

K6YQT

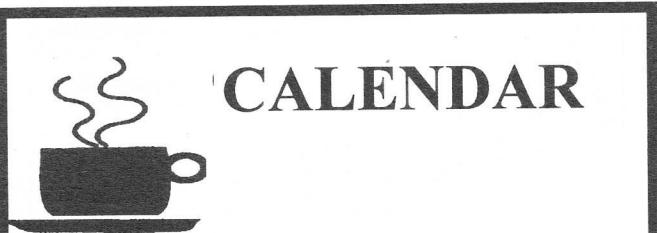
PAARA NEWSLETTER  
VOLUME 51 NUMBER 9, September 2002

W6OTX

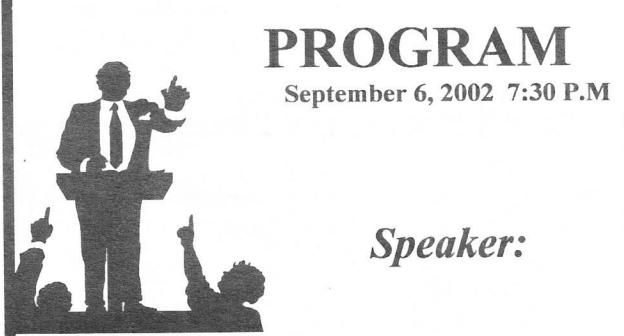


# PAARAGraphs

Celebrating 65 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*  
Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



- September....6, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30  
Menlo Park Recreation Center  
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- September..11, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30  
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- October.....4, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- October.....9, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30
- November...1, **PAARA Meeting**, 7:30
- November...6, **PAARA Board Meeting**, 7:30  
The ARRL has a code practice:  
[URL http://www.pcpractice.com/CW/](http://www.pcpractice.com/CW/)  
-Don KF6JMQ



## PROGRAM

September 6, 2002 7:30 P.M.

### Speaker:

**Rick, N6DQ.**  
Getting a legal Tower approval in the  
City of San Carlos

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



## Soap Box Operations

by Jay Melvin, WA6SBO@ARRL.NET

### Hobby, Practice and Service

The communications Act of 1934 as amended by the U.S. Congress, permits hams use half of the radio spectrum. The other half is shared by the government, including the military, and Public Service – Police, Fire, (privatized) Ambulance, etc. and commercial interests (corporate media, Family Radio Service, etc.). This important and valuable privilege is ours, the law says, because Amateur Radio operators are expected to provide a pool of trained communicators in time of national emergency and because we are actively involved in furthering the state of the art of radio science and new technology development.

Amateur Radio is also a wonderful sport. And our contesting, rag chewing and socializing are usually referred to as a hobby. Many hams actually never refer to Amateur Radio as anything other than as The Hobby. But when we describe ourselves solely as hobbyists, we do ourselves a slight and deprecate society's value of our privilege by not emphasizing our contributions to Public Service and the Research and Development of radio technologies and practices. With that in mind, I'd like to ask that each of us consider the word "hobby" and use it carefully. Our descriptions of Amateur Radio should predispose listeners, including ourselves as we talk, to create a high level of esteem for who we are and what we are doing with the privileges that have been bestowed on us as we practice the art and science of Amateur Radio communications. SK

### Medical Mission Seeks Amateur Radio Operators

Interested in visiting another country, helping out a good cause, using amateur radio and having a whole bunch of fun at the same time? Getting involved in a medical mission to Honduras may be just the right opportunity for you!

The International Health Service (IHS) of Minnesota is a non-profit organization that provides free health care to the

(Continued on page 84) Medical Mission

**PAARAGraphs September 2002**  
**Celebrating 65 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937**

## Miscellaneous Dates

<b>ELECTRONIC FLEA MARKET @ Foothil College</b>	
<b>Perham Foundation Sponsorship</b>	408/734-4453, 408/736-2685 fax
Second Saturday of month, March-October, 6 AM-2PM	
Sept 14 PA Chapter, American Red Cross	
Oct 12 PAARA	
<b>PAARA</b> 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	
<b>FARS</b> Foothills Amateur Radio Society	
meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month, contact: Sheldon Edelman N6RD, 650 493 7212, <a href="mailto:n6rd@earthlink.net">n6rd@earthlink.net</a>	
<b>NCDXC</b> Northern California DX Club	
meets 2nd Friday 7:30 each month, repeater for member info 147.360, Thur 8:00PM, contact: Bob Mammarella KB6FEC 408 729 1544.	
<b>NorCalQRP</b> Northern California QRP Club	
meets 1st Sunday each month, contact: Jim Cates 3241 Eastwood Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821.	
<b>Perham Foundation,</b> contact: (408) 734 4453,	
<b>SPECS</b> Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System	
meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz, <a href="http://www.specsnet.org">www.specsnet.org</a> contact: Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441 <a href="mailto:specs@sypal.org">specs@sypal.org</a>	
<b>SCARES</b> 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:	
<b>SCCARA</b> 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	
<b>SVECS</b> Silicon Valley Emergency Communications	
Operates WB6ADZ repeater (146.115 MHz+) contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999	
<b>WVARA</b> 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 <a href="mailto:glokke@pacbell.net">glokke@pacbell.net</a>	
<b>Disaster Services,</b>	
<b>PALO ALTO CHAPTER</b> , American Red Cross, <a href="http://www.paarc.org">www.paarc.org</a>	
400 Mitchell Lane Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM. HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite. contact: Mac Millian 650-688-0423. <a href="mailto:MACM@paarc.org">MACM@paarc.org</a>	
<b>SAN JOSE CHAPTER</b> , American Red Cross	
contact: Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924, <a href="mailto:FSHENSLEY@NOVELL.COM">FSHENSLEY@NOVELL.COM</a>	
<b>VE Exams</b> , 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	
<b>Swap meet</b> , 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: <a href="mailto:k6uro@arrl.net">k6uro@arrl.net</a> )	

### Instructions on how to subscribe to our mailing list

Here are the steps in the long form:

- 1) go to <http://mailman.qth.net/>
- 2) click on: "To Subscribe to Lists Click Here!"
- 3) Find PAARA on list and click on it
- 4) enter your email address and pick a password
- 5) hit the "Subscribe" button

The short form of the instructions are:

- 1) go to <http://mailman.qth.net/> and follow the instructions.

Andreas, N6NU

### Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

**PO Box 911**

**Menlo Park, CA 94026**

President	Vacant
Vice President	Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843 <a href="mailto:n6nu@arrl.net">n6nu@arrl.net</a>
Secretary	Jay Melvin, WA6SBO.....(650) 726 4361 <a href="mailto:wa6sbo@arrl.net">wa6sbo@arrl.net</a>
Treasurer	Bob Korte, KD6KYT.....(650) 595 1842 <a href="mailto:RGK4U@aol.com">RGK4U@aol.com</a>
Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO.....(650) 366 0636 <a href="mailto:ab6so@smrn.com">ab6so@smrn.com</a>
W6OTX Station Trustee	Gerry Tucker, N6NV.....(650) 326 4908 <a href="mailto:tucker.gerry@ssd.loral.com">tucker.gerry@ssd.loral.com</a>
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	Vacant?
Advertising	Bob Korte, KD6KYT.....(650) 595 1842
Webmaster	Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843 <a href="mailto:n6nu@arrl.net">n6nu@arrl.net</a>

### Board of Directors

Gerry Tucker, N6NV	(650) 326 4908	'03
Rolf Klivo, N6NFI	(650) 856-2748	'03
Jim Rice, K6AK	k6ak@arrl.net	'03
Adrianus Schrauwen, W6AJS (completing Joel's term)	hagenees@att.net	'03
(Joel Wilhite, KA7TXV	resigned 5/8/02	'03)

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

### PAARAGraphs Staff

Editor	Wally Porter, K6URO.....(650) 494 7038 <a href="mailto:k6uro@arrl.net">k6uro@arrl.net</a>
Database	Don Trask, KF6JMQ.....(408) 251 6494 <a href="mailto:kf6jmq@arrl.net">kf6jmq@arrl.net</a>
Columns	Vic Black, AB6SO.....(650) 366 0636 <a href="mailto:ab6so@smrn.com">ab6so@smrn.com</a>

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

Submit material for PAARAGraphs by the 15th

Use WORD, rich text, ascii, .pub, .ps, or .jpg,

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





Art Bolton 6AGY, now NM6K, starting 80 years of operating.



Art NM6K at 95 years with Kyle KG6MSK at 8 years



Kyle

**KG6MSK** operating GOTO station Field Day 2002  
(August 11 2002, at 1:40 p.m. local time **Kyle Rice KG6MSK**,  
made his first contact as a licensed Technician,  
with **Art Bolton NM6K**, via the Stanford repeater.)

## PAARA TOTAL EXPERIENCE

### New 8 year old makes first contact with 80 years of experience of 95 year old.

(This article is an adaptation from one presented to other publications related to PAARA Field Day 2002. The first brief was written by Gerry Tucker N6NV for QCWA, the second by Jim Rice K6AK as a result of Kyle's continued effort for his ham license. Most of us have sentimental memories of our first "contact" but it is rare it is with another ham that started as a young fellow 80 years ago and also get to see him in person.—K6URO)

### Art Bolton From 6AGY To NM6K In 80 Years

Art Bolton, NM6K, formerly 6AGY, was recently awarded the Quarter Century Wireless Association's 80-year plaque (#17)! Art kindly submitted to an interview, recalling his early interest in code and ham radio.

A Boy Scout Handbook provided the early trigger for Art's first interest in learning the code. In the early part of 1920, Art and a neighbor, Bob Hatfield, strung a #12 galvanized wire between their houses in Berkeley, California and proceeded to work on what was then just a love of Morse code and the new electronics technology. Like any 13 year old Art says he spent many a night under the covers with a flashlight reading the Art Bolton From 6AGY To NM6K In 80 Years Art Bolton, NM6K, formerly 6AGY, was recently awarded the Quarter Century Wireless Association's 80-year plaque (#17)! Art kindly submitted to an interview, recalling his early interest in code and ham radio. A Boy Scout Handbook provided the early trigger for Art's first interest in learning the code. In the early part of 1920, Art and a neighbor, **Bob Hatfield**, strung a #12 galvanized wire between their houses in Berkeley, California and proceeded to work on what was then just a love of Morse code and the new electronics technology. Like any 13 year old Art says he spent many a night under the covers with a flashlight reading the Electro-Import Company catalog and other magazines on this hot new technology called radio. Using galena detectors they would listen to the coastal Navy station at Bolinas, California, honing their skills on the Morse messages. In October of 1920, Bob and Art went to the 2nd San Francisco Radio show. One of the booths was sponsored by the FCC, and after asking a couple of questions, the examiner encouraged him to take a license test then and there. Ten wpm was required and Art passed the test on the spot. The system must have worked pretty efficiently back then, because his license arrived a month later in November. The two letter calls had by that time already been taken, by the 'key people,' and Art's call came in as **6AGY**. A short time later it became **NU6AGY**, and later still **W6AGY**.

Art built a one-tube receiver and his first transmitter had a straight gap, but was quickly improved upon with a rotary gap. Bob's father was a Professor at UC Berkeley and had

(Continued on page 80) Total Experience

**PAARAGraphs September 2002**  
**Celebrating 65 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937**

access to 'throw-away' parts from the station at Bolinas, and this probably provided a rich source for Art's early home made equipment. Art has no trouble remembering the calls of such early hams as 6AN who had a beautiful 500-cycle note using some much sought after Navy surplus equipment. He recalled **Colin B. Kennedy, 6KN** (and his wife **Sophie, 6SK**) who came out with a regenerative receiver with a tickler coil, (also one of the author's. 1st radios!). Then there was **Carroll Steffan, 6EX**, who had a 1kW rotary spark gap. There was **Harold Babcock, 6BK** and living across the street was **Harold Silant, 6HN**, who heard the first human voice over the radio in Art's Berkeley neighborhood. Down the street was **6HM** so we can see that the area around the university was a hotbed of early ham activity. Art, ever the technologist, moved on to phone about '22 or '23. These must have been the 'good old days' of ham radio and, to hear Art talk about it, he relished every minute of it.

Around 1926 Art and a friend from the Carmel, California area were attending the recently opened College of San Mateo and decided it should have a college amateur radio station. They were allowed to set it up in an old house on Ninth Avenue near Baywood Park, which served as an annex to the original college site before it moved to the Baldwin High School site. Their transmitter used an 802 final, which was good for 30 to 50 watts. Art recalls the original college license as **6JC**, and as the transmitter location moved with the progress of the college it was variously **6JU**, **6YU**, and finally the present PBS broadcast station **KCSM**.

Art let his license lapse in the late 30's, marriage and a working stint in New York and Chicago keeping his mind on other issues. On returning to California around 1942, Art renewed and got the call **N6FQK**. He and his wife Dorothy moved from Berkeley to Menlo Park in 1949, where he quickly set up a Ham Shack in the back yard. In a break with tradition, Art went looking at the local Ham store for a couple of books he wanted and 'accidentally' returned with ICOM 702. It was his first non-home-brew rig! About 1975, and thinking his call might raise eyebrows if used on a DMV license plate, Art persevered with two trips to the FCC and finally passed his Extra class test, receiving his present call, **NM6K**. In 1986, Art and Dorothy took a trip to Egypt on a freighter that carried a small number of passengers. Art had his 'new' rig with him and was allowed the use of the radio room from midnight to 8AM. He admits, some nights he "didn't get much sleep!" Obviously, over the years Art has gotten a lot out of ham radio and contributed a lot to it. Art is a long time member of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, and still attends most of the monthly meetings.

**HandiHams**  
[www.handiham.org](http://www.handiham.org)

### Kyle Rice KG6MSK

On August 11 th. Art Bolton NM6K age 95, and **Kyle Rice KG6MSK** (age 9 as of August 6 th.), got their picture taken together. Art and Kyle are the oldest and youngest PAARA members, respectively. The photos and other information were submitted to QST for possible publication. Another highlight of the day, was when Kyle made his very first licensed QSO with Art.

When I mentioned to Kyle that **Wally K6URO** was going to put the ARRL information about him into PAARAGraphs, Kyle asked me if I could thank some people for their help.

Kyle wants to thank everyone that attended the August club meeting for singing Happy Birthday to him and eating his cake. Kyle likes to go to the PAARA meetings as well as Round Table later.

Kyle wants to thank **Vic, AB6SO** and **Andreas, N6NU** for all their help. Vic has helped Kyle with several ARRL Kid's Day contests and gives him a lot of tips on Amateur Radio. Vic likes to spend time with Kyle and go on some family outings.

Andreas frequently brings equipment, as well as the knowledge to make it work properly. He is very generous with equipment to Kyle and myself. He really enjoys helping people get started in Amateur Radio. Recently, as an incentive for Kyle to pass his Technician License, Andreas gave Kyle his hand built NorCal 40A transceiver. Kyle is NOW working on his CW.

Kyle wants to thank **Don K6DPW** for helping him make 39 contacts on the ARRL field day GOTA Station. It was heartwarming to watch them interact with each other.

Thanks to everyone that helped with Kyle and Art's QST submission.

Everytime I listen to Kyle talking on the radio and the other operator treats Kyle very nicely, it makes me proud to be involved in Amateur Radio.

73 de **K6AK Jim, KG6KQS Lisa, and KG6MSK Kyle**

### HELP WANTED

**PAARA Treasurer, Bob Korte,  
KD6KYT**

could use some help. Over time he has taken on duties beyond the normal responsibilities of his office.

Most help needed would be seasonal such as Field Day or Flea Market. Some help could be monthly, such as meeting lottery and prizes, or enrolling new members and recording changes of member records.

If you can help contact Bob or Andreas now.

**Bob Korte, KD6KYT .(650) 595 1842**

RGK4U@aol.com

Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843



## Technical Tip

### EVOLUTION OF A GO BAG by Joe Guerra KD5CZM

It's hard to believe how far my go bag (or ready kit) has come over the past few years since becoming involved in public service-and emergency communications work.

It would have been easy from the start if there were a vendor somewhere who would sell go bags off the shelf. However, experience has shown there is no one universal go bag that suits every possible event and disaster.

Since your situation is unique you may want to see how other operators in your club or community put their ready kits together. Go back over recent events where your club provided communications. Prepare your own go bag accordingly. For example, there are plenty of shelter opportunities where I live so I won't need a tent and camping gear. However, if I need to bed down in the radio room at the Emergency Operations Center during a hurricane, I'll bring a sleeping bag or at least a blanket and pillow.

I went to my first public service event with both eyes wide shut. It was the annual Beach to Bay marathon in Corpus Christi, Texas. My assignment was to relay traffic from the first aid tent near the finish line to the mobile command unit some three blocks away. My kit then was nothing more than a notepad, a pen and a wooden stand to prop up my handie-talkie. Jim, KE6DRE, was kind enough to give me two ice-cold bottles of water from his well-equipped truck.

The marathon started just before daybreak and lasted until mid-afternoon. The bright May sun toasted my nose. There were long stretches where I would have appreciated a good crossword puzzle. Free pizza was available after the race for the volunteers. But three hours into the marathon my stomach was rumbling. Chilled water quenches thirst but hardly sticks to your ribs. When Larry, N5XCI, asked me to relay messages to the event staff, precious time was spent reintroducing myself as "one of the hams working the race."

Afterwards, having showered and quaffed two bottles of Gatorade®, the wheels inside this old' bonehead started to turn; I began putting together a go bag. As time goes on and I work more marathons and other events, I keep adding items.

When the event I work will last more than two hours, I pack some fluids and high-energy snacks to tide me over. Along with a first aid kit, I add a bottle of sunscreen/insect repellent. I stash some reading material in case it gets slow traffic-wise. While on duty, I wear a suitable vest complete with a callsign badge. Since I put the go bag together in its present form, I've served as volunteer radio operator for the local Emergency Management Center during hurricane Bret (August, 1999), worked at a water station for the 10K run in

Bishop, Texas and call in reports as a Skywarn storm spotter.

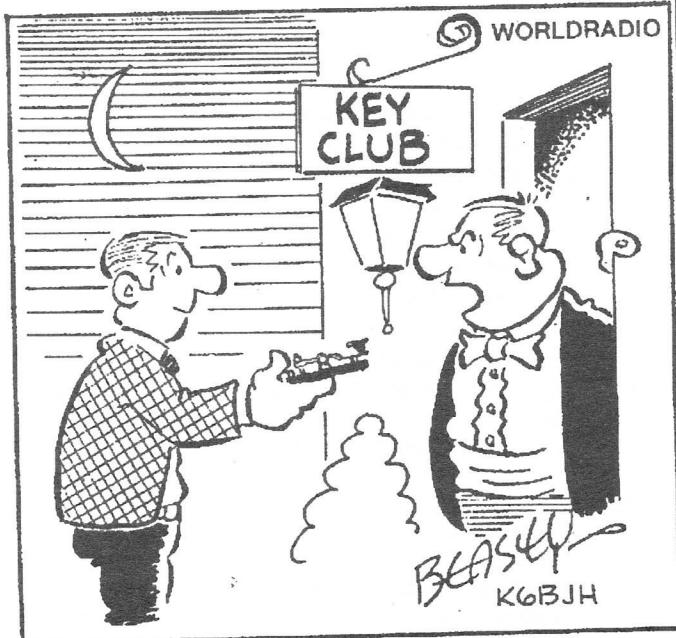
I keep my eyes open and never fail to come across something that might come in handy. When I added a mag-mount antenna to my go bag, I bought a termite shield, a thin metal square tucked between concrete piers and the house they support. I spray painted it black and trimmed the edges with safety tape. It makes an excellent ground plane in a pinch.

Cable ties are handy but used only once. Friendlier to the environment are reusable Cable Clamps®. These are made of sturdy plastic and stainless steel and come in various sizes. These units keep my coax from unwinding at the bottom of the go bag. Sometimes you'll find yourself doing double duty as I did, manning a water station for thirsty runners while keeping marathon officials informed of a race's progress. Runners would stray off course; chaos would ensue as spotters and spectators would shout and wave the athletes back on course. The bonehead's wheels turned some more. What would you do if you had to get immediate attention or signal for help in a high-noise environment? I found the shrill blasts of a Storm® whistle to fit the bill. This is *not* your father's cork-pea whistle. It is oversized and so is its sharp sound. Hams doing search and rescue work might find this whistle useful.

I tote the kit in an inexpensive duffel bag I bought at Wal-Mart. I can either carry it or sling it over my shoulder.

I've included a list of what's in my go bag. Look elsewhere at eham.net or consult the ARRL Field Resources Manual for published lists and see how your ready kit turns out.

(Continued on page 82) Go Bag



THAT'S THE WRONG KINDA KEY, MAC

**PAARAGraphs September 2002**  
**Celebrating 65 years as an active ham radio club—Since 1937**

(Continued from page 81) Go Bag

**Recognition**

- 1 Lanyard
- 1 bead chain
- 1 ham radio club credential<sup>1</sup>
- 1 County Emergency Management credential<sup>1</sup>
- 1 ARES Photo ID
- 2 ID Card straps
- 1 Pocket callsign badge

**Writing and printed matter**

- 1 5 x 8 legal pad and holder
- 2 Official Weather Observer pads
- 3 pens
- 1 date book
- 1 repeater directory
- 1 Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Guide book<sup>2</sup>
- 2 HazMat training manuals<sup>2</sup>

**Toiletries**

- 1 First Aid Kit
- 1 Lava® liquid soap packet
- 1 Avon® Skin-So-Soft Bug Guard and Sunscreen
- 1 bottle Castrol® Super Clean waterless hand cleaner
- 1 bottle of Purell® hand sanitizer

**Hardware**

- 1 Rechargeable Pocket Power® supply<sup>3</sup>
- 1 DC power cord for cigarette lighter socket
- 1 Tool kit, contained in an old bank bag<sup>4</sup>
  - 1 razor knife
  - Post-it® notes
  - Sandpaper
  - 1 Toothbrush
  - 1 pair diagonal cutters
  - 1 Multi-tip screwdriver
  - 1 Shop cloth
  - 2 Film canisters
  - 2 Valve caps
  - 1 pair needle nose pliers
  - 1 pack of fuses
  - 1 roll electrical tape
  - Cable ties
  - 5 Cable Clamps
- 1 audiocassette adapter (to pipe rig audio to a boom box)
- 1 OnDuty® shutoff wrench/pry bar<sup>5</sup>

**Antennas**

- 1 Mag-mount dual-band antenna, disassembled
- 1 ground plane
- 1 telescoping whip antenna
- 1 rubber ducky antenna
- 1 assortment of connectors

**Visibility and safety**

- 1 hooded raincoat
- 1 safety vest<sup>6</sup> with callsign badge
- 1 Vinyl orange safety vest, spare use
- 1 hard hat
- 1 set of blaze orange suspenders
- 1 Storm® whistle<sup>7</sup> with lanyard

**Comfort Items**

- 1 flop hat
- 1 folding chair\*
- 1 ice chest\*
- 1 luggage carrier\*

**Notes:**

1. Keep your credentials up to date. Nothing puts a dent in your credibility than an expired credential.
2. From my training in Hazardous Materials Awareness and Response.
3. Vector, Inc. distributes these sealed lead acid 5.0 amp/hour batteries you can recharge from your vehicle or household. They come in a bright red cordura bag and is fitted with a cigarette lighter socket. It powers my 2 meter mobile rig without blowing the fuse. My dual band handie talkie can run for 3-4 days straight off this unit.
4. I am indebted to another ham who wrote about his bank bag tool kit and was published in **QST** magazine several years ago. His article was the inspiration for this kit. I regret I don't remember his name.
5. The first principle of emergency communications service is to make sure your family is safe and your property is secure. FEMA recommends keeping a wrench to shut off your water and gas in an emergency. The OnDuty® wrench also serves as a pry bar.
6. Visit the Midlands ARES website for their Skywarn merchandise and look at their vest <<http://www.qsl.net/n0hpp/>> or EmComm Supply at <<http://www.emcommsupply.com/FeaturedProducts.htm>>.
7. The Storm® whistle is available at Wal-Mart.

\*Naturally, these three don't fit in the bag but they keep me refreshed and rested and that makes me a more productive operator. The carrier totes both the go bag and the ice chest.



## **Soap Box Operations**

by Jay Melvin, WA6SBO@ARRL.NET

### **Green HAM and Eggs**

New hams are confronted with a lot of decisions as they organize their first shack and these decisions can come along so quickly that it's easy for things to fall through the cracks. And that just leads to frustration later on. So, let's crack a few eggs right now at the beginning of the process by looking at some of the things that a new ham can do to make his omelet most tasty. First, no time is as good as the present to design the ham shack itself. Consider, for example, building a portable ham shack. It is flexible and lends itself to easy customization. It's also easy to incorporate a portable shack into your household, making it simpler for your family to become accustomed to it. Assembling your first ham shack into a tool box along with a portable table and chair, for example, can simplify the search for a final shack venue by minimizing potential conflicts over space with other household members who get to input into the decision process while things are still flexible. A portable shack could allow early cooperation between family members that will assure that after-hours noise interference won't become a problem. Adopting a portable methodology early on will also allow for rapid deployment during emergency operations as long as at least one of the antennas remains portable.

Next, find a toolbox, plastic storage container or an empty drawer. Taking a note from Star Trek, I call this the "Away Kit" because it provides for the away team's communications needs. Inside it, put an egg carton or an ice cube tray to sort screws and other tiny parts. Compartments for the box are easily made from zip lock bags. Stock your box with needle nose pliers, flat and Phillips headed screwdrivers, a wire stripper with enumerated gage notches, a soldering pencil, and some solder along with a cheap multi-meter (ohms, volts DC / AC). Initially, the Away Kit provides the new ham with the portability requisite to shopping for a permanent shack location. Portable operation does require a chair and at least a TV tray sized table to lay out the station, log book, reading material (Handbook, QST, Operating Manual etc.), soldering station and multi-meter and rig's power supply. Whew! A TV tray can hold only a subset of the portable station but the toolbox can keep the rest hard by and handy. An electric power strip can serve as an extension cord to the power grid at a nearby wall socket. And of course, every radio station needs a ground system. The ground wire will help minimize shock hazards and noise, and will anchor the station. So, get some heavy wire (coax copper outer sheath, battery jumper cable, or whatever). An attached alligator clip may ease connectivity to a water pipe near your station.

No station is complete without at least two antennas. An

antenna switch is handy so quick comparisons can be made easily. Connecting the switch to the antennas using coax is the easiest, but ladder line is cheaper and provides lower loss. Just remember that ladder line will need a balum for 50 ohm unbalanced ports. I use both. Very soon one (or more) of the antennas will go outside. Locating near a window will make this easy. I usually cut a two inch board the height of my chosen window's inside dimension and cut holes into it to allow the antenna cables to pass through. Remove the screen, wedge the board into the open window, and shut the window down onto the board. Don't forget to wedge the window securely closed with a dowel stick on the inside. The board is easily removed from time to time to cut new holes and plug unused ones with bathtub caulk to keep weather out. Other possibilities for getting antenna cables out of the house include purchasing a wall transit tube from Radio Shack. To use it, cut a hole in the wall, insert the tube, and seal the tube to the wall with sealing grommets. Another option is to drill a hole in the floor. (If you are renting however, it's a good idea to check with the property owner before cutting holes.)

Practice portable operation by moving the shack from time to time around the house and away, too. After awhile confidence gets established that the shack is complete. Besides, batteries and chargers, tools and connectors used in some but not all deployments all get developed and tested. The social and antenna access aspects get ironed out and emergency preparedness gets practiced. Have fun! SK

---

### **FCC WRC-03 advisory panel recommends phased-in worldwide 7 MHz band**

The FCC is requesting comments on the draft recommendations of its World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 Advisory Committee (WAC). Among the panel's recommended draft proposals to next year's international gathering is a plan, still subject to change, that would create a worldwide amateur allocation at 7.0 to 7.3 MHz by 2010. The deadline for comments on the proposals is 12 July.

The draft proposals "may evolve as we approach WRC-03 and during the course of interagency discussions," the FCC noted in a Public Notice. "Therefore, they do not constitute the final national position on these issues."

While U.S. amateurs already enjoy a 7.0 to 7.3 MHz allocation, only 7.0 to 7.1 MHz is available to amateurs in all three International Telecommunication Union regions, with 7.1 to 7.3 MHz available to broadcasting in much of the rest of the world. The draft proposal for WRC-03 agenda item 1.23 dealing with possible realignment of the 7-MHz amateur allocation calls for making 7.1 to 7.2 MHz available worldwide by 1 April 2007, and the 7.2 to 7.3 MHz segment by 1 April 2010. Broadcasting allocations would shift upward by 100 kHz at the same time — to 7450 kHz by 2007 and to 7550 by 2010. The intervening periods would permit time for international broadcasters and other services

*(Continued on page 84) 7 MHz band*

## FCC may return KV4FZ to the airwaves

An ex-Ham from the U.S. Virgin Islands who was forced off the air a year and a half ago by the FCC may soon be back on, courtesy of the FCC. The agency has indicated that it may act to reinstate the amateur license of Herbert L. Schoenbohm, the former KV4FZ.

Herbert L. Schoenbohm's name shows up a lot in FCC records. He's the former Ham who used to hold the call sign KV4FZ. That was before he lost his license.

In December, 1992, Schoenbohm was convicted of fraudulently using a counterfeit access device to obtain long distance telephone service. He was sentenced to two months of house arrest, two years probation and fined \$5,000. That left the FCC feeling that a felony conviction disqualified Schoenbohm from continuing as a Commission Licensee.

Two years later, Schoenbohm filed with the Commission to renew his Amateur Radio license. The Commission answered — but not with what he wanted to hear. Instead, the FCC designated his application for a hearing. Two encounters took place, one in 1995, the other in 1997. At that point, the Commission told Schoenbohm he should no longer be allowed to have an FCC license.

He was allowed to operate until he exhausted all avenues of appeal. That happened in October of 2000. In January 2001, Schoenbohm ceased on-air operations. Before leaving the airwaves, 'though, Schoenbohm vowed that he would one day return to the airwaves as a licensed radio amateur. That day may be soon, based on findings presented at an FCC Administrative Law hearing earlier this year.

The hearing was held to determine if Schoenbohm now meets the requirements to once again become a Commission license holder in the Amateur Radio Service. The finding is complex and covers nearly two dozen pages. But it appears that the government may be ready to give Schoenbohm a second chance as a licensed amateur.

The Commission says in part there is sufficient evidence in the record to support a finding that Schoenbohm has rehabilitated himself. The Commission notes that, based on the evidence, it appears unlikely he would engage in any future misconduct. The Commission's Enforcement Bureau Investigations and Hearings Division endorses Schoenbohm's return to the Amateur Radio airwaves.

Schoenbohm took and passed a new exam in March, 2001. But the Commission again threw in a delay, designating his application for a hearing on the basis of character issues. This is the application that an Administrative Law Judge has been reviewing. Now that the recommendations are in, the Administrative law judge could issue a final opinion and recommendation within the next few months. That means Herbert Schoenbohm could possibly be on the air again sometime this year.

In the end, it is going to be up to the Commission to make a final resolution as to whether or not the former KV4FZ

returns to Amateur Radio. Nobody can predict what that decision will be. And if he is permitted to return, will it be with his old KV4FZ call sign? — *FCC, Newsline via QRZ*

*(Continued from page 83) 7 MHz band*  
*to adjust their operations accordingly.*

The International Amateur Radio Union already is on record in favor of the approach. An earlier suggestion to shift the 40-meter allocation down by 100 kHz came off the table earlier this year to avoid affecting Fixed Service operations between 6765 and 7000 kHz.

In other draft proposals affecting the Amateur Service, the FCC's WRC-03 Advisory Committee has recommended no change to the table of allocations in the band 420 to 470 MHz. Agenda item 1.38 will consider providing up to 6 MHz of spectrum to the Earth exploration-satellite service (EESS) in the band. So-called synthetic aperture radars (SARs) are used to measure soil moisture, tropical biomass and Antarctic ice thickness, and to document geological history and climate change. At issue is whether the EESS allocation could be established without interfering with incumbent services, including radiolocation and amateur.

Agenda item 1.5 will consider spectrum requirements and regulations for new and additional allocations to the mobile, fixed, EESS and space research services at 5.15 to 5.725 GHz. The FCC expressed reservations about WAC proposals for this frequency range, citing concerns expressed by the ARRL and others. Amateur and Amateur-Satellite services allocations could be negatively affected by new mobile allocations.

The full texts of the FCC WRC-03 Advisory Committee draft proposals are available on the panel's web site: <[www.fcc.gov/wrc-03](http://www.fcc.gov/wrc-03)>. Commenters should submit an original and one copy to the Office of the Secretary, FCC, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554 and provide a courtesy copy to Alex Roytblat, FCC WRC-03 Director, Room 6-B505. Comments should refer to specific proposals by document number. World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 9 June until 4 July 2003. —*ARRL Letter via QRZ*

*(Continued from page 77) Medical Mission*

people of Honduras. Each year IHS sends teams to various parts of Honduras to provide health care to people that desperately need it. IHS has been doing this work for over 20 years. In February 2002, the mission trip included 111 people assigned to ten teams that set up temporary clinics to serve over 10,000 medical and dental patients.

A typical team includes one or two doctors, a few nurses, a pharmacist, a dentist, a radio operator, an engineer, a language translator and a few general helpers. These teams are spread out, often into remote parts of the country, so the role of radio operator is critical to providing communications that link these teams together. Most villages have no

*(Continued on page 85) Medical Mission*

(Continued from page 84) Medical Mission

phones, electricity or even roads. The typical radio setup at each location is similar to a basic Field Day operation—an HF transceiver powered by a gasoline generator, driving a wire antenna hung on the nearest tree or building.

IHS is in need of amateur radio operators with HF portable operating experience that are interested in this type of volunteer work. The next mission to Honduras is scheduled for February 14 to March 2, 2003. Applications for this important mission are being taken now through the beginning of October 2002.

Most IHS participants find this to be some of the most rewarding work they have ever done. If you'd like to find out more about this opportunity, contact John KB0UUP or Bob K0NR, listed below.

Contact Information John Kirckof, KB0UUP, IHS Communications Director, <JMKKEK@runestone.net>, Tel. 320-634-4386

Bob Witte, K0NR, IHS Assistant Communications Director, <k0nr@arrl.net>, Tel. 719-488-0942

Internet links:

The IHS web site is at <<http://www.ihsofmn.org>>

A Yahoo groups web site for IHS Radio Operators is active at <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/IHSSRadio>>

-World Radio Online

### SEMINAR & EXAM: AMATEUR RADIO

**WHAT:** Amateur Radio ("Ham") License & Communications Course for entry-level Technician & General & Extra Class (No Morse code.)

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 26, 2002; 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

**WHERE:** College of San Mateo

**FEE:** \$25.00

**SIGN UP:** [hamradio@coursey.com](mailto:hamradio@coursey.com)

**QUESTIONS:** Ross Peterson: 650-349-5349; [wb6zbu@arrl.net](mailto:wb6zbu@arrl.net) (preferred)

Sponsored by: College of San Mateo Electronics Technology Department (<http://gocsm.net/>) & CNET Radio 910 AM (<http://www.cnetradio.com>); produced by: Bay Area Educational Amateur Radio Society - member W5YI VEC

This course is open to the public. This one-day "cram" course is designed to help you obtain your Technician-Class Federal license [no Morse code] -- the (EASY - 35-question, multiple-choice!) Federal exam is administered as part of the class. You can practice for the exam on the Web: <http://www.aa9pw.com/radio/exam.html>

Afterwards, you can attend training conducted by the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

## QSO September 6th 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 order and bill.

6 pm— at Su Hong Restaurant

1039 El Camino Real

Menlo Park

—across from Kepler's Book Store—

## PAARA Radio NET

every Monday evening

8:30 P.M., local time

on the

**145.230 -600 MHz repeater**

*PL tone off*

**HSC**

**Halted**  
*specialties co.*

Electronics • Prototyping Supplies • Computers • Lasers

**Debra Blanke**

*Sales*

**KG6UI**

3500 RYDER STREET  
SANTA CLARA, CA 95051  
[www.halted.com](http://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.

**PAARAgraphs** September 2002

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



# FIRST CLASS MAIL

**65**

YEARS

**Webb site for propagation information:**  
[www.arrl.org/w1law/prop/](http://www.arrl.org/w1law/prop/)

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

3496243313 27

 <p><b>TH-22AT</b></p> <p>• 2W HT • VHF/UHF • 40 memories • Frontic Built-in</p>	 <p><b>TM-261A</b></p> <p>• 5W • Auto Tuner • AM/FM/Stereo • 64 Mem. Channels • Alphanumeric function • Dual Mono • DTMF Memory function • Backlit LCD • Built-in speaker • Backlit LCD • Built-in speaker</p>	 <p><b>TM-477A</b> 2m/144m • 20W HT • VHF/UHF • 40 memories • Frontic Built-in</p>	 <p><b>TS-570SG/TS-570SG DSP</b> financed • 100W HF, 100W on BM TS-570SG (only) • QSK CW auto Tune • Auto-tuner incl. 6M • DSP • Large LCD Display • Elect. Keypad • R/C Port • Radio Control Program Computer</p>
<p><b>Call For Low Price!</b></p> <p>(with special software)</p> <p><b>Call For Low Price!</b></p> <p><b>Call For Low Price!</b></p>	<p><b>Call Now For Special Low Price!</b></p>	<p><b>Call Now For Special Low Price!</b></p>	<p><b>Call Now For Special Low Price!</b></p>