

W6OTX**W6ARA****PAARA NEWSLETTER**
VOLUME 72, NUMBER 1, January 2021**K6OTA****K6YQT**

PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.Celebrating 84 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*

DB Cooper Skyjack. Cold Case Revisited

On Nov 24 1971 a man calling himself Dan Cooper hijacked a Northwest Airlines 727. The plane landed in Seattle where Cooper demanded and received \$200,000 in cash and four parachutes. He then ordered the plane to take off and parachuted out the rear air stair door somewhere over rural Washington.

The DB Cooper skyjacking is the only unsolved air piracy case in American history. To this day the FBI remains stymied in its efforts to identify Cooper.

Mark Meltzer, AF6IM, is a parachutist with over 52 years of skydiving experience. Mark, who has degrees in electrical engineering and law, has done extensive research into the Cooper case. He has appeared on several TV productions about DB Cooper including two History Channel series. He has also co authored a scientific journal article examining the use of seasonal diatoms as a forensic tool to establish submersion dates on some Cooper loot found neatly stacked under the sand on a Columbia River sand bar years after the skyjack. His talk at PAARA will give an overview of the case and explore the tantalizing possibility that Cooper used radio communications to rendezvous with an accomplice on the ground.

This meeting will be conducted with Zoom

Time: Jan 8, 2021 07:00 PM Pacific Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84083033029>

User name: Your 1st name and CALL

Meeting ID: 840 8303 3029

Upcoming Events

Jan 8	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM Zoom Meeting
Feb 5	
Mar 5	
Jan 20	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details!
Feb 17	
Mar 17	
Nov	Electronic Flea Market Cancelled

President's Corner

January 2021

Happy New Year to all! I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe holiday season. Did you get that special ham item you had your eyes on for Christmas? I can only hope that Santa was nice to us for being good boys and girls and being so tolerant of the conditions we found ourselves in last year. I know Santa was very nice to me, though not supporting my ham hobby but my photography one. With a vaccine starting to roll out, one can only hope that at some point early in 2021, things will get back closer to what normal was before this virus began.



I attended Kristen, K6WX, Pacific Division Zoom meeting on 12/12/20. She had a wonderful turnout with ~240 participants from all over

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The Girl at 6BB

**Bart Lee, K6VK,
 CHRS Archivist and Fellow, AWA Fellow**

of double her age. Her zeal in research, her fine technical skill, and her clear insight into the basic principles underlying the problems which she set out to solve won the unqualified admiration of her colleagues both in this country and abroad.”¹

Fritz Sommer, K6EE, the trustee of W6BB, the Cal Berkeley amateur radio station, identified Barbara Burks as the girl at the 6BB operating desk. He places the photo circa 1921.

The W6BB website² says: “1921 First commercial wireless operator’s license to woman, Barbara Burks ’24.”³

Federal authorities granted her this license in January 1921.

In 1971 a retiring professor wrote:⁴

“In August of that same year [1927] Herman [Ramsperger] and Barbara Burks were married in Palo Alto, where Barbara was a student in psychology, and obtained her doctorate a year or two later. We attended their wedding,,,”⁵

Dr. Burks was widowed in 1932. A decade later she planned to marry again. Her fiancé, a friend and colleague, wrote:

“During her college years she was granted a commercial radio operator’s license, the first woman to receive such an appointment on the Pacific Coast. She even had the unusual experience of seeing the world, dressed in the gaudy

(6BB — Continued on page 3)



Fig. 1 — Barbara Stoddard Burks, circa 1921 at University of California Amateur Radio Station 6BB

Barbara Stoddard Burks at about 19 years of age, operated the University of California amateur radio station 6BB. She was born in 1902 but died young in 1943. Lewis Terman wrote:

The death of Barbara Stoddard Burks on May 25, 1943, at the early age of 40 years, was a truly serious loss not only to psychology but also to biology, sociology, and education. Her record for creative productivity, which has rarely been equaled by one of her years either in quantity or quality, was made possible by an extraordinary combination of intellect, energy, and scientific enthusiasm. As Dr. Florence Goodenough has expressed it in a personal letter to me, “In the short span of her life Dr. Burks’ contributions would have done credit to one



Fig 2. — Dr. Stoddard in her Maturity.

(6BB — Continued from page 2)

attire of a Barnum & Bailey maharani, from the wobbly top of a circus elephant.”⁶

Her many biographies tell of her early life in many places including the Philippines, as the daughter of active, intellectual and peripatetic parents. Her academic work included pioneering research and publication in behavioral genetics, statistics, intelligence, heredity and genetics. Some was controversial.

She worked in a world of sometimes unappreciative and perhaps hostile senior men.⁷ In a situational personal depression, she appears to have died by her own hand.

=====

What was it that she had mastered at age 19 at radio station 6BB? We have only the one photograph, but we know that the federal government licensed her as a commercial radio operator (and maybe an amateur as well). She had to pass muster as a radio telegraphist at likely 20 words a minute in Morse code. She also had to pass the radio theory test about radio itself, transmission modes such as spark and carrier, the appropriate equipment and engineering, and the different legal regulations for both radio services.

She sits at an operating desk with a state-of-the-art radio receiver at her right. To her left appear the tuning elements of a transmitter, most of which is unseen farther left. In those days amateurs could operate only above the broadcast band, at 160 meters wavelength and

down, in the frequency range just below 2 MHz, and above. This apparatus seems to be in that range.

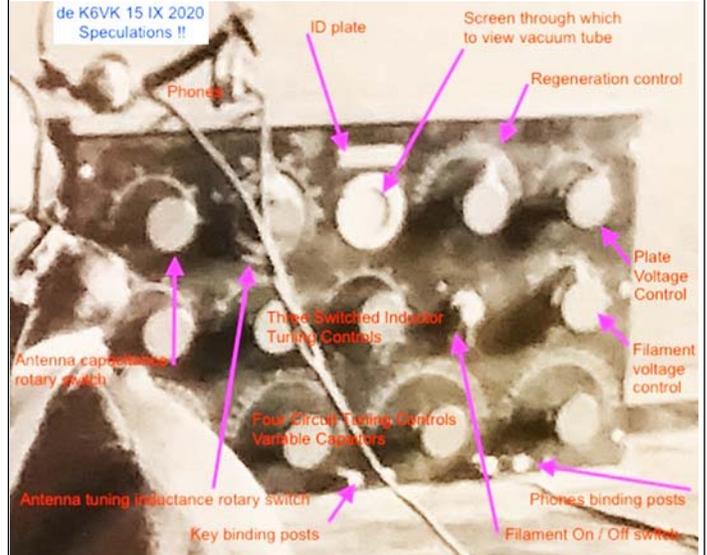


Fig 4. — Receiver Controls Speculations

The receiver offers twelve controls. One cannot be certain of the function of each control. Nonetheless educated guesses may be made (as they have in Fig. 4). Beyond the On /Off switch, the available combinations and permutations are large.

The Berkeley amateur radio station helped to pioneer amateur radio on the West Coast. The W6BB history notes:

1914 First wireless messages from government station in Arlington are received on long wire stretching from top of unfinished Campanile to Mechanics building.



Fig. 3 — Barbara Stoddard, 1920, At a station

(6BB — Continued on page 4)

(6BB — Continued from page 3)

1916 First mention in Daily Cal of University Radio Society.

Club broadcasts Big Game (with Washington) from bleachers. Club enters Carnegie foundation sponsored League of University Wireless Clubs to relay news, sports, etc.

1917 Club helps government radio inspector to rid Bay Area of pesky, interfering unlicensed radio stations!

(and of course, Miss Burks).

In 1921, Miss Burks was in good technical company at Berkeley. For a social history of what student life on campus was like, see Professor Fox's memoir. It was a different world – but then they always are.

(73 de K6VK [copyright Bart Lee 2020; contact: KV6LEE@gmail.com]) ##

1. Emil O.W. Kirkegaard, Clear Language, Clear Mind, [blog]: Celebrating an early female pioneer: Barbara Stoddard Burks. She had to her credit over 80 publications. (<https://emilkirkegaard.dk/en/?p=6595>)
2. www.w6bb.org/history/
3. This somewhat telegraphic comment likely refers to Cal Berkeley students, because Kathleen Parkin of San Rafael held both commercial and amateur licenses in 1916. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gladys_Kathleen_Parkin which notes she was the third such female licensee. Two others were P. L. Baker (1912, Los Angeles) and Isabel Kelso (Seattle). See Oakland Tribune, Oakland, California, January 12, 1921, page 4. (www.newspapers.com/newspage/82309737/)
4. AGAIN THE SCENE Some informal memoirs of my life by Denis L. Fox [1971 typescript at Scripps Institution, San Diego] (http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/biogr/Fox_Again_Scene.pdf)
5. "Burks and Ramsperger were thought to have had an idyllic marriage. He was known to have great pride in her achievements as well as always providing support and encouragement to her." So says Laura Ball in Psychology's Feminist Voices (2010) at <http://www.feministvoices.com/barbara-stoddard-burks/>
6. D. Brett King et al., Barbara Stoddard Burks: Pioneer Behavioral Geneticist and Humanitarian (this is a chapter 15 in unidentified book) at <https://www.gwern.net/docs/genetics/heritable/1996-king.pdf>
7. See Laura Ball (2010), supra, and the wiki, supra.

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the Division. The 2-hour meeting covered a wide number of topics such as getting youth interested and involved in amateur radio, microwave and 60M bands being sought after for other than ham use, and a lengthy discussion on the emergency response side of amateur radio. Kristen plans on having a couple of meetings a year around the time of the ARRL board meetings.

As it's difficult to have a homebrew night in our usual manner and the interest seemed rather low when I asked at the December meeting, Rob, KC6TYD, found a presenter (thank you Rob) for the January meeting that isn't directly related to amateur radio but will be presented by a ham. I'm sure many remember the DB Cooper incident on 11/24/71. If not, this is your chance to learn about one of the great mysteries of 1971.

Did anyone notice the reported opening of 6-meters on 12/12/20 between Australia and South America? That's roughly 13,000 km (~8,077 mi) between the various stations making contact with each other! That distance equates to roughly 6 to 7 hops depending on the hop distance. That's a lot of hops. I'm guessing the ability for that many hops was enhanced due to the path being over the ocean. There were ~80 entries in the log I saw all using JT65, though I'll bet it was FT8 that they were using. It goes to show you, you'll never know when some duct will suddenly open and gift amateurs with unusual contact opportunities.

I know there are a few portable QRP operators out there. I stumbled upon an interesting product, though some may already know of it. The "LightSaver Max", is an 18,000mAh Lithium-ion battery with an integrated flexible solar panel. The LightSaver Max has an oval shape that's 2.5" x 13.5" long, when rolled (13.5" x 34" when unrolled), and weighs 1.5lbs. It fully charges in sun in 6-8 hours. It can also be charged via AC or USB and has a USB output connection. You can find more info at; www.powerfilmsolar.com.

(President — Continued on page 5)

(President — Continued from page 4)

In the world of smartphones and tablets, there are a large number of apps that people use to make their day easier, provide information, or entertainment. Some of my favorite ham related apps were the ones you could use to simulate the various license tests so you could get randomly generated tests and track your progress in learning the needed content. Another very common one is the EchoLink app which allows the user to connect to various repeaters and use them anywhere you have access to the internet. But what about the more obscure ones? I've found the "Ham Radio Reference" app to be helpful. It has information at your fingertips on a large number of topics such as US and Canada band limits, band plans, country prefixes, Q Codes, RST system, and the phonetic alphabet to name a few. My question is, what's your favorite app for amateur radio? Look for this question at an upcoming meeting.

Not long after our December club meeting, I received a call from Gerry Tucker, N6NV, sadly informing me that there were several break-ins at the farm where the Tuckers stored all kinds of stuff including some PAARA property that Gerry has been kind enough to keep there. Gerry took lots of the stuff from the farm to the Flea Market over the years. Also stored there were a collection of towers that the club took down over the years. I opted to call a short board meeting, even though the board had voted to not hold one this was a time-sensitive item. You'll see that report elsewhere in this issue.

Post that impromptu board meeting, Doug, KG6LWE, and Joel, KD6W, took a trip to the farm to survey things. The only remaining PAARA equipment is the towers. Doug and Joel will be coming up with a plan to remove them. Likely, volunteers will be required to assist. Complicating things is rather limited access to the farm. There isn't any parking and getting trailers and such into the site is a bit of a challenge. As Gerry has contributed SO MUCH to the club over a very long period, we are compelled to assist in whatever way needed in cleaning the remaining stuff out of the house. Stay tuned for the call to assist the Tucker brothers in this challenge.

I hope you enjoyed this month's story by Bart Lee. Unfortunately, this is the last story I had in the story vault. Hopefully, a few of you that have been procrastinating about writing that story will take time to put pen to paper before the February issue goes to press without a story. Please email me those stories!

73 and Happy New Year, Jim K6SV
Keep the airwaves alive by getting on the air!

12/11/20, Special Board Meeting Minutes

This meeting was called by President Jim Thielemann and was held remotely via Zoom. Meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. Attending: Jim Thielemann K6SV, President; Ric Hulett N6AJS, Secretary; Joel Wilhite KD6W, Doug Teter KG6LWE, and Darryl Presley KI6LDM, Directors. A quorum was present.

Purpose of the meeting: PAARA owns some towers and other equipment which Gerry Tucker has been kind enough to store on his property. Recently there has been some damage and theft. It's time for us to sort, clean up and retrieve our gear.

Joel Wilhite has visited the site, there isn't anything salvageable save for some towers. We may want to keep the towers. We need to work out logistics for a cleanup activity.

Decisions reached by consensus:

Step 1: Doug Teter and Joel Wilhite will coordinate with Gerry on a time to visit the site and do an inventory. Target date for this is "as soon as possible", perhaps on December 12.

Step 2: Once we have an inventory, we will offer certain of the towers to club members, either for sale, or gratis (not yet determined). PAARA will keep the high quality aluminum tower.

Step 3: (Proposed): PAARA will rent a debris box, and have a PAARA work day to sort the goods and trash the trash.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15.

Respectfully submitted,
Ric Hulett N6AJS
Secretary

Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

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	bob@rgktechsales.com	

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	walt@tradewindsaviation.com	
Director ('21)	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
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Director ('21)	Darryl Presley, K16LDM	650 255-2454
	ki6ldm@arrl.net	

Appointed Positions

Membership	Vic Black, AB6SO	650-366 0636
	ab6so@smrn.com	
Database	Ric Hulett, N6AJS	408-332-4593
	energyconserved@sbcglobal.net	
Chaplain	Rick Melrose K6RDM	408-341-9070
	K6RDM@yahoo.com	
Public Affairs	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
Station Trustee W6OTX, W6ARA....	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Station Trustee K6YQT...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
Station Trustee K6OTA...	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Property Manager	Gerry Tucker, N6NV	
Asst. to the Treasurer....	Ron Chester, W6AZ	
Badge Coordinator	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
	dteter@wci.com	
Historian Position	<i>Position Vacant</i>	
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	Shrikumar, KA6Q	
	shri.paara@enablery.org	
Field Day Coordinator ...	Doug Teter, KG6LWE	650-367-6200
ASVARO Rep.....	Clark Martin, KK6ISP	
	kk6isp@comcast.net	
Webmaster	John Miller K6MM	
	webaron@gmail.com	
Technical Coordinator ...	Joel Wilhite. KD6W	408-839-5948
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QSL Manager	Marty Wayne, W6NEV	408-234-8023
Speaker Coordinator	Rob Fenn, kc6tyd	650-888-9060

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Photographer	<i>Position Vacant</i>	

VE Exams

Redwood City Main Library, Community Conference Room, 4th Saturday 10:30 am each month and De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <http://amateur-radio.org> or Contact Al, WB6IMX@att.net

Electronics Flea Market

Sponsorship by A.S.V.A.R.O. — Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations

Second Saturday of month, March-September, 6am–12 noon

Contact: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

Meets 1st Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See our website at <http://www.paara.org> for more information or contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, KD6W@ARRL.NET, 650-325-8239

FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society

Meets 4th Friday each month at 7:30pm

Contact: <http://www.fars.k6ya.org>

NCDXC — Northern California DX Club

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month,

Repeater for member info 147.360, Thursday 8:00PM

Contact: <http://nodxc.org> or Mike Gavin W6WZ, (650) 851 8699

50 MHz & Up Group

Meets 1st Thursday each month at 7pm in the Summit Room at the Sunnyvale Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale

Contact: <http://50MhzandUp.org>

SPECS

Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System

Meets each Monday 8:00pm on Net 145.27, 440.80 MHz

Contact: <http://specsnet.org> or Tom Cascone, KF6LWZ, 650-688-0441

SCARES

South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

Meets 3rd Thursday 7:30pm each month, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. Contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265 (D), 650- 595-5590 (N)

Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: pres@k6mpn.org

SCCARA

Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl

Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur.

Meets 2nd Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.

ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

SVECS — Silicon Valley Emergency Communications

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)

contact: <http://www.svecs.net> or Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

TEARS — The Elmer Amateur Radio Society

Dedicated to operational training, knowledge building & FCC exam testing.

KV6R repeater under construction.

Contact: AA6T@ARRL.NET

Most members are Extra Class or VE's. See QRZ dot com/kv6r for class info

WVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223, while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.

VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF:

147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss

223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of every month except July, August and December.

Contact: <http://wvara.org>, Bill Ashby N6FFC, 408-267-3118, president@wvara.org

American Red Cross, Santa Clara Valley Chapter

Contact: <http://santaclaravalley.redcross.org> or Scott Hensley KB6UOO, (408) 967 7924 shensley@Novell.com

(Please send changes to [PAARAgaphs editor](#))

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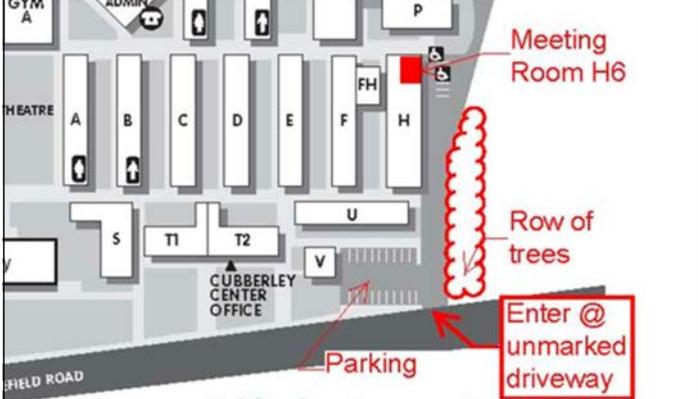
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PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session
 every Monday evening at 8:30pm
 on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater

Week	Control Operator
1 st	Joel - KD6W
2 nd	John - W6JMK
3 rd	Ric - N6AJS
4 th	Rob - KC6TYD
5 th	Rob - KC6TYD

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots o' fun! Give it a try.



Cubberley Community Center
 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303
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Meeting Location — Middlefield Road between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road

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Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association

P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park
 California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$25.00 per calendar year, which includes one subscription to PAARAgaphs \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).

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PAARAgaphs Ad Rates

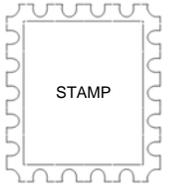
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All fees payable in advance by the year with "scanner-ready" copy or text-only ads. **Give payment and copy to Walt Gyger, K6WGY.**

PAARAgaphs — January 2021

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ID-5100A Deluxe
VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver



ID-51A Plus2
VHF/UHF D-STAR Portable

KENWOOD



TS-590SG
HF/50MHz Transceiver



TM-D710G
2M/440 Dualband



TM-V71A
2M/440 Dualband



TM-281A
2 Mtr Mobile



TH-D74A
2M/220/440 HT

YAESU
THE RADIO



FT-991A
HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver



FT-891
HF-50 MHz All Mode Transceiver



FT-450D
A100W HF + 6M Transceiver



FTM-4000XD
2M/440 Mobile



FT-70DR
CAR/M/FM 144/430 XCV

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