



■ PAARA NEWSLETTER ■

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 12, December, 1994

PAARAGraphs Since 1937

Monthly Newsletter for the Palo Alto Radio Association

Final Issue

President's Message

We will elect new officers and board members at our December 2 meeting. Many thanks to Fred (K6YT) for a fabulous effort in gathering the candidates.

Candidates

President	TO BE ANNOUNCED
Vice-President	TO BE ANNOUNCED
Treasurer	Dave Bailey WS6W
Secretary	Vic Black AB6SO

Vote for 4 of the following for Board of Directors

Frank Chandler WB6QPV
Kit Kohlmoos W6ISO
Wally Porter K6URO
Bill Smith KE6CHQ
Rich Stiebel W6APZ
Joel Wilhite KA7TXV
Bill Zaner WB6ISY



The following will be returning to the Board:

Koert Koelman	KC6WCI
Dave Meacham	W6EMD
Chris Rempel	N6VZD
Sy Stein	WA6ROM
Lily Anne Hillis	N6PGM

Let's make our Holiday Banquet and Officer Installation the best banquet we have ever had.

See you **December 2**, at the Election Meeting, and **December 7**, at the banquet.

de Lily N6PGM

An Editorial from the President

Dear PAARA members and friends,

I would like to let you know my philosophy regarding our newsletter; in part to explain why I have struggled so incessantly, stressed myself far beyond a healthy state, and been in tears more often than I care to admit.

It is my opinion that a newsletter is a communication vehicle that ties together the membership and reaches out to new people. It represents the life force of an organization and promotes a sense of camaraderie that replenishes the health of the group. The tone and feeling set by the newsletter is as important as the forum it allows for the exchange of ideas.

As is true in most volunteer organization, PAARA has only a few activists and many, many associates. Our newsletter links those who carry on the day to day work of our organization with the rest of our members and friends. It is our outreach to prospective members as well as a link to other neighboring clubs.

PAARAGraphs is the face we show to the world, it validates our activities, and even our very existence. If no one knows about it, did it really happen?

de Lily N6PGM

Calendar

December Meeting.....	12/2/94
Annual Dinner and Installation of New Officers	12/7/94
Ham Exams.....	See Page 2
January Meeting	1/6/95



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Treasury Report

Even though we do not have any formal Treasurer's report, it is important for members to know our financial information.

Lily (N6PGM) has given me these figures for our final issue this year.

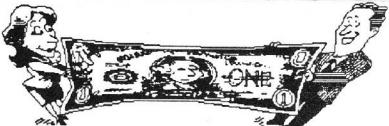
The 1994 Flea Market at Foothill profit is:
\$3,754.00

The 1994 Auction and Flea Market at Ampex profit is:
\$1,618.00

Congratulations to all who put in their time and energy. PAARA appreciates all your attention to the details (including all those cups of coffee you brewed and all those hot dogs you cooked and sold). This is the best return we have ever had for these events.

Hope we continue to improve in the future.

de KC6IJE



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:

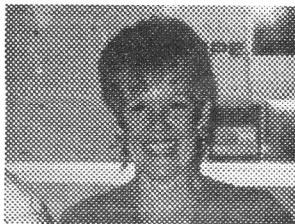
\$5 for business card size

\$25 for half page

\$50 for full page

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is

Farewell and Thank You Lily



Even though we've never said it before, we appreciate all your efforts over the past years. Both in your capacity as Treasurer, then as President, you have given us all of your attention, a complete job, total dedication (all probably more than we deserved).

The result has been a club that stands out among others as one that has happy members, meets its commitments, and pulls together in any endeavor.

We appreciate the time you gave us - that one precious commodity that can't be returned. You chose to spend it on us and we had a great time for it.

Heartfelt thank-yous, Lily, from all of us. You are truly a unique individual, and we are glad we had the opportunity to be part of your energy and enthusiasm.

de KC6IJE

Exam Schedules

Cupertino: Walk-ins on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, 9-11 am. At Tandem, 19333 Valco Parkway, near Wolfe Rd. exit off I-280. Info: 408-984-8353 (recording)

Fremont: Walk-ins on the 1st Tuesday of each month, 7pm. No-Code Tech and Tech-Plus exams only. Alameda County Water District, 43885 Grimmer Blvd., near I-880. Info: 510-791-6818; or Greg, KJ6EP@N6QMY. Talk-in: 147.015+

Redwood City: Walk-ins on the 3rd Saturday of each month, 11 am. 411 Broadway (Ampex Cafeteria), near Woodside exit off 101. Info: 408-255-9000 (recording); or Joe KB6OWG@KA6JLT. Talk-in: W6APZ, 145.23- (100Hz PL).

Sunnyvale: Walk-ins on the 2nd Saturday and last Sunday of each month, 10:30 am. 840 W. Washington St. Talk-in: W6ASH, 145.27-. Info: 408-255-9000 (recording), or Gene AA6IY@N6LDL, or GOrdon W6NLG@KA6JLT. Talk-in: W6ASH, 145.27-

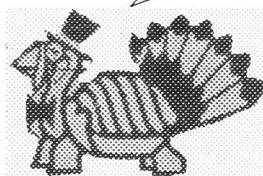
ARRL License Class Hotline: 408-971-1424

FCC Inquiry Line: 717-337-1212

FCC Customer Assistance: 800-322-1117

Info courtesy of EMARC RELAY, WB6WSL

Position Needed
Party Co-ordinator
and Head Chef



Don't forget the year-end party
December 7

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

Club meetings are held on the **first Friday** of each month at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA. The club holds a Radio NET every Monday evening on **147.45 MHz at 8:30 PM**. 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.

Permission is hereby automatically granted to reprint from this publication with appropriate source credit.

Interference

As we all know, the "I" word has reared its ugly head once again, and along with it, the word "Hams" also seems to be associated (and probably a few other names which are unprintable here).

It seems that every time a small blip or buzz happens on a TV set, the local ham is automatically blamed. The best defense for hams is to have information and help readily available.

First, according to a member of the Federal Communication Commission's regional office, it is important to determine the real cause.

In most cases, interference is caused by electrical equipment. FCC rules prohibit operating electrical equipment that causes "harmful interference," and remedies include contacting the electric utility - Pacific Gas & Electric Co. in your area. In the case of faulty electrical connections, contact a repair center for faulty appliances or an appliance manufacturer.

According to the FCC, it is the responsibility of those experiencing the interference to shield their entertainment equipment. The FCC recommends that they contact the manufacturer of the equipment to request a shielding device (which many offer free to comply with FCC rules).

To those who complain to you of interference, tell them to first contact the FCC field office at 3777 Depot Road, Room 420, Hayward, CA, 94545, 510-732-9046, and describe exactly what and when the interference is happening.

If their descriptions imply electrical interference, they will be sent a pamphlet on isolating the problem. It is not a bad idea to compare notes with your neighbors on when the interference occurs.

Sometimes a friendly inquiry can save months of bad feelings. de KC6IJE

Tech Tickets

If you earned your Technician class ham license before March 16, 1987, you are automatically a Technician Plus (You also passed the code tests).

There may be a problem, however, with the FCC's computer. In some cases it has processed license renewals and modifications for Technician Plus licenses and mistakenly issued them entry level no-code Technician tickets.

If you have a Technician Plus license, it would be a good idea to check your license now, to be sure you are rated as a Plus. If not, here is what to do.

First, write a letter to the FCC explaining the situation. Include the information on your current license status and its effective date. Send a photocopy of your license if possible. Mail it to the FCC's license processing facility at 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania 17325-7245. Or, send a fax to them at 717-337-1541.

Then, wait. The commission says it will take from four to six weeks. de KC6IJE

Code Tips

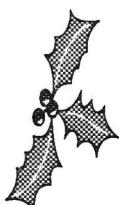


From a PAARA presentation by AB6SO

Many hams have trouble learning Morse code, but once they learn the code they find that it stays with them for life. I decided to find an easy way to teach others to learn and remember the alphabet, hopefully in less than fifteen minutes.

Since we are communicators, most of us find it very easy to remember words and phrases. For instance, if I asked you to remember a message composed of a few common words you could probably do so with no trouble at all. Let's look at an example. "I love to eat ice cream on hot days". That sentence is easy to remember and contains nine words. Three sentences of that length would contain 27 words, more than the number of letters in the English alphabet.

Hmmm! Maybe the answer is to create a list of words or short phrases which, by themselves, will tell us the Morse code equivalent for each letter of the alphabet. It would be a list of MAGIC HAM WORDS. We could then make a dictionary from the list with a pronunciation guide for each word. *continued on page 5 column 3*



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Bryan Palmer, Owner

Letter from a special friend

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
PO Box 911
Menlo Park, Ca. 94025

Dear PAARA Club,

This is just a short note to say thank you for all the assistance you gave me in cataloging and selling Jack's radio stuff for me. I couldn't have done it without your help, and do appreciate it very much.

Peggy McEnnerney

Editor's Corner

Letters



Here are some letters from our readers.

Hi TM, what a great idea to print the newsletter in all directions. That way we can share it with all our friends - all at once. Great fun. Thanks.

Anonymous, Menlo Park

Announcing the last PAARAGraphs. It looks like this could be the last issue of our newsletter. It seems to be a sign of the times that no one has any time, and I am swept along with everyone else.

This job requires many more hours than I expected. There is no way to spread the work out among the 4 weeks of the month, everything has to be done in one week. It seems that I receive too few items ahead of time, and so, since everything comes to me on the 15th, I usually have less than a week to format everything, check credits, get the letter edited, and present it camera ready to the printer.

I have been unable to think of a way to save time, or to have someone else help. Any help would requiring someone to do the formatting - that is the biggest time consumer.

No one has come forth who is willing to commit to the newsletter schedule, so it looks like the demise of a great forum for our club members.

It has been fun, and I am sorry to decline, but I am on the verge of losing the few friends and family I have. I am happy to turn over the computer files and disks to anyone else interested in taking up the baton. Please speak now, or it is the final curtain.

de KC6JE

PAARAGraphs PA Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. PO Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026

President Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM
VP/Program Director Andy Korsak, VE3FZK
Secretary - To Be Filled
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PAARA Holiday Party & Officer Installation



The Velvet Turtle

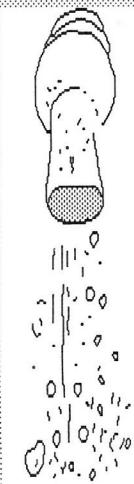
325 Sharon Park Drive, Menlo Park

Wednesday, December 7, 1994

No Host Cocktails at 6:00 pm

Dinner at 7:15 pm

Reservations (paid) by November 30



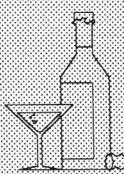
A Full Course Dinner with your choice of:

Beef Chicken Fish Vegetarian

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Wine will be provided by the Club

Send checks & menu selections to:
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Guests Welcome

Classical Radio



The other side of
**Hester Fitzgerald
Lenington**
(N4MPQ)

Article photos courtesy of K6FS

Extract from K6FS log, 8/3/89, 1820 UTC, 24949.8Khz SSB:

"Heard N4MPQ, Hester, in QSO with KP4DLM, Luis. Much discussion of ballet and his distaste for photographing dancers during his 20+ years as staff photographer for the University of Puerto Rico. Broke in, called N4MPQ, QRX to end of QSO. Result: 1 hour QSO about dance, dancers, and her own career."

Balletomane since 1934, Steve was enthralled. Turned out that Hester had started as a member of the Corps de Ballet with Monte Carlo Ballet Russe in 1956 at age 17, progressed to soloist, then in 1959 "came home" to New Your City Ballet, where she danced soloist roles in pieces by Balanchine, Robbins, and others. In 1959, she moved on to the American Ballet Theatre, and in 1964, joined Harkness Ballet, spending the next 6 years performing principal roles in a wide variety of dances choreographed by top-flight artists such as Agnes DeMille, Anton Dolin, and Alvin Ailey.

Taking time out to marry and raise 2 sons (neither is a ham at this point!), she settled in Hendersonville, North Carolina, where she teaches ballet in local studios, and spends summers on the dance faculty of North Carolina School of the Arts, at Winston-Salem.



W4NC and N4MPQ at Field Day, 1994

Her interest in amateur radio was piqued while attending a Boy Scout rally with her younger son Eric. In May, 1985, she

received her novice ticket, and a little over a year later moved up to Amateur Extra. Never shy about chatting on sideband, her preference is still for long ragchews with faraway friends on CW, where she signs herself as "Ann". To date she has racked up 210 DXCC confirmations.

Besides ARRL, she is an "auxiliary" member of the local QCWA chapter, and "mover and shaker" in the BLue Ridge Amateur Radio Club. Field Day, Sweepstakes weekends, and special event operations find her in there slapping the keyer with a right good will, handling dupe sheets or hanging long-wire antennas through the trees (see November 1993 "QST", page 13).

Amateur radio spices Hester's busy life in several ways. Three years ago, enroute to visit her brother in Klamath Falls, Oregon, she was confronted with a 6 hour layover at San Jose airport. That was a ready-made opportunity for an eyeball QSO at K6FS's QTH in Menlo Park, where after a high-energy visit with Steve and his XYL Betty (also a ballet enthusiast), Hester had her first AMTOR QSO (by pre-arrangement with Rick, NJ7D/MM2, aboard MV President Tyler somewhere west of the Dateline).

In October, 1994, Hester hosted a CW sked pal, VIDI, ZS6AL, at her QTH in Hendersonville, and over the mountains to Nashville for a dose of country music. Next spring she will return the visit, flying to Johannesburg for a brief safari stop-over as she travels to attend the wedding of older son Neal, now a Peace Corps Computer Science teacher in Zanzibar.

Meanwhile, the California connection continues as it started: weekly skeds on 20m SSB with K6FS (been going on for over 5 years). During one QSO it was discovered that Howard Sayette, now ballet master for Oakland Ballet, had been one of Hester's long-ago pals and fellow dancers in a major New York company. Following some preliminary over-the-air coordination, she journeyed to Greenville, SC, to renew the acquaintance when the Oakland troupe toured its Romeo and Juliet into the Southeast last spring. From sub-

sequent QSO's, it appeared to have been an enthusiastic reunion.



With the Harkness
Ballet, 1968

Steve and Betty, longtime subscribers and patrons of Oakland Ballet usually call backstage at the Paramount Theatre after each performance, to exchange greetings to/from N4MPQ and Mr. Sayette. Amateur radio marches on!

de K6FS

Code Tips *continued from page 3*

An example is the word "appeal". When we pronounce the word we emphasize, or accentuate, the second syllable by holding it longer than the first syllable. Also, the voice rises in pitch on the second syllable. One way to show the emphasis would be to use capital letters for the emphasized syllable or word in a phrase. So our sample word would become "ap-PEAL". In our dictionary of MAGIC HAM WORDS we could also indicate pronunciation by placing "di" under the syllable without emphasis and "DAH" under the emphasized syllable. So our word "ap-PEAL" would SOUND LIKE "di-DAH' which, coincidentally, is Morse code for A, the first letter of the word. If you can remember the word "ap-PEAL", think to yourself "ap-PEAL (di-DAH: A)". If the "di" is at the end of a MAGIC WORD we would say "dit".

All we need to do now is to make our list of words or phrases and indicate the pronunciation. If you have favorite words that fit then use them in your own dictionary. Otherwise use this list. Just remember to slowly read the words aloud and pronounce each syllable. This will tell you both the sound and rhythm for each letter. Let's give it a try.

A: "ap-PEAL". I think this method will appeal to you. Think "ap-PEAL (di-DAH: A)".

B: "BUL-le-tin board". You may want to tack a copy of this list on your bulletin board so you can refer to it. Think "BUL-le-tin board (DAH-di-di-dit: B)".

continued on page 6 column 3

FCC Update



Three late breaking items from Washington. First, the FCC has released a 7-page order amending the amateur rules in what the Commission calls as a nonsubstantive procedural rules change. The changes permit electronically filed data to be accepted from VEC's, authorize new hams the ability to go on the air as soon as the data appears in the FCC's amateur service licensee data base, adds a new rules section on ham radio Examinee Conduct during test session and codifies Technician Plus as a separate license class. The change also provides for a new short form license renewal document which the FCC says will be mailed to all hams in advance of their license expiration date. This, beginning sometime in 1995.

Because of the nature of these rule amendments, there is no notice or comment period required by federal law. These changes take effect on December 20th.

The FCC has also adopted a Notice of Proposed Rule Making to convert a block of spectrum from federal government to commercial use, including two UHF bands shared by Amateur Radio on a secondary basis with the government. The FCC is required by the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 to adopt rules for such a reallocation by February 10, 1995.

Finally, the FCC has terminated its own proposal to provide interim licensing for visiting hams through the all volunteer testing system. It says it will concentrate on an international licensing scheme instead. More details on these stories next week.

Happy Birthday, FCC

The FCC celebrated its 60th birthday the first week of October. The FCC was created under the Communications Act of

1934. The agency began with 233 employees and a \$1 million budget. Today it has grown to 1964 employees and a budget of more than \$160 million annually.

de KC6IJE

PAARA Auction and Flea Market

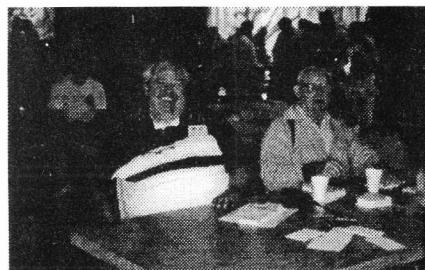
The annual PAARA Auction and Flea Market was held on October 8, 1994. Here are some pictorial highlights. Article photos by N6PGM.



Jerry (WA6LNV) is very important.



Bill (KA6LZI) is very happy.



OK Charlie (WD6FAF), who is your friend?



Ben (KA6SIQ), Ron (KD6RFI), and Lily (N6PGM) are amused

Code Tips *continued from page 5*

C: "CAN-dle-POW-er". Snuggle up next to a lamp that provides enough candlepower to read and repeat "CAN-dle-POW-er (DAH-di-DAH-dit: C)".

D: "DAIR-y-man". If you get thirsty while studying your code, get a glass of milk from a dairyman and say, "DAIR-y-man (DAH-di-dit: D)".

E: "end". Don't worry. The end of the list is not far off. Say "end (dit: E)".

F: "fed-er-A-tion". You Star Trek fans know all about the federation. That's "fed-er-A-tion (di-di-DAH-dit: F)".

G: "GLAZED DOUGH-nut". If you want a bit of pastry to go with the dairyman's milk just reach for a glazed doughnut and remember, "GLAZED DOUGH-nut (DAH-DAH-dit: G)".

I: "it-chy". By now you're probably getting itchy to learn the entire alphabet. "it-chy (di-dit: I)".

J: "just LEARN MORSE CODE". So go for it and just learn Morse code. "just LEARN MORSE CODE (di-DAH-DAH-DAH: J)".

K: "KANG-a-ROO". Now you're progressing by leaps and bounds, just like a kangaroo. "KANG-a-ROO (DAH-di-DAH: K)".

L: "li-BRAR-i-an". If you have trouble with pronunciation, just ask a librarian for help. "li-BRAR-i-an (di-DAH-di-dit: L)".

M: "MA-MA". Your mama would be proud of you for your progress in learning Morse code. Think, "MA-MA (DAH-DAH: M)".

continued on page 7 column 2

BUY - SELL - SWAP Exclusive PAARAGraphs Service

Need battery charger for Kenwood TR 2500 handheld.
Please call **Stan** (WA6ZGI) at 408-292-6487

By the way - **Congratulations Stan** for receiving your Advanced Classification. Everyone is very happy about your success on the hardest test of all. -ed

Speakers

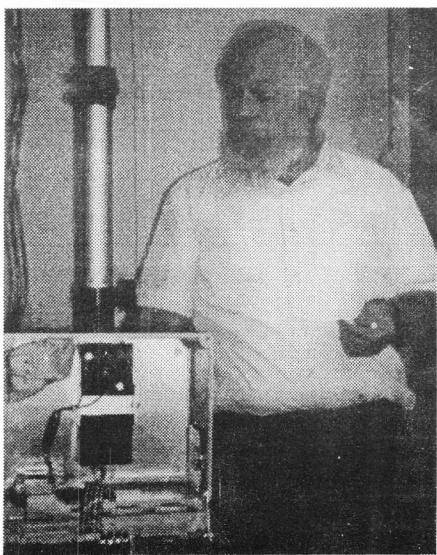


Photo by W6APZ

Clyde Davis (KC6TFL)
November Guest Speaker

At the November PAARA meeting, Clyde Davis (KC6TFL) gave us a fascinating presentation (with photos) about his most unusual trip to China.

We are still curious about what the fried moose nose tasted like (Clyde doesn't know either, and he doesn't plan to find out!)

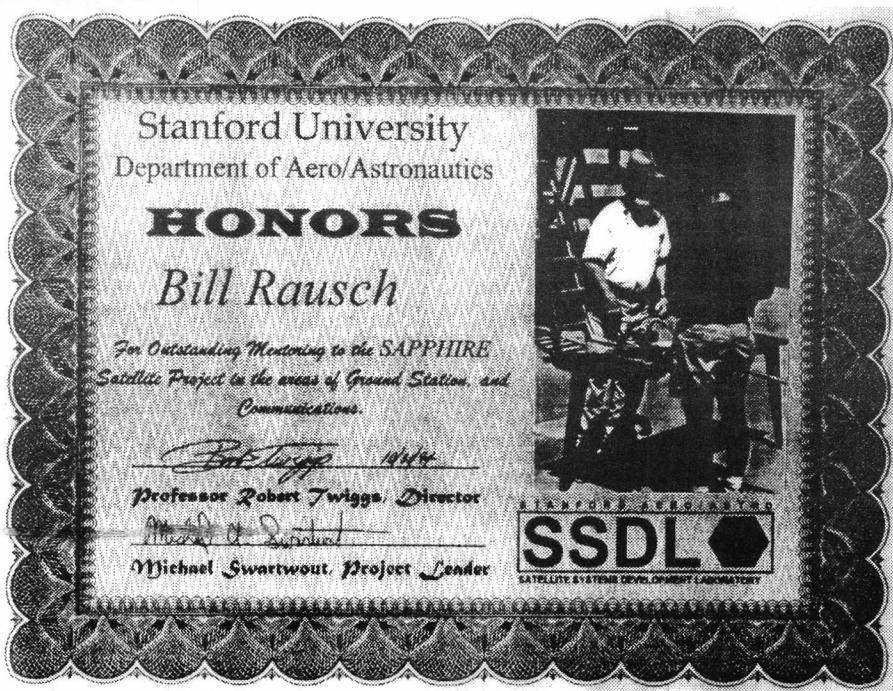
He is pictured here with his own weather station, which he displayed for us at the meeting.

December 2 Speaker

The planned speaker for the **December 2** meeting is Juan (WA6HTP). He will discuss "Airborne Astronomy". You are invited to attend the pre-meeting dinner with the speaker at **5:45 pm at Su Hong** restaurant in Menlo Park.

It is an old established tradition for PAARA to treat each month's guest speaker to dinner at the Su Hong. After they have had a little of that delicious Chinese food, they disclose such interesting things. de KC6IJE

Award



Bill Rausch (AA6PA) has won this prestigious honor from Stanford University's Department of Aero/Astronautics for working on the Sapphire Satellite Communications Project. Congratulations Bill. We look forward to hearing all the details when you are back in town.

de KC6IJE

Code Tips *continued from page 6*

N: "NAUGH-ty". Don't be naughty. Study your code! "NAUGH-ty (DAH-dit: N)".

P: "per-FORM BET-ter". Once you learn the code you can perform better on the air. Remember, "per-FORM BET-ter (di-DAH-DAH-dit: P)".

Q: "QUEENS, KINGS and JACKS". These are the face cards in a deck of playing cards. Just remember "QUEENS, KINGS and JACKS (DAH-DAH-di-DAH: Q)".

R: "re-PEAT-er". The next time you use a 2-meter repeater think of the letter R. "re-PEAT-er (di-DAH-dit: R)".

T: "TOAST". Soon you'll be able to toast to your success. "TOAST (DAH: T)".

U: "un-der-STAND". Think of how much fun you'll have when you can understand CW. "un-der-STAND (di-di-DAH: U)".

V: "vis-it the QUEEN". On your next trip to Great Britain you may want to visit the Queen. "vis-it the QUEEN (di-di-di-DAH: V)".

W: "we KNOW CODE". We're almost there. Soon we can say that we know code. "we KNOW CODE (di-DAH-DAH: W)".

X: "X-ray the BONE". This is what your doctor may do if you fall and hurt your arm. "X-ray the BONE (DAH-di-di-DAH: X)".

Y: "YES we KNOW CODE". Another few letters and you can say "yes, we know code". "YES we KNOW CODE (DAH-di-DAH-DAH: Y)".

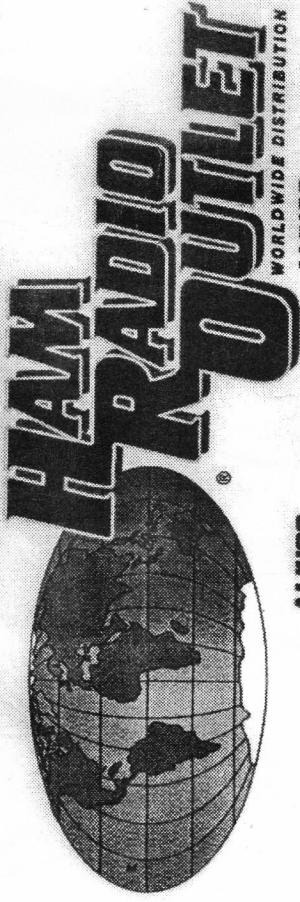
Z: "ZSA ZSA did it". The actress Zsa Zsa Gabor was accused of hitting a police officer. She said she was innocent, but the jury said that "ZSA ZSA did it (DAH-DAH-di-dit: Z)".

OOPS! Three letters are missing. That's because I couldn't think of any staccato words or phrases to express them. Perhaps you can do better than me on those three. Fortunately, they are really easy to remember. They are "di-di-dit: S", "di-di-dit: H" and "DAH-DAH-DAH: O".

Well, that's all there is to it. Just a few words or short phrases to remember and you automatically know the alphabet in Morse code. Now get a code practice oscillator and practice a bit. In no time you can let your fingers do the talking.

de Vic Black, AB6SO

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party on Dec. 7.