



APRIL 1983

# cross talk

NEWS BULLETIN OF TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



Sponsored by Systems Employee Association



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

**Garrett/W6TRW 2-Meter Repeater: 145.32 Receive — 144.72 Transmit (2A-PL)**

**TRW UHF Repeater: 447.000 Receive — 442.000 Transmit**

## CALENDAR FOR APRIL AND MAY

April 26, Noon	Club Meeting, R4/1041. Speaker will be Mike Aust on the 450 setup.
April 30, 8-11 am	Swapmeet.
May 7-8	West Coast VHF/UHF Conference, in Sunnyvale. For more information, write to the Conference at P.O. Box 4101, Fremont, CA 94539
May 10, Noon	Picnic at Pollywog Park
May 10, after work	Executive Board Meeting. All welcome.
May 28, 8-11 am	Swapmeet.
May 31, Noon	Club meeting

## INSURING YOUR RADIO GEAR -- Paul Herbert, N6HXY

ARRL-sponsored amateur radio equipment insurance is available through Albert H. Wohler's & Co., Park Ridge, Illinois. I will have some brochures and applications available at the next meeting, but you can also obtain these by calling their toll-free number: 1-800-323-2106. You must insure all of your equipment, not just selected items.

## OK, SO WHAT IS FIELD DAY? -- based on an article by George Anderson, W7ON, QST (6/81)

Field Day is the most popular amateur radio event of the year, with thousands of hams participating all over the United States and Canada. It is both an emergency preparedness exercise and a contest, conducted on the last weekend of June every year.

When the day arrives, participants pack up their portable and emergency gear and set up stations in fields and on mountaintops--and then they try to contact as many other participants as possible in a 24 hour time span. Most amateur frequencies and modes are used, including OSCAR, and power may come from a crotchety generator or even solar panels.

The object of all this is to encourage maintenance of portable communications equipment and development of operating skills under difficult conditions. In a real emergency, such as an earthquake or a flood, hams are usually the only source of immediate rescue and health and welfare communication. Antennas and rigs may need to be set up at the scene, quickly, and operated in conditions that are both uncomfortable and confused--an apt description of Field Day itself.

Participants earn points for their labors, with bonuses for CW contacts, using solar power, or making contacts via OSCAR, and other bonuses are possible. Groups compete against others of like size and power source. Take a look at the top of the page, and you'll see how TRW/ARC has fared in the past.

You needn't be a licensed ham to help, either. We need people to help set up antennas and tents, cook, log, tear down, and just provide moral support. If you can help out, contact Activities Manager Gary Komatsu now, at the number on the back page.

## MEETING MINUTES -- Walt Pearson, N6DZM

General Meeting, 29 March 1983

Twenty-four persons attended. President Bill Rodner commented that the Swapmeet lot was full at 7:30 am and the sellers were overflowing into the street. We may need to expand to a larger lot.

Activities Manager Gary Komatsu announced that he still needs a 15 meter CW captain for Field Day, as well as a kitchen crew. There were some volunteers. Discussions followed on models and costs of portable towers.

Treasurer Connie Gilmore reported that half of the SEA allotment was received.

Membership Chairman Bill Dews described the ARRL insurance program.

Ed Thornley discussed the User's International Radio Club letters detailing Icom and Kenwood modification and accessory data.

Problems with the repeater still exist. Resolution has not yet been identified.

Paul Herbert, (N6HXY) gave a talk on the emergency communications involving a boat on the rocks in the Falkland Islands. He played tapes of the actual conversations and described the difficulties involved.

The door prizes were a hand spotlight, battery tester, multimeter, fire extinguisher, and digital alarm clock.

## Executive Board Meeting, 12 April 1983

Attending were Bill Daley, Fred Garrett, Connie and Dave Gilmore, Jim Hill, Bob Hume, Gary Komatsu, Walt Pearson, Bill Rodner, and Bill Schrecengost.

Treasurer Connie Gilmore reported that the club is in excellent financial condition.

Activities Manager Gary Komatsu suggested acquiring T-shirts commemorating participation in Field Day activities. Everyone thought it was a good idea, and Gary will look into it further. Acquisition of a used Mirage amplifier for \$150 was approved. Picnics for the summer months will be planned, starting in May. An allocation of \$165 was made for food and refreshments on Field Day. We still need a 15M CW captain and kitchen chief for Field Day.

Trustee Bob Hume, with Bill Rodner and Fred Garrett, will survey the antenna situation prior to establishing a work party.

Emergency Coordinator Dave Gilmore reported that TRW's emergency coordinator, George Thyden, has left the company. Transceiver passes are being renewed, and renewal is contingent upon active membership and a 1983 TRW/ARC membership card.

Acquisition of new QSL cards is in work.

Swapmeet manager Jim Hill is looking for special prices and discount coupons for purchase of refreshments for the Swapmeet. Discussion followed on expanding the area to a larger lot.

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR -- Phyllis Gilmore, KE6TC

I apologize, deeply, for the lateness of the March and April issues. I was out of commission in March, and my office was out of commission until April 20th--both unexpectedly. The deadlines hold for the May issue, however.

Jim Richardson's son Dan recently upgraded to advanced. Formerly KA6YSZ, he's now KF6RW. Jim reports he's so enthusiastic that he even took his new Yaesu HT to bed with him, and says he may even go for his extra, "while his code speed is up."

Club member Ray Jordan invites hams interested in computers to attend the next meeting of his "Computer Reunification Group," May 11 at noon in R3/2077. Part of the object is to explore areas that might interest devotees of both hobbies. RTTY is one example of a likely area.

Keep an eye out--TRW/ARC has, one way or another, been mentioned in QST, Worldradio, several other ham club newsletters, and (most recently) in the February issue of Ham Radio. Our reputation grows by leaps and bounds. Also, I hope you didn't miss the latest issue of the Sentinel, with an article about club member Paul Herbert, N6HXY. Paul was the speaker at last month's meeting.

**DID YOU KNOW?** It's still true--you get a free door prize ticket if you wear your TRW/ARC badge to club meetings. If you don't have one with your current call on it, drop Bill Dews a check for \$2.00, along with your name and call. Wear them at Swapmeets and picnics too.

#### **HANDI TALKIES AND COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT -- Norm Stockwell**

The subject of operating handi talkies on commercial airliners was being discussed recently, and I realized that many of us do not read QST, where the definitive article seems to have appeared on p. 59 of the December 1982 issue. The author, Dick Russell (AC6M), is a captain with United, and the one-page article is well worth reading.

For those who don't get QST, the most important point relates to the Federal Air Regulations, which govern scheduled airliners. Section 91.19 states that:

No person may operate, nor may any operator or pilot in command of an aircraft allow the operation of, any portable electronic device on any of the following U.S. registered civil aircraft: Aircraft operated by an air carrier or commercial operator, or any aircraft while operating IFR (on instruments). Exceptions are portable voice recorders, hearing aids, heart pacemakers, electric shavers, or other portable electronic devices that have been approved by the operator of the aircraft.

The captain of a scheduled airliner therefore does not have the authority to allow operation of an HT during the flight and could receive a violation or fine for doing so. The pilot of a non-scheduled, business, or a private plane does have this authority, however.

The article explains that the reason for 91.19 is that spurious radiations from an imported FM broadcast receiver were blamed for a fatal (apparently many years ago). He also admits his surprise when an airline allowed the use of ham equipment by a friend he had referred to the communications department. A team of mechanics and the amateur spent about two hours with the particular aircraft to be used before he was granted one-time permission.

#### **ARRL PROGRAM FOR THE DISABLED -- A Membership Service (excerpted by Bob Pickett, N6EYV)**

Written for Jeannie of Lonely Island

Lonely Island is where I live  
Six feet by seven, take or give  
The thickness of blankets, the  
coverlet of red.  
Lonely Island is my bed.  
On Lonely Island I was so alone.  
My heart did cry, my lips did moan  
For blessed escape, no matter where,  
To Heaven or hell I didn't care.  
Then, out of nowhere, one fine day  
A voice came to me, I heard it say,  
"Jeannie my dear! Jeannie my lamb!  
Why not become a radio ham?"  
The study, the work; the code and all  
Seemed enough to make an Angel fall.  
But, then it was over! My license was  
here  
And I could operate my radio gear.  
With joyous heart I left my Island be-  
hind.

Although I knew it was a "state of mind"  
I had escaped! Up and away!  
A new adventure for every new day.  
There were Joe and Ginny, Mike and Pete  
And a million others I could meet,  
Happy voices, laughter and cheer.  
Friends to become, Oh so dear!  
Lonely Island's lonely no more!  
I'm still in bed, but it's not like before!  
My voice, like a feather, floats on the breeze.  
Let's me travel about with the greatest of ease.  
The pain is still there! So are the fears.  
But, with it all I smile through the tears  
And I couldn't tell how glad I am  
That I became a radio ham.

Most of us know a friend, neighbor, or family member who is confined to a "Lonely Island," whether it's a bed, or a home, because of physical or visual handicaps. With services available, you could offer them a new world of communication and service. Ham radio is fun, too -- it's

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the thrill of traveling to famous and far-away places without ever leaving your "shack," and the fellowship that results from making new friends around the country on the air!

There are hundreds of handicapped amateurs who enjoy the hobby every day. They've found that with a little perseverance, patience, and practice, a ham ticket and its accompanying rewards can be attainable. It takes some hard work -- but, it's worth it!

A valuable therapeutic tool, Amateur Radio continues to hold a profound appeal for individuals with physical handicaps. It is a means of people-to-people contact on a basis of absolute equality.

Sources of training materials pertaining to Amateur Radio are available in non-printed form. A good supplement of home study is a class, or a course in ham radio sponsored by a local club. Addresses of clubs in your area are available from the ARRL Club and Training Department. Many clubs hold classes and have members that may provide personal assistance in studies.

The Courage HANDI-HAM System can help, too. The HANDI-HAMs are an international service organization of over 2,000 handicapped and able-bodied radio amateurs working together to bring ham radio to individuals with physical handicaps. There are HANDI-HAMs members in every state and in 20 other countries ready to help. They can provide textbooks (on tape, if necessary), code practice tapes, a key, and a code practice oscillator. There are local HANDI-HAMs to assist in studies at home. Once the license is obtained, the organization may loan basic ham radio equipment to get the person started on the air! There are no dues to join, except pay-what-or-if you can.

The ARRL membership fee, which includes QST magazine, is currently \$25. However, visually handicapped members pay dues of only \$2 a year, without QST. (QST is available on flexible discs from the Library of Congress through its Regional Library system.) This gives blind members already licensed an opportunity to vote as League members, run for office, and otherwise share in the privileges of full membership.

One of the services the League offers is the Program for the Disabled. Administered by the Membership Services Department at Headquarters, the program serves as a clearing house for requests from the amateur community and maintains a resource file containing schematic diagrams and sources of special devices for the handicapped ham. The Program heartily supports the fine work of organizations such as the HANDI-HAM System and the Hadley School for the Blind.

There are many addresses available for information; here is a partial list:

National Library Service for the  
Blind and Physically Handicapped  
1291 Taylor St. NW  
Washington, D.C 20542

National Braille Assn.  
Braille Book Bank  
422 Clinton Ave. South  
Rochester, NY 11462  
(716) 232-7770

Correspondence Course:  
Hadley School for the Blind  
700 Elm Street  
Winnetka, IL 60093  
(800) 323-4238

Southern California Regional Library  
For Blind and Physically Handicapped  
Braille Institute of America, Inc.  
Library  
741 North Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90029  
(213) 663-1111 ext 285

Courage HANDI-HAM System  
3915 Golden Valley Road  
Golden Valley, MN 55422  
(612) 588-0811

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World Radio News offers Blind Amateur Cassettes of their publication of happenings in amateur radio. A \$3 fee for tapes is made on a one-time-only basis; this contribution funds the costs. Send your name, call sign, and your address to George Hickin, W4GH, P. O. Box 7453, Macon, GA 31209.

A more complete list of available services is included in the ARRL Program, more than space will permit listing here. If you have any questions regarding additional services, I'll be happy to share the information. You can write to me, Bob Pickett, N6EYV, 2735 Arlington Avenue #13, Torrance, CA 90501.

There are several amateur radio nets of interest to the blind and/or handicapped. Following are a few:

Hadley School QSO, Wed., 1600-1700 UTC, 21.390 MHz; Sat. eve., 0000Z, 3900KHz.

Piconet All-Day Watch, Mon.-Fri, 1500-1800 UTC, 1900-2300 UTC; Sat. 1500-1800 UTC, 3925 KHz.

International Handicappers Net, Mon.-Fri., 1500-1800 UTC, 14.287 MHz.

Handicappers Information Net, Mpn.-Fri, 2000 UTC, 7270 KHz

Craig Rehab Hospital Net, Thurs., 0230 UTC, 3940 KHz

American Council for the Blind Net, Mon.-Sun., 1800-1900 UTC, 14.305 MHz

Handi-Ham Roundup, 1930-2300 UTC Saturdays, 3925 KHz.

Amateur Radio is more than a "hobby," it's FUN -- share it with the people of "Lonely Island"!

*TX Amateur Radio News Service Bulletin*

ANNOUNCEMENT

From KEY-KLIX (Santa Barbara ARC)

A new award has just been announced in this month's QRX magazine by the RAAL awards committee. It's the WOM or "Worked one-hundred Morons" award and it's reported to be a dilly. Simply work 100 amateur with an IQ between 50 and 70 and send your proof of contacts, two corn-flakes box tops and blank check to cover shipping and handling to: RAAL awards, Battle Creek, Mich.

How can you tell a moron from another ham, you ask. OK, a few pointers. Hams with IQs under 70 typically: 1) say ~~ing~~ the word "kerchunk"; 2) not only use the Q-code on voice transmissions, but use it incorrectly; 3) run a full KW when making a QSO with the ham next door, thereby enabling their neighbor to receive him 20 over 9 on his electric toothbrush; 4) use words like "designated," "oh, well," and "defenestration;" 5) buy rotors for their verticals and install them upside down;" 6) frequently talk into their keyers; 7) often confuse the local autopath with a clock; 8) when chatting on the repeater, give their call sign, their contact's call sign, the repeater's callsign, their QTH and a weather report every 20 seconds; 9) fail to laugh when you tell them a great joke".

Any ham exhibiting 3 or more of these traits is a valid contact for award purposes.