

CROSSTALK

News Bulletin of the TRW Amateur Radio Club

Member, American Radio Relay League

June 1984

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

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

June 23, 24	Field Day!!! Friendship Park, San Pedro. See map inside Crosstalk.
June 26, noon	Club Meeting, R4/1041, Videotape of the Field Day activities provided by W6ODI, Bob Lace.
June 30, 8-11am	Swapmeet
July 10, after work	Executive Board Meeting -- All members are welcome!
July 16, noon	Picnic at El Nido Park. Food and refreshments are free to members.
July 28, 8-11am	Swapmeet
July 31, noon	Club Meeting, R4/1041

From the Library George Lee, W6IOW

What's new in this month's issue of:

QST: A "FD Special" antenna

HR: Towers' design, installation, maintenance; Z-matching; Ultraspherical filters

73: Review of the Kenwood TW4000A; the NCDXF 20-Meter Beacon Network

CQ: Review of the IC-02A/T, FT-102; How to work DX in a pile-up

We also have the Orbit and World Radio paper in the library.

boxes, BOXES, **BOXES:** YES! We need photographic-paper boxes to store our magazines. Can anyone help??

SANTA MARIA HAMCON

The Southwestern Division ARRL Convention is being held October 12 - 14, 1984 at the Santa Maria Fairgrounds! Now is the time to start making your plans! There will be free parking city-wide. R.V. spaces will also be available. There's plenty to do for you and the XYL too! Wineries, beaches, dunes, Solvang Danish community, restaurants, tours, swap tables, etc. For early sign-up notification send an "sase" to:

Registration Department
Hamcon

P. O. Box 2457

Orcutt Station, CA. 93455

Please include your name, call, address, and don't forget the ZIP Code!

SEE YOU THERE



During recent 40 meter QSO's with Bill Rodner (K6AWS), who moved to Idaho in May, one signal stood out from the rest. This signal owned by Tom Benson, KA6BKL was radiated by a Coaxial Antenna. The Coaxial Antenna somewhat looks like an Inverted "V" except that the left and right legs are RG-8 coax. My Inverted "V" at the time was disconnected and I couldn't establish communications with K6AWS so I built and installed a Coaxial Antenna. Much to my pleasure on a subsequent QSO with the M-W-F TRW/ARC 40 meter net, I was loud and clear. Construction time for the Coaxial Antenna was 3 hours maximum and subsequent installation and trimming, approximately 2 hours. The RG-8 I used for the antenna legs was used stuff I purchased inexpensively at the TRW swapmeet so the cost of my antenna was in the noise.

A sketch of the Coaxial Antenna follows. Build one and meet K6AWS and the TRW/ARC gang in the 40 meter net. (7.260MHz \pm QRM, 8:30 - 9:30 pm PDT, M-W-F).

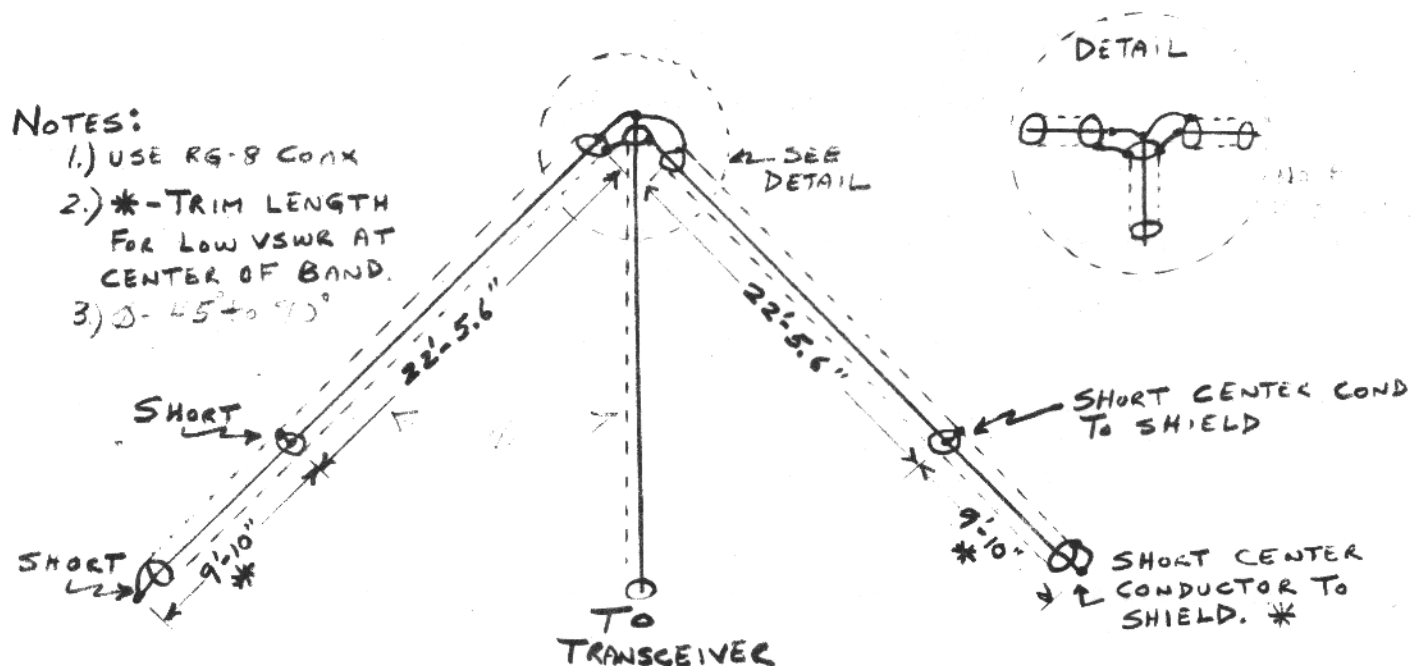


FIG 1. 40 METER COAXIAL ANT

Executive Board Meeting 12 June 1984

John Keller, N6JLS

Attending were Bill Dews, Bob Hume, John Keller, Gary Komatsu, Jim McWilliams, Don Resor Jr. and Bill Schrecengost. The meeting was called to order by Secretary John Keller. President Walt Pearson was about to enter the hospital for a vitreous hemorrhage in his right eye, Vice-President Chris Wachs had final exam, and Treasurer Paul Herbert had a conflicting meeting to attend, hence, were not present. John Keller reported that information received from the ARRL concerning information printed on QSL cards was not adequate for the club's needs. Asst. Swapmeet Mgr. Don Resor Jr. presented the Treasurer's report for Paul Herbert. Activities Chairman Gary Komatsu said that Field Day preparations are going very smoothly and that T-shirts would be picked up 6/13. Trustee Bob Hume reported that the lower set of guy wires on the crank-up tower have been replaced and crimps required to finish the job have been ordered. Membership Chairman Bill Dews requested and was approved the sending of Crosstalk to club meeting speakers for 6 months and a raffle drawing for TRW/ARC members showing up at the Swapmeet. Members presenting themselves to Jim McWilliams at the Swapmeet will receive a ticket for the raffle if wearing the club badge or hat and two if wearing both. Swapmeet Manager detailed new efforts to deal with the presence of dealers at the TRW/ARC Swapmeet. These efforts will go into effect at the next Swapmeet. The meeting was adjourned early due to lack of elected Executive Board members and the start of the 7th game of the Lakers-Celtics playoffs.

How I Passed the 13 WPM Exam

Dale Jensen, K6ZTI

Here are some things I did to get my code speed up. Your needs may well be different than mine.

1. I did not go on the air. I used tapes only. You need to strain to improve. In working another Ham you are unlikely to have him send fast enough to strain you. Instead, you are going to be more interested in getting good copy, hence, getting him to send slowly. This will prevent you from increasing your speed as rapidly as tapes will.

2. I waited 20 years to get my bad habits out of my system. I don't think most people need to wait that long.

3. I practiced with the tapes three times daily; morning, noon, and night. Near the end, when I was getting edgy, I practiced four times a day, having two sessions at night. Each session was for at least 20 minutes and not more than 30 minutes. I allowed at least two hours to elapse between sessions. Most tapes are 30 minutes on each side.

It is important to avoid missing any days. Missing one day will cause you to lose the equivalent of two to three days of practice. Missing two consecutive days is a disaster. This happened to me two weekends in a row.

Generally, practicing once each day will maintain your speed. Twice each day will yield significant improvement. Three or four times each day does really great.

4. When I could copy a tape at 75 to 80 percent accuracy, I moved on to the next tape. You need to strain in order to improve.

5. I did not practice sending.

Well, that is about all I can offer you. Let's get with it. You have to dedicate the time (about one and a half hours each day) and plan on about two or three months. Then you too can be like me and walk on air. I still find it hard to believe that now I have become an "honest to goodness Ham".

(editor's note: Dale just recently upgraded from Technician to Advanced! If you would like to know what tapes Dale prefers he can be reached at 316-9494)

Some things get done badly because they are genuinely hard to do well, and some get done badly because nobody tried hard enough to do them well.

Eileen Shanahan

May Swapmeet Notes

Jim McWilliams, W0RTG

The 26th of May 1984 provided great California weather to support our monthly radio amateur social get-it-together and electronic equipment exchange. The sellers lot was about 80% full and there were thousands of successful social contacts and QSO's made using the audio frequency spectrum. Don Resor, N6KAW assisted by Dave Olsson, W6OJN and Norm Stockwell, N6NS handled the traffic control very well. As usual the equipment available ranged from antique radios and related equipment to some of the latest types of electronic gear including computer hardware and software. Remember there is NO conflict between Field Day and our Swapmeet this year. Field Day weekend is the 23rd and 24th - our Swapmeet is the LAST Saturday of June - the 30th! See you there!

Wanted - For Sale - Freebies

For Sale: An Experimenter's Delight, a treasure chest of resistors, capacitors, inductors, connectors, sockets, IC's, switches and transistors (including VHF). All parts sorted and in four 9 to 35 drawer bins. Value in excess of \$400. Asking \$100. Call Scott X56198 or (home) 542-6525.

Checking RF Insulation

Here's a neat idea, culled from Amateur Radio, that excellent Australian magazine. You have some insulating material on hand. An ohmmeter shows an open circuit. So it's fine for DC, but how's it going to work with a husky bit of RF across it? The answer is easily ascertained. Just put a sample on a paper plate (after making dang sure there is no metal in the sample) and set into your microwave oven. Run the oven on high power for about three minutes. If you have a good RF insulator, it'll remain cool. If it gets hot, hunt for a better prospect!

TRW/ARC HAM SHACK

For those of you who have been up to the Ham shack recently and were not sure how the equipment should be configured if you are going to use Oscar or work the HF bands, the following should help out. There is also a copy of these directions in the shack.

OPERATION OF THE TS820 FOR OSCAR USE

- 1) Place the screen switch to off. The switch is located on the rear panel of the TS820, in the lower right corner.

NOTE: THIS SWITCH MUST BE OFF OR THE TRANSVERTER WILL BE DAMAGED!!!

- 2) Set the antenna switch to the "Transverter" position.
- 3) On the TS820 turn on the POWER and HEATER switches.
- 4) On the TS820 set the BAND switch to "10" (meters).
- 5) Turn on the power strip that the Transverter and power supply for the Amplifier are plugged in to.
- 6) Insure that the 435MHz antenna is connected to the output of the Mirage D1010 amplifier.
- 7) Insure that the Mirage D1010 amplifier is set in the SSB mode and turn on the amplifier.
- 8) Insure that the Transverters transmit and receive oscillators are set in the "high" position.
- 9) Adjust the DRIVE control on the TS820 for maximum receiver noise.

The set-up is now complete. Use the radio as you would for HF use except you don't need to adjust the TUNE or PLATE controls on the TS820.

WHEN FINISHED.....

- 1) Turn off the power strip to the Transverter.
- 2) Turn off the TS820.
- 3) Set the antenna switch to the "Dummy Load" position.

OPERATION OF THE TS820 FOR HF USE

- 1) Turn the antenna switch located on the wall to the desired position, i.e., 80M/40M dipole or Tri-band beam antenna.
- 2) On the TS820, in the bottom right corner of the rear panel, turn the SCREEN switch to ON.
- 3) On the TS820, turn on the POWER and HEATER switches.
- 4) Tune up the transmitter per the procedure found in the TS820 manual.

WHEN FINISHED.....

- 1) Turn off the POWER and HEATER switches.
- 2) Place the SCREEN switch in the OFF position.
- 3) Place the antenna switch in the "Dummy Load" position.

Few men ever drop dead from overwork, but many quietly curl up and die because of undersatisfaction. Sidney Harris

Look for More Troubles Robert R. Updegraff

Be thankful for the troubles of your job. They provide about half your income. Because if it were not for the things that go wrong, the difficult people you have to deal with, and the problems and unpleasantnesses of your work day, someone could be found to handle your job for half of what you are being paid.

It takes intelligence, resourcefulness, patience, tact and courage to meet the troubles of any job. That is why you hold your present job. And it may be the reason you aren't holding down a bigger one. If all of us would start to look for more troubles, and learn to handle them cheerfully and with good judgement, as opportunities rather than irritations, we would find ourselves getting ahead at a surprising rate. For it is a fact that there are plenty of big jobs waiting for men and women who aren't afraid of the troubles connected with them.

from The Hilltopper, Tompkins Co. ARC

Tidbits from the Jolly Little S—!

As I type this, the club President has gone into the hospital. He has a vitreous hemorrhage in his right eye. Usually caused by high blood pressure, Walt was checked and found to be normal. We all hope you are 100% real soon Walt, so relax and take it easy for a while.

WB6DJI, Mike Aust, will be curtailing Amateur activities for a while as he will be "tying the knot" on June 24. How his bride to be got him to agree to a Field Day wedding we don't know, but it looks like Mike has landed quite a catch to keep him from Field Day.

With Mike getting hitched and work on the remote base to be curtailed, the TRW/ARC Ham shack will be loaned some pretty outstanding equipment. If we have an antenna up by July 4th, Mike will have set up an Icom 751 Xcvr, an AT-500 automatic antenna tuner, and an Advanced Computer Controls unit to run the thing over phone lines. Those who want to could talk to K6AWS that way!

Latest info on Olympic Amateur Stations has only one station approved for the UCLA Olympic Village and no stations at USC or UCSB. The station will be NG840 (Games and Olympics) and will be located in "Main Street" which will be an entertainment and recreation area for the athletes. Main Street will include a coffee house/disco, GTE phone center, bank, hair salon, and a free video games arcade as well as the Amateur Station. Operation is hoped for 220, 2 Meters and HF. By the way, yours truly is one of 40 Amateurs chosen to operate the Olympic Station.

Those of you who frequent Oscar 10 might say a big hello to Adrian Fallert, WB8GEW the next time you hear him on. Who is Adrian Fallert you ask? Well, just take a quick look at the back of your club badge and you will see that he is one of the people who engrave our badges. Say hello for me while you are at it!

All is not lost with Oscar 11 but troubles still plague the satellite. Ham radio's latest satellite finally responded to a command and turned on its 2 Meter telemetry beacon. However test commands echoed back to Earth have been completely garbled. The beacon can be heard on favorable passes on an HT with a 5/8ths antenna at 145.825MHz. It sounds something like a bzzzzzzzzzz saw.

If you will be traveling around the L.A. area on the weekends please take the 2 Meter rig with you because we would like to know how well the club repeater is working in various areas. I personally was able to work the repeater from the Queen Mary with my HT on high power with only a rubber duck. By the way, if you are at the Queen Mary, be sure to stop in at the radio room which houses the Ham Shack of the Amateur Radio Association of Long Beach (ARALB).

NEW MEMBERS -- OLD MEMBERS

WELCOME to the club new members:

W6SP, John Browning, who was the speaker at the March meeting.

KB6CQD, Jon Visser, who just recently received his first Ham license.

KF6CI, Charles Darrow, who has jumped in with both feet and will be operating 15 Meter CW for W6TRW on Field Day.

One of the pains of inflation is to see a youngster start his first job at a salary you dreamed of as the culmination of your career.

General Meeting 26 May 1984

John Keller, N6JLS

Twenty four members attended. President Walt Pearson called the meeting to order. Secretary John Keller accepted the minutes of the 24 April General Meeting as printed in the Crosstalk. Activities Chairman Gary Komatsu reminded members of the June Picnic on Wednesday the 13th which will kick-off efforts for Field Day. Vice-President Chris Wachs introduced the speaker, Harold Price, NK6K, (misprinted as AK6K in the May Crosstalk who talked about Packet Radio. Mr. Price related that Amateur Packet Radio is growing at an exponential rate and that Southern California is a hotbed of activity. The key to the system is a device known as a Terminal Node Controller, which is a purchasable device with a price tag of about \$250. This device controls a transceiver and talks and listens to a home computer through a standard RS232C interface. Mr. Price also gave a little info about the past and especially the future of Packet Radio as he is the Program Manager for the AMSAT Packet Radio Satellite. The hour was filled with loads of good info and finished off with a quick Q and A session and a demo of a Packet Radio system. Handouts were also available for the interested.

SET-UP
FRIDAY PM

W

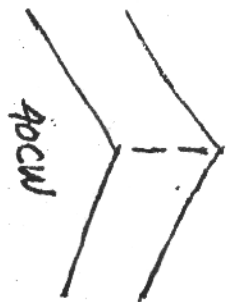
JUNE 22, 23, 24

D
D
END

OLLIES
FOLLY
ANT.

ANT

ANT.



40CW

15CW

ANT

20CW

ANT.

40SSB

15SSB

20SSB

2 METER

UPPER GRASSY
AREA

GEN

K6HPD

NO CURB

PAVED ROAD

DIET ROAD

WEEDS

REST ROOM

PAVED ROAD

FRIENDSHIP
PARK -
SAN PEDRO

RESTROOM

UPPER GRASSY AREA

LOWER GRASSY AREA

FRIENDSHIP PARK (SIGN)

GATE

PARKING LOT

WESTERN

15

9TH

GAFFEY

