

MAY 1992

PAARA PICNIC

BE
THERE
OR



BE
SQUARE

W6VG QTH

SATURDAY MAY 23 !

- Our annual BBQ/Picnic will be held May 23rd from 11 am to 3 pm at W6VG's QTH. (Map enclosed)
- Bring your spouse, friend or significant other, and your own picnic lunch or food to BBQ. If you would like to bring something to share, bring that as well and it will be much appreciated by all.
- The club will provide beer, soft drinks, cold cuts & asst. breads, paper plates, napkins, and charcoal for the BBQ's.
- W6VG will provide the facility, hot coffee and cold tea.
- There will be door prizes for both men & women.

This will be the 6th year at this location and is always a relaxing and fun affair for all.



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Editor	Chuck Johnson	W6VFH	408-251-8536
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PAARA POLICIES

Membership in PAARA is \$6.00 per calendar year which includes a subscription to PAARAgraphs. Make payment to the Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026

Club Net 147.45 MHz Mondays 6:30 PM

Meet at 7:30 PM on the first Friday of each month at the Menlo Park Recreation Center.

Send PAARAgraphs correspondence to:

Chuck Johnson W6VFH, EDITOR
 1709 Mt. Logan Drive
 San Jose, CA 95127

VOLUME 35

MAY 1992

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

THERE IS ONLY 1 BIG THING
THIS MONTH FOR PAARA --
THE SPRING PICNIC AT W6VG'S!
HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE....
TIL NEXT MONTH & FIELD DAY,
73 DE YOUR EDITOR.

SPEAKER OF THE MONTH

SCHEDULED TO APPEAR---

VIDEOS: 2 OF THEM....

1: SECOND HALF OF NOVA RADAR TAPE

2. "GROUNDING FOR LIGHTNING PROTECTION"

COMMERCIAL TAPE....

DE ANDY VE3FZK

PAARA PROGRAM CHAIRMAN

PRESIDENT'S CORNER DE GERRY WA6LNV

WELL ANOTHER FLEA MARKET IS BEHIND US AND AS FAR AS I CAN TELL IT PROVIDED PLEASANT MEMORIES FOR ALL. TIME FLIES WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FUN AND THAT'S JUST WHAT IT DID WITH NOON ARRIVING AT ABOUT THE 600 HOT DOG POINT. FRANK WB6QPV AND FRED K6YT MUST HAVE HAD SOME MIGHTY SORE KNEES LATER THAT DAY, SINCE I DON'T THINK THEY MOVED MORE THAN TWO FEET FROM THE BARBEQUE DURING A STRETCH OF ABOUT 4 HOURS. THE REST OF THE CREW SEEMED TO GET PERIODIC BREAKS AND PAARA'S THANKS GO TO (BY MY RECOLLECTION): GIL KJ6TF AND SON COLIN FOR DOUGHNUT DUTY; RICH W6APZ FOR WAKING UP EARLY TO PREPARE 200 CUPS OF COFFEE AND BILL AA6PA FOR HELPING TO TRANSPORT IT; JOHN KD6ZL PICKED UP ICE EARLY IN THE MORNING; PAUL N6FEG SET UP THE EQUIPMENT; K6YT PROVIDED THE GENERATOR. OTHER SUPPORT STAFF WERE DUSTY K6MPN, STAN WA6ZGI, JOHN K6JJU, RAY W6JOV, GEORGE K6MTZ AND DOUBTLESS A FEW OTHERS I APOLOGIZE FOR FORGETTING. ANDY VE3FZK ORGANIZED THE BUYERS BETWEEN 4 AM AND 6 AM AND OF COURSE WORKED BICYCLE MOBILE, PROVIDING REFRESHMENTS FOR THE SELLERS. OUR TREASURER N6P6M ORGANIZED A COMPLETE SELF-STARTING STAFF TO COLLECT SELLER'S FEES AND REPORTED THAT THE WHOLE THING RAN LIKE CLOCKWORK.

NOW TO OTHER MATTERS. PERHAPS BY THE TIME YOU READ THIS WE WILL HAVE FORMED A TRAILER RECOVERY TIGER TEAM TO SPIFFY UP THE OLD BEAST AT SRI. WE NEED SOME VOLUNTEERS AT THE MAY MEETING TO TACKLE A FEW FIELD DAY ASSIGNMENTS.

THE SPRING PICNIC IS MAY 23 AT HELGA AND RON W6V6'S QTH. NEW MEMBERS MAY NEED THEIR ARMS TWISTED TO ATTEND BUT ONE OF THE MAIN PURPOSES IS TO GET AN EYEBALL QSO WITH SOME OF THE PAARA MEMBERS WE DON'T SEE TOO OFTEN. THERE IS A MAP AND DETAILS ELSEWHERE SO BRING SOMETHING TO EAT & WE WILL SUPPLY THE LIQUIDS. SEE YOU THERE !

DE WA6LNV



PAARA V.E. TEAM QST DE J.T. WA6BXT

VE TEAM REPORT

Last month the PAARA sponsored VE team gave 43 elements to 20 people and this month 33 people took 59 elements.

PAARA members on the teams were Dudley, WB6WAU (team leader); Joe, KB6CWB; Ron, W6VB; Steve, K6FB; Dusty, K6MPN; Bill, WB6UVO; Joan, WA6BXT; and Mohammed, N4CER.

The team missed their leader in April as he was in the hospital recovering from surgery. Dudley was there in spirit and assisted on the telephone as needed. We are happy to report that the surgery was a success and Dudley is recovering well.

Our next test session will be on May 15, at 11a.m. in Redwood City at the Ampex cafeteria.

WELCOME!

ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE CLUB I'D LIKE TO
WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

DAVID JACUZZI - KC6ZQA

DICK VILLACRES - KD6EUL

RANDY ROBERTS - KC6YJY <DE LILY N6PGM>

KUDOS!

MY FLEA MARKET TEAM WAS THE BEST EVER AND
LIKE TO THANK : JOHN WB7TEM, JEFF N6WLA,
FRANK WB6QPV, BEN KA6SIQ, DUSTY K6MPN, BILL
KC6WAU, CHRIS N6VZD, & ANDY VE3FZK. <DE LILY
N6PGM, TREASURER>

Hamming it Up in the Space Age

BY BOB SUITER

When Karl Kurz, a Maine ham radio hobbyist, heard two men speaking over the air, his first thought was that they were Russian fishermen.

Soon he realized that these foreigners were a lot farther at sea than he thought. They were cosmonauts orbiting the earth on board the space station MIR.

"This is Karl in Machias, Maine," the high school teacher in the coastal town off the Bay of Fundy said he broadcast in November. To his astonishment, moments later came a very clear response in English, "This is U5MIR. Good afternoon Karl. My name Sergei."

Using a small hand-held transmitter with a mere 7-watt transmission output, Kurz had reached Sergei Krikalev, part of the MIR crew and the cosmonaut who was stuck aloft while his country disintegrated and who finally landed a week ago.

After a few exchanges about the location and strength of their respective signals, Krikalev's transmission began to fade and he signed off with a traditional *do svyazaniya* (good-by).

Kurz was one of the legion of amateur radio

rockets, space capsules and other items were put up for sale at bargain-basement prices in hours of raising cash.

Krikalev was reported to have inquired half-seriously at one point during a televised interview from MIR, "Is it true they plan to sell the MIR ... with us on board?"

In recent news reports, Krikalev has been

'This is Karl in Machias, Maine,' said the high school teacher off the Bay of Fundy

jokingly referred to as the "Rip Van Winkle" cosmonaut, recalling the Washington Irving character who awoke to a vastly different world after a 20-year-long nap.

Some more sensational accounts, as recent as last month, ran beneath headlines like "LOST IN SPACE" suggesting nearly cosmonauts uncer-

nauts' frequency even when not attempting to contact them and he hears them speaking to many different hams. He notes that they have very distinct voices and judging by the number of different exchanges being heard with voices he does not recognize, the cosmonauts are logging a lot of time on the air greeting whoever is lucky enough to reach them.

William Yoreo, of West Hartford, Conn., may well be one of those voices. Yoreo has logged several conversations with Krikalev over several months. A 30-year ham operator who is in charge of data processing and communication for the American School for the Deaf, Yoreo uses his ham equipment at home to take weather pictures directly off the many Soviet weather satellites that pass over the Northeast.

"Through doing that I learned that the MIR was up there and it was populated with amateur radio operators. Lo and behold, I was able to make several contacts in a row with the guys up there.

"We talked several times about how long he's (Krikalev) been up there. He seemed positive but there was a certain mundaneness to the life at this point. There was kind of that sense that it will be nice to get out of here," Yoreo said.

Steve Ford, a technical editor for the American Radio Relay League, a Newington, Conn., group offering educational and technical support for American hams, recalls that during the August coup attempt exchanges took on a more somber tone. Hams contacting MIR were often

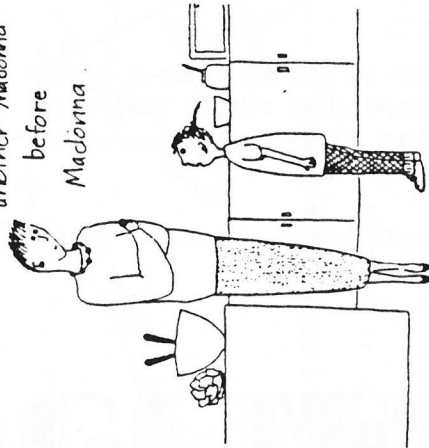
tain of their future.

Hams like Kurz have known for some time that this was never the case: "When I first talked to him, I didn't believe that he was out in space, I didn't hear any hint of emotion or breakdown or anything. I didn't have any sense that they felt they were lost in space."

Like many hams, Kurz monitors the cosmo-

MACHILS

Emily's father says there was another Madonna before Madonna



enthusiasts; across the world who buoyed the spirits of the MIR crew during their long hours in the space orbiter.

Convocations between space travelers and ham radio operators are not new. Since 1983, various American space shuttle crew members have communicated with earthbound ham radio operators under the auspices of a program called the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment, or SAREX.

Through SAREX thousands of radio amateurs and schoolchildren in the United States, Australia and Brazil have vicariously experienced life in space.

Unlike the highly structured SAREX program, communications with the orbiting cosmonauts have been considerably more casual and, in that sense, have succeeded in fulfilling the expectations of the Russian space planners who placed a special radio onboard MIR four years ago.

Unlike U.S. space shuttle missions, which seldom last more than a week, tours of several months have been common for the rotating crews of MIR.

Regular radio contact was particularly helpful for Krikalev, who was launched last May 18, before political turmoil at home disrupted his mission.

Originally scheduled to return to earth in October, Krikalev remained aloft several more months because of disagreements among the three former Soviet states now running the space program. He and Alexander Volkov finally were relieved by cosmonauts Alexander Viktorenko and Alexander Kaleri.

As funding for the enormous former-Soviet space program became increasingly uncertain,

asked, "Any news?"

Ford estimates that he has had at least 20 communications with MIR over the past two years. He recalls being asked on one occasion if he knew the score of a hockey game. (He did not.) On another, when Ford simply inquired, "How are things going?" he was surprised to have Krikalev go on in some detail about how they had just completed a space-walk, which, because of the cumbersome nature of their spacesuits, had left them completely exhausted.

Ford says the cosmonauts have been supplementing their ham voice communications with exchanges via packet radio, a means by which messages can be sent from one computer to another via ham radio frequencies.

Contact with the orbiting spacecraft is possible without a huge investment in computer programs and high-powered radio equipment.

Operating in one of the most radio-interference-intensive environments on earth, David Alpert pulled in Krikalev's signal with a 19-inch antenna mounted on the window sill of his third-floor, midtown Manhattan apartment in New York.

Though contacts with an orbiting craft may last several minutes, they tend to be brief, given the speed at which the craft is moving and the terrific competition among earthbound hams to reach a spacecraft. So any contact is something a ham can brag about.

"It's going by so fast and at such a low orbit," says Steve Mansfield of the American Radio Relay League, "it's sort of like a boxing match to see who can make contact. It's only overhead for about eight minutes."

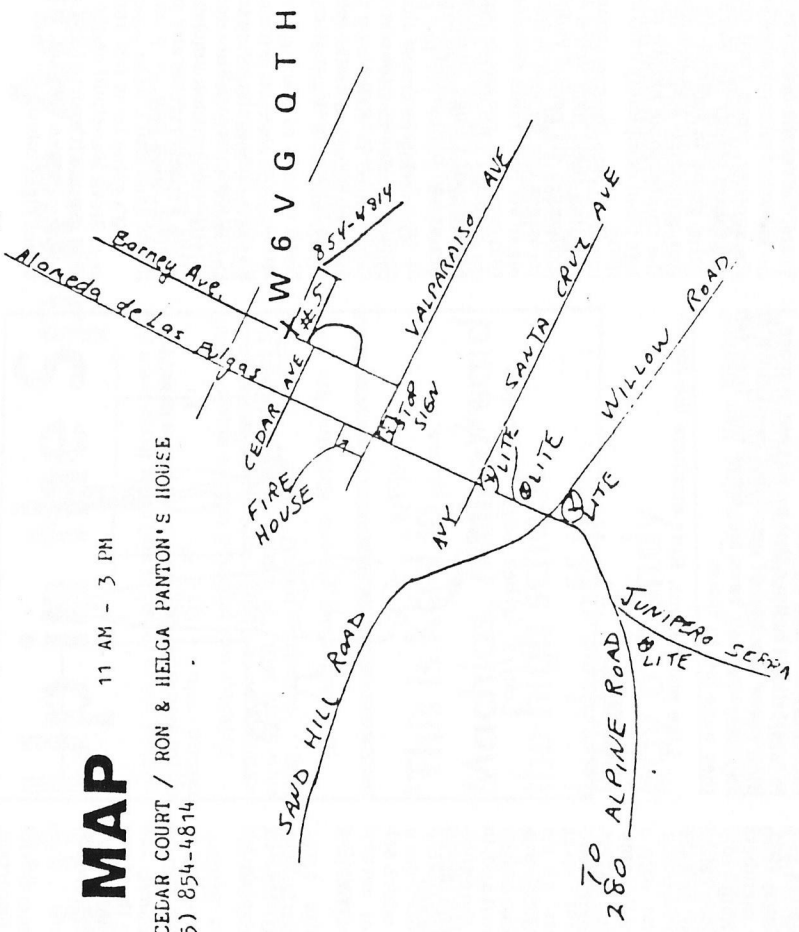
Newsday

PARA PICNIC W6VG QTH

MAP

11 AM - 3 PM

#5 CEDAR COURT / RON & HELGA PANTON'S HOUSE
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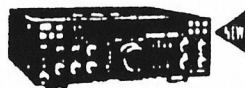


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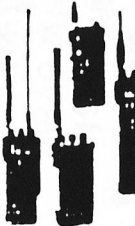


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PAARA MISCELLANY

QST DE MIKE WB6FFC ES LISA KB6HIZ

HELLO PAARA !

MY WIFE LISA (KB6HIZ) AND I ARE DOING GREAT UP HERE IN SOUTHERN OREGON. I'M WORKING AT SCALA ELECTRONICS, SELLING ANTENNAS (I'M A SALES ENGINEER) AND MY WIFE IS SELLING REAL ESTATE. (IF ANYONE WANTS TO RETIRE IN GOD'S COUNTRY GIVE LISA A CALL FOR PROPERTY). WE ARE AVAILABLE ON PACKET "WB6FFC @ KAODFN.OR". THE LOCAL ROGUE VALLEY HAM CLUB IS ALMOST AS BIG AS PAARA--WE OFTEN HAVE UP TO 80 PEOPLE AT A MEETING. HOPE TO HEAR YOU ALL ON THE AIR DURING FIELD DAY. WE ARE GONNA PUT UP THE DAMOUS 2-ELEMENT 40 METER QUAD. CUL DE MIKE WB6FFC & LISA KB6HIZ.

QST DE RICH W6APZ

RICH W6APZ IS SEEKING A SCHEMATIC FOR THE RADIO SHACK DUO FONE SPEAKERPHONE MODEL 12-43-295. IF U HAVE SUCH DATA GIVE RICH A LANDLINE AT (415) 494-0122.

ARES QST DE JOE KB6HDC



JOE KB6HDC INFORMS THAT THERE IS A NEW ARES/GENERAL USE REPEATER ON 2 METERS: N6SHY/R, 146.865(-) PL 114.8, SAN MATEO COUNTY ARES.... CHECK IT OUT !