

MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

# PARA GRAPHS

VOL. 27

JAN. 1984



palo alto AMATEUR RADIO ASSN.



The late ERV RASMUSSEN, W6YPM, in 1922

\*\*\*\*\*  
PAARAGRAFHS is the official newsletter of  
the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association &  
the Menlo Park Civil Defence Radio Club.  
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Field Day-CW	:	Cam Pierce	K6RJ	854-3055
Field Day-phone	:	Bob Sheeler	K6SEM	
Club Nets	:	147.45 MHz, Monday, 14.287 MHz, Monday,	8:30 pm L.T. & 9:00 pm L.T.	

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PAARA FONICLES

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year (payable in January), which membership includes a subscription to PAARAGRAFHS. Freebee distribution is made to those who indicate an interest in the Club as an inducement to their becoming members, and is subject to change. Make payment to: PAARA, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

Written contributions to the P.O. Box above, or to the Editor, 1140 Sherman Avenue, Menlo Park, Ca 94025, tel. no. 854-6445. The Deadline is three days after the Board of Directors meeting.

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-3-

7

Friday, January 6, 1984.

7:30pm

R E G U L A R

M E E T I N G



A MYSTERY TOPIC

by

A MYSTERY SPEAKER

Who are these fellows above? Are they the January speakers? Come to the meeting and find out.

Meeting to be held at the Menlo Park Recreation Centre, Alma at Mielke, Menlo Park. Future meetings: February 3; March 2, 1984.

Circle the Date.

January 6, 1984.



REPORT FROM THE XMAS PARTY  
by  
Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV

As usual, those who attended the Christmas Dinner at Rick's had a great time. I arrived at 6:45 to find things in full swing. We missed Swede, N6CHL, and his bride, and we also missed Cam Pierce, K6RU, and Doris, who had to bow out at the last minute. Thirty-nine hungry people sat down to eat at 7:30 (and as far as I know, an equal number left).

Irene, WB6RAF, reminded us that there was no wine on the table, a problem that Clif Keely, KA6JWA, quickly solved. (Ed.: see Proverbs xx. 1 and xxiii. 29-35).

Yours truly pretty much hogged the after dinner speaking, and after your new President, Dave Daniel, KB6WP, said a few words, I was shouted down in favour of the gift exchange. It was great to see the look of "Oh, no, not me again!" on the face of Bob Wheeler, K6SEM, as I began to scan the eager faces for a Santa Claus for the evening.

In the door prize department, Dave Daniel won

the magazine subscription, and I can't remember who won the call books. Thanks to Fred Canham, K6YT, for engraving (notching?) another brass plate on the Field Day Plaque, and for making a short presentation. Art Bolton, NM6K, periodically checked on 2 metre transmissions from the North Pole.

All in all, it was enough to make you want to come again next year. Was all that talk about a Presidential Library serious????

de Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV.

Ed.: Well, Gerry, I would say that your Presidential records would be more suitable for blackmailing ostensibly upright citizens. I shudder to think of the effect your Presidential records might have on, say, impressionable Post 599ers if placed in a Presidential Library.)

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INCOMING PRESIDENT'S CORNER: For some, like myself, the New Year has brought a whole raft of new duties and responsibilities. Hopefully, all of you enjoyed a very merry Xmas, This joyous season brings many bounties, from cat's whiskers to Alpha's, and I am not talking of felines and automobiles. Ham shacks around the country should be bristling with new toys to penetrate the QRN and QRM.

I wish to thank Gerry, WA6LNV, the past and continuing club officers, the directors, and the ink-stained wretches of Paaragraphs for their countless hours of service during the past year. They have brought us home an unprecedented fifth 4A Field Day championship;



New President Dave Daniel, KB6WP

they have filled our coffers with 'green-stamps' from Flea Markets and Auctions; they have reached out into space with their calls; and they have provided us with hours of fun and relaxation. Hopefully, with their help and the help of untapped resources, we can continue to keep PAARA in the forefront of the competition.

This will be a year of changes. I hope to see more participation from the wives. I would like to have a female speaker at one of our meetings. I would like to see a women's sideband of PAAPA be formed (I hate to use the word "Auxiliary" here). Field Day, this

year, will be bigger and better than ever before. No matter which direction we take, Oscar 10 and VHF/UHF open a whole new horizon which can be manned (womanned) by husband and wife teams, YL's, and newcomers to contesting without disrupting our HF teams. After all, our 4A score is higher than the scores of teams with many more transmitters. Combined social activities with other clubs in the area is a possibility. And, Paaragraphs articles of interest to the ladies are needed. (SEM, I need your bride's help.)



Sue Daniel, R.N.

Before those who are content with present activities and present levels of participation run to hide behind their transmitters, let it be known that future plans can only augment what we now have, and full cooperation is needed if we are to succeed. Please let me know of your ideas and wishes. My transmitter is on 'receive' more often than on 'transmit'.

73's and the best to you and yours in the coming year. We all look forward to seeing you at the January meeting on Friday the 6th. Bring your better halves and start the year off right.

de Dave Daniel, KB6WP.

THOSE TEN METRE BEACONS

by

Ralph Ryan, WB6NNL

Probably the easiest way to determine the general condition of the ten metre (George, that's metre, not metre) (Ed.: I don't see any difference!) band and to learn to which areas the band is open is to tune from 28.2 to 28.3 MHZ and to listen to the beacons. A few years ago I sent a list of these beacons to Paaragraphs but some of them are no longer active and others have started up. Here is a list of beacons heard during the last two weeks of October.

28.174	VE3TEN	28.249	Z21ANB
28.200	DLØIGI	28.254	LU1UG
28.215	GB3SX	28.261	VK2RSY
28.216	VE2TEN	28.269	ZS6PW
28.227	DFØAAB	28.283	VP8ADE
28.229	ZL2MHF	28.285	KAIYE
28.235	VP9BA	28.290	VS6IEN
28.239	ZS1CTB	28.291	LU2FFV
28.239	OA4CK	28.297	PY2AMI

There are, of course, many other beacons in various parts of the world, but whether we shall hear them again during this sunspot cycle is doubtful. Recently, propagation has seemed to favour transequatorial paths so that the African, South American and Australian beacons may be heard almost every day. Some of the others appear much less often.

There seems to be no rhyme or reason to the frequencies used by the beacons, and the

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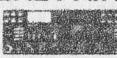
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frequencies may change from time to time. DLØIGI is sometimes on 28.200 and sometimes on 28.205. ZS1CTB only recently moved from 28.249 where it came out second best to Z21 ANB. It was last heard on 28.239 right where OA4CK has been for years. Incidentally, this station signs "SEIN DE ZS1CTB". If anyone knows what "SEIN" means, please enlighten me.

CAL QSO PARTY  
by  
Ron Rueter, WA6WEQ

(From the W6PIY Heterodyne, Oct./Nov. 1983.)



ia Contest Club (NCCC) sponsors the California QSO party. This year, I (Ron, WA6WEQ) talked Frank, K6RQ, and Harvey, K6KZ, into participating with me.

We decided to locate in San Benito County (non-California stations try to work all 58 California counties) at Fremont Peak State Park. The arrangements were made and the dates of October 1 and 2 were set.

We asked Bob, KC6D, to lend us his KLM KT -

34 beam, which he did, and on Friday night, I went over to his home and picked it up.

The station configuration was to be the Club's 40 metre beam, the KT 34, a dipole for 80 metres, a Kenwood TS-930S, an antenna tuner, a Heath SB-220 linear, and a Commodore 64 computor for duping.

Frank, Harvey, and I met at the club on Saturday morning to pick up the club trailer and beam, and we found out that MURPHY was already at work. The boom to element brackets for the 40 metre beam had walked off and could not be found.

After looking all over the place, we decided to go up the hill anyway, and maybe someone listening on the repeater would know where the brackets were, and we could pick them up on the way. Well, no one knew.

Arriving at the site, and finding the gate locked, we became really disturbed. Trying to remember the combination was useless (age problem). We heard Jim, KB6VF, on W6PIY/R and asked him to call my wife and see if she could find the combo, which she did.

We are now at the site, the contest has been going for an hour, and all of our equipment is still in the cars. We start putting the KT 34 together and find that all the necessary hardware is missing. (DAMN MURPHY). Luckily, I had a scrap box of nuts and bolts in my car (left over from working on W6PIY/R) and we were able to get the KT 34 together and up on the tower.

We managed to get all the equipment on the

air with horrible VSWR's but with the antenna tuner, we plugged along.

The tent was up and we made our first contact about 1 pm. Later in the day, it started to rain, and we found all sorts of holes in the tent. Harvey's computer was getting wet, but we tried to operate, log and wipe up the mess all at the same time.

We stopped for a while to eat and we got cold. The fog had set in with no relief in sight. It was dark and cold. We had to put the Coleman lantern under the table to try to keep our feet and legs warm.

About 2am on Sunday, we closed down the station, and we took a six hour nap. When we woke the next morning, it was beautiful. The sun was out, the sky was clear, and it was warm. With breakfast out of the way (hot dogs for me), we fired everything up and re-entered the contest. We operated until the contest ended at 3pm on Sunday and then we packed up and came home.

Even with all the problems we had, it was a lot of fun, and we really had a great time.

The results of the contest will be published soon in the NCCC Contest Jug, and I'll let you know how we did.

We made 894 contacts and we worked all states and Canadian prefixes except Utah and VE8. Our score for the contest is 109,464 points, a new record from San Benito county.

Frank, if you get complaints from out there

about your cw operating skills, I will never admit it was really me.

Thank you, Frank and Harvey, for all the help, fun, cookies cigs, and coffee. I look forward to doing it again someday.

(Ed.: Thanks, Ron, for permission to use your article. I have been on enough expeditions to know that your logistics problems are close to the norm. I can remember tents blowing away down the mountainside, transmitters being dropped into the Atlantic ocean as their bearer stepped from an open boat on to a jetty, and generator tanks being filled in the middle of the night with kerosene instead of gasoline (the kerosene was used in hurricane lamps).

In PAARA, we are spoilt by the Field Day efforts of Fred Canham, K6YT; Cam Pierce, K6RU; and Bob Wheeler, K6SEM, who all got their grey hairs by thinking of what could go wrong and by planning for it.

It would probably be a good idea for PAARA to organise a portable station entry in a contest other than Field Day. Such an entry would provide an opportunity for younger PAARA members to practice planning and organising skills as well as operating skills in the field.)

---

#### AULD LANG SYNE

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And never bro't to mind?  
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,  
And days of auld lang syne?

Chorus: For auld lang syne, my dear,  
For auld lang syne;  
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet  
For auld lang syne.

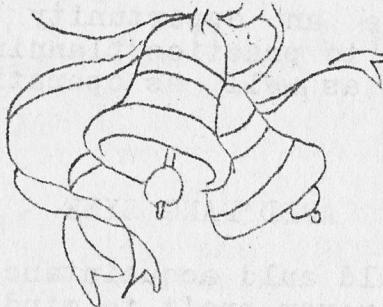
And here's a hand, my trusty frien',  
And gie's a hand o' thine;  
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet,  
For Auld Lang Syne.

Chorus:

(This is a very old Scotch folk-song, built on the pentatonic, or five-toned scale. Robert Burns revised it and added the second and other stanzas, but the original words and tune go much farther back into old Scotch legend.)

Spare a thought for your retiring officers this New Year's Eve. They have struggled through the Slough of Despond, and have defeated the Giant Despair. Spare a thought for them in their retirement.

A Happy and Prosperous New Year to all!



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