

CROSSTALK

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TRW/ARC

JUNE 88

MEMBER ARRL: CLUB NUMBER 1658 MEMBER LAACARC

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

U6TRW REPEATER: 145.32/- .6 (PL 2A) UHF: 442.000 IN/447.000 OUT

CALENDAR FOR JUNE AND JULY

FRIDAY Every Friday Club Breakfast in Bldg S Cafeteria any time after 7 a.m.

WEDNESDAY Every Wednesday Emergency Communications Team Check-in. Noon on 145.320. All hams are welcome to check in.

FRIDAY, SATURDAY and SUNDAY June 24-26 **FIELD DAY, Friendship Park in San Pedro.** Club members are needed to make this year's effort better than ever!!!!

SATURDAY June 25 Yes, there will be a Swap Meet. Corner of Compton/Marine and Aviation behind the Chevron Station.

TUESDAY June 28 Noon Club Meeting R10/2778. A good time is sure to be had by all.

THURSDAY July 7 5:30 pm Executive Board Meeting, Pizza Hut, 5107 El Segundo Blvd at Océangate. All members are welcome.

MONDAY July 18 Noon Club Picnic at El Nido Park. Bring your Club badge or membership card.

TUESDAY July 26 Noon Club meeting R10/2778.

SATURDAY July 30 8-11 am. Swap Meet at the corner of Compton/Marine and Aviation behind the Chevron Station.

DEADLINE FOR JULY CROSSTALK: JULY 15

Field Day 1988

By Bill Schrecengost KE6LB

Field Day 1988 is fast approaching and I think we are equipped for it. I am a bit concerned that we appear to be short 3 or 4 tents. The band captains have been advised of the shortage and will beg, borrow or -- buy one. It is typically cool and damp on the ocean side of the PV hills at nice so a nice dry warm tent is important. We bought 2 good solid 6 foot fold up tables and a wind resistant 10X10 dinner fly for our food service. The luncheon Sat (June 25) will be a "build your own sandwich" buffet, and dinner Sat will be a spaghetti dinner with garlic bread. Sunday morning will be the famous N6JLS pancake and sausage breakfast. Sound good??? It is good!!! Field day is an exciting camping weekend and I encourage all club members to get involved, even if it is only helping set up on Fri eve or tearing down on Sun. For those who have not been involved with

Field Day before, come out for a couple hours and look over the shoulders of radio operators in th seven tent radio stations. I think you will find it interesting. We also have a packet radio station, and a computer logging setup. We have even bought a 1500 watt Coleman generator to power the computer station with. We still have a need for a solar powered power supply to power a 2M handheld. Operating on solar power will give our Club 100 bonus points in Field Day scoring. Contact Rich Sauer, our 2M band captain.

For those who have not been to the Field Day site before, it is the upper grassy area of Friendship Park near 9th and Western in San Pedro. See you there. 73

BAND CAPTAINS FOR 1988

2M Rich Sauer 535-8125

Novice/10M F. Cartier 536-3171

15M GSB J. Shephard 535-5655

20M SSB D. Renkowitz 536-8294

20M CW J. Keller 545-4019 (eve)

40M CW B. Hume 217-3624

40M SSB P. Lukas 812-2487

FD Mgr B Schrecengost 535-3002

Safety Corner **from the Palo Alto ABC Paper**

Since summer is here, the subject safety should be addressed. One area of the hobby that can be rather dangerous without careful planning can be antenna installing. Take to heart the following story of a fellow amateur as he told it to his insurance company.

"I am writing in response to your request for additional information for block number three of the accident reporting form. I put 'poor planning' as the cause of the accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following detail will be sufficient.

I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80 foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 lbs of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using a pulley, which, fortunately, was attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower.

Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to insure a slow decent of the 300 lbs of tools. You will note in block number 11 of the accident form that I weigh only 155 lbs. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of 40 feet, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley.

Fortunately, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel. Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds (CON)

I refer you again to my weight in block 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid decent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40 foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles and the lacerations of my legs and lower body.

The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that, as I lay there on the tools, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me...I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope."

Book Review

by Paul Lukas N6DMV

TRW/ARC purchased an excellent book entitled: "Yagi- Antenna Design" by Dr. James L. Lawson, W2PU. I feel that any praise I can put in writing --however complimentary it may be -- will subtract something from this truly top level work. However, because of the superior design methods he uses, I will attempt to give you some particulars here. W2PU was one of the early investigators who systematically analyzed the Yagi concept and with thorough, rigorous mathematical processes, he was able to pinpoint the important factors influencing the Yagi performance. Did you know, for instance, that it is possible to build a Yagi with a 150+ dB F/B ratio with only 6 elements? -- narrow band, of course. Beginning with a dipole, the book leads you through the more complex designs. You can pick your favorite parameter (gain, F/B ratio, etc.) and design/optimize the antenna to your taste. If you want math, it is there. If you don't, the numerous tables and graphs will allow you to come up with the winning combination. A very strong feature of this book is that W2PU gives a scan of curves in terms of one factor (element length, for instance) with gain and F/B curves so you can immediately determine your antenna design performance, without actually building it!!! What a great timesaver!!! Check out the book at the shack and find out all you will need to know about Yagi antennas. Nuff said, good reading. 73.

For Sale, Wanted, Freebies

For Sale -- Wilson T-4502 SM 2 1/2 watt 446.000 MHz Freq with encoder \$125.00 obo.

UHF 2 1/2 watt T/R 'KF430' encode/decode 446.000 MHz Freq \$125.00 obo

contact Bill Dews X61656 or 213-376-1433

Executive Board Meeting

As I did not get any minutes from anyone in time to get them into the Crosstalk, I will go from memory as to what went on.

The most important thing that I remember is that a quorum was not present and nothing was voted on. Several issues were discussed, though.

One thing discussed was field day. All the band captains have been named, all stations do have tents, but we still could use some people to help get the equipment from Bldg 65 to the site and from the site to Bldg 65. We could also use people to log and operate.

Also discussed was a warning that I and Rich Sauer received from TRW/SEA regarding the article I printed about the FCC/UPS incident. I have been told that I can tell Club members to express their opinion on an issue, but not what that opinion should be.

Whether the Club should consider donating money to AMSAT or other ham related organizations was also discussed.

I am sure more went on there than that, but that is what I remember. Hopefully, next month's meeting will be more productive.

Tidbits

by David Kropp N6PLU

You will notice that I have put the deadline for the July Crosstalk on the front page of this issue, at the bottom of the calendar section. Please, please, please have the stuff to the mail station by noon of this day, the earlier the better. That is the only way that I can guarantee that I will get it. My dad is usually in on that day, but that cannot be counted on. This month, for example, he was in Canada on Friday on vacation. I had to come down to TRW myself and pick up the articles myself. The only problem with this is that I can only do this on my lunch

hour. I am sure that half the stuff sent to me was not received by me. You have noticed, of course, that the paper is much shorter than usual. This is why. You will also notice on the back of the Crosstalk my home number is now listed. If you need something in the Crosstalk, you have until Saturday evening to get ahold of me and I will see what I can do.

I guess I should let everyone know that the club does have an acting Activities Manager. He is Bob Schneider, the Training Chairman. As I have said, he is only holding the position until someone else steps forward to take it, so we are still looking for someone to take the position permanently.

Bill Dews still wants everyone to remember to put the Club number, which you can find on the front of EVERY Crosstalk, on your ARRL sign-up form when you join ARRL or renew your membership with them. Every Club member that does this will earn the Club a commission from the ARRL.

I want to ask everyone to do what they can to at least stop by the Field Day site this year. If you have never been to Field Day before, you are missing a great time. Setting up Friday night, and putting the final touches on Saturday morning, are a lot more fun than they may seem. Operating, or even just logging, during the contest is fun, as well. If you plan on being up there at night, though, wear warm clothing and shoes that can get wet. Why? The moisture on the seaward side of the PV Peninsula at night is high, to say the least. The grass gets very damp, as does everything else left outside. It is still a lot of fun.

Okay, that is about it for this issue. I realize that this is only two pages long, but, as I stated before, I probably did not get half of the stuff that was sent to me. Next month we will be back at our normal length. Until then, 73.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN UPGRADING?

If you are interested in upgrading your amateur license or if you have no license and would be interested in getting one - then:

PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING FORM AND RETURN IT TO
Bob Schneider R3/2148 x21917

Name: _____ Call: _____

Bldg/Mailstop _____ Current class of license: _____

Occupation _____ Birthdate (mm/dd/yy): _____

Badge # (TRW Employees): _____

Circle One:

Current amateur license -

1 NOVICE 2 TECHNICIAN 3 GENERAL 4 ADVANCED 5 NONE

I want to upgrade to -

1 NOVICE 2 TECHNICIAN 3 GENERAL 4 ADVANCED 5 EXTRA

Most convenient class days -

1 MON 2 TUES 3 WED 4 THUR 5 FRI 6 SAT 7 SUN

Most convenient class time -

1 AFTER 5pm 2 Lunch 3 Before 8am 4 Weekend AM 5 Weekend PM

Ballot for CROSSTALK font. Please check the line next to the font you like best. Please send the ballot to me, David Kropp, at R10/1062. Thanks.

I liked _____ Page 1 (Toronto) _____ Page 2 (New York) _____ Page 3 (ACSII)
_____ Page 4 (Blippo)

_____ I prefer the borders on the columns
_____ I do not want the borders around the columns

Name _____ (optional)

Thank you for your time.