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Andy Korsak VE3FZK/W6
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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 & the Menlo Park Civil Defence Radio Club

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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.

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

Written contributions to the P.O. Box above, or to the Editor, 1140 Sherman Avenue, Menlo Park, CA 94025, tel. no. 854-6445. Deadline is two or three days after the Board of Directors meeting.

FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 1983

7:30pm

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

A MYSTERY TOPIC

by

A Mystery Speaker

At press time, our V-P, Clif Keely, KA6JWA, is ^{still} scouring the countryside for an Ancient Mariner type to address us at the Club meeting. Be sure to attend this meeting to find out who Clif snags!

Meeting to be held at the Menlo Park Recreation Centre, Alma at Mielke, Menlo Park. Future meetings: JULY 8, AUGUST 5, SEPTEMBER 9

Circle the Date

JUNE 3, 1983

SPECIAL DATES !!!!!
 JUNE 25&26 FIELD DAY
 JULY 9 PICNIC

VHF Spring Sprints

Alan Larson, WA6AZP

Monday, May 18, started the Spring Sprints on two meters. In order to be well prepared, I started packing gear in the car at least 30 minutes before the starting gun. At that time, I discovered the 3 element quad antenna did not fit in the car. No way. Thus, I went up the hill with my trusty Larsen 5/8 wave mag-mount on the top of the car. About the time I reached Page Mill Road to start up the hill, the contest had started. I really don't recommend contest operating while driving a car up Page Mill.

Eventually I got to my desired operating point, to find many cars already there. It seemed that I was the only one there for the purpose of radio communication. Later, I found out more of why. The spot was ringed in by mountains hidden by the clouds, and there were not that many good signals from the directions I could get out.

After moving down the road a couple of miles, I was able to do much better. In fact, I think I worked all the bay area contest stations. They, on the other hand, were working Southern California, and complaining about the lack of stations in the Reno area.

The big disappointment was that I did not work many local PAARA members! I had hoped to work at least a dozen, but was forced to make do with two, WB6NNL and WA6SLF. Am I rattling the wrong cage when I yell CONTEST!?

West Coast VHF/UHF Conference May 7-8, 1983

Alan Larson, WA6AZP

Have you gotten tired of working every country in the world on 20 meters (for the third time)? Does it seem that there should be some more innovative frontier to explore, something where there is a greater challenge? Well, VHF and UHF can offer these challenges. There really is life after repeaters, as demonstrated at the recent West Coast VHF/UHF Conference in Sunnyvale.

Over 150 West Coast VHF and UHF enthusiasts met in Sunnyvale on 7-8 May for the 28th annual VHF/UHF conference.

Saturday was filled with two parallel sets of technical sessions, one directed towards an operational viewpoint, and another from a more technical (hardware design) point of view. Sunday featured the popular antenna gain measurements.

EME Update

EME, or Moonbounce may be the ultimate in satellite operation. Lionel Edwards, VE7BQH, gave us an introduction into what is required to do EME contacts. This was followed with a photographic tour of the antenna systems of many of the well-known moonbounce stations.

Computers and Amateur Radio

Clay Abrams, KA6AEP, presented an introduction to computers and their possible uses for amateur radio, oriented for those who have no background with computers.

OSCAR Phase III

John Pronko, W6XN, showed pictures and gave a guided tour of the Phase III OSCAR efforts, including many interesting pictures.

The N6TX 5-Meter dish

Paul, N6TX, presented theory and pictures of the design and construction of a 5 meter dish built a few years ago for 1296 EME and satellite TV. Interesting, and I must admit, it looks big.

1296 Propagation & Hardware Design

One exciting session was presented by Chip Angle, N8CA, about the design and construction of the 1296 Mhz beacon installed at the 8200 foot level on Mona Loa, an active volcano, in Hawaii. Much of the talk consisted on techniques for building the beacon and 1296 systems, including pictures of the parts and the completed systems. To demonstrate the results, Chip played the tape of the actual signals received on July 30, 1982, allowing us to share in the excitement of the beacon signal sending us ALOHA DE KH6HME!

Safety Corner

Since Spring is just around the corner I feel that the subject of safety should be addressed. One area of the hobby can be rather dangerous if proper and careful planning has not been accomplished. I'm speaking of antenna installations. Let me relay this story of a fellow amateur who did not think ahead. This gentleman is sitting at his desk answering a letter from his insurance company.

"I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block number three of the accident reporting form. I put "poor planning" as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now un-needed tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which fortunately was attached

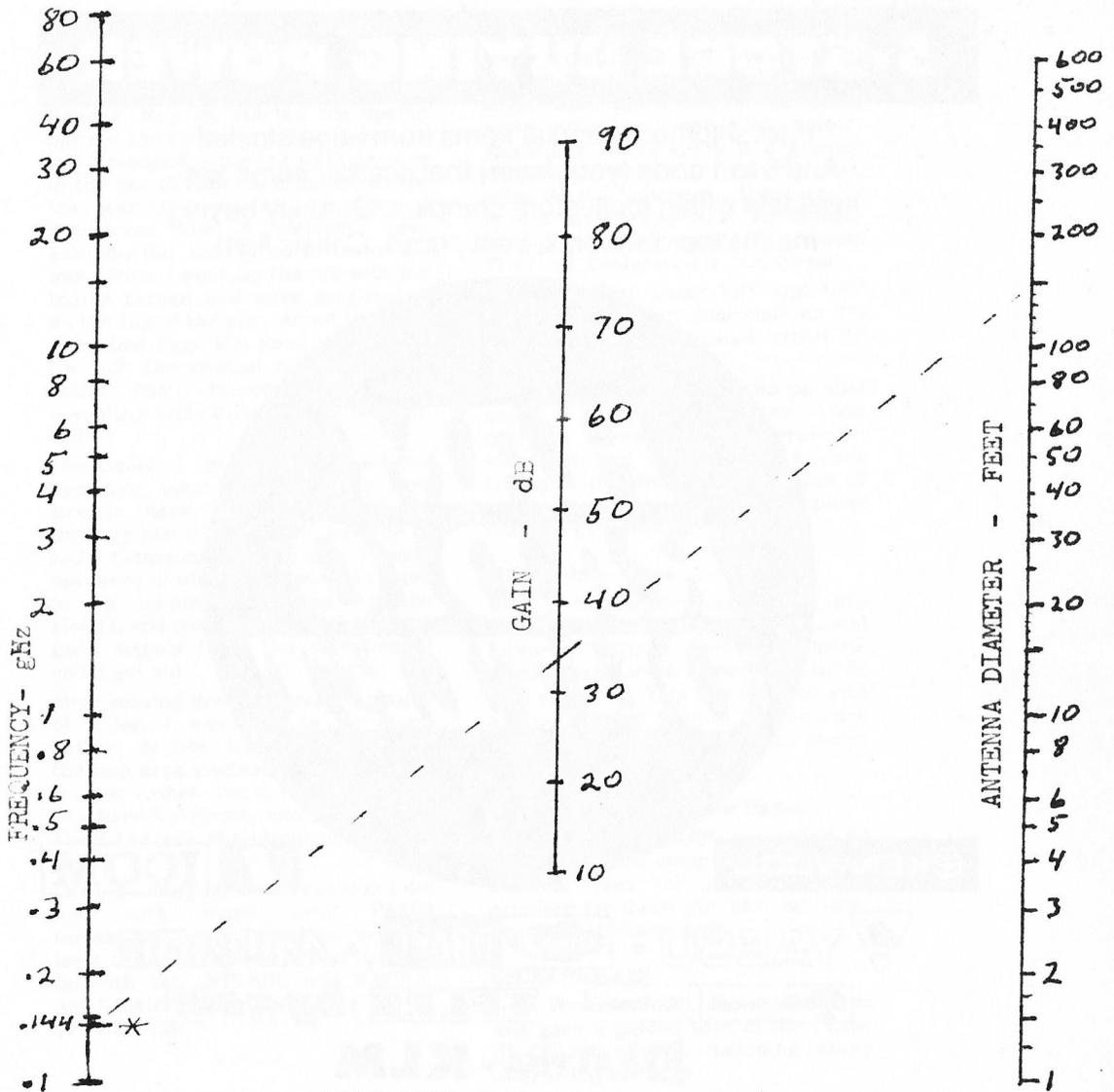
to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow descent of the 300 pounds of tools. You will note in block number eleven of the accident reporting form, that I weigh only 155 pounds.

Due to my suprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite-of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number eleven. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me... I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope."



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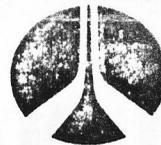
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