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504 Lakemead Way
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vol. 25
SEPTEMBER 1982

PAARA

GRAPHS



**palo alto
AMATEUR
RADIO ASSN.**

MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

PAARAGraphs is the official organ of the Palo Alto
Amateur Radio Association and the Menlo Park Civil
Defense Radio Club.

1982 Club Officers:

President	:	Gerry Tucker	WA6LNV	326-4908
Vice-President	:	Kevin Lapp	WA6FAC	364-2654
Secretary	:	Gerry Wagstaffe	W6NIR	325-4670
Treasurer	:	George Nixon	GI3OEN	854-6445
Trustee, K6OTX	:	Fred Canham	K6YT	948-9238
Property	:	Ed Fairbanks	W6AIN	322-0319
Co-Property	:	Fred Canham	K6YT	948-9238
ARES Officer	:	Steve Stuntz	K6FS	322-4952
Club Historian	:	Jerry Zobel	W6ARA	322-0063
Club Nets	:	147.45 MHZ, Monday, 8:30 L.T.		
	:	14.287 MHZ, Monday, 9:00 L.T.		

Board of Directors:

Chairman	:	Gerry Tucker	WA6LNV
Members	:	John Buonocore	KD6ZL
	:	Wally Porter	K6URO
	:	Clif Keely	KA6J/A
	:	Ed Fairbanks	W6AIN
	:	Bill McElhinney	KA6LZI
	:	Bob Wheeler	K6SEM

PAARAGraphs Staff:

Editor	:	George Nixon	GI3OEN
Advertising	:	Swede Swenson	N6CHL
Mailing	:	Bill McElhinney	KA6LZI
Cover	:	Sue Lindner	LØVLY

-3-

Friday, September 3, 1982

7:30pm

R E G U L A R M E E T I N G

tentatively,

EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL RADIO TRANSMISSIONS

by

A member of Delta Vee Corp.

Was Erich Von Daniken right? Come and find out!

Meeting to be held at the Menlo Park Recreation Centre,
Alma at Mielke, Menlo Park. Future meetings: October
1, 1982; November 5, 1982.

Circle the Date

September 3, 1982

PAARA Policies:

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year (payable in January), which membership includes a subscription to PAARAGraphs. Freebee distribution to those who indicate an interest in the Club, and as an inducement to their becoming members, and is subject to change with changing interests in the Club. Make payment to: PAARA, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

Written contributions to the P.O. Box above, or to the Editor, 1140 Sherman Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Deadline is two or three days after the Board of Director's meeting.

Rod Starkford
408-274-0492

President's Corner: I'm back on the job! This past month has taken me to the East Coast twice and to Canada once. While attending a professional conference at M.I.T., I attempted tp contact Rick Ferranti, WA6 NCX, but to no avail. I was looking forward to both an eyeball QSO and an inspection of the school station.

The picnic was not as well attended as I had anticipated, but a good time was had by those who showed up. Andy Korsak, VE3FZK and Rob Taylor, KA6NAN, were in attendance via the ether. Please let me know if you want other types of activities. The Club is ready to support other types of activities if enough people will show an interest. I would like to stimulate hidden transmitter hunts through Post 599 with PAARA-supplied prizes. Let me know what you think of this.

Gather your goodies and discretionary income together for the PAARA auction on October 16. Also, if you have items to donate to PAARA, I can arrange their pickup, etc.

My thanks to Dave Thomas for an excellent talk on the activities of A.R. Inc. Dave has extended an invitation for Club members, in small groups, to inspect the Foster City facility. Make your interest known at the next meeting.

Bill, KA6LZI, is rewriting our auction flier and we expect to get one copy each in the Pacific Division Convention handout (approximately 1,000 pieces).

Congratulations to Fred et al on Field Day. This is getting to be a war of nerves!

de Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV.

Club Meeting and Board Meeting Reports: The Club meeting of August 6, 1982, was held in the Menlo Park Rec-

reation Centre with a good crowd in attendance.

The first topic was the picnic. Gerry Tucker told the Club members that a good time was had by all who attended although attendance was less than expected. (See the Board Meeting report for more discussion on the picnic).

Next, the Club members again thanked Fred Canham, K6YT, for his work during Field Day, and Fred then indulged in a little chest-thumping on behalf of PAARA, which Sy Stein, WA6ROM, and Gerry Starkey, WA6LIJ, took in good humour.

Sy Stein then brought up the matter of where to display the C.C.R.C. Field Day Plaque. Last year, Fred Canham kept the plaque at his home for lack of a place to display it (the plaque). This is a pity as it is a very nice plaque, which Sy Stein made some years ago from an old oak table of his mother's.

Sy suggested that the plaque be displayed at the Electronics Museum at Foothill College, for many amateurs visit the Museum each year, more than visit Fred Canham's home, anyway. After some discussion, the Club members passed a resolution requiring the Board of Director's to deal forthrightly with the question of where to display the plaque.

The next item was the announcement of the appointment of Clif Keely, KA6JWA, as a Director to fill the position left vacant when Alan Jenson, W6UVP, moved to Washington State.

On the Flea Market front, Gerry Wagstaffe, W6NIR, told the Club members of the F.A.R.S. (Foothills Amateur Radio Society) Flea Market which will be held from 9 to 2 on the 11th September at Parking Lot T in Foothill College. The two-metre call-in frequency is 145.27 mhz,

SPECS repeater. Also on the events front is the A.R. R.L. Pacific Division Convention, being hosted by the Santa Cruz Amateur Radio Club at the Holiday Inn, 611 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz on October 8, 9 and 10. The Convention Chairman is Susan Tracy, WA6OCV, tel. 408 426-6691. There will be: technical forums, a swap meet, a ladies program, and a banquet. For hotel reservations, call the Holiday Inn, tel. 408 426-7100. Santa Cruz is nice at that time of year, and non-radio type XYL's and Junior op's can find plenty to do on the beach and on the boardwalk.

Also on the events front, of course, is the P.A.A.R.A. Auction on October 16, the biggest social event of the radio year! The Auction is held at the Ampex Cafeteria on Bay Road in Redwood City (just south of Woodside Road). Dig out all that junk from the attic that the XYL complains about; prepare to make your tax-deductible donations to the Post 599 table, and your non-tax-deductible donations to the P.A.A.R.A. table; and borrow surreptitiously from the household fund for your purchases!

The next item mentioned at the Club meeting concerned a group which meets at Lockheed. This group is scanning the sky for intelligent messages from interstellar space on the 1.2 to 1.4 GHZ band. If your Editor heard correctly, the group is called the Delta Vee Corporation, a non-profit corporation with N.A.S.A. funding. In your Editor's notes, the following appears: 9/10/82, 8:30 pm, Hyatt, Palo Alto, which is probably the time and place of the next meeting. If you wish to be certain about the time and place, ask one of the several P.A.A.R.A. members who suggested that the group listen for intelligent messages on the two-metre band!

The Speaker of the evening was David Thomas, (Dave has a call but your Editor does not have it). Dave talked about A.R. Inc., which handles aircraft communications for all of the major airlines and is the lic-

encee of record for foreign airlines while they are in U.S. territory. A.R. Inc. is a non-profit organization whose stockholders are the major airlines. A.R. Inc. was formed in the late 1920's to achieve economies of scale for aircraft communications, ie. one large system rather than many small systems. Dave invited the Club members to tour the Foster City facility in small groups.

Several members were interested in whether A.R. Inc. was about to declare any of its equipment surplus. Especially, the Club members were interested in a neat piece of test equipment that Dave brought along. It was a spectrum analyzer, signal generator, rf and dc voltmeter, bridge, general coverage receiver, and deviation meter, capable of running off ac or 12 Vdc, all in a case of about 12" by 6" by 18". To everyone's disappointment, Dave declared that A.R. Inc. was not about to declare that piece of equipment surplus.

At about that point, the meeting ended, and your Editor went over to the Village Host, strictly in the line of duty, to pick up material for PAARAGraphs! From Chris Schellenberg, WB6WBK, came the following information about the Scout's Field Day expedition to the Sierras. About seven or eight hams from the Post went together in a van to the Stanislaus National Park, with a Kenwood transceiver and a small Heathkit cw rig. A dipole, about 20' off the ground, was strung between two trees and about a dozen contacts were made, some cw and some phone. Chris said that the location and the antenna were poor; they heard FARS but not PAARA. In fact, the major excitement of the trip was not a dx contact, but the shipwreck of Chris Schellenberg! Careening around the lake in a speedboat, Chris and a partner in misfortune, leaned to port when they should have leaned to starboard, or vice versa, and found themselves in the water, and the boat overturned. Then, as a crowning stroke of bad luck, Chris lost his wallet in the lake as he swam to the shore, losing driver's

licence and credit cards. Chris was suitably vague as to whether there would another Field Day trip next year but when next June rolls around, and memories have faded somewhat, another expedition may well be mounted.

The Board Meeting of August 11, 1982, was held at the Club trailer, and present were: Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV; Gerry Wagstaffe, W6NIR; Clif Keely, KA6JWA; Kevin Lapp, WA6FAC; Ed Fairbanks, W6AIN; Bill McElhinney, KA6LZI; and John Buonocore, KD6ZL, and, of course, your Editor, George Nixon, GI3OEN. Gerry Tucker chaired the meeting.

The first item for discussion was the auction flier. Because we wished to get a copy of the flier to the Santa Cruz Amateur Radio Club for inclusion in their A.R.R.L. Pacific Division Conference material, it was a matter of urgency to get the flier ready. Bill McElhinney agreed to prepare the flier.

Concerning the picnic and the low attendance thereat, George Nixon suggested that a different site be chosen for next year, one where the Club members could go swimming or perhaps have a softball game. The present site, while sheltered, is on a slope amid the trees, and little can be done there other than barbecue, which most of us can do in our back yards.

Two members, Gerry Wagstaffe, and Ed Fairbanks, said that they went to the picnic primarily for eyeball QSO's but that they recognized that extra members might come to the picnic if other attractions were added. The Director's would like to receive suggestions on what improvements could be made to the picnic to encourage more members to attend.

As a related suggestion, Clif Keely suggested that the Club have one open-air evening meeting, complete with barbecue, some Friday evening.

The next item the Directors considered was where the Field Day plaque should be displayed. The Directors decided that the Recreation Centre was the first choice, and the Electronics Museum was the second choice for the location. George Nixon was instructed to speak to the Director of the Recreation Centre. (Your Editor did indeed speak to Mary Leydon, the Rec. Centre manager. She said that we could mount the plaque on the walls of either the lounge or the room where we meet; however, the display cases are for monthly trophies only. Your Editor so notified Gerry Tucker, and now wheels are grinding within wheels.) Your Editor was also asked by the Directors to get the Club on Menlo Park's Clubs mailing list/newsletter, which he did.

The next item concerned the Club's response to the forthcoming installation of Cable TV in Palo Alto and Menlo Park. (See the letter from Bill Zaner, WB6IYS, PAARA member, and Palo Alto City Manager.) It was suggested that the Directors pass a resolution expressing concern over the potential interference that a badly-designed system could cause; however, the Directors decided to appoint a Club member to act as liaison between the Club and the Palo Alto City officials. Bill Jenkins, WB6LML, agreed to act in this capacity. Bill has installed the Cable TV system on the Stanford Campus, and so knows both sides of the problem.

John Buonocore mentioned that the Post will be holding a Novice licencing class, tentatively set to start on Thursday, September 9, from 7:30 to 10:00, at the Post QTH at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, Homer and Waverly, in Palo Alto. For more information, call Rob at 857-9158; John at 366-1658 or Chris at 324-4591. The Post would appreciate occasional guest speaker volunteers.

This seemingly routine announcement in fact contained the bombshell of the evening. Your Directors had assumed that the Post was safely ensconced in the Lucie

Stern Centre, at Middlefield and Embarcadero, in Palo Alto. John Buonocore told us the whole story, at least as far as he knew it.

Our regular readers will remember that the Explorer Scouts were asked to move out of their QTH behind St. Thomas Aquinas R.C. church last March, when the church planned to sell the land to a group of wealthy doctors who were going to build a condominium on the site. For several months, the Post had a difficult time finding a place to meet, and then, they were given some space at the Lucie Stern Centre. However, the Lucie Stern Centre had several drawbacks, such as (1) the Scouts could not set up a station there, or store gear; (2) the Scouts could not come and go as they pleased there.

According to John, the proposed sale of the church land was progressing normally, and the group of doctors were at the point of presenting their check to the escrow company, when, without any reason being given, the church called off the whole deal. Consequently, the Post can again use their old QTH. When asked if this was a temporary reprieve or a permanent stay, John replied that it appeared to be at least an intermediate-term stay. John said that the Post was cleaning up and repainting their old QTH in preparation for a prolonged stay.

The last item that was brought up was that Gerry Tucker's first-born, and recently-born daughter, Paula Marie, made it into QST, presumably the July issue. Congratulations!

Letters:

From William Zaner, WB6IYS, City Manager, Palo Alto, postmarked July 30, 1982.

Dear George:

Bob Arcularius, the Editor of the EMARC RELAY, has ... (sent me a copy of - Ed.) ... his letter to you regarding CATV. I want you to know that as soon as Palo Alto determines whether or not it will be operating a municipal system or awarding a franchise, I will see to it that PAARA and Foothill are fully involved in the technical design of the system. I agree with Bob that a poorly planned and constructed CATV system could cause significant problems to the hams in the area. I'll let you know just as soon as we are ready to begin planning for the system.

Very truly yours,

William Zaner.

.....
Letters:

From the A.R.R.L.

Dear Affiliated Club: Hi, need a job? The Club & Training Department at ARRL Headquarters is looking for a person to work on the club program. The salary range is \$9,500 to 10,500 and requires relocating to Connecticut. Phone 203 666-1541 if interested.

Second job opening. A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity exists at Headquarters for a good writer who wants in on the ground floor of the Amateur Radio training area. Advanced Class licence preferred. The successful applicant will be responsible for developing our General Class Licencing program, including writing the General Class Licence Manual and assisting in the development of the Volunteer Examiner Program if adopted. Contact Steve Pink at Headquarters for an application and submit it with a resume and writing sample as soon as possible.

(Ed. The ability to write logically, clearly and please-

ingly is a useful career skill for anyone, especially as he or she climbs farther up the corporate ladder. Not only are there jobs in technical writing for engineers; also some engineers have found writing so attractive that they became full-time writers. Examples are: Malcolm Lawry, Eric Ambler and Nigel Balchin. There is, of course, no better place to gain skill in writing than a magazine such as PAARAGraphs. Occasional mistakes are overlooked by a forgiving readership and your Editor will un-split infinitives and un-dangle participles without complaint.)

CHINA, JAPAN AND THE PAARA BADGE

by

Jerry Zobel.

If you were walking down the street minding your own business and a young man, or even an older man, came up to you and tried to start a conversation would you clout him in the chops, call a cop or attempt to ignore the whole thing? Of course, your actions would be influenced by the location, any provocation and your inclination. In my case, I was in Japan, there was a PAARA badge with my call letters on my lapel and I was ready to welcome any Japanese ham who recognized the letters for what they were and who was inclined to speak to me.

This was not the first time I had worn a PAARA badge in a foreign country. Two years previously on a warm evening in Athens I sat in a sidewalk cafe with the badge prominently displayed in hope of snaring a Greek amateur. However, the people that came up to my table were definitely not amateurs, radiowise or otherwise. I took off the badge and did not wear it again in Greece.

Prior to our visit to Japan, we traveled for four weeks in the People's Republic of China. I did not know of

any reason to wear the badge there; however, I did watch for any signs of possible amateur radio activity. There were many antennas but from their construction they were obviously government installations. Most antennas were of a type known in the 1920's as cage antennas. I had not seen one in years.

I scanned the rooftops of Shanghai, Nanking, Chungking, Peking and numerous smaller cities, but there were no amateur antennas. The radio departments of the Number One Department Stores were amply supplied with broadcast receivers and TV sets but no amateur apparatus. My impression was that there was no amateur radio activity in China.

I soon learned how wrong I was. Upon my return home, I found the cover of the June QST was emblazoned with four Chinese QSL cards, and the declaration "China is back on the air!"

Closer inspection showed that all the cards were from the same station and further inspection revealed that there was only one amateur radio station in all of China. The lucky DXer who contacts that station should know that the QSL cards, like the ingredients of a Chinese meal, are many and varied.

As every amateur knows, Japan is something else. Many beams and lots of vertical antennas are seen. With confidence, I again displayed the PAARA badge on my lapel. We had been to Japan several times so this trip was only to selected areas. However, we did visit some large cities such as Tokyo and Kyoto. And with all the radio amateurs in Japan, how many contacts did my badge attract? Zilch, zero, none.

however, there was one incident. During a four hour train ride, going from Takayama in the Japanese Alps to Kyoto, we thought we would enjoy a cold drink. On the

famous Bullet Trains, vendors of food and drink go through the cars frequently, but on this train, a local train, we had not seen any. When the conductor, a pleasant-looking young man, passed, I stopped him and asked whether there were any vendors. He smiled but indicated that he did not understand English. I noticed that he was peering at the badge. I tried one word. "Beer?", I asked. He nodded his head and then shook it. Yes, he understood, but, no, there was no beer.

About 20 minutes later, the conductor returned and handed me a slip of paper. On the paper was written, "In five minutes, the train will stop at a station long enough for you to buy some beer at the platform kiosk." Did the conductor recognize the badge for what it was and did it stimulate him, as a courtesy to me, to find someone on that train who could write English? I don't know, but I like to think so.

The best way to meet foreign amateurs during a visit to their country is, of course, to make arrangements beforehand with some hams whom you have worked in that country. This avoids the embarrassment of making an unexpected and possibly unwelcome visit, and also of making a mistake such as inviting a 14-year old to meet you in the hotel bar for a drink. But if sightseeing is the main objective of your trip and meeting fellow amateurs would be pleasant but only incidental, then try wearing the PAARA badge. It might lead to some interesting contacts.

(Ed. In many countries, where there are only a few pages in the Call Book, one can look up the Club stations and then drop them a line to find meeting times.)

New member: Leonard Reitz, KA6TVR, 1903 E Bayshore, Redwood City, CA 94063. Len holds an advanced license and has a Kenwood B2OTS. His favourite bands are 15m, 20m and 40m.

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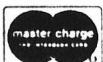
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