

SEP 1977

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vol. 21
1977

PAARA

GRAPHS



palo alto
AMATEUR
RADIO ASSN.

MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

SEPTEMBER 1977

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 8

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

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The SEPTEMBER MEETING of PAARA will again try to confuse you by being a week later than usual. The Date is the 9th, the second Friday of the month. The featured speaker will be WA6DNR, Alan Bowker who will fill us in on all of the dope on RTTY and on the WR6ACR RTTY repeater in particular. Alan will bring along some spiffy equipment for a fine demonstration of the many advantages of this mode. Meeting time is 7:30 PM.

Be there for this interesting program and the normal group of FB OM's and the other continuing exquisite features of each and every PAARA meeting. Which are of course the amazing goodies and the RAFFLE!

WEAR YOUR BADGE or you may find yourself poorer.....

THE SECRET SOCIETY known as the PAARA Board of Directors will have their normal meeting on the following Wednesday, September the 14th at 7:30 PM. Who knows what will transpire in that dark, dank wheel-born structure lying guardedly in the SRI parking lot. Come spy on the strange rituals; they won't notice.....

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SOME RF-ORIENTED GATHERINGS are also taking place in the ether. As long as the FCC doesn't close them down, they will occur at the following times and frequencies.

PAARA AM NET	145.24 MHz on Mondays at 8:15 PM.
PAARA FM NET	147.45 MHz on Mondays at 8:30 PM.
PICS SSB NET	21.393 or 14.245 MHz on alternate Saturdays at 9 AM. Upcoming dates are August 27th, September the 10th and the 24th .

THE "MARBLE CONE" FIRE in the VENTANA WILDERNESS brought many hams out to help with communications. Ed Gribi, WB6IZF, the new SCV SEC showed his skill by organizing almost 500 hams (including K6FS and W6BFH, who both operated for a week) to provide both short range internal communications and long range health and welfare and phone patch traffic. As many as ten stations were in simultaneous operation at the scene. W1RU from ARRL headquarters got a first hand view of the fire from a plane flown by John Weil, WA6BXN. Look for further details on this commendable action in an up-coming issue of QST .

VISIONS OF INTERGALACTIC SUGARPLUMS de W6DEF... cont. from July...

White dwarf stars began with about the mass of our sun and end up about the size of the earth with a density so great that a teaspoon of white dwarf material would weigh a ton. For some billions of years these squeezed down stars will continue to shine, but they grow steadily colder until they become black dwarfs, cinders in the ash heap of the universe.

Dying stars more massive than the sun do not ordinarily become white dwarfs, but suffer a more dramatic fate. It has been recorded that what was thought to be a brilliant new star was a supernova. Then in 1967 two astronomers in England examined strip-chart recordings from a new antenna highly sensitive to fluctuating radio energy. They discovered mysterious signals repeated on several occasions when the antenna was pointed at a particular part of the sky. Thinking the pulsing signals might carry a message from a civilization on the planet of some distant star, they called the source LGM (Little Green Men). In 1968 measurements disproved the idea. By then it was clear that astronomers had come upon a new kind of star: "one of the most marvelous pieces of architecture in the universe" to quote a famous astronomer. This belief was supported by discovery of other pulsing stars, whose intense bursts of radiation came from 4 to 30 times per second. They were called pulsars. They are apparently neutron stars and more than a hundred have now been discovered.

Bizarre as pulsars may be, there is something still smaller, still denser, and still more mysterious: the so-called black hole. It is the end product of the catastrophic collapse of a really large star. It is the ultimate concentration of matter. Put simply, if a collapsing star is massive enough, its gravity is so strong that not even light can escape its boundaries. The star "winks out" and is never seen again. Still it exerts a powerful influence, and for astronomers it is one of the most provocative objects in the universe.

Comets have always seemed mysterious. Long ago they were regarded with terror; now that the earth has survived the close approach of numerous comets, astronomers are delighted with the prospect of a comet coming toward us. According to the theory, the head is a dirty snowball made of frozen gases including water, and dust. It is only about 50 miles in diameter. When the comet is a great distance from the sun, there is only the head. The tail develops later and may stretch for millions of miles. Calculations of comet's orbits show which will return close to the earth again. Halley's comet is an example of a comet that returns regularly, within a relatively short period of time. Comet's behavior can be frustrating, as seen by the Comet Kohoutek's failure to live up to its advance billing.

Meteors may be the debris of comets. Many scientists believe that meteor showers occur when the earth passes through what had been the path of a comet. Meteor showers are regular events during the year, with numbers of shooting stars streaking across a particular part of the sky. They are called meteoroid when far out in space; meteors or if very bright "fireballs" when in the atmosphere; and meteorites if they fall on the earth's surface. Few are large enough to produce noticeable craters.

From Sydney Harris in the Examiner: In the infinite reaches of space, our earth was relegated to a speck of dust revolving around a third rate star in an obscure corner of a minor galaxy no different from millions of others like it. To believe that this speck of dust was singled out by God's eye, was marked out for the incarnation, the redemption and all the rest of the theological dogmas, required a leap of faith that only the most resolute could make.

It now seems not merely possible, but highly probable that there exist many earths in the universe that have give birth to life and that carry cultures and technologies comparable to, and perhaps superior to our own.

On a purely statistical basis, using the latest mathematical calculations based upon astronomical research it is more scientific than less to assert the high probability that creatures "formed in the image of God" inhabit thousands or millions of orbs with the same life sustaining properties as our earth.

Rather than crushing orthodox theology, this vista expands it far beyond its small terrestrial origins. It means that we are part of a vast symphony of life echoing throughout the cosmos. Not a tiny unique unrepeatable phenomenon, but an element in an integrated scheme of creation extending through the breadth of time and space. Our "religion" hitherto may not have been too big for us, it may have been too small.....

OTHER CLUBS HAVE MEDIOCRE AUCTIONS AND FLEA MARKETS.....

The Santa Clara Valley Repeater Society, sponsors of WR6ADE on 16-76 will have a Flea Market and Bake Sale on September 10th, a Saturday. The event is open to all and selling booths will be \$3. Check the repeater for time and location.

The Fremont Radio Club will have its Auction on September 21st.

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club auction will take the place of their normal third Friday meeting on October 21st. Their normal meeting place is the Grace Presbyterian Church at 2100 Tice Valley Rd. in Walnut Creek, Rooms 4 and 5. Time is 8 PM. Sell the stuff you bought at the PAARA auction earlier in the month... see next page...

A STRANGE AFFLICTION OVERCOMES MANY OF US THIS TIME OF YEAR as auctions occur at many of the ham clubs in the area. The best of all of the events occurs this year on Saturday, October the 8th at AMPEX. Of course this is the PAARA Auction and Flea Market. Starting time for sellers will be at 9 AM and the bidding gets underway at 10 AM. Everyone will be completely worn out by the 3:30 closing time. Look for further details in next months PAARAgaphs. Meanwhile, talk it up on your favorite repeater or HF net. It's fun a-n-d profitable!

Remember that PAARA would be quite happy to receive your donated items to auction off for additional revenue for the club. It's tax deductible and the man to see is the property custodian, Ed, W6AIN.

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WELCOME TO A NEW CLUB MEMBER, L. L. "Swede" Swenson who lives at the easy to remember address of 73 Adam Way in Atherton, CA 94025. Swede's phone is 368-8053 and he is on his way to becoming an ex-CB'er! Say hello to him and perhaps offer to help him on his road to becoming an amateur.

!!

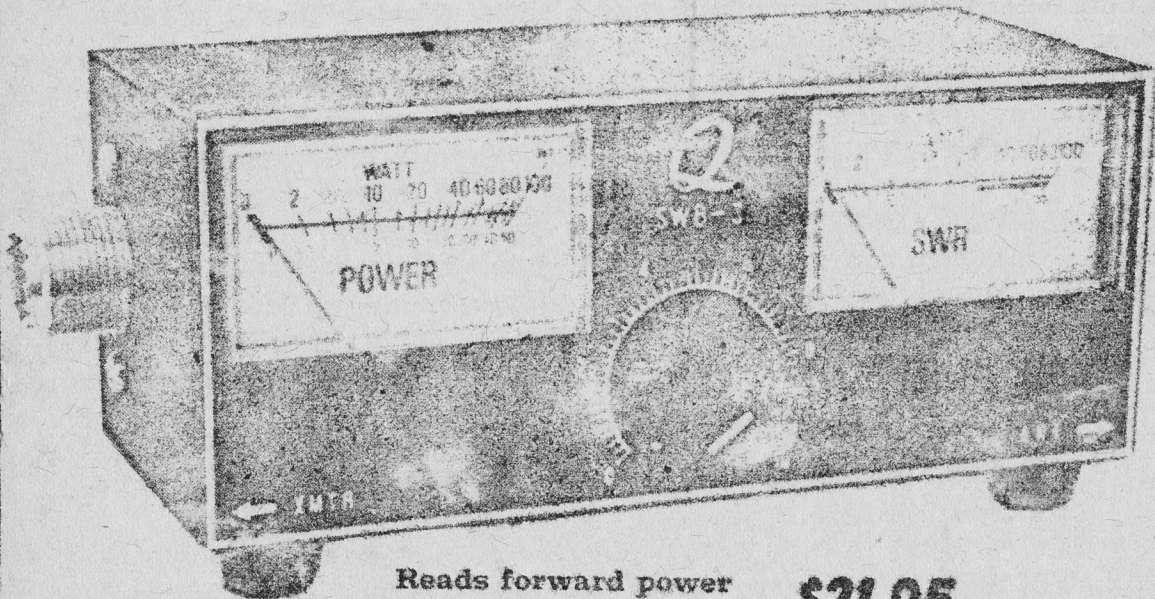
EVERYONE KNOWS THAT THE CODE IS EASY, especially after you have been at it for ten years and have an Extra ticket in your pocket. If you remain less than convinced, see Bob, W6BFH, who is planning to make code cassettes available for the asking to those needing help. There will be tapes starting with 3 WPM and going up to as fast as Bob can send. They will be in the same format as the new comprehension FCC exams, so you will be able to say that you once copied something like it. The tests are now a simulated QSO and include all of the normal pleasantries and l-o-t-s of numbers to trip you up. Get a new license or upgrade!!

Congratulations to Bob, WA6SO1, for finally making the grade from Tech to General. I saw real sweat pouring off his brow in his agonizing lunchtime code practice sessions at Lenkurt. Not too bad for someone who has never had a CW QSO.....

If you hear N6HM inhabiting a frequency and wonder what sort of strange creature that might be, fear not, for it only Howard, formerly known to most of us as WA6WUI.

Perhaps sometime in the foreseeable future, your executing editor may also get his N6 call... if the FCC doesn't lose his application.....

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