

# W6VIO Calling



Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 820, La Canada CA 91012-0820

Volume 32, Issue 4



June 2003

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## Meeting Notice

By Mike Tope, W4EF

The June General Meeting of the JPL Amateur Radio Club will be held June 11<sup>th</sup> at noon in 238-543. Final Field Day plans are on the agenda. Field Day is scheduled for June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> this year, and JPLARC is planning for a more relaxed effort than in the past.

The June JPLARC Board Meeting will be held June 25<sup>th</sup> in 233-305J. Everyone is welcome to attend – bring your lunch if you want. ■

## President's Column

By Jonathan Cameron, KF6RTA

We had a good turn out at our April general meeting! Mike Tope presented the first half of a video documentary on a DXpedition to the Sandwich Islands in the south Atlantic. It was great! Besides showing beautiful scenery and penguins, the video showed how they operated on top of hundreds of feet of frozen guano (from centuries of penguin nesting). That has to be one of the most memorable DXpedition sites ever! The video was fun and an excellent production. Mike will be doing the second half of the video in July or August. Don't miss it!

In our May meeting, Bob Polansky updated us on Field Day preparations. Walt Mushagian showed us parts of a video

JPL Amateur Radio Club Home Page: <http://jplarc.ampr.org/>

## Calendar of Events

June 7	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]
June 11	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
June 21	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
June 25	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
June 27-29	JPL ARC Field Day, Mt. Gleason
July 5	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]
July 9	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
July 19	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
July 23	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
July 26	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]
August 2	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]
August 13	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
August 16	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
August 27	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
August 30	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]

from a JPL field day in the 80's. It was really funny and we all enjoyed seeing earlier versions of our friends (or ourselves) that actually had hair!

Bob Polansky is doing a great job at preparing for Field Day, as always. But Field Day will not happen with out help from many people. Definitely check the rest of this issue of "W6VIO Calling" to get the latest details and how to sign up. We are planning for a lower-key approach than usual with a strong emphasis on having a good time! Hopefully you will be able to join us. Please consider bringing up family or friends so that they can learn more about radio or just enjoy the beautiful scenery! Don't forget that the "Get On The Air" (GOTA) Tent will be set up to allow operation by people with no license, so it should be a very gentle and fun introduction to radio.

In our June general meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>, we will meet at the EOC where Eric Fuller will give us a tour and talk with us about how we can support JPL in emergency situations. Although the club wants to support JPL in an emergency, there are few of us in the club that really know where to go and what to do in a real emergency. We hope to increase the club's usefulness in JPL emergency operations by training and

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eventually participating in emergency preparedness exercises on lab. We plan to start by asking Eric Fuller to provide damage assessment training to our members so that we can help collect and communicate useful information during a JPL emergency.

Let me remind everyone about the web page that we have for collecting ideas for future meetings topics. Please visit it and send me suggestions for future meetings! Here is the web address: [http://jplarc.ampr.org/meeting\\_topics.htm](http://jplarc.ampr.org/meeting_topics.htm) ■

## Club Meetings

By Robb Frederickson, W1EEL

### General Meeting, 9 April, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 by Jonathan Cameron. No business was transacted. The meeting featured a 50-minute video from the Northern California DX Association on a DXpedition to the South Sandwich Islands. Thanks to Michael Tope (W4EF) for the video.

Walt Mushagian is retiring from JPL this month. His duties as Emergency Operations Coordinator are to be assumed by Chris Carson.

Members and friends in attendance included: Jonathan Cameron, Mike Tope, Gil Yanow, Allan Eisenman, Walt Mushagian, Bud Ansley, Jay Holladay, Phil Barnes-Roberts, Chris Carson, Robb Frederickson, and Merv MacMedan.

### Board of Directors meeting, 23 April 2003.

Members present: (A quorum was achieved as Carson represents two positions.) Chris Carson as VP and EOC Coordinator, Walter Mushagian, Bob Polansky, Robb Frederickson, Bob Dengler, and Greg Laborde.

Meeting started 12:15, adjourned 13:00 PDT.

Bob Polansky has again created a field day out of diverse difficulties. This year more responsibilities devolve to attendees to make it what they want. Fewer towers and only one tower trailer will be delivered to the site so members are encouraged to bring their own, but coordinate it with Bob. Generators, kitchen help, potty delivery, and tents are again a club responsibility coordinated by Bob. Bob will present the field day plans at the May General Meeting.

The club is now back to only one email list that includes everyone. No decision was made during a discussion of options to allow folks to request deletion or addition of names to the list.

Security for the club's computers was discussed, but no conclusions were obtained.

The spending plan was modified as follows by motion and voice vote with all in favor:

A. Delete the purchase of the FT-100. Instead, spend equal funds (approx \$ 1-k.) to:

1. Update the 220 and 440 repeaters on Sierra Negro, and the 220 and 440 repeaters on the Mesa with small improvements and with DTMF control of power on/off.

2. The repeaters will have similar PL tones, etc. so that users won't see them as different from each other.

3. The DTMF capabilities allow the control ops to choose which repeater pair is on the air, thus one pair is a back-up of the other pair.

4. Control ops can then use DTMF to choose the active repeater-pair for a specific application. This will improve coverage of events such as the recent JPL/Caltech EOC tests where one repeater location provided poor coverage at Caltech.

B. Delete expenditures for a shack microwave oven. We now have one.

Randy Hammock's access to the lab has been curtailed. But he is needed to help with on-lab facilities. Bob Polansky took an action item to try to solve the problem.

Bob Dengler has obtained some line filters to possibly solve the line noise problem with the battery chargers on the 440 repeater. He plans to incorporate this and other improvements to the repeaters.

### General Meeting, 14 May, 2003

Bob Polansky described the plans for field day at Mt. Gleason in June. He has prepared a complete presentation of the plans that you can obtain from him, and he passed out copies at the meeting. Briefly, the plans include two HF stations, one GOTA station and one VHF station. Only one tower trailer will be pulled up the mountain this year.

Walt Mushagian provided a nice video of the 1988 field day which proved that we have eaten very well since then.

No business was conducted at the meeting.

Attendance: Chris Carson, Scott Nolte, Marty Woll, John Kusmiss, Phil Smith, Greg Sadowy, Walt Mushagian, Stan Brokl, Warren Dowler, Louise Dowler, Mike Tope, Robb Frederickson, Jay Holladay, Jonathan Cameron, Bob Polansky and Randy Hammock.

### Board of Directors Meeting, 28 May 2003 (by Chris Carson)

The JPL ARC Board of Directors approved the purchase of a 440 MHz RF module for the Kenwood 642 in the JPL EOC. The Eric Fuller Emergency Communications account will be used to fund the purchase. Estimated cost is a bit more than \$300.00 and will probably be a "P-Card" transaction via Eric Archer. ■

## Field Day 2003

By Bob Polansky, N6ET

It's that time of year again. JPLARC and CITARC are again planning their joint Field Day adventure. This year's operation will take place the weekend of 27 - 29 June.

We have already been promised a permit to operate on top of Mount Gleason this year, eliminating the need for individual Adventure Passes for the weekend of Field Day.

Vehicle loading will commence at JPL Building B173 (the W6VIO Club Station building) at 8AM on 27 June with an early return at about 4PM to the same spot on 29 June expected.

A "low key" operation is the plan for this year. The goal is to have fun as opposed to going for a high score. Every one who wants to operate will have ample opportunity to do so.

The plan is to set up only the stations we expect to keep busy as opposed to setting up stations in the hopes that someone will want to operate them. This will greatly simplify set-up and tear-down. For the comfort of our participants, we plan on erecting the 20'x20' sunshade used last year under which we can cool off, eat, drink, and visit.

The plan is to operate in Class 2A with two HF stations, a UHF/VHF station, and a GOTA station. The calls used will be W6VIO on all but the GOTA station, where we will use W6UE.

Networked computer logging will be employed. Only one tower trailer will be used this year along with several other modest antenna structures, again, to shorten set-up and tear-down times. In the past, a relatively small number of individuals have lead the Field Day planning effort.

This year, we are depending heavily on team captains who have agreed to lead the planning, set-up, operation, and tear-down of the areas they volunteered to lead. A few areas still need volunteers, and we are hoping that this article results in those vacancies being filled. A list follows later on the specific needs. The same applies to the earning of bonus points.

If you are interested in earning a few bonus points for the Club, you are encouraged to do so, but the responsibility is on your shoulders. A few of the specific areas that could use bonus point leaders are also listed later.

Meals this year will be provided by our own chefs, led by Walt Mushagian, with a Saturday night Carnita-special prepared by Carl De Silveira. My sincere thanks to both of you for volunteering for this very important function. To preclude significant out-of-pocket expenses for food, we plan on collecting \$4 per meal you expect to eat in advance. Please note that there will be no refunds possible for late cancellations due to the fact that food will already have been purchased on your behalf.

Plenty of water and ice will be provided by the Club. On the other end, we plan on bringing a Portapotty to the site again for this year's operation.

Look elsewhere in this issue of *W6VIO Calling* for supplemental information you may find useful in getting to the site as well as the items you should consider bringing to make your stay on the mountain top an enjoyable one. Looking forward to seeing you at this year's encampment. ■

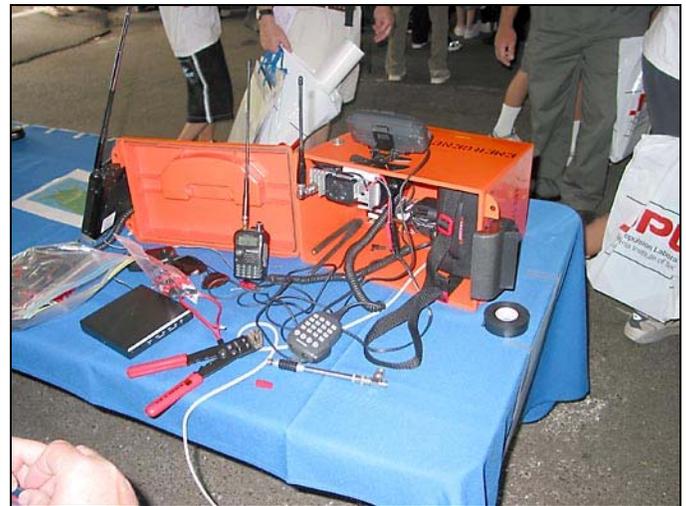


Chris Carson, KE6ABQ, at JPL Open House 2003]

## JPL Open House 2003

By Jonathan Cameron, KF6RTA, and Chris Carson, KE6ABQ

*Jonathan Cameron:* JPL held it's annual Open House for the public May 17<sup>th</sup> and 18th. Chris Carson put together a great operation on short notice. See his description of how it went below. It was fun to talk to people about radio and the JPL radio club. This is a great way to raise the club visibility with the general public and the JPL community. We encourage you to get involved early next year!



Chris Carson's Emergency Rig with APRS

*Chris Carson:* The JPL Amateur Radio Club had an exhibit including a completely portable, battery operated, APRS / Voice emergency station set up for visitors to see. Several hundred people stopped at the JPLARC exhibit during the two days of Open House, and quite a wide variety of questions were answered about ham radio specifically, and about radio technology in general. Well over a dozen of the visitors expressed interest in getting their ham license this year, and several JPL'ers found out about the JPL Amateur Radio Club and are anxious to join. Thanks to all who helped support Open House this year. ■

## How to Participate in FD

By Jay Holladay, W6EJJ and Bob Polansky, N6ET

Here is the information on how you can take part in this year's Field Day: Even if you aren't sure you want to operate a station, we need your help with setup, computer logging, and other chores. All hams at JPL and Caltech and their families and friends are invited to visit us at the Field Day site. And, please bring one of your own QSL cards for our display board.

### How You Can Take Part:

Please fill out the sign-up sheet on the last page of this issue and return it to Bob Polansky. Print out this issue and bring it with you to Field Day. Even if you do not return the sign-up sheet, please feel free to visit us at Mt. Gleason.

Come to the JPL ARC Meeting on Wednesday, June 11 (238-543 at Noon) to hear more detail on Field Day planning and ask any questions you may have about the operation. The latest Field Day planning information will also be disseminated via the Club's e-mail list and via the Monday net on the W6JPL repeater.

As usual, we will use computers and the program CT to log our Field Day QSO's. CT practice sessions will be held during June. Call Jay Holladay at 354-7758 for more information, or watch for an announcement on the kilroy mail forwarder.

Field Day activities will kick off on Friday morning, June 27. The hard-core FD types will take vacation that Friday to assist with the logistics and transportation chores. We will meet at 8:00 AM at the ham shack by the East Gate to load all of the gear for the trip up the mountain. Once everything is loaded we will caravan to Mt. Gleason and begin setting up. Lunch and dinner will be served on Friday while we erect tents and antennas, then set up and test all of the rigs.

The Field Day contest starts at 11 AM local (1800 UTC) Saturday and ends at the same time on Sunday. As has been described elsewhere, this year we will have the luxury of catered meals, and at a reasonable price. The Saturday evening dinner is always a special event. After the contest is over we will have lunch and disassemble everything, leaving Mt. Gleason as we found it. Then it's back to JPL to return the Club equipment and home for a well-deserved shower and nap.

### What to Bring to Field Day:

Even if you only plan to visit for the afternoon, it is wise to be prepared for anything. You may enjoy Field Day so much you will want to spend the night. To get to Mt. Gleason, see the map and directions on the next page. The road is paved all the way except for the short bypass around the correctional facility and any car can make it to the top.

Although meals will be provided, you are responsible for your own place to sleep and enough warm clothing to stay comfortable during the cold nights (Mt. Gleason is at 6532 ft). Be prepared for weather like the Sahara Desert during the day and the Arctic at night, along with gale force winds, and you should be OK. Seriously, light thermal underwear and light gloves are often needed if you are operating in the wee hours of Sunday morning.

The following is a suggested checklist for your personal FD preparations:

Wide-brimmed hat	Long-sleeved shirt
Mosquito repellent	Toothbrush & paste
2 gallons of water per person	Favorite snack food
Sleeping bag	First-aid Kit
Heavy jacket	Undershirt
Thermal underwear	Jeans
Several pairs of socks	Towel
Washcloth	Boots
Money	Tent
220 MHz Handy-talkie	Sunglasses
Sunscreen	Soap
Lip balm	Maps
Flashlight	Chair
AM/FM Radio (for earthquake report, etc.)	
Bring a copy of your QSL card to post on the PR display	

Don't forget any needed medications or aspirin and vitamins. If you do spend the night, it is highly recommended that you bring a tent or camper. The view is well worth bringing camera and binoculars.

As far as Amateur Radio gear is concerned, the Clubs will furnish rigs (with some additional loans from the members). We can always use a spare HF or VHF rig as backup, so bring one along if it's convenient. Don't forget the rig-compatible power supply and cables. Bring whatever specialty operating items you wish. If you have a favorite keyer, headset, or boom mike, please bring it along.

All the HF rigs will use 8-pin mike connector wired for Kenwood. (We could really use a digital voice "keyer" if anyone has one!) Also a small tool kit, extra table, antenna wire, battery-operated clock, spare batteries of all types, etc., always seem to come in handy.

In short, anything you might need to be self-sufficient and stay operational under emergency conditions will probably be useful at Field Day. In fact, that's what the exercise is supposed to be all about. CU at FD!

### Directions to Mount Gleason Field Day Site:

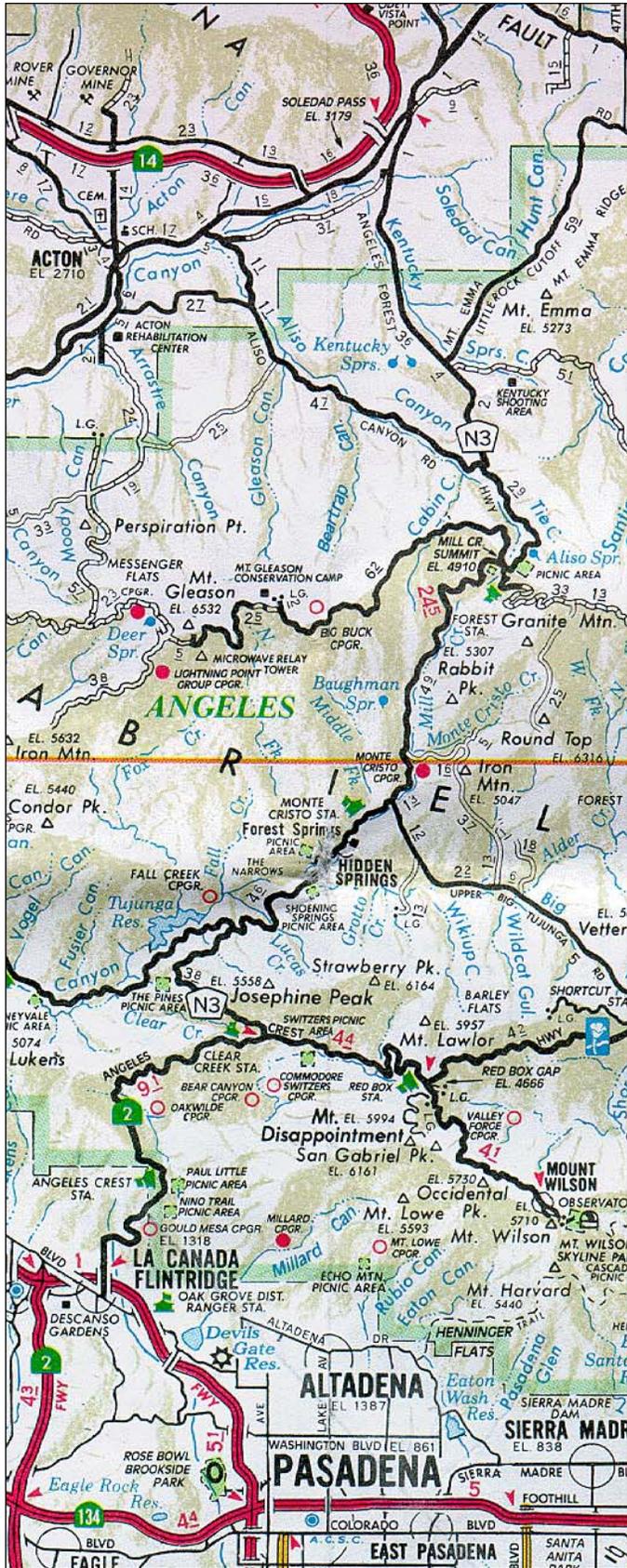
Take the Foothill Freeway (210) to La Canada. Exit at Angeles Crest Highway/Route 2. Go north 9.1 miles on Route 2 up into the San Gabriel Mts. Turn left at the junction with Angeles Forest Highway (N3). Continue 3.8 miles on Angeles Forest Highway past Big Tujunga Junction. Go another 5.9 miles through the tunnel, past Hidden Springs to the Monte Cristo Campground.

Continue another 4.9 miles on Angeles Forest Highway to the Mill Creek Campground at the Mill Creek Summit. Turn left on Mt. Gleason Road. (The Mill Creek Campground will be on the right.) Continue 6.2 miles on Mt. Gleason Road until you reach the Mount Gleason Conservation Camp.

Take dirt road bypass left of the Correction Facility; continue 2.5 miles. Keep to the right at Y-junction just after Microwave Station. When you reach the locked gate, call on Simplex for admission. The road will end at the Summit and our FD site. Do not block the road at the far end of the Mt. Gleason operating site by parking on it. Watch out for kids, antenna wires, and loose hams

### Alternate Route:

210 Freeway to Interstate 5; North to 14 Freeway; Exit at Angeles Forest Highway take Angeles Forest (N3) South, turn right on Mt. Gleason Road. ■



Routes to the 2002 Field Day site at Mount Gleason

# Treasurer's Report

By Chuck Sarture, KG6NF

April, 2003

## General Club Account

Beginning of Month Balance:	<b>\$3,270.27</b>
Income:	
Membership Dues	\$451.00
Total Income:	\$451.00
Expenses:	
QSL Postage	\$43.83
Check Endorsing Stamp	\$24.89
"The Weekly DX" Annual Subscription	\$27.00
Total Expenses:	\$95.72
End of Month Balance:	<b>\$3,625.55</b>

## Emergency Communications Account

Beginning of Month Balance:	<b>\$1,843.05</b>
Income:	
No Income This Month	\$0.00
Total Income:	\$0.00
Expenses:	
No Expenses This Month	\$0.00
Total Expenses:	\$0.00
End of Month Balance:	<b>\$1,843.05</b>

Chuck Sarture, KG6NF  
2003 Treasurer

### Newsletter Deadline:

Friday, July 4 for the July issue of W6VIO Calling. Your articles, ads, photos, diagrams, letters to the editor, or technical material should be submitted to the editor via email ([bill.wood@mindspring.com](mailto:bill.wood@mindspring.com)) or regular mail to: Bill Wood, 31094 Hemlock Ave, Barstow, CA 92311.



## Field Day 2003 Signup Form

Please fill out this page and return it to Jonathan Cameron at M/S 198-326 along with a check for the meals you expect us to prepare for you ASAP to permit our planning to proceed for Field Day 2003.

**Opportunities to Lead Still Needing Volunteers:** (We need your help badly here. Any of these areas not led by volunteers simply will not take place.)

Load tables, chairs, tents, fire extinguishers	Bob Polansky & _____
Lead vehicle loading from checklist	Stan Brokl & _____
Tower Trlr/15M beam setup/stow Captain	Marty Woll & _____
GOTA Station Team Captains	Carl DeSilveira & _____
C3 Beam setup/stow Captain	_____
6M Beam setup/stow Captain	_____
Obtain water and ice	_____
Arrange for Portapotty	_____
Set up sunshade and tents	_____

**Opportunities to Lead Bonus Point Activities Still Needing Volunteers:** (Volunteers welcome here.)

Natural Power QSO	_____
Digital Mode Demo	_____
Site Visitor Center PR lead	Bill Wood
Satellite QSO	_____
Get Elected Official to Come	_____

**Transport Still Needed (Driver):**

Portapotty	_____
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**Operating Interest (Circle all that apply):**

HF CW		Y	N
HF SSB		Y	N
6M		Y	N
UHF/VHF		Y	N
GOTA		Y	N

**You can count on my attendance for the following (Circle all that apply):**

Setup	Operating	Teardown
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**Prepare the following meals for me (Circle all that apply):**

FRI	FRI	SAT	SAT	SAT	SUN	SUN
NOON	PM	AM	NOON	PM	AM	NOON

Send check for \$4 for each meal, made out to JPLARC to Jonathan Cameron at M/S 198-326 no later than 13 June.

Name/Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_



Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club  
PO Box 820  
La Canada, CA 91012-0820

First Class Mail

JPL ARC Repeaters			
Pasadena:			
WR6JPL	147.15 MHz	(+)	PL 131.8 Open
WR6JPL	224.08 MHz	(-)	PL 156.7 Open
WR6JPL	224.70 MHz	(-)	Closed Autopatch
WR6JPL	445.20 MHz	(-)	PL 103.5 Open
W6JPL-1	145.09 MHz		Packet Node/BBS
W6JPL-1	223.54 MHz		Packet Node/BBS
Table Mountain:			
WR6AZN	145.28 MHz	(-)	PL 131.8 Open
WR6AZN	223.96 MHz	(-)	PL 156.7 Open
WR6AZN	447.20 MHz	(-)	PL 94.8 Open

