

CROSSTALK

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TRW/ARC

APRIL 1988

MEMBER ARRL CLUB NUMBER 1658

** FD*71 ** FD*73 ** FD*75 ** FD*76 ** WRS ** WRC **

GARRETT/W6TRW REPEATER: 145.32/-1.6 (PL 20) UHF: 442.000 IN/447.000 OUT

CALENDAR FOR APRIL AND MAY

- Friday Every Friday Club Breakfast in Bldg 5 Cafeteria any time after 7 am.
Wednesday Every Wednesday Emergency Communications Team Check-in. Noon on 145.320. Anyone can report in.
Tuesday April 26 Noon Club Meeting, R10/2778. Everyone is welcome to attend and a good time is promised for all.
Saturday April 30 8-11am Swap Meet at the northwest corner of Compton/Marine and Aviation behind the Chevron Station.
April 29, 30 and May 1 Dayton's Hamvention. Deadline for reservations was April 4.
Thursday May 5 after work Executive Board Meeting 5187 El Segundo Blvd at Oceangate. All members are welcome.
Tuesday May 10 Noon at the park Club Picnic. See related article.
Saturday May 28 8-11am Swap Meet at the northwest corner of Compton/Marine and Aviation behind the Chevron station.
Tuesday May 31 Noon Club Meeting R10/2778.
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QSL Card Policy

By Del Ech K6GWC

This is my policy for QSL cards for W6TRW. QSL cards are sent out after we receive an incoming QSL card. If the contact can be found in the station log book.

To insure that the entry can be found:

1. All entries should be legible.
2. All entries should be in UTC.
3. Entry should include name and call of W6TRW operator.

Turn around time on QSL cards is 7 days maximum. Cards are confirmed on Thursdays and sent out on Fridays. Any questions, feel free to contact me.

It's Picnic Time Again

Write it down in your calendar NOW !! Tuesday, May 10th will be the first Club Picnic of 1988! As usual the food and beverages will be FREE to Club members. Just make sure you bring your badge or Club Card if we haven't seen you for a while and forget what you look like. To get to El Mido Park from Space Park, travel south on Inglewood Ave. or Hawthorne Blvd. to 182nd Street. From Inglewood, turn left (east), cross the railroad tracks and turn right at the first opportunity, Mansel Ave. Continue your right turn on to Kingsdale Ave. and the parking lot is on the right side about 1/2 block from the (CON)

corner. If you are coming from Hawthorne Blvd, turn right (west) on to 182nd Street and Mansel is the third street on your left. Turn left on to Mansel and then make an immediate right on to Kingsdale. Be there or be left out!!

Executive Board Meeting

by John Keller N6JLS

The meeting was called to order at 17:40. As a quorum was not present no votes could be taken.

Dave Stockwell presented John Keller with a plaque recognizing his efforts as Crosstalk editor for three years and President for three months. Dave also distributed copies of the budget through March and explained the printout. John Keller asked if there were any changes to the March EBM minutes as printed in the Crosstalk and the only change was that Bill Dews will be attending the Dayton Hamvention but not taping it as reported.

John Keller brought up the requirement for a special election to fill the vacancy at President. Bill Dews reported that he was unable to identify a willing candidate so it was agreed that a special election will be put off for at least one month and that it will be announced in the Crosstalk.

John stated that he will finish the QSL procedure sign to be (CON)

placed in the Club Shack.

Bill Schrecengost and Bill Dews announced that they were able to find a platter of cold cuts and condiments from Juliano's that will feed enough persons at the picnic. Both Bills agreed that they would work out the details between themselves and that the picnic would go on as scheduled Tuesday, May 18t at El Nido Park.

Rich Sauer stated that he was buying the Club computer on Monday April 11 and that he already had the PK-232 Controller. Discussion was held concerning the Earthquake Awareness Expo to be held April 12-14. Rich is creating banners and has arranged for power for a Packet station. John Keller has updated the Club information sheet and will get it printed for hand outs. John also has some ARRL hand outs.

Rich stated that he has been contacted by the Emergency Coordinator at Aerospace Corp. to integrate the emergency communications capabilities of all of the aerospace companies in the area. Rich readily agreed and the contact at Aerospace Corp. agreed to organize a meeting.

Bill Schrecengost reported that he has purchased the motion sensor lights and has worked out a method of mounting them so that they will be portable and easily installed at the site. Bill said that he will be making more calls to Club members looking for commitment concerning operating on Field Day. He also said that he is still looking for a push-up mast and a heavy-weight dinner fly (cover).

Bill Dews stated that 222 members have renewed their membership with the TRW/ARC. Bill stated that the second floor of Bldg 65, where the Club shack is located, has been designated a NO SMOKING area due to the exposed wood construction and that Club members should refrain from smoking in the Club shack (cigarette smoking, that is: if you are smoking on the bands, that is OK!!!)

Greg Mertens, W6RPV, has agreed to take over the responsibilities of Technical Chairman. John Keller passed on his key to the Bldg E2 equipment room to Greg. Greg was tasked with looking into inexpensive upgrades to the W6NWIP repeater so that better control of that repeater can be affected when the W6TRW repeater is down for whatever reason. At a minimum, control of on/off, PL on/off, and high/low power were requested.

The meeting was adjourned at 18:40.

Wanted: For Sale: Freebies

Tower For Sale: 5-section free-standing 50 foot tower. From the estate of Fred Reed, W6MUC. Must be dismantled and removed by buyer. Call Mrs. Olive Reed (213) 261-7951 \$200.00

For Sale: 1. Repeater Auto-Patch RAP-2 Data Signal Inc. Size 4 1/8 X 10 1/4, 12 V DC, \$55.00

2. 2M FM Transceiver model FM-2015R plus a 80 watt amp. All for \$175.00

Contact Bill Dews x 61656

For Sale: TS-5205. Tempo-2020. Both in mint condition with CW filter, full line of accessories, plus test equipment. 300 small tubes, some 6146, 607, 5720, etc. 4 band trapped dipole. Call after 4 pm. Conrad Lunde, W6RZO (213) 679-8332.

How's my Audio??

from Hughes Bulletin

Does a 5x9 phone signal report always mean "perfectly readable"? Based on 30 ears of operating experience, Pete Killingsworth, KD7WZ of Seattle, offers a humorous look at what the Ham at the other end of a QSO might (really) mean. **SUPERB AUDIO** -- It doesn't sound like you, but at least it sounds human.

EXCELLENT AUDIO -- Sounds like your head is down in a barrel and you are talking into the wrong side of your microphone.

GOOD AUDIO -- You do a great imitation fo Donald Duck, with the hiccups.

VERY PURCHY -- Are you using a speech processor or a garbage compactor?

A LITTLE HUM ON YOUR SIGNAL -- Is that a Boeing 747 warming up in your back yard?

YOU MAY BE OVERDRIVING A TRD -- I can hear your teeth hitting the mike.

SLIGHTLY TIDNY -- I can't tell which sideband you are on.

A BIT GARBLED -- Am only getting every third word, but that's OK, because I am not listening anyway.

SCRATCHY AUDIO -- Sounds like your mike cord is shorted to your car's ignition system.

ARRL Membership

by Bill Dews, K6BWD

The TRW/ARC wants to thank Gerald Norton for joining the ARRL and crediting our club with the ARRL number located at the TOP front page of every Crosstalk. If you join as a new member, we receive \$5.00 and if you renew your membership, we receive \$2.00. But remember to always use our club number 1658. If the sign-up form for the ARRL does not have a space specifically for the club number, just write it where there is room. 73 and TDX.

From the President

by John Keller, W6JLS

At the last EBM I was presented a plaque for the service I have given to the Club over the past few years as Crosstalk editor and President. I thank all of those responsible for (CON)

performing the work necessary to get the plaque made.

There is a 99.99% certainty that I will no longer be with TRW after 4/22. At the EBM we decided to hold off on the special election until a willing candidate came forward. Until that time Don Renkowitz will run the meetings and give the Club direction.

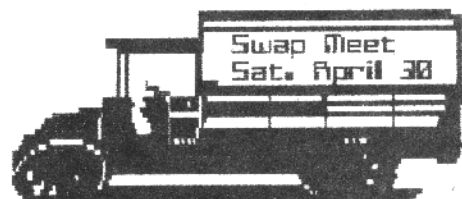
While we look for a President, Activities Manager and Training Chairman, we do have a new Technical Chairman. Taking over for Rich Sauer who has been wearing two hats, is Greg Mertens, W6RRY. Welcome aboard, Greg!!

Bill Schrecengost and Bill Dews have figured out how to do the Picnics on a temporary basis so that the May Picnic will take place as planned. The only drawback is that this puts an additional burden on two already very busy Executive Board Members.

As this is my last column, I want to thank all of those who, month after month, support the Club with their time and give the TRW/ARC the good reputation it deserves. The changes to the Swap Meet have been difficult but have met with increasing acceptance by all that attend each month. While many of the EB members have been participating in this effort, the Swap Meet manager, Frank Cartier, deserves the thanks for being there each month while working hard to land the FLTSATCOM follow-on. Rich Sauer has been wearing several hats in his efforts at Emergency Communications and Technical Chairman and all the other little odd jobs he does (including taking over as DCO at the Lennox Sheriff's Station) to keep the repeater on the air and working well.

Others who "keep the wheels greased" but are never seen or heard are Mel Erb, who shows up at the SEA office to distribute our mail; George Lee, who not only makes order out of chaos in the Library but goes out of his way to see that we have good books there too. This column is not long enough to identify everyone who has supported me and made my job easier but you all deserve thanks. I could not have done anything without your support. I must thank one more person and that is David Kropp who has jumped in into the job of Editor and continues the tradition of a good newsletter.

(Ah, shucks, John. Thanks for the compliment. The check is in the mail, Ed.)



From the Library

by George Lee W6LOW

What's new in the April issues of:

QST: PC Board Production in the ARRL lab (interesting description of how they do it back there); From TV to Communication Processor (description of Kantonics UTV-XT and KAM models); Phase Noise and its Effects on Amateur Communications Part II; Sporadic-E Propagation at VHF; A Review of Progress and Prospects; Product Reviews of MFJ-931 Artificial RF Ground, Ameco PT-3 1.8-54 MHz Preamp, RF Concepts RFC-3-312 220 MHz Amp (25/120w); Get Ready for the NEW WIAW (it needs your support); Don't Fall Head Over Heels Because of Ham Radio (Tower Climbing Safety Tips)

HR: Multi-featured Function Generator (Sine/Triangle, square using XR-2206); More Operational Notes on TS-930S (mods improving an already fine Xcvr); Freq. Synthesis up to 2 GHz; A Diagnostic Serial Data Latch (to trouble-shoot RS-232 linked devices)

EQ: A Pneumatic Ant Tower (try this instead of hand-cranked to 30'); PICPRO -- An Introduction to Packet Picture Transfers (now pics on Packet!); RFI and the Novice, Some Basic Info Part I; Reviews of TenTec PARRAGON HF Xcvr Part I and Cusscraft APB, 8 band Vert. Ant (26'); A Meterless RF Bridge (using an Op Amp and LED as indicator)

73: Not recieved as of 4/12/88

List of books in Library at Bldg. 65 (bought within the last 3 years):

1. Hints and Kinks -- ARRL 1982
2. The Operating Manual -- ARRL 1985
3. The FCC Rule Book -- ARRL 1985
4. Antenna Compendium -- ARRL 1985
5. Yagi Antenna Design -- ARRL 1986
6. Vertical Antenna Handbook -- CO Publishing 1984
7. Small High Efficiency Ant -- The Loop -- W5QJR 1985
8. Beam Antenna Handbook -- W. Orr 1987
9. The Buyer's Guide to Amateur Radio -- G3OSS 1986
10. 6th Computer Networking Conference -- ARRL 1987
11. Transmission Line Transformers -- ARRL 1987.
12. The Packet Radio Handbook -- KRAT, Tab Books 1987

You are encouraged to check-out any of the above; please sign-out on the log sheet and return same in reasonable time. Happy Reading.

FOR SALE: The editor still has a Astron 20 amp power supply for sale for \$65.00 David (213) 375-9944

TRW/ARC Communications at Earthquake Expo by Rich Sauer, N6CIZ

The TRW Amateur Radio Club was quite active at the recent Earthquake Expo held at Space Park. The Club set up a booth displaying packet, 2 meter and 440 MHz handhelds and HF. We also gave away many handouts explaining Ham Radio and its close association to disaster communications.

Also on display were some Amateur Radio disaster communications related photos loaned to us by the Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Service via TRW/ARC's Steve Ng, N6IBR.

I'd like to thank all the Club members who stopped by to help and explain Ham Radio to those who came to our booth. A particular thank you to John Keller, N6JLS, who helped out all three days of the expo; setting it up, tearing it down and working packet in the middle. Also, Bill Schrecengost, KE6LB, who brought out his HF rig and antenna, Greg Martens, N6RRY, who was also there all three days, George Lee, W6IDW, who worked us on packet (giving a very good demonstration) and all the others, too numerous to mention, who gave us support.

All in all, it was a very successful show and helped to "put us on the map" with many new people at TRW.

Book Review by P. Lukas N6DMV

Two more great books in the TRW/ARC library: "Small High Efficiency Antennas -- The Loop" by W5QJR and the W6SAI/W2LX "Beam Antenna Handbook." No more excuses for not getting on HF due to "insufficient space" for an antenna! The small loop is what it is: a small loop. A 18 foot circumference loop can give you a very nice performance on 40 m!! If you believe the myth that loops are for receiving only, don't read the book -- I would not take the responsibility upon myself to disillusion you. W5QJR explains why this antenna did not gain popularity in the past: Nobody tried to build them the correct way!! He shows you how to. Due to the very high Q-s attainable with his method, the effective capture area is far greater than the physical size of the loop, yielding surprisingly good results. A practical book with detailed design information, computer programs, graphs, equations and on-the-air reports. Read it, build it, See U on 40!

The Beam book is quite complete. It leads you from the basic physical concepts to the realization of highly efficient beams. Many design data for beams, baluns, matching networks, antenna scaling and generally for everything you need to know for building a good antenna. It even has a chapter on building your own test equipment. Both good books.

New Computer Graces Ham Shack by Rich Sauer, N6CIZ

There is a new toy in the Bldg 65 shack that might be of interest to the Club members. It is a new IBM-AT compatible computer system with the following options: 12 MHz operation, 1Mb RAM, 40 MB hard disk, 5.25-inch floppy disk (1.2 Mb or 640k compatible), 3.5 inch floppy drive, and 2400 baud telephone modem. Also, there is a new Epson FX-88e printer.

What do you do with it? Well...we've also made an acquisition of a new AEA PK-232. This beauty will do packet (both VHF and HF modes), RTTY, CW, FAX, AMTOR, and lord only knows what else! (Ed note: Yeah, but can it figure out the new tax forms?)

Also, we've loaded on a lot of public domain software and Club owned software (like dBase III+) that might be of interest to you. Need a good packet radio terminal program? Want to practice CW on your IBM clone? Maybe track an OSCAR satellite? All this and more is waiting for you in the Club Shack.

This is a real state-of-the-art high powered computer system that is available to any Club member. In the future we will have either a packet or telephone BBS up and running -- maybe both!

Thanks to Terry Thompson, K86CUT, Chris Wachs, W2KDL, and Greg Martens, N6RRY, for handling the hardware and software. Also a big thank you to Dennis De Cuir, K8GTW, who donated a video monitor to the Club.

Investors Warned

Before investigating in the Stock Market this month, Club members should heed Mark Twain's warning that "October is one of the peculiarly dangerous months in which to speculate in stocks. The others are December, April, June, August, May, September, January, November, July, March, and February."

Club-to-Club Net

The LARCARC is looking to re-vitalize it's Club-to-Club Net so that it may become a channel of communication between the Council leadership and the ARRL to the individual clubs. The Council only holds meetings every two months and is looking to the net to supply information flow during the interim periods.

The Net meets every Wednesday at 7:30 pm on 147.705/-600. It is run by K6RQW out of Pasadena.

Club Picnic May 10th at
El Nido Park

Emergency Communications **by Rich Saver N6CIZ**

I want to remind everyone to continue checking in every Wednesday at noon for the TRW/ARC Emergency Communications Team noontime net on the W6TRW repeater. I have started to run things a little differently, so let me explain what happens and what you should do to check in:

At noon the Net Control Station (NCS) will open the net. Usually we will put the repeater into its "emergency mode" where no PL is needed to access it and there is no hangtime and no beep. Messages of general interest to Club members are read.

A roll call of ECT members is made where the NCS calls each member by callsign. The member called acknowledges his presence on frequency. The NCS asks for a capability report which the member then gives, using the format outlined below.

After the roll call of members, the NCS will ask for any other stations on frequency to check in and report their communications capability.

The net will remain on "standby status" until 12:15 when the NCS will close the net and return the repeater to normal use.

When checking into the net, give your capability report by reporting: 1) Your callsign. 2) The number of handheld, mobile, portable, or base radios you have by band. 3) Total number of radios you have. 4) The number of operators at your station. 5) Any special capability that you may have (i.e. packet, emergency power, etc.).

Thus, a typical report might be, "This is N6CIZ. On two meters I have one handheld, one mobile. On 440 I have one handheld. Total of three stations, one operator. I also have packet capability on two meters. N6CIZ."

This reporting format is designed to be compatible with what DCS uses and, as you know, TRW's Ham Radio emergency communications capability is reported each week during the Monday night DCS drills. Even if you forget the proper format, check in! Your report is important!!!

You Know Your Hooked on Ham Radio When:

... All of your Visa and Mastercard reports list Ham shops as the prime source of charges.

... You miss your kid's high school graduation because you heard that the "tropo duct" is open to Hawaii.

... You discover that your "Club Med" vacation stupidly falls on Field Day and Field day finds you on the beach at Bimini packing a low-band rig and a Honda generator surrounded by nice men in white coats helping you into a funny jacket. (CON)

You know your hooked on Ham Radio when: (con)

... You become the center of attention at your Condo Committee Meeting, explaining RFI and how nobody really wants to watch "The Late Show" on channel 2 anyway.

... The house lights dim when you "key up".

... You try to disguise a di-pole by draping it with the daily laundry.

Tidbits by David Kropp N6PLV

I do not know what is worse, having a small space left and a lot to say, or having a lot of space and nothing to say. Well, I do have at least one story for this month. An Antenna party was held at Paul Weisz's (K6YQ) QTH on Feb 2 to put up his newly built tri-bander Quad. Those TRW/ARC members helping Paul were Bill Dews (K6FWD), Bob Hume (K6GB), Bill Schreck (K6GLB) and Dave Burdett (W6GDM). The antenna was well constructed and should pull in the DX signals. While I was not at the party, I saw some pictures of the event at the St. Patrick's Day Party on March 18th. I do not know how tall the tower was that the antenna was put on, but it looked taller than anything I would climb. I have a distinct fear of heights. I would not mind taking pictures, though.

Okay, so how is the print this month? Better, worse, the same? This software package comes with nine fonts and of the nine, this was the one that reproduced the best. It tends to have straighter lines and more squared off letters. It seemed that the diagonal lines of the other letters did not reproduce well in the other font. True, the capital letters are a bit strange, but lower case makes up most of the text. Hope this works.

I would like to let everyone know that a new Club member, Scottie, AH2FZ, and a few other people, including myself, are trying an experiment of playing computer adventure games over the air. Lately, the games have dropped off, but we are trying to get a group of people together who want to play and set up regular times, if possible. The games usually work with one person, up to now it has been Scottie, narrating the game and the rest of the group collectively determining the next move and telling the narrator. We have had a lot of fun in the past with this, and from what I have heard, a lot of other club members have had fun listening but not playing. Please note: the games are open to EVERYONE so if you turn on your unit and find a game going on, feel free to join in on the fun. Also note that none of us want to monopolize the repeater. Breaks will be given to anyone wishing to make a call.