



W6TRW **CROSSTALK**

Monthly news bulletin of the W6TRW Amateur Radio Club
August- September 2023



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- General Club Meeting
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Monthly General Club Meeting

When: Tuesday, September 12th at 5:30 PM

Where: Northrop Grumman Building S Cafeteria

Our Speaker: Tony KC6QHP (see next page!)

In-person and Zoom hybrid meeting!

We'll get together in the Building S Cafeteria on the Redondo Beach Northrop Grumman campus, at One Space Park.

You can join in person, or log into Zoom.

Note that we are returning to the old evening meeting start time of 5:30 PM.

Free pizza, just like the old days!

W6TRW Monthly Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 827 9465 4895

Phone dial-in: 1 669 900 6833

For Historical Reference:

Last month's August 8 Lunchtime Meeting

Where: Northrop Grumman Building S Cafeteria East patio

Our August meeting is traditionally a lunchtime meeting at the Northrop Grumman cafeteria outside patio. Last month, on August 8, we had a good turnout of members who have been wanting an in-person "eyeball QSO" for some time.

We're still exploring a long-term return to in-person evening dinner meetings, probably as a hybrid format with Zoom, so speakers and other distant members can still participate. Our first choice for the location is the Northrop Grumman Cafeteria after hours in Redondo Beach.

If any members have suggestions for other possible evening meeting sites, feel free to reply to the newsletter with ideas.

Speaker Topic for This Month:

"Phenomenally cool microwave kit"

Tony Long, KC6QHP



Tony KC6QHP's dual band (10 and 24 GHz) station operating during the 2022 ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest from Los Arboles Rocketship Park in Torrance.



Since the mid 1990's, Tony Long has been captivated by 10 GHz and beyond and has built numerous radio systems for those higher bands. In this presentation, he will discuss some of the equipment he has built and share the reasons for his design and fabrication decisions.

Tony Long's current ham radio goal is to make at least one QSO on all the amateur radio bands, from 137 kHz to 241 GHz. Between 1.8MHz and 1.2 GHz, it is reasonably easy to find commercial equipment, but at the extremities, things become a bit more challenging.

News and Announcements

September ARRL VHF Contest

9-11 September 2023

The VHF contests are easy to participate in – low barrier to entry. Just get on the air with your VHF/UHF FM handheld or mobile radio, and join the fun!

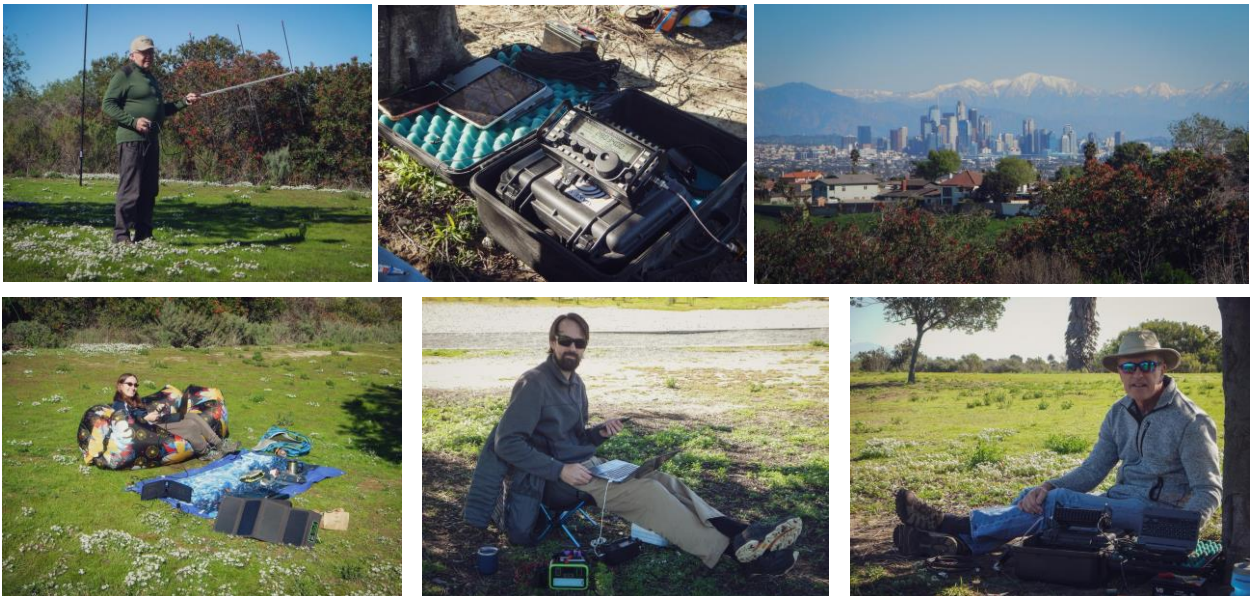
It's a great way to check out your radios and see how well they work in simplex mode. Find a hill with a view, and you can make contacts for hours!

Parks On The Air (POTA) Invitation - October 21, 2023

Easy access local park in Los Angeles

Come out for a day of fun & great views!

Pictures from Jan 2023 POTA party - ~8 members came by. We had a blast!



Hey y'all - never too soon to plan for an upcoming POTA party! **October 21** - put it on your calendars!

Parks On The Air (POTA) is an amateur radio operating award program that encourages amateur radio operators to operate from parks and public lands as a portable station.

W6TRW invites you to come join an activation of Kenneth Hahn State Park for the Autumn Support Your Parks Weekend. This is a great opportunity to learn and chat, especially for folks who have never tried POTA, portable operations, or even radio! For those without a license, you can make your first contact as a guest operator.

-- Mark KD7DTS

News and Announcements

W6TRW Tower 2: A New Look Above S-Building!

Have you taken a moment to gaze up atop S-building roof recently? If so, you would have spotted our brand-new antennas on Tower 2!

For those of you who might be out of the loop, W6TRW Antenna Tower 2, also known as the west tower, had its antennas brought down over a year ago. Why did we take them down? Well, it was all to make room for new air handling units on S-building's roof. The antennas we had up there were simply too large for a crane to maneuver around safely! However, this situation turned into an excellent opportunity for some much-needed upgrades!

Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our members, particularly Craig Gullickson, N6ED, and Greg Madden, WQ9P, the club managed to secure a set of brand-new M2 antennas. This upgrade included a 40M beam, two 6M beams, a 2M beam, and a Comet UHF/VHF vertical. The meticulous process of building and installing these antennas took months of careful planning and preparation. Getting it all right was critical, as we only had one chance at it before the crane hoisted them back up. We were also happy to have several newcomers join our efforts along the way and lend a hand while learning a few things about antenna building and installation! One of the perks of participating in these work parties is the delicious lunches that our own Janice Miya, KJ6NHY, and Jason Fujino, KD6ELS, organize, order, and have delivered. When it comes to keeping our volunteers happy and well-fed, they don't mess around!

After a few scheduling hiccups, we finally locked in a definite crane lift date – Friday, July 7th, 2023. Beckman Tower made the journey down from Fresno and arrived early, ready to install our new antennas. Before long, two cranes were on-site, with their crews extending support legs and preparing a man basket. The Beckman Tower crew, experts in their field, exuded professionalism and put our minds at ease. Following a thorough safety briefing and lift plan discussion, the green light was given, and the crane began its ascent, carrying the mast with 6M, 2M, and VHF/UHF antennas up to the tower. Once there, the second crane moved the man basket, carrying two Beckman crew members, over to secure everything in place. After ensuring the mast was securely bolted down, Craig ventured down to the shack to test the rotator, and discovered it had some trouble completing a full 360-degree rotation. After some troubleshooting, it was determined that the bolts going through the thrust bearing on top of the tower were too tight. The Beckman crew adjusted them, and Craig tried again – problem solved! With that hurdle cleared, it was time to install the MASSIVE 40M beam. This behemoth measures nearly 40ft by 40ft and weighs over 200 pounds! As the wind picked up, attaching a tagline to the beam's end became critical to ensure it pointed in the right direction during the ascent without spinning. Once it reached the tower, the Beckman crew was lifted again in the man basket to secure the antenna at the mast's base, using eight heavy-duty U-bolts. Craig once again tested the rotator, and as we gazed upward, it was an impressive sight – all those shiny new antennas turning gracefully against the backdrop of the sky. It was the culmination of months of hard work and dedication, and despite a few hiccups, we nailed it – everything was working perfectly.

The day concluded with several QSOs (contact exchanges) from the shack before we called it a day, tired but satisfied. With the tower now complete, our focus has shifted towards sprucing up the shack and establishing a robust system for remote use by club members. If you're available and willing to lend a hand with these exciting projects, please do let us know!

Thank you to everyone involved for supporting this effort! And a special thank you to Craig Gullickson and Greg Madden for rising to the occasion and leading the project. It was a long project, but we turned out a great result and can now enjoy the fruits of our labor!

Enjoy and 73,
Dylon N6MX

News and Announcements



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 – Last Saturday of Every Month !

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 is the last Saturday of the month, from 7:00 am to 11:30 AM. See you there!

W6TRW Club Members SHOW 'N TELL

W6TRW Club Members SHOW 'N TELL / DIY / Maker / Activity 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, or engaged in recent ham radio adventures or volunteering, please send a reply to newsletter@w6trw.com, and we'll get you on the agenda in 2023!

Please REPLY if interested!

News and Announcements

Massive Amateur Radio Estate – Don Davis AD6PB, SK

Don Davis, AD6PB, became a Silent Key last year. He's left a huge estate of unique, well-cared vintage radio equipment, surely of interest to collectors, and a great DX station with tower and antennas. Please see the collection at <https://w6trw.com/classified-ads/>

To obtain any of this incredible vintage gear, contact Linda Davis at (310) 871-9773, or email lcpdavis@gmail.com

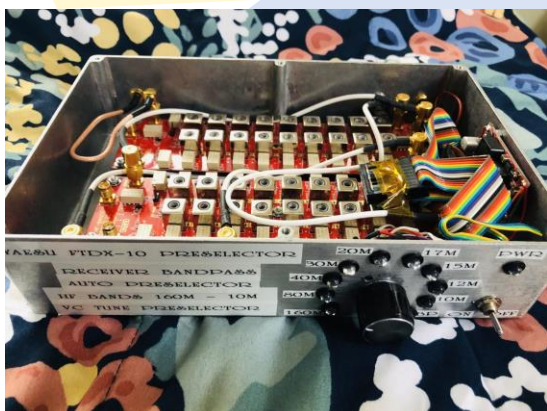


W6TRW Discord Channel

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>

Recent posts on the W6TRW Discord:

@Mike WB6DJI — 01/26/2023 9:39 PM
My Field Day PreSelector de Mike WB6DJI



@Mike WB6DJI — 01/26/2023 9:07 PM
POTA on Big Island of Hawaii de Mike WB6DJI
with my Elecraft KX3



Mark KD7DTS — 03/25/2023 6:36 PM
Just another day in my shack!



From the Past and Present – W6TRW QSL Cards!

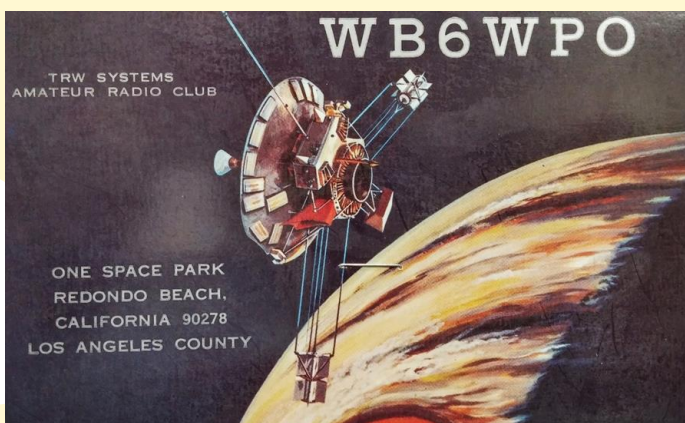
We're going to finally update our W6TRW QSL Cards after more than 20 years! The W6TRW Amateur Radio Club has a long tradition of spacecraft-themed QSL cards, and we want to continue this!

Proposed 2023
W6TRW QSL Card
theme – up for
comment!



1990s W6TRW
QSL Card

1970s-80s WB6WPO
Club QSL Card



And even before, in
February 1970 (no
image available):

NEWS FLASHES

New QSL Cards

The new club QSL cards, featuring the Lunar Module approaching the surface of the moon have been ordered.

From the Past – Our Club, 51 Years Ago !

A glimpse at the early days of the W6TRW Amateur Radio Club at Space Park – before the age of computers or Internet. See hundreds of the old Crosstalk newsletters at <https://w6trw.com/crosstalk-newsletter/>



crosstalk

A MONTHLY NEWS BULLETIN OF TRW AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Sponsored by Systems Employee Association

JANUARY 1972

VOL. V No. 1

President	Paul Weisz, K6PSE	R5/2131	52026
Vice-President	Bob Goad, WB6KVE	R5/B131	51884
Secretary	Jerry Dean, WA6GVO	R3/1072	62571
Treasurer	Frank Halligan, WB6GBC	R4/1082	62466
Activity Manager	Mac McGrew, W6YQZ	S/365	53380
Trustee	Carl Rothrock, W6MYC	S/389	50345
Cross-Talk Editor	Ed Thornley, WA6JHD	R6/2188	52621
Training Manager	Al Lee, W6KQI	R5/1171	62222
SEA Council Representative	Jack Koho	S/1471	53285
QSL Manager	Ted Carter, WN6PAS	E1/4037	62006
Emergency Coordinator	Al Lee, W6KQI	R5/1171	62222
Field Day Chairman	Doug Freeman, WA6AZW	M4/2243	53126
Membership Chairman	Ted Carter, WN6PAS	E1/4037	62006
Publicity Manager	Doug Heydon, WB6WDS	M3/2087	50454

January Meeting

Selected Color Films

26 Jan 1972 R2-1055

1200 - 1300

THE PREZ SEZ

By Paul Weisz, K6PSE

At the outset of 1972, we can look back to a year that was eventful and successful as far as the club was concerned. Ed Thornley and the fine 1971 Executive Committee racked up a score that will be hard to beat.

This year there are some new faces among the club leadership, and some new ideas will be tried. The overall objectives will be, as they have been in the past, to find more ways to make the club useful and interesting to its members. This is your club, and new ideas for improving it are always welcome.

In the immediate future, there are three main areas that will be receiving attention:

- * Club Meetings - There will be some experimenting with monthly meeting format and content, in order to provide more opportunities for "Ham Talk" between members.

- * Training - As noted elsewhere in this issue, Al Lee has undertaken the job of training manager, and there will be a heavy commitment of club resources to a new training program. You will be contacted to determine your interest in participating as student or instructor - or both.

News and Announcements

W6TRW Repeaters Now Playing Newline & ARRL News

We're putting a regularly scheduled rebroadcast of [Amateur Radio Newline](#) ham radio news and the [ARRL weekly news](#) on the W6TRW repeaters on Wednesdays and Sundays at 9:00pm Pacific time! Newline 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, Dylon N6MX

[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.

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 Absolute Tech Net: Weekly

Our W6TRW 145.320 MHz and 447.000 MHz repeaters are currently carrying the <https://www.absolutetech.org> weekly ham radio net, Monday afternoon at 4:00 PM Pacific Time.

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!!

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.