

# jpl → W6VIO CALLING



FIELD DAY 87 - BE THERE

JUNE 1987 VOLUME 17 NO. 6

## MAIL STOP

Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
W6VIO Calling M/S 264-419  
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PRESIDENT: Carl de Silveira KG6LG  
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SECRETARY: Sid Johnson WB6VWH  
TREASURER: Richard McKinney KA6DAN  
TRUSTEE: Jay Holladay W6EJJ  
EDITOR: Eileen McKinney KA6DGV

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!

Repeater Mtgs: First Thursday of the month at  
12 Noon in 301-271. Everyone is  
welcome - Bring your lunch!

Newsletter Articles: The 7th. day of each month.  
Articles: If the 7th. falls on a weekend,  
Deadline: the following Monday will be the  
deadline. Your articles, ads,  
photos, diagrams, instructions, or  
articles you'd like to see  
reprinted from other sources (with  
the name of the publication, date,  
etc.) should be submitted to the  
above address.

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Field Day is here!!! June 26-27-28 (that's just 2 weeks away) is the big weekend; this year we hope to get everything set up on Friday the 26th. Walt Mushagian K6DNS, Sid Johnson WB6VWH, Brian Stapleton KW6J, Rick McKinney KA6DAN, Mark Schaefer WB6CIA and many other hard working folks are busily preparing for what will be an exciting weekend of Ham Radio, great food, clean air and beautiful mountain and desert sunrises and sunsets!

Did I tell you about the food?! Six great meals will be served, Friday dinner through Sunday lunch, by the master chef and all-around gourmet Rick McKinney and his busy assistants! (Although the club is picking up the tab for the food, we are hoping that everyone will donate a few bucks toward the food kitty; it'll keep our treasurer happy...)

This year we'll be operating as a 3A station again, with two HF stations, a Novice/Technician HF station and the VHF/UHF station. Packet Radio will be along too, but there looks to be no Oscar this year (sigh; I just love carting those darned antennas up from the station to the top of the mountain, and then back down again without bending them into spaghetti...)

The antenna wizards Brian Stapleton, Sid Johnson and Walt Mushagian have concocted two massive wire beam antennas; one for 40 meters with six! elements, and the other, even longer for 75/80 meters with five!!! elements. With antennas like that, we might even be able to raise the weakest stations on the east coast. Of course, the main purpose is to stand out like a beacon, so that we'll have them coming to us rather than having to chase others all over the band. Maybe this year that philosophy will finally work; at least we have the proper tools now.

The balloon project will be flying high this year also, with Stan Sander N6MP in charge. Two years ago, our first balloon attempt was quashed by unpredictable winds and overly thin balloons. This year, thick, heavy-duty balloons were discovered hiding on lab; this were procured and promise to stand up to the vagaries of the wind on the mountain. The object is to fly 80 and 160 meter verticals, and maybe even a 40 meter vertical for a test.

SEE PAGE 2 FOR CONTINUATION

The site is the same as two years ago, just over Wrightwood in the San Gabriel Mountains - Blue Ridge!! At an elevation of over 8500 feet at our site, the air is clear, the views are long and the sun is bright; bring hats and sunscreen. You'll be surprised that you can drive so easily to such a beautiful, high location; the only things higher are Mount Baldy and Mount Baden-Powell; that's it!

There's room for the kids up there; the site is flat so they can ride their bikes around (skateboards won't work though) and it's a perfect bit of nature that kids of all ages will enjoy! So bring them up! Get back to nature for a day or two...

The drive up to the Blue Ridge road turnoff on State Route 2 is all good paved road, and very scenic - the last few miles to the site are on good dirt road, with views and vistas that are breathtaking! If you're a skier, you'll recognize the Mountain High Ski Resort as you drive right through it (I forget exactly which runs you'll be on). Look out on the Mojave - 6000 feet below, and temperatures 20 - 30 degrees higher. You'll have a great time at Field Day 87; if you don't normally get involved in very many club activities, make room for this one; you won't be sorry!

If you need more information, please call Jon Adams at x43445, Mark Schaefer at x46504 or Walt Mushagian at x43036. Do it soon!

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Halicrafters HT-37 XMTR, 10-80 Mtrs, Excel Cond.  
\$125 WA6MYJ (818) 249-9367

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Swan 240 Xcvr W/ Ext VFO, AC & DC Pwr Supl., 20,  
40, & 80 Mtrs., \$150 WA6MYJ (818) 249-9367

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BC-342 Sig. Corp. Gen Cov Rcvr, "Got my ticket  
with it", \$50 WA6MYJ (818) 249-9367

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Bretting 14AX Gen Cov Rcvr. Mirror Face. \$30  
WA6MYJ (818) 249-9367

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For the early risers and commuters, how about starting an Early Bird net on the 04 machine from 5:00 to 7:00 A.M.. If interested contact Rick McKinney or Dick Wetzel at M.S. 168-327, or listen in EARLY some morning soon. Rick-KA6DAN

### JPL ARC Field Day 1987 Driving Directions:

From Pasadena/JPL :

Scenic Route: East 210 Freeway to Pomona  
 East 10 Freeway 15.4 miles  
 North 15 Freeway 21.6 miles  
 West State Route (SR)138 8.6 miles  
 West SR 2 10.8 miles  
 Left onto Blue Ridge Road

More Scenic Route: West 210 Freeway to La Canada  
 East Angeles Crest Hwy (SR 2)  
 55.3 miles  
 Right onto Blue Ridge Road

Blue Ridge Road:

As you turn onto Blue Ridge road, you will go past the large, open steel pipe gate. This is mile 0.0.

Mile 0.0 Start  
 1.0 end pavement  
 1.1 go across ski run  
 1.3 go across ski run  
 1.6 go under ski lift; begin pavement  
 2.3 Blue Ridge campground; stay left on road  
 2.4 Ski lift; pavement ends  
 2.7 Inspiration Point  
 2.9 Heavy Construction  
 3.8 Frost turnoff to left; stay on main road  
 4.1 Someone else's Field Day site on right  
 5.0 Guffy Campground to left; stay right on main road  
 5.5 Prairie Fork Turnoff to right; stay left (go up)  
 7.1 Vista point on right; wooden post  
 7.9 Go left at fork (up); right goes down to vista point  
 8.0 start of first steep grade  
 8.3 start of second steep grade  
 8.5 enter JPL Field Day Site!!!

There will be orange tape markers along the route, just in case...

Access is via two-wheel drive passenger car road; just take it easy and you'll have no worries, mate...

Use the JPL Repeater on 224.04MHz as you are driving up from Pasadena; it's linked with the 223.96MHz Table Mountain machine of the Goldstone ARC, which will cover the Cajon Pass and Wrightwood areas like a blanket.

Then, once you get into the Wrightwood area or on the Blue Ridge Road, talk-in frequency is on 223.500MHz simplex.

See you there!



Can we scare you into paying your dues?

## DX NEWS

Summer is almost upon us and already there is evidence that 20 meters is occasionally staying open to Europe late into the evening hours. Lucky us! This DXer had a ball running low power during the CQ WPX contest. Band conditions were quite good. There are a few opportunities for "good ones" this month according to the LIDX Bulletin. I've selected a few of those below to tempt you.

ANDORRA - Look for C30LEF on all bands, ssb and cw. 12 and 32 kHz above low band edge for cw and 14145, 14162, & 14232 kHz for ssb.

BRUNEI - V85AC & V85CW are active from 1230Z between 14005 and 14030 kHz

EGYPT - SU1ER is regularly active on all bands and frequently is found on W7PHO's Net on 14226.5 kHz. He is number one on my want list! I've yet to hear him.

EQUATORIAL GUINEA - 3C1MB operates from 14240 to 14250 kHz from 2030Z. This is a fairly rare country and is worth your investment in time to work him while he's there.

JAN MAYAN ISLAND - JX9CAA operates cw 20 kHz up from the low ends of 10 through 80 meters. Look for him also on 14220, 21220, and 28500 kHz.

KERMADEC ISLAND - ZL8HV can be found from 0500Z between 14180 and 14200 kHz.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - A61AB has become more active. Look for him at 14243 at 1500Z, 21225 kHz from 1800Z, and 14226.5 kHz from 2230Z.

MISCELLANEOUS USSR STATIONS - UH8HCB on 14227 kHz at 1630Z, UI9AWH on 14264 kHz at 0200Z, UJ8BQV on 14030 kHz at 0200Z, UL8LYA on 14198 at 0130Z, UM9MZD on 14210 kHz at 0200Z, and finally UD6DFF on 14014 kHz at 0130Z.

Enough for one DX article. I don't want to make this too easy for you all.

73's and good DX,  
Bob, N6ET

The JPL amateur radio club came to the rescue this May 25th by helping the La Canada parade committee launch another successful Memorial day parade. This year things started off differently than in the past due to the fact that a brand new committee was in charge. Like with all new groups, a few things fell through the cracks. As a result, the club was given a list of parade participants which did not indicate where and how the participants were to be spotted prior to parade start. It always had before! Upon bringing this to the attention of the committee it became apparent that they didn't know either, "You guys know what to do, so take charge and do it for us", I was asked.

Figuring that what worked last year should work this year, I tacked arbitrary assignments onto the list and xeroxed copies for all. We did a quick review Monday morning just before participant arrival, made a few changes and went to work. Jay Holladay W6EJJ and Ron Ploszaj WA6TPW took charge at the head of Cornishon, directing traffic in the appropriate direction and shuttling the antique cars into Lanterman parking lot. Carl de Silveira KG6LG took on the traffic circle in front of what used to be Foothill Intermediate school and managed to find a spot for the many, many groups of kids,

scouts, color guards, clowns etc. Carl was assisted by his daughters Patti and Carla plus a friend bonnie. They helped by blowing up balloons and assisting dad keep track of the mob. Art Zygielbaum WA6SAL, Ralph West N6YM and Kirk Johnson KA6RKX covered the length of Cornishon (from Foothill to Descanso) and lined participants up in order as they arrived. Not to be out done Dick Wetzel WA6JBZ took on the care and feeding of the equestrian units in the field on the west side of Cornishon. Kirk, by the way, is a novice who acquired his first rig on May 16th. Considering that the parade was a novice trial by fire for him he did a very good job.

At parade start, Jay and Ron helped feed the various elements of the parade into their proper sequence while Carl sorted out his various kid groups. Art, Ralph, Kirk and Dick put the finishing touches on the long line down Cornishon by inserting the equestrians into their proper places and herding the whole mess up to foothill. Once the parade was underway Paul Goodwin KO6D started reporting on progress from his press box at Foothill and Oakwood. In the meantime yours truly was busy running around looking for something to do only to find that everyone else had things so well under control that there was nothing left.

I think Art summed it all up when he said, "Things seemed to go much better this year than last. Either things were more organized or we were a lot more experienced." Shucks Art, After playing net control at the Marathon anything would seem easier.

My thanks to all who helped out this year, you guys did a fantastic job. See you again next year, I hope.

Sid Johnson WB6VWH

JPL ARC  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
MAY 27TH, 1987

PRESENT: Walt Mushagian, Carl de Silveira, Sid Johnson, Rick McKinney.

OLD BUSINESS: Rick McKinney gave a treasurers report which was approved

Walt Mushagian reported on field day antenna progress. The wire elements and rope boom have been cut and are ready for assembly. On Saturday, May 30th, the 40 meter, six element beam is to be assembled and tested up on the mesa.

A discussion was held regarding a field day meal menu. Rick presented suggestions. A few changes and additions were made and the menu set. Nothing fancy, just good rib stickin stuff.

NEW BUSINESS: A discussion was held regarding money received for SSTV tapes of the Voyager fly-by of Uranus. Since there seems to be little interest in the purchase of these tapes and since no tape is currently available, it was decided to return the checks received with a letter of explanation and apology.

Sid Johnson passed on a suggestion from Jay Holladay. Jay has suggested that the club acquire caps bearing the JPL ARC logo and perhaps some additional lettering ie amateur radio communications. The suggestion appealed to all and the board will investigate further.

Sid Johnson  
Secretary