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MENLO PARK, CA. 94025

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PAARA

GRAPHS



palo alto
AMATEUR
RADIO ASSN.

MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

PAARAGRAPHS is the official organ of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assn., and the Menlo Park CD Radio Club.

* Volume 20

Number 8

August 1976 *

***Paara and Menlo Park CD Club Officers:

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Our Wonderful and Good POLICIES:

1. Membership includes PAARAGRAPHS subscription.
2. Dues are only \$4.00 a year; send money quick.
3. Subscribe to PAARAGRAPHS only for a dollar.
4. Pay up on a calendar year basis if you can.

SEND coins, 2-dollar bills, negotiable currency, and other
equally solvent gunk to PAARA Box 911 Menlo Park.

The Retiring (snif!) PAARAGRAPHS STAFFE

Editor-in-Chief: Richard Ferranti WA6NCX

Lovely Cover Designer: Sue Lindner

Printing, Labels, etc: Fred Canham, Ed Fairbanks, etc.

Resident Starving Artist: Bruce M. Rapp, B.A.

Staffe Astronomer/Philosopher: Mike Eccles G3PPE/VE7

Mad Mobileer: Dave Waters

Stalwart Radio Compatriot and Applegater: Gary Giampaoli

Obscure Skyline Dweller: Steve Jones

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OUR NEXT MEETING: Is Friday, August 6, 1976, in the Menlo Park Recreation Center. Meeting begins at 7:30 PM.

THE PROGRAMME: is by Dave Retz of SRI speaking on their latest communications concept--the "Packet Radio"-- along with a history of communications. You will be introduced to this digital communications technique as well as hearing something of the state of the art past, present, and future.

RAFFLE Coffee Tea Cookies Good people Gonk Bring a Friend and show them what ham radio's About

The Board of Directors will meet on their usual Wednesday following the meeting, on August 11, 1976 in the lovely Red and White Fleet of PAARA -- the W6OTX trailer in the SRI parking lot, 333 Ravenswood Ave. Time is 7:30 PM, so Get There and listen to PAARA's Flights.

NEXT MONTH Terry Conboy WB6GRZ is taking over the editing of this very journal. So do not send any more written gorp to 1234 Santa Cruz Avenue. No. Send it to Terry at 1685 Lark Avenue, Redwood City 94061. Yes.

THE PAARA NET meets every Monday night on 147.45 MHz FM at around 8:15 PM. We do such exciting things as (a) perpetually get Bob W6BFH on frequency (b) make nasty comments about Heathkits (c) wonder if Andy will ever actually BUY a good rig and join us, and (d) discuss the fine and subtle distinction between a (1) gonky and fat blimp and a (2) classy, streamlined dirigible. Join us and Learn something!!

The Field Day effort in June netted PAARA three articles which Ye Editor was sent from various newspapers-- with big photos in the PA Times and the MP Recorder.

NOVICE CLASSES--Weds at 7PM in the San Carlos City Hall, 666 Elm Street, top floor. Call Jack Price for more information at 593-4378. Get your ham License!

Alas! The Wretched Mess News, a genuine Piscatorial Periodical which Y.N. Ed. read voraciously, has gone outta bus.

PAARA PICKIN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS, GONK
Thanks to Mike Eccles WA6LGJ, Hal Moore W6DEF, Dusty Doster K6MPN and Irv Rasmussen W6YPM for their nice donations of magazines and equipment for our raffles and the flea market coming in October.

Congratulations to Irv Gottlieb, a PAARA member who has had two books published this year. Switching Regulators and Power Supplies by Tab Books and Electric Motors & Electronic Motor Control Techniques by Howard Sams. Good Going, Irv! (W6HDM)

Our former E.C., and still a great traffic man Hal Moore W6DEF sent in two letters recently. He's very active in Placer County, already organizing Novice classes there affiliated with the Sons in Retirement ARC.

Hal also sent in a clipping about Aluminum house wiring. New switches and fixtures are available for these wires which can work loose by expansion and contraction and cause a fire hazard. The new items prevent this from happening by use of special terminals.

Hal can sometimes work the WR6ADZ 25/85 machine and tries to check in Monday nights for the CD net at 8 PM.

W6DEF received 57 messages for the Last Powder Puff Derby through the Auburn repeater and relayed them to the Northern California Net.

Thanks for the fine letters and notes, Hal!

Ralph A. Trout, WA6EQH, passed away last month. He and his wife Rachael were both PAARA members.

Steve Stuntz K6FS went to the Denver National Convention as a rep for PAARA. He reports that it was quite a fine bash, and also sent me an article from Stereo Review, Aug. '76, pg. 14, about the TVI bill now before Congress.

According to this article, the other side of the TVI bill is cost to the consumer in terms of thoroughly RFI-proofing cheezy stereo gear. Seems that cost is proportional to amount of attenuation needed. Will this lead to RF Field strength limitations???

PAARA ADVERTISEMENTS ALL GOODIES TO BUY

From the Estate of John Ellison W6AOI: 40 foot crank-up tower, self-supporting, Moseley TA-33 Beam, w/ pipe mast, Ham-M Rotator with control box, cable and coax, Heath HW-17 2 mtr AM transceiver, Hammarlund HQ-180 partially dismantled for conversion to solid state.

From an ex-novice and 160 meter fan: RME 4350 Ham band rcvr, Hallicrafter SX-28 needs work, Globe Scout novice xmtr (techs tool) with VFO and xtals, Antenna wire, coax, and key. INTERESTED?? Call Fred Canham K6YT 415-948-9238.

*****-----***

FOR SALE: Instructograph tape machine, 6-60 WPM, complete with 10 cassettes, book, tapes and also 14 recorded cassettes of code from 5 to 16 WPM. All for \$45.00 negotiable or trade for ??? Arpad WN6Hdd 948-2858

Arpad also sends word that 15 pounds, a bad back, and 9 months later he made his general class ticket. ZERO air time as a novice! He wants to thank W6LQE George, WB6AAJ Kelly, WA6JAB John and W6QS Fred (All 160m AM'ers for those who snoop on that band). Congrats, Arpad.

*****-----*****

FOR SALE: Brand New in box Drake TR-22C. Pristine, virgin, etc., and so forth condition, \$229.95 negotiable. Call our E.C. Steve Stuntz K6FS at 322-4952.

*****-----***

FOR SALE: Tri-band trap beam. 3 elements for 10-15-20 mtrs. Heavy duty duraluminum with teflon insulated traps. Vy good DX record with good signal reports. \$50.00 takes it! Call Irv Wolfe W6HHN at 494-1791.

IRV also has a Mamiya -Sekor F2.8 Reflex camera, Model 528 TL. \$40.00 at 494-1791.

*****-----***

FOR SALE: HR-10 Heathkit Receiver, hamband only. \$59.00 Glenn Thompson 588-4063 (San Bruno)

*****-----***

Your newfound Editor, in contrast to ye olde faithful editor, is trying to acquire a teletype machine, not get rid of one. He is looking for a model 28 KSR in reasonably good condition or even a 28 ASR at a bargain price. If you got one or know anyone who does, call Terry 364-3107 home or 591-8461 ext. 475 work. Whogot???

HOW TO FIX UP THOSE GRAND OLD RECEIVERS PART II

After obtaining the receiver, try it out. Again, if the radio doesn't work, clean it out first and then fix it. That way you know it wasn't a dirty contact or creeping gonk. (See definition of "gonk" elsewhere this issue).

Cleaning the receiver is fun--and rewards you most appearance-wise. Remove the chassis from the cabinet. The chassis can be cleaned with a damp paper towel sprayed with Fantastik or other liquid cleaner. Remove the toobs (make a chart of what went where), clean them with a towel and a dry soft cloth, and then spray the base and socket with contact cleaner. Whilst the two are still wet, insert and remove the toob to clean the mating surfaces. Spray the switches and bandswitch like All Get Out with contact gorp (Bostonian for gonk) and rotate many times. Remove the knobs and clean them with a toothbrush and soapy water, drying with a soft cloth. Don't use super-harsh cleaner on the knobs--I've seen bakelight knobs etched by some soaps! Rinse well and polish with the soft cloth.

Probably the most important eye-catcher is the front panel of the RF-inhaler, and most of these old clunks have wrinkle finishes which have gotten wrather wretchedly wrecked with dirt. Do not snivel and carp, nor abandon yourself to Utter Despair. Take as much of the cabinet apart as possible and then use a brsh and a bucket of soapy water to remove the dirt from the cracks and wrinkles. Hose the receiver cabinet off, allowing it to dry in the sun. If there a spots where the pain is chipped, touch it up with dull matching paint (non-wrinkle is OK if there isn't much chipped). Then, steal some Johnson's Baby Oil from your local Female of the Opposite Sex or even a nearby sloppy brat kid, and mix it well with four parts of turpentine. Apply this solution with a cloth to the front panel and other wrinkly-squiggly surfaces of the washed receiver. Viola! instant new finish! It even makes the old panel markings stand out better. Let it set for a while and wipe off any excess with a dry cloth, leaving the cabinet out in the sun. The turpentine dilutes the oil enough so the panels won't feel gooey as you fondle it, but nonetheless keeps them painty-fresh.

MORE next pg.....

Grand old receivers cont.....

You can finish off mechanical improvements by lightly lubing the tuning capacitor bearings, and restringing the dial if necessary. Be awful 100% sure that you note how the string went on (make a diagram) before restringing, otherwise the resultant futile attempts to make dial and tuning knob move at one (1) & the same time will drive you Belly Up. A friend of mine became an itinerant used shoe-lace salesman because of this.

By far the most significant electrical improvement you can make on the receiver is out-and-out, full-scale, wholesome, utter, complete, and total replacement of the goopy, drippy, oily, gonky, leaky, gross, yellow, yecchy paper-wax bypass capacitors which engineers of the 30's and 40's thought were real Boffo Baubles. Boy, were they dumb! So do it. Go to the local electronics surplus parts store armed with a list of every horrid .01, .05, .3, etc., cap and get new, sealed, nice un-mucked-up ones. Yes. Install with proper amts. of finesse (i.e. one at a time!) and be amazed at the difference. Never fails.

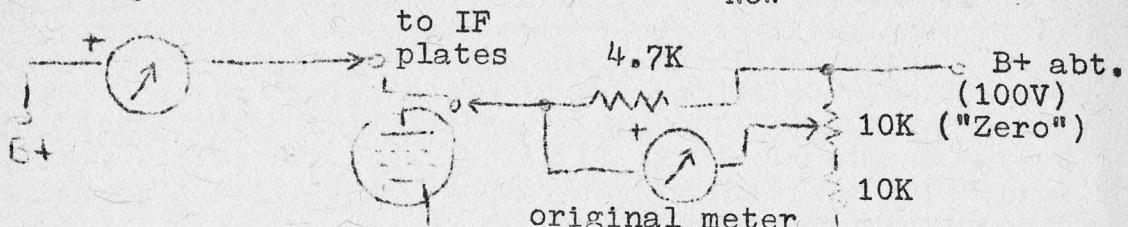
After replacing these components in the aforementioned NC-183 receiver, the audio fidelity became hi-fi (formerly zero-fi) and the 10 meter performance went from 99-44/100ths percent (%) non-existent to quite acceptable. From here, standard voltmeter-resistance checks should uncover any other faults. A manual on the rig is nice to have, but the toob base diagrams can be found in an old ARRL Handbook and you can trace failures from that.

I have never had an oldie require alignment to any considerable degree. Don't forget that you are probably not qualified to tweak around, unless you own \$13,942.37 $\frac{1}{2}$ worth of test equipment and have several engineering degrees. Touch up if you really must, don't mess up!

So now the thing is back together and looks/operates like new or better than new. Some of the older receivers had ridiculous "S" meter circuits where the signal strength is measured by a plate current meter to the I.F. amps. Much too insensitive. Good, bouncy, generous operation is easily added with a couple of resistors and a pot. Mess with the values for best operation.

Diagram and Conclusion Next pg.....

"S" Meter circuit for tube-type Inhalers.....
Original New



Good luck with your own receiver restoration process. Next to flea marketing, band snooping, writing, gonking around, and other activities completely unrelated to ham radio, these projects have given me a good deal of fun, as well as something new to show off!

Congrats to our new members: Ralph B. Ryan WB6NNL
1021 Stanley Way, Palo Alto 94303. A Ten-Meterer!!
Ed Camp, 1161 Cloud Ave, Menlo Park 94025

AND E. Finley Carter K6GT and Rachel Trout W6EQA are dues paid for 1976.

FOR SALE: HP-25 keyboard programmable scientific calculator. \$125 or best offer. Must sell by Aug. 25.
CALL John Socha at 494-3846 (Palo Alto).

RESTRUCTURING...effective JULY 23 (NOW!!!)

1. Full novice priveledges for Technicians..
2. Novices can use up to 250 watts.
3. ALL Licensees must use 250 watts max when operating in the novice bands.
4. Novices can retest immediately.
5. Mail exams for novice class only.
6. You must pass all exams for classes below the one you're trying for to qualify for that ticket.

ON July 4th W6ASH, WA6LIJ, K6SEM, K6YT, and WB6LSN operated in the mountain view Annual Run. The Radio communications were organized by Jerry Holter W6OCP, and the SPECS net. For the first time the group was able to operate on 147.45 FM. All agreed that this was a great improvement over Two'ers. (See????!!!!)

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING MINUTES July 14, 1976
 Present were WB6GRZ, W6NIR, W6AIN, VE3FZK, and K6YT.
 Fred reported that CCRC wishes to sponsor a hamfest in the North Bay Area in November 1977. PAARA is in favor. Fred also asked if the Board of PAARA thinks we should buy "ham radio" placards if the CCRC gets other Bay Area clubs interested. This way all bay area clubs would have uniform cards for the public to see at Walkathons, Field day, and parades.

Steam plant SRI antenna plans were shelved for the time being because of Menlo Park's political red tape and the small benefit to club members what with the horrid noise level.

Board agreed to help with the disposal of John Ellison W6AOI's radio equipment. Mrs. Ellison's wish is that we sell as much as possible at our flea-market/auction. A PAARA work party will dismantle the tower and beam.

Board agreed to hold the Flea Mkt/ Auction on the first Saturday of October. Available space will be arranged for. The event will be held in the morning/Afternoon this year. Exact hours/site to follow soon.

Meeting busted up around 10:15 PM for Starsky and Hutch.

FIELD DAY DAY AT THE FIELD FIELD DAY

It was HOT. The bands weren't as good as last year. All the equipment worked well, though. And it was even fun, when you weren't baking in the very dry heat.

We had WB6JFH Dave, Walt his dad, Bob W6BFH, Andy VE3FZK, WB6BJB Lee, Terry WB6GRZ, Fred K6YT, Ed W6AIN, Bob K6SEM, Cam K6DU, Gerry W6NIR, John WB9MWM from Wisconsin (!), Mike W A6LGJ, WN6DLH, Hugh, Leonard, WN6IJP Paul, WN6DMK Paul, W6QBY Paul, plus others who I forgot.

LET met know if I forgot your name here.

SCORES:	SSB	1975	1976	CW	1975	1976
	15M	486	278		95	70
	20M	586	263		272	247
	40M	182	125		74	41
	80M	73	164		27	57
Total	SSB	1387	830	CW	468	415

Novices: 15M had 70, 40M, 69; 80M, 25----105 contacts, one better than last year!

Thanks to all who came and made 1976 Field Day a goodie.

The Truth Laid Bare! TOWARD A DEFINITION OF "GONK"

During the last few years this stunningly swell magazine has had the word "gonk" glitter across its pages. Since that time, Ye Noble Editor has been deluged with phone calls, telegrams, radio messages, and wireless transmissions asking its definition. People stop me on the street, puzzled looks on their faces, asking, "What is Gonk?" The ARRL is considering a new ARL code for its message handlers to abbreviate the question. No R.F. juice leaks from Ye Noble Shack without a bedlam of hams calling on that frequency, all wanting To Know. Reports have it that the Cambridge High Priest of Logical Positivism, A.J. Ayer himself, is preparing a 237½ page treatise on this very word. But enough balderdash. GONK IS:

--- what's left in the bottom of your junk box after going through it looking for the part you couldn't find.

---the stuff that just won't rub off for Love or Money or even Credit Cards from that 1937 receiver chassis.

---the gorp that leaks from condensers of that same vintage.

---the True Difference (revealed at last!) between a "capacitor" and a "condenser", the latter having more gonk contained therein.

---that wonderfully sticky black goo which seemingly leaps on your hands when working with old electrical tape on a hot day.

---what you have a pile of when you plug your transceiver's antenna jack into the wall socket.

---surplus stuff with $\frac{1}{2}$ " of moisture fungus proofing on its innards, 40 years old, with "MFP June 1944" stamped lovingly on the outside,

---what's between most politician's ears.

---what's between your ears for wasting your time reading this ridiculous article!

--WA6NCX

HOW HAM RADIO GOT ITS NAME A Semi-true Story
(with Apologies to a local AM radio Station)

Already back in the early days of radio there were attempts made at program broadcasting. One famous Bay Area (legended over to the next pg....)

How Ham Radio Got its Name 11 Con't.....
station dealt exclusively with radio talk shows which became dull, boring, and monotonous.

It seems that there was more BCI in those days than presently exists between Japanese TV sets and the six-meter band, so the early radio amateurs were sometimes heard between commercial broadcast stations on the antique household receivers. Because the interfering radio experimenters often also sounded like the aforementioned radio programming, home listeners dubbed this BCI "sham KGO."

An itinerant newspaper reporter from the Washington Boast heard about it, and in his haste to link the new-fangled radio waves with sex scandal and government corruption stories, accidentally twisted the phrase to "ham radio." (A dubious transformation at best). The name stuck, as have many other stories and fables of journalism, a trend which continues to this day.

Three years, one break, much work, 2 new covers, and a great amount of fun has gone into my writing/typing/editing PAARAGRAPHS. This job has involved me with the club in such a way that the "doers" and the "thinkers" became immediately evident as the supporting structure of PAARA. These people represent a considerable percentage of the membership--an active core for which I am thankful.

Thanks much for the time you took to write or comment. (One "anonymous" author was a mainstay of articles/ideas). Especially in the last 9 months or so, I've had times when there was too much going on and contributed to fit into one issue!

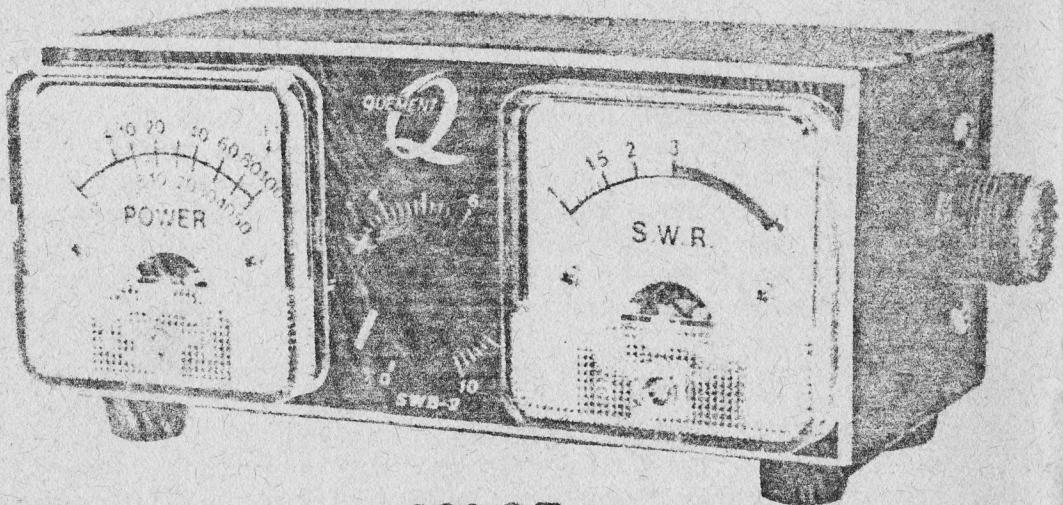
Best of luck to Terry WB6GRZ as the new editor...hope he gets the response and the input, as well as the pleasure that I received.

73, Rick Ferranti WA6NCX

P.S. -- I will keep in touch from WI-land, for which I am leaving in mid-September.

Typed on a beautiful Saturday, July , whilst listening to Respighi, Albinoni, Stravinsky, and the English 20th century genius Ralph Vaughan Williams, whose music provided the obvious inspiration for this splendid issue.

THE ORIGINAL 'BRIDGE'!



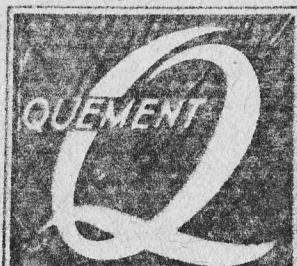
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