



W6TRW **CROSSTALK**

Monthly news bulletin of the W6TRW Amateur Radio Club
FEBRUARY 2023



W6TRW Club President Dylon N6MX operates VHF during our combined ARRL VHF Contest outing and Parks On The Air activation (story inside)

What's Inside

- General Club Meeting
- News & Announcements
- Membership – 2023 Application
- Repeaters & Nets
- About Us

Monthly General Club Meeting

When: Tuesday, February 14th at 6:30 PM

Where: Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Due to continued COVID-19 public health guidelines, W6TRW Club Meetings will not yet be held in person. Instead, we are holding Virtual Meetings on Zoom.

**Click on the link below on your computer, tablet, or smartphone.
Same meeting link, 2nd Tuesday of every month, 6:30 PM Pacific Time.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82794654895>

Phone dial-in: 1 669 900 6833, Meeting ID: 827 9465 4895

Speaker Topic for This Month:

“HF Update: Making the most of your operating time”

Bill Shanney, W6QR

- **Update on HF equipment with an emphasis on putting out a clean signal**
- **Short review of simple antennas**
- **Main topic: The interaction of your antenna characteristics and the ionosphere; how you can use that knowledge to plan your operating time**



Bill Shanney, W6QR

W6TRW welcomes one its own, longtime members, Bill Shanney, W6QR. A ham operator since 1960, Bill has written many technical articles and talks for W6TRW, and stays current with ham radio items of interest for beginners to the most advanced operators.

“My first call was WV2RDG in NJ. I became WA2RDG when I got my

general in 1961. I operate 99.5% CW on 160-6M. After a long period of inactivity (career and family) I upgraded to extra class in 1988 and became very active. That is also the year that I joined the TRW ARC. I have a BSEE from NJ Institute of Technology and worked for 45 years in RF and microwave design. I retired from NG/TRW in 2007 after 31 years with the company.”

News and Announcements

Club Outing - Parks on the Air (POTA) and ARRL VHF Contest

Saturday, January 21, 2023

[Parks On The Air \(POTA\)](#) is an amateur radio award program that encourages amateur radio operators to operate in a variety of parks and public lands as a portable station.

On January 21st, the first Parks on the Air W6TRW activity weekend of 2023 had a strong showing from our W6TRW club members including Dylan (N6MX), Mark (KD7DTS), Chris (N6FR), Bill (W6QR), Greg (KE6YEX), Devin (KN6PHZ) and Reid (K8QP).

The club set up five QRP stations in Kenneth Hahn State Recreation Area (POTA K-3451), covering SSB, FT4, FT8, FM, and CW modes. The club was joined by guest operator Becky (KN6WDQ), along with an impromptu visit from a scout troop. The scouts were quite excited to learn about ham radio, and enthusiastically took turns as guest operators making contacts with POTA hunter Jon (NT6E). Under the W6TRW club call, our operators logged 141 contacts.

The club is planning to activate parks for the upcoming Spring (April 15th), Summer (July 21st), and Autumn (Oct. 20th) POTA activity weekends. Please add these weekends to your calendar, and plan to attend - no experience or radio needed!



W6TRW Club Members SHOW 'N TELL

Please **REPLY** if interested!

W6TRW Club Members SHOW 'N TELL / DIY / Maker talks

At past and recent club meetings, we've had members of our club describe and/or demonstrate projects they have created or been involved in. We'd like to continue that tradition! We're all excited to hear what you've been doing. All you need to do is put together a few slides!

If you've been building something interesting, please send a reply to newsletter@w6trw.com, and we'll get you on the agenda in 2023.

Thanks!

News and Announcements

W6TRW Discord Channel



Did you know W6TRW has an active online discussion of ham radio adventures, build projects, and event planning? This is an excellent way to keep up with hot topics in the club. If you haven't already, please join your fellow club members on Discord. You can sign up here: <https://discord.gg/9JMY9SydV3>

W6TRW Repeaters Now Playing Newsline & ARRL News

New, starting the past few months, is a regularly scheduled rebroadcast of [Amateur Radio Newsline](#) ham radio news and the [ARRL weekly news](#) on the W6TRW repeaters on **Wednesdays and Sundays at 9:00pm Pacific time!** Newsline is a free service that produces a weekly report of important goings-on in the ham radio community and is a great way to stay in the loop on current ham radio topics.

Take a listen and let us know what you think!

-- Shackmaster, Dylan N6MX

News and Announcements



Still
\$5!!

Membership

The W6TRW 2023 Membership Form is on our [Membership](#) page. Be sure to renew for the 2023 club year! **Our annual participation fee for the W6TRW club is still \$5, as it always has been! You can now send the participation fee ELECTRONICALLY to Dylan N6MX – see the note in the new 2023 W6TRW Membership Form! And you can scan your signed ink signature pages and send to Dylan’s email address on the form. We’re going electronic!**

Our durable, high-tech magnetic club badges are now \$30, the real cost of making them. The badge, with your call sign, name & W6TRW logo, will last for many years!

Each year, when you renew or join the W6TRW Amateur Radio Club, we will send out a physical membership card via regular mail, as confirmation that you are a member for the year.

W6TRW Swap Meet

Our club puts on the largest monthly amateur radio swap meet in the Los Angeles area. The W6TRW Swap Meet has been held monthly for almost 40 years. The W6TRW Swap Meet is well known throughout the western US and even the world! It is always held the last Saturday of every month, rain or shine, holiday or not, from 7:00 AM until 11:30 AM, in the R2 parking lot near the southeast corner of Aviation Blvd. and Marine Ave. where the cities of Redondo Beach, Manhattan Beach, and Hawthorne meet. Talk-in on 145.320 -600 PL 114.8.

If you wish to sell at the swap meet, please visit our swap meet sellers’ webpage for all the necessary information.

Our Swap Meet Manager, Wendell KE6ASC, is always on the lookout for volunteers to help at the Swap Meet. If you'd like to get up early and help the club put on this important traditional activity, email Wendell at w6trwswapmeet@gmail.com to get more information.

The next swap meet will be the last Saturday of the month, from 7:00 am to 11:30 AM. See you there!

W6TRW Awards 2023

Hi, all – this is a question to our energetic members who routinely volunteer so much of their time and energy to the betterment of the club every year! What would be the best award and/or recognition the club can do for you? We used to give framed certificates at the Annual Awards Banquet each November, and then around 2017, we transitioned to “virtual” digital JPEG/PDF certificates, though we haven’t been diligent about getting them out to the award winners. If practical, we could provide different award types, that individuals would prefer, in addition to the announcement of recognition, of course, at the Banquet. Please send your ideas to newsletter@w6trw.com, thanks!

News and Announcements

AltaSea / LAMI

W6TRW club member Joe Lai KB6UCU has long volunteered with organizations at the San Pedro port to promote STEM (Science Technology Engineering Math), electronics, and amateur radio education for the students that pass through AltaSea and the [Los Angeles Maritime Institute \(LAMI\)](#). Joe volunteers time and materials to make electronic kits assembled by the students. He's always looking for more hams to get involved in these worthy endeavors. If you're interested in helping Joe, or interested in [AltaSea](#), ocean research at the port, or ham radio volunteer opportunities, please contact Joe at 310-408-9711.

[AMSAT - Amateur Radio in Space](#)

The number of active amateur radio satellites keeps increasing. Here is the current satellite status, making it easy to find satellites you may be able to hear: <https://www.amsat.org/status/>. For many satellites, the telemetry downlink or Morse code beacon is easy to receive with a simple dual-band VHF-UHF magmount antenna.

If you have a VHF/UHF SDR (software defined radio) connected to your computer, you can see the Doppler shift of the signal as the satellite passes over.

To find out when a satellite will fly over your location, go to <https://www.amsat.org/track/index.php>. Just put in your grid square or approximate latitude-longitude. One of the most reliable and easy downlinks is the ISS (International Space Station) on 145.800 MHz.

The next step is transmitting – making amateur contacts through the satellites. AMSAT satellites for amateur communications: <https://www.amsat.org/two-way-satellites/>.

[Amateur Radio Contests - Calendar](#)

There are many amateur radio contests during the year, for the full range of different radio interest areas. Click [here \(WA7BNM's Contest Calendar\)](#) for a listing of all the amateur radio contests.

Just listening to contests is a great way to hear a lot of stations from all over the US and even all over the world – better than just randomly tuning on any given day, hoping to hear something.

The next big, popular contest is the [ARRL June VHF Contest](#), June 10-12, 2023. This one is easy and fun – just find your grid square at [Amateur Radio Ham Radio Maidenhead Grid Square Locator](#) and then key up your VHF/UHF FM radio on the calling frequencies – 146.52 MHz and 446.000 MHz! The calling frequencies 146.52, 146.55, and 146.58 are busy during the contest and you can make many contacts just by answering contest calls.

As an example, W6TRW Club President Dylon N6MX participated in the June 2022 VHF-UHF contest in the class "Single Operator FM" and easily got 5th place in the scoring, just operating for about 5 hours from a local hill.

News and Announcements

Classified Ad – Brian Tilley KA6UHM (SK). Brian was a frequent visitor to the W6TRW Swap Meet.

Brian Tilley KA6UHM (SK), has left behind a collection of interesting radio equipment, including some unique items. Please see the pictures below – you may see something that is difficult for an amateur to come by. Inventory includes a Heathkit Linear Amplifier, ICOM IC-211 radio and other racked radio equipment, many discrete components and connectors, drill press, and some antennas. To inquire, please call Doug W6DOW at 310-367-1838.



W6TRW Repeaters and Nets

W6TRW Repeaters

VHF 2 Meters • 145.320 MHz, Offset: -600 kHz, PL: 114.8 Hz; Located in Redondo Beach, CA • All-Star node 505680
UHF 440 MHz • 447.000 MHz, Offset: -5 MHz, PL: 100.0 Hz; Located in Redondo Beach, CA • All-Star node 505681
(Our VHF 145.320 MHz and UHF 447.000 MHz repeaters are linked – but may be disconnected for certain nets listed below)
UHF MotoTRBO DMR • 446.050 MHz, Offset: -5 MHz, Color Code: 2; Located in Redondo Beach, CA

Monday K6MBC Manhattan Beach MBCERT Net

Weekly; Monday nights at 6 PM *except* first Monday of the month, on the W6TRW 447.000 MHz repeater

Monday Lomita and South Los Angeles DCS Net: Weekly

Monday nights at 7:30 PM, on the W6TRW 145.320 MHz repeater

Wednesday W6TRW Emergency Communications Team (ECT) Net: Weekly

The ECT net is held weekly Wednesdays starting between 12:00-12:15pm on our 145.320 MHz and 447.000 MHz repeaters. The whole net only takes about 10-15 minutes.

The purpose of the net is to promote club participation and to increase the general awareness of hams to emergency communications resources. The net is open to all W6TRW members as well as any non-member visitors!

Check-ins reply with their name and callsign, general location, and their radio communication capabilities at the time.

During an actual emergency, the W6TRW 145.320 MHz repeater will be dedicated to DCS, and won't be available for open use, but it will be very useful to monitor! The W6TRW 447.000 MHz repeater should be available and open for use during an actual emergency, so please save a memory in your radio for our 447.000MHz repeater!

Wednesday Northrop Grumman HF Family Net

Also at noon Pacific Time on Wednesday is a long-running Northrop Grumman net on 14.270 MHz. Northrop Grumman and TRW employees / retirees are welcome to check in and represent the West Coast!

Thursday Space Net

Our W6TRW 145.320 MHz and 447.000 MHz repeaters host the long-running Space and Information Net every Thursday evening at 7:00 PM. Ronnie N6SHI (Space Hams International) is the net controller, taking check-ins and providing the best of the weekly space news, launches, and visual flyovers. Tune in and check in!!

Thursday Outdoors Net

Weekly; takes place immediately after the Space Net weekly on Thursday nights – via IRLP from Las Vegas net control – IRLP turns on at 7:45 PM every Thursday. Lots of good info for mobile and outdoors activities!

Newsline & ARRL Weekly News – Wednesday and Sunday

9:00 PM & 9:30 PM

News released every Friday

About Us – W6TRW

The W6TRW Amateur Radio Club is a non-profit organization that started in the early 1960s.

The W6TRW Amateur Radio Club started as the TRW ARC and held the club call sign WB6WPO. The club became an ARRL Affiliated Club in 1971, and the club call sign was changed to W6TRW in 1974. The club was formed at the TRW facilities in Redondo Beach California comprised of employees of the aerospace company.

Our club station is located in Building S and includes 2 Yaesu FT-1000's, Alpha 87a amplifier, and two towers with multiple HF antennas in Redondo Beach, California. We also have all-mode capability on 6m, 2m, 440, and 1.2 GHz. We have ATV, and satellite and packet stations.

W6TRW sponsors open repeaters on 2 meters and 440 MHz that serve the Los Angeles basin. We also have a Motorola MOTOTRBO Digital Repeater in Redondo Beach. IRLP node 7067 is connected to our open 440 repeater and typically is connected to the Western Amateur Linking Association LAX Reflector 9350. Please visit our repeater page for more information!

The Amateur Radio Club (W6TRW) offers a full range of radio related activities, including contest operating events, community public service events, picnics and classes for those wishing to obtain their first license. Stop by the Amateur Radio Swap Meet on the last Saturday of the month in the R2 parking lot from 7:00-11:30am – you'll be surprised by what you will find.