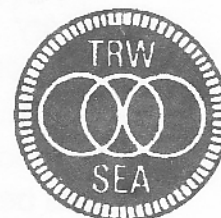




CROSSTALK

A Publication of the TRW Amateur Radio Club



OCTOBER 1991

CALENDAR

Every Monday: DCS Net on 145.32 Repeater, 7:30 PM

Every Wednesday: Emergency Communications Team Net on
145.32 Repeater @ 12:30 PM

Every Friday: Club Breakfast in Bldg S Cafeteria, 7 to 8 AM

Oct 22: ECT Meeting, R3/EOC, Noon

Oct 26: TRW ARC Swap Meet, Parking Lot on NW Corner of Aviation and
Marine, 7-11 AM

Oct 29: Club Meeting, E2/1200, Noon

Nov 8-9-10: AMSAT-NA Annual Space Symposium, LA Airport Holiday Inn

Nov 12: Executive Board Meeting, Upper Crust Pizza,
NW corner Inglewood & Manhattan Beach Blvd, 5:30 PM

Nov 15: Deadline for November CROSSTALK

Nov 23: CLUB BANQUET, Charley Brown's, Redondo Beach, 6 PM

Nov 26: Club Meeting, E2/1200, Noon

Nov 30: TRW ARC Swapmeet

Dec 3: EBM, Upper Crust Pizza, 5:30 PM

Dec 17: Club Meeting, E2/1200, Noon

EDITORS NOTES:

We are trying to get each CROSSTALK issue out before the monthly club meeting. It will take me a few months to get the timing right so I've expanded the calendar, that way the membership still has advanced notice on upcoming activities. I'm having trouble getting the external mailing out. I don't have time during the week to fold and stamp the 100+ issues involved so it has to wait for the weekend. If anyone wants to help with the mailing we can probably get it out earlier. 73.

BILL SHANNEY, KJ6GR

We had work parties on Saturday 10/5 and 10/12 and here's where we are:

- The power distribution system is nearly finished. The extra batteries are mounted in the engine compartment and isolated from the starter battery. A 1 Amp solar panel has been installed on the roof to keep the batteries charged, and meters have been mounted on the driver's console to monitor the charging current and voltage.
- All radios have been mounted to the console, power and antenna cables have been routed, and all stations are operational.
- An overhead console was installed in the front above the driver, containing a 2m/440 FM dual bander and a scanner, as well as the solar panel current and voltage meters.

Near term plans include adding a storage cabinet in the back (which mounts over the right rear wheel well), tuning the antennas, programming the radios, and documenting everything. Long term we hope to start using the van at public service events, such as 5K/10K runs, parades, etc. Thanks to Dave Qualls K6AYK for his fine work, and to the other people who helped at the work parties: Roger Matson KC6ROQ, Bill Montgomery N6MEL, Jeff Shields N9CZA, Mark Walker N6VXJ, Mike Zingery KB6TVJ, and Irv Zipper WA6ZOU. We will have the van on display at the October swap meet and at the club meeting, so drop by and have a look - it's really starting to look sharp! There are still many things left to do, so if you would like to help call Dave at X62147 or Jeff at X25669.

ECT meeting Tuesday Oct. 22 at noon in R3 EOC

The next meeting of the Emergency Communications Team will be on Tuesday October 22 from noon-1pm in the R3 EOC. All interested club members are invited to join the team. We are collecting information for HT property passes for team members, so please be sure to bring model and serial number of your HT to the meeting.

Miscellaneous

- Have you ever wondered where the club gets the money to pay for projects like Field Day, club picnics, the van, new toys for the club shack, etc.? Most of it comes from the monthly swap meet, which is managed by Frank Cartier WA6RAY. The TRW Swap Meet has been going on since the late 70's, and has grown to be something of a tradition here in Southern California. Thanks to Frank for his efforts, and to the other members of the swap meet crew, who handle the myriad of details necessary to put on a successful swap meet each month.
- Thanks to Chris Wachs for taking care of the membership data base. If you haven't yet received your membership card or club badge, please call Chris at x31506.

Club meeting Tues. Oct.29 at noon in E2/1200

This month's speaker will be Tom Fritz of the Naval Post Graduate School. He will speak on amateur spread spectrum and plans for PANSAT - an amateur satellite which will have a spread spectrum transponder.

Annual club banquet Saturday November 23 at Charlie Brown's

The annual club banquet is coming up on Saturday evening, November 23, from 6-9pm at Charlie Brown's in Redondo Beach. This is our 25th annual banquet, so we have some special events planned for this year. There will be a "club nostalgia" slide show during dinner, a very entertaining after dinner speaker, and an expanded door prize drawing. It promises to be a lot of fun, so plan to register soon. An application form appears elsewhere in this issue of Crosstalk, which should be returned to Rich Sauer N6CIZ at R9/2849 before November 1. A mere \$10 per person brings you an evening of fine food, entertainment, door prizes, and fun. Such a deal!

Club elections in November

We will be accepting nominations in November for 1992 club officers, and the election will then be held in December. The elected officers are President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. If you would like to run for an office, or would like to fill one of the staff positions listed on the back of the Crosstalk, please contact Jeff n9cza at x25669 for more info. You can and will make a difference.

TRW ARC supports 5K run

TRW's Electronics Systems Group sponsored a 5K run at TRW on Saturday, 9/21 and the TRW ARC provided communications for the event. Club members were posted at each of the seven check points along the course, as well as at the front table and at the paramedic station. By all accounts, the race was a big success and a good time was had by all. Thanks to the following club members who participated: Bill Dews K6AWO, Calvin Hashi N6SSW, Wayne Hogencamp KI6GM, Stan Johnson W6EKK, Roger Matson KC6ROQ, Rich Sauer N6CIZ, Jeff Shields N9CZA, Mark Walker N6VXJ, Dave Williams KF6IB, and Irv Zipper WA6ZOU. Also a special thanks to Dave Qualls K6AYK for getting the van ready in time for display at the race.

W6TRW mobile is on the air

Under the direction of Dave Qualls K6AYK, quite a lot has happened with the club's emergency communications van since last month. This is a TRW van that the company assigned to the club for use as a stand alone emergency communications vehicle. When completed, it will have capabilities for hf, 2m, 220 Mhz, 440 Mhz, ATV, packet, and scanner, using emergency power.

- Congratulations to Jason Shanney KC6FNO for recently upgrading to Technician class. Jason is the son of Bill Shanney KJ6GR and, at 10 years of age, is the club's youngest licensed member.
- Wouldn't you know it ... at Jun's recent grand opening, Irv Emig W6GC won a door prize in the hourly drawings. Is he coming to the banquet??

73 de Jeff n9cza

TOURNAMENT OF ROSES RADIO AMATEURS (TORRA)

Amateur Radio has played an important role in providing communications for the Rose Parade for at least two decades. The Hams involved formalized as a club, TORRA, in the early 1980's and today has over 300 active members.

The purpose of TORRA is to provide quick and efficient communications, which include ATV and packet radio as well as voice, for Tournament Officials when requested. We are a support organization that responds to specific communications requests of the Tournament to the best of our abilities and within the confines of the legalities of Amateur Radio.

If you are interested in joining TORRA, please fill in the questionnaire and mail it to the address indicated. If you have any questions, please call Cliff at (213) 257-3293.

TOURNAMENT OF ROSES RADIO AMATEURS (TORRA) 1992 Membership Information

CALL SIGN: _____ NAME (Last, first): _____
NOVICE (Y/N): _____
ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____

HOME PHONE: (____) _____ WORK PHONE: (____) _____
Please check: Present Member: _____ New member: _____ Info Change: _____
EQUIP: 2m Syn HT: _____ 2m Mob or HT w/ Mag Mt Ant: _____
220 HT: _____ 440 HT: _____ Portable packet: _____ ATV: _____
ASSIGNMENT PREFERENCE: Voice Communication: _____ Packet: _____ ATV: _____

I will be available for shift(s) during days/hours marked (x) below:
PRE-PARADE / PARADE
Dec 31 - 1100 to 1800: _____ ; 1800 to 2400: _____ Jan 1 - 0000 TO 1400: _____
POST PARADE (0800 TO 1800)
Jan 1: _____ Jan 2: _____ Jan 3: _____ (tentative)
I am available for multiple shifts (Y/N): _____

If possible, I wish to have the same assignment as last year (Y/N): _____

Amateur Radio Club affiliations: _____ RACES (Y/N): _____

New and present TORRA members please fill in the above information request and mail it with a \$3.00 donation to cover TORRA expenses as soon as possible. The availability of both new and present TORRA members will be confirmed through receipt of this completed form. Include any pertinent remarks on the back. Please mail to:

Cliff Ford KB6IA
391 Tamarac Dr.
Pasadena, CA 91105

Ph. (213) 257-3293

CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

I'd like to thank the 20 members who returned the questionnaire from the September CROSSTALK. Your club patches will be sent to you in the next few weeks. Most respondents have over 20 years of amateur radio experience and hold Advanced or Extra class licenses. A brief summary of the responses follows:

- The major reasons for joining the club:
 - Keep in touch with the hobby
 - Building 65 shack
 - Support repeater
 - Swapmeet
 - The most popular activities are:
 - Use of club shack
 - Swapmeet
 - Emergency Communications
 - Club meetings
 - The greatest interest areas are:
 - HF -VHF
 - UHF -DX
 - CW
 - The overwhelming majority favor noon club meetings
 - Most attend club meetings less than twice a year. Work commitments were cited as the main reason for missed meetings.
 - Most seldom or never use the Bldg 65 shack.
 - All who had an opinion feel the shack is adequate.
 - Swapmeet attendance was uniformly distributed, most are not sellers. 70% would help once or twice a year.
 - Most were against VE testing after the swapmeet.
 - Most were in favor of entry level classes.
- Of the comments received the following are worth considering:
- Hold a weekly club net on the W6TRW repeater including a club news bulletin
 - Advertise speakers in the crosstalk in advance

The main complaint was not getting club badges. If you have ordered a badge and never received it send a note to Jeff, N9CZA and you will receive it next month.

Perhaps we should consider increased emphasis on our popular activities like the swapmeet, emergency communications and field day. General membership meetings could be held every other month with a program or speaker announced in advance. Non-meeting months could be used for activity planning meetings, picnics or ECT meetings. Let any member of the board know if you have any ideas on how to keep the club active without increasing the burden on those who already devote a lot of time to our activities. Better yet come to the next EBM and express your ideas in person, maybe even volunteer to help out. 73.

BILL SHANNEY, KJ6GR

NEW HELIX ANTENNA DESIGN

A two turn axial mode helical antenna is described in the IEEE Transactions on Antennas and Propagation for June 1991. A paper entitled "Extreemly Low-Profile Helix Radiating a Circularly Polarized Wave" by H. Nakano, et. al. describes a 9 dB gain helix design with an axial length of only 0.19 wavelength (1.3 ft at 145 MHz). This one wavelength circumference design is 0.14 wavelength long, corresponding to a 4 degree pitch angle, and has 0.05 wavelength ground plane spacing providing a very compact design.

This antenna should prove useful for portable operation or by amateurs who have space constraints, especially on 2 meters where conventional designs are 6 feet or longer.

FOR SALE: MFJ-484c Grandmaster Memory Keyer, \$75. Bill Shanney, KJ6GR, x38159 or 213-542-9899 evenings.

RAMBLINGS:

Please write articles on anything relating to ham radio for the CROSSTALK. All of us have operating experiences, activities or technical knowledge we could share with our fellow hams. Don't worry about your writing style I'll gladly edit your article.

Now that the sunspot cycle is on the downswing it's a good time for you HF fans to think about getting on OSCAR. Remember that although the solar flux levels may still be high the probability of an Ionospheric storm is higher after the peak of the sunspot cycle as evidenced by the record breaking disturbances this past June. KC6FNO and I got our mode B station up and running in August and it's a lot of fun. There's DX without pileups and plenty of old fashioned rag chewing on both SSB and CW. We have an excellent OSCAR setup in the Bldg 65 shack, stop by and give it a try. 73.

TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB BANQUET
Saturday, November 23rd, 6 p.m.

Join us for the 25th Annual TRW/ARC Awards Banquet

Cost is \$10 per Person

Dinner, Guest Speaker, Door Prizes

CHARLEY BROWN'S RESTAURANT
665 NORTH HARBOR DRIVE
REDONDO BEACH

6 PM -- 7 PM Social Hour

7 PM -- 8 PM Dinner

8 PM -- 10 PM Guest Speaker, Awards, Doorprizes

Return this portion by November 1st to: Rich Sauer, R9/2849

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

TRW Mail Station: _____ Phone: _____

Please enter number of dinners desired:

_____ Breast of Chicken Cordon Bleu

_____ Roast Prime Rib of Beef, au jus

x \$10 EACH

_____ TOTAL AMOUNT PAID

Please make checks payable to: TRW Amateur Radio Club