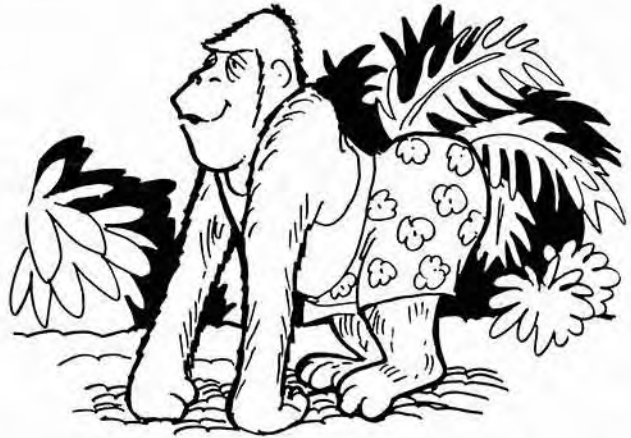


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CALLING



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MARCH 1987

VOLUME 17 NO. 3

MAIL STOP

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



**NEWS!**

PRESIDENT: Carl de Silveira KG6LG  
VICE PRES: Walt Mushagian K6DNS  
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: 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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#### W6VIO FIELD DAY 1987 PROGRESS REPORT

Field Day 1987 has already begun for many! If you didn't already know that, here's the status of the preparations:

Location: As it was two years ago, in the big clearing about one-half mile west of Guffy Campground on Blue Ridge above Wrightwood.

Date: 26,27,28 June 1987. People will start arriving midday on Friday, 26 June, and will commence preparing the site. Volunteers are needed for this. Takedown will happen Sunday afternoon.

Food: This year, six meals will be served: Friday evening dinner; Saturday breakfast, lunch and dinner; Sunday breakfast and lunch. As with last year, a donation of five dollars per person (or more, if you wish) will be appreciated to help defray the costs of a whole weekend of food! Rumors have it that the spread this year will be the best yet...

Volunteers (so far): Walt Mushagian K6DNS, Sid Johnson WB6VWH, Brian Stapleton KW6J, Carl DeSilveria KG6LG, Mark Schaefer WB6CIA, Bob Gosline AE6S, Merv MacMedan N6NO, Stan Sander N6MP, Bob Polanski N6EP, Jon Adams NW6H. Please get involved. Give a little of your time now and make this the best VIC Field Day yet. You won't regret it!

Station: This year we will again run 3A, with two 1.8-30MHz radios running continuously, a VHF-UHF station, packet radio, perhaps OSCAR, certainly a novice station (free points; we need Novices and Technicians). Bands will include 160 through 10 meters, 2 meters, 220MHz, 440MHz and 1200MHz.

Continued on Page 2 Column 1

## DX NEWS

There is a lot of DX news this time, so rather than my usual lengthy preamble, I'll get right to it.

AMSTERDAM & CROZET ISLANDS - FT8ZA and FT8WA are on 3790 kHz plus or minus daily with weak, but often copyable ssb and cw. They usually work with K6UA and K6RJ. I lucked in about a week back! Both will assist you with a QSO. The opening to that area of the world is about 10 minutes long starting at about 1510Z. Good luck!

ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS - VU2APR and VU2NRO are both active, but hard to work on all bands, both ssb and cw. Activity is planned through the entire month of March.

CYPRUS - 5B4BD joins the 14227 kHz net frequently at about 1600Z.

EGYPT - SU1ER is active daily also on the 14227 kHz net from 1800Z. I need this one myself for Phone DXCC.

GABON - TR8SA daily makes his presence known between 14215 and 14230 kHz.

GHANA - 9G2MR is frequently active on 14197 kHz from 1900Z. Activity is planned in the near future on 15 and 40 meters.

IVORY COAST - TU2CG operates regularly near 7013 kHz from 0300Z.

KAMPUCHEA - XU1SS has resumed operation after a period of inactivity forced by his "camp" being overrun by rebel forces. He frequently joins DU9RG near 7088 kHz from 1100Z.

LIBYA - This rare country is represented on the ham bands by 5A0A. He is a QRP station authorized to operate on the lower 5 kHz of all bands. Currently he operates near 7005 kHz.

RHODES - SVOAH operates daily on all bands 10 through 30 as propagation permits.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES - A very weak A61XL is active from 1500Z near 14196 kHz. He was on this morning on the 14227 kHz net. (He wasn't copyable at my location.)

Enough for now. Conditions are improving, so lots of dx should be workable. Good luck!

Good DXing,

Bob, N6ET

Antennas: Exotic new antennas are being designed this year by our top notch volunteer team of Walt Mushagian, Brian Stapleton and Sid Johnson. We expect to have a 4-element wire Yagi on 80 meters, a 6-element wire Yagi on 40 meters, 2 tri-band Yagis for 10-15-20 meters, a balloon for a vertical on 160 and 80 meters, a quad-band novice antenna, and VHF and UHF Yagis.

The Field Day antenna design crew plans to fabricate the wire-Yagi antennas here and test them out up at the site in May sometime. They need volunteers to assist in fabrication and in test. Please get involved by giving Walt Mushagian a call.

We need volunteers!! Mark your calendar now and plan for it! We plan to do very well this year, and at 8500 feet elevation and yagis pointed due east, we expect pileups all night long on 80 and 40 meters! You want to be part of it!

Field Day co-chairmen this year are Jon Adams, NW6H, and Mark Schaefer, WB6CIA. To volunteer, call them or Walt Mushagian, K6DNS.

## LOS ANGELES MARATHON 1987

The 2nd Los Angeles Marathon was held on March 1st, 1987 with approximately 15,000 participating runners, about 3-5,000 more than last year.

This year, as last, the JPL ARC was responsible for medical supply and medical emergency communications. Two nets were used this year, one supply and one emergency, as the single net used last year could not handle the traffic.

In all, 56 amateur operators were required for the two medical nets, all operating on either the 224.74 or 224.68 repeaters. In addition to the medical nets 7 other nets were used: Aid station-2M, Half mile-2M, Runner drop out-2M and 220, Shadow-220, Lead vehicles--2M, Technical support-440, and medical ATV. In all several hundred HAMS were involved relaying the necessary information to support the 26 mile course, hospital, and Exposition park area.

JPL club members participating this year were: Harry Enmark WA6IUR, Art Zygielbaum WA6SAL, Stan Sander N6MP, Jim Lumsden WA6MYJ, Jon Adams NW6H, Rick McKinney KA6DAN, Ralph West N6YM, Jan Tarsala WB6VRN, John Tallon N6OMB, Jay Holladay W6EJJ, Walt Diem WA6PEA, Kerry Erickson N6DSG, Ron Ploszaj WA6TPW, Chuck Sarture KG6NF, Don Lawson WB6SQF, Bob Layne W6LTC, Phil Smith (captain of the ATV team) WB6LQP, Ed Jones N6KCB, and yours truly Sid Johnson WB6VWH and son Kirk KA6RXX.

I am sure that many of you watched the race on channel 13. I am told by those who did that channel 13 gave credit to virtually every organization that supported the race, with the exception of amateur radio. Could the media be jealous of us HAMS who keep every thing glued together and do it without pay? Who knows but take heart. The ARRL cameras were there shooting footage for a new movie, so keep your eyes peeled for their next release. You may see somebody you know-maybe yourself.

As captain of the medical team I wish to extend my congratulations, appreciation and thanks to each and every one of you that participated this year. You did good guys! See ya all next year.

Sid Johnson

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
February 25, 1987

Present: Harry Enmark, Walt Mushagian, Carl de Silveria, Rick McKinney, Sid Johnson.

Old Business: A general discussion was held regarding an awards dinner. It was agreed that an awards chairman was required to coordinate and organize this function.

No Feb treasurers report was available as the books had not been closed for the month.

New Business: Mark Shaefer requested the education budget be increased from \$25.00 to \$50.00. The increase passed by unanimous vote.

A discussion was held regarding the newly released FCC General Docket 87-14. It was agreed that the JPL ARC should formulate a club response as well as supply a letter to all club members for their response to senators etc. A special board meeting was tentatively set for the week of 3/9/87 if action was not underway at that time.

Sid Johnson  
Secretary.

STUCK IN BAJA

Last November a small group of JPL'ers traveled down the Baja Peninsula to set up a H.F. Station for the Pemex Score Baja 1000 off-road race. The race was from Ensenada to LaPaz for a total of 1,013 miles. There were 237 cars, trucks, 4x4's, motorcycles, ATV's and Odysseys. More than 60% of the vehicles finished, which is better than usual for this off-road Classic.

Our job was to supply emergency communications and to keep track of all the vehicles as they progressed down the peninsula. Our station was at Checkpoint #4 about 250 miles below Ensenada and we were able to talk to all the other 13 checkpoints plus the start and finish line. Another of our club (Harry Enmark WA6IUR) and some of his friends manned Checkpoint #10 about 500 miles down the course. Also from our checkpoint we talked to Carl (KG6LG our Club President) and Dick Wetzel (WA6JBZ) who was visiting Carl at his home in Sunland. Propagation was good, the weather and desert scenery were great. We were completely surrounded by Cirio trees and all varieties of cacti.

I must admit that this beautiful desert peninsula was the real reason for taking this trip. We all planned to take extra time so we could visit and camp in as much of this scenic and intriguing country as we could.

The first part of the trip was on the Pacific side of Baja where we spent most of the time on the beaches and where we were able to get our fill of fresh lobster. The last few days were on the Gulf side where we also camped on or near the beaches overlooking this very beautiful and tranquil sea.

Our group on this trip consisted of Rick McKinney, Jim Tomy, Betty and I. Jim is not a Ham but was an indispensable part of our group. Rick in his camper, Betty and I in our mini motor home took turns getting stuck in the sand, not on purpose, it just happened that way. Jim in his 4x4 vehicle was our tow truck and was able to get us going again. I won't say how many times we were stuck but I believe Rick has a Baja record. We wore out 2 tow ropes and ended up pulling his bumper off. Rick got stuck so often because he thought his camper would go in the sand. Betty and I got stuck because we knew our motorhome would go in the sand. There were a lot of beaches and sandy desert areas and we got stuck in all of them. In some cases we decided we were in a nice place to be stuck and just camped for the night. Jim pulled us out the next day.

There is a new graded road on the Gulf side of the peninsula that replaces the old tortuous trail from Bahia Saint Louis Gonzaga up to San Felipe. Although the new road is still rough, it is the most scenic drive that I know. I goes along the Gulf Coast beaches and along the side of the hills overlooking the Gulf for its entire length of almost a hundred miles. One caution, if you pull off the road to camp or to enjoy the view you may get stuck. In fact, you probably should plan on it.

(Don Lawson WA6SQF)

*Editor's Note: As usual Don has submitted a fantastic article about what fun there is out there for Hams to find. We look forward to his next article. What else can I say? I'm STUCK for words. 88's Eileen.*

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Subject: More on 220...some comments  
 Sender: Arthur I ZYGIELBAUM / JPL/01

Part 1.

The ARRL bulletin announcing the NRPM will probably hit the net pretty soon, but I wanted to get the earliest possible start on this issue.

Yesterday (thursday) the Commission released an NPRM proposing to reallocate 220-222 Mhz to the land mobile services. They also proposed to make 222-225 Mhz exclusively amateur (no big deal, since we don't have to share it with much right now anyway).

The arguments against land mobile on 220 are the same as they were the last several times we've gone through this. Write the Commission and your congresspeople, and tell them that:

1. Contrary to popular believe, these frequencies are used -- small signal work, control links, remote bases, and an increasing number of packet radio trunks, including high speed linking experiments.
2. Two megahertz in the middle of "nowhere" (as far as the land mobile people are concerned) seem piddling in relation to what the service already has. Since new equipment will have to be designed for them to use this band, there will be inevitable pressure to expand beyond 220-222 once they get a foothold on this segment.
3. UHF TV channels continue to be a vast wasteland. Yes, this applies to the occupied channels as well, but I'm talking mostly about the many empty channels, even in the densely populated areas like New York and LA. Increased sharing with UHF TV represents a much more practical way to give land mobile the spectrum it claims it needs.
4. Cellular radio, probably the fastest growing land mobile segment, could do much more "cell splitting" (as they promised in the beginning) than they are now as a way to increase capacity.

Phil

Arguments against 220-222 NPRM, from Art Zygielbaum

1. The two MHz segment in question is isolated from other land mobile frequency allocations and would therefore require unique equipment. As long as one would need to develop unique type-accepted equipment, it makes more sense to allocate unused portions of the UHF Television band within each geographic area for use by land mobile. Spacing requirements would not be as stringent for the land mobile stations as compared to television stations. This means that each area could have many channels allocated for land mobile without interference to adjacent geographical areas UHF Television Stations. A single UHF channel would have much more to offer than the 2 MHz segment from 220-222 MHz.  
  
It should also be noted that the land mobile service on 220-222 would suffer from the use of non-type-accepted amateur equipment which would be used in the land mobile segment. The enforcement of type certification would be impossible.
2. There is much more use of the 220 Mhz band than is apparent from the ARRL Repeater listing. Not only are there unlisted private systems spread throughout the band, but the particular segment from 220 to 222 MHz is populated with control links, repeater control frequencies, remote communications links and experimental and long distance weak signal operations. All available frequencies in many large metropolitan areas are allocated per organizations sanctioned by the FCC. The rules modification allowing Novice operation on 220 will increase further the use of the band.
3. At the very least, it is premature to assess the utilization of 220 given the recent modification to the rules allowing Novice operation on the band. The effect of Novice operation should be assessed prior to making any reallocation of the band. To do otherwise would be to subrogate the FCC's intent to increase the use of the 220 MHz amateur band.

*Continued from Page 4*

4. The periodic threats to reallocate all or part of the 220 MHz band has itself limited growth on the band. Clearly manufacturers have been unwilling to commit to long-term production of amateur equipment on the band given the almost constant threat for withdrawal of the allocation. It is in the public's interest for the best utilization of frequencies that the continuing reassessment of 220 be stopped for a period sufficient to allow normal development of manufactured equipment and to allow the utilization of 220 to seek a stable level. Only after such a period can the amateur interest in the band be assessed. Without such an assessment, the public interest cannot be determined.
  
5. The amateur community has a large investment in special purpose equipment specifically installed for the 200 to 222 MHz segment of the band. This includes repeater control equipment for repeaters in all amateur bands below 220 MHz as well as control equipment for repeaters within and above the band. Further, there is a large number of remote systems, control links, repeater links, etc., that operate in this segment of the band. Reallocation will place an unnecessary and large financial burden on the amateur community. Utility services which are regularly used for support of public events, emergency communications, etc., would be put in jeopardy.