

MENLO PARK C.D. RADIO CLUB, K6YQT

# PAARA

## GRAPHS

VOL. 26

OCT. 1983.

**palo alto  
AMATEUR  
RADIO ASSN.**



F. D., 1983 - Fred Canham, K6YT.

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 PAARAGRAPHS is the official organ of  
 the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association &  
 the Menlo Park Civil Defence Radio Club.  
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\*\*\*\*\*

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PAARA POLICIES

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year (payable in January), which membership includes a subscription to PAARAGRAPHS. Freebies 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.

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, October 7, 1983

7:30pm

R E G U L A R

M E E T I N G

THE AMATEUR SATELLITE PROGRAMME

by

John Pronko, W6XN

If the space age has passed you by, or you wish to find out about contacting Owen Garriott, W5LFL, come to this meeting.

Meeting to be held at the Menlo Park Recreation Centre, Alma at Mielke, Menlo Park. Future meetings: November 4; December 2.

Mark your calendar for: (1) the PAARA Auction at the Ampex Cafeteria on 10/8/83; and (2) the PAARA Christmas Dinner and Wassail on 12/12/83 at Rick's Swiss Chalet.

Circle the Date

October 7, 1983

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

Lo, those many years of servitude are wearing on ye olde President; the time is close at hand when a slate of officers must be chosen for the following year.

We need a Nominating Committee of three at the October meeting, a slate of nominated officers by the November meeting, and a vote at the December meeting. This is obviously leading up to the subject of volunteers. One

problem with getting critical about volunteers is that those who do the work, will think they are being chastized unfairly. Such is not the case. I certainly want to applaud the dozen or so "hard core" PAARA members who do 90% of the work. However, we have to expand the number of people chipping in. One of the fundamental parts about chipping in, is to commit yourself and then back up your commitment. A number of people tell me that they will probably be at a function and to call on them then. While "winging" things can allow a certain low key approach to pulling off our various events, it does not create a very comfortable environment for your illustrious leaders. We need a more active role by each member in finding real, live speakers, in committing themselves to key roles in our yearly events, and in permitting rotation of the jobs of our officers and board members. It may seem hard for you to believe, but an actual promise to put in two hours work on behalf of PAARA every six months can relieve a tremendous burden on your hard-core workers.

Don't forget: it's fun to be where the action is.

de Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV.

THE EVENT OF THE DECADE

by

Gerry Tucker, WA6LNV

The "Event of the Decade" is what QST calls it. A fantastic contact is what you might call it. Many, I'm sure, will call it a disappointment. For better or worse, PAARA, via

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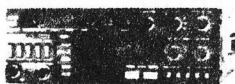


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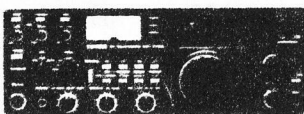


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Dave Daniel, KB6WP, is participating and it looks like it just might be a real challenge. Dave is throwing open his shack to interested PAARA members during the orbital crossings of STS-9 in hopes of making contact with Owen Garriott, W5LFL. Background on this effort can be found on p. 50 of your August QST. Preliminary timing estimates are for orbits 52-56 on November 4. Help is needed to run azimuth-elevation antenna control, etc.

Listen each day during the flight at 8:30 pm local time on the PAARA Net Frequency, 147.45 simplex, for updated information.

#### CONSTRUCTION:

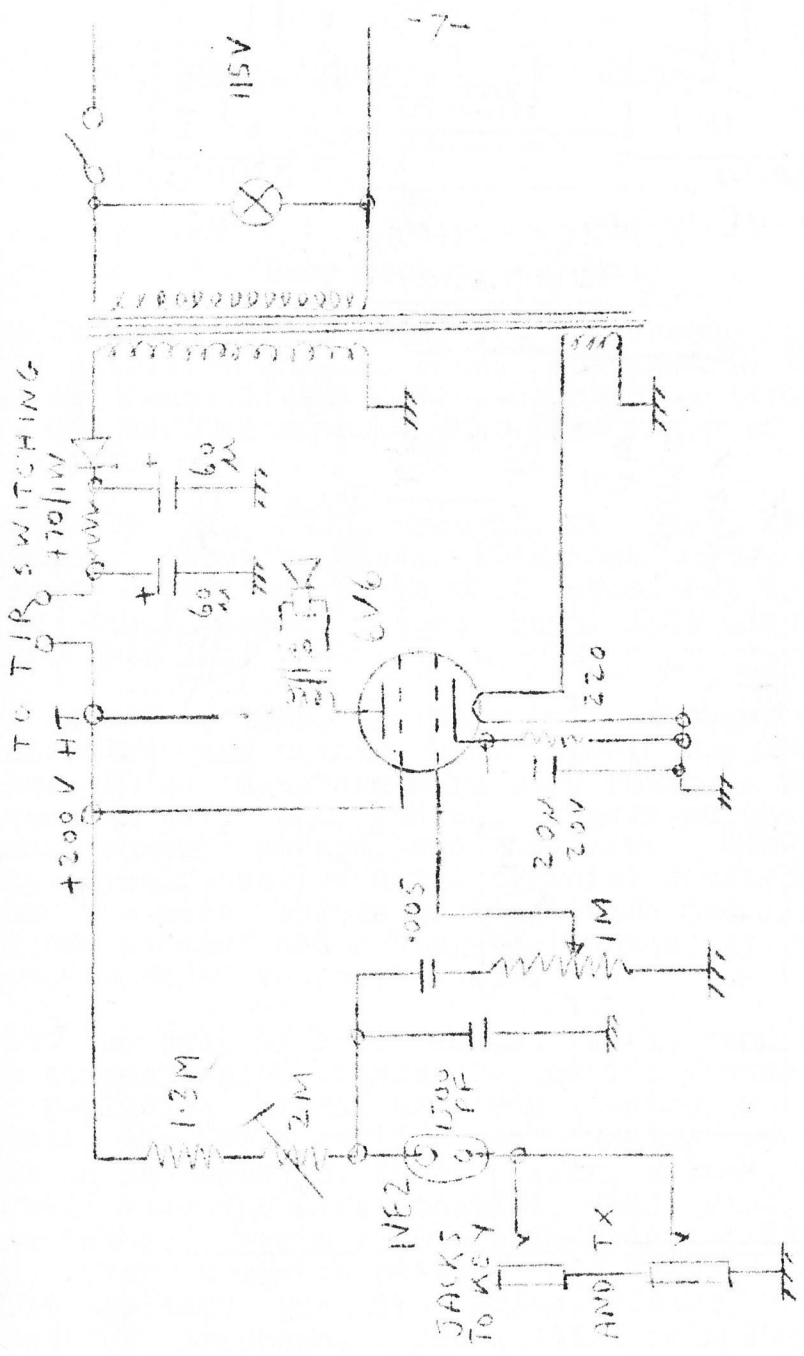
At the recent FARS Flea Market, your Editor bought for \$2.00 a non-working Hallicrafter's Sky Buddy II. After fixing it, I decided to use the parts instead for a keying monitor, olde-style, schematic on the next page.

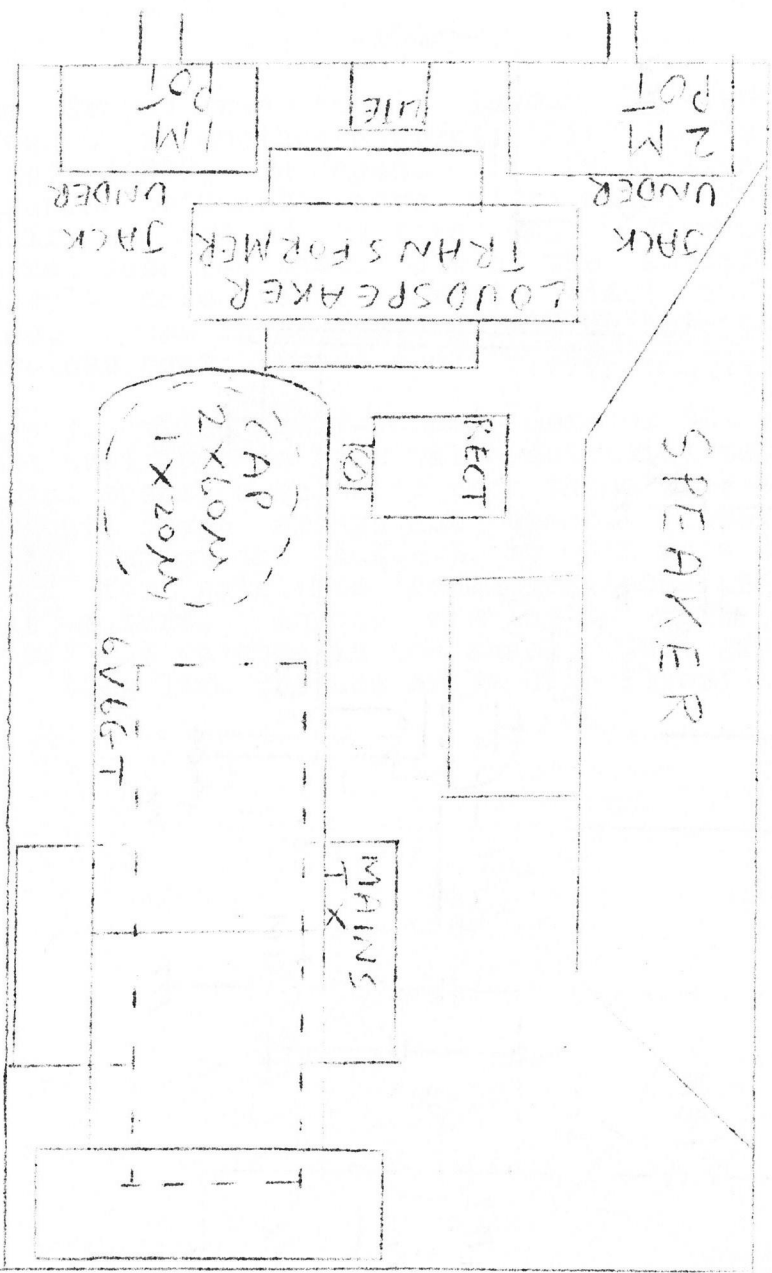
#### KEYING MONITOR/CODE PRACTICE OSCILLATOR

I made a case 4" wide by 5" high by 6" deep and sprayed it gray with a spray can from Scherba's. Zack's has a similar case in two-tone gray/blue. White rubber feet are sold by Woolworth's.

I used a 6V6GT because I have a lot of them. It is mounted horizontally from the back wall of the case.

The H.T. is switched to be on only during CW transmit. I mounted a white plastic terminal block, also from Woolworth's, on the outside of the back wall.







RETURN OF THE HAPPY FLYER  
OR  
AO-10 MAKES GOOD

by

Dave Daniel, KB6WP

On June 16, 1983, Oscar 10, the second Phase III satellite was launched, and just in time as the Phase II satellite, Oscar 8, apparently has died after more than five years of operation.

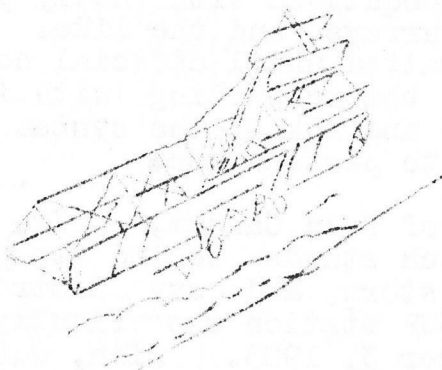
On July 11, 1983, roughly 26 days after launch, Amsat's Oscar 10's kick motor was fired to position it in what turned out to be its final orbit. (See Sept. 1983 QST for more details.)

On August 6, 1983, the Mode B transponder was activated and within hours AO-10 was abuzz with QSO's. Many amateurs were ready on that eventful day, equipped with newly purchased gear, antenna arrays, and the like. Others, like myself, waited until official confirmation was made before parting with the final "green stamps" and making the system alterations in order to participate.

With the help of Fred Canham, K6YT, and KIM (a company which stands behind its products) in replacing storm and sun destroyed elements, the KB6WP station was finally on the air on September 3, 1983. Alan, WA6AZP, and myself made the first contact, W6KH, Dick, in Los Gatos. Over a 40,000 mile trip utilizing CW, what a way to contact Los Gatos! The next contact was with Brian, VK4ABZ, just north of Brisbane. The initial slaying of

the dragon was done. Labour Day evening brought in another contact; this time it was Yoshi, JA3CF, in Japan. The Australian and Japanese contacts were mixed mode, SSB on their end and CW on this end. Apparently signal loss (40 watts out of the amplifier) doesn't make voice contacts viable at this time. Does anyone have a lead on some cheap low-loss coax; I need about 75 feet.

Anyway, this newly-formed mode of DX will make available to hams with restricted terrestrial space, a means to work those rare ones without large arrays and beams. However, don't expect the A.R.R.L. to open up a DXCC award for satellite communications in the near future. Anyone wishing to work the "bird" is welcome in the shack; just give a CQ. Long live the new Happy High Flyer!



A NEED TO ACT, NOT REACT.  
by  
Dave Daniel, KB6WP

Several people have approached me with questions on which direction I thought our Club news bulletin, Paaragraphs, was heading.

They suggested that non-amateur radio articles could better be replaced with articles relating to our hobby, even if they were taken from better known sources.

Initially I agreed; not all hams take the same magazines, so the lifted material just might be new to some of us. But, on second thoughts, I see what George is trying to accomplish.

George, on many occasions, has requested input from the membership, yours truly included. Apparently, that cry has fallen on deaf ears. If the sole responsibility of George is to copy interesting articles from other amateur radio magazines, then Paaragraphs no longer is by and for the membership of PAARA.

George, in a last ditch attempt, is trying to get us off our mics and keyers long enough to take part in our magazine and club activities. Now is not the time to complain or to allude to the overthrow of Ireland, now is the time to act and take that first step: send in your latest rare contact report, project, or just plain excess BS from the ham shack. Help George out; you will end up helping yourself, along with all of us to boot.

(Ed.: You're very perceptive, Dave. I look upon Paaragraphs as a place where Club members can try writing, or pass on their news. Paaragraphs used to have a regular Post 599

feature, written by Art Adams, KA6POV, who has moved away, I understand. However, the Post has many erudite and literate members including, but not limited to, John Buonocore, KD6ZL; Alan Larsen, WA6AZP; Chris Schellenberg, WB6WBK; and Rob Taylor, KA6NAN; any of whom could write a regular Post 599 feature. It would be very much appreciated by PAARA members.

Paaragraphs used to have a regular Secretary's report on the regular monthly meeting and on the Board of Director's meeting. For the past year and a half, our Secretary, Gerry Wagstaffe, W6NIR, has not submitted any reports. He has asked that his articles be published anonymously, and I as Editor have refused, i.e. all articles for Paaragraphs must have the author's name printed.

In view of the trouble caused by an anonymous article (the so-called Happy Flier) to the then Paaragraphs Editor, Bill King, N6CHI, my insistence is reasonable, I think. For the benefit of those members of the Club who do not know the story, a summary follows. Your Editor was not a PAARA member at the time, but he was told the story by Fred Canham, K6YT.

Paaragraphs published an anonymous article which allegedly poked fun at a pilot/ham who had given the talk at the previous Club meeting. The pilot/ham considered the article libelous. The legal definition of libel is: Any malicious defamation expressed in printing or writing and intended to blacken either the memory of one who is dead or the reputation of one who is living and expose him to public hatred, contempt or

ridicule is a libel.

The writer of the anonymous Paaragraphs article did not identify himself, and the pilot/ham agreed to drop the matter if the then-Paaragraphs Editor resigned.

Your present Paaragraphs Editor is capable of learning from the past; hence, there will be no anonymous articles published.

However, it would be nice to have a Secretary's report each month

LETTER:

Wayne Green Inc.  
73 Amateur Radio's technical  
Journal  
Peterborough, N.H. 03458

August 19, 1983

Dear George,

Just read your latest newsletter, and really enjoyed it. I always look forward to getting each great issue.

Sincerely,  
Avery L. Jenkins, WBSJLG  
Technical Editor.

(Ed.: Thanks, Avery. I like to think that you represent the great Silent Majority!)

A TRIP TO DENMARK cont'd:

The Freedom Museum has several exhibits relating to the Free Danish Forces which fought with the regular British and American forces in World War II, but the great majority of the exhibits relate to the Danish Resistance movement.

There is a collection of spy radios, etc., some of which are quite sophisticated, some of which are very rudimentary. There is a high speed CW VHF transmitter, fed by pre-punched paper tape at, I think, 900 WPM that linked Copenhagen to Malmo, Sweden. At the other extreme, there are one-tube transmitter, two-tube receiver suitcase sets.

There are many examples of underground magazines and leaflets; some printed by mimeograph, some printed by letterpress, but all of which bear a close resemblance to Paragraphs!

The exhibits are housed in a log cabin-style building in the park, and there is a home-made armoured car outside. It most closely resembles the vehicle used by the Untouchables on TV to destroy Al Capone's breweries!

Despite the torture exhibits, the photographs of Gestapo atrocities, etc., the atmosphere is cheerful; quite different from, say, the Anne Frank Museum. One gets the feeling at the Freedom Museum that the Danish Resistance got in plenty of heavy punches. One also gets the feeling that the Museum is staffed by volunteers who were members of the WWII Danish Resistance.

To be continued.



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