

PAARAgraphs

Celebrating 62 years as an *active* ham radio club—*Since 1937*
Newsletter for the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.



CALENDAR

- July.....9, **PAARA Meeting, 7:30**
Menlo Park Recreation Center
700 Alma Street, Menlo Park
- July.. 14, **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30**
Red Cross Bld., 400 Mitchell Ln., Palo Alto
- August 6, **PAARA Meeting, 7:30**
- August 11, **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30**
- Sept 3, **PAARA Meeting, 7:30**
- Sept 8, **PAARA Board Meeting, 7:30**

2 m CODE PRACTICE, 2000 to 2030 PST, Tues W6APZ 145.23 repeater



PROGRAM

July 9, 1999
7:30 P.M.

Speaker:

Barry Bettman K6ST

IOTA DXpedition
to Little Diomed Island
in the Bering Sea

—PAARA Radio NET every Monday evening at 8:30 P.M., local time—
on the 145.230 -600 MHz repeater, PL tone off

ARRL Online

From ARRL : June 1999

EMERGENCY EFFORT GETS NATIONAL TV COVERAGE

An effort to obtain health-and-welfare information via Amateur Radio from Yugoslavia war zone got some national media attention recently. Thanks to efforts by the ARRL, **Diane Ortiz, K2DO**, and **Stephan Anderman, K2SMA**, a TV news crew from Fox News Channel spent about two hours April 10 at the Long Island home of Mid-Island Amateur Radio Club President **Mike Christopher KG2M**, where this operation is taking place. A three-minute feature aired the following day on FNC.

On April 9, **Christopher**, who's also ARRL New York-Long Island Section Bulletin Manager, activated MIARC's International Emergency Assistance Unit for the purpose of passing health-and-welfare traffic from refugees in the Yugoslavia war zone to family and loved ones in the United States. This is being accomplished with the help of **Drago, T94GB**, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the only country in the Balkans with which the US has a third-party traffic agreement.

T94GB will be QRV daily on 80 meters with the war zone and refugee areas, gathering health and welfare traffic, then passing that to the IEAU on 15 meter SSB for forwarding to the National Traffic System.—The Hudson Loop via **Mike Grant, N2OX**

RETESTING, SHORT-TERM RENEWALS ARE ENFORCEMENT TOOLS

The FCC's top amateur enforcer, **Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH**, says he plans to make judicious use of both the short-term renewal and retesting to boost amateur compliance.

(Continued on page 65)ARRL

Did you see the article in the San Jose Mercury News, Sunday, June 27, by **Jane Lii*** and photos by **Richard Koci Hernandez**? Well written and good color pictures. —*ed.*

*Jane Lii at jlili@sjmercury.com

Miscellaneous Dates

Flea Market at Foothill (info at: <http://joslin.com/FleaMarket>)
 Apr 10 Silicon Valley Emergency Communications Society, (SVECS)
 May 8 West Valley Amateur Radio Assoc., (WVARA)
 June 12 Palo Alto Chapter, American Red Cross
 July 10 Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assoc., (PAARA)
 Aug 14 San Jose Chapter, American Red Cross
 Sept 11 Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Assoc., (SCCARA)
 Oct 9 South Peninsula Emergency Communication System (SPECS)

PAARA Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association
 meets 1st Friday 7:30 each month, Net 145.230 each Monday 8:30,
 contact: Andreas Junge N6NU.....(650) 233 0843

EMARC Electronics Museum Amateur Radio Club
 meets 4th Friday 7:30 each month,
 contact: Sheldon Edelman 650-858-2176, Edelman@richochet.net

NCDXC Northern California DX Club
 meets 2nd Friday 7:30 each month, repeater for member info 147.360, Thur 8:00PM,
 contact: Bob Mammarella KB6FEC 408 729 1544.

NorCalQRP Northern California QRP Club
 meets 1st Sunday each month,
 contact: Jim Cates 3241 Eastwood Rd., Sacramento, CA 95821.

Perham Foundation,
 contact: Jerry Tucker WA6LNV 650-961-3266

SPECS Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System
 meets each Monday 8:00PM on Net 145.27, 224.36, 440.80 MHz
 contact: Jim Thornton, KE6SZJ.

SCARES South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service
 meets 3rd Thursday 7:30 each month, San Carlos City Hall.
 Net is on 144.45 & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings.
 contact:

SCCARA Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association
 Operates W6UU repeater 146.385+ Nets: 2m, W6UU, 7:30 Mon; 10m,
 28.385, 8:00 Thur. meets 2nd Mon each month.
 contact: Jack Ruckman AC6FU

SVECS Silicon Valley Emergency Communications
 Operates WB6ADZ repeater (146.115 MHz+)
 contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

WVARA West Valley Amateur Radio Association
 operates W6PIY repeater 147.39+, 223.96, 441.875, 1286.2
 meets 3rd Wed every month.
 contact: Glen Lokke Jr. KE6NBO at 408 971 8626, or glokke@pacbell.net

Disaster Services

PALO ALTO CHAPTER, American Red Cross
 Meets 3rd Wed. each month 7:30PM,
 HF, packet, BBS, ATV, OSCAR Gateway, NASA satellite,
 contact: Alan Ball 650-688-0423.

SAN JOSE CHAPTER, American Red Cross
 contact: Scott Hensley KB6UOO, 408 249 7093, fish@richochet.net

VE Exams, 3rd Saturday each month, 11AM, 145.23- PL=100Hz
 American Legion Hall, 651 El Camino Real, R.C.
 contact: Al Montoya at WB6IMX@worldnet.att.net

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc. PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

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(see "Calendar" for Board meeting times, visitors welcome)

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Submit material for PAARAgaphs by the 15th

PAARA Website <http://www.qsl.net/paara/>



VE Our group this Saturday, June 19, 1999 was a smaller group than usual. However, **Al Montoya, WB6IMX**, was in charge and his assistants were (Big Time Head Honcho) **Gordon Girton, W6MW**, **Gene Irazzary, KK6LO**, **Stan Towle, WA6ZGI**, & **W6VG**. Our honored, **Danny Curry K6DLC** could not make it, nor could **Bill Sooman WB6UVO**. We got by, and had just less than a dozen applicants. We are hoping some of our members will show up in future 3rd Saturdays for a 2-3 hour ham radio pay-back.

—73, Ron W6VG

July Contest Calendar, 1999 Vic Black, AB6SO

(for rules and exchanges, see www.contesting.com)

July Contests

1 RAC Canada Day Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Jul 1
 3,4 Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest, SSB 0000Z, Jul 3-2400Z, Jul 4
 10,11 IARU HF World Championship 1200Z, Jul 10-1200Z, Jul 11
 10,11 CQ Worldwide VHF Contest 1800Z, Jul 10-2100Z, Jul 11
 17 Colombian Indep. Contest 0000Z-2400Z, Jul 17
 17,18 SEANET WW DX Contest, CW 0001Z, Jul 17-2359Z, Jul 18
 17 Pacific 160-Meter Contest 0700Z-2330Z, Jul 17
 17,18 North American QSO Party, RTTY 1800Z, Jul 17-0600Z, Jul 18
 17,18 Six Club 6m Sprint 2300Z, Jul 17-0400Z, Jul 18
 24,25 Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest, CW 0000Z, Jul 24-2400Z, Jul 25
 24,25 IOTA Contest 1200Z, Jul 24-1200Z, Jul 25

Join us for pre-meeting eyeball

QSO July 9th

gab & gobble

6 pm— at Su Hong Restaurant
 1039 El Camino Real, Menlo Park

—across from Kepler's Book Store—





WEB WANDERINGS

de Vic Black, AB6SO

If you're confused by our strange propagation, you may want to bookmark <http://dx.qsl.net/propagation>. This no nonsense site features current solar indices from WWV along with the Penticton, BC Observatory Solar Flux Index measurements and a three day forecast. It has information about recent major solar flares plus auroral activity which can enhance communications on 6 meters and above. There's a solar x-ray flux chart and a nice near-real-time Maximum Usable Frequency (MUF) world map with gray line. Current solar images show various emissions from the sun. Concise definitions and explanations aimed at hams explain the data.

Six meters has experienced regular episodes of sporadic-e propagation recently. Northern California stations have worked west to Hawaii and east to New York using modest stations and antennas. Some stations running 5 - 10 watts into dipoles have been getting into the Midwest on single hop sporadic-e. Others have worked 40 to 50 grids in one, non-contest, day. For best results you need SSB or CW. Cross mode contacts are common on 6. Even FM works fine when conditions are right. For a current listing of west coast 6 meter FM repeaters, see <http://www.vcnet.com/kn6la/6m.html>. Note: frequencies are listed by input followed by output. Usual format is to list output first, from left to right on the charts. Some linked repeaters are only in the planning stages so you'll have to try them to see which ones work best for you. This site lists FM and SSB simplex frequencies so it's useful for contests as well as rag chewing and VHF grid chasing.

Several hams asked about inexpensive logging software. Try <http://www.xmlog.com> for a free (as in FREE) logging program, XMLog, which runs under Windows and Windows NT. Since it's free, you can make copies for friends. There is no charge for its use and no limitation on distribution. Just don't sell it for a profit. The software tracks the status of QSLs sent and received as well as awards such as DXCC, WAZ, WAS and US Counties. Flexible log searching allows log searches for a specific country and band for which you have sent QSLs but haven't received responses or, for example, all RTTY QSOs on 40 meters during October, 1995. Several reporting forms are available and the software supports Buckmaster, QRZ! and Radio Amateur Callbook CDs for address lookups. XMLog prints QSL labels based on log entries and address labels using information from the callsign CDs. A separate packet window allows packet monitoring via TNC or the Internet. XMLog can scan PacketCluster spots and give vocal or CW alerts for needed QSOs based on your log status. A CW function provides a CW keyboard or allows pre-programmed CW messages to be sent by using function keys. Thanks to software developer **Mike Mc Amis W1ECT** of Etna, NH for this valuable contribution to the hobby.

Last month I wrote about your participation in a space experiment using the SETI @ Home screensaver to search for

extra-terrestrial intelligence. Now there's another experiment you can participate in. This one's "low tech" in comparison. On June 5, Discovery space shuttle astronauts released a satellite, *Starshine*, into orbit. It's a one meter diameter sphere (a disco ball) covered by 900 mirrors. The aluminum mirrors were hand polished by 25,000 grade school children working in teams in Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, England, Finland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, the United States and Zimbabwe. Sunlight reflected from the sphere will be visible during the gray line twilight hours. School children will track the satellite from as far south as the southern tip of South America, South Africa and New Zealand (60 degrees S) up through central Canada and the northern tip of Scotland (60 degrees N latitude).

A web site will accept reports of the satellite's position as it sweeps the sky. Anyone may participate, but the emphasis will be on reports from young students. Project Starshine Director **Gil Moore N7YTK** states, "As a fellow ham (N7YTK), I wondered if the amateur radio community would be willing to lend a hand to these kids in this volunteer, non-governmentally-funded program. All you would have to do is turn on your HF rig, tune in a good strong WWV signal, and hold up your telephone ear piece to your speaker when one of the students calls you on the phone (if you have a phone patch, so much the better). They will listen to the clock ticks, start a digital stopwatch precisely on a one-minute hack, write down the time of the hack, and you can both hang up the phone.

They will then go out, watch the twinkling satellite sweep across the sky, and stop the watch at the precise time the satellite passes between a couple of pre-identified reference stars. They will add the WWV time and the stopwatch time, plot the satellite's position on a star map, measure its right ascension and declination, get on the Internet and enter their data into a form on our web site.

From observations like this by students all over the world, we'll be able to calculate the satellite's orbit each day. The students will also be able to calculate the density of the atmosphere on a daily basis at the satellite's altitude by measuring the shortening of its orbital period due to aerodynamic drag. They'll also observe sun spot populations from daily solar images on our web site and relate solar activity to orbital decay rate. Finally, they'll work together to photograph the fiery re-entry of the satellite at the end of its six-month orbital lifetime.

If you would like to do a little recruiting for amateur radio, you could even go with them on their first observation session and do the WWV exercise right there in place, assuming you have a portable HF rig. Or you could invite them to tour your ham shack and learn how you're getting the WWV signals.

In order for our students and their teachers in the United States to be able to find hams who could help with this timing problem, I've asked them to get on the Internet, go to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock's call sign data base at <http://ualr.edu/~hamradio/callsign.html>, type in their own Area Code, look up the addresses of all the hams in their

(Continued on page 63) Wanderings



PAARA PONDERINGS

de VIC BLACK, AB6SO

A new cult hero emerged from Dayton Hamvention 99. FCC enforcement officer, **Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH**, spoke to standing room only crowds about the FCC's recent stance against on-air profanity, misuse of frequencies, jamming and other illegal activities. Afterwards, Riley was swarmed by hams seeking his autograph. He explained that the easy way out would have been to issue fines, confiscate stations and suspend licenses of trouble makers. Instead, he displayed unusual leadership qualities by becoming personally and proactively involved to reconcile and rehabilitate offenders. After issuing more than 150 warning slips and offers to negotiate, about 80% of the problems disappeared. Surprisingly, he indicated that there are more enforcement issues involving commercial radio than there are involving amateur radio. Hollingsworth challenged all hams to work for improvement within the hobby by recruiting at least one new licensee or by helping one person to upgrade. Realizing that he's on a roll, Riley then headed for HamCom in Arlington near Dallas. Can Pacificon be far behind?

Another highlight from Dayton was the fact that ARRL President **Rod Stafford W6ROD** was spotted "working the QRP booth". He was photographed handing out QRP ARCI materials and promoting low power operation. Rod added with a grin that he wanted more people on QRP to make it easier for him to bust pileups with his 1500 watts. The grin indicated that he was joking. :-)

During a recent morning commute, a teacher said he was monitoring the 145.230 repeater and wanted to demonstrate ham radio at a middle school. PAARA members who answered the call included **Jon Zweig AD6FX**, **Andy Korsak VE3FZK**, **Pat Gormley KB6HZZM**, **Rich Stiebel W6APZ** and **Vic Black AB6SO**. One mobile check in was a 9 year old General Class ham with an N1 callsign traveling with his dad on business from Boston. He said it took 6 weeks to study for his license, but he was experienced since he was licensed as a Technician at age 7. Forgot to ask who was here on business; the 9 year old with Dad as chaperone, or Dad with the son in tow?

The last time I was in Calgary, Alberta I inquired about the date of the world famous Calgary Stampede (rodeo). I was told, "It's held during the summer". I persisted, "Yes, but when during the summer?". The answer was surprising. "You're not from around here, are you? Otherwise you'd know that summer is the first two weeks of July"! Watch for amateurs in Alberta using the CY6 prefix, instead of VE6, July 1-14th, to commemorate the Stampede.

Panamanian hams are authorized to use special prefix 3F from 1 Dec, 1999 to 5 Jan, 2000 to celebrate the Panama Canal Reversion on 31 Dec. **Camillo Castillo HP1AC** plans to use 3FIAC. Cam is easy to work and has excellent ears. He worked PAARA's **W6OTX** entry in the QRP to the Field contest earlier this year, two-way QRP.

Jim Price KO6GM reported, "This morning's (June 2) Wall Street Journal has an interesting front page article regarding the FCC's contemplation of dropping the Morse Code requirements for Amateur Radio." It describes the ongoing debate between the FISTS CW group and the No Code International group and described FISTS as "militantly" in favor of retaining the CW requirement. This big time exposure brought out the best of the stand up comedians.

"If we are a militant group do you think they will want to confiscate our fully automatic keyers, and limit semi-automatic bugs to people over 21? Maybe register all J-38's?"; **Charlie WA5KRF**. "Probably institute a background check and 3 day waiting period before you can buy a key at a hamfest"; **Mike KA0AMA**. "I was going to comment about using my Embedded Research AK-1, fully automatic Assault Keyer on unarmed Novices, but Hamdom Control International might get on my case"; **Howard Kraus K2UD**, militant FISTS member and CW Soldier of Fortune ('Have Key; Will Travel'). "I think they should ban all hi capacity memories! No one needs more than 10 dits!"; **Monte "Ron" Stark KU7Y** (NRA Life Member). As for me, personally, all I can add is that learning Morse code didn't affect me at all, did it, did it, di-dit, di-dit, dit, dit, errr...did it?

PAARA program Chairman **Jon Zweig AD6FX** has done an excellent job recruiting world class speakers for PAARA meetings this year. An example is **Robert Fabry, PhD N6EK** who spoke about the IARU HF beacon net work. His short biography reports, "Bob is retired from the faculty of the University of California, Berkeley. Among other accomplishments at the University, he founded, and for many years led, the project which created Berkeley UNIX. Licensed since 1957, Bob is a phone and CW contest op. He has been active as **VP5Y**, **N6EK/C6A**, **XE2GBD**, **N6EK/VE7**, **N6EK/1 (NA-148)**, **HD8D**, **N6EK/HC8**, **XE2GBD/XF3 (NA-90)**, **J76EK**, **XE2/N6EK/XF1 (NA-189)**, **3D2EK (OC-121/OC-156)** and **AL7EL/KH9**. He is active in many contests and has won California in the single-operator all-band category in the SSB World-Wide DX Contest. Bob is an advisor to the Northern California DX Foundation, for whom he designed and fabricated their new beacon system. He is a member of the Northern California Contest Club and the Northern California DX Club."

Late breaking news (June 7) is that the United States has signed an international treaty allowing US hams to operate in certain European countries and European hams to operate in the US without obtaining a prior reciprocal license. Under the CEPT agreement, US Amateurs need to carry three things when operating in a participating CEPT country: 1) Take your original US license (not a copy); 2) proof of US Citizenship (generally in the form of a Passport); and 3) a copy of the FCC's June 7, 1999, Public Notice DA-99-1098. This notice contains its information in three languages:

English, German and French) and details what US Amateurs need to consider, and carry with them, when traveling to a CEPT country.

(Continued from page 61) Wanderings

neighborhood and give one of them a call. So, if you receive such a call in the next few weeks, please lend a hand. Since similar call sign databases don't exist in other countries, we would appreciate your spreading the word to your colleagues around the world." Go to <http://www.azinet.com/starshine> for more information.

A sub hobby within ham radio is collecting telegraph keys. Miniature keys are a niche within that sub hobby. For a real eye opener, try http://hometown.aol.com/kb_9oce/index.html. You'll find straight keys and keyer paddles built into digital wrist watch cases. These fully functional miniature keys are available for about \$25 each and are worn on the wrist during use. If \$25 seems high, consider that the common garden variety surplus J-38 now costs more than that. We used to get them from a barrel at Red Johnson's Surplus in Palo Alto for 50 cents each!!

Whiterook Products Co. has a full line of mini straight keys, side swipers and single- and dual-paddles, some with built in PIC based keyers. All are inexpensive and fully functional for home, portable or mobile use. There's also a full line of similarly styled station accessories. Their web site is at <http://www.west.net/~wpc/home.html>. Gil Kost W3MKE sells miniature straight keys affectionately called "the little red keys" by his customers. His web site, The American Radio QRP Key Mfg. Co., is at <http://qrp.cc.nd.edu/qrp-1/catalog/qrpkey/keys.html>. At the high end, price wise, are the miniature keys from G4ZPY. One, the "Baby", is advertised as the world's smallest fully adjustable miniature paddle. I've tried it and it's a real gem. See them at <http://website.lineone.net/~g4zpy/index.htm>.

I've also used the Shurr Mini Version key. It's at the very high end for cost and quality and would be a good birthday present to yourself. You can see it at the Morse Express web site at <http://www.MorseX.com>. They feature the Sox Key, a hand-made machined brass mini key on a 1 inch x 2 inch brass base. It's made by Tim Soxman W3ZVT and has a magnetic rather than spring return. Morse Express also represents G4ZPY as well as LTA (Llaves Telegraphicas Artesanas), a group of artisans in the Balearic Islands who make specialty keys. Their Model GMP is a mini key that represents good value in the mid range of quality and price. ☺☺☺

(Continued from page 62) Ponderings

Participating countries currently include Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France (including Corsica, Guadeloupe, Guiana, Martinique, St Bartholomew, St Pierre et Miquelon, St Martin, and Reunion/Dependencies), Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom (including Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man). For a complete breakdown of license classes and country prefixes, see the ARRL web page <http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/io/cept-ral.pdf>.

For US Amateurs, there are two classes of CEPT. Class 1 requires knowledge of the international Morse code and carries all operating privileges (Technician Plus, General, Advanced or Extra class US licensees qualify for Class 1). For foreign amateurs, Class 1 is equivalent to our current Amateur Extra Class. Class 2 does not require knowledge of telegraphy and carries all operating privileges above 30 MHz. It is, therefore, equivalent to our current (no-code) Technician Class operator license. There is no equivalent Class description for the US Novice license, therefore the US Novice license is not eligible. No fees are necessary for CEPT operation.

The ARRL is now issuing the International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP). It allows US amateurs to operate from Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela without having to obtain a special license (the US and Canada also are CITEL signatories). The IARP is valid in any country that is a signatory to the CITEL Amateur Convention.

The Class 1 IARP is available to Tech Plus and higher class licensees. It requires knowledge of Morse code and carries all operating privileges. The Class 2 IARP is equivalent to the US Technician ticket. It does not require knowledge of Morse code and carries all privileges above 30 MHz. An IARP is not a license, but it certifies the existence of a license. The Novice license is not eligible. The IARP requires payment of a \$10 fee.

Operation under either the CEPT Licenses or IARP Permits must be according to the rules and regulations of the countries visited. Complete information on CEPT and IARP operation, including an IARP application form and a copy of the FCC Public Notice on CEPT, is available from the International Operating page on ARRLWeb, <<http://www.arrl.org/field/regulations/io/>>.

A quick check of the FCC database indicates that Walnut Creek Tech James Bond (ex-KE6PXQ) was issued vanity callsign K6SPY on June 2. Hmmm.

JA1OZL said, "I listen in the city and there is so much electrical noise I think my radio is broken. I go on an expedition to the hills and it's so quiet I think my radio is broken!"

Finally, VE6YC muses, "Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity." ☺☺☺

One does not make friends. One recognizes them.

—Garth Henrichs

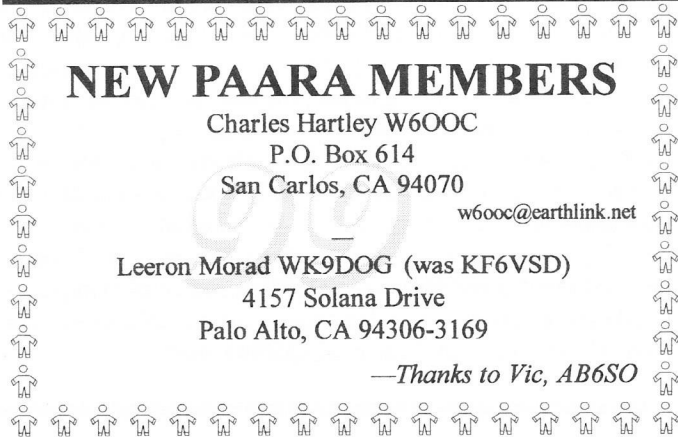
NEW PAARA MEMBERS

Charles Hartley W6OOC
P.O. Box 614
San Carlos, CA 94070

w6ooc@earthlink.net

Leeron Morad WK9DOG (was KF6VSD)
4157 Solana Drive
Palo Alto, CA 94306-3169

—Thanks to Vic, AB6SO



(Continued from page 59) ARRL

Hollingsworth employed a short-term renewal as a sanction in a recent amateur case where a newly licensed teenaged ham was found to be transmitting music on a police frequency using a modified hand-held. On April 14, **Hollingsworth** reinstated the ham's Technician license—which had been suspended—but imposed a one-year renewal. Local police in New Jersey had reported to the FCC that **Mike Mustachio**, now **KC2EUT**, had transmitted music on a police frequency for about 12 minutes on March 16—just days before his ham ticket was granted.

Hollingsworth said he spoke with the 14-year-old licensee and his parents before making a judgment call in the case to go with a short-term renewal. He expects the sanction might come in handy in other pending enforcement cases as well, but he still expects to use it only “in rare cases where there are mitigating circumstances and a good likelihood of compliance.”

He said short-termed licensees may appeal, but then the case goes to a hearing, and the process can get much more formalized and complicated. “It just tells them we're watching them,” he said.

Retesting is another administrative prerogative that **Hollingsworth** has been taking advantage of. The FCC has the authority to request that any amateur who obtained a license through the Volunteer Examiner program retest either at an FCC office or using another Volunteer Examiner Coordinator.

Earlier this year, **Hollingsworth** notified a Delaware ham that she had to retake her Extra class examination or lose her ticket. More recently, the FCC asked a Michigan ham to retake his General and Advanced class examinations. **Hollingsworth** said this week that other retesting requests will be going out soon in several cases where licensees either have not responded to a written Warning Notice or where something about the licensee's actions or responses might have raised questions about the individual's qualifications.

He also says that in situations where the FCC has received “substantiated or well-founded complaints,” the FCC may decide to investigate either by asking questions about how the exam was administered or by retesting.

Hollingsworth says recent testing “recalls” should not give rise to speculation that the Commission intends to institute routine retesting calls. He said examination irregularities need at least some attention “just as reviews of operating violations,” but he said the Commission won't be calling in hams on a wholesale basis to retake their tests.

“We're going to use this very carefully,” **Hollingsworth** said. “We don't want to scare everybody into thinking that they could get a recall in the mail.”

FIRST-EVER PSK31 CONTEST SET

The hottest new HF mode, PSK31, now has its own contest, and the sponsor hopes to make it an annual event. The first-ever TARA PSK31 Rumble, sponsored by the Troy Amateur Radio Association, will take place Saturday, April 17, 0000

until 2400 UTC. PSK31 is a keyboard-to-keyboard communication mode that operates in a very narrow bandwidth, so it's very easy to tune past a QSO in progress and never notice. Operationally, it's much like traditional 45-baud RTTY, so you can do everything from just monitoring to getting in a round-table. PSK31 also has shown itself to be a real trouper in weak-signal situations. To get up and running on PSK31 you need a PC that runs Windows and that is equipped with a sound card, PSK31 software (available via the Web), and a stable HF SSB transceiver. Several versions of PSK31 software are available as zipped files on the Internet. The latest PSK31 software includes a couple of tuning aids that make finding and tuning signals much simpler. The “official” PSK31 Web site is http://aintel.bi.edu.es/p_sks31.html, operated by Eduardo Jacob, EA2BAJ. Participating PSK31 Rumble stations should exchange name and state or province. DX stations should send their DXCC entity prefix. The only entry category is single-transmitter, single-operator. Novice, Technician, and Tech Plus stations should add a “/X” suffix. There are three power categories: Normal (100 W max), Great (20 W max), and Super (5 W max).

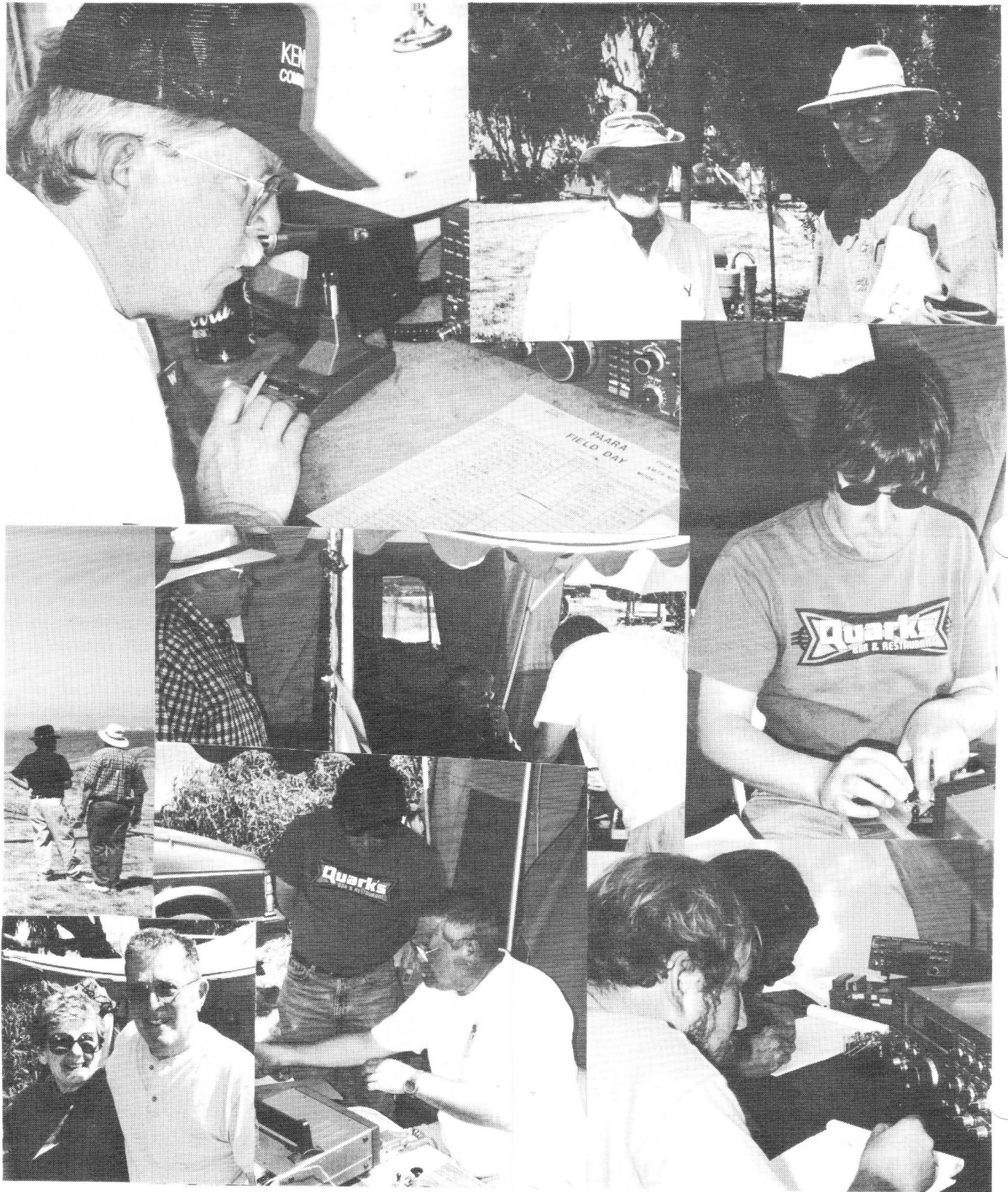
Frequencies: 3.600-3.675; 7.080-7.100; 14.100-14.150; 21.100-21.150; 28.100-28.300, and 50.100-54.000 MHz. Stations are asked to leave the regular PSK-31 calling frequencies clear for noncontest activity. Stations may be worked once per band for points. Each QSO counts one point. Novice/Tech stations may multiply QSO points by 5. Multipliers are all DXCC entities and call areas of the US, Canada, Japan and Australia on each band. Category “Great” multiply by 2; category “Super” multiply by 5. Your score is QSO points times multipliers. Participants should post band and number of QSOs for each band plus claimed score via e-mail to psk@n2ty.org by May 1, 1999. Include your category, name, call sign, and comments. Certificates/Awards will be made to the first, second, and third stations in each category as well as the first, second, and third in the Novice/Technician category plus an award for making a clean sweep of US states.

For more information on PSK31, see “PSK31--Has RTTY's Replacement Arrived?” in the May issue of QST. ☺☺☺



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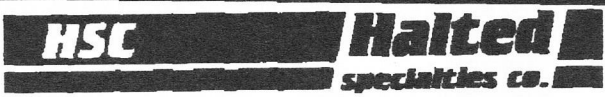
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- Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:30pm at the Menlo Park Recreation Center, 700 Alma Street, Menlo Park, CA.
- Radio NET every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230-600 MHz repeater, PL tone off.

Membership in PAARA is \$12.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAgaphs, \$6 for additional family members (no newsletter).
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