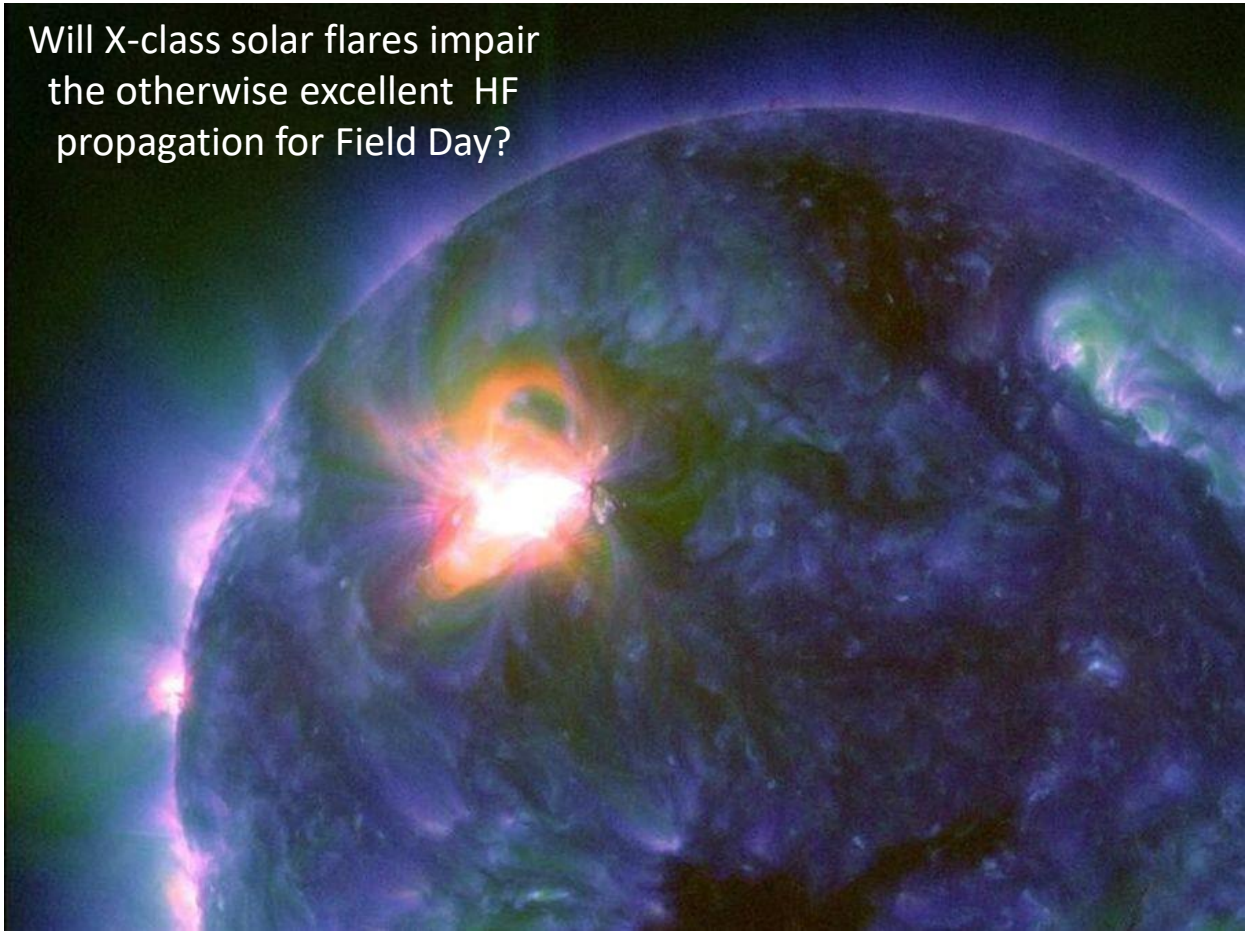




W6TRW CROSSTALK

Monthly news bulletin of the W6TRW Amateur Radio Club
June 2024

Will X-class solar flares impair
the otherwise excellent HF
propagation for Field Day?



What's Inside

- General Club Meeting
- News & Announcements – **FIELD DAY, June 22-23, 2024**
- W6TRW's Discord Channel
- Repeaters & Nets
- About Us

Monthly General Club Meeting

When: Tuesday, June 11th at 5:30 PM

Where: S Cafeteria & Virtual Meeting on Zoom

The 2024 W6TRW Club Meetings are being held as hybrid in-person & virtual via Zoom. In-person meetings take place in the Northrop Grumman Cafeteria (see map, page 3). For Zoom, click on the link below on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. Same meeting link every month, 2nd Tuesday of every month, 5:30 PM Pacific Time. FREE PIZZA ☺!

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

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

Speaker Topic for This Month:

"W6TRW Field Day 2024: Field Day Fun!"

Greg KE6YEX, Mark KD7DTS, Dylon N6MX

Field Day will run on Saturday-Sunday June 22 - 23, and it will be one-part contest, one-part emergency communications exercise, and one-part open house -- and a great time. Radio amateurs can take advantage of the peak of Solar Cycle 25.

Greg Shreve, KE6YEX

Greg has been the Field Day Co-chair for the past couple of years, along with the veteran radio operators and co-chairs for all the other Field Day activities, the people who have really made Field Day a success, year after year. Greg is a past president of the W6TRW Amateur Radio Club.

Dylon Mutz, N6MX

Dylon is President of the W6TRW Amateur Radio Club, multi-talented W6TRW Shackmaster, and admin for our Discord server. Dylon managed our Tower 2 refurb, and in the past two years, he has organized a number of work parties for new HF antennas, a complete re-build of our club's satellite antennas, as well as implementing and assisting numerous repeater upgrades and AllStar nodes, and participating in the annual ARRL VHF contests. Dylon has been a key member of the W6TRW Field Day team for the past several years.

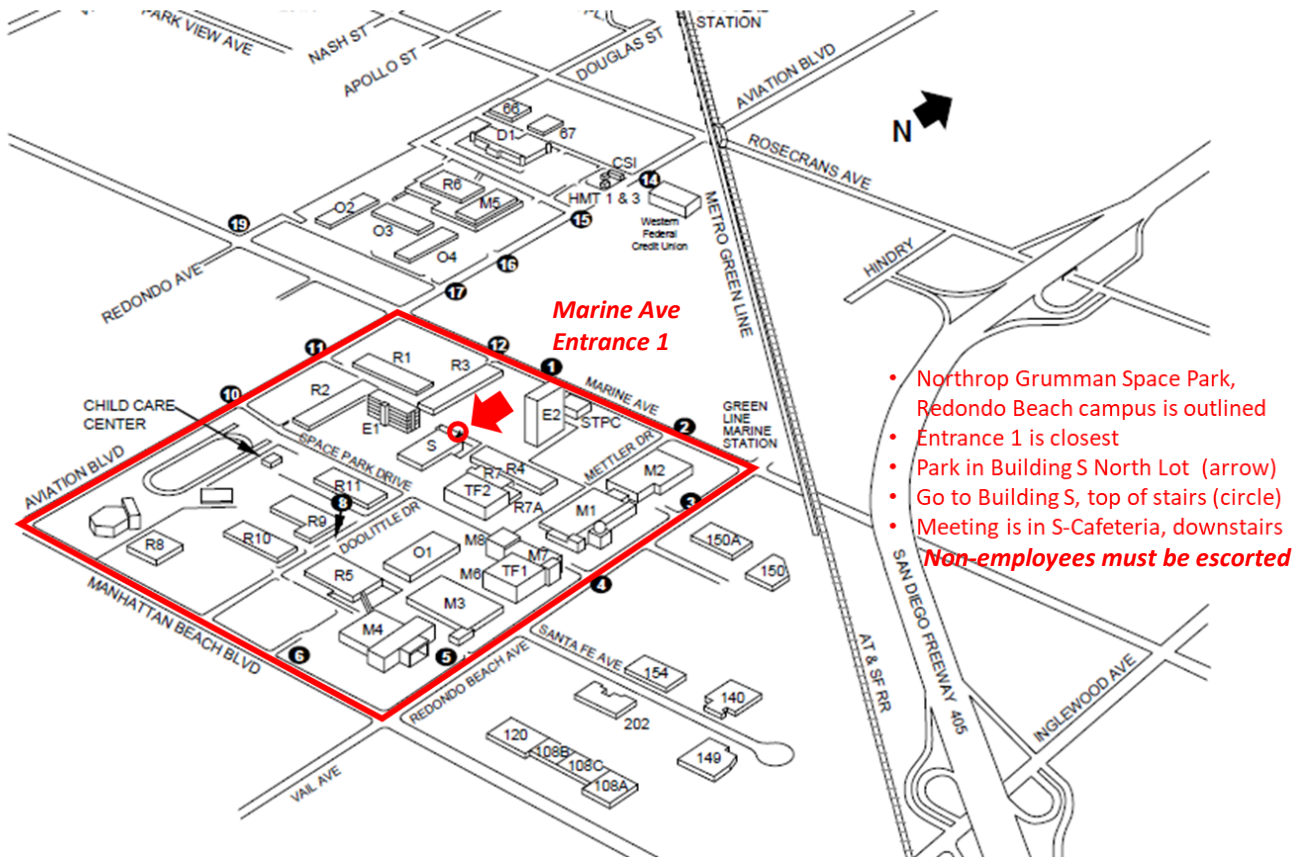
Mark Knight, KD7DTS

Mark was originally licensed in the late 1990s. After moving to California, he started volunteering as a forest ranger with the San Geronio Wilderness Association (SGWA). Part of being a ranger is keeping in radio contact with the Forest Service to respond to emergencies. He modified his original Yaesu FT50R, to get back on the air while in the mountains – and he discovered an amazing SOTA and POTA community. All Mark's operations are QRP from a backpack or a bicycle, powered exclusively by batteries and coffee. Mark is W6TRW Amateur Radio Club Secretary this year, and he has a key role in engineering our QRP Field Day 2024, as he did in 2023.

In-person W6TRW meetings - Map

Here is the map for the location of the Northrop Grumman Cafeteria. This building is in the NG Space Park campus, in the northwest corner of Redondo Beach.

Space Park Map – W6TRW Meetings



Classified Ads

Amateur Radio Ads

No new ham classifieds this month. If you have ham equipment to sell, please send the info to Greg KE6YEX as a reply to the Newsletter email; thanks!

Visit W6TRW Field Day 2024, Sat-Sun 22-23 June !!



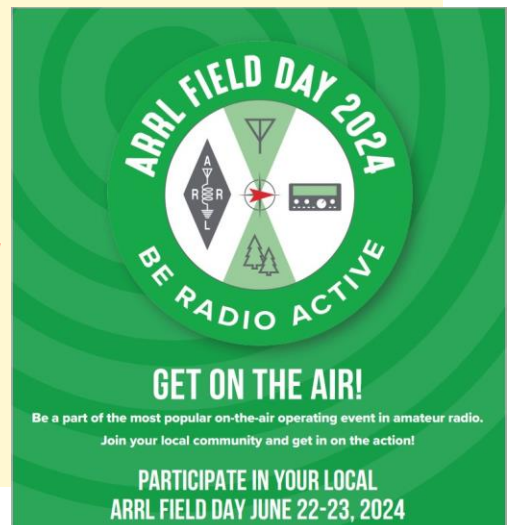
The **W6TRW Amateur Radio Club** will set up their antennas and emergency communications equipment in Friendship Park in Rancho Palos Verdes / San Pedro, Saturday 8 AM June 22 through 4 PM Sunday June 23, 2024.

Please stop by and visit, to see ham radio in action, and meet your fellow W6TRW members! We'll have the operating station, info desk and snacks table all grouped together for easy access, social networking, questions and answers. In addition, we'll have the "Get On The Air" station, for a quick, assisted 30-second on-the-air contact opportunity for new hams and non-hams. **Fun for all!**

We need people to help with setup starting at 8 AM Saturday – you'll learn a lot about radios, antennas, batteries and solar power, and you'll get to meet the radio operators. Stick around for lunch and make a few radio contacts!



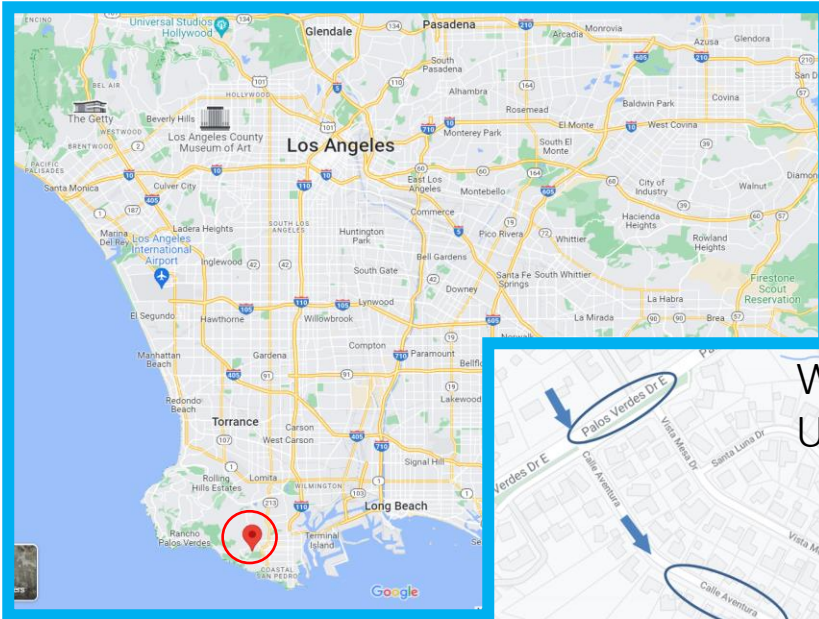
**STOP BY
AND LEARN
ABOUT
RADIO!!**



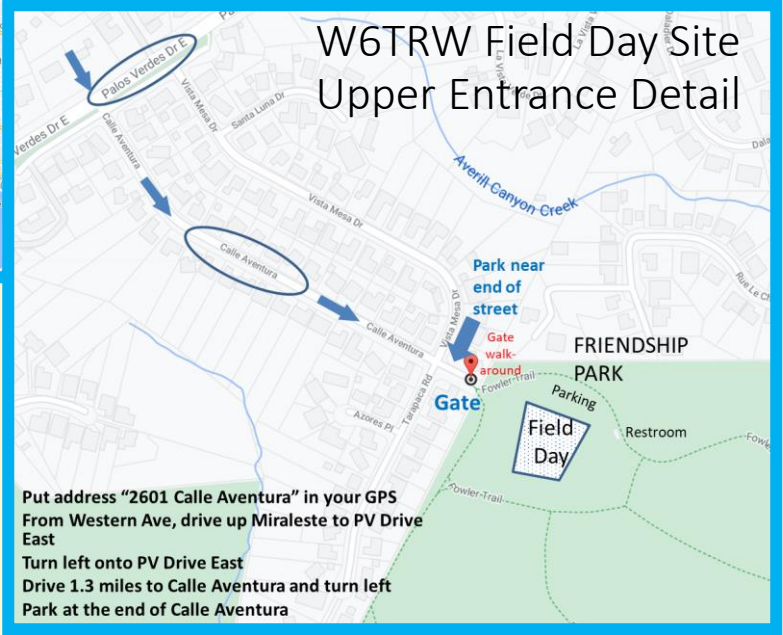
W6TRW Field Day Site San Pedro / Rancho Palos Verdes

MAPS

W6TRW Field Day 2024



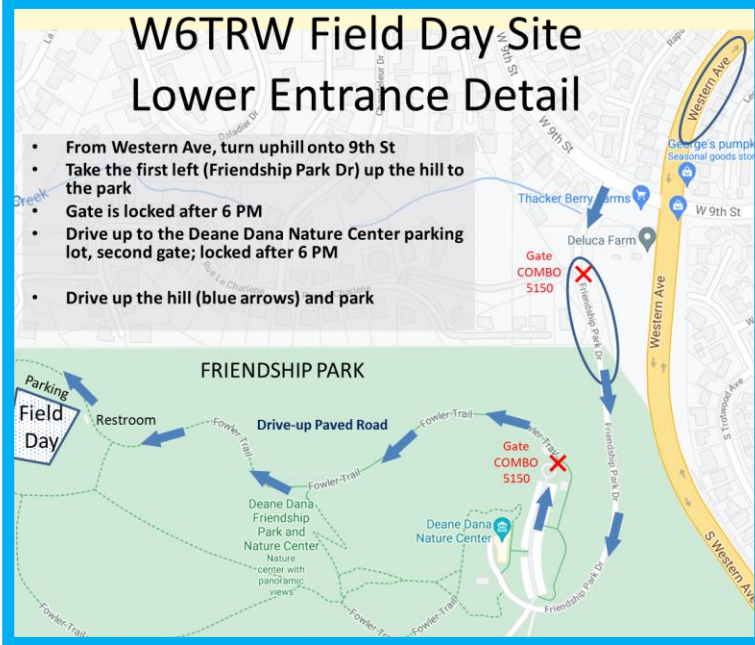
W6TRW Field Day Site Upper Entrance Detail



- Put address "2601 Calle Aventura" in your GPS
- From Western Ave, drive up Miraleste to PV Drive East
- Turn left onto PV Drive East
- Drive 1.3 miles to Calle Aventura and turn left
- Park at the end of Calle Aventura

Note the combination locks in red

W6TRW Field Day Site Lower Entrance Detail



- From Western Ave, turn uphill onto 9th St
- Take the first left (Friendship Park Dr) up the hill to the park
- Gate is locked after 6 PM
- Drive up to the Deane Dana Nature Center parking lot, second gate; locked after 6 PM
- Drive up the hill (blue arrows) and park

Talk-in on 146.52 or 146.58
Simplex, QSY to 146.55 if needed

Or call into the W6TRW repeater
145.320- PL 114.8

<https://w6trw.com/repeaters/>

Or call into the local San Pedro
447 relay repeater: 447.000- PL 79.7

Or contact Greg Shreve KE6YEX,
310-809-0649



What is ARRL Field Day?

Produced by ARRL, the national association for amateur radio <http://www.arrl.org>

ARRL Field Day is the single most popular on-the-air event held annually in the US and Canada. On the fourth weekend of June of each year, thousands of radio amateurs gather with their clubs, groups or simply with friends to operate from remote locations.

Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!

It is a time where many aspects of Amateur Radio come together to highlight our many roles. While some will treat it as a contest, other groups use the opportunity to practice their emergency response capabilities. It is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate Amateur Radio to the organizations that Amateur Radio might serve in an emergency, as well as the general public. For many clubs, ARRL Field Day is one of the highlights of their annual calendar.

The contest part is simply to contact as many other stations as possible and to learn to operate our radio gear in abnormal situations and less than optimal conditions.

We use these same skills when we help with events such as marathons and bike-a-thons; fund-raisers such as walk-a-thons; celebrations such as parades; and exhibits at fairs, malls and museums — these are all large, preplanned, non-emergency activities.

But despite the development of very complex, modern communications systems — or maybe because they ARE so complex — ham radio has been called into action again and again to provide communications in crises when it really matters. Amateur Radio people (also called “hams”) are well known for our communications support in real disaster and post-disaster situations.

What is the ARRL?

The American Radio Relay League is the national association for Amateur Radio in the USA, representing over 170,000 FCC-licensed Amateurs. The ARRL is the primary source of information about what is going on in ham radio. It provides books, news, support and information for individuals and clubs, special events, continuing education classes and other benefits for its members.

What is Amateur Radio

Often called “ham radio,” the Amateur Radio Service has been around for a century. In that time, it’s grown into a worldwide community of licensed operators using the airwaves with every conceivable means of communications technology. Its people range in age from youngsters to grandparents. Even rocket scientists and a rock star or two are in the ham ranks. Most, however, are just normal folks like you and me who enjoy learning and being able to transmit voice, data and pictures through the air to unusual places, both near and far, without depending on commercial systems.

The Amateur Radio frequencies are the last remaining place in the usable radio spectrum where you as an individual can develop and experiment with wireless communications. Hams not only can make and modify their equipment, but can create whole new ways to do things.

For More Information visit: www.arrl.org/field-day

Updated 3/2021

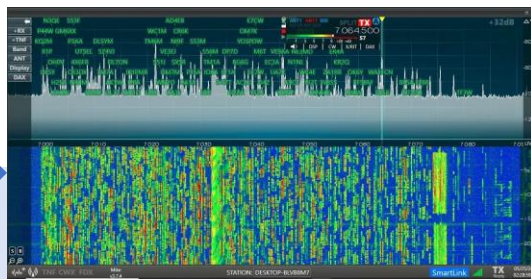
W6TRW Discord Channel

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>

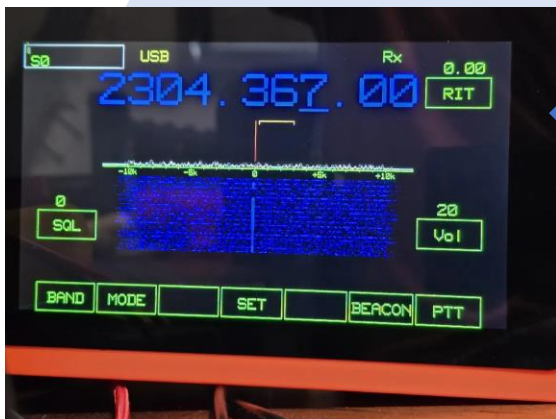
Recent posts on the W6TRW Discord:

Mike WB6DJI — 05/25/2024 1:49 PM
2024 CW WPX Contest de Mike WB6DJI

Mark KD7DTS — 05/25/2024 2:24 PM
That contest is making SOTA a lot harder today! Haha



Tony KC6QHP — Yesterday at 11:32 PM
This is the screen of my Raspberry Pi running the Langstone software, connected to an Analog Devices ADALM Pluto. In this image I have connected the RX port to a 6 element 13cm band yagi and am copying the Mt San Miguel Beacon here in San Diego. I also have a rotary encoder set up for tuning control. The next step is to put this in a chassis of some sort. The SD Microwave Group is working on boards that will have automatically switched bandpass filters and amplifiers for multiple bands (23cm, 13cm, 9cm, 6cm, 3cm).



Mike WB6DJI — 02/10/2024 12:21 PM
Picture of Mike WB6DJI operating the W6HA Hughes Aircraft Radio Club HF Station Remote from inside Mount Rainier National Park in Washington State with SmartSDR iOS on an iPhone / iPad 📱 on 20meters HF SSB 🗡️!



Crosstalks from the Past – March 1988

For fun, a page from W6TRW's past. See <https://w6trw.com/crosstalk-newsletter/> for newsletters.

https://w6trw.com/wp-content/uploads/Crosstalk/1988/1988_03_W6TRW_Crosstalk.pdf

From the President

by John Keller N6JLS

The present employment conditions at TRW have affected the Club in a very direct way. Bill Dohoney, AA6GI, whom I welcomed as Training Chairman last month was laid off and can no longer fill that position. I have also been put on lay off notice and will only be employed at TRW until 4/22/88. If I do not find a position at TRW (and the chances of that are slim and none, and Slim doesn't work here either) then at the April Club meeting (Tuesday, April 26) there will be a special election to fill the office of President. You might think about who you would want in the position between now and then.

So, now the Club is in need of filling two Staff positions. We need a Training Chairman and Activities Manager. The Activities Manager organizes the Club meeting door prizes, the Club Picnics and the St. Patrick's Day Observance. **If we cannot find an Activities Manager soon, we will have no choice but to cancel the Club Picnics.**

Thanks to Randy McKecknie, N6ZMS, for volunteering to work the booth during the "1988 TRW Earthquake Expo" to be held April 12, 13, 14. The effort will consist of manning a booth during the lunch hour for those three days, answering questions, operating hand-helds, operating Packet and possibly HF. We can definitely use more help so if you would like to assist in this effort, please contact John Keller at (53)52527.

I still want to urge TRW/ARC members with 2 meter hand-held capability to join RACES, ARES and the TRW/ARC Emergency Communications Team. Contact Rich Sauer at (53)58008 and he will take care of you.

I have made the decision that if I no longer work at TRW by Field Day, then I will support the TRW/ARC this year, but it will be my last. So, if you want to take part in the fantastic pancake breakfast that I cook up on Sunday morning then you had better be ready to put some effort into helping out this Field Day, because only the those helping will get fed and this will be your last chance to enjoy this sumptuous feast. I hope that many of you will be able to join in as we really have a lot of fun.

Famous Hams

The following list appeared in W6SD Carrier, San Fernando Valley ARC and was compiled by Katherine, WA6FAH.

| | |
|--------|------------------------------|
| 5CY | Howard Hughes |
| A4XAA | Sultan of Oman |
| EALJC | King Juan Carlos of Spain |
| H8MMJ | Manny Mota -- LA Dodgers |
| JY1 | King Hussein of Jordan |
| UU2RG | Rajiv Gandhi -- PM of India |
| NA4CZD | Chet Atkins -- Entertainer |
| W5LFL | Queen Garriot -- Astronaut |
| W6EZU | General Curtis Le May |
| KB6LOR | Dick Rutan -- Voyager Pilot |
| KB6LQS | Jean Yeager -- Voyager Pilot |
| F08GQ | Marlon Brando -- Actor |
| KA7EUD | Donnie Osmond -- Entertainer |

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

March 18 marked the date of the Club's annual St. Patrick's Day celebration, which was held, as usual, at the Shakey's Pizza Parlor on Torrance Blvd in Torrance. Everyone in attendance had a great time eating pizza and drinking beer and sodas. (This software package comes with graphics, wanta see?)



There was a slight debate with the place about the amount of the discount that we were suppose to get, but it was all worked out, although I know that I forgot to check if I got the discount or not.

Rich brought one of the satellite photographs that are on sale in Bldg. S, LA from 400 miles up, and a lot of us had fun trying to find where we lived.

All in all, Chris Wachs and David Kropp estimated, by guess and rough count, that there were 30-40 people there. John Keller wanted to know if we had all the names down to put in the paper. No, we didn't even try.

Unfortunately, the author left at around 7:00 pm, so what time the whole thing broke up is not known to anyone but those who were there. If you want to find out what time these things normally break up, plan on going next year. There is always a good time to be had by all.

Tidbits

by David Kropp N6PLU

John, K6MAU, comes by my work QTH in Del Amo Mall every now and again, and last month told me a story to put in the paper. It seems that John came home one day to find his 2 meter antenna had broken free and was hanging by it's coax at the top of his 50 foot tower (or is it 60 ft?). Not being able to climb it himself, John was able to find Bill, AA6GI, on the air and talked him into coming over and climbing the tower. To be honest, Bill was more than happy to do the favor, and came over and rescued John's antenna. According to John, the antenna was brought down, so my question is did it ever get back up?

I want to thank the Club for buying me this software package. It is called "Personal Newsletter" and is put out by Softsync. I was getting rather tired of cut-and-paste assembly of this newsletter, and the Appletworks program I was using did not allow for columns. With this, I could, if I wanted to, put up to nine columns on a page. I will stick with two. It also has graphics, as I demonstrated above, and I will try to use these, sparingly, where they are relevant or where they will bring a little life to the newsletter. I am going to be experimenting with some of the available fonts to see which is most easily read. For this month. 73.

News and Announcements

[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 2024!

Please REPLY if interested!

News and Announcements

W6TRW Repeaters Now Playing Newsline & ARRL News

We're putting 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, 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 on the waterfall display, 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.

One popular contest is the [ARRL January VHF Contest](#) (The third or fourth full weekend in January) and the [ARRL June VHF Contest](#). The VHF contests are 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. It's a great way to check out your VHF/UHF radios!

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

Tuesday Absolute Tech Net: Weekly

We retransmit the weekly [Absolute Tech Net](#) on Tuesday afternoons at 4 PM Pacific time. This is a great group of knowledgeable people who are enthusiastic to share their knowledge with others. Please see the [Absolute Tech Net web page](#) for the many topics they have discussed, and upcoming topics.

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.

W6TRW Officers 2024

Elected Officers:

President (Dylon Mutz)
Vice President (Mike Hamada)
Treasurer (Emery Dalesio / Wendell)
Secretary (Mark Knight)
NGRC Commissioner (Greg Madden)

Staff Officers:

Banquet (Janice Miya)
Publicity Chair (Greg Shreve)
Training Chair (Chris Wachs)
QSL Manager (Craig Gullickson)
Librarian (Janice Miya)

Appointed Officers:

Activities Chair (Janice Miya)
W6TRW Trustee (Chris Newton)
Technical Chair (Chris Wachs)
Swap Meet Manager (Wendell Young)
Membership Chair (Wendell Young)
ECT Coordinator (Greg Madden)
Web Master (Deedee Banh)
Web Page Designer (Rich Sauer)
Equipment Chair (vacant)
S-Shack Master (Dylon Mutz)
Field Day Chair (Greg Shreve)
Past President (Chris Wachs)