



CROSSTALK

News Bulletin of the TRW Amateur Radio Club

MEMBER ARRL CLUB NO 1658 MEMBER LAACARC

W6TRW REPEATER: 145.320/-0.6 (PL 2A)

UHF: 442.000 IN/447.000 OUT

DEC 88

CALENDER FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Friday	Every Friday	Club Breakfast at the Bldg S Cafeteria any time after 7 a.m. All Club members welcome.
Wednesday	Every Wednesday	Emergency Communications Team Check-in. Noon on 145.320. Anyone can check-in.
Tuesday	December 20	Noon. Club meeting. No one gave me the location. Try R4/2041 again.
Saturday	December 31	8-11 a.m. Swap Meet at the northwest corner Compton/Marine and Aviation.
Tuesday	January 5	5:30 p.m. Executive Board Meeting at the Pizza Hut at Oceangate and Rosecrans.
Saturday	January 28	8-11 a.m. Swap Meet at the northwest corner of Compton/Marine and Aviation.
Tuesday	January 31	Club Meeting. Site to be announced.

DEADLINE FOR JANUARY'S CROSSTALK IS JAN 21

USC Amateur Radio Club Wants You!!

After a few years of inactivity, the USC Amateur Radio Club is reactivating and is looking for USC Alumni who are Ham Radio operators. If you fit into this category, please contact:

Cliff Cheng, KI6CM
USC Amateur Radio Club
c/o Intramural Information
Heritage Hall
University Park
Los Angeles, CA 90089

VOA by Bill Dews K6AWO

Boy!! You talk about an antenna farm. How would you like 28 dB gain with 250 KW output on SSB? The VOA station can do this, and tune-up time, I believe, is faster than my TS-440S. We got a really great tour on Saturday, Nov. 19, with the PV ARC who, by the way, picked up the tab for the bus trip. You should plan to visit a station like this at least once in your lifetime. Between Dayton and VOA, plan to do both. I am not going to say any more because you have to see it for yourself.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Rich Sauer, N6CIZ

As the deadline drew closer for this month's Crosstalk I faced the same old dilemma: what do I write about this month? It's the end of the year, not a whole lot is happening and not too many subjects found themselves leaping into my head. Then I received a phone call...

As many of you know, our two meter repeater, W6TRW/R, has been giving us a few problems lately. First, there was the FAA problem. It seems that a spur was being generated on L.A Approach Control's frequency and the FAA wasn't too happy about it. We immediately turned off the repeater until the problem could be fixed.

Then, a weak, interfering signal was getting into the receiver and desensing it. Stations a mile away were having difficulty getting into the machine. We DF'ed that one down and the problem went away.

Now, the phone call. Seems the Air Force had detected a signal interfering with their communications and had determined that W6TRW/R was the source. I met Bill Dews, K6AWO, and we went out the parking lot next to E2 (the building where the repeater is located). Three gentlemen from the Air Force Flight Test Center at Edwards Air Force Base were standing outside a white van whose roof was covered with antennas (including discons, dopplers and a large radome) and whose interior was crammed with very modern, very expensive test and measurement equipment.

They showed us the display on a spectrum analyzer and made some plots for us on a plotter. It was pretty interesting to see the setup these guys have. They are really professional T-Hunters and managed to track down our (once again) spurious signal. Using their high-tech direction finding techniques they drove right up to the door of the building containing the repeater.

Throughout it all, the guys from the Air Force were quite friendly and helpful. They didn't make any threats or tell us to do anything. They really just wanted to advise us of a problem. They said that they realize that radios, like any device, can develop problems from time to time that need to be fixed.

Needless to say, W6TRW/R was taken off the air immediately and this time will stay off. We are going to replace the transmitter with a different model. The Club Executive Board has discussed this and soon we will be back on the air with a "commercial quality" repeater whose transmitted signal stays at 145.320 MHz!

Well, that's the news for this month (what a way to end the year!). I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped me get through this year. Being President of this Club certainly has been an interesting experience but it would have been an impossible experience without the support of the folks whose names you see on the back page of Crosstalk.

73's and Happy Holidays. See you next year!

Lightning reprinted from BIARC Bulletin

Harry Bowden was struck by lightning twice in one year, and survived both. In Utah, a shepherd was knocked unconscious by a lightning bolt. The same burst killed his entire flock of 800 sheep. As weather phenomena go, most people either don't recognize or vastly underrate lightning's lethal and destructive potential.

Lightning kills between 200-500 people each year in the U.S. Another 2,000 or so are injured by it. Approximately 30,000 structures are damaged or destroyed annually by lightning. Meteorologists estimate that up to 44,000 electrical storms occur daily around the world.

Considering the danger lightning presents, what precautions should you take when thunder starts rumbling? Experts generally agree there are several safe places to be during an electrical storm. A building protected by properly grounded lightning rods and buildings with continuous steel framing are safe since they give lightning a harmless path to earth. A car is a remarkably safe spot, providing it isn't a convertible and you are inside it. The interiors of enclosed vehicles are safe because of the "Faraday Cage" effect. The 19th century English scientist, Michael Faraday, discovered that electricity flows over the outside surface of hollow, metal objects. The interior remains unaffected by the electrical charge.

Lightning may seem to strike at random but that is not really the case. It always takes the path of least resistance. It either strikes the highest object or the best conductor. Being in or near water when a storm comes up isn't wise. Lightning often strikes water, and the electrical charge can travel some distance before it loses strength.

IF THE HAIR ON YOUR HEAD AND ARMS STARTS STANDING ON END, YOU'RE IN TERRIFIC DANGER. A LIGHTNING STRIKE IS ABOUT TO OCCUR. Experts differ on what to do. Some say you should crouch down, and run as quickly as possible from the area. Find shelter **FAST!!** Others say you should lie flat on the ground to reduce the chances of being struck.

Lightning is eerie, spectacular and dangerous. It's best to be indoors and out of the way.

Tidbits by David Kropp N6PLV

Well, this is the last newsletter I will be doing for the Club. Unfortunately, I do not know where to tell you to send next month's articles. I know that Scott has access to the BBS, so you can put them there, otherwise send them to Rich, I guess, and he'll get them to Scott. **DO NOT** send them to me. It will not be easy for me to re-route the stuff in time. Anyway, it has been great fun putting the newsletter together each month. And don't think you've gotten rid of me. As Rich said in the minutes, I am taking the position of Club Rep with the HamCom 89 people. For those of you who don't know, the TRW ARC is a sponsor club for HamCom 89, and the TRW ARC Swap Meet will be a featured event, with shuttle buses running between the convention site and the swap meet. Ought to be fun.

Remember to fill out both sides of the new, improved 1989 Membership Application, and to have same to Bill Dews by Jan 31. We're looking to break 300 members this year. We ended this year with 285.

Hope everyone out there has a happy and safe holiday season and a great new year. 73 to all and to all a good-night.

The evening nets still need clubs to check in. It was directed to convey to the club presidents to appoint a person responsible for checking into the nets. It was also noted that although no important messages may be given on every net, it was important for all the clubs to check in anyway. The LAACARC net is held on the W6QQN repeater (147.705 -600) on Wednesday nights at 1930. The TRW/ARC needs a member to volunteer to check into this net every week. I am unable to check in because of my location at the time of the net. If you would like to volunteer to check in on my behalf, please contact me at 812-0202.

Phineas Icenbice, ARRL Section Manager, states that he needs more information to put in his Los Angeles Section news of QST.

Fried Heyne, ARRL Southwest Division, reported that the Sense of the Congress resolution was incorporated into SB 1048, the FCC appropriations bill. The President is due to sign it as of the meeting [the President has signed it since]. Although SB 1048 is now law, there still remains a long fight ahead for the 220 MHz band. Assistant Director terms expire soon. Clubs are needed to suggest names to fill the positions. Especially needed are people to act as liaisons between the club and the League

Pat McNulty thanked all the vendors, planners, and volunteers for their help in making the amateur radio booth at this years L.A. County Fair a success.

Hamcon 89 continues to move forward with planning meetings. Still needed is a club to take charge of the Ladies Program Committee.

The guest speaker for the evening was Joe Locasio, K5KT, from the Don Wallace Radio Ranch Foundation. He spoke on the plans for the Don Wallace Museum. The Foundation is currently looking for financial support from individuals and corporations. If any one is willing to help out, you can contact the Foundation by writing to the Don Wallace Radio Ranch Foundation, Inc., 30930 Hawthorne Blvd., Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274.



TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING December 1, 1988

Officer's present were President Rich Sauer, Secretary Chris Wachs, and Treasurer Dave Stockwell. Appointed Officer's present were Activity Manager Jeff Shields, Membership Chairman Bill Dews, Trustee Phil Bergeron, SEA Rep. Paul Herbert, Newsletter Editor Dave Kropp, and Technical Chairman Greg Martens.

The meeting was called to order by Rich Sauer at 17:55. There were several motions brought up for the board. First motion was to buy Lotus 1 2 3 for the club. The motion carried. The next motion was for the club to buy the latest version of the BBS software used at the club shack for \$50.00. The motion carried. There also was a motion for Dave to set up an account for the phone expenses at the shack.

There were many discussion during the meeting. A round table discussion occurred around the table about general items the club can do. Dave presented the Budget for the last time and did his usual good job. The new Treasurer in January will use the new Lotus 1 2 3 to keep track of the books. Bill Dews announced that the club now has 285 members. Chris Wachs announced that the BBS will be changing to the new number this month. Keep your eye on the BBS for the new number!!! The BBS will announce a week or two in advance of the new number.

Greg Martens reported on the repeater transmitter problems and fixes that he has made. [Ed note. The repeater transmitter has once again acted up on December 5 - 8 and shut off on the 8th. Mike Aust said he will also consult with the Technical Chairman to help the club with the repeater transmitter trouble. The club is working the problem and will not have the equipment at E2 on untill it is working very well and checked out.] Dave Kropp volunteered to be the 1989 HamCom rep for 1989.

Phil Bergeron announced that the 1989 Callbooks are here and that he put up new maps and cleaned the ham shack. He hopes all will keep the shack clean and take out the garbage.

As most of you remember the Members Only jackets were voted on as being the ones the club would like to purchase for the members. Frank Cartier volunteered to continue to research the options available when the members order there Members Only jackets. Stay tuned for more information. Bill Dews passed around a new example of a club badge that is a clip on type like the work badges. He volunteered to research the option of getting this design of a new Club badge made.

Well 1988 went buy quick. There were new ham satellites launched, Shuttle audio, field day, VHF contest, picnics, Swapmeets, Meetings and lots of hamming. I hope everyone has a great holiday season and is ready to have a great Ham year in '89. 73's Chris WA2KDL.