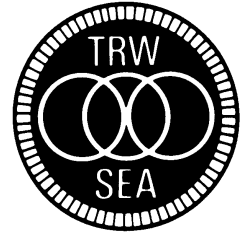




CROSSTALK

News Bulletin of the TRW Amateur Radio Club



Volume 98 Number 5

May 1998

Editor's Corner:

A call for help.....

As some of you know, I have been working on the Assembly, Integration, and Test of the KOMPSAT Satellite for the past 2 years. On April 19th, the 1,000 lb. Spacecraft boarded a 747-400 at LAX enroute to Taejon Korea to the customer's newly constructed spacecraft facility. This means that I will be supporting activities there for a period of time starting sometime in May thru July and therefore, there may be an interruption in the publication of the Crosstalk. If there is anyone out there who would like to help "publish" the newsletter in my absence, which should only be no longer than two months, please feel free to contact me at my extension on the back page.

Another call for help....

Joe Zboril WB2DRH asked to include the following message. Joe writes:

An HF friend of mine, who is retired and whose husband passed away last year, is looking for help in installing an HF rig in the motor home she recently purchased. She has the rig, marine batteries, screwdriver antenna, control box, etc., but she needs help with the installation, wiring, etc.. Patty expects to PAY (\$\$\$) for the service.

This is beyond my capability, by the way. It took me an entire day just to install a TS-50 under the dash and mount an antenna in the back of my Jeep.

If you can help, please send Patty an email message at:
WB6DRG@aol.com.

May Club Meeting will Kick Off Field Day (by Rich Sauer N6CIZ)

Field Day will be the subject of the TRW Radio Club's May meeting on Tuesday, May 12th. At this meeting, we'll be discussing our overall goals ("Have fun while crushing the competition!") and how we're going to get there from here. Remember, Field Day weekend is June 27th and 28th - so we don't have much time left.

Everyone interested in participating in Field Day should plan on attending. As always, we'll need Band Captains, operators, people for set-up and tear-down, cooks, and people to sit around directing others while gulping 807's far into the night.

If any of this sounds interesting to you, join us at Round Table Pizza on Redondo Beach Blvd., just east of Hawthorne, Tuesday, May 12th at 5:30 PM. And don't forget - as always - the club provides the food and door prizes! See ya at the next meeting!!!

TRWARC Monthly Calendar of Events

First Tuesday of each month	5:30 pm	Executive Board Meeting (All Club Members are invited)
Second Tuesday of each month	5:30 pm	Club Meeting Round Table Pizza, (Redondo Bch. & Hawthorne)
Second Tuesday of each month	12:00 noon	Emergency Communications Team Meeting R3 Emergency Operations Center
Last Saturday of each month	7:00 am	TRW/ARC Swap Meet Marine and Aviation (Northeast Corner)
After the Swapmeet	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 Wednesday	12:00 noon	ECT Net on 2 meter Repeater All Amateurs Welcome
Every Thursday Night (Schedule permitting)	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

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

May 9 & 10 (Sat. & Sun.)

May 30 & 31 (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

May 2 (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

May 3 (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)

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

From The Office of the President...

Rich Sauer, N6CIZ, President, TRW Amateur Radio Club

I'm sure that you saw the photos of the club's Emergency Communication van in the last issue of *Crosstalk*. Thanks go to Ray Enriquez, KD6IGI, for getting the graphics and applying them. They look great! Rick Ervin, KD6OZD, and his Emergency Communications Team have done a fantastic job so far - and there's more to come. We plan to add a foldover crankup tower before Field Day. I encourage all of our members to see the van in person at the next swap meet. Stop by and check out, not only the exterior, but the interior as well. And, if you'd like to help, give Rick a call and volunteer to join the team.

Chuck Northcutt, W7SRZ, from Icom in Washington called me earlier this month and asked if Icom could drive down a custom motorhome containing a display of all their amateur radios. I thought that this would be a good idea. Icom gets a lot of (almost free) publicity and the local hams get to fondle the latest Icom goodies. Once word gets around about this, I expect I might be getting phone calls from Kenwood, Yeasu, ADI, and other manufacturers. If they do contact the club, we'll give them equal time.

This got me thinking. What other group or organization would benefit from a display at our swap meet? And how would their display benefit the ham radio community? Any ideas? I think it would neat to have a different display every month. If you know of anyone that might be interested in this, let me know.

You might want to mark Sunday, August 16th down on your calendar. The clubs in the area have tentatively set that date for an all-aerospace ham club picnic. It's the idea of Mike Worshum, WB6K, of the Aerospace Corp. Amateur Radio Club. So far, Hughes/Raytheon, TRW, and Xerox joined up with Aerospace. It looks like it's going to be at the Chevron Employee's Park in El Segundo. More info will be forthcoming as the date gets closer. But plan to come out with your family for a fun day at the park!

The Internet is full of useful information. For example, during the past week I've learned:

- The longest recorded flight of a chicken is 13 seconds.
- The term "the whole 9 yards" came from WWII fighter pilots in the Pacific. When arming their airplanes on the ground, the .50 caliber machine gun ammo belts measured exactly 27 feet, before being loaded into the fuselage. If the pilots fired all their ammo at a target, it got "the whole 9 yards."
- The first toilet ever seen on television was on "Leave It To Beaver."
- When Heinz ketchup leaves the bottle, it travels at a rate of 25 miles per year.
- The interstate highway system requires that one mile in every five must be straight. These straight sections are useable as airstrips in times of war or other emergencies.
- $111,111,111 \times 111,111,111 = 12,345,678,987,654,321$
- The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrightable.
- The cruise liner, Queen Elizabeth II, moves only six inches for every gallon of diesel that it burns.

And what did you do with *your* spare time last week?

Well, if you've got time on your hands like I do... I'd like to get you to volunteer some of it on the last Saturday morning of the month. We *always* need folks to help run the swap meet each month, and we'll make it worth your while, too. Not only will you get to meet and interact with bizarre and interesting people, almost get run down by irate shoppers, and talk on the radio to ~~geeks~~ people, like yourself, scarfing coffee and donuts as they're trying to wake up. But, when the morning is done, you'll get a \$50 gift certificate from Jun's, HRO, or Best Buy (your choice). Really, it's fun (no, really, it *is*) and you'll be helping the club make the money that makes everything we do possible. Call me, anytime!

Congratulations to Nina Whiddon, KN6FL, who has volunteered to be the club's Equipment Manager. We now have a single keeper of the club's toys. Thanks, Nina!

Until next month, 73!

ALABAMA TORNADOES BRING OUT THE BEST IN HAMS

reprinted from the ARRL Letter Volume 17, Number 16

What's being described as the worst weather of its type in many years brought out the best in Alabama's ham radio community this past week. The evening of April 8, 1998, became one for the record books as tornadoes touched down in central Alabama leaving death and destruction in their wake. Upwards of three dozen people died, and many were left homeless. "To say the least, it was a long night," said Alabama Section Manager Scott Johnson, N4YYQ, of Vincent. "The hams here did a great job!"

As the severe weather approached, dozens of hams spent hours on weather-spotting nets assisting the National Weather Service in tracking the storms and relaying reports of damage, hail, injuries and relief operations. David Black, KB4KCH, president of the Alabama Emergency Response Team (ALERT) and an ARRL PIO says hams were on the air well ahead of the actual tornadoes. As the "long night" wore on, mobile and stationary spotters on the West Alabama Emergency Net and the Alabama Emergency Net on HF checked in with weather spots, damage assessments, and injury reports. As needed, hams were assigned to assist with Red Cross shelters opened to house tornado victims. A second repeater was activated to handle damage reports. Lisa Wallace, KF4C, in Tuscaloosa, served as liaison on the unofficial net and assisted in passing traffic from the West Alabama Emergency Net to the Birmingham NWS office and the Tuscaloosa Red Cross.

ALERT members activated the well-equipped ham station at the National Weather Service office in Birmingham. As former Alabama SM and current ARRL Alabama District 8 DEC Tom Moore, KL7Q, explains, the station has VHF/UHF capability to access remote bases for linking to various repeaters--and local SKYWARN nets--in the region. Those attempting to track the weather on the ground gathered information not only via ham radio nets but via an Internet/packet radio gateway developed by hams in Alabama. The digital Internet/packet gateway has an extensive wide-area dedicated RF node network and provides hard copy of severe weather bulletins, exchange of storm and damage reports, and keyboard-to-keyboard contact with supporting SKYWARN groups. Johnson said the keyboard-to-keyboard aspect worked especially well and helped to relieve voice traffic congestion. "The more I watched this system, the more impressed I became with it," he said. He's hoping other Alabama counties can be convinced to adopt a similar approach.

Weather service meteorologist Brian Peters, WD4EPR, said hams often were first with important storm-related information. "They were absolutely great," he said. "We couldn't have done it without them." Peters classified the storm as an F5--the most violent category. Winds were estimated in excess of 200 miles per hour. SKYWARN groups elsewhere in Alabama--including the capital city of Montgomery and in Northern Alabama--also were active as the severe weather ripped the state.

TV meteorologist James Spann, WO4W, had words of praise for his fellow hams. "I thought the watch and warning process was just flawless," he said. Peters, Spann and others agreed that spreading the word quickly on the approaching danger saved many lives, and hams deserve at least part of the credit.

Black says that, at one point, 14 Alabama counties were under tornado warnings at the same time. Tornadoes touched down in the Edgewater community west of Birmingham, damaging homes and other structures. More than 30 people died in Jefferson County alone, and the funnel cloud even threatened downtown Birmingham at one point. A tornado also caused heavy damage in western Tuscaloosa and St Clair counties, where others also lost their lives. Johnson said St Clair County ARES/RACES members assisted emergency services personnel and "probably did 90% of the damage assessment" in the county. Johnson says Mark Oglesby, KF4NLZ, left his home during the storm on a damage assessment foray only to return and find his own home gone in the tornado's wake.

As the extent of the damage became clear, hams in Birmingham were called upon to provide communication backup at Red Cross shelters set up for storm victims. More than a dozen shelters remained open a week later. Johnson says members of the HEART Net were very active in western Jefferson County providing shelter communication and other help as needed. Fortunately, Birmingham's repeaters remained on the air and got heavy emergency use. Hams also helped provide communication

(ALABAMA TORNADES BRING OUT THE BEST IN HAMS cont.)

between responding agencies and volunteers searching for victims and assessing the damage from the violent weather.

Robert "RB" West, W4BAT, who lives near Montgomery and away from the disaster area, lent a hand to the Salvation Army in the storms' wake. "They are swamped with work in Birmingham," he said, "so, I gave a little help here at the Montgomery center." West said he worried about the Montgomery area as the storms approached, and he tuned to a local weather spotters' net. "I had no idea what was going on 100 miles north," he said. In the stricken zones, the Salvation Army has set up feeding centers and has been relying on hams for some logistical support.

Black passed along tales of personal heroism on the part of some amateurs. Some examples: Janice Rock, KF4PVR, Ricky Rock, KF4RRS, and Joel Booth, KF4PWA--all ALERT members and all Emergency Medical Technicians--responded and helped carry a man with a head injury nearly a quarter mile through a thicket of fallen trees to an ambulance. Lacking a stretcher, they used a door they found to carry the victim. After hours on the SKYWARN nets, Bill Heaton, KE4FBH, went around delivering water and food to victims who had not eaten all day. Walter Cooney, KF4AAG, was stationed at the Birmingham-Jefferson County EMA headquarters and became the point man for a heavy load of damage reports passed via 2 meters. Many other hams assumed less epic roles and just pitched in as needed with the work at hand.

Disaster officials called the destruction some of the worst they'd ever seen. Vice President Al Gore and President Clinton also have visited the disaster scene. Hams are expected to remain available to help as the long recovery process continues in Alabama. --thanks to David Black, KB4KCH, Tom Moore, KL7Q, Scott Johnson, N4YYQ, and others

NYC TAXIS ABANDONING 10 METERS

reprinted from the ARRL Letter Volume 17, Number 16

Under heavy pressure from authorities and from increased Amateur Radio activity, taxicab operators in The Big Apple reportedly are moving off 10 meters in droves, says Gerry Smith, W6TER, of New York. Smith heads an ad hoc committee that's been working for more than a year in the Hudson Division to clean up the problem. "Sure, there is a straggler or two, but for the most part, the band is clean," Smith announced recently in a report published in The Hudson Loop newsletter distributed to ARRL Hudson Division hams. Smith says that he was able to work Argentina recently on 28.045 MHz, one of the frequencies most often used by the cabbies.

ARRL Hudson Division Director Frank Fallon, N2FF, says Smith contacted him in early 1997 about starting up the ad hoc group to attack the problem. "I was honestly not too hopeful that we would be able to solve a problem that was almost ten years old," Fallon conceded. "Now, I'm no longer skeptical of what can be accomplished."

Smith credited a crackdown by the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) and the FCC for the exodus and called it "the largest successful enforcement action ever." During mandatory quarterly inspections, the FCC paid a visit and warned drivers with illegal radios that future violations could result in hefty fines. For its part, the TLC mailed an industry notice to taxi owners, fleet shops and repair stations warning the cabbies of possible enforcement action. To help the process, the ad hoc committee purchased frequency counters for the TLC to use in its regular inspections and during airport raids and street inspections and is providing training in their use. The problem is potentially huge. There are some 44,000 New York City cabbies and more than 12,000 cabs. Drivers supply their own radios. Some 1500 or more illegal radios were believed to be in operation.

At its January meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors applauded actions by the FCC and the TLC to crack down on illegal use of the 10-meter band by taxi drivers. The Board urged confiscation of equipment and fines to drivers who fail to comply, as well as removal of illegal transmitters from all cabs.

Smith praised the "tremendous cooperation" between the TLC and the ad hoc committee, which also

(NYC TAXIS ABANDONING 10 METERS cont.)

includes Fallon, RF engineer Marvin Bronstein, K2VHW, and attorney Arnold Katz, W2QK. A ham since 1954, Smith is a telecommunications consultant.

"The days of no fines are over with," he said, citing a pledge by the TLC to enforce its ban on illegal radios by imposing fines of up to \$300. Smith encouraged hams to use 10 meters regularly as a way to deter interlopers and to report CB-type activity on the band.

Fallon hopes the success with the taxi radios indicates the "new mood" at FCC in enforcement. But he says hams will continue to monitor compliance. "The best part of the entire effort is to attend a New York City Amateur Radio club meeting and hear members say, 'Yea! The cabs are gone!' Fallon said.

NASA HAM WINS COVETED "SILVER SNOOPY" AWARD

reprinted from the ARRL Letter Volume 17, Number 16

NASA has awarded Matthew Bordelon, KC5BTL, with its coveted Space Flight Awareness Award--also known as a Silver Snoopy--for his leadership and technical contributions. The award was presented recently at Johnson Space Center where Bordelon works. Bordelon, who's the principal investigator for the Space Amateur Radio EXperiment or SAREX, received the award from astronaut Don Thomas, KC5FVF. The award letter cited Bordelon's "distinguished project leadership and outstanding technical contributions to the highly critical space shuttle orbiter upgrade effort." It also mentioned his efforts in training and mission support for the SAREX program.

Bordelon said the award pin was flown on STS-63. The Space Flight Awareness Award is given to less than 1% of NASA's civil servant and contract workers. Recipients are nominated by NASA management.

Bordelon's wife, Joanna, KC5OCI, won her own Silver Snoopy several years ago for her work at Johnson Space Center. Bordelon, a collector of Snoopy memorabilia, said he's been trying to get his wife to let him display her Snoopy in his display case. "But she said I needed to get my own," he said.

A Note from the Publicity Chairman, Dave Nelson, AB6DU

In the ongoing story of the repeater site which includes the TRW 447.000 repeater, the RPV City Council has taken one step. The following is forwarded thanks to Herb Clarkson, KM6DD.

RPV CITY COUNCIL MEETING - APRIL 7, 1998

The Rancho Palos Verdes City Council passed (4-0) a 45 day moratorium on processing applications for multiple antenna structures. During the discussions it was clarified that it affected only multiple structures and not antennas; single structure requests will be processed.

At the end of 45 days the matter returns to the City Council where it can be dropped, modified, or extended up to a legal maximum of 22 months.

The City Council meeting will be shown again on COX Cable Ch 3 here in Palos Verdes. The showing will be on Friday, April 10, at 7 PM. The amateur radio antenna matter occurs somewhat after two hours of the meeting. A setting of a VCR would be appropriate.

I suggest that all interested hams view it if they have not seen it live or attended the meeting. Regardless of the city of residence, the outcome will affect all of us eventually.

(A Note from the Publicity Chairman, Dave Nelson, AB6DU cont.)

ICOM TO DISPLAY AT TRW SWAP MEET

Chuck Northcutt, W7SRZ, of ICOM-America will display a customized 29-foot motorhome at the next TRW ARC swap meet. The inside of this motorhome is filled with the latest and greatest Icom amateur radio gear, all plugged in and working, including 5 HF stations. They'll be driving this down from their headquarters in Washington state.

Icom will be displaying only - not selling - but they may have some discount coupons as giveaways, in case you want to buy some Icom gear at one of their dealers (Jun's, HRO, etc.).

Please pass the word to those who don't receive this e-mail. Come out to the next TRW ARC swap meet on April 25th and check out all the Icom radios.

Meanwhile, don't forget about the usual Friday AM breakfast opportunity. People usually show up between 0630 and 0830, but there's plenty of room before and after these times if that works better for you.

We received one suggestion recently that TRW install a 1.2 GHz repeater. No further details were suggested, but breakfast meetings are one good place to knock out some concepts for such a project. There were several club members with 1.2 GHz interests, so this might be an opportunity to pull some of your ideas together. For a start, if breakfast doesn't provide a launch pad, I can collect names and phone numbers until the group can self-run on their own. You should also come to the monthly meeting which provides a good meeting place. So, this might kick off a 1.2 GHz subculture if you want to.

That's it this time. See you Friday and Tuesday

73,
Dave, AB6DU

SOLAR UPDATE *reprinted from the ARRL Letter Volume 17, Number 16*

Sun watcher Tad Cook, K7VVV, Seattle, Washington, reports: Solar activity has remained fairly high over the past week. Average sunspot numbers were up almost 30 points, and average solar flux was about that same, at 122. Average solar flux for the previous 90 days went up another two points from 102 to 104, and flux values were above these levels on every day, indicating a good upward trend.

April 9 saw a new high in sunspot numbers for the current cycle, when it reached 192. The sunspot number has not been that high since October 26, 1992 when it was 193.

Solar flux for this weekend, April 17-19 is predicted to be 100, 100 and 95. Through the end of the month look for solar flux to bounce around between 95 and 108, then rise above 110 after May 2, peaking around 125 about a week later. Geomagnetic indices may be unsettled April 17 and also around April 24 and 25.

Higher solar activity has extended long distance 20 meter openings well into the evening. From the author's home in Seattle, New Zealand and Australia are strong on 20 meters even as late as midnight. Look for openings on higher frequencies as well, although on 10 and 12 meters the openings tend to be over north-south paths.

Next week's bulletin will be provided by KH6BZF while the author is on Maui. Listen for us at KH6X until April 25.

Sunspot numbers for April 2 through 8 were 67, 74, 70, 82, 82, 120, and 131, with a mean of 89.4. The 10.7-cm flux was 103.4, 103.6, 110.2, 126.2, 133.4, 135.2, and 140.6, with a mean of 121.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 4, 6, 10, 4, 4, 8, and 8, with a mean of 6.3.

Sunspot numbers for April 9 through 15 were 192, 145, 132, 111, 82, 83, and 79, with a mean of 117.7. The 10.7-cm flux was 139.7, 129.7, 128.3, 117, 114.8, 111.9, and 112.7, with a mean of 122. Estimated planetary A indices were 9, 11, 12, 9, 5, 8, and 4, with a mean of 8.3.

TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Rich Sauer	N6CIZ	R9 / 1869	(310) 813-5869
Vice President	Elizabeth Kunkee	KS4IS	D1 / 1024	(310) 813-0524
Secretary	Pat Anderson	KB6YPI	R7A /1265	(310) 813-6874
Treasurer	Steve Lambert	KF6KIC	R6 / 2529	(310) 812-5019

APPOINTED STAFF

447 Repeater Autopatch	Pat Anderson	KB6YPI	R7A /1265	(310) 813-6874
Activities Chair/Asst Swapmt	Greg Martens	N6RRY	M1 / 1275	(310) 813-4049
Crosstalk Editor	Duane Park	WA6EIK	M2N / 1368B	(310) 813-4219
Emer. Comm. Coordinator	Rick Ervin	KD6OZD	R3 / 1098	(310) 812-2039
Librarian/Asst. Postmaster	Steve Papa	KO6VF	M5 / 1263	(310) 812-5305
Membership Chairperson	Dave Nelson	AB6DU	R8 / 2144	(310) 813-9775
Past President	Bob Briggs	KD6WYQ	M7 / 2439	(310) 813-2622
Publicity Chairperson	Dave Nelson	AB6DU	R8 / 2144	(310) 813-9775
QSL Manager	Bryan DeAro	KN6OW	120 / 1020B	(310) 812-4789
S.P. Packet/Internet Sysop	Chris Wachs	WA2KDL	R7A / 2100	(310) 813-1506
SEA Representative	Nina Whiddon	KN6FL	01 / 1020	(310) 813-9391
Swap Meet Manager	Rich Sauer	N6CIZ	R9 / 1869	(310) 813-5869
Technical Chairperson	John Cheatham	KE6OJM	R9 / 2838	(310) 813-5903
Training Chairperson	Bryan DeAro	KN6OW	120 / 1020B	(310) 812-4789
Trustee of W6TRW License	Elizabeth Kunkee	KS4IS	D1 / 1024	(310) 813-0524

TRW/ARC Hotline (Club Answering Machine)	(310) 813-8569
W6TRW 2 Meter Repeater (Open Repeater)	145.32 (-600) PL 114.8Hz
W6TRW UHF Repeater (Open Repeater / Closed Autopatch)	447.00 (-5 MHz) PL 100 Hz
W6TRW-3 Packet Radio Internet Gateway and BBS (1200 Baud Port)	146.745 (-600)
W6TRW Internet Home Page	http://w6trw.sp.trw.com/w6trw/

TRW Amateur Radio Club
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