

# JPL W6VIO CALLING



MAY 1988

Volume 17 No. 5

## MAIL STOP

Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
W6VIO Calling M/S 264-419  
Eileen McKinney - Editor  
4800 Oak Grove Drive  
Pasadena, California 91109

**PRESIDENT:** Walt Mushagian K6DNS  
**VICE PRES:** John Tallon N6OMB  
**SECRETARY:** Sid Johnson WB6VWH  
**TREASURER:** Joel Mosher KB6RXE  
**TRUSTEE:** STAN SANDER, N6MP  
**EDITOR:** Eileen McKinney KA6DGV

**Club Meetings:** Second Wednesday of the month at 12 Noon in 301-271. Everyone is welcome - Bring your lunch!

**Board Meetings:** Fourth Wednesday of the month at 12 Noon in 301-271. Everyone is welcome - You don't have to be a Board member. Bring your lunch!

**Newsletter Article Deadline:** The 7th. day of each month. If the 7th. falls on a weekend, the following Monday will be the deadline.

Your articles, ads, photos, diagrams, instructions or Letters to the Editor should be submitted to the address above.

Permission is granted to copy enclosed articles providing credit is given to "W6VIO Calling".

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by WALT MUSHAGIAN K6DNS

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

John Repar WA6LWD and his able work party removed the bent elements on the wind damaged XP-707 HF Beam Antenna. Sam Weaver WB6EMO will be straightening and reinforcing all of the end elements. A work party is planned for Saturday May 21st., to reassemble the team and to get it back into operation.

Our Amateur Satellite Antennas are back up and operating thanks to the work of Courtney Duncan N5BF, Larry Ruple N6QZI, and Larry Smith N6PBS.

Mark Schaefer WB6CIA our Field Day Chairman advises me that our 75 Meter Extended Delta Loop Antenna, designed by Brian Stapleton KW6J, will be fabricated and tested on the Mesa prior to Field Day. This Antenna will be supported in the vertical position by a helium filled balloon. It sports a triangle shape with 176 feet of wire on each side and has a gain of approximately 5 db. We expect to put out an outstanding signal on 75 Meters at Field Day. 73's Walt K6DNS

## REMINDER

The following persons have requested that they be dropped as members of the JPL Amateur Radio Club:

Name	Call	Mail	Ext.
BURDICK, GARRY	KA6DGP	198-326	4-4430
POHORSKY, STEVEN	KA6DVM	168-427	4-6473
VINES, KENNETH W.	KA6YNR	156-119	4-6496
WOOD Jr, WILLIAM O.	WB6FXJ	DSCC/39	166-481

The following persons HAVE NOT PAID their 1988 JPL Amateur Radio Club Dues and are being dropped:

Name	Call	Mail	Ext.
ADAMS, JON T.	NW6H	238-528	4-3445
BUSSE, CARL	KI6VI	179-206	4-3628
DANTAS, BOB	N6ETS	OFF-LAB	
DOUGLAS, LIN	KA6DBO	RETIRED	
DOW, RUSSELL C.	KJ6BS	OFF-LAB	
FESSINGER, HERB D.	K6KID	125-143	4-7208
HURICK, MICHAEL G.	KA6MHB	301-466	4-2442
KAKI, SAID A.		11-116	4-6781
KOVATCH, JASON J	N6BCI	238-737	4-3980
LORMAN, MIKE	N6NBD	OFF-LAB	
NICOLICH, ERIC		264-111	3-0634
PARKYN, JAMES F.	WA6QMH	238-420	4-5587
SMITH, PHIL	WB6LQP	251-6	4-1986
SMITH, THOMAS J.	KB6PGZ	301-320	4-0165
URISTA, JUAN	KB6KYS	OFF-LAB	
VOLKMER, KENT	N6DSP	233-209	4-1776
WATKINS, JOHN L.	KA6SMR	169-327	4-7588

If you are on the list or know someone who is on the list, it's not too late to be reinstated as a member in good standing. Just call or write to Rick McKinney Extension 4-3968, M/S 168-327. He'll send you the necessary information.

**NOTES**  
by  
**SID JOHNSON WB6VWH**

MINUTES OF THE BOARD  
APRIL 27, 1988

PRESENT: Walt Mushagian, Sid Johnson, Rick McKinney, Randy Cassingham, Courtney Duncan, Bill Fesler, John Tallon, Gil Yanow, Stan Sander, Jay Holladay, Walt Diem, John Repar.

1. The meeting was called to order by the President, Walt Mushagian at 12:04 PM. The treasurer, Joel Mosher, gave a brief financial status.

2. Rick McKinney reported on several aspects of membership renewal. Monies sent for dues or donations have been acknowledged by Westlink and Amsat. There has been no response from the L.A. council of Amateur Radio Clubs. Plans are under way to transfer autopatch renewal and sign up to Rick. The suggested annual dues would be \$4.00/yr for regular membership and \$10.00/yr for regular plus autopatch. The additional \$6.00 for autopatch membership would be applied to the telephone bill, repair costs and upgrade. This was approved by the board. Rick also broached the subject of W6VIO becoming an ARRL Special Services Club. Rick reported that currently the club meets most or all of the ARRL requirements. Rick will investigate further with the ARRL and report his findings at the board meeting.

3. Repeater upgrade. John Tallon stated that Jerry Hawkes has volunteered to take on the job of assembly of the various components required to initiate the 900 MHz link. Hopefully this long awaited coverage will be up and running in the near future.

4. John Repar reported that there will be an antenna party on May 7th to try and repair the new beam on the Mesa.

5. Gil Yanow indicated that he was still looking for volunteers for the May 27th JPL sponsored teachers conference to be held in Von Karman.

6. A lengthy discussion was held regarding a new repeater which has come on line in the Upland area. This repeater operates at 224.08 output frequency, the same as the club closed repeater, with coverage extending mostly eastward toward Riverside. It is not PL'ed and easily brought up by stations using our repeater when they are in the area of coverage of the other machine. It is uncoordinated and identifies as KA6SRT. It was decided by the board that what information was known should be passed on to the 220 SMA for whatever action possible

Sid Johnson  
Secretary

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY

First of all let me start out apologizing for leaving 2 people out of the L.A. Marathon listing. They were; Bob Layne, W6LTC and Jay Holladay, W6EJJ. While I'm at it I should list Bob Brodtkin, WA6TBH as I left him out way back in 1987. Sorry guys.

Next lets attack emergency phone patches. Specifically whats best, the CHP or 911, when and why. Bob Layne, W6LTC, spent a great deal of time investigating the CHP aspect with the following results: The autodialer now dials up a new CHP EMERGENCY number that will not put you on hold or play music. However, if the CHP dispatcher is busy the telephone will continue to ring such that you may think the number is not operational, or that there is nobody home. Not so! It is a 24 hr number and your call will be answered ASAP, so hang on. Listening to a telephone ring is probably better than being put on hold and listening to Michael Jackson.

Regarding the CHP vs 911, this answer was relayed to Bob by the CHP. "If you spot a ladder, sofa, chest of drawers etc., on the freeway, it constitutes an emergency situation to the CHP. To the La Crescenta Sheriff station, which answer the 911 calls, the answer is "maybe". It will probably depend on what other traffic they are handling. Another problem to consider when calling 911 is that the address of the repeater will come up on the sheriffs monitor. You will now have to explain that you are an amateur radio station, mobile and that you are not at the address listed on the monitor. The chances are that you will be transferred to the CHP where you will again have to explain that you are not at the address listed on the monitor etc, etc. If you should be transferred a 2nd time, well, you get the idea(s). If you are reporting a fire, surface street accident, or other off the freeway/highway type emergency, 911 is probably best. If you can't get through to the CHP on the autopatch, try 911 if you think the situation warrants.

Larry, N6QZI is currently working with the phone company to see if the message displayed on the 911 computer monitor could be changed. Instead of the repeater address the message would reflect that the call is being made via an amateur radio repeater, that the caller is mobile, and has no direct call back number. At this time the telephone co. is studying this proposal and should give Larry an answer in early June. As Larry would put it, "film at 11:00 folks."

While we are at it, if you should make an emergency call and are asked for a call back number, tell the dispatcher that you are currently mobile with no call back number but that you can be reached within n number of minutes at —. Give your work or home number.

## DX NEWS by BOB POLANSKY N6ET

### DX NEWS

Conditions continue to be fantastic, based upon infrequent looks at the HF bands by yours truly. Every band from 80 to 10 meters has contributed to exciting surprises during the last month. Several internationally exciting activities can be monitored and even worked on the ham bands at this time. I hope I don't forget anything in the summary which follows:

**AMSTERDAM ISLAND** - FT5ZB has been most active on all bands lately. I have had QSO's with him on 10, 40, and 75 meters as follows this past month.  
10 meters-0400Z at 28007 kHz  
40 meters-0145Z at 7007 kHz  
75 meters-1450Z at 3795 kHz (he was 5x9!)

**CHRISTMAS ISLAND** - VK9YT had been quite active on all bands from Cocos-Keeling Island for several weeks. He is now operating from VK9X-land. Look for him at the low ends of the CW bands. SSB operation is split frequency. Your best opportunities are on 20, 15, and 10 meters; but he is quite workable on 40 meters also.

**FAROE ISLAND** - Look for OY/DK9FE on cw only on the bottom 25 kHz of 80 through 10 meters.

**JUAN DE NOVA** - Through 30 May, FR5ES is workable on 14170 kHz, listening up. He has been heard on the West Coast from 1400Z.

**KAZAKHSTAN** - Need a UL7? Look near 14023 kHz from 0100Z for UL7CBO. His countryman, UL7CWW operates on 14180 kHz at about the same time.

**SKI-TREK** - The Canadian/USSR Ski-Trek Team is working their way toward the North Pole. Their progress can be monitored by listening to or working 4K0DX on 14182-14185 kHz from 0100Z.

**TIBET** - BT0LS and BT0ZML are operating with a Mt. Everest Expedition. Activities are taking place on 10, 15, and 20 meters. On Wednesday and Saturday, they promise US QSOs on 14190 kHz at 0100 and 1200Z. W6EJJ worked them this morning at 14310 kHz.

**WESTERN SAHARA** - S0RASD is still giving out new countries on 28550 kHz at 1600Z and 21250 kHz from 1930Z. I'll see you in that pile-up!

Listen and enjoy.

73's,  
Bob, N6ET

### WARNING! JPL FIRE ALARMS DON'T LIKE 220 MHz

Tuesday, May 10. The fire alarm in bldg. 180 was some how activated, resulting in the evacuation of all personnel therein. One of our club members was trying to access the 224.08 repeater within the bldg., just before the alarm went off. At this time it is not known if the alarm was triggered by this transmission or by other causes.

It is well known by some of our club members that fire alarms in certain bldgs. are sensitive to 220 MHz transmissions and will be activated by 1 watt of RF, if the transmission is made in the vicinity of a smoke detector. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF SMOKE DETECTORS NEAR ELEVATORS! KNOWN TO BE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE ARE BLDG 168 AND 180. Transmitting in bldg 150 will set off the oxygen monitors. Transmitting within elevators cause some to stop at mid floor, others are not affected. John Tallon, N6OMB, and the fire alarm people have spent time on the weekends testing certain bldgs for sensitivity to RF. As a result the fire alarm people have stated that all smoke detectors in all bldgs are probably sensitive. The detectors apparently rectify RF which then causes them to activate the fire alarm. The sensitivity of these detectors to frequencies other than 220 is not known but it is quite possible that 2 meters or 440 may also set them off.

What does this mean to club members who walk around the lab with HT's on our belts? It is very simple. DON'T TRANSMIT INSIDE OF ANY BLDG UNLESS YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY SURE YOU WILL NOT ACTIVATE A FIRE ALARM! Remember that smoke detectors are located not only in front of elevators but also in some air conditioning ducts, in certain labs and in some hall ways. If you aren't sure don't transmit!

All club members should be aware of the repercussions should we accidentally trigger more false alarms. HT's could be banned from all bldgs, or worse yet, we may not be allowed to bring HT's on lab at any time. If anyone has any questions, or information, regarding this situation please contact John Tallon, Art Zygielbaum or Sid Johnson. In the mean time I would strongly advise that no one transmit anywhere inside of bldg 168 or 180 until we can determine if it is safe to do so.

Sid Johnson



EDUCATION REPORT  
by Mark M. Schaefer WB6CIA

I wish to thank all those who sent in the questionnaire from last month's VIO CALLING they are most informative. If you have not sent yours in, it's not too late to still do so. If you don't have the questionnaire on future novice and upgrade classes on Lab, then give me a call. Write me a letter on what would help you upgrade or just get started. There are plenty of code tapes I can loan you. We have computer programs that can tailor lessons to your needs. If you have an HF receiver you can copy code practice from

W1AW on 1.818, 3.58, 7.08, 14.07, 21.08, 28.08 MHz  
Slow Code Practice on  
MWF: 6 AM, 4 PM; TThSSn: 1PM, 7 PM  
and Fast Code Practice on  
MWF: 1 PM, 7 PM; TTh: 6 AM; TThSSn: 4 PM.

The Text sent is from QST magazine. The issue and pages are given at the beginning of each practice and the beginning of each alternate speed.

CTM The Magazine for Personal Computers and Amateur Radio will send you a free copy of their magazine. Just send them a photocopy of your new or upgraded license, within 1 month of the date on the ticket. CTM Magazine is published monthly by Lambert Publishing House, 1704 Sam Dr. Birmingham, AL 35235 (205) 854-0271.

OK All you Novices and Techs, Field Day is coming and We are going to have a station just for you. Last year we made 164 QSO's on 10 meter phone. This year we hope to get even more with a better antenna and conditions. So come join the fun even if your just curious. See the Field Day article and handout. C U ON THE AIR 73 AR

PACKET RADIO REVISITED

The Packet Radio "Road Show" is coming back again for those who missed the Packet Radio demonstration at the April Club Meeting, didn't have enough time to get your "hands-on" the equipment or had an unanswered question.

Courtney Duncan has agreed to lead small groups through a demonstration and "hands-on" training session in Packet Radio operation. Courtney also promised to discuss in detail the interfaces available between various computers and ham rigs.

If you are interested in being part of one of these small groups contact:

Rick McKinney Ext 4-3968, M/S 168-327

He'll attempt to schedule you into a group. Courtney's schedule is busy right now with the new Oscar launch, so there may be a delay in getting the schedules arranged. Please be patient.

Rick McKinney  
Membership Services



HEAR YE

HEAR YE

FIELD DAY REPORT by Mark Schaefer WB6CIA

FIELD DAY

One of the things that is the most fun about ham radio is field day. There are a few important things to remember about Field Day. First is to have a good time. Second keep Murphy from having a good time. To do this you must be prepared for anything, because anything can and will happen. For those of us for which this is an annual event, we have probably seen just about everything that can go wrong happen at one time or other. Here are a few things that may keep them from happening to you.

Be ready to go the night before, it always takes longer to get packed the closer it is to the contest. Have a list of what to bring so you'll only forget what you didn't think of ahead of time. Leave early, the traffic may be as congested as the bands. Bring clothes for all weather it's always to hot in the day and freezing at night when your not equipped. Fresh batteries, film, muchies, they tend to die before their time. Sleeping Bag, ground pads, blankets, chairs, bring an extra, you never know who may show up. Working Flashlight, guy lines in the dark are always neck high. Automobile Repair Kit, this item is never needed until your the last one to leave. Things for the rest of the family to do so they are too busy to add to the pileups on 20 Mtrs.

Remember to send in the Questionnaire to get directions to our beautiful mountain peak at our secret location in the San Gabriel. Complete with paved road with an easy grade right to the site. Everyone had a great time last year, and this year will be just as fun if Murphy get's lost on the way. To make sure nobody else does, the JPL repeater will be open on 224.08 and on Simplex when your close enough and also 146.43 Simplex so we will guide you in. TU GL QRZ FD DE W6VIO K

## FIELD DAY QUESTIONNAIRE

Please fill out this questionnaire so we can estimate the necessary resources required for the club. You must fill this out to receive information and a map of the Field Day site. Send completed forms to Mark Schaefer 168-314.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CALL \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS N T G A E

DAY PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ NIGHT PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PEOPLE ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

CALL SIGNS OF OTHER HAMS ATTENDING \_\_\_\_\_

WHEN DO YOU EXPECT TO ATTEND?

Friday	morning	SETUP	
	afternoon	SETUP	
	evening	SETUP	DINNER
Saturday	morning	SETUP	BREAKFAST
	afternoon	OPERATE	LUNCH
	evening	OPERATE	DINNER
Sunday	morning	OPERATE	BREAKFAST
	afternoon	TAKEDOWN	LUNCH

We supply the food, location and facilities. We need you to supply the rest. Any ham stuff you can bring would be a big help. Please bring whatever camping gear you need to be comfortable for a couple of SUNNY days and CHILLY nights.

What Equipment can you bring? (Rigs, Antennas, Masts, Cable, Wire, Rope, Tools, Mikes, Keyers, Ladders, etc.)

What Camping Equipment can you share? (Tent, Chair, Table, Lamp, Shovel)

Can you help transport equipment?