

K6YQT

PAARA NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 53 NUMBER 12, December 2004

W6OTX



# PAARAGraphs

Celebrating 67 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*  
Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



## CALENDAR

(note: change in December meeting date)	
Dec.....10	<b>PAARA Meeting</b> , 7:30 Menlo Park Recreation Center 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
Dec.....15	<b>PAARA Board Meeting</b> , 7:30 Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
Jan.....7	<b>PAARA Meeting</b> , 7:30
Jan.....12	<b>PAARA Board Meeting</b> , 7:30
Jan.....21	<b>PAARA/FARS Holiday Dinner</b>

## PROGRAM

December 10, 2004 7:30 P.M.



### Speaker:

Mitch Cipriano, AE6AI and  
Morris Jones, AD6ZH

### Program:

#### "New Products Clinic

with

#### Demonstrations....Part II"

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball  
at Su Hong Restaurant , 1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park  
Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA  
meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own order and bill.

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

## PAARA/FARS WINTER BANQUET.

Mark your calendars now for another exciting, fun and prize filled dinner meeting with other local amateur radio operators. The annual Winter Banquet which is jointly hosted by PAARA and FARS will be held on Friday evening, January 21/05 at Michaels Restaurant along the shoreline in Mountain View. This is where the event has been held for several years.

Many door prizes and raffle prizes will be awarded to the lucky winners who attend this rather unique social event. In fact, some hams believe that this is the social event of the year for this radio geographical area. The banquet is always well attended and the speaker always well received.

See the web site at: [www.fars.k6ya.org](http://www.fars.k6ya.org) for all the specific details regarding pre-purchase of the dinner tickets and driving directions to the actual restaurant. Everybody has a good time at this event.

~ Terry Finn. AF6TF.

## PAARA 2004 Dream-to-Reality Raffle II

Mark your calendar and don't miss over \$1,800 in  
prizes!

### FIRST PRIZE:

**Yaesu FT-847,  
HF+VHF+UHF  
All Mode Transceiver**

### Program:

Returning by popular demand, **Mitch** and **Morris** from Hamstop will demonstrate new products, including the "Coolest" Programmable Power Meter available. It displays Instantaneous: Voltage, Current, Power, Hi & Low Voltage Warning, and alarm status. In addition it shows Cumulative (since last reset): Amp, Watt, and Time Hours along with High & Low Voltage and Current. Wow!

<http://www.hamstop.com/>

~K6AK Jim

## Miscellaneous

### ELECTRONIC FLEA MARKET

Sponsorship by A.S.V.A.R.O.

[Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations]  
 Second Saturday of month, March-October, 6 AM-2PM  
 Howard M. Krawetz, N6HM 650-856-9761

**Hosts:**

Closed until Spring.

### 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

### FARS Foothills Amateur Radio Society

meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month.  
 contact: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>.

### NCDXC Northern California DX Club

meets 2nd Friday 7:30 each month.  
 repeater for member info 147.360, Thur 8:00PM.  
 contact: Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699.

### NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club

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

### SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz, [www.specsnet.org](http://www.specsnet.org)  
 contact: Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441 [specs@vpal.org](mailto:specs@vpal.org)

### SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

meets 3rd Thursday 7:30 each month, San Carlos City Hall.  
 Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.  
 contact:

### SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl  
 Nets: 2m, 7:30 Mon; 70cm, 442.425+ (pl 107.2) Thur.  
 Web site [www.qsl.net/sccara](http://www.qsl.net/sccara)  
 meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.  
 contact: Clark Murphy KE6KXO 408-262-9334  
 ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

### SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT 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  
 WVARA now has a 6M repeater, linked to 440 and 1.2GHz  
 meets 3rd Wed every month.

contact: Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118 or

N6FFC@Juno.com or N6FFC@ARRL.NET

### Perham Foundation (discontinued)

### Disaster Services,

**PALO ALTO CHAPTER**, American Red Cross, [www.paarc.org](http://www.paarc.org)  
 400 Mitchell Lane

Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM.  
 HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite.  
 contact: Mac Millian 650-688-0423. [MACM@paarc.org](mailto:MACM@paarc.org)

**SAN JOSE CHAPTER**. American Red Cross

contact: Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924. [FSHENSLEY@NOVELL.COM](mailto:FSHENSLEY@NOVELL.COM)

### VE Exams

3rd Saturday each month, 10:30AM, 145.23- PL=100Hz  
 Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room  
 1044 Middlefield Road, Redwood City, CA

contact: Al WB6IMX@att.net.

### Swap meet

LosPositas College, Livermore, 1st Sunday each month.

Contact: Cliff Kibbe (209) 835 6715 or Eliot Ross (925) 606 7710

(please send changes to PAARAGraphs editor: [k6uro@arrl.net](mailto:k6uro@arrl.net))



## Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

**PO Box 911**

### Menlo Park, CA 94026

President .....	Andreas Junge N6NU.....	650-233 0843 <a href="mailto:n6nu@arrl.net">n6nu@arrl.net</a>
Vice President.....	Jim Rice, K6AK.....	650-851-2274 <a href="mailto:k6ak@arrl.net">k6ak@arrl.net</a>
Secretary .....	Terry Finn, AF6TF.....	650-366-9111 <a href="mailto:terry@incognitoservices.com">terry@incognitoservices.com</a>
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Membership.....	Lisa Rice, KG6KQS.....	650-851-2274 <a href="mailto:lisa.rice@sbcglobal.net">lisa.rice@sbcglobal.net</a>
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Ticket Master assistant..	Ian Brune, K6IAN.	
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ASVARO representative	Howard Takaoka, KG6GRO	650-856-9761 <a href="mailto:htakaoka@excite.com">htakaoka@excite.com</a>
Webmaster .....	Peter Sheerin, K6WEB.....	
	K6WEB@arrl.net	

### Board of Directors

Gerry Tucker, N6NV.....	650-326 4908.....'05 <a href="mailto:gerry_tucker@juno.com">gerry_tucker@juno.com</a>
Rolf Klivo, N6NFI .....	650-856-2748 ....'05 <a href="mailto:klivo@earthlink.net">klivo@earthlink.net</a>
Adrianus Schrauwen,W6AJS.....	650-494-6256 ...'04 <a href="mailto:hagenees@att.net">hagenees@att.net</a>
Bob Korte, KD6KYT.....	650-595 1842 ..'05 <a href="mailto:rkg4u@aol.com">rkg4u@aol.com</a>

.see "Calendar" for Board meeting times, visitors welcome-

### PAARAGraphs Staff

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additional pictures by

Dick Kors KM6EP, John Larribeau KR6MR, Wally Porter K6URO

### PAARAGraphs e-mail address: [k6uro@arrl.net](mailto:k6uro@arrl.net)

Submit material for PAARAGraphs by the 15th

Use WORD, MS Publisher, rich text, or ascii  
 (New Times Roman is the common font)  
 send pictures as attachments .jpg

**PAARA Website:** [www.paara.org](http://www.paara.org)

**PAARA Forum:** <http://www.paara.org/forum/>

## *New* MEMBER PROFILE.

*New* Richard Hefner, K2JAZ, recently joined PAARA because he is trying to learn as much about amateur radio operations as possible. Richard really enjoys the socialization aspects of ham radio and is working hard toward up-grading his license status and working DX for awards. He learned about PAARA through the 9am talk net and has felt comfortable at the monthly meetings due to the friendly membership.

Keep an eye out for Richard on an up-coming television episode of 'Evening Magazine' on KPIX, Channel 5 TV. It should be a rather interesting interview to be aired sometime within 4 weeks either side of Thanksgiving.

Richard Hefner was born in San Jose in 1945 and raised in Sacramento where he learned to play some brass instruments and became rather proficient with the trumpet. When his draft notice came in 1964, he immediately enlisted in the Army as he was considered a professional musician and qualified for an appointment to the 6<sup>th</sup> Army Band, based at the Presidio in San Francisco. Prior to this event, Richard had played trumpet in the Stan Keynton Jazz Band, a well known traveling orchestra in northern California. He had the opportunity to travel throughout the world on a regular basis with the Army and can remember the sad times when he would play 'Taps' at eight or twelve funerals a day during the Vietnam war.

After his honorable discharge from the Army, Richard worked for Volkswagen of America as a parts manager for

some time before electing to return to school in 1975. He enjoyed University so much that he earned a BA in Music; a BS in Sociology; a BS in Psychology; a BS in Behavioral Science and an MA in Counseling in Education at San Jose State University. He continued on by obtaining his MFCC (marriage & family counseling credential) which required a 4000 hour internship. Richard then earned a Ph.D. in Psychology from Stanford University and a D.D. (Doctor of Divinity) in Comparative Religions at Western Seminary in Dallas, Texas.

Dallas, Texas.

Richard practiced counseling on the peninsula for a number of years until 1992 when he semi-retired and decided to slow down and enjoy life a little bit. He still offers his services on a part time basis providing counseling in Santa Clara County at the Jail and Juvenile Hall. So, if any of you PAARA members believe that you need to be evaluated or counseled by a professional, Richard is the man to see. Come to think of it, there are several PAARA members that could be referred to Richard, but that is another story for another time.

Richard's first FCC license call sign was KG6WEK, however he has received a new call of K2JAZ, for obvious reasons. He currently operates an Icom 706 with either a Cushcraft R7 or a long wire, known as a 'lazy z'; a Yaesu 7800 with a Diamond tri-band antenna and several hand helds.

Please welcome K2JAZ to PAARA and introduce yourself to him at the monthly meeting or other radio event.

~Terry Finn. AF6TF.

## **2005 WINTER BANQUET SIGNUP**

**Where:** Michael's at Shoreline  
2960 No. Shoreline Blvd  
Mountain View, CA  
650-962-1014

**When:** 6:00pm - Open Bar (No Host)  
7:00pm - Dinner  
8:00pm - Presentation

## Menu

We have decided on the following menu choices:

<b>Menu Choice</b>	<b>Price</b>
Roast Prime Rib of Beef	\$37
Breast of Chicken Florentine	\$30
Broiled Salmon Lemon Beurre Blanc	\$32
Vegetarian Brochette	\$25

Each entree is served with seasonal greens, fresh vegetables, potato du jour, and French rolls. For dessert we have an ice cream parfait. Prices include all taxes and tips.

We will have a NO HOST BAR for soft drinks, wine, beer, etc.

## FARS/PAARA 2005 WINTER BANQUET SIGNUP - PAARA Members (January 21, 2005)

Name & Call

Meal Choice      Amount  
 (B, C, S, V)

Total

## Field Day 2004

Field Day results have been posted on the ARRL website. PAARA easily won the # 1 category 2A spot in the Santa Clara Valley section out of 10 entries with a score of 6,004. San Mateo RC was # 2 (4,446) and FARS was # 3 (3,626.)

This year we did not win the Pacific Division for 2A. We came in # 4 out of 21 entries. But our somewhat lower score this year isn't what cost us the # 1 spot, as our best score ever would not have been enough to beat the Sonoma County Radio Amateurs, who posted an impressive score of 11,174. That made them # 4 in the nation for category 2A. Very very well done!

# 2 in the Pacific Division was the Mother Lode DX and contest club from Sacramento Valley (7,850) and # 3 was the Madera County ARC from San Joaquin Valley (7,254.)

Our highest ever score was 8,740 in 2003 and 7,994 in 2002. We were Pacific Division champions both those years for category 2A. So if we had repeated our results from either of those years, we would have placed # 2 this year.

PAARA was # 56 in the nation out of 455 category 2A entries. So only 12% of the entries beat our score. Not too bad.

PAARA was # 182 in the nation out of 2,249 entries for all categories. So only 8% of all the entries beat our score. That sounds even better.

Stanford was # 1 in the Pacific Division for all categories with a score of 22,694, using 8 stations on the air. Very impressive, as we would expect from them. In fact they were # 3 in the nation for all categories. They were bested only by W3AO at 32,372 (with 50 stations on the air) and KP2AA from the US Virgin Islands.

And get this. KP2AA had 25,630 points using only 4 stations, QRP power level and battery power. They produced just shy of twice as many qso's as PAARA. Wow! You can read about their effort at [http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/?con\\_id=68&call=KP2AA](http://www.arrl.org/contests/soapbox/?con_id=68&call=KP2AA)

With our score and qso count PAARA would have placed # 2 in the Pacific Division for category 3A and 4A and we would have won categories 5A, 6A, 7A, 8A and on up. Clearly 2A is the most competitive category.

To look over the results in detail go to [http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/scores.html?con\\_id=68](http://www.arrl.org/members-only/contests/scores.html?con_id=68)

You must be an ARRL member to get to the results.

Let's start plotting our strategy for next year right away. I'd like to see us crack 10,000 points! With good planning I think we could accomplish such a goal. If they can do it in Sonoma County we should be able to do it in Santa Clara County. 73,

~Ron Chester, W6AZ

### Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

at Su Hong Restaurant  
 1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own order and bill.

## Dave Rogers K5DKR

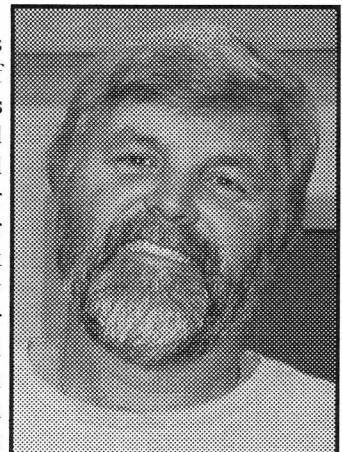
*silent key, 2004*

It's difficult to express the shock and sadness of **Dave Roger's K5DKR's** sudden and completely unexpected passing on November 8<sup>th</sup>. I knew Dave for over 30 years, back when he and I, and my next-door neighbor (now K6MTT) would chat on 11 meters CB in ninth grade. Dave was a gregarious and energetic person, and always interested in making new friends and bringing people together, a true communicator. When he got his ham ticket two years ago, he immediately formed bonds with many PAARA and SCARES club members, and was almost always available on the 145.23 repeater. I can remember his monitoring Channel 9 CB decades ago, listening for any motorist in trouble, back when the band had some semblance of order. And in the past two years it was Dave who would pipe up with directions or help out with ham motorist's troubles in the Bay Area, this time on two meter FM. When I last saw him at the November PAARA meeting, there was Dave pitching in, selling PAARA badges, again bringing folks together with his easy laugh and quick humor.

Dave always loved radio and loved to share his enthusiasm with others. He was as proud to hear that my 11-year-old got his ham ticket as he was when he upgraded to General class last summer, a real personal achievement for him. And Dave had a deep sense of Bay Area history, whether it be of the roads crisscrossing Skyline or the history of his relationships with friends (and adventures, usually involving radio) stretching back decades, which he could recall as if they had just occurred.

There are "anchors" in organizations, whether they be families, schools, at work, and especially volunteer organizations like ham radio clubs. Anchors pull groups together; they focus efforts and communicate easily and effectively; they widen their circles of friends to include more and more members, and they become keepers of the organization's history. I can remember past PAARA anchors—Fred K6YT; Ed W6AIN; Bob W6BFH; Vance W6FLE; Hal W6DEF and others. Though he was only a member for a very few years, Dave Rogers had become an anchor in PAARA. We celebrate his life, we deeply mourn his tragic passing, and we all feel adrift for losing K5DKR as one of our most enthusiastic and beloved members.

--- Rick W6NIR



## PAARA MEMBERS PASS CODE TEST.

The following graduates of the PAARA sponsored CW training class actually passed the FCC element one test at the Redwood City VE testing session on Saturday, November 21 in the morning.

Congratulations are in order for these hard working hams:

**Larry Max, KG6UXG.** up graded to technician plus.  
**Doug Teter, KG6LWE.** up graded to technician plus.  
**Merritt Yee, KG6TNO.** up graded to general.

It should be noted that this was a ten week class that took place every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7 to 8:30 PM.

The graduates worked diligently to learn this exciting new language and are now on their way to up-grading their licenses.

~Terry Finn. AF6TF.



### New Operating Awards Announced

by Vic Black AB6SO

**Bob Frostholm KO6LU** has announced several new operating awards. He offers nearly 30 different awards and some could probably be won by working PAARA members only. For instance, one award is available for working pairs of consecutive callsigns. One such pair would be **Andreas Junge N6NU** and **Gerry Tucker N6NV**.

Since new club members often attend the same testing sessions, there are many consecutively issued callsigns available locally. Another award is for working the cities in Silicon Valley with only 3 needed for the base award and upgrades available for working up to the total of 15 cities in the Valley. This is one of the awards that could easily be won on VHF or UHF. Others could be very difficult even on HF frequencies. Other awards are available for working capital cities in each state or on each of the continents, Summer and Winter Olympic Cities, US Presidents' last names and College & University Radio Clubs among others. See the web site at <http://www.ko6lu.com> where you'll find log forms provided for each award category.

## COFFEE, COOKIES, ETC....

For the past two years, the coffee, tea, cookies, snacks and other beverages that have been made available at the monthly PAARA meetings have been personally handled by PAARA members:

**Carolyn Gavin, WB6ABC**

&  
**Mike Gavin, W6WZ.**

These two fine members of our radio club have donated so much of their valuable time and resources to making the monthly meetings a successful social evening and training session, that it is high time that we, as a group, salute and thank them. So, please take a moment to personally thank them for their efforts when you see them.

By all accounts, this little extra benefit afforded PAARA members at the meetings has been well received and contributes to the over all warm and fuzzy feeling that attendees experience when they come to the monthly meeting. PAARA absorbs the financial cost of the actual consumable items, however, it takes a certain amount of time to purchase, transport and prepare those items for the meetings. Carolyn and Mike have contributed more than their fair share over the last few years and now require a well deserved break from these duties.

Therefore, PAARA would like another person or couple to step forward and volunteer their time to take over this rather important responsibility. Please give it some thought and consider donating your time to PAARA so we can continue with this social benefit that is appreciated by all. Contact Carolyn or Mike for the details and advise them that you will be able to contribute in this manner starting in January 2005.

~Terry Finn. AF6TF.

## SILENT KEY (SK) NOTICES.

We regret to inform the membership of the following hams who have passed away recently:

**David 'Dave' Rogers. K5DKR**

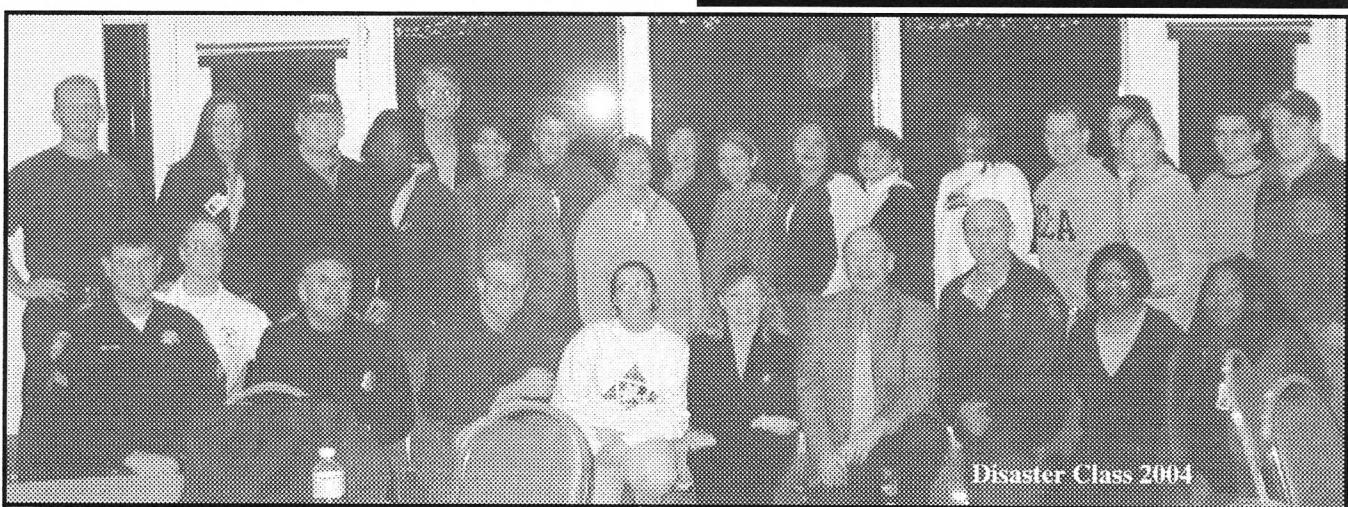
An active PAARA member. (see page 132)

**Walter 'Walt' Read. W6ASH,** A well known, longtime elmer and trustee for the 145.270 repeater on El Camino Hospital in Mountain View

**James 'Jim' Williams. K6HIO**

President of the local Quarter Century Wireless Assoc.

~Terry Finn. AF6TF.





## GOOD OLD STUFF from PAARAGRAPHS History

Andy Korsak, KR6DD kr6dd@arrl.net

### [30 years ago October 1974 VOL. XVIII No.10]

NEXT MEETING Friday, October 11 1974. PROGRAM: Chuck Towns, K6LFH, on "The Sister City Program" [I recall that Chuck was president of PROJECT OSCAR at the time of OSCAR 6 when I was secretary-treasurer] Palo Alto Times, Aug 20, mentions on p.17 that the 50<sup>th</sup> edition of "The Radio Amateur's Handbook" was recorded on tape for the blind. It took 16 months and 47 reels of two-hour tape ... **Recording for the Blind** at 488 W. Charleston

Road in Palo Alto.

Andy VE3FZK [that's I] had another one of his Mt Hamilton ATV expeditions ...as usual...nothing worked and no contacts...

**ANNUAL PAARA AUCTION AND FLEA MARKET ... DON'T MISS IT [I do!]** [at Ampex cafeteria, as usual, but it was 7 PM to midnight on Friday October 4]

HAM TINKERING column by Jerry WA6LIJ... use Freon #12 sold in cans by refrigerator supply houses...to locate defective components...then hold hot soldering iron next to the suspected parts...

The last page was a history of WWV from March 1923 ... July 1971 – WWVH relocated to Kauai, Hawaii [how many of you knew that?]

### 30 years ago November 1974 VOL. XVIII No.11

YEOLDE STAFFE OF PAARAGRAPHS Ye Noble Editor-in-Chief: Richard L. Ferranti WA6NCX Court Artiste: Count Bruce M. Rappe  
 NEXT MEETING Friday, November 1, 1974 ...Another Side of the Moon by Dr. Sy Stein WA6ROM, Guest Scientist at NASA Ames...recently retired as Medical Director...president of the Perham Foundation...a view of the moon that very few people have seen [As I recall, it turned out to be a talk and slide show about all the "fringe benefits" of NASA's moon shot and other space explorations]

PAARA NET Any old clunker 2m AM rig allowed (keep your FM junk to yourself) including 2'ers, even Andy's ½'er! 145.224 mHz around 8:15 local!! OSCAR 7 expected launch Oct 24 ... p.5 lists PST times for orbits Oct thru Dec.

PAARA HAM ASSISTS IN PERU EARTHQUAKE .. Hal W6DEF got a phone call from WA6DBT, Chief Eng'r KGEI...got WESCARS activated...sent QNC on NCN/1&2

OH NO--ANOTHER HORRID FM TRICK Yes, to show you PAARAGRAPHS is With It and 100% Boffo-Gongo (whatever that means) [Rick W6NIR (exWA6NCX, ex- editor, please translate this at the PAARA meeting] we are publishing yet another neat way to put your old trashy, shoddy AM clunker on Jet-Set, Push-to-Blab FM!

### 30 years ago November 1974 VOL. XVIII No.11

NEXT MEETING: PAARA Christmas Party Friday, December 13, at Sir George's Restaurant, Redwood City...bring a \$1 to \$2 gift [been some inflation since then!]

FOR SALE: Collins 75A2 Receiver...\$150 [see, you should have bought one back then]

Oct 25 OSCAR 7...successful launch...up and working! PAARA AUCTION ...\$393.90...the best we've ever done!...W6QBY recently took and somewhat to his amazement passed the test for Advanced Class...last meeting G3PPE/W6 introduced his wife as a "limey" to which Astute Anita added that Andy Korsak was not a limey, but more properly a lemon[oh well, I still get picked on]

### 20 years ago October 1984 vol. 27 [there was no Nov issue, and I seem to be missing a Dec issue in my archives]

REGULAR MEETING Friday, Oct 5, 1984 7:30pm Art Fury, WA6IJL, "Latest MOS Technical Development Impacting Amateur Radio"  
 POST 599 [Scouts had PAARA affiliation at the time] "Club Day" Oct 4 at Palo Alto High...Computer Club shares table with Amateur Radio Club...been invited to demo Packet Radio...thanks to Wally Porter [K6URO, current PAARAGRAPHSeitor]

PRESIDENT'S CORNER...missed September meeting...Andy, VE3FZK/V.P. then] presided...speaker John Hultquist K6GSS talked on VHF/UHF contesting...member of N.C.C.C...instrumental in pushing Pacific Division to new high score

Proposed re-wording of Article X of PAARA By-Laws due to many PAARA members no longer residing close to the Menlo Park / Palo Alto area and the drop in attendance at board meetings.

### 10 years ago October 1994 Vol. 43 No. 10 (marked incorrectly as Vol. 42)

Missing cover picture – [Lily N6PGM "begging" for someone to take over as editor-publisher]

MEETING Friday , Oct 7, 1994 7:30 P.M. No program announcement

Articles included a tribute to past PAARAGRAPHS editor George Nixon GI3OEN who suddenly died at age 51 under suspicious circumstances...he was an activist contributing much to the improvement of the East Palo Alto community.

### 10 years ago November 1994 Volume 43 No. 11

Cover picture: Lily N6PGM along with her "President's Message".

A new future Editor announced by Lily N6PGM, TM Vandenneede KC6IJE [anyone recall whatever happened to her?] [This issue was the only one I recall having the inside the inside pages 2 & 3 upside down relative to the cover.]

Articles: Flea Market Report by Gerry Tucker WA6LN (now N6NV) – KD6ZL prepared 200 cups of coffee -- out of 36 soft drink cases we sold only 23 EAA Rally Report (Electric Automobile Association) K6JBR, VE3FZK, KD6KYT, WS6W, KN6BV, KF6GL, KC6PUN, KC6PUM, WA6UUT, KD6WRC, and KE6EHS stood by judges while W6APZ was net control. After taking a ride in one of the cars, Andy VE3FZK [that's me, now KR6DD] liked it so much he bought it and used it to go to work for a few years. [I recently had it towed after it sat in my driveway for about 7 years in bad need of repair]

### 10 years ago December 1994 Volume 43 No. 12

Cover picture: Lily N6PGM along with her "President's Message". 8 pages

An Editorial from the President ..."PAARA has only a few activists"...

Articles: Interference...Tech Tickets...Code Tips...Classical Radio...FCC Update (FCC's 60<sup>th</sup> B-day!)...

## The Satellite Beacon

A monthly article presented by the Project OSCAR Amateur Radio Club



### This Month's Topic – Amateur Radio and the ISS

By Emily Clarke, W0ECC – VP of Project OSCAR

One of the most important additions to amateur radio satellites has been the addition of amateur radio equipment on the International Space Station. The amateur radio equipment on the ISS allows the astronauts and cosmonauts to conduct QSOs with schools around the world, other hams, and when not in use it provides services that all hams can use. Because it is in an environment unlike other satellites (pressurized, temperature controlled) the ISS is using the same type of radio equipment many hams use on earth! With its huge solar panels, the ISS is also not strapped for power like most amateur radio satellites, so hearing the ISS is as easy as listening to a local repeater.

#### How the ISS Communicates

The ISS is using a Kenwood TH-D700 and usually operates at a power of 10 watts, which is almost 20 times the power of AO-51 in low power and 5 times AO-51 in high power. With this much power, the average HT is able to hear the ISS without any modifications or upgraded antennas.

Since the TH-D700 has a built in TNC, it can operate as a APRS digipeater while in packet mode (the most used configuration), or it can be used by the astronauts and cosmonauts as a voice transceiver. Additionally the TH-D700 can operate as a cross band repeater! This means that it can also be used much like a terrestrial repeater and other amateur satellites.

#### Listening to the ISS

To listen to the ISS you simply have to tune to the transmit frequency that the ISS is using. The worldwide frequency for this is 145.800 MHz. If the ISS is in packet mode, you will hear packet/APRS signals similar to what you would hear on the APRS frequency (144.390 MHz). However, don't be surprised if you hear an astronaut or cosmonaut talking to school children or even other hams. If the American astronaut is having a QSO they will use the callsign NA1SS. If the Russian cosmonaut is having a QSO, the callsign will be RSOISS. If you hear hams having QSOs with each other it indicates that the ISS is in voice repeat mode and open for hams around the world to use the ISS as a repeater.

#### Using the ISS for APRS

Using the ISS for APRS is very easy – you simply use the digipath "UNPROTO VIA ARISS" and the ISS will digipeat your APRS packets. You will need to receive on 145.800 and transmit on 437.800MHz. If you are successful, you will see your packets repeated by visiting the ISS APRS website:

<http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/ariss/index.cgi>

#### Using the ISS Voice Repeater

Using the ISS voice repeater is a little more difficult. If

the ISS is in voice repeat mode, you will have to receive on 145.800 and transmit on 437.800 MHz (there is no PL tone required). However, because of doppler shift, you will need to start to tune your transmitter about 5 KHz below the center frequency when the ISS is approaching, and tune to about 5KHz above the center frequency after it passes overhead. This is very critical if you expect to be heard. It's also tricky – unless you are working full-duplex you will not be able to tell if you are making it through the repeater.

#### ISS QSL Cards

If you are lucky enough to log a QSO with one of the astronauts you will qualify for an ISS QSL card. Refer to the ISS website for QSL and other information at:

<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/>

73, Emily

## PAARA Radio NET

every Monday evening at  
8:30 P.M.,local time

on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off

## PAARA CODE CLASS.

Thursday, November 18/04 was the last training class of the PAARA code group for this year. Instructors **Mike Gavin, W6WZ**,

**Stan Towle, WA6ZGI**, and **Terry Finn, AF6TF** finished this grueling CW training class after ten weeks of intensive, hands on practice. The students were required to meet every Tuesday and Thursday evening from 7 PM to 8:30 PM for the group session and then had to execute personal training sessions at home during the week.

As this article went to press, we did not have a list of the code class graduates as they were expected to appear at the VE testing session in Redwood City on Saturday, November 19/04. Those who do pass the FCC element for code will be recognized at a PAARA meeting.

It should be noted that **Dave Rogers, K5DKR (SK)** came to the classes frequently to help the new students and provide moral support as he was an earlier graduate of the PAARA code class during the spring of 2004.

**Al Montoya, WB6IMX**, also provided his expertise from time to time by conducting actual practice exams in the class. The PAARA membership would like to thank the instructors for their time, patience and knowledge in providing this class which has been a real benefit for some of the hams who have had a little trouble learning the code on their own. It should be noted that the instructors did all of this on their own time and the training facility was generously donated by a PAARA member. This is what ham radio is all about, isn't it? Thank you, gentlemen.

~ Terry Finn. AF6TF



## Technical Tip

Edited by Vic Black

### Computer Monitor RFI

by Steve Yates AA5TB

I've had many problems with noisy computer monitors. Most computers will allow you to adjust the vertical scan rate and to move the HF frequency at which the emission occurs. Therefore, you may be able to go into your "display properties" and change the vertical scan rate and put the RFI on some unused frequency. If the video adapter is rather old you may not have too many (if any) v-frequency options, but it's worth looking into. Of course, as far as the computer user is concerned, the higher the vertical frequency, the better (less flicker) so long as you don't exceed the monitor manufacturer's specifications or run into strange video effects. The operating system (Windows 9x, at least) will usually allow you to easily go back to the old setting if things don't work quite right. Used by permission from Steve Yates, AA5TB, Fort Worth, TX  
*aa5tb@arrl.net* <http://www.geocities.com/aa5tb>

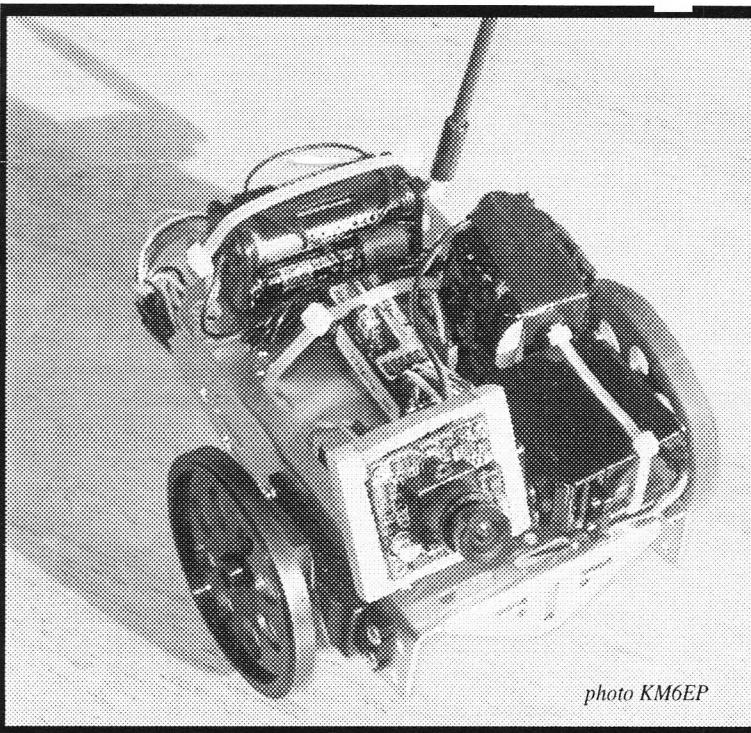


photo KM6EP

The "VideoBot" is designed to investigate remote locations and return a NTSC video signal via a 900 Mhz, 600 mw FM transmitter. The robot activity is now commanded with a standard 72Mz R/C system which controls the camera Y plane viewing angle through 160 degrees plus the direction and speed of the individual motors driving the two main wheels. The robot has extreme maneuverability. The next phase of the project is to add a GPS receiver feeding a microcomputer making the robot capable of waypoint to waypoint or autonomous navigation. The robot was built and demonstrated by

*~Dick Kors, KM6EP*

## G4FON Site reviewed

by Vic Black AB6SO

**Ray Goff G4FON** maintains an interesting web site at <http://www.g4fon.co.uk>.

He has written shareware programs that are of interest to anyone learning Morse code. One is a CW trainer using the Koch method of teaching code. There's also a program, QSO Diary, for simple logging of contacts using a Palm PDA. His Contest Trainer uses the same basic software modules as his Koch Method CW trainer. It throws you into the thick of an imaginary contest. Callsigns are sent through your PC sound card and you are expected to copy them down, take the report and log the QSO. It can help to increase your CW copying speed while training you in contest-type or DXpedition operation.

If you like HF Pack, travel or portable operation, you'll enjoy experimenting with his design of a portable magnetic loop antenna, which folds down to a length of 20", or about the length of your forearm. This design is unique in that it has a band switch which allows operation on 20, 30 and 40 meters.



PAARA Thinker Oct 2004

### Congratulations: PAARA Raffle Prize Winners

November 5<sup>th</sup> 2004

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: Rob Riley KG6HVW /

FT-60R Yaesu Dual Band, 5W, H.T.

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Dan Ryan K6DJR /

Garmin / Foretrex 101, Wrist Mount GPS Receiver

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Frank De Francesco KE6LSP /

Icom IC-T2H, 2m, 6W, H.T.

4<sup>th</sup> Prize: Stephen Leander KV6O /

TWO Uniden FRS / GMRS Radios

5<sup>th</sup> Prize: James Tyranski KG6UDW /

ARRL Hints and Kinks

5<sup>th</sup> Prize: Bob Golder WA2CFN /

Antenna Compendium

Bonus Prize: Hiro Kato AH6CY /

Repeater Directory

### PAARA Members and Visitors:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT of the upcoming  
 PAARA 2004 Dream to Reality Raffle II this December,  
 as well as the exciting monthly raffles!

Since Feb. 03, 53 Radios, including an ICOM 706 MK IIIG  
 and TWO Elecraft KX1's have gone to Fellow Hams,  
 THANKS TO YOU!

PAARA is having a remarkable year in 2004, and if you aren't a member, please join PAARA and experience fun events with the friendliest club around.

*~K6AK Jim*

# PAARA

**December 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting and Raffle**

**PROGRAM: "New Products Clinic with Demonstrations Part II"**

**SPEAKER: Mitch Cipriano, AE6AI and Morris Jones, AD6ZH**

Returning by popular demand, Mitch and Morris from Hamstop will demonstrate new products, including the "Coolest" Programmable Power Meter available. It displays Instantaneous: Voltage, Current, Power, Hi & Low Voltage Warning, and alarm status. In addition it shows Cumulative (since last reset): Amp, Watt, and Time Hours along with High & Low Voltage and Current. Wow! Check out the 2<sup>nd</sup> place Raffle Prize below!

<http://www.hamstop.com/>

**PAARA "The Friendliest Club Around"**

## Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

**Date and Time: Friday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 p.m.**

**Location: Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma St., Menlo Park, CA.**

## Welcome Members and Visitors

**SPECTACULAR, UNBELIEVABLE, & HEART-POUNDING EXCITEMENT!!**

**"MUST ATTEND EVENT OF THE YEAR" say Amateur Radio Operators Worldwide...**

## ***PAARA 2004 Dream-to-Reality Raffle II***

*Mark your calendar and don't miss over \$1,800 in prizes!*

### **FIRST PRIZE:**

***Yaesu FT-847, HF+VHF+UHF***

***All Mode Transceiver***

The BEST transceiver in the \$1500 class! SSB, CW, HSCW, AM, FM, Packet, SSTV, RTTY, 6m, 2m, 70cm, DSP and FULL DUPLEX SATELLITE OPERATION

***"Special thanks to Bob, Howard, Rick, and everyone at HRO for all their help!"***

**SECOND PRIZE: Programmable Power Meter / Hamstop**

**(See above description under "Speaker")**

**THIRD PRIZE: EZ-PSK USB with Cable / Hamstop**

**Small Portable Lightweight Package with no jumpers. "Mitch, thanks for the donation!"**

**FOURTH PRIZE: Power Panel 6 / Hamstop**

**6 Port DC Power Distribution Panel, ports fused & filtered. "Mitch, thanks for the donation!"**

**FIFTH PRIZE: TWO Uniden FRS/GMRS Radios with NiMH batteries and drop in charger**

**SIXTH PRIZE: ARRL HANDBOOK / Hamstop**

**SEVENTH PRIZE: Quartz / Halogen 1,000,000 candle power spotlight /Rechargeable two ways**

**EIGHT thru TENTH: 04-05 Repeater Directory/ BNC window mount/ Soldering iron & stand**

Enjoy fabulous speakers, free refreshments, chatting with friends, and the chance to take home an unbelievable prize. See you at Round Table after the meeting! Kyle, Ian and I are having a lot of fun.

**The PAARA Raffle is FULL of SURPRISES and YOUR LUCKY DAY may be December 10<sup>th</sup>**

Contact Kyle, KG6MSK and Ian, K6IAN, "Two of PAARA's youngest members" for tickets at the meeting.

**Since February 2003 53 Radios, including an ICOM 706 MK IIG have gone to Fellow Hams, THANKS TO YOU and the PAARA Raffle!**

*~K6AK Jim*

## NEW "NAME BADGE COORDINATOR."

Doug Teter, KG6LWE, has agreed to take over the position of PAARA name badge coordinator. This position became vacant due to the un-timely passing of **Dave Rogers, K5DKR (SK)** who had masterfully handled those duties for the past year and a half.

Doug and Dave have known each other for many years as they both grew up in the Menlo Park, Redwood City area. Their interest in amateur radio has become intense over the last year or so as they both were upgrading their licenses and learning the code. Dave graduated from the spring PAARA code class and Doug graduated from the fall PAARA code class. They were good friends and Doug wants to continue the great PAARA name badge service as a little reminder of his relationship with Dave. Thank you, Doug.

Please contact Doug at the monthly PAARA meetings to order your name and call sign on the official PAARA identification.

~Terry Finn, AF6TF.

## PAARA BADGES

*to order one, contact coordinator:*

Doug Teter, KG6LWE  
 dteter@ewi.com

## PAARA Radio NET

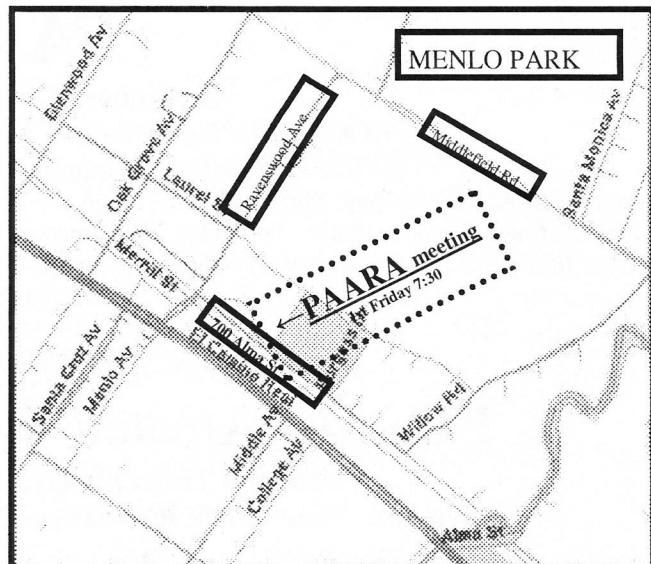
every Monday evening  
 8:30 P.M., local time  
 on the

**145.230 -600 MHz repeater**

*PL tone off*

*control operators:*

- 1st Mon KG6ILA, Pinkney Foster
- 2nd Mon N6NU, Andreas Junge
- 3rd Mon AD6FX, Jon Zweig
- 4th Mon AA6PA, Bill Rausch
- 5th Mon tba



## PAARA Website

[www.paara.org](http://www.paara.org)

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

**QSO**  
**December 10th**  
**gab & gobble**



*Food will be served at 6:00 sharp, so guests will be on time for the PAARA meeting. Those arriving late will be responsible for their own food order.*

**6 pm—at Su Hong Restaurant**

**1039 El Camino Real**  
**Menlo Park**

*—across from Kepler's Book Store—*

**Want and For Sale ads in**

**PAARAGraphs**

**are FREE to members**

*(Submit by e-mail or letter before the 15th of the month)*



*Howard at HRO says: "HAM accessories and gift certificates are available at HRO"*

*"Congratulations PAARA on a successful year."*



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## PAARA ELECTION NOTICE.

**Gerry Tucker, N6NV**, the election nominating committee chairman has announced the results of the nominating committee search for viable candidates to run in the PAARA election on **December 10, 2004**.

The election will be handled in the normal fashion during the regular PAARA meeting on that Friday evening. Candidates will be in attendance. All PAARA members voting must be current, paid up, regular members.

Those PAARA members who have been nominated are as follows:

for President: **Terry Finn. AF6TF.**  
for Vice President: **Peter Martin. K6WEB.**  
for Secretary: **Adrianus Schrauwen. W6AJS.**  
for Treasurer: **Ron Chester. W6AZ.**  
for Board member: **Jim Rice K6AK.**

Note that there is only one Board member position open this year.

Submitted by:

**Gerry Tucker. N6NV.** Nominating Committee chair.

## 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, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911

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**PAARAGraphs** December 2004



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

# **FIRST CLASS MAIL**

# *MERRY CHRISTMAS*



photo KM6EP

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