

AUGUST

MAIL STOP

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
W6VIO Calling M/S 233-208
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jpl → W6VIO
CALLING

COMING
EVENTS
CALENDAR



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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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AUGUST

August 1 - Repeater Committee Meeting
August 3 - License Exams, Lockheed ARC, Burbank
August 8 - W6VIO Calling Article Deadline
August 14 - JPL ARC Club Meeting
August 28 - JPL ARC Board Meeting
August 31 - Summer Tune-Up Clinic (See Next Column)
HAPPY AUGUST BIRTHDAYS TO RANDY WB6QWR AND JOHN N6AVW

SEPTEMBER

Sept. 5 - Repeater Committee Meeting
Sept. 7 - License Exams, Lockheed ARC, Burbank
Sept. 9 - W6VIO Calling Article Deadline
Sept. 11 - JPL ARC Club Meeting
Sept. 25 - JPL ARC Board Meeting
Sept. 28 - Century-Ride Angeles Crest (See Page 3)

OCTOBER

October 3- Repeater Committee Meeting
October 5- License Exams, Lockheed ARC, Burbank
October 7- W6VIO Calling Article Deadline
October 9- JPL ARC Club Meeting
October 23- JPL ARC Board Meeting

NOVEMBER

November 7- Repeater Committee Meeting
November 9- W6VIO Calling Article Deadline
November 13- JPL ARC Club Meeting
November 27- JPL ARC Board Meeting

NOTE: If you have any input for the calendar, please send it to address of Editor above. Thanks.

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REMINDER: TUNE-UP CLINIC AUG 31

Remember to bring your VHF rigs to the NINTH JPLARC Tune-up clinic which will be held on SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, from 9am to 12 noon in the garage of Mike Santana, WB6TEB. The address is 1050 Monte Verde Drive (corner of Altura), Arcadia. Please bring your list of frequencies, schematic and instruction manual. Because of the overwhelming response to the February clinic, Mike is providing this additional opportunity to get your rig into first-class operating condition. You should check your equipment once a year, and this is the easiest way to do it -it's free! Refreshments will be available, and 223.5 MHz will be monitored for talk-in assistance. (N6NO)



DX NEWS

Today's column is a combination of the last two issues of the LIDX Bulletin, both of which arrived this morning on my desk. If I weren't leaving tomorrow to take the Boy Scout troop to summer camp, I'd be sitting in front of my station checking it all out!

CHAD-N7DF/TT expects his operating permission at any moment. He will be on 15-80 meters.

CHINA-Lots of China activities these days. 14,227 kHz is still the most popular spot, both mornings and evenings. Also check 14,205 to 14,210 kHz from 1300Z. BY1PK and BY1QH are the most active calls.

CYPRUS-5B4MF is active frequently on 14,194-6 kHz from 0001Z.

GALAPAGOS ISL.-HC8E will be active from 18-24 August on all bands, both phone and cw.

GREENLAND-HB9APJ/OX and HB9ASJ/OX are active now through 25 August. Look for them on 14,050 & 21,050 kHz cw, and 14,180 & 21,180 kHz on ssb.

PITCAIRN ISL.-VR6JR can be found on 14,190 kHz from 0200Z. He will make schedules on 40 and 80 meters.

SAO TOME-S92LB can be contacted via an unruly list operation on 14,183 kHz at 1900Z or a little earlier. No documentation on this one has been received at ARRL HQ yet.

TAIWAN-BV2B operates most days around either 14,180 or 14,205 kHz from 1300Z. Look for him at 1500Z at 14,227 kHz on the W7PHO Family Hour.

TANZANIA-5H3DG and 5H3FG are active on 20, 40, and 80 meters ssb.

So much for DX news. For those of you who live on normal LA-sized lots, the following should make you envious: YBOWR advises that he will be replacing his 2 element 80 meter array with a new KLM 4 element 80-meter beam next week. I wonder what he uses for a tower?? Best of DX to you.

Bob, N6ET

JPLARC Attempts Shuttle QSO

Several Club members were recently involved in an attempt to QSO with Tony England, WOORE, Mission Specialist on the recent Spacelab 2 Shuttle 51F Mission. As the second astronaut to carry out a "ham-in-space" dxpedition, Tony had made schedules with several clubs for both voice and SSTV contacts during the seven-day mission. The emphasis this time was to be on the involvement of youth groups in the activity. We were informed about a week before the launch that our club, in recognition of its past involvement in amateur satellite and space communications, would be given an opportunity to QSO with WOORE on orbit 49, about 3 days into the mission.

Unfortunately, the planned two-way contact was not successful. Several Club members who had been involved in the planning of the event, including Len Reder, Norm Chalfin, Chuck Sarture, Jay Holladay and Stan Sander were present at the shack on Thursday, August 1, along with about 20 members of the JPL Space Exploration Post and representatives of the news media. As it turned out, WOORE was preoccupied with his Spacelab activities at the time and was not able to parate. However, the 2 meter transmitter aboard Challenger was configured in its unattended SSTV downlink mode, enabling us to copy a reasonably good color image of the Shuttle mid-deck area. Earlier concerns about the Shuttle attitude resulting in low received signal strength were unfounded; WOORE could be heard S9+20 with a 14 element circularly polarized Yagi on an az-el mount with a mast-mounted GaAsFET preamp on 145.55 MHz.

At this stage we were disappointed but not defeated. Fortunately for us, Pete Mason, Club Member and Principal Investigator for the Spacelab 2 Superfluid Helium Experiment, was present at JSC monitoring his payload. A quick telephone call to Pete resulted in a message being sent up to Challenger to look for W6VIO on a later orbit on Sunday. On this opportunity, WOORE's signal was again heard S9, this time calling W6VIO! Incredibly, however, he did not not acknowledge our call, suggesting strongly that there had been a mixup in our prearranged uplink frequency.

One final opportunity to complete the QSO took place on Monday when we received an urgent call from Chuck Biggs of the JSC Public Information Office to look for Tony on his 4:00 p.m. pass. Unfortunately, this pass was only 3 degrees above our northern horizon which is blocked by a hill, making this schedule impossible.

While an actual 2-way voice QSO never did take place we did receive several very nice, practically noise-free color SSTV pictures. In addition, the involvement of the Explorers was a worthwhile experience both for the young participants and the Club members, all of whom captured some of the excitement of ham radio in space. Stan N6MP

P.S. Many thanks to the many Club members who came by the trailer to provide moral support. These included Jim Lumsden, Walt Mushagian, Bruce Beaudry, Dick Malm, Sid Johnson and others who I may have missed.

(Stan N6MP)

FCC OFFERS COMMERCIAL LIFETIME LICENSE THIS YEAR
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By Merv MacMedan, N6NO

The FCC is offering a lifetime renewal license to operators holding an FCC First Class Phone, Second Class Phone or General Radiotelephone Operator license which was issued or renewed between January 1, 1979 and June 14, 1984. This license is a nice looking 8-1/2 x 11 certificate, and carries no restrictions -that is, it can be used for broadcasting. It is called a "General Radiotelephone Operator License" (first and second class phone licenses are no longer issued) and it states that it is valid for the lifetime of the operator. Be warned however, that: 1) this offer is one-time, and will continue to be available on request, only until December 31, 1985 because of insufficient demand, and 2) the alternative non-lifetime renewal license consists of a small wallet-size card which carries the restriction that it cannot be used for broadcast purposes (unless, presumably, a broadcast endorsement has been obtained.) The Commission is planning to eventually phase out all diploma-type licenses.

(When they issued mine, they included a slip of paper announcing that the old "Verification Card" is no longer available; instead, a photocopy of the lifetime license is now acceptable to carry as proof of your license.)

To get your lifetime license, you don't even have to send in your current license. Just send your name as it appears on your license, date of birth, and current license number. Send this, addressed to "Lifetime License" at the FCC field office THAT ISSUED YOUR LAST OR CURRENT LICENSE. (They have the records!) Include an SASE; there is no charge.

Forgot to renew your license? The grace period is now five years from the date your old license expired. Use FCC form 756. Further details may be found in THE ARRL LETTER, January 3, 1985; a follow-up article appears on June 20, 1985.



GET YOUR FREE LUNCH BY CALLING BRUCE BEAUDRY TO SUPPORT THE CENTURY RIDE UP ANGELES CREST ON SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH. OPERATORS ARE NEEDED TO MONITOR THE REPEATER, TO MAKE LL CALLS, AND TO MAN THE CHECKPOINTS ALONG THE ROUTE. EVEN IF YOU CAN ONLY SPARE AN HOUR, IT WILL BE HELPFUL. CALL BRUCE AT WORK 354-7047 OR HOME 896-7294.



HOT DOG SALES SUCESSFUL

Hot Dog sales at the annual JPL Picnic this year were good. Approximately 800 hot dogs with the trimmings were sold. This is not as many as some past picnic, but good considering the new location this year. (Picnic attendance was off 20 to 25%.)

We made approximately \$ 410 for our effort this year. We donated the few remaining hot dogs and perishable supplies to a local youth group for use at their day camp program. They generously donated \$ 20 to the radio club treasury, so our total net was \$ 430.

John McKinney N6AVW and his father-in-law Frank Kenworthy did their usual good job setting up the booth. Ralph West N6YM was chief cook and in charge of the kitchen. Kerry Erickson N6DSG, Leona McKinney KA6RHH, Rick McKinney KA6DAN, and Chuck Sarture KG6NF were on hand to help out where needed. New novice Larry Ruple and his friend Patti Heller put in a long afternoon helping out.

If you missed the picnic you can still help out. The stand we have used for several years (5 or 6) is in need of repair, painting or replacement. If you want to help contact Bruce Beaudry WD6HEZ at extension 7047. Rick, KA6DAN