CROSSTALK

News Bulletin of the TRW Amateur Radio Club

Volume 96 Number 4 May 1996

Emergency Communications Team News

Rich Sauer, N6CIZ

The TRW Amateur Radio Club Emergency Communications Team (ECT) is as busy as ever. The Team now has 35 members who support TRW Security and provide a backup communications systems for the company and the community at large.

Here's a rundown of what's been happening recently:

On Saturday, March 16th, the Team was asked to support the annual Manhattan Beach Little League Parade. This is a fun event where Little Leaguers and their parents parade through the city to celebrate Little League opening day. The downside is that many major streets need to be closed and traffic re-routed. City budget constraints meant that only one police officer was assigned to coordinate the parade! This is where the volunteers come in to make the whole thing possible.

Using their training in traffic control and communications, ECT members and members of the L.A. County Disaster Communications Service (DCS) pulled together to help the event come off without a hitch. Thankfully the city had a large quantity of barricades and traffic cones! We even used the ECT van with it's flashing lights to block one intersection. Thanks to all the ECT members who participated!

The End of One Era, the Beginning of Another

The parade will also go down as the last time our old ECT van was used for an event. After fighting mechanical problems for quite some time, it was decided to retire the van and concentrate our efforts on building the new communications vehicle. On Saturday, March 23rd, a work party descended on it and stripped out radios, antennas, batteries, wire, cable, and lights.

It's sad to see the old van go. We've used it on numerous occasions around TRW, at every swap meet, had it on display next to the Queen Mary in Long Beach and driven it to the far end of the Manhattan Beach Pier for the old "Bob and Ray Show" Thursday Night Net! It's put in duty at Field Day, the Torrance Air Show, the

Manhattan Beach Old Town Fair, and numerous callouts, junkets, and displays around the South Bay. Now, it's time to retire it and get on to Bigger and Better!

The new Emergency Communications Vehicle (ECV) is being fitted with an interior, even as you read this! Where we had two (cramped) radio positions in the old van, the ECV will have five. Two will be dedicated to VHF/UHF communications, one to HF, one to Packet and ATV, and one will be a Public Service position with radios to communicate with TRW Security and local law enforcement and fire agencies. Add to that a portable repeater, tons of storage cabinets, an extendible antenna mast, flashing emergency lights, and an on-board generator system to power everything. We will be prepared for just about any emergency thrown at us.

We're shooting for Field Day to be the official "First Use" for the new van. There's a TON of work to be done on it, and ECT volunteers will be doing it all in their spare time.

Who Ya Gonna Call?

If you'd like to help out, give me a call and join us for the next Emergency Communications Team meeting. And don't forget: everyone is invited to check in to the ECT's Wednesday net at noon on the W6TRW 2-meter repeater.

TRW Amateur Radio Club
Executive Board Meeting
2 April 1996

Attendees: Jan Parker, Rich Sauer, Greg Martens, Pat Anderson, Calvin Hashi, Bob Briggs

- Bob called the meeting to order. Bob will take an action to call the person that had the complaint at the swap meet. Bob said that he does not like the words "deeply saddens" on the TRW ARC web page.

- Pat Anderson announced that the club Web page address is http://www.csz.com/w6trw. He also said that web page still needs info re club history and info from Chris W. The autopatch is still doing fine.

- Minutes from last months meeting approved.

- Jan would like the swap meet manager to investigate how much money the rainbow girls are supposed to pay us. There is an outstanding check made out to Doug Tice.

- Rich handled the swap meet report. Club took in $3145.00 at the swapper. Four thefts reported. M.B.P.D. took over two parking lots for driving training. There was a complaint from a TRW employee regarding the swap meet parking. IT was noted that more people may be needed to work the swap meet. A motion was brought forth to increase the space rent at the swapper. The rent will go up $5.00 (five dollars) on all spaces (note: the "A" space will now be the same as the "regular" space so all prices will be in increments of five). Calvin brought the motion and Rich did the second. This will go into effect for the July swap meet. Anyone that has paid (prior to this meeting) for spaces after July will be exempted until the next time they renew. Effective at the April swap meet a sign will be posted at the table and entrance and flyers will be given out to the sellers. Spaces sold at the April swap meet will reflect the new price change for any spaces reserved in or after July 1996. **NOTE: THIS MOTION WILL GO INTO EFFECT ONLY WHEN AGREED BY THE SWAP MEET MANAGER (FRANK). FRANK WILL QUICKMAIL HIS DECISION TO ALL BOARD MEMBERS.**

- Greg reported that he is ready for the next club meeting.

- Chris was not able to attend the meeting but did request additional memory for the S shack computer. Rich brought forth a motion to spend $650.00 for more memory and a CPU upgrade. Jan did the second. All was in favor with Calvin descending and the motion passed.

- We are still in search of a field day chairman and Bob will make some calls to try and find one.

- Rich gave the ECT report. The old van was stripped and was given back to TRW. The new van is at Greg's father-in-laws but has not been worked' on much due to personal conflicts. Rich would like to sell some of the old club assets at the swap meet and use the money for the ECT. Club members will have the first chance to buy the items. It was requested that Rich make a list of the items and bring it to the next board meeting. The cell phone is not working.

- Calvin would like more representation at the board meeting. He feels that too many people have multiple staff positions. There was some confusion regarding the SEA policy for non TRW members and Pat will call Tom Burke to clear up this issue.

For Sale: Yaesu FT-1000D, IRC slow tuning board, 600 Hz filter in sub-Rcvr, SP-5 matching speaker. $2750. Bill, KJ6GR (310) 542-9899 after 6 pm.

For Sale: RF Concepts 70 cm. 10/100 watt power amplifier with preamp. $250. Bill, KJ6GR (310) 542-9899 after 6 pm.

PACKET CHATTER by Ellen, N6XJM

Last month I talked about how to get CONNECTED to the TRW Packet Radio/Internet Gateway (146.745 -600; w6trw-3) and it's World Wide Conference Bridge (WWCB) W6TRW-6. This month I'd like to:

1. Provide additional paths to the WWCB
2. Talk about commands to use, once connected to the bridge.

1. PATH's TO THE WORLD WIDE CONFERENCE BRIDGE (WWCB)

FREQ	OFF SET	TYPE	CALL	SATION LOCATION
145.360	-600	C WWCB	KK6YO-3	Torrance
145.010	N/A	C WWCB	AA2RB-3	Palos Verdes
145.090	N/A	C QUAKER	N6ROE-3	Whittier
431.380	N/A	C WWCB	KK6YO-3	Torrance

2. ONCE YOU ARE CONNECTED TO THE BRIDGE, type....

/w q This command provides a list of callsigns currently on the bridge and the channel numbers they are on.

One way to get into a conversation is to pick a call that's on YOUR channel and send a message. Precede msg with the callsign, to alert ham you are addressing him/her. (i.e. k6isn Good evening. Name here is Ellen, QTH is Hermosa Beach. How are you tonight?) As soon as you receive a reply, you are in the mids of a full-fledged, real time packet conversation....just type away and have fun. (NOTE: Don't type in capital letters or someone may tell you to stop screaming).

/p Sets personal info. I.E. **/p Ellen, Hermosa Beach, CA**

Now that you are a seasoned user, the next time you connect to the bridge, set your personal information as indicated above. You only need to do this once. The system will remember after that. This information becomes available to anyone typing the following command:

/w This command provides a more detailed listing then the **/w q** command above.

It lists: callsigns currently on the bridge, place and time of entry into the WWCB, channel number and personal information set with the **/p** command above. WORD OF CAUTION. On a busy conference bridge, the **/w** command often creates a disconnect from the bridge. It may be wise to use the **/w q** command first.

/b BYE (Leave conference bridge)

FUTURE PACKET CHATTER

- Send email from the TRW Packet Radio/Internet Gateway (or any other Gateway such as JPL)
- More World Wide Conference Bridge (WWCB) commands
- Packet Voice Net Info & Sunday night Packet Net
- Ask permission to use other systems such as JPL Gateway

73....hope to see you on the WWCB !!!!!!!!!!!

PACKET CHATTER by Ellen, N6XJM

Last two issues I talked about how to:
- Connect to TRW Packet Radio/Internet Gateway and WWCB
- Connect to OTHER systems linked to the WWCB and how to maneuver around

In his issue I'd like to:
1. Tell you how to send EMAIL from a PACKET/Internet Gateway
2. Bore you with a few more WWCB commands
3. Mention the SCDCC packet/voice net

1. Last year TRW Amateur Radio Club in Redondo Beach set up a Packet/Internet Gateway on 145.745 -600. You can access this system with any old packet AX.25 software and send packets not only to a Packet BBS but also EMAIL to any internet address such as CompuServe, America On-line etc. Here's how you do it

C W6TRW-3 Connects to the TRW system. At the A), B), C) etc. prompts, send email the same way you'd send a packet but use the email address instead of the packet address....IE:

SP 76053.1744@compuserve.com or
sp ellen.tessitore@trw.com (MY email address at work)

Proceed exactly as though you are sending a packet. **THAT'S IT!!** It's THAT easy.

If the recipient of your email responds with the REPLY cmd, next time you connect to W6TRW-3, the system will tell you that you have a message and the msg #. Read it by using standard BBS commands such as: R [msg #] (I.E. **R 1** or **LM, RM** etc.) or type **HELP** or **?** for more info.

2. Here are a few more WWCB commands:

/ch Allows you to change channels. I.E. **/ch 6** puts you on channel 6

/m Sends a **private** message and/or a msg to a station on a channel other than your own. (I.E. **/m kd6tbe** hi Kip...got new sox for xmas).
If you are the recipient of a private msg, the senders call sign is preceded and followed by *. That means nobody else on the bridge but you can read the message.

/help Print help information.

3. SCDCC PACKET/VOICE NET

A packet/voice net is held every Mon night, 8:00 pm on 145.300 -600, no PL The purpose of the net is to provide packet users an arena for packet questions and answers. Please check in next Monday even if you don't have a question. They will be happy to hear from you.

The SCDCC (Southern California Digital Communication Council) holds meetings once a month. Ask the Monday night sysop for more info.

73 de Ellen

GORDON WEST
WB6NOA

2414 COLLEGE DRIVE (at Nassau)
COSTA MESA, CALIFORNIA 92626
Call (714) 549-5000 Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
24 HR. FAX (714) 434-0666

HELP CREATE THE NEW NOVICE/TECHNICIAN EXAM QUESTIONS

by Gordon West

The no-code Technician class license is overwhelmingly the most popular way to start out in amateur radio. The Novice/Technician class written examination is now one of the most important entry-level tests there is to qualify the new no-code operators. If ever you wanted to help shape the future of amateur radio, NOW IS THE TIME!

What present Novice and Technician examination questions do you feel are unnecessary to the beginner applicant? What present Novice and Technician class written questions do you feel are just downright silly, or absolutely wrong? You can let the Question Pool Committee know by simply taking an old Novice/Technician test preparation book and putting a big red "X" over those questions that you feel need to be eliminated from the Novice/Technician no-code test.

So what questions would you like to see on the Novice and the Technician written exam? Simply write a short question down and provide three wrong answers and one correct answer for the multiple-choice exam. Put a circle around the correct answer, and send it in for possible inclusion in the upcoming tests.

June 30th of this year is the latest date that new question or suggested question throw-outs can be considered. New questions may center on the following topics, designated for either Novice or Technician class written element:

- FCC Rules
- Operating Procedures
- Radiowave Propagation
- Amateur Radio Practices
- Electrical Principles
- Circuit Components
- Practical Circuits
- Signals & Emissions
- Antennas & Feedlines

The Question Pool Committee will review all submissions when

presented on the Question Pool Committee form, "Recommended Change to the Amateur Radio Question Pool", included with this article. However, I am happy to fill out this form for you based on your submission of questions or suggested question eliminations regardless of how I receive the input material. Just get it to us!

You may submit your proposed questions to the following Question Pool Committee members:

Ray Adams, N4BAQ
5833 Clinton Highway, Suite 203
Knoxville, TN 37912

Fred Maia, W5YI
PO Box 565101
Dallas, TX 75356

Scotty Neustadter, N4PYD
9710 Dortmund Blvd.
Huntsville, AL 35803

If you wish to simply jot down your question on a scrap of paper, or send me a list of questions you want to see changed or deleted, mail everything to Gordon West, WB6NOA, 2414 College Drive, Costa Mesa, California 92626. I will see to it that the Question Pool Committee is made aware of your suggestions.

For a detailed syllabus of Element 2 and Element 3A Novice and Technician class questions, including a breakdown of question groups in greater detail, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Gordon West Radio School, 2414 College Drive, Costa Mesa, California 92626.

June 30, 1996, is the cutoff date for the consideration of new or deleted Novice and Technician class questions. The finalized question pool will be put into public domain on ASCII format on December 1, 1996. Printed copies will be available January 1, 1997--next year. The new question pools will be the basis for all Novice and Technician class tests administered on or after July 1, NEXT year, 1997. On this July 1, 1996, the only question pool undergoing a relatively minor revision is the Extra class Element 4B question pool.

If you're not satisfied with how Novice and Technician class operators are being tested, and the subjects they must know to pass the tests, now is the time to make yourself heard.

W6TRW Calendar

May 1996:

Tuesday, May 7	5:30 pm	**Executive Board Meeting** O1/1210 (All Club Members are invited)
Tuesday, May 14	12:00 noon	**Emergency Communications Team Meeting** R3 Emergency Operations Center
Tuesday, May 14	5:30 pm	**Club Meeting** Cathy's Deli, 1828 Manhattan Bch Blvd (next to Tomboy's)
Friday, May 17	12:00 noon	**Technical Chairman's Meeting** Building S Hamshack
Tuesday, May 28	12:00 noon	**Emergency Communications Team Meeting** R3 Emergency Operations Center
Saturday, May 25	7:00 am	**TRW/ARC Swap Meet** Marine and Aviation (Northeast Corner)
Saturday, May 25	12:00 noon	**T-Hunt** Swap Meet Parking Lot - 144.72 MHz

June 1996:

Tuesday, June 4	5:30 pm	**Executive Board Meeting** O1/1210 (All Club Members are invited)
Tuesday, June 11	12:00 noon	**Emergency Communications Team Meeting** R3 Emergency Operations Center
Tuesday, June 11	5:30 pm	**Club Meeting** Cathy's Deli, 1828 Manhattan Bch Blvd (next to Tomboy's)
Friday, June 21	12:00 noon	**Technical Chairman's Meeting** Building S Hamshack
Tuesday, June 25	12:00 noon	**Emergency Communications Team Meeting** R3 Emergency Operations Center
Saturday, June 29	7:00 am	**TRW/ARC Swap Meet** Marine and Aviation (Northeast Corner)
Saturday, June 29	12:00 noon	**T-Hunt** Swap Meet Parking Lot - 144.72 MHz

Reoccurring Events:

Every Monday Night (Except the 1st & Holidays)	7:30 pm	**Disaster Communication Systems (DCS) Net** DCS Members: Check in on 2 Meter Repeater
Every Thursday Night	6:30 pm	**TRW Amateur Radio Club Net** The Bob and ? Show - Check In on 2 Meter Repeater
Every Friday Morning	7:30 am	**TRW Amateur Radio Club Breakfast** Building S Cafeteria - Everyone is invited Talk-in on 2 Meters