



CROSSTALK

News Bulletin of the TRW Amateur Radio Club

Member, American Radio Relay League

ARRL Club No. 1658

January 1988

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

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

CALENDER FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY

Friday Every Friday Club Breakfast in Bldg S Cafeteria. Anytime after 7 am.

Wednesday Every Wednesday Emergency Communications Team Check-in. Noon on 145.32 MHz.

Tuesday Jan 26 Noon Club Meeting, R10/2778. Presentation on OSCAR Phase IIIc.

Saturday Jan 30 8-11am Swap Meet, Northwest corner of Compton/Marine and Aviation behind the Chevron station.

Thursday Feb 4 after work Executive Board Meeting. All members welcome! Meeting site will be announced.

Tuesday Feb 23 Noon Club Meeting, site to be announced.

Saturday Feb 27 8-11am Swap Meet, Northwest corner of Compton/Marine and Aviation.

RETRACTION OF CONTACT LENS WARNING

In the October issue of Crosstalk, a warning was issued against the possible dangers of wearing contact lenses while working around electrical arcs. It has since been brought to the attention of several club members that the stories related in that warning WERE COMPLETELY FALSE and that no such danger exists. According to an article that appeared in the Baltimore Sun, a doctor is quoted as saying that "It is a physical impossibility to dry up the fluid in your eyes. You'd have to stick your head in a blast furnace to do that..." and as for removing the cornea from your eye, "It would be like pulling off your ear." Another article reports that similar "scare stories" have circulated at various times without any justification.

The article that appeared in the October issue of Crosstalk had been taken from another club's newsletter and was assumed to be factual. We are sorry if it caused any problems.

Emergency Communications News By Rich Sauer, N6CIZ

There's good news to report on the Emergency Communications front here at TRW. Beginning soon, club members who belong to the TRW/ARC Emergency Communications Team will be able to bring their hand-held radios into the buildings again. Emergency Communications will be significantly improved since your radio will be available right at your desk, if you should need it.

In order to carry your radio into the buildings, you'll have to get a property pass FIRST. Property passes are going to be issued only to TRW Club members who are registered with me on the Emergency Communications Team. Qualifications aren't very stringent, but you will be required to participate in our drills and check-ins. If you'd like to support the Emergency Communications effort here at TRW, drop me a line and I'll get an application out to you. Cont next page

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A disaster communications exercise was held on December 16th involving the local Los Angeles County Disaster communications Service (DCS) members, local cities and some TRW Club members. The W6TRW/R 2-meter repeater was used as the primary frequency after the simulated "earthquake" occurred at 11:15 am. Ham operators in the field passed simulated emergency traffic to the Emergency Operations Center at the Lennox Sheriff's Station.

The exercise was a success by all standards. Although a complete list is not available, the following Club members did a fine job in helping out on a cold and rainy afternoon: W6KKU, Vern, who operated the DCS station at Lennox Sheriff's Station; N6JLS, John, who manned the Emergency Operations Center at the Manhattan Beach City Hall; KB6CUT, Terry, who was at the TRW Radio Club Station, W6TRW, in Building 65. Many others checked in during the simulated emergency and helped create "realistic" traffic for the net to relay. Sorry I can't list them all, but consider this a collective "Thank You" to the Ham Radio operators who proved that they are Amateurs in name only!

Finally, in addition to our emergency net check-ins on Wednesdays, the Xerox group is conducting a net Thursdays at noon on 147.555 simplex. Everyone is encouraged to check in to this net and support the "cross pollination" of emergency communicators.

What's New (or Old) in:
From George Lee W6IOW

QST Dec 87

How to Build and Use a VHF Wattmeter (Fwd/Ref in 25/250W ranges); An Optimum Design for 432MHz Yagis Part I (14 db gain w/ 22 elements); A Lab-Style RX Noise Bridge; Product Reviews of: Yaesu FT-23R 2 meter HT; LMW Electronics 2304 TRV2 (2304 MHz) xverter; LMW Electronics 1296 TRV 1K (1296 MHz) xverter; Heathkit HV-2000 Voice synthesizer

QST Jan 88

An Optimum Design for 432 MHz Yagis Part II; Product Reviews of: AEA PK-232 Terminal; Heathkit HK-232 Packkit

HR

Dec 87: Design An Amp Around the 3CX1200A7

Jan 88: A Battery-Backed Master Power System; Morse Code Teaching Tools for C-64 and 128

CQ Dec 87

The 40-meter Flame Thrower (a 3-ele beam); Low Noise, Coaxial Link Ant for HF; Product Reviews of: TS-440S Part I; The F9FT Tonna 50/5, 5 ele 6m beam; The Coaxial Dynamics Model 81000A Directional Wattmeter.

CQ Jan 88

Conquering Front-end Overload in the TS-940S; Product Review of TS-440S Part II

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73 Dec 87

A Hand Held Special: Reviews of Kenwood TH-215 (2m) and TH-705 (2m); Alinco ALX-2T (2m); Icom IC-12AT (23cm); Yaesu FT-727R (2m and 70cm); Power Play Comparison of RF Concepts RFC 2-23 and Tokyo HL-37V (2m 30w); the Banker- A Memorable Accessory for the TS-940S/AT; A Condensed Buyer's Guide to HT's; Remote Base Control

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DX Issue: Reviews of Icom-475A 70cm Xcvr; Icom AG-35S Mast-mounted 70cm Preamp; Heil BM-10 Boomset; Lloyd and Iris Colvin DX'ers' DXers; On-the-air DX Gatherings (listing of DX nets); International List of DX Publications; Commodore 64/128 vs US Dept of Commerce (Propagation Predictions)

Recent Books Available at the Shack are:

Packet Radio Handbook by KR3T

Yagi Antenna Design by W2PV

The Buyer's Guide to Amateur Radio by G3OSS

Executive Board Meeting 3 Jan 88

By Chris Wachs WA2KDL

The meeting was called to order at 1739 by John Keller over the two meter radio. The meeting was run by Chris Wachs until John's arrival.

Don Renkowitz, announced the Guest Speaker for the January meeting will be Bill Doheny KI6UJ. Bill will talk about the upcoming launch of OSCAR Phase IIIc. He will also describe the OSCAR station at the club shack.

Dave Stockwell presented the 1988 budget. He went over each line item of the budget to the EBM. The EBM told Dave to adjust the expense accounts for the approved line items in the income accounts. Any extra income that does not have an expense will go into the equipment account. The EBM also told Dave to keep as much money in the TRW Credit Union savings account as possible. This will gain maximum interest for the club.

John Keller arrived at the meeting and presented the election results to the EBM.

President: 40 votes for John Keller and 1 vote for Chris Wachs.

Vice President: Don Renkowitz 41 votes

Secretary: Chris Wachs 41 votes

Treasurer: Dave Stockwell 41 votes

John then asked the current staff if anyone would like to resign. Jim Wike, the Activities Manager, told John he would like to resign. He said while a new candidate is being looked for he will start planning for the St. Patties Day party the club has the Friday nearest St. Patties Day. John then addressed the staff as officers about the upcoming year and his plans for the club.

Rich Sauer presented a handout to the EBM which summarized current events. He presented an Emergency Plan to the EBM which he will send to Emergency Team members. See Rich's article for more details. Steve Ng was presented a copy to report on at the next LAACARC meeting. Cont next page

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Bill Schrecengost could not attend the EBM but John Keller presented his report on the motion sensitive lights he was testing to be used at the field day site. He did not detect any RFI from the lights which could interfere with field day operations.

Steve Ng presented the minutes of the last LAACARC meeting to the EBM. He also presented the renewal form to the EBM so we can sign the club up for membership for 1988. The club will reimburse Steve for gas to the meetings. Bill Dews announced he will send out new membership cards in time so everyone who has joined has one by the end of the month. He also asked Phil Bergeron to renew the TRW ARC membership in the 10-10 club. Bill will also post in the shack the QSL Club procedure.

David Kropp will accept mail sent to his father, Jack Kropp Attn: David Kropp inside the envelope. Please get articles in to David two weeks before the Club meetings.

Chris Wachs was appointed by the EBM to be the contact person in the club for Readout ads.

Frank Cartier announced that the December 26 swapmeet went well with the new rules. The lot was more than half full. Frank would like help with the swapmeet for a six month time period from volunteers. He will present to the EBM the reward for the six month service at the next board meeting.

Rich Sauer presented his plans for 1988 and his current report.

Bill Dews reminded the EBM the constitution has been amended so that Article XII section 7 reads the dues for Associate Members is \$5.00. Bill motioned that Bill Doheny represent the club at the AFCA OSCAR luncheon Jan. 28. The EBM approved and bought Bill's ticket to the luncheon.

New business for the club was announced by Terry Thompson, KB6CUT to add \$200.00 to his allocation to upgrade the antennas for the OSCAR station. This brings the allocation up to \$550.00 for Terry to buy feed line and receiver preamps for the station. The EBM approved the money. Terry announced that the launch of OSCAR Phase IIIC will be some time in April and the station will be ready with all the new equipment by then.

The EBM assigned Terry to present to the EBM a plan to buy a computer and Packet INC for W6TRW to be used in the shack. He will present the plan at the next EBM.

The meeting was adjourned by John Keller at 1929 PST.

From the President

John Keller, N6JLS

To paraphrase a new movie "GOOD MORNING 1988!!" There are a lot of new and wonderful things happening in the TRW/ARC and there is the promise of even more in the future. The December Swap Meet was a nice low-key event, possible due more to the fact it was the day after Christmas than the new rules.

Associate members got a Christmas present from the TRW/ARC in that we voted to reduce the membership rate from \$8 to \$5, the same as the "Active" membership. Those of you that renewed your membership early will get a refund and those of you who are about to renew get the reduced rate too.

At the January EBM we have started looking into what it will take to get a Packet operation into the Club shack. Spearheading this effort is Terry Thompson.

Our Oscar station is better and will be getting still better. The Executive Board voted to purchase a 2 Meter pre-amp and additional coax for the Oscar set-up.

There was an excellent disaster drill in December that involved the Lennox Sheriff's station and the cities that would report to it in time of emergency. This included TRW, Station 3X3, and Manhattan Beach, Station 3F, where I was operating. Surprise of the exercise was the real activation of the Disaster Communication Service (DCS) due to the heavy rainstorm that hit LA that day.

Our Emergency Communications Coordinator, Rich Sauer, is now beginning to reap all of the good he has been sowing over the past year. A completely different, that is, favorable, attitude is now being projected our way by Security and that, in turn, is being picked up by other organizations. Rich has had several inquiries as to how Amateur Radio can help in time of emergency and we are doing our best to respond. Rich has worked long and hard to gain this acceptance and now we need to show that it is justified. We need more of the membership to join the Emergency Communications Team (ECT), the Disaster Communications Service (DCS/RACES) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES). I emphasize all three because of their different approaches to a disaster. The ECT because it is TRW, DCS/RACES because TRW is an officially recognized DCS industrial facility and ARES because of their health and welfare role during a disaster. The one thing I learned from the disaster drill last month is that we don't learn it if we don't participate in drills. We all need the experience.

TRW/ARC Technical News
By Rich Sauer, N6CIZ

Several exciting things are going on with the Club these days. Terry, KB6CUT, and Bill, AA6GI (formally KI6UJ), are hard at work putting the TRW OSCAR station together. A monster 440 uplink antenna is being assembled, GASFET preamps are being ordered and everything is getting tuned up in preparation for the next AMSAT launch scheduled for April 15th. As it is, we have pretty good signal on OSCAR-10, as proved by the QSL cards being received at the Club shack.

The Club is considering buying a computer for the shack to perform OSCAR prediction calculations and for packet. Our Club hasn't been too active on packet yet but it's a safe bet that W6TRW/1 will be up and running before the end of the year.

Mike Aust, WB6DJI, is another guy hard at work behind the scenes working on neat projects for the Club. In addition to keeping the UHF repeater one of the most popular machines in L.A., he's busy adding rotor control capability to the HF remote base system in Building 65. It seems that the folks who make the commercial rotor board that Mike is using had to do some redesigning to allow it to drive our Tailtwister rotor. So look for this feature to be implemented within a few weeks. The HF remote is only a phone call away and works great. Call the shack and work the world!

Several other projects are in the works for the 2-meter repeater. If you do much listening to it, you'll find that our repeater is becoming quite popular with hams throughout the area. Although we are still plagued by a mysterious noise source from time to time, the repeater provides coverage from the San Fernando Valley to Orange County to Big Bear to parts of San Diego. Look for some projects to improve its capabilities this year.

If you have any ideas for improving the Club's capabilities or projects that you'd like to see the Club work on, get involved at the Executive Board Meetings. Anybody want to get into Slow Scan TV, EME, packet, AMTOR, Fast Scan TV, digital voice, RTTY, microwave, computer bulletin boards, FAX, antennas, amplifiers, public service, remote bases, or any other aspect of our hobby that they'd like to explore? A simple written or verbal presentation may be the start of TRW/ARC participation and/or financing of something of interest to you. The bottom line: this is YOUR club. Get involved.

Tidbits
David Kropp N6PLV

Okay, so now I am the editor of the Crosstalk. True, I wanted the job, but that does not mean I can't be a little nervous about doing it. To be honest, I have never really done a newsletter before, so things may not be exactly perfect on my first attempt here. While I have worked with this computer quite a bit, I am still not fully certain of its capabilities. Be a little patient and things will get worked out.

I also want to say thanks to John Keller, N6JLS, for offering to help me when I need it. I hope I can follow in his footsteps, when it comes to putting out the newsletter, without bothering him too much. I think we all owe him at least a "Thank You" for the job he has done as Crosstalk editor. I hope he doesn't mind my continuing the use of the "Tidbits" title for my column.

Other than that, I won't say that much this week. I guess I should mention that I use an Apple IIe computer to write this, so IBM related software won't work in this unit. If you want to submit an article, I would appreciate it in AppleWorks format or typed out. Thanks.

Editors Note:

When I get this down pat, column lengths will be even.

Thx

DK