



CROSSTALK

A Publication of the TRW Amateur Radio Club



DECEMBER 1993

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

Dec 7: Eyeball QSO meeting, Upper Crust Pizza, corner Manhattan
Beach Blvd & Inglewood Ave, 5:30 PM

Dec 14: Emergency Communications Team meeting, R3/1413, Noon

Dec 14: Executive Board Meeting, E2/1200, 5:30 PM

Dec 17: Technical Chairman's Meeting, Bldg 65 Shack, Noon

Dec 21: Club Meeting, E2/1200, Noon

Dec 25: Swapmeet, Parking Lot, NW corner Aviation & Marine,
7-11 AM---Yes Swapmeet is on Christmas Day!

**W6TRW PLACED 9TH IN THE 1993
FIELD DAY COMPETITION:** Congratulations to
John Shepherd and all who participated this year. The club goal was
to place in the top 10 nationally this year.

EDITORS NOTES: The deadline for Crosstalk submissions
is the eyeball QSO meeting the month before publication. Please
plan ahead if you want your contest team attempt or activity
publicized in our club newsletter.

Nominations for 1994 Club officers will be held at the
November club meeting. Members may nominate candidates of their
choice or *Volunteer* for the election. The election will be held in
early December with the results presented at the December club
meeting. 73 de KJ6GR.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS: BE PREPARED!

By Les Ballinger, WA6EQQ

There are some items that should be carried in the field if an incident takes place and we are called out to provide communications. There are certain items that need to be carried at all times on one's person and other items that should be immediately available.

ITEMS TO CARRY OR WEAR:

Clothing to suit the weather or climate. Footwear should have traction type soles for solid footing on slick, uneven surfaces such as mud, snow, grass, and pine needles. One trade name, for example, is "Vibram", sometimes called "waffle stompers". If you wear eyeglasses be sure to carry an extra pair. Wear an accurate, rugged, and easy to read wrist watch.

If you have a handheld transceiver carry a battery pack that will hold double A alkaline batteries. Nicad battery packs need charging often and usually take hours and require 110 volts AC. Double A alkaline batteries are usually readily available and only take a few minutes to change. Keep your nicad pack with you for backup. Keep it in a container by itself or cover its terminals with tape; if they short out it can burn or explode.

Carry a speaker mike that can be clipped to your clothing where it can be easily heard and reached. Boom mikes work well if you like them but never, NEVER use VOX. You can key your transmitter and you may not know it. This could cripple communications and be potentially embarrassing.

Carry a police whistle. These are good attention getters and could be used in many ways. The handiest place for it is on a chain around your neck and placed under your shirt or blouse out of the way.

Carry a note book and pencil. Keeping a log or diary of events is very important. It makes interesting reading after an event and if you must write a report it is a great help to have the dates and times of important happenings. If the incident lasts for many days, as they have in the past, the days seem to run together and to recall from memory might prove difficult. If you must handle written messages, use a different notebook for this chore. I carry a small three inch by five inch personal notebook for the diary and a regular size note book for the written messages.

Carry a small flashlight. I use the Mini-Maglite type that use double A alkaline batteries. These flashlights are very rugged and have a spare lamp in their base. If the spare lamp is needed make sure you replace it as soon as possible.

If you are on medication be sure to have an ample supply. Carry more than you think you will need. Inform the person or persons in charge if you have a health problem and if you require special medication.

(Continued)

BE PREPARED! (continued)

You may want to carry a camera. I carry a small 35 mm camera. It has a sliding lens cover that locks the shutter, a built in electronic flash and another feature that should prove invaluable: a clock that will stamp the day, month and year or the time of day on the negative so that it will appear on the prints.

You may wonder how big your pockets will have to be to carry these things. I use a fanny pack or, as some people call it, a belly pack. It is basically a belt with a pouch attached and made of nylon. Mine has three compartments -- a large central compartment that will hold my camera, speaker mike, boom mike, spare rubber duck antenna, and other miscellaneous items. It has outer compartment, which is smaller than the central compartment, I use for my spare batteries and battery pack. The inner compartment is next to the belt and is ideal for your diary or small note book. All compartments have zippers. They can be bought for less than ten dollars.

THINGS TO HAVE AVAILABLE:

Always have drinking water available with a reserve supply in your vehicle or other storage area at your site.

Carry plenty of clothing. A good rule is to carry twice as many changes of clothing as you think you will need. Always carry a warm jacket in your vehicle. Even in the summertime it can get quite cool at higher elevations.

Carry a blanket or, better yet, a sleeping bag.

Carry food that does not need refrigeration. I carry granola bars and canned pork and beans. Be sure to have a can opener.

Carry matches. I don't smoke and have been caught out needing a campfire, only to find I didn't have any matches. A muzzle loading pistol was used to start a fire to dry my wet clothes and cold body on one of my outings.

I carry a tool kit with a supply of connectors and terminals. If you use cables to connect any of your gear you should have spare cabling or the parts and equipment to make field repairs. I carry some solder and a propane powered soldering iron. This has saved the day on several disasters.

I am sure that you can add to my list. The intention of this article is to give you suggestions and make you think of things you will need when you respond to an incident. You can be called on to supply mutual aid communications for other agencies.

Be flexible. To borrow a concept from the Boy Scouts, "Be Prepared."

(About the author: Les Ballinger, WA6EQQ, is a veteran emergency services responder in planning, setting up, and operating temporary communications in the field for emergency services, forestry, the Red Cross and other agencies. He is a recognized expert in field response and all facets of Amateur Radio communications. He is employed by the California Department of Transportation and is the State OES HQ Auxiliary Radio Services station manager.)

Some Notes on the History of the TRW ARC Swapmeet

by Jim McWilliams W6RTG

During the early 1970's I became aware of a Radio Amateur swapmeet that was held once a month in the Oceanside, California area. I found this swapmeet to be a great place for those interested in amateur radio and related electronic equipment to gather and buy and sell no-longer needed electronic gear. In addition, it seemed to be a great social gathering of those interested in amateur radio. It occurred to me that although the Los Angeles area had a high number of radio amateurs - there was no swap meet devoted to radio amateur related equipment.

Consequently, during early 1975, I met with Frank Cartier, WA6RAY, who was the President of the TRW amateur radio club and suggested that we start a swap meet for radio amateurs and their related types of equipment. Frank said, "Let's do it", and asked me to get it started. AND so it began.

One does not just declare a swapmeet and have everyone interested show up, the initial effort consisted of posting notices on every appropriate bulletin board that I was aware of in the Los Angeles area. This effort was supplemented with a series of QSO's and QST's on the 2 meter band. The first TRW ARC swapmeet was then held on 10 May 1975 in the Building "S" parking lot.

The first swapmeet did not generate a huge gathering, about 45 or 50 people showed up including Frank Cartier (and family), Bill Dews, Bill Ivey, Mas Fujimoto (and son), and our auctioneer (extraordinaire) Paul Weisz.

These swapmeets continued at three month intervals and moved to the present location during 1976. A bulletin board flyer for the first meet in this new location is attached. About this time, Bill Schrecengost KE6LB, indicated his interest in the swapmeet and I was glad to have him join me as my assistant swapmeet manager.

I must admit, that having started the swapmeet, I thought going to the swapmeet was more fun than managing it. Consequently, when Bill "Schrec" showed great promise as a swapmeet manager, I asked Bill if he would like to be the Swapmeet Manager and he accepted. Bill worked very hard and spent a lot of time managing the swapmeet during these formative years. Bill served for five years as the swapmeet manager and should be given credit for making the meet the success that it is today.

After these five years, I was prevailed on to pick up Bill's job until we could get a suitable replacement for Bill. Then, we were fortunate enough to get Frank Cartier to accept the job in 1985. Frank has been doing an excellent job ever since - and I still enjoy going to the swapmeet.



TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



SWAP MEET AND AUCTION

8 MAY 1976

9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

FEATURING:

- RADIO AMATEUR EQUIPMENT
- TEST EQUIPMENT
- HI-FI EQUIPMENT
- MISCELLANEOUS ELECTRONIC COMPONENTS



LOCATION:

TRW PARKING LOT
NEAR BUILDING R6
AT AVIATION AND
MARINE AVE

BUYERS ADMITTANCE FREE

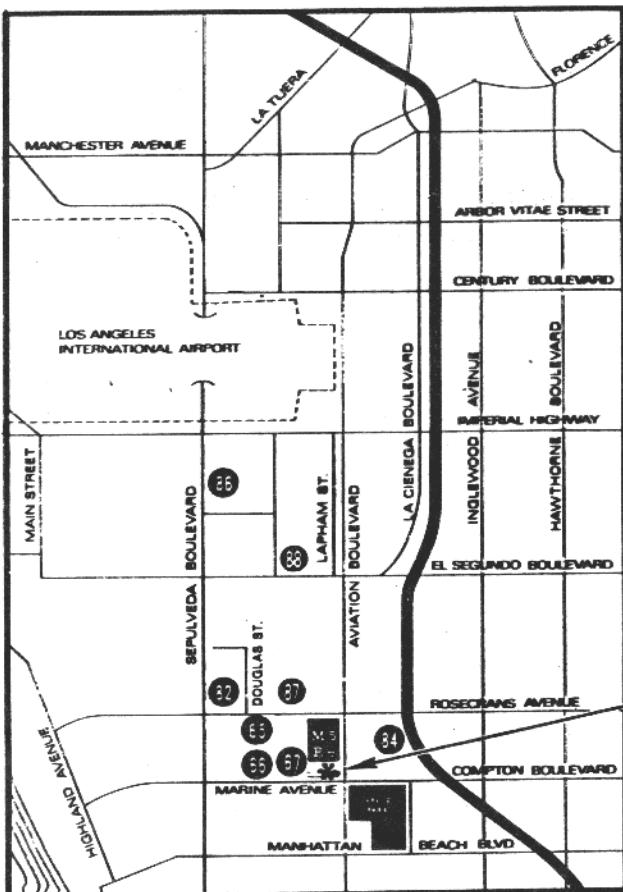
SET-UP/CAR SPACE 50¢

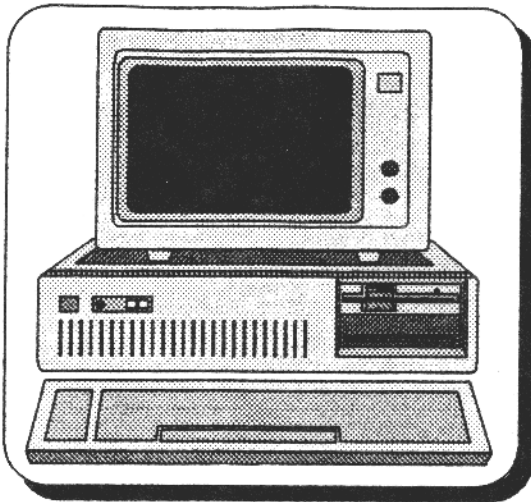
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

FRANK CARTIER
535-1188

BILL DEWS
535-1410

JIM McWILLIAMS
535-1186





BBS NEWSLINE

BY Dave Hassall , Sysop, W6TRW BBS

Phone (310) 812-4970

300 - 14,400 BPS 8, N, 1 stop bit

For those of you who have never used a WILDCAT! BBS downloading a file from the file section can be very intimidating. I will try to give

you an easy method to find and download a file from this new BBS. First, some basics. The BBS is really divided into two sections, a Message Area and a File Area. From the Main Menu, which is the first menu that you run into after you log on to the BBS you can go to the message section by typing a (M) or the File section by typing a (F).

Once you are in the File section Menu you will see a list of menu items displayed on your screen. To find a file to download you use the (L) list option on the menu and the next thing you will see is a question about what file area from #1 to #12 you wish to look at or whether you want to list the File areas, or whether you want to see All the files. If you notice that each of these options have a part that is highlighted or a different color.

You use the first letter or the # of the file area to select the section that you want to use. For instance, File area #12 is the New Users File Area. It contains many files that are very useful to new users, such as, Communications programs like Telix, Virus Scanners, Compression files, and other such programs. By selecting #12 when asked for the area you wish to look at, you can then list only the files in that area. When you get to the listing each page has about 10 files on it. To select the files you wish to download, use the (M) mark option from the menu across the bottom of the screen. After entering a (M) and hitting (Enter) on your keyboard, you will be asked for the # or ###'s of the files you want to mark on this page. Type the number of the file that you would like to mark for downloading and hit (Enter). The screen will refresh and when it does you will see an(*) beside each of the file numbers on that page that you marked for downloading. When you have completed marking each of the files you wish to download, use the (D) option from the menu at the bottom of the listing. You will see a listing of all the files you marked from the various pages that you searched through for files to download. Depending on what you selected as your download protocol when you first logged into the BBS, the downloading protocol will be that protocol. (If you want to change your default protocol - go to the main menu and use the (Y) menu item to select Your Settings. By following the menu prompts you can adjust your settings to

reflect how you want the BBS to recognize you and your preferences.) For the Sake of simplicity, let's say your default was Zmodem. When you get through the rest of the questions that the BBS asks you, you will see an Information Block flash on the screen and the file will start transferring. (In Zmodem, It is mostly automatic.) In the other Modes such as, Ymodem or Xmodem there may be manual intervention between you and the communications software that you are using in your computer. (Telix is a very good communications program and is available on this BBS for download and it supports most of the really nice automatic mode processing that WILDCAT! performs. When the file has completed downloading, your computer will BEEP! and you have now accomplished your first file transfer.

Do not be concerned about hurting the BBS. It is almost bullet proof. If you become lost or the system locks up - Hang Up! Wait a minute or two and try again. It may take a few tries, but you will get the hang of it and then you will have access to a tremendous amount of valuable data and files that were not there because you couldn't download them.

Your Sysop is a very Tolerant person and is not easily ruffled by minor breaches of etiquette. So experiment a little! Make a few mistakes! If you have a great joke to share - add it to the ones in the Good Laugh section. Even your Tolerant Sysop enjoys a good joke. If there is something that I have left out or something that you didn't understand, Please leave me an E-Mail Message in the message area, or you can use the (C) comment section on the Main menu. These are great ways to talk to the Sysop.

de WA5DJJ.....

Repeater News and Info.

by Chris Wachs WA2KDL

I would like to thank RAY ENRIQUEZ KD6IGI, DAVE LEE WA6MPF, and RICH SAUER N6CIZ for there help on Sunday October 17. 100 feet of low loss flexible hard-line was installed between the repeater and the antenna. The new cable has improved sensitivity because there is less loss between the antenna and the repeater. Thanks to all who helped!

The TRW repeater is not the only repeater in Southern California on 145.32 . The San Diego repeater to the south also operates on 145.32. The users of the TRW repeater can at times be line of sight with San Diego which has a voting receiver near the ocean. To be good neighbors with the San Diego repeater please use low power when using the TRW repeater. Five to Ten watts should be plenty to operate the TRW repeater in the South Bay.

I would also like to thank Stan Johnson W6EKK who was net control for the STS-58 Shuttle SAREX net on the repeater during the last shuttle mission. We had checkins from all over Southern California. Many new Hams were on the air learning about SAREX. Stan spent 30 to 40 minutes each night helping all lean about SAREX and when to listen for the Shuttle as it went over LA.