



# CROSSTALK

News Bulletin of the TRW Amateur Radio Club

Member, American Radio Relay League

JANUARY 1985

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

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

## CALENDAR FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Saturday Jan 26, 0001 UTC  
Saturday Jan 26, 8-11am  
Tuesday Jan 29, noon

Tuesday Feb 12, after work  
Thursday Feb 14, all day  
Friday Feb 26, noon  
Saturday Feb 29, 8-11am

ARRL Novice Roundup. All week until 2359 UTC 3 Feb. 30 hrs max limit. CQ CQ @ 5WPM!  
Swapmeet  
Club Meeting, R4/1041. Speaker will be Bill Stevens, W1WEX, and he will speak on the the Care and Feeding of Operational Amplifiers. Many practical circuits for the ham shack will be presented.  
Executive Board Meeting. All members are welcome to attend.  
Happy Valentine's Day!  
Club Meeting, R4/1041.  
Swapmeet

## Tidbits from the Jolly Little S...

Bill Dews informs me that he has sent to the FCC for a supply of Form 610 for those about to upgrade or renew a license. Bill's mail stop and extension are on the back page for those interested.

For those of you with "Bearcat" scanners, Electra Corp. has gone out of business. The product line has been bought out by Uniden Corp. If you need parts or repair of your unit here are some important addresses.

### For Parts:

Customer Service  
Uniden Corp.  
6445 Castle Way Court  
Indianapolis, IN 46520  
Phone: 317-842-0280

### For Repairs:

Uniden Corp.  
Repair Service  
9340 Castle Gate Drive  
Indianapolis, IN 46256

You are advised to call for quote and part no. first.

I have also noticed that in the new Uniden ads for "Bearcat" equipment that the Model 100 portable scanner now sports a BNC antenna connector rather than the old screw-in "rubber duck."

Roy Neal, K6DUE, reported through the W5YI Report that the two-meter to ten-meter repeater that will be carried into space with Dr. Tony England, W0ORE, will be for transmitting audio only and not video. Amateurs can

listen on two and listen to their own voice coming back on ten if the spacecraft picks up your signal. Amateurs whose transmissions are heard will qualify for a QSL card, a sort of do-it-yourself space contact!

Bill Dews informs me that badges have been ordered for Stan, W6EKK; Al, WA6FLL; Leolf, WA6WET; Bill, W6RDH; Mary, W6MMU and Bob, WB6ZAK. Bill also says that as of

January 9, seventy-two members have rejoined. Sounds pretty good until you realize that that is only half of the Club membership. Where's the rest of you?

Many of us are used to hearing Shuttle air-to-ground transmissions over several repeaters in the LA area, but thanks to Bob Ripley, W6OSM, live color video and audio is being repeated on two of the five ATV repeaters.

Bob's signal is repeated over K6KMN (1241.25 MHz) on Mount Wilson and WA6ZVE (1277.25 MHz) on Contractors Peak. During the last flight, ATVers were treated to seeing the astronauts retrieve the two wayward satellites as it happened. ATVers can usually be found at the TRW Swapmeet with wares for sale and lots of info. ATVers also meet on 146.43MHz simplex on Monday evenings at 8pm local time if you can't wait 'til the Swapmeet.

Ed Farnsworth, W6TEC, informs me that the ARRL is looking for opinions. Specifically, should some of the subband below 7.1 MHz that is now for only CW be reallocated for SSB use. A postcard appeared in the January QST for ARRL members to send in asking if you are in favor or not in favor. I suppose that if you have a strong leaning one way or the other on this issue you could send in a postcard on your own. The ARRL hopes to get a lot of cards!

A lot of statistics on our hobby appeared in the W5YI Report and here are a few of the highlights. The number of licensed amateurs actually declined by 844 in 1984. We are now 409,923 strong. Upgrades were down by almost 30%, from 23,024 in 1983 to 16,184 in 1984. It seems the start-up of the Volunteer Examiner program put a hitch in the git-along. Total newly licensed amateurs was also down to 18,800 from 20,940 last year.

I want to thank very much Walt Pearson and Paul Lukas for filling in for me and doing the meeting notes while I was ill and forgetful.



## Good-Bye CROSSTALK

Bill Dews, K6AWD

Don't worry, the Club is still going to produce one of the best amateur radio club papers each month. Plus it will show up on time a few days before the Club meetings so you can mark off your calendar and really try to make it. It will show the meeting place as R4/1041 the last Tuesday of the month and you will have \$50.00 in door prizes to choose from. And of course the picnics in the summer will continue, where you can eat your dues away after attending only 2 or 3, depending on how you eat. So why good-bye Crosstalk? If you haven't paid your membership dues by the end of this month, you are reading your last Crosstalk!

## Executive Board Meeting 4 Dec 1984

Paul Lucas, N6DMV

Present were: Jim Cox, Bill Dews, Mel Erb, Paul Herbert, Bill Ivey, Paul Lukas, Joe O'Brien, Walt Pearson, Don Resor III, Bill Schrecengost, Chris Wachs. President Walt Pearson called the meeting to order. Joe O'Brien stated that he arranged a speaker for the 29 January club meeting. The speaker is from Hughes and will discuss op amps. Joe also said that he has lined up speakers for future club meetings. The problem of the club antenna came up and Walt suggested that Bob Hume put an antenna crew together to refurbish the system. The minutes of the last meeting were approved as printed in the Crosstalk. Paul Herbert handed out the treasury report/balance sheet to the participants and gave an explanation of the items listed. He pointed out that the club is in a good shape financially. The second page of Paul's report lists the budget estimates for the year 1985. The question of the club QSL cards came up and a very handsome colored picture of the GRO satellite was shown to the board. This picture will be put on the front face of the cards after reducing it to the proper size. There will be spaces left on the picture for call sign/address info. The card can be overprinted. A debate started concerning the price to be charged to club members for the cards. Result: A motion was accepted at a price of 3 cents per card, club members only. Paul Herbert is planning to donate a framed or flat mounted card to GSFC (Goddard Space Flight Center) ARC. He suggested to make the cards available to GSFC at a nominal price. No decision was reached in this matter. The discussion returned to the budget proposed for 1985. Walt suggested the budget be tentatively accepted pending final approval at the next board meeting. The motion was accepted. The question of the club meeting door prizes came up. Bill Schrecengost said that several items are on hand. Chris Wachs has blank tickets which will be handed over to Jim Wike. Mel Erb has 2 '84 call books as prizes. It was learned that the TRW owned HT's will be turned over to us after the I.D. problem is taken care of. Any volunteers to see that the batteries remain charged? The next item on the agenda was the mailroom. There have been some difficulties in the past in getting the club literature out on time. John Keller was assigned to put the gummed labels on the mail. All mail has to go through Don Resor, he has the letter of authorization for the mailings. Don also agreed to handle the upcoming (by the time you read this, it is history) VHF contest. LAACARC deligate Bill Daley was absent, his report was not available. 1985 ARRL SW Convention delegate Paul Weisz was also absent. We received a report on Dave Gilmore: he is back from the hospital, recuperating. Get well soon, Dave! Bill Dews suggested that the free swapmeet ticket be redeemable in greenbacks (\$10) - no decision was reached. It was mentioned that some folks are dissatisfied with the present 80 sec timer on the TRW repeater. Some wish to extend the time to 3 minutes. After a discussion, a verdict was reached to leave the timer alone. Mel Erb most emphatically stated that for QSL-ing, the club book must have the entry for the contact - no entry/no QSL!

Don Resor reported on the last Swapmeet. He could not find a single board member there, apparently everybody went on a vacation. It was a good turnout. The new sellers registry sheet contains the request for the seller's phone number, it must be filled out. The Swapmeet went okay except some difficulty was encountered due to the re-surfacing of the adjacent parking lot. It is our responsibility to leave the premises clean. All rubbish must be properly disposed of if we are to retain our privilege to use the TRW lots. We request everybody to help keep the place clean and safe. If you find trash, please place it in the designated containers. It won't hurt to scan the ground as you stroll among the radio stuff. It can even be beneficial: Bill Schrecengost found a \$5 bill at the cleanup! Don Resor stated that he needs at least 3 people at the meets. At the last meet, only 2 people showed up. Please report your unavailability in advance so that we can arrange a substitute. Bill Dews has the new FCC 610 forms - call him if you need some. Jim Cox steered the subject to the TRW repeater. In connection with our repeater, he quoted some problems with other machines. Jim further elaborated on his plans to upgrade our repeater. His XYL picked-up 2 DTMF decoders (\$65 each) - one for us, the other for the Garrett repeater. The decoder has 12 output capability - a simple jumper can change the control code. It has all the bells-and-whistles and is easy to interface with the repeater. Bill Dews requested spec sheets to be sent to the club officers. Charlie Clarke, Garrett's control operator will send the remittance for the decoder to our treasury. The TRW club will issue a check to Jim for the decoder. Any business transaction with the club must be handled by check - please send no cash. The need for definite rules and control operator surfaced. Jim Cox also stated that he would like to have a courtesy beep tone incorporated in our repeater as others already have this feature. Bill Dews pointed out that at present the TRW repeater is on most of the time the Garrett machine is used as a backup only. Ji expressed the desire to upgrade both repeaters to the same level and he already has a beep tone board. Walt asked Jim to come up with a recommendation concerning the job to be done. Chris, Jim and Don to prepare recommendations for the operator questions and solutions. Next the repeater room access was discussed. We have two keys to the room, Jim Cox and John Keller should take possession of them. Librarian George Lee was not present. A need for a better noise bridge has come up. Bill Dews is to explore the problem. Chris Wachs stated that in the 2nd quarter of 1985 a Shuttle launch will take place having 10M FM SSTV aboard. Next the question of the rewards for the VHF contest winners was discussed. Walt recommended that a plaque for the first prize, certificates for the 2nd and 3rd prizes to be given. Don Resor called in our attention the approaching HamCon. He would like to have a station controller purchased for the occasion at a price of \$600-\$700. Walt requested tech info on this item, Bob Hume was recommended for the equipment board. Having no further subjects, the meeting was adjourned at 1927 local time.

## Testing - Testing - Testing

Technician thru Extra Class Amateur Radio operator FCC examinations are conducted the first Saturday of each month at the LERC Amateur Radio Club, 2814 Empire Avenue, Burbank, CA. 91504. Pre-registration is required. A self-addressed stamped envelope brings an FCC Form 610 application and associated information. Novice tests are also scheduled at mutually satisfactory times.

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No one is exempt from talking nonsense; the misfortune is to do it solemnly.

Montaigne

### Murphy's Laws For the HF Bands

George, KA6WZR

If, working in a crowded band, you finally find a blank spot and call CQ -- no one will hear you.

5 stations working the skip will destroy the ionized layers which make possible the skip in the first place.

If you tell a guy he is 599, he will start fading or QRM will be too heavy to copy him.

If you don't tell a guy he's 599, he will start fading or the QRM will be too heavy to copy him.

If your antenna is too low, you won't get good DX. If you put it up high enough, it will fall down.

If your antenna is not big enough, it won't work well. If you put up an antenna that is big enough, the neighbors will complain that you cause TVI.

If you are causing TVI, it will be the type that low and high pass filters won't cure.

If you are not causing TVI, it will be the type that low and high pass filters could cure.

### General Meeting 18 December 1984

Walt Pearson, N6DZM

Eleven members attended. President Walt Pearson waited until 12:10 to call the meeting to order, hoping that more members would arrive. Meeting minutes were approved as printed in the December Crosstalk. Treasurer Paul Herbert gave the financial report that showed a year end balance of less than three dollars - an excellent example of performance to budget.

First order of business at each December meeting is election of officers for the next year. Since a quorum (20% of the full employee membership) was not present, the election was not possible and Election Committee Chairman Bill Dews was requested to prepare and distribute ballots and tally the votes.

Last week Fred Edmunds, WB6QJK, of the Tournament of Roses Radio Amateurs (TORRA) requested use of the TRWARC 440 UHF Repeater System as back-up for their command communications over New Years. We were very happy to comply and contribute in a small way to their fine performance. TORRA is still accepting members for this year's activity and also will need more volunteers in the future. Call Fred Edmunds if interested.

Membership Chairman Bill Dews announced that it is membership renewal time - dues are due to Dews before the end of January. Walt Pearson announced that Jim Cox will be moving to Technical Chairman in 1985. The club will need a new Training Chairman and all who are interested are urged to contact Walt as soon as possible.

Vice President Chris Wachs gave a presentation on the January ARRL VHF Sweepstakes contest emphasizing individual contributions to club competition. Chris distributed a very complete package of rules, guidelines and reporting forms. It is hoped that many members will participate and that this will become a regular activity to get things going in future years.

Bill Schreengost KE6LB, substituting for Activities Manager Gary Komatsu who is still ill, obtained the door prizes for the meeting. Nearly everyone present won a prize this month.

Ants build houses; but they build them in no wise differently or better now than they did five thousand years ago. Ants and honeybees provide food for winter; but just in the same way they did when Solomon...referred to them as patterns and prudence. Man is not the only animal that labors; but he is the only one who improves his workmanship. Lincoln

### From the Library

George Lee, W6IOW

Summary of articles in the December issues of:

QST -A Helical Antenna for Space Shuttle Communications  
Optimizing Coaxial Cable Traps  
Try This Versatile CW Shaper  
Review of FT-757GX

HR -Complete Solar Power for Ham Station  
Packet Radio and Local Area Networking  
Microstrip Z Program for TRS-80 and HP-67/97/41  
Low Noise GaAs FET Technology

73 -Data Display for TouchTone Decoder  
Yikes, Spikes! (Filter for AC Line)

CQ -Restoration of a Classic (KWM-1)  
How to Adjust Antennae  
Review of FT-77 Tranceiver

Summary of articles in the January issues of:

QST -Novice Roundup Announcement and Rules  
A Simple 10 M FM Rcvr, uses 3 ICs(for April Shuttle)  
Simple QRP Gear vs Good Performance (one stage Xmtr)  
Product Review of the Icom-751

HR -Computer Aided Interdigital Bandpass Filter Design  
Basic Gamma Matching  
An Integrated Circuit Lowpass Filter (using S-3528)

73 -Eight Mods for the Icom-730  
Automate the FT-757  
A Space-Saver Seven Megger (7 MHz Antenna)

CQ -Magazine has not arrived.

### HEARD ON THE PARTY LINE

By: Charley Vorderberb, W0CCT via A.R.N.S. Bulletin

Self control might be defined as the ability to ignore a ZL who is also a YL calling CQ.

If we could just get the YL's to move as quickly to answer our CQ as they do when they dash for the phone when it rings....we'd never go QRT.

Ham radio isn't an inexpensive hobby by a long shot. First, a receiver, an antenna, then an xmtr, SWR bridge, scope, QSL cards, call books, etc. Eventually an SSB transceiver is ours. It all costs a sweet penny. And only one Buck ever came back to us. (His name was Buck).

When your mind goes blank, turn down the audio gain.

Into each life some rain must fall....usually on a weekend when we plan to put up an antenna.

When it is ham radio gear one deals for by mail, that figure could be called a guestimate.

The OM is a guy who finds it hard to get onto phone, into the bathroom, away from the house or out of the rig.

The OM rarely makes the same mistakes twice - the average is four or five times.

We heard recently about the perfectly matched couple on 75 meters. He is a pill and she is a headache.

It must be love. We saw a Novice carrying a YL's Amateur Radio Handbook.

Guess who tried to check into the Pi Network the other day ....?

## OR Getting Out This Newsletter is No Picnic

He who is slowest in making a promise is often the most faithful in its performance.

Don Resor III, N6KAW

The time to stop talking is before people stop listening.

Thanks, Dear Abby

No executive has ever suffered because his subordinates were strong and effective. Peter Drucker

This item comes to us from the Hughes, El Segundo ARC newsletter.

The Icom Q2AT can easily be modified to cover the maritime bands above the amateur two meter band. In fact, continuous coverage is possible from 144 to 165MHz! It does, however, take a bit of dexterity to poke in the innards of this handheld, including a delicate soldering iron with a tip like a surgical instrument. If you feel you are up to the challenge, give Chuck Lobb a call at 414-6703 for a copy of the detailed instructions. Thanks to Gordon Cole, WB6GUC, of Hughes Irvine ARC for this input.

(ed. note: No area code was given in the reprints that I saw, so you may have fun trying to find Chuck!).

We are only young once, but we can continue to be immature indefinitely.

The impossible: what nobody can do until somebody does.

According to the Club questionnaires we received, quite a number of the members have, or are about to have, computers. The following listings are nets over the air that may be of interest. If you hear anything of interest to others please send us a note and we'll print it up in the Crosstalk.

Amateur Radio Computer Club,	145.36,	Wed,	0300Z,	So. Cal
Apple Computer Net,	7.230,	Sat,	1400Z,	West US.
Packet Radio Net,	145.36,	Mon,	0330Z,	So. Cal.
Pet/Commodore Net,	3.825,	Thur,	1200Z,	West US.
	7.155,	Mon,	0100Z,	West US.
	7.235,	Sun,	1900Z,	West US.
Sinclair/Timex User's Net,	7.235,	Sat,	1900Z,	West US.
TRS-80 User's Net,	14.060,	Sun,	0000Z,	West US.
	14.342,	Sun,	1900Z,	West US.

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Good luck is usually with the person who doesn't include it in his plans.

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Isn't it funny that no one ever asks a man how he combines marriage and a career?

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Auto safety experts claim you don't save much time by speeding in big city traffic. People who tailgate, wind in and out of traffic, jump every light and keep their foot on the accelerator all the way rarely arrive at work more than a minute or so earlier than the person who calmly and safely takes his or her time.

[illegible]

Undercover agent: Snooperman.