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CLUB MEETINGS: 2nd. Wed. of month 12 Noon in
238-543. Everyone welcome!

BOARD MEETINGS: 4th. Wed. of month 12 Noon in
238-543. Everyone welcome!

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President's Message

April Meeting - At our April meeting, Norm Chalfin (K6PGX) took us through the history of OSCAR / AMSAT; from its beginning to where it is today. His interesting talk, slides, and other material gave us insight into the behind-the-scenes activity that precedes the public exposure of the satellite.

Club Volunteer Exams - The club is considering sponsoring / coordinating volunteer examinations. What are your thoughts? Are YOU willing to support the activity?

Field Day - Many thanks to those gracious few who contacted me.

Weekly News Net - The Tuesday evening news net needs something to rekindle its interest. All ideas good or otherwise are solicited.

Picnic - The club is once again planning on serving its renown HOT DOGS at the annual JPL Picnic on July 21. All Hot Dog cookers, wrappers, and moral supporters are urged to contact Bruce Beaudry (WD6HEZ) 354-7872.

Monthly Programs - With all the technical expertise and contacts we have in our membership you'd think there would be a surplus of activities to choose from each month. There isn't! If you have any experiences, endeavors (productive or otherwise) that are of general interest to amateur radio and you would be willing to spend 45 minutes sharing with other amateurs, contact me or any other club officer. Thanks!

Kerry (N6DSG)

DX NEWS

This month's article favors those of you who like to operate during the late hours of the night. We have to sometimes do things a little differently! Here goes nothing:

BARBADOS- 8P6AU favors 7010kHz from 0900 to 1100Z daily.

ST MARTIN- K2KTT/PJ7 plans to be active from 17-29 May on 10-80 CW.

ICELAND- KD5YG/TF is available most days from 2200Z.

KERMADEC- ZL8AFH operates daily from 0700-1000Z on either 14210 or 14220kHz.

PITCAIRN- VR6KY turns on his system from 1200Z near 7185kHz on Fridays.

SPRATLEY- 1S1JZ will be active 2-8 May on 10-160 CW (30 kHz up from low end) & the usual SSB frequencies. If you miss this operation, try again about the middle of the month when 1S2CK plans to operate.

BOUVET- Mark your calender for next January and February when rumors persist that an LA-DX Group is planning an operation from this rare location.

My thanks to the LI-DX Bulletin for providing source material for this article. Also, I'm pleased to report that BY1PK has finally been eliminated from the N6ET "WANT LIST"! Good hunting.

Bob-N6ET

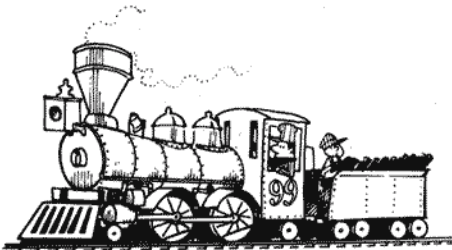
MARCH OF DIMESWALK AMERICA

Members of the JPL Amateur Radio Club provided complete communications support for the Glendale-Burbank March of Dimes Walk America on Sunday 29 April. The start/finish was at Disney Studio in Burbank. The 30 KM route went through Burbank and Glendale to Verdugo Road before turning back to Burbank. JPL Club Members provided communications at six check points along the way with the start/finish headquarters. Club members also provided communications for the pickup and return of children to Wilson Junior High in Glendale and Crescenta Valley High School.

The communications provided general "health and welfare" type traffic for walkers.

JPL Amateur Radio Club members who participated included: George, W6ABW; Rex, WD6EWN; Connie, KA6JAM; Dick, WA6JBZ; Bob, W6LTC; Dick, KG6Y; Ralph, N6YM; and Stan, N2YQ.

(George W6ABW)

**THE WORLDWIDE 20-METER BEACON NETWORK**

By Merv MacMedan, N6NO

Recently, while tuning across the 20-meter CW band looking for some choice morsels of DX to satisfy my hunger, I stumbled across a beacon station. I wouldn't have recognized it as such except that it clearly said "Beacon" in Morse code. A little off-the-air research revealed that it was part of a network of beacon stations around the world that has been put in place primarily to provide real-time propagation information for users. In addition to this main feature, the beacons have so many additional features that I thought it would be worthwhile sharing this information with other club members.

To begin with, all of these beacons operate on 14.100 MHz. Therefore, please don't use this as a tuneup frequency! Each beacon transmits during an assigned 1-minute slot, and the rotating sequence of all beacons is completed in exactly 10 minutes. Think of it! In only 10 minutes you can reliably determine conditions to most of the major areas of the world! Since each beacon seems to be within 100 Hz or its nominal frequency, you can also use it as an in-band frequency marker. And, since four different power steps are used during the transmission, the QRP fan can determine whether conditions are good enough for a serious attempt with his low power gear without wasting time.

Each beacon begins its 1-minute slot with the 20-wpm Morse code message "QST DE (call) BEACON" at the full 100-watt power level. It then transmits four 9-second dashes in a power stepping sequence starting at 100 watts and dropping to 100 mW in 10-dB steps for each succeeding dash. (To help identify which level is being sent, - for example, on a chart recorder - the first dash is preceded by a "dit" indicating "first step;" the second dash by "didit" indicating "second step" and so on.) In addition to illustrating the quality of propagation, these dashes are useful for doing A-B comparisons between antennas. Finally, the 1-minute slot ends with a full-power Morse "SK (call)".

The beacons are intended to operate 24-hours per day. (If you don't hear a beacon, there is probably no propagation!) The slot schedule, calls and locations follow:

Minute or 10-minute cycle	Call	Location
0	4U1UN/B	United Nations, New York City
1	W6WX/B	Stanford University, Calif.
2	KH60/B	Honolulu Community College, HI
3	JA2IGY	JARL, Mt. Asama, Japan
4	4X6TU	Tel Aviv University, Israel
5	OH2B	Helsinki Tech. Univ., Finland
6	CT3B	ARRM, Madeira Islands
7	ZS6DN/B	Transvaal, South Africa
8		(Not yet operational)
9		(Not yet Operational)

The beacon network was organized and financed by the Northern California DX Foundation. W6QHS designed the 100-watt power-stepped transmitters, K6KU was responsible for the clocks and microprocessors, and K6RU did the engineering, production and packaging. All use nondirectional antennas. It seems to this writer that the job of designing and building this network, coordinating the station locations and getting them licensed for beacon operation, and maintaining the operation was an outstanding achievement. The fact that the network exists and works well deserves much recognition and praise to those responsible. I hope our members will be able to take advantage of this new service available to them!

Further information may be found in June 1983 QST, page 27.



HELP US REACH THE GOAL OF 100% PAID DUES

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

Have you seen the posters around town that say:

We, the unwilling, led by the unqualified, have been doing the unbelievable for so long with so little, that we now attempt the impossible with nothing.

Notice to all employees: This department requires no physical fitness program. Everyone around here gets enough exercise jumping to conclusions, flying off the handle, running down the boss, knifeing friends in the back, dodging responsibility and pushing their luck.

National "Procrastination Week" has been postponed until next week.

HAMS OF THE MONTH

Scott Nolte - Scott holds a Technician License and has been a ham for 3½ years. His call sign is N6CUV and he was also the former KA6JOU. Scott was born and raised in Pasadena and is single. He operates on 2 meters only and is a past member of the Pasadena ARC. He enjoys backpacking and car camping.

Steve Pohorsky - KB6DVM is one of our new Novices. He was born in Los Angeles and raised in Sunnyvale, California. Steve attended our Fall Class last year and we're glad to have him on board.

Sherwood (Woody) Mayall - is one of our new Associate Members. Woody was born and raised in Glendale and also lived for a time in Honolulu as a youngster. His hobbies include Vitrious enameling, machine work, vertebrate fossils and photography.

Matthias (Matt) Reese - Matt was born in Baltimore, Maryland and grew up there and in New Orleans, La. His wife's name is Ruth and he was a member of the ARRL in the years 1950-53. His hobbies include carpentry, electricity/electronics, camping and hiking. His other interests include maintaining two 1967 Triumph cars. His past jobs in the early 1950's included working as a Radio Tech with Communications, Police & Taxi for which he held a 2nd. Class Radio Tel License for many years.

Bonnie Buratti - Bonnie has been a ham for a couple of months and is one of our new Novices. She was born in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania and also grew up there. Bonnie is married and has one son. Her Father is K3AGK.

Leonard Reder - Leonard is one of our new Novices (TBA). He was born in Burbank and grew up in Van Nuys. His other hobbies include scale modeling.



JPL AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

25 APRIL 1984

PRESENT: K. Erickson, M. Stewart, J. Adams,
R. Malm, J. Repar

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by President, Kerry Erickson at 12:10 pm.

The following items of interest were discussed:

1. Kerry Erickson questioned the status of the Special Services Club application --- Mike Stewart indicated that an updated membership list was needed and would be obtained.

Kerry noted that Field Day was scheduled in June and the JPL picnic was planned for July. These two activities will be the subject of the club's May meeting to determine the extent of the club's participation.

A club Program Chairperson is still needed to help plan the monthly meetings.

2. Secretary, D. Malm reported that the club mailing list has been updated as requested by calls from various members and the new members list. It was noted that the club list is not currently updated automatically by a change to the telephone JPL directory.

3. John Repar reported that the plaque for D. Piety had been ordered.

John also distributed a JPL memo requesting that RFI sources on the laboratory be reported to a laboratory Czar for RFI. The intent and application to the ARC was discussed and John indicated that he, in consultation with Stan Sanders, would investigate.

4. J. Adams said that as result of the March Training Questionnaire, that seven (7) people had signed up for the license upgrade class meeting on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

5. The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 pm.

R. Malm, KF6FK
Secretary