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AMATEUR RADIO
STATION W6DTX

VOL. XVIII

1974

PAARA GRAPHS

PALO ALTO AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.

MENLO PARK CIVIL DEFENSE RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

Mar. 74

PAARAGRAPHS -- the official organ of the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Assoc. and Menlo Park CD Radio Club.

VOLUME 18

NO.2

MARCH 1974

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V. Pres: Mike Eccles G3PPE/W6
Sect'y: Hal Moore W6DEF
Treasurer: Paul Churchill W6QBY
Trustee: (W6OTX) Vance Wardlow
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VE3FZK/W6
Terry Conboy WB6GRZ
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***** ----- *****

Policies: Membership includes subscription to PAARAGRAPHS
Annual Dues are a measly \$4.00
Subscription of PAARAGRAPHS only \$1.00 per year
Pay up -- you might get dropped from the mailings!
SEND all negotiables to PAARA, P.O. BOX 911, Menlo Park 94025
Dues are on a calendar year basis.

***** ----- *****

Anything newsworthy, articles, letters, complaints, nasty comments, etc, should be sent to:

Rick Ferranti WA6NCX
1234 Santa Cruz Avenue
Menlo Park, Ca. 94025
415-324-1539

OR Gary Perazzo
1044 Berkeley Avenue
Menlo Park, Ca. 94025
415-323-5307

GET ACTIVE IN PAARA ** WRITE ME SOMETNING!!!!!!

PAARA PICKIN'S ** ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER GONK, STUFF, ETC.

OUR NEXT MEETING: March 1, 1974, at 7:30 PM sharp in the infamous Menlo Park Recreation Center.

Program: Jack Curtis, of Curtis Keyer fame, is giving a talk on his latest creations and explaining all about memories and how electronic keyers work. Demonstrations will be shown -- all you CW buffs take notice!

Coffee -- donuts -- eyeball Qso's -- other Gonk

Board of Directors will meet in the early Baroque trailer deposited in more or less one piece in the SRI parking lot off Ravenswood Drive in Menlo Park. Date: March 6, 1974, time is 7:30 PM sharp.

****_*****_*****_*****

THE PAARA NET is still kicking around (and doing quite well) on Monday Nights on 145.24 MHz: AM, at 7:30 PM. Come on up to two meters, talk about some interesting topic, and rediscover that AM wasn't really all that bad after all.

Any and everyone is welcome.

-----*****-----

They're at it again---The latest proposal to nibble away some more of our amateur bands has been formulated in the FCC docket 19880. This latest proposed breach of Radio Regulations of the International Telecommunications Union, plans to glom onto most of the top 150 kHz of the 420-450 MHz band for a new non-amateur emergency medical communications system. It appears that this may be a tough one to buch as there seems to be much money and the White House involved.

LAST MINUTE NEWS
MAKE INFO NOW
ISSUE!!

WE'VE GOT A GRAND HOMEBREW de CCRC Circle
CONTEST COMING UP!! - GET YOUR PET PROJECT READY!

MORE PAARA PICKIN'S AND ANNOUNCEMENTS, INFO

Curtis Roche, K6AL, of Palo Alto is a new member of PAARA -- welcome aboard!

-----***-----

Wanted: A HW-12A Heath 80 meter SSB monobander xcvr. Power supply not absolutely necessary. Drop a line to 1294 Hanchett Ave, San Jose, 95126, addressed to Gary Giampaoli, WB6WNI.

Wanted: A crank-up tower, preferably self-supporting.
For Sale: Collins 75A4, 3 mechanical Filters, speaker and manual, \$350.00.
For the tower and the Collins: Steve Ross, W6HKX, 320 Arlington Way, Menlo Park, 94025

Sell, Swap, or What-Have-You: Almost complete 2M FM pip squeak transmitter. I fell in luck and got an 80 watt FM transceiver from MARS.
Call Jerry WA6CPA at 369-3147.

-----*****-----

Our sincere condolences to a fine old-time member, Milt Donovan, W6MPN, who recently lost his wife from a massive hemorrhage.

*****-----*****

SPARKS had their annual auction recently, and Andy, VE3FZK was his usual enthusiastic self when it came time to bid -- he netted quite a few 'useful' items -- painfully enumerated on the air last monday nite. Andy amazed us all because he was using the famed 2-meter transmitter he built on AM without it blowing the three-legged fuses to kingdom come. All of which is a genuine Subtle Hint for Andy to get the blasted receiver part of the project completed and for you, the ecstatic PAARA member, to either build a transmitter like Andy's or otherwise Get on our net!

BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEETING MINUTES -- FEB 6, 1974

Present were: Bob Baum, W6BFH, Ed Fairbanks, W6AIN,
Terry Conboy, WB6GRZ, Andy Korsak, VE3FZK/W6,
Fred Canham, K6YT, Mike Eccles, G3PPE/W6.

Hal Moore, W6DEF, was ill and could not attend so previous meeting minutes were approved as published in PAARAGRAPHS. (Believe it or not -- the very same journal you now hold in your trembling hands!)

Paul Churchill sent word that he would be unable to attend with the financial statement. Hence it would be dispensed with -- but a glance at the next page will confirm that Ye Editor got a hold of it anyway.

Andy reported for the technical committee. The little 2 meter solidstate transmitter is on the air (gasp!) and has received fine reports from the members of our Monday night net. We were advised that Paul Thekan and Mike Bach did not win the bid on the USFS 6 meters FM gear. (too much TVI anyway, right?). Paul is ready to built the club's 2 meter xmtr. Perhaps additional circuit boards for this little gem will be available from Paul Thekan.

A motion was passed to renew our membership in the Central California Radio Council. Annual Fee \$6.00. Fred asked for a volunteer delegate to the CCRC. None were forthcoming and he agreed to continue in spite of the conflict of meeting the same wednesdays as many of our board meetings. It was also reported that CCRC has asked all parties interested in the Greater Bay Area Hamfest for 1974 attend an organizational meeting at W6QIE the evening of February 15th.

It was moved and seconded that PAARA purchase a Quement forward and reflected power meter for use in setting up antennas and transmitters at the trailer. Fred will contact Jerry Starkey to make the Big Purchase. Con't--

Board meeting minutes con't-----

Fred announced that he had ordered a few more 8068kHz crystals from JAN xtals. Members wishing to participate in our Monday nite 2 meter net should get their old clunky AM gear working on the band and contact Fred if a Crystal is needed.

Some discussion of the speakers for our next meetings took place and Andy will contact several persons mentioned to make arrangements.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 local "lord knows what" time.

----------***-----***-----***

HEY everyone is interested in Money, right???? Do you have any idea where PAARA hides all those dues? Please, NO letters, snide remarks, etc. about the fact that the biggest disbursement was for Ye Editor -- I can show you the 55 reams of paper and ink!!!!

PAARA TREASURERS REPORT PAUL K. CHURCHILL, TREASURER

Transactions for 1973:

Funds on hand 1/1/73 \$ 948.24

Income

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Dues | 241.00 |
| PAARAGRAPH subscriptions | 23.00 |
| Advertisers | 270.00 |
| Raffles | 101.85 |
| Auction | 376.39 |
| Interest | 8.80 |
| Misc. | 17.08 |

Total income 1973 \$1038.12

Disbursements

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| PAARAGRAPHS | \$ 257.48 (ouch) |
| Raffle prizes | 32.11 |
| Fire insurance | 10.00 |
| Trailer (supplies & parts) | 48.90 |
| Field Day (poles, gasoline) | 65.58 |
| Misc. Auction Expense | 16.00 |

Con't-----

Treasurer's report Con't:

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| Duplicator (PAARAGRAPH ads) | \$ 50.00 |
| Functions (donuts, coffee, Xmas) | 26.35 |
| Misc. | 42.79 |
| TOTAL disbursements 1973 | \$ 549.21 |

TRANSACTIONS 1974 (to Feb. 10)

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Funds on hand Jan 1, 1974 | |
| Checking Account | \$ 421.60 |
| Petty cash | 6.75 |
| Savings Account | 1008.80 |
| Total | \$1437.15 |

INCOME

| | | |
|---|------------------|------|
| Dues | \$ 137.00 | |
| PAARAGRAPHS subscriptions | 8.00 | rah! |
| Sale of equipment | 22.83 | |
| Raffle | 12.50 | |
| Total funds on hand before disbursements | \$1617.48 | |

Disbursements

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| PAARAGRAPHS | \$ 55.00 |
| Parts for 80m rig | 4.81 |
| SET mailings | 18.72 |
| Donuts | 13.87 |
| Stamps and envelopes | 8.50 |
| Xmas party | 35.00 |
| Renewal W6OTX license | 9.00 |
| Trailer Liscense DMV | 14.00 |
| Raffle prizes | 15.46 |
| | \$ 174.36 |

TOTAL funds on hand --- \$1443.12
2/10/74

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Savings account | 1008.80 |
| Checking acct | 423.57 |
| petty cash | 10.75 |
| GRAND TOTAL | <u>\$1443.12</u> |

Editor's note; Paul sent me a cryptic note along with the above: "This ought to help a lot to fill up the bulletin!" I wonder what that meant????

A REPORT ON THE S.E.T. OF 1974

Unfortunately, our participation was DOWN from last year. 74 members of AREC are registered, we had 46 hams participate, sending 38 messages. 16 mobiles were zooming around on sparse gasoline. All in all, we had 431 points. Hal moore, our area EC, had this to say -- Menlo Park's CD club came through with flying colors, but the Redwood City CD didn't fare so well. The radio officers for Redwood City are aware of diminishing interest but there's not much one can do about it. Brilliant ideas are lacking.

Do you have any thoughts on improving the SET? if you have any suggestions, contact Hal at 3700 Page Street, Redwood City, Ca -- 94063.

Congrats to those who participated -- especially the hams who tried it for the first time -- fun, eh?

**** ----- ****

MURPHY'S LAW DISPROVED!!!

As we all know, the club's most infamous possession is the lovely Swan 350 SSE xcvr. Way back in '72, when ye editor was but a budding novice (but at least knew which end of a key to press), I had occasion to make a contact with WB6DOA in Southern Cal. Wellsir, right in the middle of the QSO the power supply emits a tremendous roar, lights go out, and fuses are blown as wide as the Grand Canyon. After cleverly deducing the cause as being a genuine $2\frac{1}{2}\phi$ Swan-type HV rectifier and replacing same, the wonderful 350 worked all of 1973 (a miracle, no less). However, as luck would have it, right in the very heat of the 1974 SET guess what goes to hades on a rollerskate? None other than another ubiquitous 3ϕ (inflation...) Swan rectifier. Now, you say -- how could this disprove Murphy's law? After all, it did happen during the SET.... The answer is obvious -- the blasted thing worked perfectly throughout Field Day 1973!!!!!!

BECOME ACTIVE---GET ON THE AIR---JOIN PAARA

THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF EDSSEL MURPHY TO THE UNDERSTANDING
 OF THE BEHAVIOUR OF INANIMATE OBJECTS

de HP Bench Briefs Dec. '73

General Engineering

Dimensions will always be expressed in the least usable term. Velocity, for example, will be expressed in furlongs per fortnight.

An important Instruction Manual or Operating Manual will have been discarded by the Receiving dept. (or XYL??)

Prototyping and Production

Any wire cut to length will be too short.

Tolerances will accumulate unidirectionally toward maximum difficulty of assembly.

Identical units tested under identical conditions will no be identical in the field.

The availability of the component is inversely proportional to the need for the component.

If a project requires n components, there will be n-1 units in stock.

If a particular resistance is needed, the value will not be available. Further, it cannot be developed with any available series or parallel combination.

A dropped tool will land where it can do the most damage. (also known as the Law of Selective Gravitation.)

The probability of a dimension being omitted from a plan or drawing is proportional to its importance.

Interchangeable parts won't.

Probability of failure of a component, assembly, subsystem or system is inversely proportional to the ease of repair or replacement.

If a prototype functions perfectly, subsequent production units will malfunction.

Components that must not and cannot be assembled improperly will be.

Graphic recorders will deposit more ink on humans than on paper.

An instantaneous power-supply crowbar circuit will operate too late. con't....

MURPHY con't

A transistor protected by a fast-acting fuse will protect the fuse by blowing first.

If an obviously defective component is replaced in an instrument with an intermittent fault, the fault will reappear after the instrument is returned to service.

After the last of 16 mounting screws has been removed from an access cover, it will be discovered that the wrong access cover has been removed.

After an access cover has been secured by 16 hold-down screws, it will be discovered that the gasket has been omitted.

After an instrument has been fully assembled, extra components will be found on the bench.

-----*****-----

The last issue of PARAGRAPHS asked about the nature of a Clapp-Eastman Kickback Preventer. I thereby received two very nice letters -- a cordial note from Irv Rasmussen, W6FNM, and some very fine information on the crazy device volunteered by Ken Wilder, K6RE. to quote:

"The term "kickback" was in common use in the days of the prospector's burro, the army mule, and the hand-cranked automobile, all of which could yield a viscious kickback under certain conditions. In present day practice the term "choke" seems to have taken over."

See that? You LEARNED something!!!!!! Tnx Irv & Ken

-----*-----

Being dubiously interested in 160 meters and awful-low-frequency operation as such, Ye OldeEditor was somewhat interested in the article on the 1750 meter band in the Jan 74 issue of QST. Has anyone constructed an xmtr which is not crystal controlled for that frequency? If so, drop me a line -- I have a BC-453 as a receiver. Maybe it will be eventually turned into a ham band -- just think -- 1000 watts on 160 to 190 kHz. They could outlaw SSB down there. PAARA could have another net there too -- what exciting possibilities!!

--NCX

From the 1923 edition of the ICS RADIO OPERATOR'S HANDBOOK,

THE ELECTROLYTIC DETECTOR

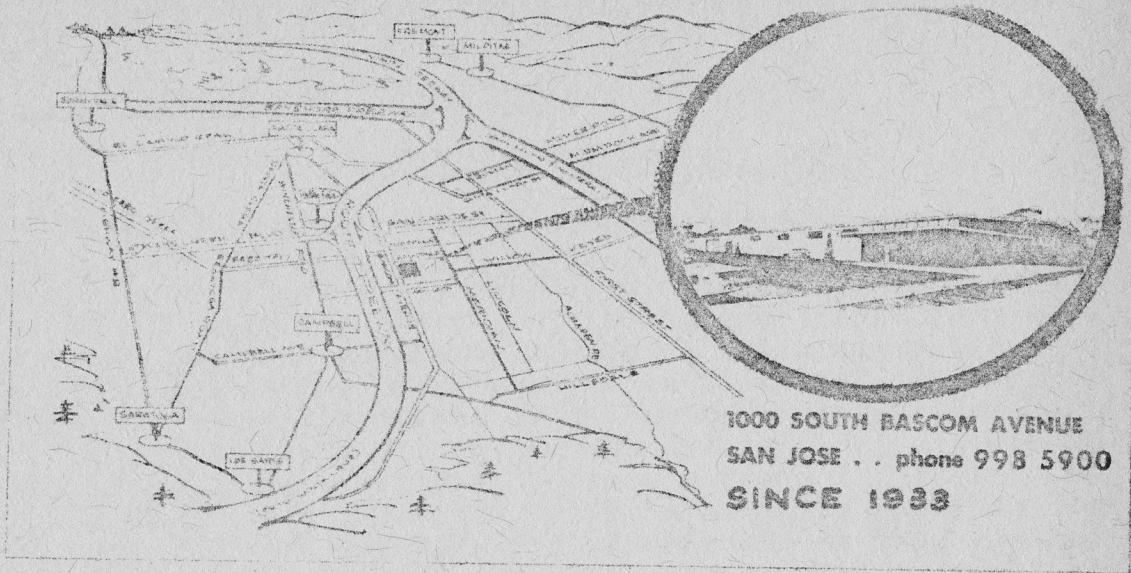
The electrolytic detector has fallen into disuse in the United States, but it is widely used in some European countries with excellent results. It consists of a small glass cup containing an electrolytic liquid of a dilute solution of nitric or sulphuric acid. One terminal is formed by a platinum plate in the electrolyte. The other terminal is made by a minute platinum wire about .0001 inch in diameter inserted in the electrolyte for only an exceedingly short distance. A battery is connected across these elements so that the positive terminal of the battery goes to the fine point while the negative terminal is connected to the larger platinum plate. The external receiving circuit is also connected across these two points. The battery tends to send a current through the electrolyte, and this current causes a decomposition of the electrolyte and a film of bubbles of gas to collect around the fine positive wire. Current in one direction is passed without much hindrance, while a current in the opposite direction is checked to a large extent. An alternating current will then be rectified, as one half of the pulsation, either positive or negative, will be allowed to pass while the opposite pulsations will be rejected. The electrolytic detector requires rather sensitive voltage adjustments and also a careful adjustment of the fine point that barely projects into the electrolyte.

(Gee, if it hadn't been for that last sentence I was all set to hook one up to my Tempo-One and get rid of that dumb semiconductor diode!)

Do you know what QSW and QSX meant??? Increase and decrease your spark frequency, respectively.

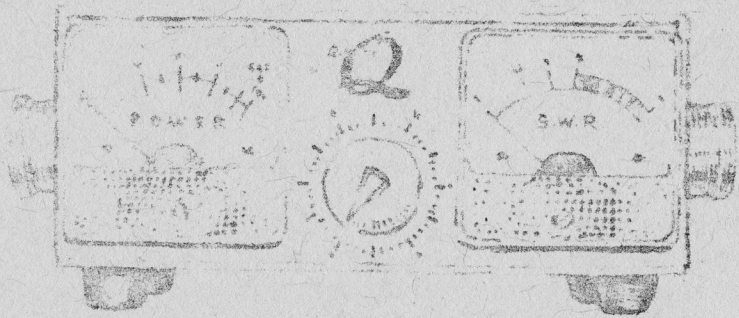
QRN was "are the atmospherics strong?" Close, kiddo.

QRH was "what is your wavelength in meters?". There should be some daring manufacturer--Collins, for example, who would have calibration dials read in meters, not kHz!!



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