



# cross talk

NEWS BULLETIN OF TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Sponsored by Systems Employee Association



FD '71  
WAS FD '73  
WAC FD '75  
FD '76

October 1981

## SEPTEMBER SWAP MEET—Bill Schreck, WA6EVS

The swap meet on September 26th drew a very nice crowd, probably the biggest yet. The weather was beautiful, and the members working our club booth were kept busy dispensing coffee, donuts, and soft drinks. The operators were Bill Lee (W6RDH), Frank Cartier (WA6RAY), and Bill Daley (K6BO). In addition, other club members provided some much-appreciated, yet unsolicited, help at peak activity times. As usual, there were loads of good items for sale, and I bought myself an IC-2A handheld in nice condition, a speaker horn for a vintage 1925 radio, and a working pre-WW I table-model radio. The variety of items at our swapmeet is seemingly endless.

### COMING UP FOR OCTOBER

Swap meet operators scheduled for October 31 are Ed Wheeler (N6AGA), Dave Gilmore (WB6IDJ), and Fred Garrett (N6CRW). We need new operators because several members of our crew have recently relocated, so please call me at x64464 to join up.

Another feature of the October meet will be a club auction, and Bill Dews needs some friendly assistance in getting the items from the shack to the auction site. Please meet him at building 65 at 0730 hrs to help out.

### NEXT MEETING

When: Wednesday, Noon, October 28  
Where: R4-1041  
Speaker: Ralph Clark  
Subject: Marconi

Garrett/W6TRW Repeater  
145.32 Receive  
144.72 Transmit (2A-PL)

### NEWS FLASH ON CLUB BADGES

Members who wear their club badges to meetings get one free door prize ticket. Don't be left out—if you don't have a club badge, order one now from Bill Dews (K6AWO). They only cost \$2.00 each.

### THE EDITOR'S CORNER—Phyllis Gilmore, KA6NFD

It seems I took over a little sooner than I had planned, but I'm happy to do the job. If you come across any news items—or make news yourself—call me! Even though I work at Norton Air Force Base, it isn't much harder to contact me than it is to get ahold of someone at Space Park. The access code for Norton is 173, then dial 3506. Or, you could write that fantastic technical article you've been thinking about, stuff it in into a transmittal envelope addressed to me at building 525, room 521. Oh, and one minor detail: I can only guarantee a slot in the next issue if you send the material along at least two weeks before the next general meeting (which is always the last Wednesday in the month). However, I will even stop the presses for news bulletins—like license upgrades.

GENERAL MEETING, September 30, 1981

President Gary Komatsu (K6HPD) reported that we had 43 responses to our questionnaire, an overwhelming response. Most people wanted an Oscar station, equipment upgrade, and some new test equipment. (Note: By press time, fifty members had responded. Fred Garrett reports that the numbers were as follows:

CLUB 6 METER STATION	11 for 35 against
CLUB OSCAR STATION	31 for, 13 against
UPGRADING FACILITIES	31 for, 8 against
TEST EQUIPMENT	39 for 8 against

Sixteen respondents said that they use the existing club facilities; 26 said they did not.)

Ed Thornley will check on a new design for QSL cards.

Bill Schreck reported that the local "slime group" attended the last swap meet. If they should show up again, please don't encourage them by buying any merchandise from them, and tell Bill.

There was no speaker for this month's meeting, but it was announced that the October meeting would feature a talk by Ralph Clark on Marconi.

EXECUTIVE MEETING, October 1981

Big news! The annual awards banquet will be held Saturday, November 14, at the Lobster House. The cost will be \$15 each. It actually costs more, but the club will pay the difference. A flyer will follow providing more information. Bill Rodner, Dinner Chairman, was given \$50.00 for the deposit.

There will be another picnic outing in the next two weeks—a flyer will follow from Bob Hume.

Since the response was minimal on the jacket orders, money already collected will be refunded.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed that any club member wearing his or her badge to a General Meeting will be given one free door prize ticket.

A motion passed to budget \$450 for Oscar Station equipment. The equipment to be purchased is a Spectrum International transverter, antennas, relays, and rotors. Vic (KA6KDN) and Mike (WB6DJI) are working on this project.

A motion was made to buy a Bird 43 wattmeter, with slugs, and \$400 was allocated for this project. Fred Garrett was given the action item.

Dave Gilmore (WB6IDJ) and Nelson Hayes (K6VBB) will investigate a 215 MEG counter for possible club purchase. Nelson bought one in Scottsdale, and will give Dave a report.

Security will be doing some emergency drills in the future, with some club members participating, according to Dave Gilmore.

As a result of some of the problems occurring at past Swap Meets, the executive committee voted that club officers have the right to patrol the grounds. They may tell any sellers to cease selling and ask them to leave. Bill Dews (K6AWO) suggested supplying cards with the TRW logo, with the sellers adding their own call letters—and making it madatory to disply this card prominently. The committee also decided to continue requiring sellers to log in.

TRW/ARC FINANCIAL STATEMENT—Fred Garrett, N6CRW

Credit Union QSL Account	350.00
General Fund Account	905.33
Swap Meet Account	<u>716.46</u>
TOTAL	1971.46

### T-HUNTING--Bill Schreck, WA6EVS

During a recent telephone conversation with Paul Wert (K6AOP), to order a Doppler Direction Finder (DF) kit, Paul told me about a T-hunt/DF seminar to be held on September 26 at Whittier Narrows. Bill Rodner (K6AWS) and I attended the seminar to get a first-hand look at the techniques used to construct and package the Doppler kit. (The Doppler kit contains only electronic parts and a schematic, leaving the unit's packaging and antenna up to the builder.)

There were 30 to 40 amateurs at the event, and half of these had DF equipped cars. Several of the better-equipped cars had the Doppler system, plus hand-directed Quads that were mast-mounted within easy reach of the driver. We carefully inspected the Doppler units and found that the packaging differed significantly from one unit to the next. This was especially true of the eight spike roof-top antenna.

The seminar started out with an hour lecture which was very informative. A mini-T-hunt followed, with the hidden transmitter 5 miles distant. Rodner and I rode along with two of the several cars participating in the T-hunt, and our drivers came in second and third, at 11 and 12 minutes elapsed time. His driver used a Doppler system, and mine used a hand-pointed Quad.

The organizers of the seminar indicated that they would be glad to set up a T-hunt for TRW/ARC, if requested. If anyone in the club is interested in organizing a T-hunt, contact Bob Hume (activities manager).

### GOOD VIBES DEPARTMENT--Paul Weisz, K6YQ

I had a "bad news, good news" experience recently that's worth relaying to club members. Last year I acquired a KLM 2-meter amplifier for my HT. This little jewel, KLM Model MA-35BL, put out around 15-20 watts when connected to the 1.5 watts from the S-1. I use the amplifier and the HT when travelling, with a cigarette lighter plug and cable for power.

A couple of months months ago, I hastily assembled my "fly-away kit" and took off on yet another trip. At Tucson International Airport, I pulled the gear from my suitcase, emplaced the mag-mount antenna on my rental car, and plugged into the cigarette lighter receptacle. I got instant barbecued amplifier! Seems I had reverse-wired the power cable.

After returning home, sadder but wiser, I sent the amplifier back to KLM for diagnosis and sympathy. Since I had created the problem, and felt pretty foolish about the whole thing, I was pleased and surprised when KLM shouldered the burden, repaired the damage, and installed a reverse current protective diode. All this at no charge and with great courtesy.

Most Ham gear manufacturers build good equipment, since amateurs are technical critics of a high order. Not all manufacturers stand behind their gear with the kind of service I got from KLM. I won't hesitate to deal with them in the future, and recommend them to you.

### CLUB PATCHES

The red, white, and blue patches feature the club logo, and they look particularly attractive on blue or navy blue jackets. Those club members who would like to have patches for their jackets or caps can contact Charlie Speelman, S-2782, X51894. Patches cost \$2.00 each.

### W6AAQ's 2 METER RUBBER DUCKY REPLACEMENT--TNX Scope and W6DEY

The antenna below is made of #14 hard-drawn copper wire. The coil is  $5 \frac{1}{4}$  turns, 9/16 inches in diameter. The "top hat" is a 2 inch circle of thin copper or tin. Solder the antenna into whichever type of connector fits your HT. The claim is that it yields 6dB of gain over a rubber ducky. (Could we rename it the ugly duckling?-PMG)

