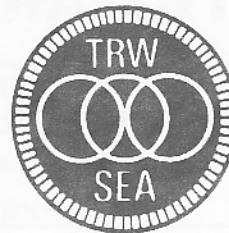




# CROSSTALK

News Bulletin of the TRW Amateur Radio Club



Volume 98 Number 4

April 1998

## W6TRW April Club Meeting

5:30pm, Tuesday, April 14

Round Table Pizza, at Hawthorne and  
Redondo Beach Blvd. (next to Ralph's)

The topic of the April meeting will be VHF weak signal operating, and an overview of the activities of the Western States Weak Signal Society (WSWSS).

This is an Association of VHF, UHF, and Microwave amateur radio operators who enjoy weak signal, long haul DX, Meteor Scatter, Earth - Moon - Earth, Rag Chewing, round table discussions and much more, using SSB and CW modes. We enjoy operating point to point, without repeaters.

Come and learn more about the exciting world of VHF/UHF weak signal working.

The presenter will be KO6SY Malcolm Levy (WSWSS Area Representative). Malcolm was first licensed in 1969 as G8CSU, a British VHF only license. He upgraded to full privileges in 1971 with the license G4ACU. In the late 70's he built his first 2 meter SSB station which he is still using today. Still interested in home brewing, he designs and builds VHF and HF rigs. He has resided in Southern California for the last 13 years and works with a leading electronic Test and Measurement company based in Orange County.

## ECT Van improvements

If you haven't been to a swapmeet recently, you probably didn't hear that the decals finally got placed onto the Van. Many thanks to Ray, KD6IGI, and Rick, our illustrious ECT Coordinator for making this happen. Also, Thanks to the Executive Board for the acquisition of a new alphanumeric scanning receiver, and a weather station that will be installed in the near future!!!!!!!



# TRWARC Monthly Calendar of Events

First Tuesday of each month	5:30 pm	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b> (All Club Members are invited)
Second Tuesday of each month	5:30 pm	<b>Club Meeting</b> <b>Round Table Pizza, (Redondo Bch. &amp; Hawthorne)</b>
Second Tuesday of each month	12:00 noon	<b>Emergency Communications Team Meeting</b> R3 Emergency Operations Center
Last Saturday of each month	7:00 am	<b>TRW/ARC Swap Meet</b> Marine and Aviation (Northeast Corner)
After the Swapmeet	12:00 noon	<b>T-Hunt</b> Swap Meet Parking Lot - 144.72 MHz

## Reoccurring Events:

Every Monday Night (Except the 1st & Holidays)	7:30 pm	<b>Disaster Communication Systems (DCS) Net</b> DCS Members: Check in on 2 Meter Repeater
Every Wednesday	12:00 noon	<b>ECT Net on 2 meter Repeater</b> All Amateurs Welcome
Every Thursday Night (Schedule permitting)	6:30 pm	<b>TRW Amateur Radio Club Net</b> The Bob and ? Show - Check In on 2 Meter Repeater
Every Friday Morning	7:30 am	<b>TRW Amateur Radio Club Breakfast</b> Building S Cafeteria - Everyone is invited Talk-in on 2 Meters

## Other Events

**Computer Fair** (previously The Computer Marketplace Computer Shows) *Hours: 10:00 to 17:00*

**POMONA** \$8 admission

Live Broadcasts: KFI-Jeff Levy "On Computers", KZLA, Y-107FM

April 11 & 12 (Sat. & Sun.)

Fairplex Exposition Complex Exit Highway 10 at Fairplex Drive.

Go north to McKinley Avenue, turn right. Turn left on White Avenue to Gate 14.

**RESEDA** \$3 admission

April 4 (Sat.)

Sherman Square Entertainment Center From the 101 Freeway take the Reseda offramp,

go north to Sherman Way and turn right. Go one block to Canby Street. 18430 Sherman Way.

**BUENA PARK** \$5 admission

April 5 (Sun.)

Sequoia Conference Center Take the Beach Blvd. exit off the 91 Freeway.

Go one block north to 7530 Orangethorpe.

All Shows Open to the Public 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Call for more information (408) 778-5200 or 800-800-5600 Fax# (408) 779-1374

## Other Ham Swap meets:

**Inland Empire ARC** - 2nd Sat. ea. mo. @ A.B. Miller High School, Walnut & Olenander in Fontana

Talk-in 145.480 (-600 pl=77.0hz)

**El Cajon ARC** - 1st Sat. ea. mo. @ Santee Drive-in Theater, Woodside Ave. @ Hwy 67 in Santee

## **447 Repeater Happenings**

**Here is a article I received from Mike Aust - WB6DJI**

### **Next Meeting: April 14th.**

at 7pm in Rancho Palos Verdes

IN COMMUNITY ROOM AT "SHOP AT PALOS VERDES" (OLD COURTYARD) -- OFF SILVER SPUR BETWEEN HAWTHORNE AND CRENSHAW MEETING IS ON FIRST FLOOR MID-WAY BETWEEN SKATING RINK AND OLD MAY COMPANY LOCATION. GO DOWN CORRIDOR THAT HAS SIGNS LEADING TO "COMMUNITY ROOM" AND "REST ROOMS"

The 447 Mhz repeater is at a great site ontop of Rancho Palos Verdes at the residence of Mark Abrahms WA6DPB.

At this site, there are 12 ham repeaters at this site. Mark Abrahms is also a ham and is in the 2-way radio business for ~30 years.

At his house he has a Tower with a Tx antenna, another with a Rx Antenna Mounted on another Pole.

All of the Ham Equipment is converted GE/Motorola Radio's tuned into the Ham Band.

At this site, he has 2meter, 220, 447, and 1.2Ghz repeaters in one room of his house. He has no lo-band or 6 meter gear at his site.

Being the hobbyist he is and his life is ham radio and also started out as a ham and started as a Comm. Tech about 30 years ago. Now he is successful with a 2 way radio business with Radio Mountain top sites across Southern California.

His next door neighbor has hired a lawyer and is fighting Mr. Abrahms in efforts to eliminate his Ham Repeater Site by claiming he is using it for commercial purposes, causes TVI on Channel 2, and claims that radioactive fallout comes from his radio antenna's ,causing reaction of concern to hysteria.

I believe Mr. Abrahms in his good nature, needs Amateur Support. Yesterday, from 7pm - 11:30pm, the City of Rancho Palos Verdes at 29301 Hawthorne Blvd., Hess Park, has a meeting just on this subject for 4.5 hours straight. The council chamber was packed with neighbors screaming at Mr. Abrahms saying his Ham Antenna devalues the neighborhood real-estate value. At one point, a councilman tried to get Mr. Abrahms, that his wife that is suffering for a medical condition where she requires oxygen, is caused by all those ham antenna's with their radioactive fallout.



He has even turned power off to his house and the neighbors have still complained of getting TVI which Mark believes to be power line Zap (snow dots on their screens) .

This City Council were very uneducated about Ham Radio and could not grasp what they were dealing with and were trying to respond by trying to prohibit operation of the repeaters unless they are only used by him.

The city council did not understand FCC rules, licensing concepts, saying a ham radio license can not be used for mobile, since that is commercial, and were trying to act as an authority to regulate his Ham Radio activities.

The city attorney learned that Mr. Abrahms had a commercial receiver that is tied to a phone line at his house to tried to explain that this made his Ham Radio operation site be commercial and that the FCC would need to be contacted to see if he had a commercial license to do this.

Mark, WA6DPB, is not an ARRL Member, but TRW is an ARRL club, as well as other clubs that use his site as a Ham Repeater site.

This is a major event, a Westlink event that this Ham needs your help, hopefully this could get to Westlink, Bill Pasternack and his staff, and can be e-mailed, forwarded on to all ham groups.

If Rancho Palos Verdes can regulate Ham Use, what is next, other cities will cite, hey Rancho Palos Verdes can do it, so can we, regardless of FCC rules.

Can a city tell a Ham he can only operate HF, and not VHF/UHF repeaters, since the antenna's look commercial.

Can TRW (Rich Sauer) contact the ARRL in TRW's behalf to request assistance to protect Ham Radio. City of Rancho Palos Verdes is trying to outlaw ham operation and interpret that only HF is Ham operation, while VHF/UHF is commercial, thus he is not entitled to use his equipment because his Ham Antenna's look similar to commercial antenna's for Repeaters. How about ARRL tapes sent to the city council to educate them what Ham Radio is about, and why it is important to the community for hams as a public service to their communities.

This is a bunch of B.S. for a City to regulate, interpret and make their own rules that conflict with FCC rules.

The city council let out at 11:45pm last night 3-10-98, and this issue will be reopened at their next 7pm meeting April 14th at the City Council Open Hearing at Hess Park

in Rancho Palos Verdes.

Can the hams help out, does anyone know of Ham Lawyers that can help Mark Abrahms fight City Hall, any proactive people have any political contacts to get the FCC to come down on Rancho P.V. City Council who thinks they have the authority to overrule ham operation and FCC rules.

This is not a joke, Ham Radio in Rancho Palos Verdes is going to be extinct. One council member said, I quote, isn't ham radio dying, can you guys just use new technology to talk to each other, like the Internet!!

With thinking like this, ham radio is in for big trouble!! I wish flyers were handed out at the next TRW swapmeet to have every ham pack that stupid city council meeting!!!!!!!!!!

I certainly will be there, if we get 1000's to show up to a swap meet, how about 100's at the council chambers this April 14th, at 7pm in Rancho Palos Verdes, we got to show them that Ham Radio is not dying!!!

Every Repeater council in Southern California needs to be notified, this is our hobby and the city believes it is the FCC !!!

This is a real sounding call hear, this is real and Mark, the Local Ham clubs need to Aid Mark WA6DPB, even it's just to show up!!!! I will be there at 7 pm April 14, 1998. Let's make it a major ham event !!!!

If you come bring your HT, wear your Ham Radio Badges, etc to be identified that, there a lot of you hams out there, it is not dying.

I am ready to fight city hall, let's show them what ham radio is all about!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Mike  
WB6DJI

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## **SOME MAJOR CHANGES FOR FIELD DAY!**

(via The ARRL Letter, Volume 17, Number 12 (March 20, 1998)

Some new rules go into effect this year for Field Day. The popular summertime operating event takes place each year on the fourth full weekend in June. This year, it will be June 27-28.

A major change this year is the elimination of bonus-point credit for packet and VHF/UHF contacts. Field Day stations no longer will be allowed to count contacts via digipeaters, packet nodes, or similar arrangements. Class 2A and higher Field Day stations still may operate a "free" transmitter exclusively for VHF or UHF operation (ie, above 50 MHz) without changing their basic entry classification, but not for bonus points. "It's better than bonus points, and groups are likely to spend more time on VHF and UHF because of that," predicted ARRL Membership Services

(SOME MAJOR CHANGES FOR FIELD DAY! Cont.)

Manager Chuck Hutchinson, K8CH. As in the past, crossband and repeater contacts other than via satellite do not count for Field Day credit.

Field Day stations now can earn point credit for digital (ie, non-CW) contacts on each band. The phone, CW, and non-CW digital segments are considered separate "bands" in the Field Day rules. This means, for example, that you now may work the same station for point credit on 40 meters three times: once on SSB, once on CW, and once on RTTY, packet, or one of the TOR modes. SSB contacts count one point, and CW and non-CW digital contacts count 2 points apiece, so adding non-CW digital capability presents a real opportunity to rack up substantial additional points! "We're expecting an interesting year because of the digital modes," Hutchinson said.

The complete, official Field Day rules will appear in the May edition of QST. Basic Field Day rules have remained unchanged for several years now. The new rules undoubtedly will generate a flurry of computerized contest logging program revisions as developers scramble to incorporate the changes into their software.

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## **MIR-APRS TEST GOES OFF WITH A HITCH**

(via The ARRL Letter, Volume 17, Number 12 (March 20, 1998))

A MIREX-sponsored test using the Automatic Packet/Positioning Reporting System (APRS) via the R0MIR digital repeater aboard Mir is being called a success. This despite the fact that it was called on very short notice and some of it ended up taking place in the wee hours of the morning. Even so, when the APRS packets finally were digipeated via R0MIR aboard Mir, the special Mir-APRS Internet page began plotting stations as the space station moved from west to east across the US.

The "father of APRS," Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, says the main idea was "to show possible methods for improving the visibility of MIREX communications to students and schools." As it turned out, the test began when most schoolchildren were not yet awake.

Initially, the Mir-APRS test was set to happen on two orbits on March 10, from 1455 UTC to 1651 UTC. As it turned out, the Mir packet system went off the air on these two orbits, so the test was extended to include the next few orbits over the US. A main reason for holding the test during orbits that covered the continental US was the large number of APRS ground stations that could be available to fully load the system. The delay meant the next orbits over the US occurred during the early morning hours. "As a result, the test was extended for a full five orbits to allow testers to choose a pass and still get some sleep," reports Bruninga, noting that the five passes--from 0819 UTC through 1614 UTC on March 11--covered 70% of the world's ham population.

To make Mir appear to move on all ground station maps, three special tracking-uplink stations beamed the moving position of Mir via the R0MIR digipeater. One in California identified as Mir-6, one in Michigan used Mir-8, and one in Maryland used Mir-3, to match their call districts.

Bruninga said that to inject the Mir downlink into the Internet, a few of the normal APRS I-Gates tuned their radios from the normal APRS frequency to the Mir downlink frequency. "These Mir packets were intermingled with the normal stream of APRS packets into the APRServe Internet system," he said. To distinguish these from the usual 1000 to 1200 or more APRS stations on the air, a special Web page was designated to filter out only the APRS-Mir packets and display them separately. "During the day of the event, there were over 11,000 hits on the server system representing a peak load of 150 simultaneous users and as many as 1000 users," he said.

Steve Dimse, K4HG, was one of those participating in the experiment. "It looked especially cool on the APRS page," he reports. "It was blank. Then suddenly all these stations started popping up."



Bruninga said the test was completely successful in meeting all of the original objectives. "The short notice and early morning hours helped to reduce the number of participants to a nominal 100 stations." He said that number was "representative of the nominal number of schools that could be authorized to simultaneously participate in future such Mir experiments."

James French, KD4DLA, was all set to take the Mir-APRS experiment to a local school for a demonstration, as originally suggested by MIREX. "I did have the station torn apart and packed away into the truck and took it to a elementary school this morning," he reported the day of the test. "I had fun showing everything off to 30+ sixth graders." Clay says he spent four hours showing and demonstrating APRS and ham radio, "plus a lot of discussion about Mir and the space Shuttle." He says he plans on doing it again, even without another "experiment."

Some schools in Hawaii and in the Eastern US still were able to check in via R0MIR. The list included Pearl City High School, WH6CVT, in Hawaii, the US Naval Academy Amateur Radio Club, W3ADO, in Annapolis, Maryland, Halifax County High School in Virginia (using NM4V), and schools in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New Hampshire.--thanks to Dave Larsen, N6CO; Bob Bruninga, WB4APR; James French, KD4DLA; and AMSAT News Service

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## **DOVE-OSCAR 17 crash:**

(via The ARRL Letter, Volume 17, Number 12 (March 20, 1998))

DOVE-OSCAR-17 has stopped transmitting on 2 meters and, as of March 12, control op Jim White, WD0E, has been unable to reset the satellite. White says he expects the S-band transmitter operation to be intermittent as he works with the ROM software and loader. DO-17 first experienced apparent onboard computer problems two years ago.--thanks to Jim White, WD0E, and SpaceNews

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## **REACT International moves HQ:**

(via The ARRL Letter, Volume 17, Number 12 (March 20, 1998))

REACT International has relocated from Wichita, Kansas, to the Washington, DC, area. The new address is REACT International Inc, 5210 Auth Rd, Suite 403, Suitland, MD 20746-4394; tel 301-316-2900; fax 301-316-2903; e-mail [react@reactintl.org](mailto:react@reactintl.org); <http://www.reactintl.org>. For now, the office is being staffed by local REACT volunteers.

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## **YOUNGEST HAMS IN THE US?**

(via The ARRL Letter, Volume 17, Number 12 (March 20, 1998))

Samuel Lewis, KB9RYP, and Sarah Bruno, KB9SEG, both Gary, Indiana, and both just four years old. Samuel, who turns five on June 1, just upgraded to Tech Plus; Sarah, who won't be five until September 8, got her Novice ticket February 25.

(pictured with VE John Bowman, KG9B)

