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Editor: EILERN MCKINNEY KA6DGV

Club Meetings: 2nd Wed of month
12 Noon in 238-543. All welcome

Board Meetings: 4th Wed of month
12 Noon in 238-543. All welcome

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MAIL STOP

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jpl → W6VIO CALLING



MARCH 1983 - Volume 13 No. 3



MARCH DOWN AND PAY YOUR DUES TODAY ---- \$3.00

Our March meeting will be held on Wednesday March 9, 12 Noon, 238-543. Topic will be "A Sophisticated Computer Based RTTY, ASCII, Amtor Morse Send/Receive System". Guest speaker will be John Walsh, N6UK. Why make a dumb terminal out of a fine computer. Using machine language and interrupt program, a program has been developed which maintains full use of all computer capability with split screen, active clock, full duplex, mailbox and much more. This is a no compromise approach to machine based communication.

(John WA6LWD)

Club Sponsored OPEN Repeater: W6VIO/R
222.44 in/224.04 out. Has user operated
link to WR6AZN on Table Mountain. Closed
Repeater Member Only with autopatch.
222.48 in 224.08 out

NETS: Amateur Radio News: Tues 8PM on W6VIO/R
OSCAR Net: Wed 8 PM W6VIO/R

Club Simplex Frequency: 223.4

CLUB MEETING

WEDNESDAY

MARCH 9TH

12 NOON

BLDG. 238-543



DX NEWS by Bob, N6ET

I'm pleased to report that my prime source for DX news has returned to the United States and has resumed passing along all the good DX rumors. I hope this information results in my faithful readers working lots of new countries this month.

ARRL Phone DX Contest - This yearly event was held on 5-6 March. It was a really good opportunity to work lots of rare DX.

Antigua - Look for V2AMK and V2AXA on both phone and CW between 1 and 10 March.

Brunei - From 3 to 8 March, K5YY will operate from VS5-land, primarily on 40 & 80 CW; although, he will operate both phone & CW on 10-80 meters. The low bands are open from 1000 to 1500Z.

Jamaica - From 1 to 16 March W2WSE/6Y5 will be active 21345 kHz & up.

Morocco - Look for CN8CX from 3 to 10 March on all bands 10-80 meters.

Nigeria - Need a 5N contact? 5NZLED is on most days from 14210 - 14215 kHz from 2100Z.

Turks/Caicos Island - VP5X will be active from 1-10 March, all bands, phone & CW.

I'd better stop for now, I don't want to be the cause of too much QRM!

73's, Bob, N6ET



"Edgar is in contact with everyone but me."

This cartoon appeared in W6VIO Calling several years ago - so here it is again in case you missed it by not being a member way back when.

**INFORMATION**

PRESS RELEASE - THE FOUNDATION FOR AMATEUR RADIO, INC., a non-profit organization with headquarters in Washington, D.C., plans to award ten (10) scholarships for the academic year 1983-84. The Foundation, composed of fifty local area amateur radio clubs, fully funds two of these scholarships from the proceeds of the Gaithersburg (MD) Hamfest. It administers, without cost to the donors, two scholarships for the Quarter Century Wireless Association and one each for the Richard G. Chichester Memorial, the Radio Club of America, the Young Ladies' Radio League, the Edmund B. Redington Memorial, the Amateur Radio News Service and the Columbia (MD) Amateur Radio Association.

Licensed Radio Amateurs may compete for one or more of these awards if they plan to pursue a full-time course of studies beyond high school and are enrolled or have been accepted for enrollment in an accredited university, college or technical school. Most of the scholarships require the applicant to hold at least an FCC General Class license or equivalent. The scholarship awards range from \$300 to \$900 with preference given in some of them to residents of specified geographical areas or the pursuit of certain study programs.

Additional information and an application form can be requested by a letter or QSL/postcard prior to May 31, 1983 from the scholarship committee chairman. Write: Hugh A. Turnbull, W3ABC
6903 Rhode Island Avenue
College Park, MD 20740

The FOUNDATION is devoted exclusively to promoting the interests of Amateur Radio and to the scientific, literary and educational pursuits that advance the purposes of the Amateur Radio Service.

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY

The most welcome person is the one who knows when to go home.

The things most people want to know are usually none of their business.

The only sure thing about luck is that it will change.

1983 DUES are Due

Please mail your check for \$3.00 to Kerry Erickson - FCC Section 233-208. Your dues are overdue and the bookkeeping is time-consuming, so please pay promptly so that the 1983 membership list can be completed. Thank you. Off-lab members see FCC address on front of newsletter.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

23 February 1983 - JPL ARC Board Meeting Minutes.

Present: S. Brokl, N. Chalfin, K. Erickson*
J. Holloday, J. Lumsden, J. McKinney* G. Morris,
J. Repar* S. Sander, M. Stewart* *board member.

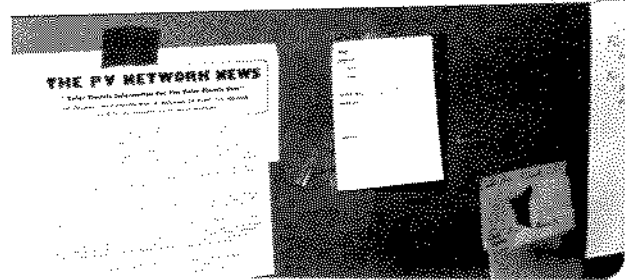
1. A quorum being present, the Board Meeting was called to order by President John Repar.
2. Notes from the discussions of 26 January were read for information of those present. (A quorum was not available for the January Board meeting and no official business was conducted.)
3. K. Erickson, Treasurer, reported that ERC has not yet completed audits of its clubs accounts, and he has therefore not been able to balance the ARC account with ERC.
4. Stan Brokl reported that he will be representing the Club at the Dayton Hamvention 29 April-1 May. Voyager SSTV tapes are being prepared for sale at the Convention. Stan proposed that the Club sell surplus W6VIO commemorative QSL cards at the Convention as an additional fund-raiser. Following general discussion, it was moved by John McKinney and seconded by Kerry Erickson, that: The Club will sell surplus commemorative QSL cards at the Dayton Hamvention for \$0.50 each and that these cards will be stamped on the back with an appropriate "souvenir" marking. The motion carried 5-0. Stan Brokl volunteered to obtain the cards and the rubber stamp, and to prepare the cards for sale.
5. Jim Lumsden reported an inquiry regarding Club support/representation at the Dallas HAMCON this summer.
6. N. Chalfin stated that he will send out PR notices regarding the Ham Teleconference Net on 3 March. (The Net will be carried by W6VIO/R for the L.A. area.)
7. Jay Holloday inquired as to whether any 2 meter repeaters will carry the Teleconference Net. The discussion indicated that, insofar as known, several of the area 2 meter repeaters will probably carry the net via link with W6VIO/R. Jay also discussed the requirements for ARRL affiliation of the Club. (The general requirement for ARRL affiliation is that greater than 50% of the members must be members of ARRL.)
8. Jim Lumsden reported that the new autodialer for the repeater has been assembled and is under test. An info package on autodialer procedures will be sent to repeater users.
9. John McKinney presented an appeal on behalf of the Club Editor, Eileen McKinney, for articles and inputs for the monthly Newsletter.
10. George Morris is recruiting volunteers for Club public-service support of the Burbank WALK-A-THON on 24 April.
11. Stan Sander reported that two new tower sections have been procured for the 40 meter beam and that a mounting plate is being fabricated. Stan will be organizing work parties to repair the Club antenna systems.
12. The meeting was adjourned at 1300. J.M.Stewart
Secretary

LETTERS

This information comes to us from Nash W6HCD. The chassis paint on some of our ham gear gets pretty chipped & nicked with the passage of time. I like my gear, due in large part to its reliability, despite the fact that transistorization in the transmitter section couldn't be extended to the power amplifier stage. So recently I had four chassis covers refinished commercially using mil spec urethane enamel, baked on. This step was taken several years after my own efforts at refinishing and baking in an electric oven; the base metal just hadn't been properly prepared (pickled, that is).

The mil spec job was done at nearby Pasadena Refinishing & Enameling, Inc. 2835 Sierra Grande, near Foothill & San Gabriel. They have a large stock of mil spec colors, but I was pretty well committed to a stippled black to match black knobs and grey front panel. Anyone needing this service would be pleased with the result, but it pays to consolidate several small jobs to make one worth their effort. Phone 796-1892 if interested. Nash.

MESSAGES



E.T. gets around as evidenced by above photo taken by Norm K6PGX. MESSAGE TO: E.T. PLEASE CALL: Home

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE - Wilson Mark II, 2 M HandHeld with Charger. Crystals: 146.52, ODN Repeater, FNO Repeater, Altadena RACES, County RACES. \$100.00. Call Ralph West/N6VM X-7403 - Bldg. 238-420.

WANTED - Articles for W6VIO Calling - subjects wanted are: technical articles, human interest, etc. Any length article is welcome. It can be a couple of paragraphs or a page. (If it's too long, it can be edited down) If you have an unusual ham experience from your past, if you took a trip and used ham radio during your travels, write down a few lines and send it in to the address on page 1. Thanks for your time and effort - also thanks for doing it now and not saying "I will soon". Take a minute and send in a paragraph. OK? Eileen KA6DGV.

ARRL MEMBERSHIP

As you know our Club needs 51% of our membership to be members of ARRL in order to be ARRL Club affiliated. What you might not know is that if you join ARRL or renew through our Club that our Club gets to keep \$2 of each membership. Contact Kerry at the next meeting for details.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ron Ploszaj WA6TPW on his recent promotion. Ron is now a project manager.

Congratulations also to Stan Brokl N2YQ who won First Place with 200,000+ points in the Los Angeles Section IARU Contest. Results of the contest appeared in February 1983 QST.

Get well quick to Robbie Polansky N6ET's oldest son who's been sick all week with a hurt throat. Vacation's over Rob - get back to school.

HAM CLASS NEWS

Congratulations go to Tak Sato, KF6DA, who took his personal holiday on Wednesday, 16 February and used it to upgrade to Extra Class! He reports that the FCC Long Beach is a mad-house these days - ever since they curtailed giving amateur exams to only the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. (Except May & November during which exams will be given on the 3rd. Wednesdays).

Paul K06D

HAMS OF THE MONTH

Chris Walker WA4CEW, holds a General class license and has been a ham for 7 years. He was formerly WN4CEW. Chris was born in Shelby, North Carolina and grew up in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He's single and his family is in South Carolina with no hams numbered among them as yet. Chris operates on 80, 40 and 15 meters. He was the former President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Clemson University Ham Radio Club. His other hobbies include jogging and tennis.

Vince Wirth WA6BZB, holds a General class license and has been a ham for 25 years. Vince was born and grew up in Chicago, Illinois. He is married and has three sons - no hams as yet in the family. He operates on 20, 15, 10 and 2 meters. Vince is a member of the ARRL and also the LOMPOC Amateur Radio Club.

E.F. (Rick) Endsley WA6YIG, holds a General class license and has been a ham for 10 years. Rick was born in Bivins, Texas and grew up in East Texas. He's married and has four children that are grown and away from home. He operates on 220 and also 2 meters. His other hobbies include camping and dune buggy racing.

Glenn E. Cunningham WA6TPT, holds a Technician class license and has been a ham for 15 years. Glenn was born in Hollywood, California and grew up in Glendale. He's single and his hobbies include boating and electronics. Glenn operates on 40-10 meters and mostly on 220 Mhz.

Donald P. Burcham N6HON (formerly K6SRT) holds a Technician class license and is one of our new under a year hams. Don was born in Baker, Oregon and grew up in Portland, Oregon. He's married and has three children that are grown. His hobbies include flying, photography, R/C model aircraft, and philately.

CLUB'S EXPERTISE SHINES

One day recently, Merv MacMedan received a phone call for the radio club from an executive of San Fernando Electronics. It seems his boss, the president, lives near JPL in La Canada, and was experiencing interference on his TV Receive-only satellite system. The question asked was, could the QRM be from W6VIO or even perhaps JPL itself, and if so, could the club help in alleviating the problem?

Merv pursued the problem a bit deeper with the caller, and as further details unfolded, decided that neither was it likely that JPL or W6VIO was the culprit.

It all started when the supplier of the TVRO terminal delivered a box of parts on his doorstep and then promptly went bankrupt before the installation could be completed. The owner got another company to install it, but there were problems. An engineering consultant was called in to recommend a solution, and he decided that the periodic "snow" being received was due to terrestrial telephone company interference.

Telco interference is a common problem with TVRO stations, since telco terrestrial microwave links share the same frequency bands with the satellites, and if one lives within the telco beam, interference is likely. It has become so frequent a problem that Heathkit even recommends a site survey before they will sell you their TVRO kit. The consultant was so sure that telco interference was the culprit that he recommended a large screen be built to shield the dish from the telco station.

But the owner wasn't convinced, and before he invested a great deal more money to build a screen and possibly relocate his dish, he had one of his people call the JPLARC, just to make sure it wasn't ham interference. After all, aren't hams always interfering with somebody?;

Merv searched the club roster and likely JPL candidates for someone with expertise in TVRO stations, hoping he might also be able to check out the installation and confirm that the problem was NOT being caused by interference from JPL or W6VIO.

Two competent individuals were identified who had experience with TVRO equipment - Rod Mitchell and Dan Bathker, K6BLG. They both charged into the problem and discovered it to be caused by local oscillator

"squegging" - that is, a defective oscillator which turns on and off at a rapid rate, appearing to the uninitiated very much like interference! It took 10 minutes for the JPLers to identify the problem, but it subsequently took 2 hours to convince the owner's engineer that it WAS the problem!

The TVRO owner is now very satisfied with the club's excellent help. In a letter from the company (SFE Technologies) to Rod and Dan, they say: "... The technical expertise exhibited in identifying the alleged interference problem at Mr. Rubendall's residence, stood well for the reputation of the JPL Amateur Radio Club. Once again, thank you ..."

And to Rod and Dan, hearty thanks from the club for a job well done and in a professional manner. Would either of you accept a post as Interference Committee Chairman? (N6NO)

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESKEDITORIAL

I shudder to think about the raised eyebrows and caustic comments this editorial will instigate. I shudder - but - as you'll notice it's not stopping me. If you're a big CW fan you'll have an ax to grind - but just don't bury it in my head!

We've been bombarded recently with pros and cons of eliminating the morse code requirement from certain classes of licenses.

I feel that since it took me so long and was such an arduous chore for me to get my license that I am as qualified as ANY ham alive to have a strong opinion on the subject of code. It gave me a tremendous sense of accomplishment when I learned code sufficiently to pass my test. It also gave me severe heart palpitations and took at least ten years off my life. Code is part of my past - so was a horrible case of Asiatic flu in 1957. I wouldn't wish either one on my worst enemy.

I apologize in advance to the people I will be wounding when they open this newsletter with their professional "keyer fingers" and quake at my sacriligious words. The quaking will be from anger.

I consider myself a good cook and a good amateur radio operator. I didn't have to take a class in how to build an oven in order to learn to cook and I didn't have to learn to breed and butcher a chicken in order to roast one and I didn't have to learn morse code in order to be an interested and dedicated ham.

My feelings are that forcing people to learn morse code in order to get a radio license is like making a child learn to count on his fingers and toes instead of teaching him the rudiments of mathematics. Both cases are examples of living in the "past". The present is here and the future looms brightly on the horizon and I don't feel that toe counting or code learning will be beneficial to tomorrow.

Let's grow older in amateur radio gracefully and not press our "old fashioned" means of communication upon the unwilling. I'm all for code if a person wants to pursue this as part of this exciting hobby. But I for one would not force it down the throats of unwilling victims.

Eileen McKinney KA6DGV

As always we welcome all views on controversial subjects. Morse Code is becoming a controversy.

If you would like your views known, please feel free to write in (address on front).

EDITORIAL -

- The current proposal regarding elimination of code requirements for certain license classes brings to mind my own experiences. I passed a 12 word/minute code test as a Naval Aviation Cadet. The military code had been taught to us by hams in uniform. The classes were scheduled for one hour per day. This went on for about three months. When our proficiency approached 12 words/min, we were given simulated qualification tests. When the official test was given, the instructor warmed us up at 15 to 18 wpm for about 15 minutes. All of the code was sent in five letter code groups. I didn't receive plain language until I became a ham. Since I did not use the code either in the service or later, I had forgotten it and had to relearn it. I did it on my own by taping some of the practice code from the ham bands and playing it back. In between, I would listen to code on a converter which I had in my automobile. Eventually, I gained sufficient misplaced confidence to take the test for General Class. After several trips, I finally passed both receiving and sending and got my ticket.

Some of my most pleasant ham experiences involve CW during the early morning hours on weekends.

Many years ago, I was convinced that code should be mandatory. Now I've mellowed and realized that ham radio is a hobby with wide ranges of interests and technical facets. I no longer feel that code is essential for all classes of licenses.

John Repar WA6LWD

NEWS OF NOTE FROM FELLOW CLUBS

This comes to us from the Hughes ARC Newsletter.

NO EXCUSE WEEK by Frank Boyd, WA5QVN (ARNS Roulette)

We are serving notice that this coming meeting will be "No Excuse Week". There is absolutely no excuse for you not to be there since we will have:

1. Cots in the back for those who say they need their sleep.
2. Murine for those with tired eyes from watching TV too long.
3. Steel helmets for those who say, "The roof will fall in".
4. Blankets for those who think the room is too cold and fans for those who think the room is too hot.
5. Hearing aids for those who can't hear the President and cotton for those who can.
6. A portable TV for those who can't miss their programs.
7. Some relatives for those who go visiting on meeting nights.
8. A good selection of flowers for those who enjoy the outdoors.
9. "Stamp Out Dues" buttons for those who are behind on theirs.
10. Free TV Dinners for those who can't cook dinner and come to the meeting too.

If these items do not deal with your excuse, please phone us and we'll think of something just for you.

We received this poem a while back from Les Cammer WB6OLL in Santa Barbara.

"The Rhee sisters run a disco near a recruiting station. Every night it is full to capacity with inductees. One young man comes regularly to show a Rhee sister [the variable one] his odes on dyeing.

"These dyeing odes have too much noise in them", she says, invariably. He recoils from her feedback but, alas, will return again the following night for he hopes she'll eventually love his products and transform, er, his life."

by Les Cammer WB6OLL

MARRY NOT A RADIO HAM (reprinted from "YL Harmonics") via MWRA N/L

Verily, I say unto you, marry not a Radio Ham, for he is a strange being, possessed of many devils.

He speaketh eternally in dit-dah, and he spelleth his words without vowels.

He knoweth countries only by prefixes, he learneth his geography by zones.

He stayeth up late at nights, for reasons known only to him, and thou wouldst not believe his stories if he told you!

When he courteth his damsel he keepeth a log book. When he maketh a trip he views not the scenery but looks for antennas.

He picketh his seat in the car by the rig therein and not by the damsel beside him.

He holdeth a damsel's hand only to measure the fist and he embraceth only to test the strength of the muscles.

He checketh the vibrations of her heart with WWV and he reckoneth her strength for raising antennas.

Verily, Though she expecteth chocolates when he calleth, she openeth the package to find filter chokes!

This is the new sign that hangs over our word processor!

WARNING! THIS MACHINE SUBJECT TO BREAKDOWNS DURING PERIODS OF CRITICAL NEED!!!!

A special circuit in this machine called a "Crisis Detector", senses the user's emotional state in terms of how desperately they need to use the machine. The Crisis Detector then creates a malfunction proportional to the desperation of the user. Threatening the machine with violence or the use of curses and obscenities may soothe the user but will not fool the Crisis Detector and will only aggravate the situation. Likewise, attempts to use another machine may cause it to malfunction, because they both belong to the same union. Keep cool and say nice things to the machine. Nothing else seems to work.

THE MODERN LITTLE RED HEN

No one really knows who wrote this updated version of the well-known fable. But it has been widely reprinted and even read in stockholders' meetings.

Once upon a time, there was a little red hen who scratched about the barnyard until she uncovered some grains of wheat. She called her neighbors and said, "If we plant this wheat, we shall have bread to eat. Who will help me plant it?"

"Not I", said the cow. "Not I", said the pig. "Not I", said the duck. "Not I", said the goose.

"Then I will", said the little red hen, and she did. The wheat grew tall and ripened into golden grain.

"Who will help me reap my wheat?" asked the little red hen.

"Not I", said the duck.

"Out of my classification", said the pig.

"I'd lose my seniority", said the cow.

"I'd lose my unemployment compensation", said the goose.

"Then I will", said the little red hen, and she did.

At last it came time to bake the bread. "Who will help me bake the bread?" asked the little red hen.

"That would be overtime for me", said the cow.

"I'd lose my welfare benefits", said the duck.

"I'm a dropout and never learned how", said the pig.

"If I'm to be the only helper, that's discrimination", said the goose.

"Then I will", said the little red hen. She baked five loaves and held them up for her neighbors to see. They all wanted some - in fact - demanded a share. But the little red hen said, "No, I can eat the five loaves myself".

"Excess profits!" yelled the cow.

"Capitalist leech!" cried the duck.

"I demand equal rights!" shouted the goose.

The pig just grunted. Then they hurriedly painted "unfair" picket signs and marched around, shouting obscenities.

The Government agent came and said to the little red hen, "You must not be greedy." "But I earned the bread", said the little red hen. "Exactly", said the agent. "That is the wonderful free-enterprise system. Anyone in the barnyard can earn as much as he wants. But, under government regulations, the productive workers must divide their product with the idle." And they lived happily ever after. But the little red hen's neighbors wondered why she never again baked bread.

On Guard!

