



# CROSSTALK

News Bulletin of the TRW Amateur Radio Club

Member, American Radio Relay League

NOVEMBER 1983

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

Garrett/W6TRW Repeater: 145.32/down 600 (2A-PL) -- UHF: 442.000 in/447.000 out

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## CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

Nov. 26, 8-11 am	Swapmeet.
Nov. 29, noon	Club Meeting, R4-1041.
Dec. 6, after work	Executive Board Meeting; all are welcome.
Dec. 20, noon	Club Meeting.
Dec. 31, 8-11am	Swapmeet

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## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Phyllis Gilmore, KE6TC

The FCC announced in October that ham tickets will be renewed for ten years, as they come up for renewal. Whether yours is so graced, however, depends on how quickly they can get the computer to cooperate. The FCC expects to be geared up to do this no later than next spring, at worst.

The volunteer testing situation is still up in the air, and we've all been wondering if the FCC would continue to test on its own. As it stands now, they plan to give tests only four times a year. To take an exam given by the FCC (commercial as well as ham) you must submit an application in advance. Test will be conducted in a rented facility. Hams in our area, served by the Long Beach Field Office, must submit a 610 to that office as follows:

TESTING DATES	DEADLINE
Februrary 6-10, 1984	Jan. 15, 1984
May 7-11, 1984	Apr. 15, 1984
Aug. 6-10, 1984	July 15, 1984
Nov. 5-9, 1984	Oct. 15, 1984

The FCC will advise you of the exact date, time, and location. Also, call the FCC office in Long Beach to inquire about arrangements for the handicapped.

For those of you who haven't seen the November QST yet, we didn't make the Field Day stats. We're listed under "incomplete," whatever that means.

The Lament of the Lowly Label -- Once upon a time, mailing Crosstalk was a simple matter. This was before The Powers That Be decreed that great mailings would be better served by dragon-like machines dextrously slicing and heat-sealing special labels to each item. Alas, the Powers had not reckoned with the poverty of their outlying provinces (such as San Bernardino) or with the small size of some mailings. We were left to do battle as best we might with scissors, Scotch-tape, and even steam irons. At last, a white knight stepped into the breach and secured for us again the grace of peel-off mailing labels.

However, our friend the dragon still prints the labels, and the transfer from one computer to another has caused some difficulties with the text of the labels. We appologize to those who did not receive Crosstalk last month, and to those whose names look a little strange this month. We're working on it. Really.

According to Nominations Chairman Bill Dews, the November meeting will be open to additional nominations for club office. At present, the following are candidates:

President--Walt Pearson  
Vice President--Chris Wachs  
Secretary--John Keller  
Treasurer--Paul Herbert  
Activities--Gary Komatsu  
Trustee--Bob Hume

## MEETING MINUTES

Walt Pearson, N6DZM

### General Meeting, 28 October 1983

Twenty-nine people attended. Vice President Fred Garrett conducted the meeting, as President Bill Rodner was out of town. The club treasury was reported to be in good shape, and the prior meeting minutes were approved as printed in the October Crosstalk.

Notices of the annual TRW/ARC dinner meeting on 11 November were distributed.

Activities Manager Gary Komatsu reported that guy wires have been purchased for the club's antenna, along with a crimping tool. The crimping tool will be available for loan to members. Paul Weisz is working on the new QSL card design, and a date was requested for completion. Old cards can be used until new ones are available.

Nominations Chairman Bill Dews requested background statements of the candidates for the club offices in 1984. he advised that the club deviation meter was available for use after the meeting and that a list of other club equipment available for loan will be prepared. Bill also requested help with moving surplus items to the swapmeet area for the auction.

Chris Wachs (WA2KDL) gave a talk on the club Oscar station. Many countries have already been worked on low power. Chris is eager to help anyone interested; call him at work (316-9243) or at home (371-4705). The AMSAT orbital prediction for the LA area will be available at the Swapmeet. he requested help with completion of the antenna work.

Swapmeet Manager Jim McWilliams discussed the management of the Swapmeet. Jim Hill will continue to work with the concession people. The door prizes were two nicad battery chargers, a multitester, an LCD pocket calculator, a digital travel clock, a VSWR meter, and a CB antenna tuner.

### Executive Board Meeting, 8 November 1983

Attending were Bill Daley, Bill Dews, Fred Garrett, Bob Hume, Bill Ivey, John Keller, Gary Komatsu, Bob Lace, Jim McWilliams, Walt Pearson, Jim Richardson, Bill Rodner, and Bill Schrecengost.

President Bill Rodner opened the meeting by reminding about the annual

dinner at Peppy's on Friday, Nov. 11th, and that nominations for 1984 officers will be finalized at the November General Meeting.

Vice President Fred Garrett said the club treasury is in excellent shape and that a \$100 donation was being sent to AMSAT.

Activities Manager Gary Komatsu requested inputs to next year's planned budget. He also is starting to plan for Field Day next June. Paul Weisz now has more time to devote to the new QSL design; 700 old cards are still available.

Trustee Bob Hume has all the materials available to complete the work on the antenna. Assemblies will be made on the ground and then erected. Two working teams are needed for this coming week. The Kenwood high frequency receiver also needs work; cost is estimated at \$60.

Membership Chairman Bill Dews reported that the club has one new member this month. Bill was very pleased that 15 people volunteered to help with the auction items. He expressed his appreciation and thanks to each one for their participation.

SEA Council Representative Bill Ivey submitted proposed amendments to the club constitution. The changes are necessary to comply with revised SEA requirements.

Swapmeet Manager Jim McWilliams distributed copies of Rules for Sellers and Visitors at the TRW/ARC Amateur Equipment Swapmeet. Commercial vendors and those selling non radio/electronics items are not permitted. There will be additional efforts to assure that the rules are strictly enforced. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to buy three ICOM 23ATs for use by the Swapmeet officials.

Nominations Chairman Bill Dews advised that ballots for election of 1984 officers will be mailed to all members early in December.

LAACARC Delegate Bill Daley reported that the club dues have been paid. He reviewed items from the LAACARC Publication Common Ground. The FCC will allow hams with a "6" in their call to replace it with "84" or "23" during July and August 1984 to commemorate the Olympics.

Dinner Chairman John Keller reported that 50 people have reservations for the club dinner at Peppy's.

The TRW Amateur Radio Club wished to especially commend ham radio operator Mark Barettella on his reporting of the events on Grenada.

HAVE YOU ATTENDED THE TRW AMATEUR RADIO EQUIPMENT SWAP MEET.  
ITS HELD THE LAST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH FROM 8:00 TO 11:00 AM.  
IT PROVIDES YOU AND HUNDREDS OF OTHER RADIO AMATEURS THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO GET TOGETHER SOCIALLY AS WELL BUY, SELL OR SWAP  
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT OF THE TYPE USED BY RADIO AMATEURS, i.e.,  
RECEIVERS TRANSMITTERS, ANTENNAS, COMPUTERS, TEST EQUIPMENT AND  
RELATED ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS.

THE SWAPMEET IS SPONSORED BY THE TRW AMATEUR CLUB AND THEREFORE  
REQUIRES SOME SUPERVISION BY TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB MEMBERS.  
THE SWAPMEET HAS BECOME SO POPULAR THAT THE SELLERS AND BUYERS  
START TO ARRIVE BY 6:00 AM. IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE SELLERS TO  
OCCUPY A SINGLE TRW PARKING LOT AREA, TRAFFIC CONTROL IS  
REQUIRED. EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT THE TRAFFIC CONTROL  
REQUIRES AT LEAST TWO MEN FROM 7:00 TO 9:00 AM.

IF YOU ARE WILLING TO HELP OUT JUST ONE TIME DURING 1984 -  
PLEASE RETURN THIS BULLETIN WITH THE INFORMATION REQUESTED BELOW  
TO:

JIM MCWILLIAMS, R5/2181

OR CALL JIM AT X56214, THANKS AND 73

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAIL STATION \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

PREFERRED MONTH OF 1984 \_\_\_\_\_

### **Chris Wachs-Vice Presidential Candidate**

I have been active in ham radio for the past seven years and currently hold an Extra-class license. My early radio experience was gained while a member of the Rochester, NY, Amateur Radio Association and VHF Club. During my college education at Purdue, I remained active through the dorm and university amateur radio clubs. Through my involvement as a lifetime member of AMSAT, I was able to work personally on Oscar 10. As a member of the TRW Amateur Radio Club, I assisted in getting the TRW Oscar 10 ground station operational. I am looking forward to helping initiate and complete projects to further members' interest in the club.

### **New Handheld Digital Multimeter**

Jim Richardson, K6PDR

John Fluke Manufacturing Company has recently come out with the new 3½ digit 70 series digital multimeter. The basic unit is only \$85.00 (Model 73). For \$99.00 (Model 75), you get the low current scales and a continuity beeper. For \$129.00 (Model 77) you get a reading hold function. A new capability on all models, in addition to the large digital readout, is a sequential dot analog readout, so that you can see fluctuations in signal level. The unit is smaller than the Fluke 8000 series and has a rotary selector knob, which I like better. It has autoranging, as well as an automatic shutdown mode to save the battery, which is a standard 9-volt with an estimated life of 2000+ hours. I have purchased the Model 75, and am very well pleased with it. Literature is available from Fluke in Carson, (213) 538-3900. The units is available at Wassco in El Segundo, (213) 772-8171.

### **Ham Radio and Grenada**

When U.S. troops invaded Grenada, there were no reporters along. Worse, there was no communication with the very people they were supposed to be rescuing--until a medical student named Mark Baratella (KA2ORK/4) put his ham station on the air.

Trouble on Grenada wasn't unexpected; the chancellor of the medical school (who wasn't on the island at the time) had already made previous arrangements to contact a stateside ham, and Mark had his radio with

him only because he'd hidden it in a laboratory.

Not even the State Department had contact with the students. The news media were not only upset with the DoD for not being allowed to tag along, but with hams for not letting reporters conduct on-air interviews--either directly or indirectly.

The W5YI Report comments that "Mark Barattella did a magnificent job of operating under incredibly adverse conditions. Emergency power was used during the greatest portion of the time. Refueling was a problem since their personal safety was imperiled every time they ventured outside the facility. The Grand Anse campus which housed the 176 Americans did not have U.S. military protection from the beginning of the invasion until the actual evacuation."

Nor was operation easy for other reasons. Because of band conditions and some interference, frequencies had to be changed a number of times, as well as net control stations. The FCC, too, accommodated the operation by permitting "out of band" operation and third-party traffic. (Granada does not have a third party agreement with the U.S., but international rules permit it in an emergency.)

There's more to the story than we have room for here. The November 15 W5YI report has more details, and will be available from the Librarian for loan. Let it suffice to say here that both Mark and the other hams in the net did an incredible job--and showed the world what we hams can do.

### **Giving Them Their Due**

Bill Dews, K6AWO

I wish to thank the guys who showed up to clean out the ham shack on Saturday, October 29, 1983. I'm unable to list your name or call, since I didn't write any down, but you know you were there, and take it from me, I was glad to see all 15 of you.

I wish to especially thank Paul Weisz (K6YQ), the auctioneer, and Paul Herbert (KG6CR), who assisted.

This cleanup dealt with the donations the club had received over the past ten months or so. Since it is hard to come by the needed work force at the close of each Swapmeet, we will no longer continue to accept donations at that time.

The club will send a \$100 donation to AMSAT from the money received at the auction.