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PAARA

GRAPHS



palo alto
AMATEUR
RADIO ASSN.

MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

OCTOBER 1977

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 10

PAARAgraphs is the official organ of the PALO ALTO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION AND THE MENLO PARK CIVIL DEFENSE RADIO CLUB

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PAARA POLICIES

Membership in PAARA is a mere \$4 per calendar year, which includes a subscription to this fine periodical. PAARAgraphs alone may be had for a trifling \$1. Send cash, check, or money order to:

PAARA P. O. Box 911 Menlo Park, California 94025

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1977

PALO ALTO AMATEUR RADIO ASSN
ANNUAL AUCTION
AND

FLEA MARKET

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8TH
10:00 AM TO 8:30 PM

AMPEX CAFETERIA, NEXT TO BLDG. NO. 1 BAY ROAD, REDWOOD CITY, CA.

RAFFLE PRIZES

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TEST EQUIPMENT

HERE ARE THE RULES

1. Doors open at 9:00 AM. AUCTION AND FLEA MARKET start at 10:00 AM.
2. Register at desk, obtain your AUCTION LOT NUMBERS or FLEA MARKET TABLE. Then bring your gear into the cafeteria.

monitors and hand trucks to help move your equipment into place.

PLEASE STAY OFF THE GRASS

3. Buyers must register for bidding during AUCTION.
4. AUCTION lot numbers will be issued in sequence of registration, and auctioned in that order.
5. CHARGES: 10% of sale price of auctioned items will be retained by PAARA. If you buy back your own equipment, this fee also applies. Flea Market tables are \$3.50 each.
6. LIMITS: Auction material will be limited to 5 lots per person the first time around. If time permits, additional material may be put up for auction.
7. IDENTIFICATION: In addition to his lot number, owner should attach information on material to be sold, such as:
 - a. Description of item, frequency range, power required, etc.
 - b. Condition of item: operating, needs repair, not known.
 - c. Name and Call: Can be helpful.
8. DONATIONS: Donated equipment will be welcomed by PAARA. Such material will be sold to help defray club expenses. ALL SUCH EQUIPMENT IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.
9. DURING THE AUCTION: Buyers must show their registration number to record their purchase.
10. PAYING AND RECEIVING: Buyers and sellers will make their payment and collect money due at the TREASURER'S DESK. Buyers are urged to settle promptly after each purchase.

To reach AMPEX from BAYSHORE or EL CAMINL: Take WOODSIDE RD. to BAY RD. (located two blocks west of BAYSHORE), turn south four blocks to AMPEX parking lot. Cafeteria is just south of Bldg. No. 1.

ANNOUNCING A FANTASTIC CONTEST... to celebrate the receipt of his new call sign, your executing editor is running a contest to see who can think of the best phonetics for his call. First prize (donated, of course, by ARRL) will be a copy of the book, Learning to Work with Integrated Circuits. Second prize will be a genuine AMSAT/ARRL "OSCARlocator". Decisions on winner will be made by N6RY and will be final (unless you think it's worth bribery). Please submit your entry in writing or other record copy (ARRL radiogram OK) to the address at the bottom of page 2 or in person to N6RY. You will be judged on the basis of originality, class, charm, grace, and the whim of your executing editor. Entries may be accompanied by legal tender (or a reasonable facsimile, thereof) for special consideration. Deadline for entry is October 17, 1977. Members of the executing editor's immediate family are not eligible. Offer void where prohibited by law.

\$ \$

THE PAARA FM NET takes new directions. To combat a recent trend to have fewer check-ins to the PAARA FM Net, the PAARA Board of Directors, at the urging of W6NIR and others, has come forth with a new net procedure. Starting immediately, things should happen more or less in the following fashion:

1. At 8:30 PM, NCS calls up stations by alphabetical groups. (A-E, F-J, K-O, P-T, and S-Z)
2. QST's and club announcements. Brief reports from officers.
3. Call all stations that have checked-in (alphabetically or by order of check in) individually for a transmission -- swap-shop, technical assistance requests, comments, news, whatever. ONE TRANSMISSION PER STATION!
4. Handle traffic between stations initiated by step 3.
5. Open net to general ragchew.
6. Net control position to be rotated every 90 days!

The purpose of the above procedure is to get more people to come out from under the covers. Everyone makes at least 2 transmissions. At the same time, the structured part of the net is not long enough to frustrate the liberal mic-button pushers in the crowd. Let's all give this a go!

Gerry has kept track of 17 net sessions in the past months, and things have been slowly going down hill. Average check-ins has been 10.2, with a maximum of 16 (back in March) and a minimum of 5 (in September). PARTICIPATE

ONE THE ILLUSTRIOUS MEMBERS OF THE PAARA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, WA6OFN, shares your editor's fascination for things numerical. At a recent meeting, Bill began to ponder the standard words set up to gauge the speed of Morse code. From the encyclopedia, he discovered the frequency of letters out of 1000: E-130, T-92, N-79, R-76, O-75, A-74, I-74, S-61, D-42, L-36, H-34, C-31, F-28, P-27, U-26, M-25, Y-19, G-16, W-16, V-15, B-10, X-5, Q-3, K-3, J-2, and Z-1. He then multiplied these frequencies by the number of bits per letter. For instance, E is 1, T is 3, and Q is 13. Adding all of these products together, he got a total of 6076. By dividing by the number of letters from which the frequency sample was taken, he got that the average letter has 6.076 bits.

Compare this to the FCC standard "word", PARIS. This is composed of 31 bits, not counting the spaces between letters, which is the same for all words. PARIS has 31/5 or 6.2 bits per letter. Bill further went on to make a guestimate of the frequency of numerals (2%) and added this into the pot to give a revised figure of 6.234 bits per letter. This is quite close to the speed standard, so perhaps someone know what they were doing when it was chosen.

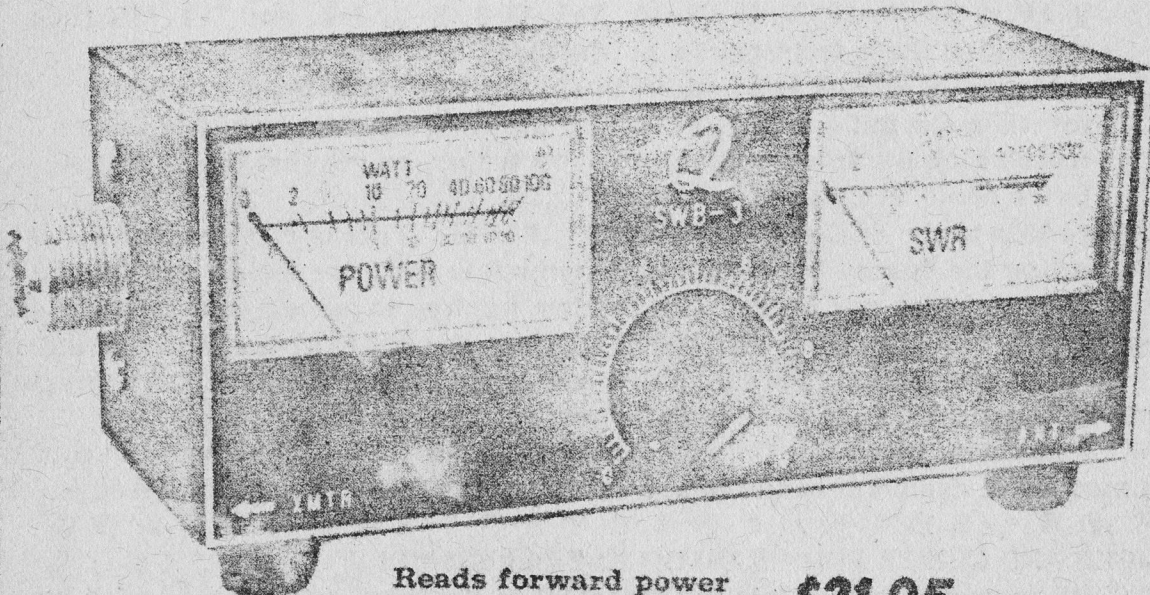
A shortcut to setting the speed calibration of your new keyer is to count the number of dashes it sends in 4.8 seconds. That is equal to the speed in WPM.

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CLICKS AND CHIRPS FROM RANDOM KEY DEPRESSIONS

- W6QBY is mostly moved into his new QTH in Ventura, and is on 75 with his 40 m. vertical with fair results. Hope he can make FD with us next yr.
- Swede Swenson has a 17' travel trailer to sell. He'll consider ham gear in partial payment. It's worth about \$1700. Phone at 368-1903.
- NEW MEMBERS OF PAARA include Bruce Krawetz, WB6SRC; Ken Bowen, WB6RRP; George Callander, WA6SZX; Richard Simpson, W6JTH; Bill Smith, WB6SDE; and Kurt Kanthack, WA6SIX. WELCOME TO ALL!
- Be thinking about the annual CHRISTMAS PARTY so we can confirm a place for the event. Did you like the breakfast last year, or is the dinner meeting better???????????
- Don't forget that the meetings will be on the SECOND FRIDAY OF THE MONTH starting with the December meeting (if not replaced by the XMAS party.)
- NOALOX joint compound (for aluminum antennas) is available from Redwood City Electric. Costs about \$2 for an 8 ounce tube (lifetime supply!)

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