

# PAARAGraphs

*Since 1937*

Monthly Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



## Calendar

May 3, PAARA Meeting, 7:30  
Menlo Park Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park 7:30-9:30 PM

May 8, PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30  
Red Cross Bld. 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto,

June 1, PAARA Spring Picnic 11am-3pm  
Ron & Helga Panton home, see page 43

June 7, PAARA Meeting, 7:30  
June 12, PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30

June 22 & 23, Field Day



## Program

May 3, 1996 Speaker:  
**Dr. Keitaro "Kei" Sekine, JA1BLV**  
Professor of Electrical Engineering  
Tokyo Science University  
"Propagation in the Amateur Gigahertz Bands,  
How and Why"

## DX advantage

by Don Pearson, W8IDM

I remember the late Orrie Baumgardner, W8BF, for the story he told me a few years ago about his six-element twenty-meter beam.

It seems one of Orrie's DX competitors wanted to know why DX stations in Asia always seemed to give Orrie a better signal report, despite Orrie's poorer DX location. When he paid Orrie a surprise visit one summer evening, he found freshly spread horse manure in the back yard. And he noticed that the beam, pointed at Asia, also pointed right over that part of the yard.

Face straight, Orrie told him he had been experimenting with ways to improve ground conductivity, and that the manure had improved his signal reports from Asia.

This apparently impressed the visitor. Although his lawn was in excellent condition, he called a landscaper the next day to order horse manure.

*from the Feb.-Mar. '96 West Park Radiops  
"W8VM Log" AF8C, Editor*

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**PAARA Picnic June 1**

## Miscellaneous Dates

### Flea Market at Foothill (6AM - 2PM)

Mar 9...Palo Alto Chapter, American Red Cross  
 Apr 13...Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association (PAARA)  
 May 11...Perham Foundation  
 June 8...Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association (SCCARA)  
 July 13...South Peninsula Emergency Communication System (SPECS)  
 Aug 10...Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club (EMARC)  
 Sept 14...West Valley Amateur Radio Association (WVARA)

### PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

meets 1st Friday 7:30 each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,  
 contact Jerry Tucker WA6LNV 415-961-3266.

### EMARC Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club

Meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month,  
 contact Sheldon Edelman 415-858-2176.

### NCDXC Northern California DX Club

Meets 2nd Friday each month, repeater for member info 147.360, each  
 Thursday 8:00PM, contact John Troster W6ISQ 415-854-3939.

### NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club

Meets 1st Sunday each month, contact Jim Cates 3241 Eastwood Rd.,  
 Sacramento, CA 95821.

### Perham Foundation, contact Sy Stein WA6ROM 408-734-4453

### SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

Meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 224.36, 440.80 Mhz+  
 contact Mike Hastings KB6LCJ, 408-243-6745 or 408-249-6909.

### 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 Dick Collins K6ANN 415-593-8952

### Disaster Services, Palo Alto Chapter, American Red Cross

Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM, HF, packet, BBS, ATV,  
 OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite,  
 contact Ruth Claypool 415-688-0423.

### VE Exams, 3rd Saturday each month, 11AM

American Legion Hall, 651 El Camino Real, R.C.

**QRP "Ghost Town" Operation April 27**  
 HF, 6 & 2 meters—WU7F

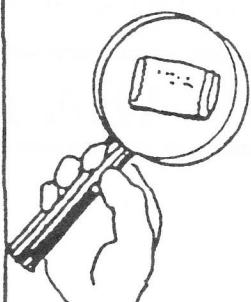
**Field Day**  
**June 22-23**



### ELMER

HOW MANY SIDES  
 DOES A SURFACE  
 MOUNT CAPACITOR  
 HAVE?

FOUR? SIX?



## PAARA Picnic June 1



### Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911

Menlo Park, CA 94026

President.....Bill Rausch, AA6PA.....(408) 637-0622  
 VP/ Program Director...Vic Black, Jr., AB6SO.....(415) 366-0636  
 Secretary .....To Be Filled  
 Corporate Secretary....Kit Kohlmoos, W6ISO.....(415) 366 7813  
 Treasurer.....Dave Bailey, WS6W .....(408) 730-5215  
 Trustee/Property/Badges..Fred Canham, K6YT .....(415) 948-9238  
 ARES Officer.....Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM ... (415) 325-5484  
 Club Historian.....Steve Stuntz, K6FS.....(415) 322-4952  
 Raffle Chairperson.....Sy Stein, WA6ROM.....(415) 967-0362

### Board of Directors

John Buonocore, KD6ZL (415) 366 1658 '97  
 Fred Canham, K6YT (415) 948 9238 '97  
 Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM (415) 325 5484 '96  
 Kit Kohlmoos, W6ISO (415) 366 7813 '96  
 Bill Smith, KE6CHQ (415) 366 9173 '96  
 Sy Stein, WA6ROM (415) 967 0362 '96  
 Rich Stiebel, W6APZ (415) 494 0128 '96  
 Steve Stuntz, K6FS (415) 322 4952 '97

(see "Calendar" for Board meeting times, visitors welcome)

### PAARAGraphs Staff

Editor.....Wally Porter, .....K6URO.....(415) 494 7038  
 Database.....Bill McElhinney, .....KA6LZI.....(415) 325 9808

e-mail Address: [wmpporter@aol.com](mailto:wmpporter@aol.com)

Submit material for PAARAGraphs by the 15th

### 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 are for "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads.

by Rich Regent, K9GDF

NOPE, TWO!



THE INSIDE  
 AND THE  
 OUTSIDE.



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## The Board Minutes

(April 10, Board Meeting)  
Notes courtesy Kit, W6ISO

Present: Bill Rausch, AA6PA, President  
 Dave Bailey, WS6W  
 Fred Canham, K6YT  
 Kit Kohlmoos, W6ISO  
 Steve Stuntz, K6FS  
 Vic Black, AB6SO  
 Lily Anne Hillis, N6PGM  
 Rich Stiebel, W6APZ  
 Wally Porter, K6URO

**Treasurer Report:** received (listed elsewhere in PAARAGraphs).

### Old Business:

1. Flea Market - final planning.
2. Licensing class discussion,
  - a. Location problem, two day event is difficult to place. Rich will contact PAFD.
  - b. City requires liability insurance. We have to determine if we have coverage.
3. Field Day discussed.

### New Business:

1. TV/VCR Problem discussed. Fred will test present system. Kit to survey what's new.
2. June 1<sup>st</sup> Picnic. Bill & Dave will meet with Pantons to make plan & agreement.

**Field Day**  
**June 22-23**



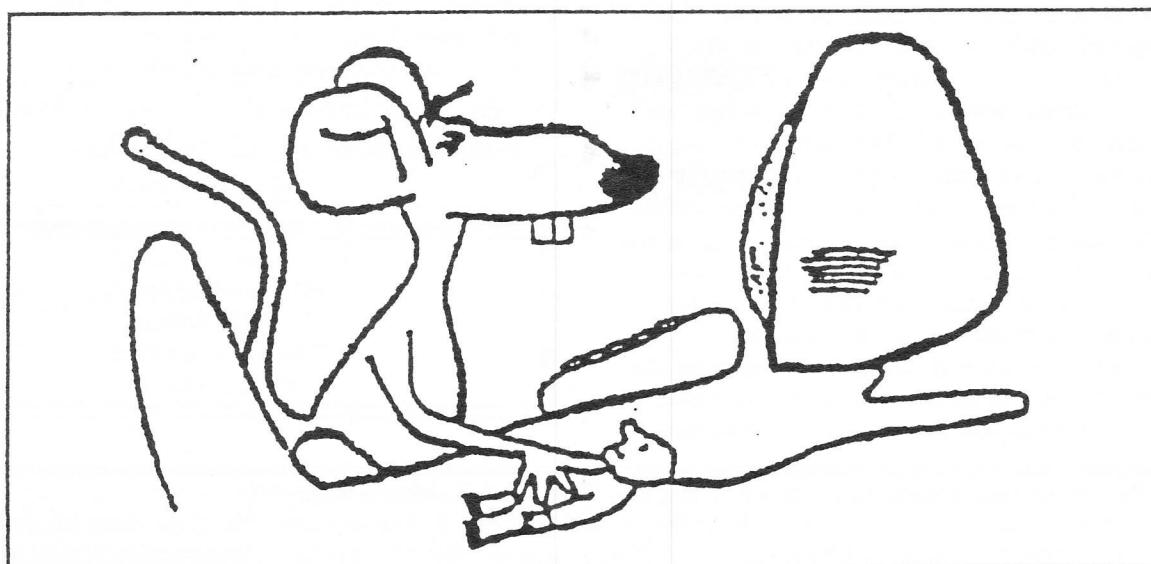
## PAARA Picnic June 1



## TREASURER REPORT

Dave Bailey, WS6W

Revenues '96	JAN	FEB	MAR
Dues	138	174	162
Flea Market	0	0	0
AMPEX Auction	0	0	0
Advertisements	0	0	0
Holiday Dinner	0	0	0
Total Revenues	138	174	162
Expenditures '96			
Stamps/Envelopes	0	0	32
DMV	43	0	0
State of CA	10	0	0
City of Menlo Park	150	0	0
Speaker's Dinner	0	24	22
Flea Market	0	0	0
AMPEX Auction	0	0	0
Meeting Refreshments	15.66	6.34	12.41
PAARAGraphs	203.09	189.37	205.23
Picnic	0	0	0
Field Day	0	0	0
Holiday Dinner	0	0	0
Misc.	31	0	0
Total Expenditures	452.75	219.71	271.64



from the June '95 North Jersey DX Association (Morris Plains, N.J.) "NJDZA Newsletter"—Bob Greenquist, K2GHV, Editor

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## PROGRAM NOTES:



### PAARA Meeting, April 5

*Thanks to Steve Stuntz, K6FS*

#### "REVERSE DXPEDITION":

World Radiosport Team Championship, Wednesday, July 10 through Tuesday, July 16, 1996.

"Rusty" Epps, W6OAT, DX-er and DXpeditioner (remember Kingman Reef in the 70's?) described the upcoming event, and showed a professionally-made video of the 1990 Seattle WRTC, which pitted four 2-operator teams from the (then) Soviet Union against 4 U.S. teams.

He described in detail the following plans for "WRTC 1996":

Pairs of top DX and contest operators from 52 countries will vie for highest contact-scores, working 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters, SSB and CW, operating from comparable sites around the Bay Area. Operating dates and hours: start at 1200 UTC (0500 PDT) July 13, end at 0600 UTC (2300 PDT) July 14.

While SSB contacts will be accepted, it is urged that CW be the main mode used: double scoring-weight will be given to CW contacts, so that teams from non-English-speaking countries will not be linguistically disadvantaged by typical contest-style SSB lingo.

This will be an expanded repeat of the first-ever such contest, held in conjunction with the Good Will Athletic Games in Seattle, 1990. Teams will be housed at the Motel 6, in Belmont. Hams - and non-hams - are invited to visit with the teams during their stay. There will be a pre-contest, everybody-invited get-acquainted hamfest/barbecue at Coyote Point Park, Wednesday, July 10.

Each of the competing 52 stations will be identified by its own special one-by-one call sign (e.g., W6A, W6B, W6C, etc., through K6Z), courtesy of your friendly FCC. Blanket permission was given to use one-time-only special calls, for the teams' use during the contest, without requiring individual reciprocal licenses for the 104 operators. Activities will be crowned by presentation of awards Sunday evening, July 14, at the Stanford University Faculty Club. A variety of commemorative souvenirs will be available, including decks of special playing cards for stations working all 52 teams.

Rusty capped his talk with a plea for support by Bay Area hams, in terms of access to local stations rimming the Bay from SFO to San Jose, and up the East side to

North Bay towns. He stressed that all participating stations should be identically equipped - rotatable tri-banders at 45-50 feet, plus a wire or dipole for 40 meters, all at (as near as possible) the same shore-level elevation. Power level is standardized at 100 watts; object of these requirements: put all 52 teams on equal footing.

Many teams will bring their own 100-watt transceivers & peripheral gadgets, cables, etc.; U.S. Customs has already authorized admission of the visitors gear. According to Rusty, all that's needed from each participating Bay Area ham, besides the above-mentioned antennas, is "antenna cables terminated with PL-259's, AC outlets, and equipment space". A few teams may have to depend on local hams for both rigs and antennas meeting WRTC limits. At this writing, volunteers are still needed to supply both the "bare bones" (antennas plus AC outlets) and complete stations.

Due to the interest of John Kent, K3TUP, owner of several ABC affiliate TV stations, professional television coverage is being donated. A crew from WJET-TV, Erie, Pennsylvania, has been assigned to shoot the goings-on, and give live satellite feeds to network stations.

From the TV coverage a one-hour film will be produced. This will be available to radio clubs and other interested organizations, probably through ARRL Field Services. Several League officials will attend opening and closing ceremonies.

Support for the entire event comes from a specially-established corporation: WRTC 96, Inc., a California mutual-benefit non-profit association.

NOTE: logs will not have to be submitted by stations working WRTC stations; each team will keep its own log. Also, no QSL's can be submitted to WRTC team stations; each team will QSL stations logged during the contest period, via the ARRL incoming bureaus. Special cards have been designed.

FOOTNOTE: while teams from 52 countries will officially participate, there will be two guest teams, one each from Estonia and Latvia, observing and helping where rules and opportunity permit.

For those interested in helping out, voice-mail or fax messages may be left for Rusty at:

(415) 365-5918.

#### New Home for President

Bill Rausch, AA6PA  
1230 Jan Avenue  
Hollister, CA 95023  
408-637-0622

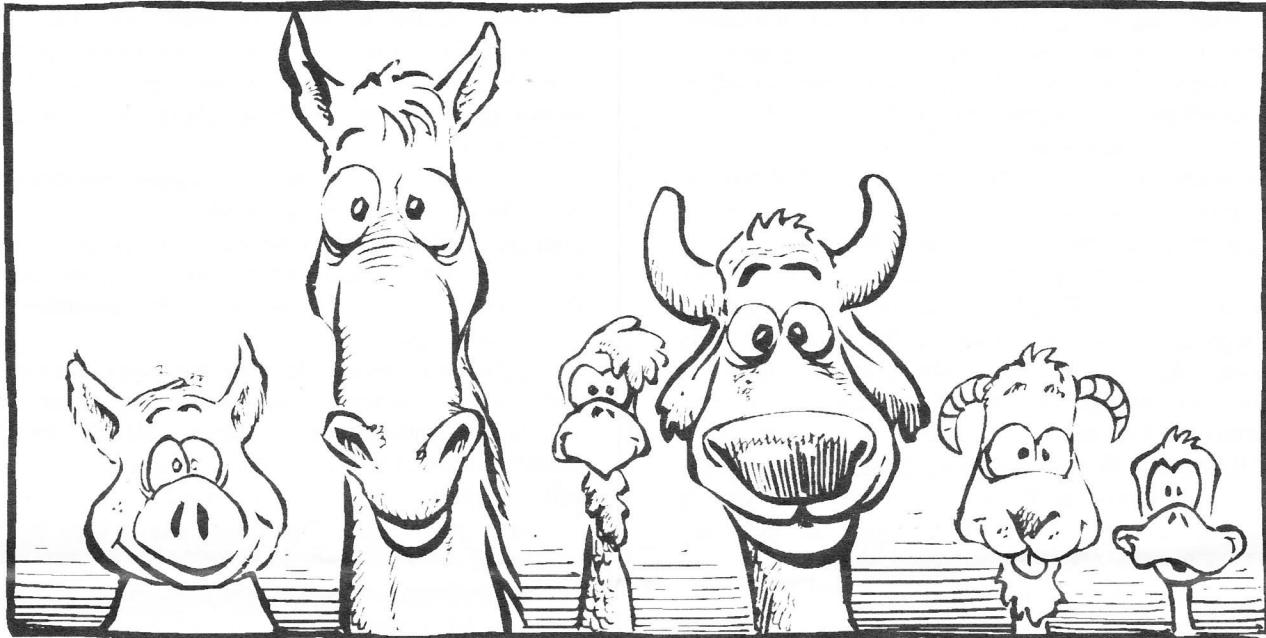
<sup>1</sup>PAARA-Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association-P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, California 94026-0911

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 repeater MHz, PL tone off. • Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAGraphs. • Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association. Permission is hereby granted to reprint from this publication with appropriate source credit.

## Guest Speaker: Kei, JA1BLV

Dr. Keitaro "Kei" Sekine, Professor of Electrical Engineering, Tokyo Science University.

# Join us for pre-meeting eyeball QSO



## gab & gobble

6 pm— at Su Hong Restaurant  
1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park  
—across from Kepler's Book Store—



**Here & There**

### F.A.R. Announces

#### 1996 Scholarship Program

The Foundation for Amateur Radio plans to administer fifty-seven scholarships for the academic year 1996-1997. Comprising over seventy-five Amateur Radio clubs, FAR fully funds eight of the scholarships with income from grants and its annual hamfest, and administers the other forty-nine without cost to the donors.

Radio Amateurs may compete for the awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school, and are enrolled in or have been accepted for enrollment at an accredited university, college or technical school. Awards range from \$500 to \$2000.

Some give preference to certain study programs or to residents of specific geographical areas. FAR encourages Amateur Radio clubs to announce these opportunities at their meetings, on their nets, during training classes, and in their club newsletters.

For additional information and an application form, mail a request (letter or QSL card) to:

FAR Scholarships  
6903 Rhode Island Avenue  
College Park, MD 20740

(FAR is a Wash. DC Corp., & exempt organization under Sec. 501(C)(3) of IRS Code. It devotes itself to promoting scientific, literary, and educational pursuits that advance the Amateur Radio Service.)

**ARNS**



## **ARNS AWARD**

The certificate indicates PAARAGraphs has been awarded "Excellent", by Amateur Radio News Service

(ARNS). More than 100 newsletters were ranked as Good, Excellent, or Superior. As this was our first year with PAARAGraphs, we are very pleased with our scores. Scores from the three judges ranged from 93 to 95 of a possible 100 points. With the scoring are comments by each judge suggesting ways to improve our newsletter, not having editorials cost us 4 points. PAARAGraphs is a new experience for us and suggestions from members and ARNS are most helpful. We really enjoy putting out our little letter and wish to thank the club for articles some of you have given us, the pats on the back when you like items and above all your financial support. Of course we can always use more of all. Thanks for the support. We are pleased to point out that the *Dxer*, of the Northern California DX Club, was awarded "Superior", the highest award, **Gary Shapiro, NI6T**, editor. **Ron Panton, W6VG**, has just completed his term as Publication Manager for the *Dxer* and is a regular contributor to the DX and VE columns in PAARAGraphs. We often reprint items from the *Dxer* that are of interest to PAARA members who do not belong to NCDXC. With this in mind the following article is from the *Dxer* by a former editor who is now editor of *ARNS Bulletin*, **Dave Barton, AF6S**.

## What's ARNS?

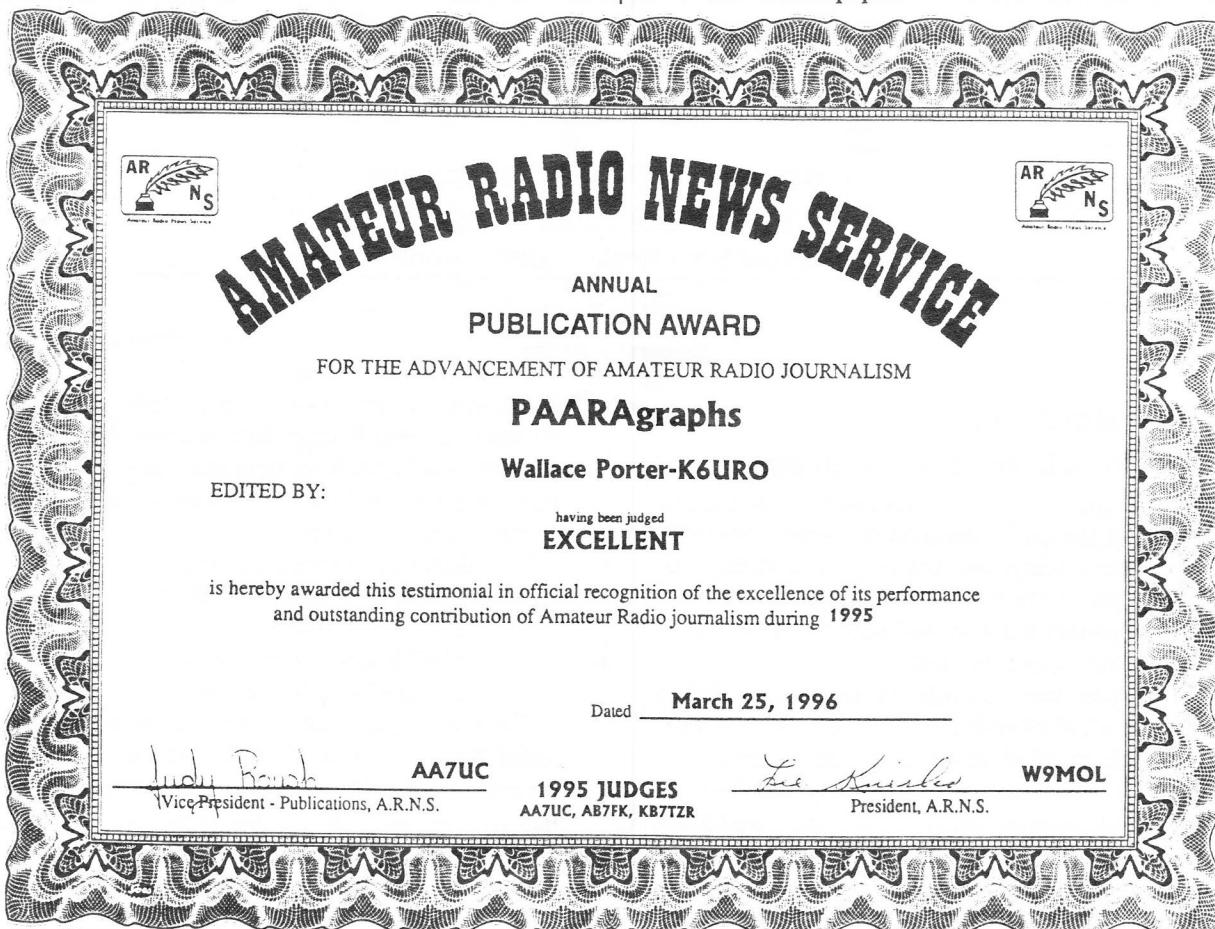
*Excerpted from article in Dyer by Dave Barton, AF6S*

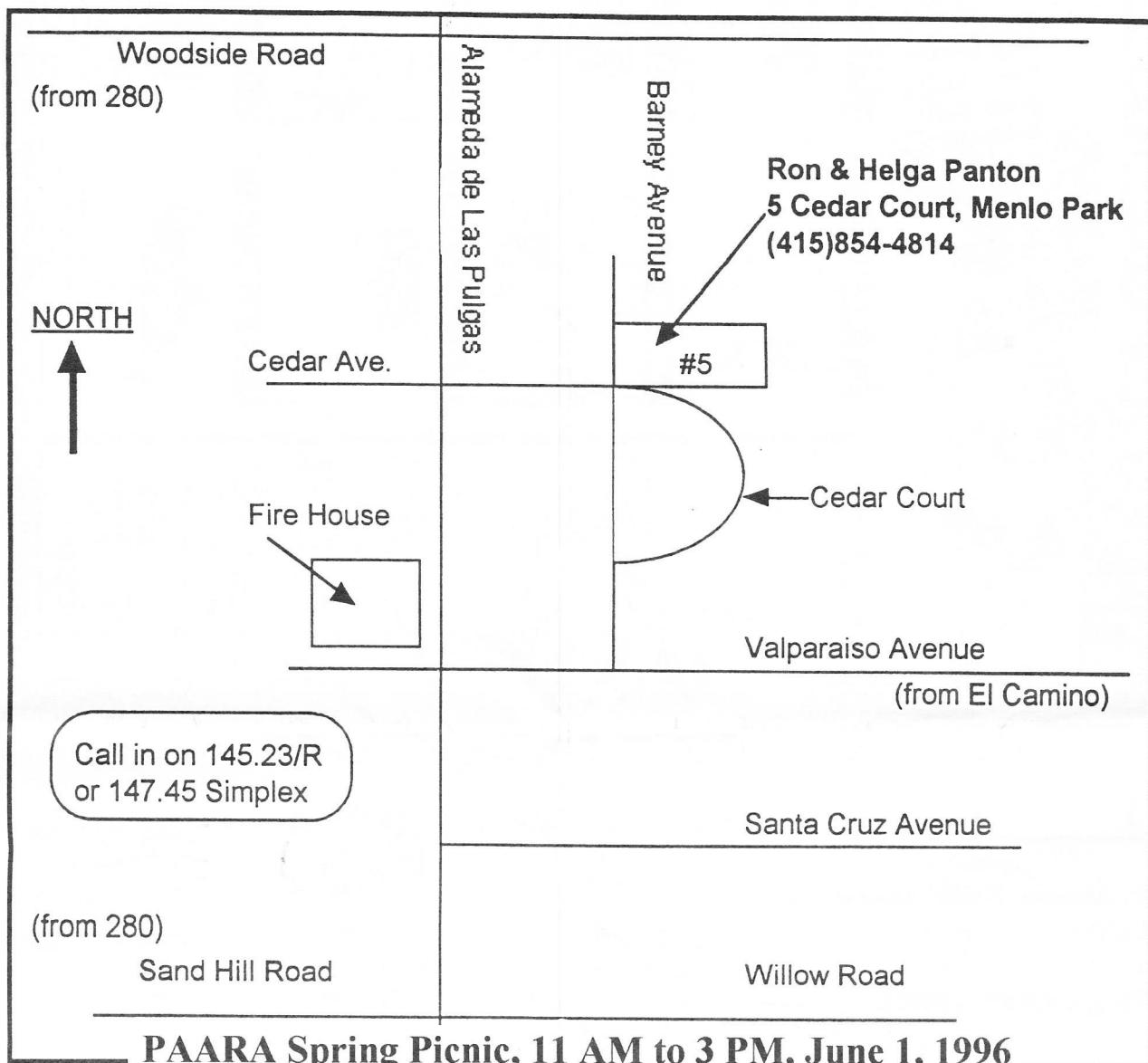
The Amateur Radio News Service is an ARRL-affiliated club whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio, mainly by helping editors of ham-club newsletters improve their publications. Most of the about-250 ARNS members are in North America, and most serve their local clubs by editing the newsletter or by doing public relations work.

ARNS publishes its own newsletter, the *ARNS Bulletin*. The Bulletin typically runs twelve pages of "how-to" articles on writing and publishing, "filler" stories gleaned from ARNS members' newsletters, and ARNS news.

One of the worst headaches a typical club newsletter editor has is getting enough high-quality material from club members. The *ARNS Bulletin* runs "how-to" articles by professional writers and editors (when we can get them to write for us) and by ARNS members with appropriate expertise.

The *Bulletin* normally does not run "filler" stories from *QST*, *ARRL Bulletins*, *Worldradio*, or other wide-circulation publications —because ARNS members already have access to these sources. Instead, the *Bulletin* runs carefully selected and edited stories from its members' newsletters. That policy allows local budding writers to be published more widely than their local club's newsletter—added incentive for members to write for their club's paper.





# Picnic

The PAARA Annual Spring Picnic will be held, Saturday, June 1, at Ron (W6VG) and Helga Panton's house from 11 AM to 3 PM. The club will supply coffee, beer, cold drinks, charcoal, and a cold cut plate. Bring your own bar-b-que goods and something to share (optional). We will have door prizes extraordinaire. Friends and guests are welcome.

