



CROSSTALK

News Bulletin of the TRW Amateur Radio Club

Member, American Radio Relay League

DECEMBER 1986

** 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 DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Wednesday	Each Wednesday, noon	Emergency Communications Team Check-in. 145.32 via repeater and simplex.
Friday	Each Friday, 7-8am	Club Breakfast, S Cafeteria, VERY informal, good breakfast for less than \$2.00!!
Tuesday	Dec 16, noon	Club Meeting, R4/1041. Vote for new Club Officers!
Saturday	Dec 27, 8-11am	Swap Meet. Corner of Compton/Marine and Aviation, in Manhattan Beach. Seller's lot is directly behind the Standard Station. Sellers please DO NOT arrive before 0700!
Sat - Sun	Jan 10-11, 33 hours	40th ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. Do your own thing and combine your effort with other TRW/ARC members for a Club response. Contact Chris Wachs for forms and info!
Tuesday	Jan 13, after work	Executive Board Meeting. All members are welcome! At Shakey's Manhattan Beach, 2000 N. Sepulveda Blvd., just south of Marine Ave.
Tuesday	Jan 27, noon	Club Meeting. Meeting room moves to R2/1055.
Saturday	Jan 31, 8-11am	Swap Meet.

Tidbits from the Jolly Little S...

At the Club Breakfast on the Friday before the Thanksgiving weekend, I heard a few tidbits of note. John Waayers, K6MAU and Bill Montgomery, N6MEL, both passed the test for Extra and have successfully reached the pinnacle of Amateur Radio Licenses. Congratulations to you both!! I also found out that Jim Cox, K7JAJ, was perplexed with mixed feelings as the week before he had become a Grandfather. Now I could have sworn it was just last year he and his wife had a new daughter. Now maybe it was two years ago that this happened, but even so I think kids are growing up too fast these days!! Another member of the TRW/ARC retired this past month. Jim Richardson, K6PUR, said good-bye to TRW after putting in 31 years. Congratulations Jim and enjoy. For those of you who may have forgotten, AMSAT is an approved non-profit organization and as such can receive donations from you through ECHO. An easy way for you to help AMSAT work on the next generation of Amateur Radio Satellites is by signing up for weekly contributions right out of your paycheck through the ECHO effort. As this is the last issue of the year I feel that I have the chance to get up on my soap box and get a few things off my chest. I think the Club did a heck of a job at the things that we did this year - 12 Swap Meets, Field Day, 3 VHF Contests, 5 Picnics, St. Patrick's Day Observance, Friday morning Breakfasts, Wednesday noon Check-Ins and a Dinner Banquet. The thing that bothers me is that it is the same faces I see at everything and there are about only 20 faces out of 200+. Are we doing something wrong or should we just take your money each year and write the rest of you off? It is your Club and you will only get out of it what you put in to it!!!

40th ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes

It's almost that time of year again - No not Christmas - the January VHF Sweepstakes!! Everything remains about the same as last year, in that it is an individual and Club competition. You get to work from the comfort of your home or go out in the boonies if you want and try to make as many contacts as possible. The contest starts at 1100 PST Saturday Jan 10 and continues for 33 hours to 2000 PST Sunday Jan 11. That's 1900 UTC Saturday Jan 10 to 0400 UTC Monday Jan 12 for those of you used to Universal Coordinated Time. The exchange is grid square locator with signal reports optional. You can't use repeaters for making or soliciting contacts, nor can you use the 2 Meter national simplex frequency of 146.52 MHz. Full rules are in the December QST on page 79. When you are done contesting, send your log and dupe sheets to Chris Wachs and he will enter the group as a Club entry. If you want a package of material that includes an entry form, log and dupe sheets, how to figure your grid square locator and a copy of the rules, just contact Chris Wachs (his phone number and mail station are on the back of Crosstalk) and he will get you what you need to get involved. All members are encouraged to get on 147.51 MHz (simplex) at 1100 PST on Saturday January 10th and make as many contacts as you can EVEN IF YOU DON'T PLAN ON ENTERING THE CONTEST. This way we can give those who want to participate a good start.

Lewis's Law: No matter how long or how hard you shop for an item, after you've bought it it will be on sale somewhere cheaper.



When I worked for the FCC in the Amateur Radio Division, our biggest headache was amateur radio callsigns. There was an "in-house" joke to the effect that no amateur was satisfied with his or her callsign. Hams with "non-preferred" (WA and WB callsigns) all wanted "preferred" one by three callsigns. The hams with preferred one by three callsigns (like W4ABC) wanted two-letter suffixes (like W4AB). Various amateurs wanted the callsign of a deceased friend or relative. (ed. you TRW/ARC old timers, does this sound familiar?). And so on...

The following is a short chronicle of the history of amateur radio callsigns, with an eye toward Virginia's callsign area, which, as you are about to find out, was not always the fourth call area.

Prior to 1912 there were no required callsigns, simply because there was no licensing of radio stations in the United States. Pioneer amateurs used their initials. Since the range of the average spark station was only a few miles, no further identification was needed.

With the passage of the Radio Act of 1912, amateurs had to be licensed to operate and were assigned their first government issued callsigns. The United States was divided into 9 callsign areas. All amateur calls began with a number, followed by two letters, such as 4FD. The number of these "two-letter" suffixes quickly ran out, and a third letter was added, e.g., 4FDT. Since there were many "two-letter" callsigns in use, it was generally not considered prestigious to have a two letter callsign until the mid-1930's. In some call areas, two letter callsigns were available upon request. Virginia was part of the third call area until 1946.

The third call area reissued many two letter callsigns as they became available. The last two letter callsigns to be issued, as far as I can determine, were in 1927 in the third call area. It is also interesting to note that after the first World War, many amateurs considered the longer three letter callsigns to be more preferable to a shorter callsign and specifically requested a longer callsign.

As the state of the art moved forward, amateurs began experimenting with short-wave frequencies, and international QSO's became more commonplace. European amateurs were using the same system of callsigns that the United States was using, and it was impossible to tell if the station was in the States or Europe. Thus, to avoid confusion many amateurs began to use an unofficial two letter prefix. In the US, amateurs used "NU." The first letter stood for the Continent "N" for North America, the second letter stood for the country "U" for USA. Canadian amateurs used "NC" for North America - Canada. Australian amateurs used "OA", "O" for the continent Oceania, and "A" for Australia.

In the late 1920's it was apparent that some sort of international system of callsign prefixes was needed. The International Radio Conference of 1928 assigned world wide prefixes to all radio services. The Department of Commerce decided that radio amateurs within the continental United States should use the prefix "W." Amateurs in US territories or possessions would use the prefix "K."

In 1946 a tenth callsign area was added. This was the zero, 0, call area. At this time, the boundaries of several callsign areas were changed, Virginia was moved into the fourth callsign area. I do not know the reason for this. In some instances, amateurs were able to receive the same suffix, or a similar one, but most received new callsigns.

The new 0 callsign area was assigned to the mid-western states, which formerly had been part of the ninth call area. Also, various U.S. possessions and territories were assigned their own special prefix (KL7, KH6) for the first time. This prefix still began with a "K."

By the mid 1950's, many call areas experienced a shortage of 3-letter suffixed calls beginning with "W," so the Commission began issuing 3 letter suffixed calls

beginning with "K" (e.g. K4AAA). In the fourth call area, "K" prefixed calls were issued between 1955 - 1959. The addition of the Novice Class license in 1952 brought the first 2-letter prefixed, 3-letter suffixed callsign (also called "two by three" callsigns) into the amateur radio service. All Novice licensees were assigned "WN" prefixes, unless they were issued in a U.S. possession or territory, where their callsign began with a "W" instead of a "K" (e.g. WL7AAA was a Novice in Alaska). In the late 1950's the Commission also issued a few "WV" prefixes to Novice Class licensees in the second and sixth call areas.

By 1960 the "K" and "W" prefixes were nearly filled in some call areas and the Commission began issuing its first "WA" prefixed callsigns. (The last callsign area to begin issuing "WA" prefixes was the third call area in 1963.) In the fourth call area, "WA" prefixed calls were issued between 1960-1964. The first "WB" prefixed calls were issued in 1965 in the fourth call area and continued to be issued until 1970.

Between 1970-1976 in the fourth, second and sixth callsign areas, the Commission reissued all vacant "WA" and "WB" prefixed callsigns. (At the Commission we received many complaints to the effect that "I've been licensed 10 years, have a "WB" prefix, and this new kid down the block gets a "WA" prefix!") Between 1976-1981 new licensees in the fourth and sixth call areas received "WD" prefixes.

As a footnote, I might also add that between 1960-1961, in the fourth call area, if anyone bypassed the Novice license and went straight for the General Class, instead of being assigned a "WA" prefix, you were assigned a preferred "W" prefix.

EXTRA CLASS CALLSIGNS

In 1969 the Commission allowed any Extra Class amateur who had been licensed 25 years to request a one letter prefix, two letter suffixed callsign (e.g. W4AA). This rule was later modified so that beginning in July 19 through 1980, any Extra Class licensee could request a two letter suffixed callsign of their choice.

SPECIAL EVENT CALLS

These callsigns were formerly available to organizations and individuals to help publicize an event or happening. N6V, WW500U, KK6BSA are examples of special event callsigns, (ed. The First L.A. Olympics Amateur Station had the callsign W6USA.) These calls were usually temporary, only for the duration of the event. The most popular event calls were those issued to any amateur requesting them during the International Telecommunications Week in mid-May. Between 1976-78 over 100 of the special calls, with the suffix "ITU" were issued each year. (In 1977 I requested and received the callsign NQ4ITU.)

TEMPORARY CALLSIGNS

Between 1976-78 about 100 of these temporary callsigns were issued. Their prefix was always "WT" (temporary) (e.g. WT4AAA). They were only issued when the licensee had a priority need to have a license immediately. (In those days there were no interim permits - you had to wait until you received your license to use your privileges.) The callsign expired on receipt of the regular license.

REPEATER CALLSIGNS

Beginning in 1973, repeater stations were assigned the prefix "WR." The Commission in 1978 eliminated repeater callsigns and did not renew those outstanding. Thanks to the Nittany ARC Newsette who got it from the RARA Rag who found it in the Virginia Ham.

Johnson's Third Law: If you miss an issue of a magazine, it will be the issue which contained the article, story or installment you were most anxious to read.
Corollary: All of your friends missed it, lost it or threw it out.

Field Day

John Keller, N6JLS

The Field Day results are in and while we didn't do great we didn't do bad either. Bob Hume points out that as stations in the West go, we did really well. I don't think that is anything to be proud about unless we are in the top three in the nation - and the funny thing is that with a little extra effort we could have been there!! If you look at the number of points per QSO we are on the mark, which means we are getting all of the bonus points and have a good mix of CW versus SSB contacts. But if we had two more stations on the air (neither 15 Meter station was on at any time during the weekend) we would have been in 3rd place instead of ninth if we had the same point score - but of course we would then have had more points. If you look at the table and the analysis below, it becomes evident that we need to be in class 7A or higher (that is where we won before) and we need to get on 80 Meters too! So what do you say?? Go to that new 1987 calendar you just bought and mark down the weekend of June 26-28 as taken and help out this year. Better yet, call Bill Schrecengost or Carl Kennedy (their phone numbers are on the back page of the Crosstalk) and ask them what needs to be done to get ready this year! June will be upon us before you know it!!

Class	Call	QSO's	PWR	Persons	Score
1A	K3LR	2026	150W	3	7016
2A	K1VT	2745	150W	12	8240
3A	K5DX	3519	150W	30	11416
4A	K2NJ	4075	150W	32	13342
5A	N6ME	3135	150W	45	10096
5A	W6TRW	2123	150W	32	6870
6A	N4NC	3144	150W	28	10086
7A	K7LED	2970	150W	38	9542
8A	W2DMC	2863	150W	28	9092
9A	W9JZ	2375	150W	38	7778
10A	W2MMD	2554	150W	60	8504
11A	K4GSO	795	150W	33	3760
12A	W4IY	3739	150W	17	12146
13A	N1NH	3694	150W	100	11704
19A	K2AA	4320	150W	65	13178
23A	NT4B	2407	150W	40	9038

Our score in a different class would have resulted in the following place.

4A - 14th
5A - 9th (our class)
6A - 7th \
7A - 3rd \
8A - 3rd > but we would have had more points!!!
9A - 2nd /
10A - 2nd /

November Swap Meet Notes

Bill Dews, K6AWO

Another big turnout for the November Swap Meet. The lot was open a 0700 hours and 20 minutes later all the cars were inside but not all could find a place to park. We closed the lot at 0730 and turned away sellers. The next 30 minutes we had to walk the lot and get sellers who were taking two spots into a single spot, and park the cars that were driving around looking for open spots. The crew for the first shift were Jim Cox and Rich Sauer. The second shift was covered by Jim Wike and Norm Stockwell. The way things went I was glad to have overlap with the two crews and of course some just plain worked until the end at 1230. I'm sorry to say that a few cars were ticketed by the Manhattan Police Department for parking in the red No Parking and blue Handicapped zones. The TRW/ARC has been advised that the Swap Meet will be closed down if this continues. I appeal to all amateurs to spread the word by radio and packet and land-line bulletin boards and in person so we can avoid the problem at the December Swap Meet.

A big turn out because of the 4 day weekend and I'm sure it was fun for those hams that parked legally. See you all of December 27th, the Last Saturday of the year!

ARRL Membership

If anyone who reads the Crosstalk is thinking about joining the ARRL or renewing their membership in the ARRL, please add the four digit number 1658 to your form. In that way you will help out the TRW/ARC as well as becoming a member of the only organization that represents Amateur Radio operators to the FCC and the Congress. If you are joining for the first time or have been away for several years, the Club will receive from the ARRL \$5 - just because you put the Club number on your application. If you are already a member of the ARRL and are renewing your membership, the Club will get \$2 from the ARRL when you renew. So don't forget, help yourself and the Amateur Radio community by supporting the ARRL with your membership, get the magazine QST in the mail and help the TRW/ARC with cash from the ARRL - all by putting the number 1658 on your application.

From the President

Chris Wachs, WA2KDL

1986, What a Year! W6TRW was very busy. Every month was full of activities. All of these activities would have been difficult without the help of the Officers and Staff. (See the back of Crosstalk for all their names). I would also like to wish all the very best of holiday seasons and hope to have a QSO with all on the repeater or packet radio. 73's.

Club Member Needs Help

The Crosstalk got a letter from a new Club member, Ivan Shulman, WB2KIT, concerning a Sideband Engineers SB-33 Tranceiver that is in need of repair. Ivan agrees that the rig does not have much monetary value but it has sentimental value as it was his late father's last rig. He has the schematics and information sheets on the rig but neither the expertise or the equipment to work on it. A friend was able to get the set working by injecting an RF signal into the VFO circuit but the rig fails to do this on its own. If you have the time or the interest and the equipment to help Ivan please give him a call at (213) 459-4067 after 7:00PM.

New Members - - Old Members

Welcome to the Club:

Tom Castle, not yet a ham but interested in Amateur Radio. I have information that Tom got a new expensive rig to do some listening and maybe some code practice. Welcome aboard and hope to see you at the next Club Meeting.

General Meeting 24 November 1986

Paul Lukas, N6DMV

President Chris Wachs opened the meeting. After a few short announcements, Chris asked the members present to vote on the new Club Constitution. Copies of the Constitution and voting ballots were distributed. The results of the voting was shown on the blackboard: The new Constitution was accepted by a vote of 21 to 1. Chris commented that the ailing Oscar 10 satellite is just barely limping along. The memory has locked up and is not expected to recover due to the high radiation doses it has been receiving in its elliptical orbit. Some handouts were made available: a quick global angle locator chart and a chart showing non-resonant grounding lead lengths. The door prizes consisted of: an HF antenna book, two flashlights, 2 AC distribution outlets, a Parker pen, a nail organizer - nails included! 23 persons attended the meeting that was adjourned at 1258 local time.

The TRW Amateur Radio Club's Executive Board meets after work; everyone is invited to attend.
Club meetings are held at noon on the last Tuesday of the month except December (3rd Tuesday) in Bldg/Room R2/1055.

The Swapmeet is held the last Saturday of the month.
Club picnics are announced in Crosstalk or by a special flyer.
Any changes in the calendar will be announced in Crosstalk.

JANUARY Membership <u>Renewal</u> Time Now! Executive Board Meeting (EBM) Tuesday, January 13 Club Meeting, Tuesday, Noon, January 27 New Club Officers Announced Swapmeet, Saturday, Jan. 31 8:00 - 11:00 am	FEBRUARY Late <u>Membership</u> Renewal EBM, Tuesday, February 10 Club Meeting, Tuesday, Noon, February 24 Swapmeet, Saturday, Feb. 28 8:00 - 11:00 am	MARCH EBM, Tuesday, March 10 St. Patrick's Day Observance Friday After Work, March 13 Swapmeet, Saturday, March 28 8:00 - 11:00 am Club Meeting, Tuesday, Noon, March 31	APRIL EBM, Tuesday, April 14 Swapmeet, Saturday, April 25 8:00 - 11:00 am Club Meeting, Tuesday, Noon, April 28
MAY Club Picnic, Noon at Park, Pre-Field Day, Tues, May 5 EBM, Tuesday, May 12 Club Meeting, Tuesday, Noon, May 26 Swapmeet, Saturday, May 30 8:00 - 11:00 am	JUNE EBM, Tuesday, June 9 Club Picnic, Noon at Park, Wednesday, June 10 Swapmeet, Sat, June 27, 8-11 <u>Field Day Weekend</u> , June 26-28 Club Meeting, Tuesday, Noon, June 30	JULY Club Picnic, Noon at Park, Monday, July 13 EBM, Tuesday, July 14 Swapmeet, Saturday, July 25 8:00 - 11:00 am Club Meeting, Tuesday, Noon, July 28	AUGUST EBM, Tuesday, August 11 Club Picnic, Noon at Park, Friday, August 14 Club Meeting, Tuesday, Noon, August 25 Swapmeet, Saturday, August 29, 8:00-11:00am
SEPTEMBER EBM, Tuesday, September 8 Club Picnic, Noon at Park, Tuesday, September 15 Swapmeet, Saturday, Sept. 26 8:00 - 11:00 am Club Meeting, Tuesday, Noon, September 2	OCTOBER EBM, Tuesday, October 13 Club Meeting, Tuesday, Noon, October 27 Swapmeet, Saturday, Oct. 31 8:00 - 11:00 am	NOVEMBER New Officer's <u>Nomination</u> EBM, Tuesday, November 10 <u>Annual Dinner</u> , Saturday, <u>November 14</u> Club Meeting, Tuesday, Noon, November 24 Swapmeet, Saturday, Nov. 28 8:00 - 11:00 am	DECEMBER Vote! New Club Officers Early EBM , Tuesday, Dec. 1 EARLY CLUB MEETING , Noon, Tuesday, December 15 Swapmeet, Saturday, Dec. 26 8:00 - 11:00 am