



# cross talk

JANUARY 1975 NEWS BULLETIN OF TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Sponsored by Systems Employee Association



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FD'73

## TRW/ARC Ham of the Year '74 -- Al Lee, W6KQI

This year the honors of Ham of the Year '74 go to Al Lee, W6KQI (more recently known as VK5FF). The "Ham of the Year" award is bestowed yearly on TRW/ARC club members, who in the Editor's opinion, have demonstrated their interest in and support of our club and in the Amateur Radio Service in general.

Al is a "charter" member of TRW/ARC going back to 1959 when the club was first formed. Up until September of 1974, Al's most recent position with the club was that of training manager, a program that was formed by Paul Weisz, then president, and that continued successfully since 1972. In September of last year, Al, along with his wife Jan, took off for Australia on assignment with TRW (see Al's letter elsewhere in this issue).

Aside from his very successful training activities, Al probably will be best remembered for his undying support of TRW/ARC's field day activities (you remember him, he was the one that drove out onto (see p.5)

TRW/ARC's Ham of the Year - Al, and XYL, Jan



Photo, thanks to Sue McGrew!!

## TRW/ARC Saturday Morning Nets 10AM LT

|           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| Primary   | 7.280 MHz   |
| Secondary | 3.980 MHz   |
| Novice    | 7.140 MHz   |
| Simplex*  | 147.510 MHz |

\* Any Time!!!!

## THE RESTRUCTURING DOCKET

"The Restructuring Docket" is one of the subjects to be discussed by Jay Holladay, W6EJJ, at TRW/ARC's kick-off general meeting for 1975.

Jay is the newly chosen Southwestern Division vice director, and TRW/ARC is honored to have Jay as guest speaker, January 29th.

W6EJJ lives in La Canada, and works as an engineering supervisor at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, where he is also a director and trustee of the amateur radio club and the station W6VIO.

He has also been trustee of special events stations WP6JPL and WS6MVM; former officer of the Southern California DX Club; DXer of the Year 1970; editor SCDMC Bulletin; project manager, AMSAT/OSCAR test flight AA-3; chairman, AMSAT/OSCAR program, 1973 ARRL Southwestern Division Convention; and first West Coast WAS/OSCAR. Licensed since 1950, Jay earlier had the calls W4SAT and K7IDI.

## December Election Results:

|              |                 |        |
|--------------|-----------------|--------|
| President    | Frank Cartier   | WA6RAY |
| Vice-pres    | Joel Wineman    | WA6WRB |
| Secretary    | Oliver Saunders | W6OIC  |
| Treasurer    | Susan Kennedy   |        |
| Activity-Mgr | Dave Gilmore    | WB6IDJ |
| Trustee      | Carl Rothrock   | W6MYC  |
| Past-pres    | Frank Halligan  | W6RLN  |

\*\*\* MEETING REMINDER \*\*\* R2-1055

Always the last Wednesday at noon

Subject: The Restructuring Docket

Speaker: Jay Holladay, W6EJJ

## THE EDITOR's PAGE

by W6RLN

Deadlines. The absolute final deadline for those wishing to contribute to your monthly CrossTalk is the Wednesday two weeks in advance of the Monthly Club Meeting. Technical articles, and other articles of general interest will always be graciously accepted. So here is your invitation to make the by-line of your club news bulletin.

SAROC. For those of you who might not have yet heard, W6RLN, W6YCZ, WN6HEU's dad, and their respective YF's all journeyed to Las Vegas at the beginning of January. The old timers in the group were Sue and Mac, and it can be admitted that not one technical session did any of the TRW/ARC contingent participate in!

In addition to which, no prizes were won in the form of amateur radio gear, but it has been rumored that Mac came home with more \$ than he went with!! As for the rest of the group, their right arms are still resting up from the games in the casinos!! I really enjoyed Vegas and am looking forward to going back next year (Barbara wants to go back in April and visit her money!).

SPECIAL ISSUE. As are all full TRW/ARC members already aware, a special issue of CrossTalk was released on Dec. 24 containing a verbatim transcript of Docket 20282 - the Restructuring Docket. Due to postage limitations, that issue was not mailed to our outside club members. However, if any associate member would still desire that special issue, please phone my office (53-61286) and I will be more than happy to drop a copy into the US mails.

WA6JHD goes QRT. Hard to believe, but it is true. Since Ed Thornley received his shiny new 1x3 call, all we hear out of North Torrance now is W6RXD (which we understand his YF indicates the phonetics for that call are Real X-rated Dude. His wife should know!!).

## THE EDITOR's PAGE CONTINUED

Nets. For those of you who haven't noticed, the TRW/ARC Two Meter Bunch is still going strong. There is always a crowd on Saturday Mornings between 8AM and Noon. I have personally logged (a figure of speech on 2 Meters, I must add) 20 club members and a few visitors to 147.51 MHz. The group seems to be growing by leaps and bounds.

Additionally to the Saturday 2M roundup, members can be found on freq going to work at 8 AM, as well as homeward bound after 5 PM. By the by, Frank, WA6RJE, has just recently purchased a new home on the north side of Palos Verdes just so he can work the Two Meter Net (poor chap was stuck on the southwest side of PV before, and couldn't work the South Bay Group).

I might add that the phonetics for my call seem to be sticking to me (I have Bill Dews to thank for them), the Radio's Loudest Noise seems to be more literal than figurative, as our old Heath HW202 still gives me "the best audio reports" in town. (Gilmore still does not believe that I am basically a man of few words....until you put a mike in front of me!!!).

40 Meters. In spite of any rumors to the contrary, our TRW/ARC 40 meter nets still remain, although the traffic has been a little bit slow this last few months. I expect all of that to change just as soon as Frank (WA6RAY) gets his Low Band gear he just purchased on the air.

Restructuring. More on the subject next month, but it looks like FCC has finally taken a position on the structure and licensing classes in the future. Everything I have read indicates to me that it will be a real shot in the arm for Amateur Radio, and will cause a significant expansion in the ranks. I personally think that the Communicator Class, without the requirement for code is GREAT.

Instructors. Novice class is in full swing, and Chuck Davis is still looking for more volunteer instructors!

Treasurer's Report

by Susan Kennedy

Balance on hand December 6th, 1974 . . . . . \$387.50

Receipts

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Dues (new)       | \$4.00         |
| Dues (renewal)   | 21.50          |
| QSL Sales        | 29.00          |
| ARRL Memberships | 35.00          |
|                  | <u>\$89.50</u> |

Expenses

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Hamfeast (misc)        | \$ 9.00         |
| CrossTalk Postage      | 20.00           |
| TRW/ECU Rig Loan final | 14.27           |
| ARRL Publications      | 4.00            |
| QSL Orders             | 22.25           |
| ARRL Memberships       | 35.00           |
|                        | <u>\$104.52</u> |

Balance on hand December 31, 1974 . . . . . \$372.48

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For Sale: o Bud Relay Rack Cabinet, Model CR1771, 42" height panel, \$50/offer.  
 o Homebrew KW power supply, 3KV at 300 ma, filter capacitors missing, mounted on 19" panel, \$30/offer.  
 o KW amplifier, 80-10 meter, pair of 4-400A's, as is, \$75/offer.  
 Contact: Fred Veck, 53-63690, or after 6PM call 542-1230.

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Wanted: Volunteer instructors for Carson High School night program...electronics.  
 Contact: CrossTalk Editor, Frank Halligan, 53-61266, or radio 147.51 MHz.

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For Sale: o Good used 'open trap' tri-band beam (W3DZZ), boom 2 1/4" x 24', 10-15-20. \$50.  
 o Swan 240 tri-bander, 20-40-75, \$140 (no power supply)  
 Contact: Bill Dews, 53-61656, or 675-8608.

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Wanted: November Issues of QST for the years of '68, '69, '70, '71, '72, '73.  
 Contact: CrossTalk Editor, Frank Halligan, 53-61266, or radio 147.51 MHz

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FOR SALE: MAGNUM 6 SPEECH PROCESSOR FOR FTDX400 FAMILY, \$110.00  
 HEATH HM102 POWER METER, \$20.00  
 E-V CERAMIC MIC, MODEL 727 (NO SWITCH) \$5.00  
 SETH-THOMAS BATT. OP. TABLE CLOCK, \$20.00  
 CLEGG MODEL 011 POWER SUPPLY FOR FM-27B, \$50.00  
 CALL KEN WA6DMY - 370-0902

JANUARY 1975

*Editor's Note: This letter, addressed to W6RLN, was just received from Al Lee. Since so many club members know Al, printing this letter in CrossTalk is a good means to remain in touch with our good friend from "down under"!!*

Al Lee  
P. O. Box 323  
Woomer,  
S. Australia  
Australia 5720

January 15, 1975

Hi, Frank:

Thanks so much for the certificate along with the October issue of CrossTalk. It arrived a few days ago long after the Nov. and Dec. issues. I really enjoy each issue so keep sending them. Each issue makes me feel that I'm still part of the group because what everyone is doing is of great interest to me. I especially like the way Dews writes. It makes me stop and think but he covers a lot of points and people with his style. I was really surprised to see the picture of my old buddy from the Long Beach Club, Bob Hammond, K6SGQ. The last time I saw him, we were both taking our extra class exams. I wonder how he and friend enjoyed San Francisco. That lucky devil!

Here it is January, 1975, and we both have a new boss, namely Frank Cartier. He's head man over all of us "field" workers and the Pres. of TRW/ARC. I didn't know W6NHX, TF2WJA, WA6AZW, etc. was in the Navy for 10 years. Was that a piece of Swan gear in the picture? Hi Hi.

How did you enjoy Vegas? Great place, isn't it. Do you think you'd like to go again? With Mac and Sue you can't help but have a great time. They're really fun people and not going with them this year is something Both Jan and I missed very much. But, there will be other years.

I'm sorry I don't have any pictures of us to send but the next time I put black and white film in my camera, I'll have someone take our pictures in our 'flat'. Frank C. will be here in Feb. so maybe he can do the job.

By the way, my new license arrived only this week so I'm now VK5FF (Friendly Fellow) but I only use VK5WC, our club station. I'll call Herb and Paul soon and make a schedule (British influence). I'll have to take a closer look at my work shed to see when we can get together on the air.

When I get a few days off in a row, Jan and I split from Woomer. It's a great little town but it's nice to visit civilization again. We're always planning trips to make the most of my time off.

The weather here has really been great. Although it's summer here now, it has been just right for outdoor activities. We play tennis or swim nearly everyday. There are several lakes in the desert surrounding us so it's fun to drive to them. Fun but scary. You wouldn't believe the roads. They're merely tire tracks across and around rocks. On a recent drive to an opal mining town, we had 3 blowouts, so we found out what it's like to be stranded on the desert. Fortunately, we were rescued by some very understanding people. One of them said 'No worries about trying to repay him because you have to look out for each other in the outback'. Therefore, we've done our bit in helping others who have been stranded since then.

## Al Lee's Letter (Continued)

I'm sure glad you finally got W6TRW, and that now you can use the new logo. I think it looks great! The simplicity, what it says and what it implies, makes it an effective choice.

Say "hi" to Barbara (Halligan). I bet she liked Vegas! Let's keep in touch, but I'm afraid your old 2 Meter Heathkit won't quite make it!

73's,

Al Lee -- W6KQI, XEOKQI, XE1KQI, GB5QM, VK5FF, ad nauseum!!

p.s. Hi, from just plain old Jan!!

Continued from Page 1TRW/ARC Ham of the Year '74

the field site in what looked like a four wheeled pile of junk...which turned out to be his olde blue VW squareback wagon loaded to the gills with antennae, towers, picnic table w/benches, masts, guy wires, coaxial cables, rigs, etc!!).

They say that behind every man there is a lady, and in Al's case, there is no exception. It is not generally known, but Jan provided much of the kitchen help and food services thru many field days. In addition, Al and Jan cohosted the field day warmup party held prior to last year's FD activity for all of the team captains.

Al had his first exposure to CW after joining the Army Air Corps in 1946. At Fort Monmouth he was taught code for 8 hours a day, 5 days per week for six months or until passing 30 WPM, whichever came first. After that he spent a year in Nome, Alaska, as a radio operator on the 35 WPM Communication Net.

Al later attended National Schools in Los Angeles, and received both his ham and commercial tickets in 1951. Then, while working at North American Aviation in Downey (in the Aerophysics Lab, later to be known as Autonetics), he built his first transmitter with an 813 final, and screen grid modulation...ugh!!! He went mobile in 1958 with another home brew rig

Cont'd

and has been mobiling ever since.

When the city of Long Beach decided, in 1967, to purchase the Queen Mary, Al was selected by the Associated Radio Amateurs of Long Beach as the amateur radio operator to go along on her final voyage. There were numerous problems and obstacles to overcome, but with the help of a lot of people, the special events British call, GB5QM, was finally issued to Al, in South Hampton, one day prior to the final departure of the great ship. That call issuance made Al the first American to be licensed to operate a radio station aboard a British vessel. But what really concerned officials, was not the issuance of a license to an American, but the fact that it was the first time in British Maritime History that a VFO was allowed to be used!!!

The trip on the Queen extended around Cape Horn, and included stops at nine different countries. Over 3300 QSO's were logged on the 14,500 mile journey.

Another highlight of Al's ham radio career was operating the Space Center Amateur Radio Station at Cape Kennedy on three different occasions following Apollo liftoffs.