

History of P.A.R.A.

I was unable to find a definite date and location of PARA first meeting. I contacted Bob Haywood W6BJ and he was uncertain just when first meeting was held other than some amateurs had been getting together at Sambo's restaurant in Porterville late 1970.

In early 1981, a few amateur radio operators started having coffee at Sambo's restaurant in Porterville trying to see if they could somehow put up their own repeater.

At the time they were using the 146.88 in Visalia and the 146.91 in Bakersfield and most has joined those clubs in order to pay their share of its usage.

They thought it would be "real neat" if they could locate a repeater on top of Republican Hill north of Porterville,

Gene Quiram—KA6DWL was appointed into contacting Mr. Monte Moore the owner of radio station KTIP.

Gene called and made an appointment with Mr. Moore explaining what Ham Radio could do for the area in case of emergencies or disasters.

After a lot of discussion pro and con, Mr. Moore said it would be ok with him if it was ok with his engineer, a Mr. Edd Lamb as he did not want any interference with their broadcasts. Mr. Edd Lamb is amateur radio operator K6LSB.

Having cleared the hurdle they went on to commander equipment.

Mr. Moore generously donated a machine that was converted into the repeater 147.87/147.27 by Doc Noland—WB6MOQ. Unfortunately the 147.87/147.27 was getting into the U.S. Forestry system. A new frequency was found and became 146.655.

The antenna for 146.655 was donated by Hal Torosian—K6OGX.

It was decided to use K6LSB for the new repeater.

In January of 1982 a Novice and Technician class was held the Porterville High School. WA6CYN-Bob—N6CTE Brent—WA6ZKY Gordy were the instructors.

As the interest of the YL's and Harmonics in becoming amateur radio operators grew, the club's meetings/breakfast became a family organization, not

merely an amateur radio operators organization.

Members of the club at various times over the years have been entertained by fellow members. They had sang, played musical instruments and W6LIR---Luke Waterman composed, played his banjo and sang I'm a Ham.

In 1983, like most Hams we wanted to cover more areas, and after one of the meeting at the Paul Bunyan a group was standing around discussion this when Bob WA6CYN says "well put your money where your mouth is". Some members dug down into their pockets then and there and others donated later for a total of 12 members. A total of \$2,971.00 was donated.

The decision was made to use WA6CYN call for the new 145.310 repeater.

The balance it took to get the 145.310 up and going which was raised through club activities took over \$6,000.00

The club was very fortunate that Edd Lamb K6LSB at that time was employed by Channel 26—KMPH Visalia, The club was able to install the repeater in their building and the antenna on the channel 26 tower on Blue Ridge.

At Christmas time in 1983 the club members donated money for a family in Woodville for food and each family member a present of their own.

For several years members donated non-perishable food for Thanksgiving baskets.

Also for several years members donated toys at Christmas for the Christmas toy drive.

The club received sanctions from N.A.R.C. on May 15, 1985 for the 145.310and 146.655 repeaters.

In 1986 a raffle was held in order to reimburse the members who donated to the repeater fund. Some members chose to make a donation to the repeater. Checks were mailed to all 12 and those who wished returned their donation to the club.

In April 1988 the 145.310 repeater was moved to the Falcon Cable Co. building on Blue Ridge Mountain.

In 1989 the club had the honor of having the only 10 year old amateur radio operator in Tulare County as a member. David Piotrowski KC6HJJ held a Technician class license and is the stepson on Les Delmarter WB6YIK.

In 1990 the decision was made to purchase a new repeater for 145.310. The "Hat" was passed at several meetings and due to the generosity of the members who contributed when the hat was passed and an anonymous donation of \$500.00 the money was raised.

In 1990 a repeater was purchased from WA6OQE to be placed in the Radisson Hotel in Visalia with the call of KB6CC—Scott Thompson.

On December 8, 9, 15 and 16 members of the club sent holiday messages to the troops in the gulf during Desert Storm. A total of 60 messages were sent from the Sequoia Mall in Visalia via packet to amateur operator Richard Kelly N6VGI in Porterville who in turn transmitted the information via an electronic data network to Saudi Arabia.

Due to the generosity of Jerry Blasmingame-KE6YF the club has a 440 repeater on Blue Ridge. Frequency is 443.050, with call of KE6YF.

The club has provided radio communications for the bicycle races, triathlon, Porterville Park and Leisure Services, Foot race at Springville Apple Festival.

Some members joined CDF VIP program in order to help with radio communications during wildfires and etc. These members visited schools with CDF.

First grade students were told Smokey Bears rules about not playing with matches and etc. Smokey Bear was brought into class room and asked questions of students as well. Third grade students were told about home fire safety, shown slides and asked questions.

The repeater played a very important part in saving a person's life on August 26, 1990. Three members of the club were taking part in a mountain bike trail ride near Jordon Peak in the Sierra National Forrest. Arrangements had been made of another club member to continuously monitor 145.310 repeater. One the way down one of the participants collapsed, suffering an acute cerebral hemorrhage. The call was made to the amateur who was monitoring the 145.310 and who in turned called 911.

The victim was carried out and transported to Porterville Hospital who transferred him to Fresno and then he was transferred to San Francisco where he had a tennis ball size mass removed. The Doctors indicated that his condition was so grave that without the prompt response in getting off hill to medical treatment he could have lost his life.

Over the years the club has held meetings at the Golden Corral, Paul Bunyan. Farm House, Charlie's, Apple Annie's in Tulare, Neilson's in Tulare and at present (2015) holding meeting at Country Waffles in Lindsay.

Over the years the club has held special event (Jackass Mail Run) and Field Day.

On July 17, 1995 Club was issued the call of KE6WDX

In 1991 Constitution Committee drew up new constitution which was read and accepted at the March 3rd. club meeting.

In 1998 a new building for the 146.655 machine was built by club members.

At the December 2007 meeting students from Carl Smith Middle School in Terra Bella attended. There was four in attendance and three who were not able to attend. They had passed their tech exams a few weeks prior to meeting and were awarded 2 meter hand helds. The club also paid for their breakfast as well as the teacher who also attended.