
San Jose, CA 95127

# BULLETIN

## FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

This Month's focus is the PAARA Picnic, at Ron Panton's QTH, where we all have a great time! June's Field Day effort looms large as well. Do your part here, even at this "early" date. All help is appreciated, and the event is as much social as it is a Radio occasion. Have a good PICNIC MONTH & See You next month for Field Day 1988. - 73 De Your Editor.

## SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

PAT KELLY KE6AD

Subject will be the SKYWARN system, with a demonstration of Packet Radio. Pat will bring in his TNC and computer and show how the SKYWARN ham weather net operates; how the equipment is used; how the net is organized; and the role of Packet in good amateur radio communications.

DINNER WITH THE SPEAKER at 5:45 PM on Meeting Friday May 6th. QTH is: Su Hong's Restaurant, on El Camino, Menlo Park...

ANDY VE3FZK also points out that many of the ARES cadre (ANDY himself and PAT KE6AD, for instance), are on a "beeper" pager system, with specially assigned numbers to facilitate better communications between emergency responders, utilizing the familiar belt hook/shirt pocket devices from Bell/Motorola. The fee is around \$13 Monthly, with up to 200 pages for the base rate. Access is via touch-tone phone. The main number is entered and then the message number (e.g. QSY frequency/landline number). At the end of the message the pound sign key is struck. The Freq. is 152.24 MHz, a time share digital signal VHF channel. A nifty edge in communications that Andy can attest to.

-- INFO de VE3FZK Andy, PAARA Program Chairman.

# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

15 April

How time flies! Here we are publishing a map to RON K6VG and HELGA'S house for spring picnic, and the big mid-year event, Field Day, is about 8 weeks away! Don't miss the MAY 22 PICNIC, there were about 30 people there last year. Everyone will get a ticket toward door prizes, and the club will provide liquid refreshments. Bring your own hamburger patty, etc., and cook it over Ron's huge backyard bar-be-cue. Some people might bring a salad or dessert to share. Since it is essentially a 4-5 hour eyeball QSO, bring along a new piece of equipment to show off. There will be a few special door prizes for the YL's or XYL's.

Thinking about Field Day, we need a phone captain and a novice station captain. Last year's Novice/Tech stalwarts, John WB7TEM and Rob KA6JLT, have both upgraded (Rob to an Extra!). Field Day is June 25-26 this year and there will be a commitment sheet passed around at the next meeting MAY 6. Please plan to put your name on it. The plan is to operate 3A as we did last year. As those who participated know, we had a lot of fun and came up with a fairly respectable score. Fred K6YT recently found the mode of last year's generator failure; an inappropriately adjusted thermostat cut out! See you MAY 6th and 22nd.

## MUSEUM DUTY

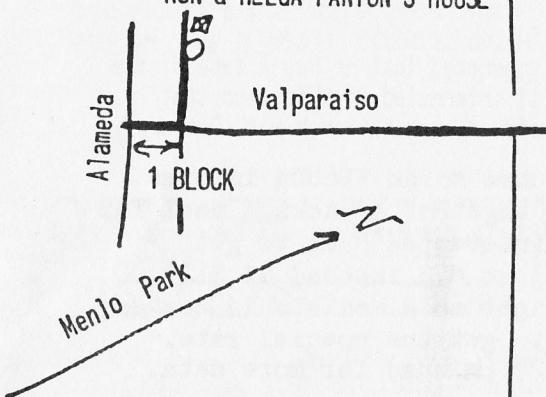
Although there have been some "structural" changes in the way the Foothill Museum operates, the Perham Foundation still supports the Sunday afternoon "docent" tours. PAARA, in turn, supports the foundation by providing a yearly share of coverage during the months of May through August. These can be a lot of fun and all you really have to know is how to be nice to people for  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Everybody that participated in this last year came back with a good report, and I'm sure the membership is ready to support it again this year. Elsewhere is a list of volunteers assigned to dates for May and June (as well as July and August). Please take the responsibility to help on Sunday. If you can't make it, work out a trade with someone else on the list. If, after a reasonable effort, you can't find someone to cover for you, call me (WA6LNV) to fix it. A courtesy call to Jim Lomasney (321-8233) a few days before your assignment would be helpful in giving everyone the feeling that the system is working. Two people are assigned to each date, report to the curator, a few minutes before 1 PM. There are lots of goodies to look at during your stay and you might even want to get checked out on the local Ham station and work a little afternoon DX!

de WA6LNV

# PAARA PICNIC SUNDAY MAY 22, 1988 W6VGC @TH

#5 CEDAR CT.

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11 AM - 3 PM

(415)  
854-4814

Club will supply  
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Bring your own Bar-be-cue goods. If you wish to bring extra salad or dessert to share, fine, but it is not an organized potluck. If wives wish to coordinate something, feel free to call Helga at 854-4814.

CALL IN ON 145.23/R  
OR 147.45 SIMPLEX

## FOOTHILL DUTY SCHEDULE MAY/JUNE '88:

### FOOTHILL MUSEUM DUTY SCHEDULE MAY '88

MAY / 5 WEEKENDS / 1-4:30 PM

1 MAY: G.H. TUCKER WA6LNV (324-4908)  
JOHN GORDANO K6JU (368-8483)

8 MAY: LILY ANNE HILLIS N6PGM (325-5484)  
DUSTY DOSTER K6MFN (368-8156)

15 MAY: FRED CANHAM K6YT (948-9238)  
CRAIG SMITH N6ITW (326-8637)

22 MAY: PERRY YELTON W6RE (366-9481)  
JERRY ZOBEL W6AMA (322-0063)

29 MAY: WALLY PORTER KA6URO (494-7038)  
BILL ZANER WB6IYS (856-2089)

### FOOTHILL MUSEUM DUTY SCHEDULE JUNE '88

JUNE / 4 WEEKENDS / 1-4:30 PM

5 JUNE: FRANK CHANDLER WB6QPV (322-7678)  
GEORGE CHRISTOFFERSON K6MTZ

12 JUNE: KEVIN LAPP WA6FHC (366-2654)  
JACK McENNERNEY W6LII (591-8526)

19 JUNE: LESLIE VICKERY W6AKR (368-5175)  
BILL McILLINNEY KA6LZI (325-9808)

26 JUNE: BILL KING N6CHI (595-0258)  
ANDY KORSAK VE3FZK (366-5228)

# PAARA BRIEFS

**TOWERING SUCCESS:** It was a towering success at the QTH of Brother Brian at the Maryknoll Retirement Home along I-280 recently. That is: Thanks to the good offices of the Old Foothills Amateur Radio Technical Society, the 70-foot antenna tower landmark at the Maryknoll site was revamped in its rotor and antenna systems, which now also include an American Legion J-Pole in the array. Imagine our venerable K6YT Fred up high in the sky on that safety belt working it all into shape, with the aid of the likes of Jerry WA6LJ et al! Next time you eyeball that tower—think of Brother Brian, and your PAARA brothers.

**WB6STW's SONORA TAPE:** Dan WB6STW announced that he has a tape of the Sonora Fire available for loan. If interested in this important amateur emergency communications effort, get in touch with Dan.

**N6IIU & ATV:** PAARA's Theodore Moran KB6UDA informs that Ted N6IIU is putting together a package deal for ATV equipment, to enable interested hams to get receiveing units (2.4 GHz) at \$73 instead of \$129.00 price levels. A line of sight to Black Mtn is needed, and 50 orders are needed to get the special rate. Contact TED N6IIU at 145.27 (minus) for more data.

RTTY & KB6ZV FEATURES WILL RESUME SUBSEQUENTLY. (Ed. Note)

**JUNE SPEAKER QST:** GARY NAKAYAMA KH6JRB will address the June PAARA meeting on the subject of the Amateur Satellite system... Something to look forward to for next month!!!

## FOOTHILL DUTY SCHEDULE JUL/AUG '88:

### FOOTHILL MUSEUM DUTY SCHEDULE JULY '88

JULY / 5 WEEKENDS / 1-4:30 PM

3 JULY: PAUL THEKAN N6FEG  
STEVE STUNTZ K6FS

10 JULY: JOE HORNE KB6OWG  
ROB WALKER KA6JLT (321-9981)

17 JULY: DAN CURRY WB6STW (364-7018)  
THEODORE MORAN KB6UDA (325-9861)

24 JULY: ANDY ANDERSON K6EHS (494-0831)  
DICK FINKBINER W6AQL (961-6655)

31 JULY: JOHN BUONACORE KD6ZL (366-1658)  
TOM SCHERF K6JBR (365-4068)

### FOOTHILL MUSEUM DUTY SCHEDULE AUG. '88

AUG. / 4 WEEKENDS / 1-4:30 PM

7 AUG.: RICH STIEBEL W6APZ (494-0122)  
RALPH RYAN WB6NNL (325-2213)

14 AUG.: JOHN GOMPERTS WB7ITEM (961-7150)  
DALE DWELLEY W6STY (325-5240)

21 AUG.: KEN DUEKER KB6BPM (322-6984)  
DAVE DANIEL KB6WP (325-3347)

28 AUG.: LEN SCHUMACHER WA6HLE (591-4385)  
RON PANTON W6VG (854-4814)

## SKYWARN UPDATE DE LILY N6PGM

SKYWARN, the ham radio arm of NWS, was called up on April 20, 1988, at 1:30 PM, in response to a severe weather situation involving a threat of funnel clouds, hail, and thunderstorms. A funnel had been reported in San Bruno at 11:35 AM. We were able to link 5 repeaters for maximum coverage and had many observers reporting conditions. By 3:15 PM the center of the storm had moved toward Sacramento & the net was secured. N6PGM, N7EQN, & KE6AD functioned as net control.  
de LILY N6PGM

## QST DE SHARON N6MWD

### PACKET CLASS / SATURDAY MAY 7 / SUNNYVALE

What's all the racket about packet, you wonder? Come and find out THE BASICS -- what you need, how to connect, what commands are useful, and how to move around a BBS -- all this and more will be taught on Saturday, May 7, by Pat Kelly (KE6AD). This class will begin at 10:00 AM and will be held at the Sunnyvale Public Safety Building on 700 All American Way. Please contact KE6AD @ N7EQN if you are on packet or by voice on 440.100- if you are interested. You may also contact Sharon Moerner (N6MWD) @ N6IIU or by voice on 146.115+ or 145.27-/224.36- for more info.

### ICS CLASS / SATURDAY MAY 21 / SUNNYVALE

There will also be a day long class on the Incident Command System on Saturday, May 21. The class will begin at 9:00 AM and will be held at the Sunnyvale Public Safety Building. The ICS is used by many of our served agencies and is therefore a useful system for hams to be familiar with. It will be taught by Chief Bill Weaver of CDF. If interested, contact Dick Rawson (N6CMJ) @ N6IIU if you are on packet or by voice on 146.115+ or at home at (408) 922-6545; you may also contact N6MWD for more information.

FROM: SHARON MOERNER, N6MWD

# QST DE STEVE K6FS

Several months ago, Gerry, WA6INV, PAARA president, received a call from a recreational therapist on the staff of the Western Blind Center, Veterans Administration Medical Center, Palo Alto. Gist of the call was a request for help in interesting Blind Center students (they are called that rather than "patients" since they are in residence, for anywhere between one and three months, to learn how to get around with their visual handicap; they are not at the Center for medical treatment) in amateur radio. Result was formation of a three-man working group: Wally Porter, KG6URO; Jerry Starkey, WA6LJL; and Steve Stuntz, K6FS; with WA6INV as ex officio honcho. Following a planning conference with Kay Knott, recreational therapist on the Center staff, the PAARA working group has made several presentations to groups of Center students, describing amateur radio, demonstrating communication via ham radio, and taking input from students about their interest in learning enough about the hobby to pass the novice license exams. At this time it is not planned to establish a fullscale novice course at the Center, due to the limited time students are available for instruction. Instead, we will continue giving orientation and support talks from time to time, help those students interested to get tape-recorded study materials which they can then use on their own, and make contact with clubs or individual hams in their home towns.

While the numbers of students attending the PAARA talks seldom exceed half a dozen, there are two or three in each group who show interest strong enough to make this a worthwhile PAARA project. Most of the students we have met so far are well along in years (all veterans of course), have lost all or most of their vision due to various causes (diabetes seems to be a major factor), and must learn to adapt to their limitations by developing mobility and everyday living skills. We often see one or two, with an instructor, on the streets of downtown Palo Alto, learning to cope with traffic and shopping chores. The Center staff is concerned about providing both job and recreational-activity training, since most students have to make drastic changes in their lifestyles as a result of deteriorating vision. Students, incidentally, come to the Center from western U.S. So far we have met men and women from California, Arizona, Texas, Missouri, Oregon, Utah, and New Mexico.

While some thought has been given to setting up a complete ham station at the Center, mostly for the benefit of staff-members and students who are already licensed, this is a project for the eventual future. What seems to be more practical just now is to set up a ham-band receiver, with whatever antenna is feasible, and furnish detailed tape-recorded operating instructions. Thus ham-oriented students can, in their spare time, listen to live amateur-band communication to help sharpen their awareness and interest in getting actively involved when they return to their homes. Can anybody help get a working receiver (doesn't have to be state-of-the-art), for very low \$\$ or - better - for free? Both sideband and CW capability, with enough of a loudspeaker so two or more people can listen at the same time.

The PAARA working group will continue its occasional meetings with Center students, will from time to time bring students to PAARA meetings (there is often a ham among the students), and give sample novice-level training sessions to demonstrate code-learning and the question-and-answer examination format. We'll be asking now and then for volunteer helpers from club membership; if you're interested and can spare an evening once a month or six weeks, let Gerry, Wally, Jerry or Steve know. PAARAGraphs will carry progress reports on this project from time to time.

de K6FS

# QST DE CRAIG N6ITW

The Silicon Valley Emergency Communications System (SVECS) sponsored the Emergency Response Institute (ERI) on March 26 and 27 1988, at Apple Computer in Cupertino. ERI '87 was very successful and ERI '88 "was even better"— so says PAARA's Craig Smith N6ITW, DEC for San Mateo County. The topics included Motivating The Volunteer, Amateur Support of Red Cross Disasters, Intro to Safety, a 3-hour certified training session for RACES officers, The Incident Command System, Communications Planning, and much more. Craig notes that ERI '88 was a big success. About 175 people attended and all who did attend had a good time and learned quite a lot. ERI '88 was attended mostly by people out of the area: Southern California, the Sonora region, and all around the Eastern Foothills area. ERI '88 emphasis was on techniques that involved primarily things that the Emergency Responders found over the last year that they needed to work on. Craig remarks: "I thought this year was a lot better than last year because almost everything that they did was extremely meaningful, rather than having people from agencies come up and just talk about matters that are really interesting but don't help us that much. It (ERI '88) was actually a hands-on experience, focused on specific topics, things that we needed to know to help ourselves, rather than general information on things happening around us. We hope to have another one next year as successful as this year." -Ed.

Craig reports additional success with the recent Sawyer Camp Trail Day bike races, which were put on by the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors & OES. 16 Hams assisted in tactical communications, including N6ITW Craig and VE3FZK Andy. Kudos were received from S.M. County Supervisors, Sheriff, CDF, SF Water, & San Mateo County Medical Services.-ED

## BOOK REVIEW

There is a wide world of amateur radio FM and repeaters out there that affords those involved a constant source of technical challenge and satisfaction. To get a better and essential historical, managerial and technical background in the area, one can avail oneself of the wit and wisdom in THE PRACTICAL HANDBOOK OF AMATEUR RADIO FM & REPEATERS, by Bill Pasternak WA6ITF, with Mike Morris WA6ILQ Technical Advisor. (TAB #1212) This volume assists both the newcomer and the old hand, by giving a big picture of a lively part of ham radio— in the excellent narrative of Bill Pasternak WA6ITF. This book is an essential foundation stone for the understanding of amateur radio FM and repeaters; and will amplify and enhance the expertise one may already have, or desire to have, in this so-fast-moving field! -Ed.

-FOR INFO ON THE ABOVE TITLE, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL HAM BOOKSELLER OR TAB BOOKS INC., P.O. BOX 40, BLUE RIDGE SUMMIT, PA 17214.

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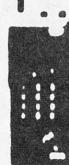
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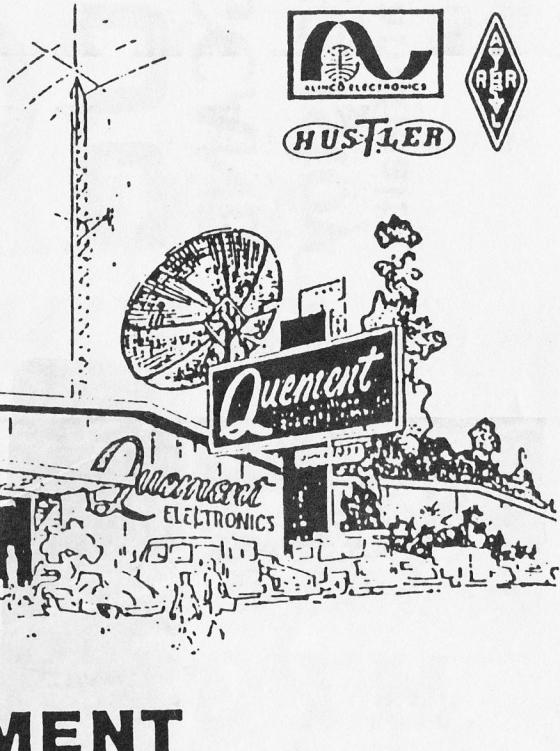
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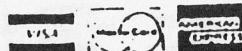


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