

K6YQT

PAARA NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 49 NUMBER 7 July 2000

W6OTX



PAARAGraphs

Celebrating 63 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*
Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



CALENDAR



July.....7, PAARA Meeting, 7:30,
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park

July....12, PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto

Aug.....4, PAARA Meeting, 7:30

Aug.....9, PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30

Aug....12, Foothill Flea Market, PAARA sponsored

2 m CODE PRACTICE, 2000 to 2030 PST Tues

N6NFI 145.23 repeater

Also try 7.100 for 24 hr code practice

PROGRAM

July 7, 2000
7:30 P.M.



"SHOW & TELL"



Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

6 pm— at Su Hong Restaurant , 1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

PAARA Radio NET every Monday evening at 8:30 P.M., local time—
on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off

NEW PAARA MEMBER

David Cooper KE6PFF
Jay Melvin WA6SBO
Peter Van Scherpe KE6KQV

New Call

Loren Archer KG6LRN (was K7LRN)
Jeff Furman AD6MX (was KD6MNP)
Gerry Tucker N6NV (was WA6LNV)

Upgrades

Bertha Andrews W6GCG: General Class
Clarence Andrews W6CPK: Amateur Extra Class

Loren Archer K7LRN General Class

Jack Daane KR6CD: Amateur Extra Class

Mike Gaynon W6TQH: General Class

Rene Girerd W6FNJ: Amateur Extra Class

Nolan Katz KB6LT: Amateur Extra Class

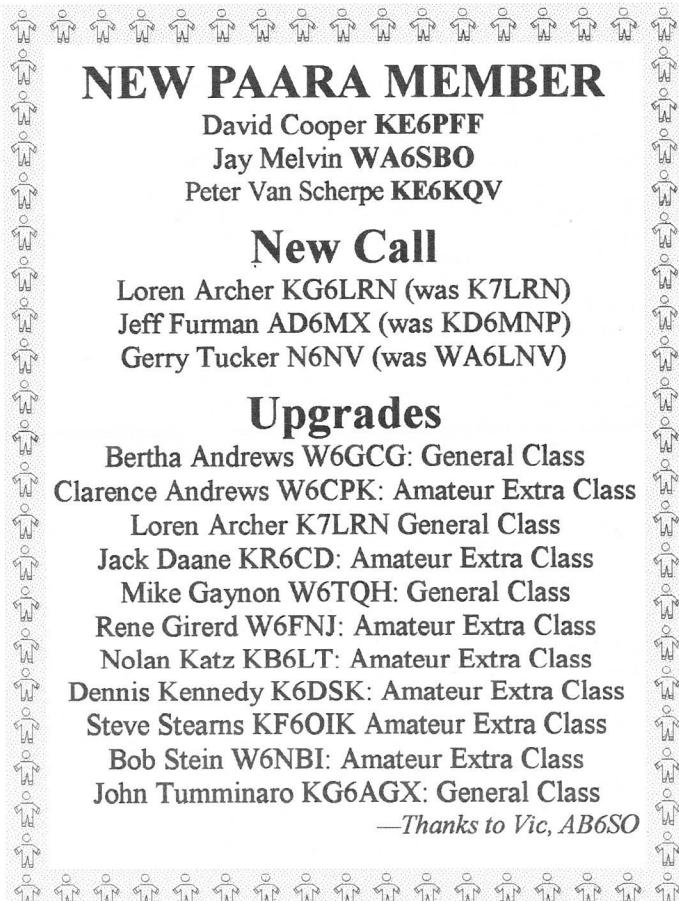
Dennis Kennedy K6DSK: Amateur Extra Class

Steve Stearns KF6OIK Amateur Extra Class

Bob Stein W6NBI: Amateur Extra Class

John Tumminaro KG6AGX: General Class

—Thanks to Vic, AB6SO



Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

QSO July 7th

gab & gobble

6 pm— at Su Hong Restaurant
1039 El Camino Real, Menlo

Park

—across from Kepler's Book Store—



Miscellaneous Dates

Flea Market at Foothill (info at: <http://joslin.com/FleaMarket>)
 July 8th, American Red Cross, Palo Alto Chapter

PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association
 meets 1st Friday 7:30 each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,
 contact: Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843

EMARC Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club
 meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month,
 contact: Sheldon Edelman 650-858-2176, Edelman@nichonet.net

NCDXC Northern California DX Club
 meets 2nd Friday 7:30 each month, repeater for member info 147.360, Thur 8:00PM,
 contact: Bob Mammarelli KB6FEC 408 729 1544.

NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club
 meets 1st Sunday each month,
 contact: Jim Cates 3241 Eastwood Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821.

Perham Foundation,
 contact: Jerry Tucker N6NV 650-961-3266

SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System
 meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz, www.specsnet.org
 contact: Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441 specs@svpal.org

SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service
 meets 3rd Thursday 7:30 each month, San Carlos City Hall.
 Net is on 144.45 & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.
 contact:

SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
 Operates W6UU repeater 146.385+ Nets: 2m, W6UU, 7:30 Mon; 10m,
 28.385, 8:00 Thur. meets 2nd Mon each month.
 contact: Jack Ruckman AC6FU

SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications
 Operates WB6ADZ repeater (146.115 MHz+)
 contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association
 operates W6PIY repeater 147.39+, 223.96, 441.875, 1286.2
 meets 3rd Wed every month.
 contact: Glen Lokke Jr. KE6NBO at 408 971 8626, or glokke@pacbell.net

Disaster Services,

PALO ALTO CHAPTER, American Red Cross
 Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM,
 HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite,
 contact: Alan Ball 650-688-0423.

SAN JOSE CHAPTER, American Red Cross
 contact: Scott Hensley KB6UOO, 408 249 7093, sjh@richochet.net

VE Exams, 3rd Saturday each month, 11AM, 145.23- PL=100Hz
 American Legion Hall, 651 El Camino Real, R.C.
 contact: Al Montoya at WB6IMX@worldnet.att.net

Contest Calendar

~Vic Black, AB6SO~

(for rules and exchanges, see www.contesting.com)

July, 2000

- 1 RAC Canada Day Contest 0000Z - 2359Z, Jul 1
- 1-2 Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest, SSB 0000Z, Jul 1 - 2400Z, Jul 2
- 4-5 MI QRP Club July 4th CW Sprint 2300Z, Jul 4 - 0300Z, Jul 5
- 8-9 IARU HF World Championship 1200Z, Jul 8 - 1200Z, Jul 9
- 8-9 WRTC 2000 1200Z, Jul 8 - 1200Z, Jul 9
- 8-9 CQ Worldwide VHF Contest 1800Z, Jul 8 - 2100Z, Jul 9
- 9 QRP ARCI Summer Homebrew Sprint 2000Z - 2400Z, Jul 9
- 15-16 SEANET WW DX Contest, CW 0001Z, Jul 15 - 2359Z, Jul 16
- 15 Pacific 160m Contest 0700Z - 2330Z, Jul 15
- 15-16 North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Jul 15 - 0600Z, Jul 16
- 15-16 Six Club Sprint 2300Z, Jul 15 - 0400Z, Jul 16
- 16 Colombian Ind. Day Contest 0000Z - 2400Z, Jul 16
- 29-30 Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest, CW 0000Z, Jul 29 - 2400Z, Jul 30
- 29-30 Russian RTTY WW Contest 0000Z, Jul 29 - 2400Z, Jul 30
- 29-30 IOTA Contest 1200Z, Jul 29 - 1200Z, Jul 30

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911

Menlo Park, CA 94026

President	Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843 n6nu@arrl.net
Vice President	Jon Zweig AD6FX(650) 324 8751 jzweig@pacbell.net
Secretary	Jay Melvin, WA6SBO(650) 747 0639 wa6sbo@arrl.net
Treasurer	Bob Korte, KD6KYT.....(650) 595 1842 RGK4U@aol.com
Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO.....(650) 366 0636 vic.black@adept.com ab6so@smrn.com
W6OTX Station Trustee	Fred Canham, K6YT(650) 948 9238
K6YQT Station Trustee	Gerry Tucker, N6NV(650) 326 4908
Property	Gerry Tucker, N6NV(650) 326 4908
Badges	Don Trask, KF6JMQ(408) 251 6494
ARES Officer	Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM(650) 325 5484
Club Historian	Steve Stuntz, K6FS(650) 322 4952
Advertising	Bob Korte, KD6KYT(650) 595 1842
Webmaster	Andreas Junge AD6FQ(650) 233 0843 n6nu@arrl.net

Board of Directors

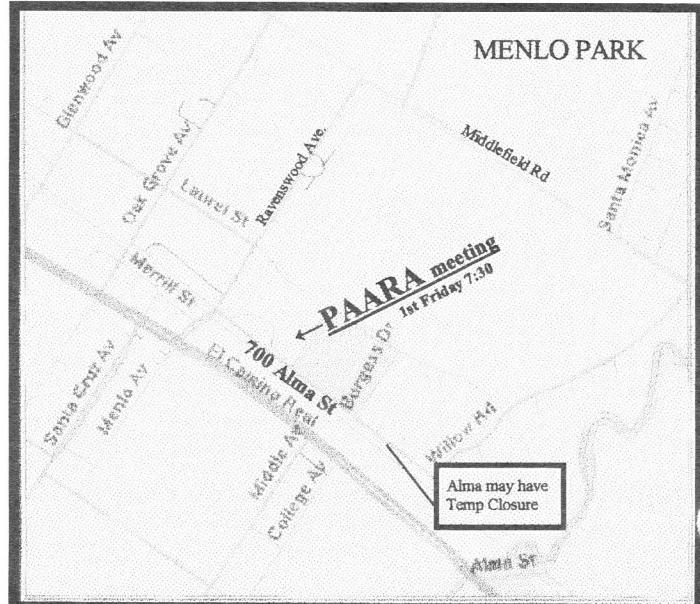
Charles Grandjean, WD6FAF	(408) 739 5185 '00 wd6fafwebtv.net
Doug Schliebus, K1DIT	(650) 851 0727 '00 schliebus@aol.com
Don Trask, KF6JMQ	(408) 251 6494 '01 trask@shell3.ba.best.com
Joel Wilhite, KA7TXV	(650) 325 8239 '01 ka7txv@qsl.net
Gerry Tucker, N6NV	(650) 326 4908 '01 (see "Calendar" for Board meeting times, visitors welcome)

PAARAGraphs Staff

Editor	Wally Porter, K6URO(650) 494 7038 k6uro@arrl.net
Database	Don Trask, KF6JMQ(408) 251 6494 trask@shell3.ba.best.com
Columns	Vic Black, AB6SO(650) 366 0636 vic.black@adept.com

PAARAGraphs e-mail address: k6uro@arrl.net
 Submit material for PAARAGraphs by the 15th

PAARA Website <http://www.qsl.net/paara/>





Beginner's Bulletin

edited by Vic Black, AB6SO

Q. I'm going backpacking this summer. I was told to observe the "Wilderness Protocol". What is it?

A. The Wilderness Protocol is a suggestion to monitor standard simplex calling channels at specific times in case others have priority calls whenever they are outside of repeater range. The primary monitoring channel is the 2 meter calling frequency, 146.52 MHz. Secondary frequencies are the other VHF FM calling frequencies: 52.525, 223.5, 446.0 and 1294.5 MHz. The Protocol recommends monitoring the primary frequency (and secondary frequencies, if possible) every three hours starting at 7 AM, local time, for 5 minutes. If you have sufficient power resources, such as a mobile rig when driving through the mountains, you should monitor for 5 minutes starting at the top of every hour, or even continuously.

Q. I listened down low on the 2 meter band and didn't hear any activity so my buddy and I started using that part of the band for our own private FM channels. A guy came on frequency and told us to get out of the weak signal area. I thought I was licensed to use the entire 2 meter band.

A. You are licensed to use the entire band, but portions of the VHF bands are reserved for Single Side Band and CW (Morse code) transmissions only. They're used for terrestrial DX, Earth-Moon-Earth ("Moon Bounce"), aurora and meteor scatter experiments. These are called "weak signal" modes because the received signals are often very difficult to hear even though the transmitted signals may be 1500 watts into gain antennas. FM radios will not hear those other modes so you may think there's no one there. They certainly can hear you, though, since FM signals use much more spectrum than the weak signal modes do. Even very low power FM can completely destroy weak signal reception. Some frequencies have been set aside for satellite use only so you should be aware of that, also. Satellites have very sensitive receivers. Because of the "FM capture effect", the strongest signal will dominate the satellite and no one else will be able to use the frequency for that pass of the satellite if you're on the channel. Unless you're trying to access an FM satellite, only use FM radios in the appropriate FM simplex or repeater portions of the bands.

Q. I want to buy an HT for the 900 MHz Amateur Radio band, but I can't seem to find one. Where are all the radios?

A. The 900 MHz Amateur Radio band is unique to the US. It's a shared band called ISM (Industrial, Scientific, and Medical). Commercial radios used on that band are designed for specific industrial uses. Most of our handie-talkies are made in Japan where half of the world's amateurs live. Many of the radios we get from Japan are Japanese models modified for the US market. If Japan doesn't have a particular band available, such as 900 MHz, and the demand is low in the US, there isn't any in-

citive for the manufacturers to tool up for production. The best we can do at present is to use transverters that convert a common band radio for use on the uncommon band.

Q. I know that Japanese amateurs can buy 2.4 GHz HTs. Why can't we get them here?

A. In order to sell radios in the US, the importers must first have the radios FCC type approved. This is expensive. Since the band plans may be different here than in Japan, the radios must be custom made for the US market and the instruction manuals must be translated into English. That also raises the price if demand is low. If all the required additional work causes the price to become too high, the radios won't sell. Importers will only do all of the extra work if they see enough demand to make it a worthwhile commercial venture. I was once told that we wouldn't have any 1.2 GHz Japanese radios available in the US if it weren't for the strong market demand in California.

Q. In the last VHF contest some guy showed up on the SSB calling frequency using CW. Can he do that?

A. The band plans show that CW can be used any place on the band that SSB can be used. During contests so many people end up on the calling frequencies that they may interfere with each other. Even low power CW gets through that mess with no problem. Cross mode contacts are allowed in VHF contests, so if you know CW, feel free to answer using SSB if you want to. Both modes require that a carrier be inserted on receive so you can hear either one or the other at the same time..

Q. I was reading some old radio magazines. At the end of each article it said -30-. What does that mean?

A. Western Union and railroad landline telegraphers were paid by the letter so that more productive workers earned more money (novel idea, eh?). Western Union operators used numbered messages (Western Union Code) and abbreviations (Phillips code published by Walter Phillips in 1879) in order to speed up their work and ensure economical use of the limited number of telegraph lines. This was especially handy for sending press releases to newspapers. That's where we got the messages 73, or "best wishes" and 88, "love and kisses". A lot of our current CW abbreviations are traditions taken straight from Phillips Code. The number 30 meant "end of message" and was commonly used to end articles in newspapers and magazines. In American (or Railroad) Morse there are spaces in some of the characters and also long as well as short "dahs". The number 3 is sent as "di-di-di-dah dit" (notice the space after the "dah"). The number 0 is sent as a long "dahhh". So, the number 30 is sent in American Morse as "di-di-di-dah dit" plus "dahhh". In International (or Continental) Morse that has been snugged up and carried over to become the procedural sign, or prosign, SK ("di-di-dit" plus "dah-di-dah") sent as one character so "di-di-di-dah dit" "dahhh" became "di-di-di-dah-dah". The numbered message 13 meant "understood". In International Morse the number 1 was dropped and the American Morse 3 was snugged up. It's occasionally heard as the prosign SN or "di-di-di-dah-dit". -30-

PAARA PONDERINGS

de VIC BLACK, AB6SO

Congratulations and many thanks go out to Helga and Ron Panton W6VG, Andreas Junge N6NU and Jon Zweig AD6FX for a very successful PAARA Summer Picnic. With very little advance notice they were able to promote a pleasant time for the 30 attendees.

PAARA members Doug Mecham KC6UKJ, Loren Archer KG6LRN (formerly K7LRN), Seth Mallory KF6UZX and Ken Mallory KF6VSC took Boy Scout Troop 5 on a tour of the San Mateo Sheriff and 911 dispatch centers in the Redwood City Hall of Justice as part of their scouting radio education. The group is central to emergency preparedness activities for the Vista Verde neighborhood above Los Trancos Woods in Portola Valley. They obtained a donated 40 foot shipping container and are building an emergency communications and supply storage center for the community.

Los Trancos Woods Community sits on 2000 feet of landslide rubble straddling the San Andreas Fault and has only one windy road out. The other major road, an extension of Alpine Road up to Skyline, is known as "dirt Alpine" by hikers and mountain bikers. It was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and never reopened to vehicular traffic. A major earthquake or landslide on Los Trancos Woods Road could isolate several hundred families.

Several people have asked about "proof" of ~~propagation~~ in order to apply for upgrades or for vanity call signs. They also want proof of licensing to join Quarter Century Association, which requires proof of licensing a few years ago. Others want to know the history of reissued call signs. Eileen Sapko, ARRL Awards Manager, sent the following message:

"The only way to find out when you were first licensed is to contact the International Transcription Service (ITS, Inc.). For a fee, they will research the information you request. They are located in the FCC, Room 246, 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20037 and Gettysburg, PA at 1270 Fairfield Road. (717) 337-1433. Their corporate address is: 2100 M Street, N.W. Suite 140, Washington, DC 20037 (202) 857-3800." I looked up their web site and found the following address and telephone numbers which you can also try: ITS, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20036. (202) 857-3800. E-mail to service@itsdocs.com or FAX (202) 857-3814.

The Amateur Radio Lighthouse Special Events weekend is scheduled for Aug 5 and 6 and the International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend is Aug 19 and 20. Last year amateur operators activated Field Day-type stations at more than 200 lighthouses in 31 countries. You can work them from home or you might consider setting up an afternoon mobile/portable mini-DXpedition operation from one of them. There are 9 or 10 lighthouses open to the public and within an easy drive from the mid peninsula.

Some that are open to the public include: Alcatraz Island Light, Carquinez Strait Light, East Brother Light (which is also a Bed & Breakfast), Pigeon Point Light, Point Blunt (Angel Is-

land), Point Bonita, Point Montara, Point Reyes, Yerba Buena Island, Lime Point (Sausalito), and Oakland Harbor Light (now a restaurant). Some others are not open to the public, but you can get close enough to count. An example is the Fort Point Light, which is closed because of contamination from toxic lead paint chips falling from the Golden Gate Bridge overhead. Fort Point is open, as is the parking lot adjacent to the light. Several awards are available for working lighthouses. Complete details, a list of lighthouses and registration can be found on the Ham Radio Lighthouse page, <http://www.waterw.com/~weidner/lh-ham.htm> or <http://qsy.to/lighthouses>. For a table of international lighthouses that will participate along with call-signs and QSL info, go to <http://www.waterw.com/~weidner/LH-day-table.htm>.

World Radio Team Championships are held every four years in conjunction with the IARU HF Championships. PAARA and several PAARA members hosted national teams from around the world for the second event 4 years ago in the SF Bay Area. Teams of two people are located in the same area and use 100 watt transceivers, a tri-band Yagi antenna for 20-15-10 meters and wire dipoles for 40 & 80 meters. During the 1996 championships, teams used special 1x1 call signs for the first time in US history. Call signs used were W6A through W6Z and N6A through N6Z for a total of 52 teams. This year's competition will be held July 8 & 9. The 53 special call signs for teams during the 3rd WRTC event at Bled, Slovenia July 5-11th 2000 include: S511E, S521H, S531R, S541F, S561C, S571W, S581I, S512T, S522R, S532N, S542B, S562P, S572L, S582A, S513A, S523W, S533G, S543C, S563X, S573O, S583D, S514U, S524G, S534J, S544Z, S564Q, S574V, S584M, S516M, S526O, S536P, S546Q, S566Z, S576K, S586U, S517W, S527K, S537L, S547B, S567F, S577V, S587N, S518N, S528D, S538F, S548X, S568Y, S578R, S588S, S519I, S529A, S539D, and S549L. Call signs S5A-S5Z will be used from Apr. 15th for WRTC promotion. QSL manager for them all is S59L. More info can be found at <http://wrtc2000.bit.si>

Thanks very much to Les Zwiebel WB6ORZ for pointing us to the IPS web site <http://www.ips.gov.au/prediction/hap.html>. This Australian government site shows Hourly Area Prediction propagation charts centered on various cities. The charts, updated HOURLY, are very specific to each targeted city. Information for generating the charts is supplied by the Space Environment Center in Boulder, Colorado. The color-coded charts indicate the best frequency to ensure HF communications from the chosen city to other parts of the world based on real time ionospheric conditions. I clicked on San Francisco and the chart showed the optimum frequency ranges as concentric bands of color radiating from San Francisco. It even shows skip zones and relatively small zones of CURRENTLY reported sporadic-e or F2 communications. This is an extremely valuable web site for contesting and DX hunting. Be sure to check this one out and bookmark it for future reference. As the web page says, "Because of the variability of the ionosphere this type of prediction can only be made for the current hour." Hey, who's complaining?

Foothill Flea Market

Aug 12 PAARA sponsored

WEB WANDERINGS

de Vic Black, AB6SO



Vern Wright W6MMA produces a unique portable transmitting antenna, the PW-1, available at <http://superantennas.com>. The efficient vertical is fashioned after the popular mobile "screwdriver" antennas, but is tuned manually rather than with an electric motor. It folds into a 3" x 3" x 12" package for travel and assembles in about 1 minute. An optional add-on coil extends usual 40 - 10 meters coverage to include 80 meters. The antenna's clever mounting bracket allows it to clamp to any vertical or horizontal surface. It handles up to 100 watts and is a perfect companion to "travel radios." An included counterpoise and clamp allow attachment to a table for instant use. An inexpensive optional kit provides a longer mast below the coil and a 4-foot whip above the coil for mobile use. The whip is flexible enough to fit into a suitcase. Superantennas is a spin off from the QRP movement. Vern is now selling enough antennas that he has his dental practice for sale so he can concentrate on antenna design.

The next time you get low self-esteem because you don't have the latest radio, check the fascinating story of how Cuban amateurs get on the air without benefit of factory made radios. Go to <http://www.radiohc.org/Distributions/Dxers/islanders.html>. Professor Arnie Coro CO2KK from Radio Havana describes the Islander, a transceiver made from defunct Russian TV set parts. His subtitle, "how to be on the air when you cannot buy oriental black boxes" gives a hint of what's to come.

The CW/DSB radio's vacuum tube direct conversion receiver is described as having tolerable background hum with poor selectivity. I was taught that if you can hear them, you can work them. Well, maybe not. They have to be able to hear you, too. The customary CW sidetone, which allows you to monitor your own signal, has been replaced by a "sidehum." Islander VFOs are marginal and drift in frequency, but as Arnie points out, it gets people "ON THE AIR!" Transmitter audio from salvaged telephone carbon microphones is prone to creating "strange howls" caused by RF leaks into the balanced modulator.

"Working 40 meters at night is almost impossible, but YES, they are ON THE AIR!" On CW the rig is described as "a little chirpy". Output power is "2 to 5 watts either DSB or CW on 40 meters and a new Cuban amateur is ON THE AIR!" Recently some Islanders have been replaced by the "Jaguey" which draws from Wes Hayward's Solid State Design for the Radio Amateur, the G-QRP club magazine SPRAT, and the NorCal QRP club magazine QRPP. It uses mostly Russian KT315 transistors, a 2N2222 copy, the cockroach of the transistor world. Jaguey uses parts scrounged from, you guessed it, defunct Russian TV sets. Mobile work is uncommon in Cuba since multivibrator power supplies are difficult to obtain for '51 Chevys.

It's easy to think that we don't have the same problems, but the inevitable is beginning to happen. We're developing a parts shortage, especially of through hole PC mount parts. Even common surface mount capacitors are sometimes back ordered

for up to a year. We may be salvaging parts from discarded TVs sooner than you think.

If you're planning your first mobile installation, you may want to check <http://www.connix.com/~pcb/hfmob.htm>. This is the site of Pete Brunelli N1QDQ. His good advice applies equally to VHF installations, but the real challenges are installing antennas and getting power to the rig for HF. Grounding is especially important for HF mobile. Pete doesn't mention it, but you must be very careful working around the car dashboard if you have air bags installed. It's also important to keep HTs, speakers and other items clear of the air bag area while driving. You don't want to be slapped by a rocket-propelled air bag while holding an HT to your face.

New CW operators or those helping a new ham become comfortable on CW will find that the site maintained by Jack Waggoner WB8FSV at <http://www.netwalk.com/~fsv/CWguide.htm> is a must. Jack's "Beginner's Guide to Making CW Contacts" is equivalent to 11 full pages in PAARAGraphs. Main topics include Learning the Code; Finding Someone to Talk With; What Do You Talk About?; Standard Operating Techniques; A Typical Evening on 40 Meters;

Slow Speed CW Traffic Nets; Straight Key, Electronic Keyer, Bug, or Computer Keyboard?; FISTS-a Cool Club For CW Operators; and How to Get Zillions of QSL Cards. If you don't read anything else, you should read Standard Operating Techniques, which is further broken down into 11 sub topics.

Heathkit sold mail order electronic and Amateur Radio kits. My last Heathkit was a wood working kit from a Heath/Zenith retail store. So what was Heath's very first kit? Thanks to Conrad Weiss NN6CW for the answer. Go to http://members.aol.com/wwheco3/images/hs_sup3/hsp82.jpg for a glimpse of the Heath Parasol. Conrad says, "...original cost of the Parasol was \$925 for your very own airplane kit! That's roughly equal to a fully-stuffed Elecraft K2 in today's market." Conrad recommends "Bjorn Heyning's Heath Stories". URL: <http://members.aol.com/wwheco2/index.htm>.

Paper chasers take note of a special award for working Australian stations during the 2000 Olympic year. The VK DX Association sponsors an award for contacting 15 Sydney area stations from July 1 to December 31. The Gathering of the Nations Gold Award is available for contacts on 3 or more bands, a Silver version for QSOs on 2 or more bands and Bronze for one-band contacts. To qualify, collect the postal (ZIP) code for stations worked. Qualifying postal codes are 2000-2249, 2560-2570 & 2745-2770. The web site is at <http://www.qsl.net/vkdx/sydneygold.htm>.

Travelers, anyone with antenna restrictions, or those who love playing with antennas will enjoy the web site of Monty Northrup N5FC at http://www.io.com/~maddog/hamradio/notebk_ant.htm. Monty's simple, inexpensive, portable home brew HF antenna system travels in a 3-ring binder. It's a nifty design with pretty good efficiency. It's fast up, fast down and it works.

Want a cheaper Internet Service Provider (ISP)? Research firm Media Metrix reports that most home users surf the web less than 5 hours per month. Why pay a lot for very little service? PAARA member Steve Stearns KF6OIK recommends

(Continued on page 64) Web Wandreings

BLUETOOTH

This story appeared in Monday's SJ Merc Business Section. I think we had a speaker in the last year that talked about Bluetooth. Published Monday, June 12, 2000, in the San Jose Mercury News.

-Donald L. Trask, KF6JMQ

Wireless technology hits French military barrier

by ANGELA DOLAND, Associated Press

PARIS -- This summer, Bluetooth, a long-awaited wireless technology that lets users zap data through thin air between all sorts of gadgets, is set to debut around the world. Most countries can't wait for products such as cell phones and MP3 music players equipped with Bluetooth to hit the market. But not France, where the military fears the new technology may crowd out its own communications. Part of Bluetooth's elegance is its promise of a worldwide frequency, which will make communication easier for frequent travelers. But as the world links up, the Bluetooth case shows how just one country, even with legitimate reasons, can put snags in a global project. Bluetooth works by letting electronic devices within yards of each other communicate over the 2.4 gigahertz shortwave radio frequency. Users will be able to zap a digital photo from a camera to a computer to a printer — all without cords. Or they can check e-mail from a cell phone, with their computer stashed in the back seat of their car. But in France, the military controls most of the radio range Bluetooth needs to operate, and the powerful defense establishment is not letting go. Until France and Bluetooth's backers work out a deal, everyone who hooks up to Bluetooth here may be trespassing the military's radio turf and unwittingly breaking the law. The nearly 2,000 high-tech companies backing the wireless technology will address the French problem at a four-day Bluetooth conference beginning Tuesday in Monaco, said Christina Bjorkander, a Bluetooth spokeswoman for Swedish group Ericsson SpA. Similar problems have already been resolved in Japan and Spain. But talks in France are still ongoing, said Thierry Bounneau, assistant director of the military's frequency bureau. For Bluetooth's founders — International Business Machines Corp., electronics giant Toshiba Corp., chip maker Intel Corp. and mobile phone makers Nokia Corp. and Ericsson — the easiest solution would be to convince France's military to move to another frequency, before the obstacle puts a dent in their sales. "We would be delighted if there were no more limitations on the frequency," said Jamel Tayeb, with Intel's French news office. But doing that would cost the French army hundreds of millions of dollars, says Pierre Conil, who works in the forecasting department of France's national frequency agency. It would also take years. The military claims most of the 2.4 gigahertz frequency's channels for telephones and radar. Parts of the frequency are also used for home security systems and tracking train cars. In short, there's not much room for Bluetooth.

Honorary Member 2000

(Speaker 6/2/00)

DeWayne Hendricks WA8DZP

HAMS REMEMBER BIG BAND LEADER

"TEX" BENEKE, KØHWY, SK

Big band singer and saxophonist Gordon L. "Tex" Beneke, KØHWY, of Santa Ana, California, died at a rest home in Costa Mesa May 30, reportedly of respiratory arrest. He was 86.

Beneke took over the Glenn Miller Orchestra in 1946 after Miller's death during World War II, and he continued to capitalize on the Miller sound throughout his career. He later broke with the Miller estate and formed his own band, billing it as "Tex Beneke and His Orchestra: Playing the Music Made Famous by Glenn Miller."

A native of Fort Worth, Texas, Beneke joined Miller's orchestra in 1938. His southern-style vocals helped make hits out of Miller's "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" and "Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree," among others.

Fred Mason, W5SLT, recalls that Beneke operated 10 meters from his hotel room during his travels around the country, using a wire hanging out the window. Mason also remembers running phone patches in the early 1950s, so Beneke could talk with his parents in Fort Worth.

Tim La Marca, N6RNK—a younger-generation big band leader—says he met Beneke in the early 1990s—first on the air and later in person. A mutual acquaintance had told Beneke about the young musician, so Beneke gave him a call on the local repeater. "Imagine my surprise when one evening, just as I was about to turn off my radio, there was a voice I had not heard on the repeater before."

A few months later, La Marca got to meet Beneke when his band was performing in Pasadena. "After the performance, we went backstage to meet Tex—one of the highlights of my life," he said.

"You can't mention the Big Band Era without the name of Tex Beneke coming to mind," La Marca said. "Even though his key is silent, we still have the recordings of his wonderful music to remember him by."

Curiously, Beneke's role was omitted from the movie, "The Glenn Miller Story." Beneke himself appeared in films such as "Sun Valley Serenade" in 1941 and "Orchestra Wives" in 1942.

(Continued from page 63) Web Wandreings

<http://webislist.InternetList.com>. This page locates and reviews national providers that charge less than \$9 per month (some are free). Steve also discovered <http://www.gjainc.com>, a commercial site with several good HF propagation links.

Try <http://www.dxzone.com> for 2500 neatly organized links to Ham Radio, CB, SWL & BCL, DX, Propagation, Manufacturers, Dealers, Internet & Radio,

Reference, Space, Software and Publications. A similar page with 500 links plus online magazine articles is <http://n9avg.org>.

BC DX Club and Fraser Valley DX Club will host the Pacific Northwest DX Convention DX2000 in Vancouver, BC, Canada July 28-30 featuring DX, QRP and Contesting. Check <http://www.bcdxc.org> for information.

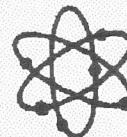
EMERGENCY RADIO DRILL MENLO PARK PUBLIC WELCOME

June 24th and 25th at Bayfront Park, east end of Marsh Rd. will be the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assoc. Nationwide drill. The organization has been effective in establishing emergency communications networks during earthquakes and other major disasters. All power used in this preparedness drill will be produced on site. The club is planning to bring old US Army style generators and batteries backed up with solar cells. The members, who are serious about working under difficult conditions, will put up the radios and antennas. The objective is to see who can make the highest number of contacts during the contest period starting at 11 AM on Saturday. Anyone interested in communications can visit our 24-hour contest, which is sponsored by the Amateur Radio Relay League. Signs will show our location in the Menlo Park city owned park. Activities include making contact with voice, Morse code, packet radio, and satellites. The web site of the club is <http://www.qsl.net/paara/index.html>. The talk in frequency is (Stanford Repeater) 145.230 Megahertz. For more information contact Andreas Junge (N6NU Radio License) at his home 650 233-0843.



WØQK

ELECTRONIC COMPONENT SUPPLY
TEST EQUIPMENT • COMPUTERS



Alltronics

2300-D ZANKER ROAD
SAN JOSE, CA 95131
408-943-9773
FAX 408-943-9776

DOWNLOAD OUR CATALOG
[HTTP://WWW.ALLTRONICS.COM](http://WWW.ALLTRONICS.COM)



MICHAEL J. ALLISON
Principal Software Engineer

AHHA! Solutions
4429 Guilford Place
Livermore, CA 94550
510 447-5414
kn6zt@amsat.org

HSC

Halted
specialties co.

Electronics • Prototyping Supplies • Computers • Lasers

Debra Blanke
Sales
KG6UI

3500 RYDER STREET
SANTA CLARA, CA 95051
www.halted.com

PHONES: (408) 732-1573
(650) 969-1448
FAX: (408) 732-6428

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-business card size, \$25-half page, \$50 full page or back cover.

These fees may be reduced or waived in exchange for a valuable consideration that is given to the Association or its general membership. Such consideration must be in addition to any existing arrangements with the association.

The PAARAGraphs editors reserve the right to reject any ad deemed to be not in the best interest of the Association. All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. Give payment and copy to Bob Korte

PAARA · Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association · P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026-0911

- Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA. •
- Radio NET every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230-600 MHz repeater, PL tone off. •

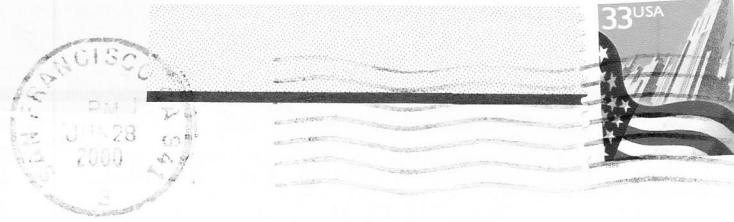
Membership in PAARA is \$12.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAGraphs, \$6 for additional family members (no newsletter).

Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association.

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

PAARAgaphs July 2000

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.
 PAARAgaphs Newsletter
 P.O. Box 911
 Menlo Park, California 94026



FIRST CLASS MAIL

Inside

Calendar	59
Upgrades	AB6SO
Contests	AB6SO
Miscellaneous Dates	60
Beginner's Bulletin	61
PAARA Ponderings	AB6SO
Web Wanderings	AB6SO
Bluetooth	KF6JMQ
"Tex" Beneke, KØHWY	SK
Field Day	PAARA

Map to General Meetings
 1st Friday 7:30 PM

Visitors Welcome

94062-3313 27

Korsak, Andy KR6DD
 504 Lakemead Way
 Redwood City, CA 94062-3919

<http://www.radioult.com>

For the
High Home Page
on the World Wide Web

AMERICA, CA 92021
 833 N. Euclid St.
 (714) 533-3733

(800) 554-8048
 Jane WAYNE/Mgr.
 Next Disneyland
 242 W. Victory Blvd
 (818) 842-7786

(800) 554-8048
 Eric KASHTI/Mgr.
 Victory Park at Buena Vista
 1 mi west 15

ORLANDO, CA 34806
 2010 Livingston St.
 (714) 534-4751

(800) 554-8048
 Mark KESOPP/Mgr.
 1000 W. 23rd Ave Group

SAN DIEGO, CA 92123
 525 Kearny Villa Rd.
 (714) 534-2881

(800) 554-8048
 Tom M. Mays/Mgr.
 510 Lawrence Expwy #102

SUNNYVALE, CA 94088
 (800) 554-8048
 (800) 854-6045
 KOMBIAMADIO.COM

Lawrence Economy
 So. from Hwy 101

NEW CASTLE, DE 19720
 1530 N. Dupont Hwy
 (302) 322-7092

(800) 644-4476
 Bob Wolf/Mgr.

Rt 13 1/4 mi. So. to 295
 PITTSTAD, MD 21223
 1775 SW Phone Hwy
 (301) 598-0555

(800) 854-6045
 Eric KEROL/Mgr.

Tigard, OR 97223
 Tigard 39W ext.
 Iron Valley S. & 217

BENNETT, CO 80221
 840 E. 11th Ave. #9
 (303) 242-3573

(800) 444-9476
 Joe KUBICKA/Mgr.

PHOENIX, AZ 85021
 1520 W. Dunlap Ave.
 (602) 242-3515

(800) 444-9476
 Gary WB7SM/Mgr.

1 mi east of I-17

ATLANTA, GA 30340
 601 Buford Highway
 (770) 933-0700

(800) 444-7827
 John L. KAROL, Mgr.
 DeKalb, GA 30050

WOODBROOK, VA 22191
 Washington 100 C. area
 14833 Bldg 2000, Dr.

(800) 444-7827
 (800) 444-7827
 Eric KUBICKA/Mgr.

SALEM, NH 03309
 224 N. Broadview
 (603) 898-3750

(800) 444-0047
 Chuck KARANZ/Mgr.
 CUMHAMMARD.COM

AZ, CA, CO, GA, VA
 Resale and sales tax
 Prices specifications,
 descriptions subject
 to change without notice

COAST TO COAST
 FREE SHIPPING
 UPS - Most items over \$100

TH-22AT
 CALL NOW!

TH-79AD(2M/400FT)
 CALL NOW FOR Our Low Pricing!

INTRO SPECIAL!

INTRO SPECIAL!