

PAARA

GRAPHS



PAARA P.O. BOX 911
MENLO PARK, CA. 94026

palo alto
AMATEUR
RADIO ASSN.

MARCH
1992

PAARA PICNIC QST!
MARK THE DATE &
THE PLACE!
SATURDAY MAY 23
AT RON W6VG &
HELGA'S QTH, MENLO
PARK. PLAN NOW!



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PAARAGraphs Staff

Editor	Chuck Johnson	N6VFH	408-251-8536
Mailing	Bill McElhinney	KA6LZI	415-325-9808

PAARA POLICIES

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAGraphs. Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026.

Club Net 147.45 MHz Mondays 8:30 PM

Meet at 7:30 PM on the first Friday of each month at the Menlo Park Recreation Center.

Send PAARAGraphs correspondence to:

Chuck Johnson N6VFH, EDITOR
1309 Mt. Logan Drive
San Jose, CA 95127

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MARCH 1992

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

TWO FLASHES:

1. AS THE COVER ANNOUNCES, IT'S TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT THE PAARA PICNIC AT THE W6VG COMPOUND IN MENLO PARK. IT IS THE GREAT HALFTIME PARTY OF THE PAARA YEAR WHERE WE ALL GET A CHANCE TO SEE AND BE SEEN! JOIN IN THE FUN AND FRIENDSHIP SATURDAY, MAY 23! FURTHER DETAILS TO COME ALONG WITH A CALENDAR OF '92 EVENTS.... 2. IT'S TIME TO MAKE PLANS TO HELP OUT WITH PAARA'S FOOTHILL FLEA MARKET DATE THE 2ND SATURDAY IN APRIL.... SIGN UP AT THE MEETING AND BE A PART OF THE HAMFEST ACTION! TIL NEXT MONTH, 73 DE YOUR EDITOR.

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH DAVE LARSEN N6JLH

ON THE RUSSIAN SATELLITE MIR
AND ALL THE ACTIVITIES PERTAINING
TO IT. >>MEETING FRIDAY MARCH 6TH!<<
DINNER WITH SPEAKER:

蘇
魯
小
館
**Su Hong
Restaurant**

EL CAMINO OFF RAVENSWOOD, MENLO
PARK, 5:45 PM ON MEEETING FRIDAY
CUTHERE.....

-DE ANDY VE3FZK, PAARA PROGRAM CHAIRMAN-

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

DE GERRY WA6LNU

One of the suggestions at last-month's meeting was to have a technical session on some of the latest handhelds. These devices are increasing in complexity at a terrific rate and now seem to defy a mere mortal's ability to remember what all the pushbuttons are for. It seems impossible to borrow someone else's handheld and to intuitively turn it on, much less select a frequency. As some of you know, I recently purchased a new ICOM IC2SRA after a 3-month's absence of my 2AT, and it certainly fits the above description. As Murphy would have it, I found my misplaced 2AT about 2 weeks after breaking the bank for the 2SRA.

Speaking of purchasing things, the club is the proud owner of a new satellite antenna system through the cooperation of AA6PA. I found out the last couple of years that working the satellite at Field Day can be a challenge and therefore a rewarding project. The contacts are so tough I think they ought to give 20 points or so per Q just to encourage people to understand the technology. This year I think we want to get some teams arraigned to the Field Day effort and encourage them to get organized at least a month in advance.... I'm interested in including some technical tidbits in PAARAGRAPHS. Lots of you are doing interesting things. You just don't realize that others are anxious to hear about it. If you have something submit it to Chuck N6VFH or myself and we'll try to get it in. If you have a short but good article somewhere send me a copy. It's easy to get permission to reprint and frequently not even necessary. Always let us know however if an article has been borrowed so we can provide the courtesy of a credit..... I won't see you at the next meeting due to travel but I will be at the March Flea Market.

DE WA6LNU

PAARA V.E. TEAM QST

DE J.T. WA6BXT



Report from the PAARA V.E. team:

The rain did not deter hams and would-be hams from attending the February V.E. session. Thirty-one people took a total of 59 elements, from novice through extra.

The tests are given on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Ampex Cafeteria in Redwood City. The March session will be on March 21. at 11 a.m.

The PAARA V.E. team members who worked in Feb. were; Dudley, WB6WAU (team leader); Ron, W6VG; Bill, WB6UVO; Dusty, K6MPN; Joan, WA6BXT; Joe, KB6OWG; and Dave, KB6HLR. If you care to join the PAARA V.E. team, contact Dudley at (408) 245-4801.

WELCOME!
ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE CLUB I'D LIKE TO WELCOME
BILL GONZALES KC6WAU
DALE O'HARA KM6BB

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KAREN KA7VMP



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1 DAY AT HRO !

CHRIS KG7OF



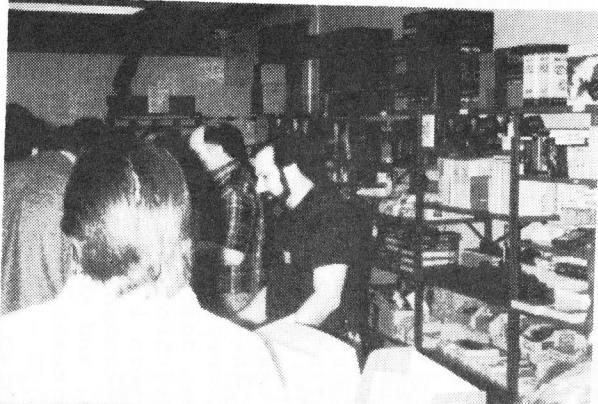
TOM KB6LUC, ET AL



A slice of the ICOM DAY crowd

ICOM DAY
2/1/92
HRO SUNNYVALE

On hand to spread ICOM pride and answer your technical/product questions were CHRIS WILKEN KG7OF (ICOM National Sales Specialist Amateur Division) and KAREN DIXON KA7VMP (ICOM Southwest Regional Manager). TOM KB6LUC (HRO Sunnyvale Manager) is shown with his sales staff taking care of customers. A good crowd showed up and was able to partake of ICOM bargains, coffee and cookies, and the ham radio comraderie of the occasion. A nice job by both ICOM and HRO! -ED.



+PHOTOS DE CHUCK N6VFH

PAARA Member Scores (Big?) in ARRL VHF Sweepstakes



It's two weekends after the end of the ARRL VHF Sweepstakes, and I'm sitting at home looking at my score, and feeling satisfied with it and the whole experience of being in the contest.

I was able to arrange to be off work from Friday afternoon through Sunday, and I loaded the truck full of gear and food, sleeping bag, etc. early Friday AM and after work. Unfortunately, none of my friends could come with me, so it had to be a solo effort. I finally was ready to roll at about 4:30 PM, and inched my way through the construction mess on Hwy 101 and on down to Hollister, where I had dinner at Eddie's, on the south side of town. The rest of the trip through Paicines and the Panoche Valley to New Idria had much less traffic, and went fairly quickly. At New Idria, a mercury mining ghost town, the pavement ends, and you are confronted with a large yellow caution sign - "WARNING - IMPASSIBLE IN WET WEATHER". It's time to get in WD low range, and go up the steep switchbacks through the narrows to the upper part of the canyon. The road tread, such as it is, is rutted and washboardy. Around the narrows, it was quite slick with mud. Climbing up above the Clear Creek road junction, I started to encounter patches of snow at about the 4000' level. The road became slicker and more rutted. It took a bit of skill in two spots to stay on the track. Finally I arrived at the junction of the last 1/4 mile up to the top of San Benito Mountain. I had to claw my way through the mud and snow, with a steep dropoff on one side of the track waiting to be the consequence for any carelessness. But I prevailed, and arrived at my favorite flat, just below the summit a little after 8 PM. I was perfectly happy to pull the antenna gear out of the camper shell and crawl in for some well deserved sleep.

Friday evening had been a bit windy, and I'd had some misgivings about putting the antennas up, especially the 6m. 5 el. Yagi, since I was alone. But Saturday AM was placid, with only some thin, high cirrus in the sky. I was able to put all 3 bands worth of antennas up with 15 minutes to spare before the 11 AM contest starting time. As usual, the contest pace was fast for the first two hours or so, but slacked off enough to allow some short ragchews in the afternoon. There was no F layer opening on 6 meters, but a fair number of my contacts were on that band with "locals", including my only YL contact, with Diana, KB6NAN, near Pescadero. The WAGLET gang at SRI was on, and I think they were using one of the "small" SRI dishes for their antenna. Saturday eve, I put Mike Stahl, K6MYC in my log. Oldtime SRIers may remember Mike's work on the feeds for the big dish in the early '70s, and of course, he's now the proprietor of M2 Antennas. It was cold enough at 8 PM Saturday that, despite red polypro long Johns, I gave up fiddling with radio knobs and calling CQ in the dark to turn in to the sack.

Sunday AM allowed me to work into the Los Angeles basin in grid square DM03, as well as up to Red Bluff. But even as the QSOs and the points kept rolling in, I was apprehensive about tearing down the antennas and making it down that "road", so I skipped out on the last 6 hours of the contest, and started tearing down and packing up at 2 PM. The antennas proved to be no problem, but that road was as treacherous as before, and took all my concentration to safely return to New Idria. I was glad to be back on the pavement. The truck looked as if it'd been through a war, plastered with mud. The rest of the trip home was uneventful.

So what did I get for my effort? In terms of points, 3745. That compares with the 3850 points that Jerry, K6KOP and I had made from the same location last September in the VHF QSO Party, even though I only made 3/4 as many contacts this time. Having 3 bands instead of two helped. More than the score, though, was the satisfaction of having contacted old friends and new ones from a beautiful spot in the great California outdoors, with antennas I'd put up solo. What was missing? YOU, dear reader! I'd be delighted to have as many of you as can come, to share the beauty of the place and the fun of operating there. Your chance will come in June - no mud slicked roads then, but mild temperatures and long days. See you on San Benito then!

Bill Rand A6PA

73.

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HOW to REACT to a JAMMER

de Rich Stiebel, W6APZ

PART TWO OF A SERIES....

several possibilities. If you are using a rubber duckie, try using a gain antenna such as a half wave or 5/8 wave whip, or better yet, connect to an outside antenna. If you have an amplifier available or a high powered mobile or base rig use it to override the interference. As a last resort, you can QSY to another repeater. If only one person is having difficulty being heard, choosing a repeater that is closer to that person should make their signal stronger into the repeater.

For apparent autodial abuse, I generally first verify that an abuse is taking place by coming on the air and identifying myself with my call, followed by: "Would the station accessing the patch please identify?". Bonafide users will come back with their call. Abusers will normally not identify, but will simply try to access the patch again. Any club member can terminate the patch by using the # sign, or if the abuser is holding a carrier on the frequency, # followed immediately by a "D". In the case of abuse, the control operators may choose to temporarily disable the patch function. Sometimes a Sacramento station will be accessing their patch and we will hear the cover tones coming through our repeater. No action is necessary in this case as their access codes are different from ours.

On occasion, we hear what may sound like a jammer as defined above. The difference is that while there is an interfering carrier on the channel, it is possible to hear people talking in the background. By turning up the volume on the receiver, it is often possible to understand what is being said and maybe even recognize the voices. This type of interference is usually caused

TO BE CONTINUED...