



# CROSSTALK

NEWSLETTER OF THE W6TRW  
AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Volume 33 Number 12

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## UNITED WE STAND



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FOR 2002!

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS



Duane Park, WA6EIK Crosstalk Editor/Webmaster

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# W6TRW ARC Monthly Calendar of Events

Third Tuesday of each month	5:30 pm	<b>Executive Board Meeting, R4/2020f</b> (All Club Members are invited)
Second Tuesday of each month	5:30pm	<b>Club Meeting</b> Round Table Pizza, (Redondo Bch. & Hawthorne)
Second Tuesday of each month	12:00 noon	<b>Emergency Communications Team Meeting</b> R3 Emergency Operations Center
Last Saturday of each month (Rain or Shine & Holidays)	7:00 am	<b>W6TRW/ARC Swap Meet</b> Marine and Aviation (Southeast Corner)
<b>During the Swapmeet</b>	10:00 am	<b>VE Sessions in Cafeteria</b>

## Weekly 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	7:00 pm	<b>Space Hams Net on 2 meter Repeater</b> with N6SHI and W6EKK
Every Mon, Wed, Fri	2:00 pm	<b>W6TRW Retirees Net</b> 7185 KHz
Every Friday Morning	7:30 am	<b>W6TRW Amateur Radio Club Breakfast</b> Building S Cafeteria - Everyone is invited Talk-in on 2 Meters

### Other Ham Swap meets:

**El Cajon ARC - 1st Sat. ea. mo.** 6:00 AM @ Santee Drive-in Theater, Woodside Ave. @ Hwy 67 in Santee Talk-in 146.52

**Inland Empire ARC - 2nd Sat. ea. mo.** 7:00 to 11:30 AM @ A.B. Miller High School, Walnut & Oleander in Fontana Talk-in 145.480 (-600 pl=77.0hz)

**CA Microwave Relay Assoc. at CAL POLY - 3rd Sat. ea. mo.** 7-11am in lots F8,F9 and F10 @ CAL Poly Pomona at 3801 West Temple.

**2001 Annual Awards Banquet  
November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2001**



**We had a great Banquet and as always, lots of fun and prizes. The W6TRW ARC would like to thank Hap Holly KC9RP and his wife Stephanie KA9WKD for visiting us from their home in Chicago, Illinois.**



**Pictured are Hap KC9RP, Duane WA6EIK, Bob KD6WYQ and Stephaine KA9WKD**

## **TAKE A NUMBER: FRN NOW MANDATORY** *(Reprinted from The ARRL Letter Vol. 20, No. 48)*

Anyone filing an Amateur Radio application now will be asked to supply a 10-digit FCC Registration Number (FRN) issued by the FCC's new Commission Registration System, or CORES. The requirement applies to FCC applications filed on-line or on paper. The FCC also has supplanted Universal Licensing System (ULS) registration with "CORES/Call Sign" registration, so applicants no longer need to register separately in both systems.

Most, if not all, hams who registered previously with the ULS already have an FRN, although they may not know it yet. The FCC just completed another cross-registration to include those already on the ULS books within the CORES "entity registration" database, and another is scheduled. Amateurs can learn their FRNs by doing a license search on the FCC's Universal Licensing System page <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>>. FRNs also are displayed via the ARRL call sign server on ARRLWeb <<http://www.arrl.org>>.

The FCC has updated its ULS page <<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>> to reflect the new reality and to make the page a bit less confusing. Amateurs not yet registered in CORES who click "CORES/Call Sign" registration will be redirected to the CORES site to complete that process. Amateurs who click "Online Filing" are advised to proceed to CORES to register if they do not already have an FRN, then return to ULS for filing.

Those filing on-line applications now are asked to supply either an FRN or a Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN--a Social Security Number for an individual) plus a password, typically the same for both CORES and ULS.

The process is a bit more daunting for new club station applicants, who now will be asked to register in CORES as business entities. Such applicants also may file with a Club Station Call Sign Administrator using Form NCVEC 605 and simply leave the FRN field blank. ARRL VEC Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, says that in those cases, the Club Station Call Sign Administrator (CSCSA), such as ARRL, will register the club station entity in CORES on the applicant's behalf.

The FCC also now only accept FCC Form 159 (Remittance Advice) dated February 2000 or later, which requires providing an FRN. A copy of the acceptable version is available on the FCC Web site <<http://www.fcc.gov/fees>>. At the left side of the page, click on "Form 159".

For more information about the Commission Registration System or on obtaining an FRN, contact the CORES Help Desk, 877-480-3201, [cores@fcc.gov](mailto:cores@fcc.gov).

## **AO-40 TRANSPONDER HIATUS LOOMS** (Reprinted from The ARRL Letter Vol. 20, No. 47)

Necessary adjustments to AO-40's attitude to compensate for unfavorable sun angles over the next several months will silence the satellite's transponders for a while. Recent reports indicate that AO-40 continues to operate well, providing coverage between many parts of the world.

Command station team member Stacey Mills, W4SM, says, however, that he's puzzled and disappointed by the relatively low numbers of users on AO-40 during the last month or so. "I'm not sure why," he told ARRL this week.

"This is prime time, and we won't have such good conditions much longer until the three-month 'bad angle' cycle passes."

A scheduled attitude shift to compensate for the unfavorable sun angle will leave AO-40's antennas pointing away from Earth until next spring and lead to a transponder shutdown period that could start as soon as late December.

The satellite is currently in a long period during which Earth eclipses the sun near perigee--its point closest to Earth. AO-40 relies on solar panels for its power.

Mills said that testing and development continue on AO-40's three-axis control system, but three-axis control would not be ready in time to avoid the unfavorable solar-angle season. AO-40 will remain in spin mode for at least a few more months, he said.

Mills estimated that ground controllers may need to start shifting the satellite's attitude starting sometime just before Christmas. He didn't expect a favorable sun angle that would again allow pointing AO-40 directly toward Earth (ALON/ALAT 0/0) until mid-April. "It's possible that we can leave the transponders on during the first part of the move and turn them back on slightly before April 15 as we start back toward 0/0," Mills said, "but you can figure that things will be sub-optimal from about Christmas until April 15."

Mills said earlier this month that ground controllers now assume that AO-40's S1 transmitter is beyond recovery. The S1 transmitter quit abruptly in August, but before going down, it had produced excellent results. Ground controllers also have done additional testing on the 2-meter (V band) transmitter, which, Mills conceded, also appears lost.

The next-generation AO-40 satellite marked its first year in orbit during November. The former "Phase 3D" satellite was launched November 16, 2000, aboard an Ariane 5 launcher from the European Spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana. Transponder operation began May 5, 2001. AO-40 is the largest Amateur Radio satellite ever put into space.

The current AO-40 transponder operating schedule and more information are available via the AMSAT Web site <<http://www.amsat.org>>.

## **MARS AGAIN LETTING US TROOPS "PHONE HOME"**

*Reprinted from The ARRL Letter Vol. 20, No. 47*

US Army Special Forces on duty in Islamabad, Pakistan, and in other undisclosed locations have begun keeping in touch with home via Military Affiliate Radio System--MARS--phone patches. Army Military Affiliate Radio System Headquarters here said that MARS members in all three services--Army, Air Force and Navy-Marine Corps--are gearing up for greatly expanded phone-patch operations as the holidays approach.

MARS phone patches make it possible for deployed troops to call their families in the US from areas where commercial connections are not available. Specially trained Amateur Radio operators enrolled in MARS provide the connection between military shortwave stations deployed overseas and the telephone system back home. During the Vietnam War, phone patches were a major source of comfort to families and service members alike. MARS responded again during Operation Desert Storm.

Phone-patching has taken on new life over the last several years as Special Forces members were deployed on peacekeeping missions to Kosovo, Macedonia, West Africa and other areas that lack regular or affordable phone service.

"Most of our contacts lasted less than 15 minutes and were to the wives," said a communications sergeant recently returned from a three-month Special Forces mission in Africa. "All the guys wanted to make sure everything was running smoothly in their absence."

Successfully completing a patch gives a big lift to the MARS amateur in the middle, too. "You never know who you will meet on these [high] frequencies," said one East Coast MARS member, who called it "a privilege" to serve as an Army MARS phone-patch operator.

These days, calls from overseas might originate from battery-powered backpack transceivers with a power of 20 W or less, but hams on the US end of the circuit using ordinary Amateur Radio gear and antennas are usually able to make a workable connection. Even the more sophisticated military base stations can experience problems, however. One overseas communicator reported that turning on a linear amplifier tripped the circuit breakers on the local power system.

Amateurs interested in joining MARS should contact their state MARS director or visit the Army MARS <<http://www.asc.army.mil/mars/>>, the Air Force MARS <<http://public.afca.scott.af.mil/public/mars1.htm>> or the Navy-Marine Corps MARS <<http://navymars.org/>> Web site.--thanks to Army MARS and Bill Sexton, N1IN



## **ARRL approves Afghanistan operation for DXCC:**

*Reprinted from The ARRL Letter Vol. 20, No. 48*

The ARRL DXCC Desk reports it has received acceptable documentation for YA5T in Afghanistan and has approved it for DXCC credit. Afghanistan is among the top 10 "most wanted" countries. The license, which authorizes operation on all bands--including 6 meters--was issued by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan government that's still recognized by the United Nations. YA5T will be operated by Peter Casier, ON6TT, as well as by Mats Persson, SM7PKK, Robert Kasca, S53R, and Mark Demeuleneere, ON4WW. All work for the UN World Food Program. YA5T will be on the air as their schedules permit. The DXCC documentation is for contacts made on or after November 20, 2001. No other call signs or operations have been approved. For more information, visit the YA5T Web site managed by Bruce Richards, WD4NGB <http://www.qsl.net/ya5t/>.

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## **FCC says ULS now compatible with Internet Explorer and Netscape**

*Reprinted from The ARRL Letter Vol. 20, No. 48*

The FCC has announced that its Universal Licensing System (ULS) now can be accessed using either Internet Explorer 5.5-6.0 or Netscape Navigator 4.5, 4.51, 4.61, 4.7 and 4.75. Until now, the ULS has supported only Netscape. The FCC says applicants may now use Internet Explorer to file applications and for all other ULS purposes. For more information, contact ULS [ulscomm@fcc.gov](mailto:ulscomm@fcc.gov); For questions concerning computer access to ULS, CORES registration and FCC Registration Number, TIN/Call Sign issues, or submitting attachments in ULS, contact the Technical Support Hotline, 202-414-1250, available weekdays 7 AM-10 PM, Saturdays, 8 AM-7 PM and Sundays from noon-6 PM Eastern Time. The Public Notice outlining this change is available on the FCC's Web site [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-01-2729A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-01-2729A1.doc).

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## **Sixth District QSL Bureau changing manager, address**

The ARRL Sixth District QSL Bureau has changed management and has a new address. Taking over effective December 1, 2001, are Arlette and Chuck Marshall, KO6IS and KD6WP, ARRL Sixth District QSL Bureau, PO Box 530, Weed, CA 96094-0530. For more information, visit the ARRL Sixth District QSL Bureau Web site <http://www.kqlz.com/qslbureau6.html>.

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## **Starshine 3 is now SO 43**

*Reprinted from The ARRL Letter Vol. 20, No. 48*

AMSAT-NA Board Chairman Bill Tynan, W3XO, has announced that the recently launched Starshine 3 satellite has met all the requirements for an OSCAR number and has been designated Starshine OSCAR 43 (SO-43). Starshine 3 is a mirror ball with AX.25 9600-baud telemetry on 145.825 MHz. The satellite is visible to the eye and will provide students the opportunity to participate in its primary mission of satellite tracking. More information about the Starshine project can be found on the Starshine Web site <http://www.azinet.com/starshine>--AMSAT News Service

# W6TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Bob Briggs	KD6WYQ	01 / 1260	(310) 813-2622
Vice President	Stuart Gorsky	KF6QHV	R5 / 1060	(310) 812-0255
Secretary	Craig Gullickson	N6ED	R6 / 2529F	(310) 812-5389
Treasurer	Jason Fujino	KD6ELS	R5 / 2130	(310) 812-5461

## APPOINTED STAFF

447 Repeater Autopatch	Duane Park	WA6EIK	O1 / 1070	(310) 813-4219
Activities Chairperson	Mike Hamada	KF6UCN	M5 / 0435	(310) 814-2628
Crosstalk Editor	Duane Park	WA6EIK	O1 / 1070	(310) 813-4219
Emer. Comm. Coordinator	Wendell Young	KE6ASC	R5 / 1060B	(310) 813-7691
Librarian	Dave Nelson	AB6DU	DH4 / 1423G	(310) 764-3496
Membership Chairperson	Wendy Crawford	KQ6CG		(310) 513-2060
Past President				
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	M4 / 2375	(310) 813-1506
SEA Representative	Chris Wachs	WA2KDL	M4 / 2375	(310) 813-1506
Swap Meet Manager	Greg Martens	N6RRY	M1 / 1275	(310) 813-4049
Technical Chairperson	John Cheatham	KE6OJM	R9 / 2477	(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
W6TRW COMM Webmaster	Duane Park	WA6EIK	O1 / 1070	(310) 813-4219

### **BOLD=NEW**

W6TRW 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://www.w6trw.com/>

W6TRW Amateur Radio Club  
S/1156  
One Space Park  
Redondo Beach, CA 90278

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