



# CROSSTALK

A Publication of the TRW Amateur Radio Club



JANUARY 1993

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## CALENDAR :

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

Every Wednesday: Emergency Communications Team Net on 145.32  
Repeater at Noon

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

Jan 1: ARRL Straight Key night. Get out that old key, get on CW and have some fun

Jan 5: Executive Board Meeting, Location to be announced

Jan 12: Emergency Communications Team meeting, R3/1413, Noon

Jan 26: Club Meeting, E2 Presentation Room, Noon, Speaker: Bill Wysock, N6UXW will give a talk and live demo of his "Tesla Coil." This is a great show, don't miss it.  
NOTE: SPECIAL LOCATION THIS MONTH

Jan 23-25: ARRL VHF Sweepstakes

Jan 29-31: CQ WW 160 Meter CW Contest

Jan 30: Swap Meet, parking lot on NW corner of Aviation and Marine, 7 to 11 AM

Jan 30: T-Hunt following the Swap Meet @ Noon, Meet in O3 parking lot near the Porta Potties

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**EDITORS NOTES :** Remember January is membership renewal month, renew early and ease the burden on our hard working membership chairman, Nina Whiddon, N6ZJT. Please consider writing an article for the Crosstalk about any Ham Radio related topic. Did you buy a new piece of equipment ? Tell your friends about it. Write up the results of the last contest you were in, especially the VHF contests the club has been supporting. The deadline is the first of the month. If you want to submit your article on a disk please call me to arrange a pickup, if it gets to my office I must turn it in to security for destruction. 73 de KJ6GR

## L. A. CITY ANTENNA ORDINANCE

Effective October 1, 1992:

- 1-Anyone may erect an antenna/tower assembly up to 45 feet by right.
- 2-Amateurs may erect an antenna/tower assembly higher than 45 feet by authorization from the Office of Zoning Administration.

Authorization can be obtained by getting signatures of all your neighbors and a payment of a \$166 fee or you can submit your plans to the Zoning Administration folks with a check for \$332 and they will notify your neighbors and hold a public hearing.

Many surrounding L.A. County communities have been waiting to see the L.A. City ordinance before enacting their own. It wouldn't be bad if the height limit were 75 feet for amateurs.

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### FOR SALE:

-New 3/16" black dacron UV resistant braided rope for antenna guy lines by Synthetic Textiles. \$0.10/ft, 100 ft minimum.

-New RG-8X low loss mini coax, \$0.19/ft.

-Wanted: 5 wpm beginners code tape course.

Peter, KK6ZQ, x30519, (310)378-6005

-New PK-88 Packet Controller (TNC), still in the box, \$125.

-Wanted: Heathkit SA-2550 Remote Antenna Matcher

Bill Shanney, KJ6GR, x38159, (310)542-9899

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### 160 METERS FROM A CITY LOT

I'm always up to a challenge and I've heard a lot of good words said about the "gentleman's band" or "top band," 160 meters. After a few weeks at the computer comparing antenna configurations I ordered the 160 meter add on kit for my Butternut HF-2V vertical. I also bought enough RG-213 coax for 2 coax radials, big coax for long low loss radials. So far I've made a lot of new friends and worked KH6, T32 and VE3 as far as DX goes. I'll write an article about 160 Meters in the near future. 73 es gud dx de KJ6GR.

## HF OPERATORS WANTED

The W6TRW operating awards are almost 20 years old and were issued to the old club call, WB6WPO. It's time to learn them again, please help us. Activity will be centered in both the R3 and 65 shacks. We could even earn WAS or DXCC on OSCAR with the help of some technician class operators.

This is a great way to get some on the air experience for you newcomers. Getting on the air is one of the best ways to improve your code speed. We need some CW ops to help break in the AEA Morse Machine keyer the club is buying. If you are a no code tech we can help you upgrade, the club owns some code tapes and getting tips from others who struggled to learn code can help a lot. For more information call Bryan, KC6TPN at (310) 812-4789 (work) and leave a message on voice mail.

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## OLD TIMERS UPDATE

The old timers/ retirees that have been using 40 meters to stay in touch have gone to a new time schedule. We now use 1400 local California time. The frequency is still 7185 KHz so you do have to be an extra or advanced class to work us. The days are Monday, Wednesday and Friday so come on and give it a try once in a while. Just for your information the gang includes W6KQI who has an article in December QST about operating from the Queen Mary 25 years ago, K6RL, W6SCL, W6RTG, K6BO, N6CRW, KE6LB, K6AWS, W6TUB, K6AVQ, AA7RE, K6IBJ, W6RXD, N6TIG and KI6GM. Among the hams that can't work us are K6YQ who has no 40 M antenna and K5MJU who is in TX land.

I know many of you haven't seen or heard some of the above. If you don't become a silent key like K6RT, K6SSN, W6CQ, WA6PAS, W6UMC, K6HPD, WA6IBJ and Dave/ Connie Gilmore WA6SKM you too can drop in and replace the ones who are dropping out. What I really mean is the above hams are the past presidents, officers and field day workers with the club, some before the club call was W6TRW. We only have time on you, some day it will be your turn. I can still remember receiving my novice call when all the calls were W6's. FD logging was easier then.

Maybe some of the Old Timers will write an article for Crosstalk on the following:

- How did the club get the W6TRW call?
- Who was the first FD chairman?
- Who were the big time DX'ers?
- What member is licensed the longest time?
- What member can copy CW the fastest?
- Who holds every license the government issues?

Go for it, write up a yarn and send it in to Bill.

73 de K6AWO

## EDITORIAL: INCENTIVE LICENSING

Fred Maia, W5YI presented an interesting proposal in his "Washington Readout" column in the November 1992 issue of CQ Amateur Radio magazine. Fred points out that one of the main purposes of incentive licensing was to encourage experimentation and provide a training ground for technicians and engineers. The truth is that today's technology is so sophisticated that most innovation comes from professionally trained engineers. Most "home brewing" was really done out of necessity in the "good old days." The availability of sophisticated, mass produced amateur radio equipment has attracted many newcomers to this hobby who simply want to communicate.

The proposal is to simplify the licensing to three classes:

- 1-Basic: privileges and exams similar to the present no-code technician class.
- 2-Intermediate: 5 wpm code plus a 50 question exam containing questions from the present general and advanced pools. Privileges are the same as today's general class.
- 3-Expert: 13 wpm code plus a 50 question exam containing questions from the present advanced and extra pools. Privileges are the same as today's extra class.

Novices and technicians who have passed the 5 wpm code exam could upgrade to intermediate by passing the 50 question written exam. Similarly, general and advanced class licensees could upgrade to expert by passing the appropriate written exam.

This system still contains elements of the present incentive system and would bring our license structure more in line with the rest of the world amateur radio community. Please let us know how you feel on this issue by filling out the attached response letter. All letters will be forwarded to Fred Maia and Fried Heyn, our ARRL SW division director. 73 de KJ6GR

I am an amateur radio operator and      ☐ SUPPORT      ☐ OPPOSE      the  
W5YI proposal outlined above.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Call \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail to Bill Shanney, O3/B270

ARRL Bulletin 101 ARLB101  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT November 11, 1992  
To all radio amateurs

The ARRL has filed reply comments on an FCC notice of proposed rulemaking (in PR Docket 92-154) that would have Novice class license examinations be administered only by the Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) program, which now administers all other license class examinations. The League sought to address concerns about the availability of examination opportunities in sparsely populated areas and to clarify that General class licensees would be eligible to administer novice exams within the VE system.

At the time of the NPRM, the FCC noted its burden in dealing with an application error rate of 9.4 percent for Novices as compared to only 0.8 percent for VE-administered examinations, and said it believed that bringing Novice exams under the VEC system would be in the public interest, saying the VEC system "has demonstrated both its efficiency and its integrity."

The League noted that its original proposal, with which the FCC's NPRM is similar, was based on three conclusions:

1. Since the elimination of the Morse code requirement from the Technician class license the number of Novice examinations administered has decreased;
2. That the VEC program is capable of assimilating Novice examinations;
3. That the large number of new Technician class licensees in 1992 in particular indicates that examinations are in general widely available.

The League concluded that there is no longer justification for having a different system for Novice examinations because the Novice class is now one of two entry-level license classes (the Technician class already is VEC-administered) and that the Novice class includes many more operating privileges than it did when the subject was last considered, in 1983.

More information is in September QST, page 116.