

APRIL

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MAIL STOP

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Pasadena, California 91109

Club Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month at
12 Noon in 238-543. Everyone is
welcome - bring your lunch!

Board Meetings: Fourth Wednesday of the month at
12 Noon in 238-543. Everyone is
welcome - bring your lunch!

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JPL → W6VIO CALLING



APRIL 1985

VOLUME 15

NUMBER 4



APRIL

ASAP - Get your HAMCON '85 Reservations in.
April 24 - JPL ARC Board Meeting
Apr 27-28- Dayton Hamvention-Hara Exhibition Ctr.
April 27 - TRW Swapmeet-NW Corner of Compton/Marine
Aviation behind Chevron Station.

MAY

May 4 - License Exams, Lockheed ARC, Burbank
(W6LS)
May 8 - JPL ARC Meeting - Please attend
May 17 - TASMA
May 22 - JPL ARC Board Meeting-All invited
May 25 - TRW Swapmeet

JUNE

June 1 - License Exams, Lockheed ARC, Burbank
June 12 - JPL ARC Club Meeting
June 22-23-FIELD DAY
June 26 - JPL ARC Board Meeting-All invited

JULY

July 6 - License Exams, Lockheed ARC, Burbank
July 10 - JPL ARC Club Meeting
July 24 - JPL ARC Board Meeting
July 27 - TRW Swapmeet

AUGUST

August 3 - License Exams, Lockheed ARC, Burbank
August 14- JPL ARC Club Meeting
August 28- JPL ARC Board Meeting

SEPTEMBER

September 7- License Exams, Lockheed ARC, Burbank
September 11- JPL ARC Club Meeting
September 25- JPL ARC Board Meeting

NOTE: If you have any input for the calendar,
please drop me a line.

DX NEWS by Bob, N6ET



DX NEWS

It seems like only yesterday that I sat down in front of my AODC to write this bulletin. Time goes by so fast when you're having fun! A quick scan of my trusty LIDXB shows that the HF bands must be alive and well. Here's a sample.

CLIPPERTON-F00XX is scheduled to be active on all bands and all modes from 3 to 10 April. Three stations will be on the air simultaneously. Operations from this island are rare indeed, so make sure you work this one.

BURUNDI-9U5JB is active from 14,165 to 14,185 kHz from 1915Z and at 3,745 kHz from 0200 to 0400Z.

CHATHAM ISLAND-ZL70Y can possibly add a new country, or at least a new band-country to your totals. He frequents 3,818 to 3,825 kHz from 0700Z.

MAURITANIA-5T5RY is a regular on 14,020 to 14,030 kHz from 2200Z.

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-3X4EX operates on 14,180 to 14,185 kHz from 2000Z frequently.

RWANDA-9X5WB is active from 1900Z on 14,176 to 14,180 kHz.

UK SOVEREIGN BASES-ZC4MR shows several times a week on the W7PHO net on 14,227 kHz from 1600Z.

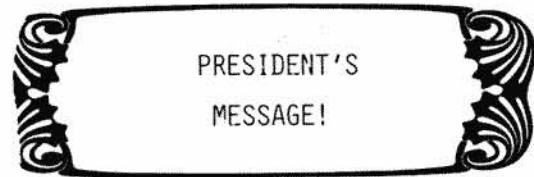
If this kind of DX continues to show, I'm going to have to recondition my antenna farm (again after the last wind) to compete. Don't make too much noise in the pileups!

Bob, N6ET

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR
JPL FAMILY GRADUATES



HAPPY CINCO DE MAYO DAY



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

On the 18th of March the 224.08 autopatch machine was hit by lightning- during the same tremendous storm that dumped snow, rain and sleet all along the foothills.

Due to the dedication and effort of Chuck Sarture(KG6NF), our Repeater Committee chairman, Carl deSilveira (KG6LG), Walt Diem (WA6PEA), Sid Johnson (WB6VWH) and especially Bill Wood (WB6FXJ) and others that I have probably failed to mention, the machine should be up and operating even better than before by the time you read this. Congratulations are in order to these folks for getting the job done quickly and getting it back on the air.

As you may remember from a letter circulated in March, the .08 machine has been temporarily channeled with a group in south Orange County. Some activity on the frequency besides ours has been noted. Whether or not this activity will blossom is unknown at this time.

There are some great ideas afloat regarding the future of the .04 machine. The real task now is to determine which ideas are feasible and which aren't. Chuck Sarture has already started by setting up regular meetings of the Repeater Committee, and all who are interested in the future of the Club's repeaters are welcome to attend.

The first regular meeting of the repeater committee was held on the fourth of April and there were more than 20 people in attendance. Elsewhere in this issue are the minutes of that meeting.

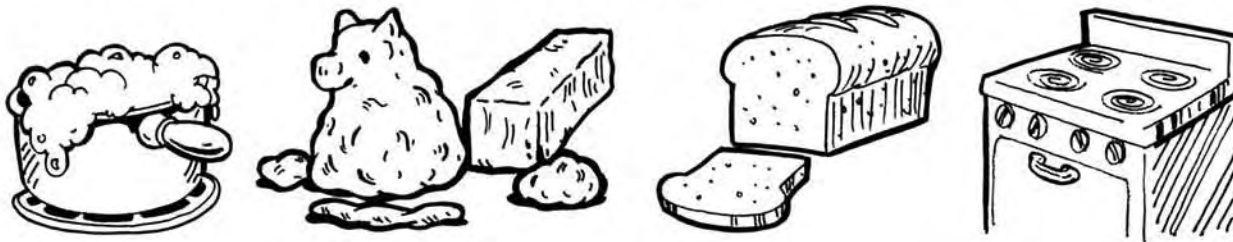
We get newsletters from many different clubs, many of these local and some from exotic places like Anchorage, Alaska, and the St. Charles Amateur Radio Club of St. Charles, Missouri.

In the March newsletter of the West Coast ARC, based out of Newport Beach, in a survey of their members for proposed activities they list as the number one choice a tour of JPL. We hold a very special position in the community, and people are interested in what we do. Let's all spend a little time devoting ourselves to the betterment of the club and its equipment.

By the way, if any out there are interested in reading the newsletters of these various clubs, just drop me a note and I'll put you on the circulation list.

Remember Field Day? Scheduled for the 22nd and 23rd of June this year, it will be run as a contest this year and sites are being considered. If you have a favorite location or are interested in contest operation (even if you've never tried it before), be sure to come to the next board meeting on April 24th or better yet, get in touch with me before that time.

Jon, NW6H



SOURDOUGH - - - A KILLING EXPERIENCE ----- FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK by Eileen McKinney KA6DGV

I've never been prone to fantasies. The fact that Tom Sellick and Neil Diamond have never called to talk to me never entered my head. Of course, my phone number is unlisted. But, getting back to the subject at hand - fantasies are not my thing. So what I've written below can be taken at face value. Sourdough bread can be hazardous to your health.

Those of you who have never made sourdough bread will not be able to relate to this story. But those of you who have dealt with making the "starter" will know what a feeling you get of someone depending on you. Sourdough starter starts out innocently enough. You mix up warm water, yeast and flour. Sounds fine so far right? But during the night in the warm oven it takes on another life form. Like something from the Outer Limits it begins to bubble and grow smelling like something from another planet. In the morning you feel like a scientist who has created a test tube lifeform. IT IS ALIVE!!! It demands to be fed on time or it has a yeast deficiency attack. Your life becomes ruled by the starter. You become the slave to it's every whim. It takes on a frightening personality. I called mine Rodney. Rodney became obsessed with eating on time. On Thursday he demanded nourishment and I was out of flour. He rose up in the bowl and shouted "Go to the store". So I dropped what I was doing in fear and ran out to do his bidding. I was terrified of what I had created. He actually became violent at times and would spit yeast water on every-thing and everyone. Even innocent babies were not safe from Rodney's wrath. The baby crawled by Rodney's dish and was told to "Get lost". Life was becoming a living nightmare. Each day brought a new horror from the kitchen.

Rodney was becoming a monster that I had created and he was multiplying fast. One day he was in one bowl and the next he was in two. I was in the panic mode when he became four bowls. I knew the end was near. I tried sneaking out of the house and putting him up for adoption. I told neighbors how delicious sourdough bread was and how they'd love the experience. My neighbors just shook their heads and laughed. They had all gone through their own "sourdough stage" years ago and they remembered the horrible consequences. Susan told me that she had to have her sourdough committed to a yeast assalym. Marge told me that sourdough had been the cause of her divorce; and Julie told me that because of sourdough she would never be able again to have more children.

I came home determined to win. I crept up to the oven and looked in and screamed. Rodney had become six bowls and was rising fast. I don't know what came over me. I'm not violent. Really! But I lost control. I turned on the oven to 450° and held the door closed. Rodney screamed and tried to get out - but I held fast - "GAG - CHOKE - GAG - CHOKE. The heat - it's KILLING me - it's KILLIN - it's KIL - gasp!"

I know what you're thinking. I'm a brutal killer, right? Sadistic right? Well I have the recipe for sourdough starter - call me if you dare.

(Eileen)



Some Club members at a recent Club meeting-----Why aren't you in this picture? Come to a meeting and see how much you'll enjoy it. (photos by Norm Chalfin K6PGX)

(Continued from Column 1)



WB6IEA/RPT RETURNS TO THE AIR

I'm sure most of you noticed the unusual weather, with heavy lightning, rain and hail which hit us around 3 pm on Monday afternoon, March 18. Right after the storm, a few of us going home from work noted that the closed repeater (WB6IEA/RPT) was off the air. A few hardy souls switched over to the open repeater, W6VIO/R, for solace, and found nobody to talk to. Nobody, that is, that knew anything about the closed machine. A few days later others began to notice that WB6IEA/A could not be brought up when they tried their once-a-month phone call. Even a full two weeks later a seldom-heard member was heard asking on W6VIO if the closed machine was down!

For all you inactive closed-machine users, here's what happened. We lost the control circuits of the closed machine, apparently from a lightning hit that we believe came in through the telephone control line or power line or both. It didn't hit the antenna. The CMOS circuits we are using are very sensitive to such transients, and fortunately we don't get such bad storms often. We also found the timer clock fuse blown. It could have been worse.

A team was put together to troubleshoot the machine. It was brought down from the site by Jim Lumsden, (WA6MYJ) and fussed over by Chuck Sarture (KG6NF), Carl deSilveira (KG6LG), Sid Johnson (WB6VWH) and Merv MacMedan (N6NO). Using one of the lab's automated chip analyzers and testers, about a half-dozen bad chips were identified by Sid and replaced; others that could not be tested were replaced anyway. Sid found one chip with the Vcc lead blown open; Carl found the -12V regulator not regulating. After replacing these, the control logic now started to work much better, but still many funny things were happening. Further assistance and advice were provided by Walt Diem (WA6PEA) and Bill Wood (WB6FXJ). A fortuitous circumstance brought Bill to Pasadena on business just as the team was becoming tired and frustrated at the extent of the troubleshooting, and Bill generously offered to check everything completely at his own home lab in Barstow. Since Bill was the original builder, how could we refuse?

By March 30, Bill had completed the repairs and given the unit a complete annual checkup. Jon Adams (NW6H) arranged for the return of the machine on April 2, engaging the help of a semi-regular commuter between JPL and Goldstone. The

reinstallation team (led by Walt Diem) checked out the machine at its site. As it turned out, the duplexer was so badly out of tune that it required retuning in the lab, which Gary Stevens (WD6FLY) gladly volunteered to do. Funny thing: for months we have been saying we should tweak the duplexer to make sure it is running in tip-top shape, (to eliminate a little desense we have been having) but it is now clear it takes an act of God to get this club to finally move. I guess some good CAN come from lightning hits

Sid Johnson and his son Kirk (KA6RRX) took the duplexer back up to the site and got the machine back on the air on Wednesday, April 10th. Shortly after checking out the repeater, however, they discovered that the autodialer had been hit too.

As you read this, the repeater is back in service and working better than ever, and hopefully the autodialer will be back in service within a week. I'm sure you will realize that most of the really good things in life can't be bought. We owe a lot to those who sacrifice their time and volunteer to keep our repeaters running. Make them happy. Use the machines. They are one of your many club benefits. And by the way, if you have a few hours to spare and could help tuning up our open machine before another act of God ... call Chuck Sarture KG6NF our new Repeater Committee Chairman at X 5520! (N6NO)

A NOTE OF THANKS

A note of thanks also goes to John Repar (WA6LWD), John McKinney (N6AVW) and John's son Michael who formed a work party to fix the link repeater antenna that had blown over in the wind storms of last month.

Thanks to their efforts what could have been a potential problem was quickly solved on a Saturday afternoon.



We don't want to
BUG
you but dues are
now due for 1985.