

# **PAARA**

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## **GRAPHS**

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### **Featuring:**

An article about  
and useful power  
KA6NAN. Plus an  
KB6BPM about  
while snowed in



an easy-to-build  
supply by Editor  
article by Editor  
his experiences  
during the storm!

**THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF THE PALO ALTO AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSOCIATION  
AND  
THE MENLO PARK C.D. AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**

**March, 1986**

**PARRAGRAPHS** is the official newsletter of the  
Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association &  
the Menlo Park Civil Defense Radio Club.

**1985 CLUB OFFICERS**

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**PAARA POLICIES**

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to Paaragraphs. Make payment to PAARA, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, Ca. 94026

**Club Net 147.45 MHZ Monday @ 8:30 PM**

Speaker for March 7th  
**Dr. Reynolds on Antenna Design**

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## **SILENT KEY**

I am sad to report that Bill Tallman has passed away. A long time Paara member, Bill was active in many volunteer groups, and was always ready to lend a hand.

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## **A simple Variable Voltage Supply**

A simple variable voltage supply may be built up with the LM-317 voltage regulator. With this, and a few other components, a very useful and sturdy supply may be constructed. Although it will only handle (up to) 1.5 Amps, the voltage may be varied from 2 to 22 volts. Since it is thermally protected, the output may be shorted without damage! I will include a sample circuit in next month's Paara-Graphs. If you have simple circuits you would like to see included, give me a yell. I am often monitoring 145.230. (ROB / KA6NAN).

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## **Third Party Traffic / Packet Radio**

Editors Note - The following is reprinted from 'Gateway' Electronic magazine. See posted for more info.

K4TKU (JIM SCALF FLORIDA) WAS CITED TODAY BY THE FCC FOR RUNNING AN UNATTENDED BULLETEN BOARD! WHILE OUT OF TOWN THE FCC CALLED AND ASKED TO TALK TO HIM. HIS WIFE INDICATED HE WAS NOT THERE AND THUS THE CHARGE. Other returns are not in yet -- but FCC is calling BBS stations long distance and citing those whose operators do not answer. This may shut down much of the message network. More as this develops. FROM K4EID KNOXVILLE TN

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## **Palo Alto Red Cross - 322-2143**

CPR Class goes March 11, 13, 18, & 20 7-10 PM, or  
March 18, 20, 25, & 27 (also 7-10 PM).

Multi-Media First Aid class March 15th (Sat) 9-5:30 (All Day class)

**"... ON THE GRAPEVINE "**

by Paul Altiers WA6BRM

For those of you who may have missed last month's meeting; according to the grapevine, the presentation by Bob Vallio and Rusty Epps with slides and funny commentary made for one of the best meetings ever. Many discussions on two meters mentioned the Clipperton Expedition and its foibles, including the drowned generators, crabs, and birds; and how to survive in the wild. I thought it to be the best slide/narration show I've seen in years. Thanks to Bob, W6RGG, for a show worthy of a travel group night.

I'm still trying to remember exactly when I met Richard Hart; the co-host of Evening Magazine fame, but I'm sure its been many years now. I know him as a fellow computer nut, and an Apple person. His phone call wasn't really a surprise the other day, but I didn't realize he hasn't joined the amateur radio ranks yet, but some of us are hoping he will soon. Richard needs some help with a project, and I promised to pass the word "on the grapevine" so here goes:

**WANTED:** One somewhat experienced computer programmer. Must have knowledge of Macintosh graphics for doing animation for a new video game. Will pay real money. Contact: Richard Hart at (415) 765-8820 days. Casual hackers need not apply. Richard knows most of you anyway.

We did manage to discuss amateur TV and other state-of-the-art areas of ham radio, so don't be surprised if some ham radio stories make their way into the Evening Magazine programs in the future...

Some of you have talked with John, G4KAH, a new resident of San Mateo on the W6APZ repeater (145.230 MHZ). From what he was willing to pass on, on the grapevine, John's company in Menlo Park will be committed to producing 900 MHZ radios in production quantities within about six weeks. John will be installing a 900 MHZ mobile repeater for this new 900 MHZ band as well as some emergency equipment. Perhaps we can motivate him to make a club presentation in the future, and my inside source revealed he is agreeable to doing so... Thanks John.

Regarding the recent storm which flooded the Bay Area over the weekend, I want to publicly thank the Redwood City RACES group for all the good work, and the San Mateo Storm Watch for a good effort. It's nice to know ham radio, after the need appears, is willing to help.

A progress report on the mysterious SCA radio channel: no - not the fact that Jim Gabbert is purchasing Radio KOFY AM, according to Ed, W6NVO, but the other story. A few of us, including Allen KB6BZH, and Chris KB6LJF have approached Radio KSOL about doing a weekly half-hour community oriented radio program using ham radio for remote 'news gathering'. If all the bugs can be worked out, between non-profit taped v.s. live, and potential conflicts, we may be able to produce a demo tape for the station brass to hear.... John, another prospective ham has mentioned an interest in tying his computer telephone bulletin board to packet radio. I hope the FCC will allow it, but for now, it doesn't look promising. Send comments to "Telegraph Road" board in Hayward. Well that's all for now,

73's Paul WA6BRM

P.S. Don't miss the 1986 Test & Measurement World EXPO on April 8-10 at the San Jose Convention Center. Keep an eye out for the upcoming April 1st issue of PAARGRAPHS -- so say the voices "on the grapevine..."

## Snow Fun at All

I packed my suitcase slowly as I thought about the prospects for skiing the coming weekend. As usual, I included some form of communications equipment, just in case. I decided to pack my new Ten Tec 2591 2 meter HT even though I doubted I'd have any time to use it at the Kirkwood Ski Resort.

However, it turned out I had a bit more time to use it than I would have liked. As I crossed the Dumbarton Bridge, I cast a wary glance at the overturned big-rig in the far lane and looked even more cautiously at the multitude of giant dark storm clouds which were releasing water at an alarming rate. Fortunately, the trip to Kirkwood was a relatively smooth one.

It was not the rain, but the snow which caused my excess of spare time in the mountains. Monday, President's Day, was the day I was supposed to return home. The accumulation of over ten feet of snow during my stay caused an avalanche which closed Highway 88 and left me stuck in the snow (with no ski-lifts running due to the 100 mph gusts of wind!).

Scanning the 2 meter band revealed that I was not the only person effected by the storm. At lower elevations, reported the Carson City Repeater on 147.24, the rain had caused mudslides closing Highway 50, power outages throughout the mountainous regions, levee breakage near the Delta, flash flooding in several counties (including San Mateo), and, to top it all off, had ruptured the gas main supplying gas to the entire Carson City area!

The alacrity of amateur radio operator response to the various disasters was positively astounding. Mutual cooperation between the Red Cross, the National Guard, and the Amateur Radio Service was so efficient as to be able to report and confirm the closure of Highway 50 ten minutes before a leading Sacramento broadcast station reported this fact.

Amateur operations during this last recent storm were truely professional! Without the ham reports, my family would have been entirely uncertain of the situation concerning true conditions of the roads. Although the storm was not as catastrophic as the Mexico City earthquake, the operators who participated in the storm relief operations as well as amateur radio in general deserve credit.





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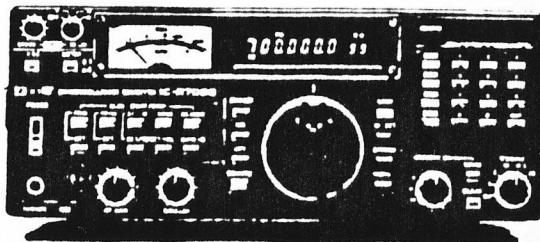
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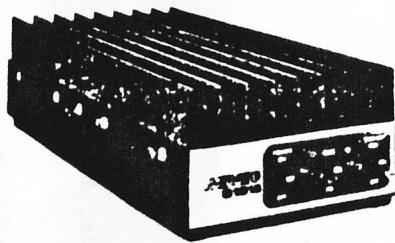
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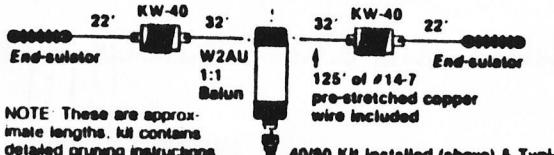
10 db gain min — 2 db ± 5 db noise figure

DC Power

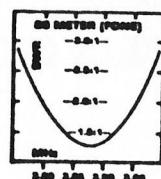
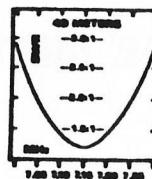
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