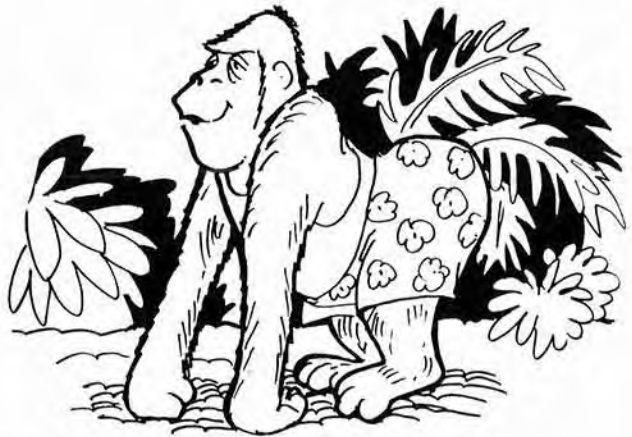


# jpl → W6VIO CALLING



QUIT MONKEYING AROUND AND SEND YOUR DUES IN TODAY!

MAY 1987

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



## TUNE-UP CLINIC SCHEDULED FOR JUNE

(See Page 3 for details)

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

## 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 N6ET, 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.

**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 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 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.

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

Continued on Page 2 Column 1

## NEW DX PROPAGATION TOOL USES YOUR COMPUTER TERMINAL!

## DX NEWS

In October 1978 the Institute for Telecommunication Science of the Department of Commerce in Boulder, Colorado, stopped providing radio propagation quality information to the public via mailed weekly bulletins and WWV broadcasts of "N7's" at 14 minutes after the hour. These were replaced with solar flux and geomagnetic A and K data included with the geophysical alert announcements at 18 minutes after the hour. With the help of articles by Ted Cohen, N3AT, George Jacobs, W3ASK, and others of us, hams became their own forecasters.

Now the Space Environment Services Center (SESC) in Boulder has resumed radio quality reporting with an expanded, worldwide version of the "N7" report/forecast system. They've divided the northern hemisphere into a grid of four longitude quadrants, 0 to 90 and 180 degrees east and west, and five latitude zones, 0-10-30-55-70-90 degrees north. A two-digit code (such as N7) appears in each grid space. The letter (W, U, or N) represents conditions for the current 6-hour period; the number (1 through 9) indicates the forecast for the next 6-hour period. The primary forecast is at 0600 UT daily with 6-hour updates.

You can use your computer terminal to obtain these forecasts from SESC's "bulletin board" service. Call (303) 497-5000 with the usual 300/1200 baud, 8-bit (1 stop bit, no parity) conventional protocol of bulletin board systems. A simple menu will allow copying data for up to 5 minutes. Registration (entering your name and intended use) will give you a user number and extend available data-copying time to 15 minutes. User acceptance of the experimental service will assure permanence and menu expansion.

(From "DX Forecaster" by Garth Stonehocker, KØRYW, in "Ham Radio Magazine", May 1987; via N6NO.)

**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.

The beginning of the month is at hand again. As faithful as clockwork, ole N6AVW made his presence known with his now familiar "HAAAAALP - Bob, I need your DX article yesterday". Rising to the occasion, I fumbled for my trusty LIDX Bulletin and started reading. There was lots of good stuff talked about this week. Guess I'll have to listen more! This month's sample follows.

**ANDORRA - C30LEF** will operate from here from 20 June through 25 July. This is KV4AM in disguise. As I recall, he is a very adept cw operator with considerable skill at handling the ssb pileups also.

**CROZET ISLAND - FT8WA** continues frequent appearances on 7015 kHz from 0200Z. We could have propagation on the West Coast that early. It's worth a look.

**EGYPT - SU1ER** operates on many lists from 1400Z on 14 mHz. I'm listening for him also.

**EUROPA - FR5AI/T** promises joint operations with FR5ZU through the month of May. Hopefully, there will be some longpath openings early in the local morning for the suffering W6's!

**FRANZ JOSEF LAND - UA1ZO** is frequently active from 2000Z at or near 14008 kHz.

**LIBYA -** Look for 5A0A on the low ends of 20 and 40 meters in the early mornings. He is also active on 21265 kHz at 1800Z. Libya is a very rare one these days.

**NICOBAR ISLAND - VU4NRO** plans operations from this location during the entire month of May on all bands, both cw and ssb.

**MOUNT EVEREST -** Although this does not count for a separate country, SM2DWH/BTO is operating from this rather high location through about 6 June. It would be exciting to have a contact with this station.

So long for now. The weeds in the yard are getting so tall that they are threatening to screw up my antennas' radiation patterns. Guess I better do something about that.

Good DXing,  
Bob, N6ET



Can we scare you into paying your dues?

## REPEATER NEWS

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By Merv MacMedan, N6NO

Good news! We have finally received our 900-MHz link frequency coordination from SCRRBA and we are proceeding to order the appropriate receiver and transmitter link equipment crystallized up on the appropriate frequency. Kirk, KA6RKK, is assembling the two French 23-element beams (made by F9FT) we recently purchased, and at the main site the six-cavity 220 MHz Phelps-Dodge duplexer and isolator are in place and operating, as a result of recent efforts of a work party consisting of Jan Tarsala WB6VRN, with WA6PEA, WA6JBZ, N6OMB, and WB6VWH. Thank you all! The extra set of cavities is to permit us to operate with our normal power level to properly cover the Valley, but we don't intend to put full power back up on this machine until we get the remote receiver and voting system working.

Remember, as of late March, Novices are permitted to operate on the input frequencies of our repeaters. Thus, we can expect to hear new calls as these beginners get their feet wet on 220. Be polite, patient, and offer any assistance needed. Most of us were Novices at one time, too!

W6VIO/R is open to all, and Novices are welcome; WB6IEA/R is a "closed" repeater for club members only. However, members are free to engage in QSOs with other non-member stations (Novice or otherwise) on the repeater whenever they wish, since subaudible tones are not required by the non-member station. Keep in mind, however, that the member who invites non-members aboard is responsible for exercising control over the use of the repeater during times when the non-members are participating.

Anybody have 220 gear for sale? Now that Novices are allowed to use our frequencies (and our repeaters, of course) we find increased demand for used 220 gear. Maybe now is the time to clean house and offer up some of your gear that has been gathering dust. Some newcomer might just love an old (read: economical!) rig to get on the air with, even if it's not synthesized, scanning or programmable. Try Eileen's "FOR SALE" service of this newsletter - it's free!

**OPERATING TIP OF THE MONTH:** Recent changes to FCC rules have eliminated the requirement to identify the station you are talking to when you sign off. All that is necessary now is to give YOUR call. You don't even have to give your call at the beginning of a QSO - just identify your station by its call sign every 10 minutes during a QSO, and at sign-off. Of course, there is nothing to prohibit giving call signs frequently (I suppose it helps pass the time if you have nothing better to say) but when everyone knows everyone else, we no longer have to boast that we know who we are talking to - it's just redundant and time consuming.

There is one exception you should be aware of: If you are engaged in third-party traffic with a foreign country, you must still give the call of the station with which you are in contact as well as your own (probably so that a monitor who quite possibly could not hear the other station could determine from the call sign whether your third party traffic was proper (under treaty) or not.) Except for Mexican traffic (the closest foreign country to us, and with which third-party traffic is legal) I wouldn't expect such a situation to arise on the repeater; I pass it on for those of you that also operate on the "dc" bands.

That's all for now. Keep up the good work and 73.

This is N6NO, clear!



## TUNE UP CLINIC SCHEDULED FOR JUNE

The eleventh annual JPLARC Tune-Up Clinic will be held Saturday June 20, from 9am to 12 noon at the QTH of Miguel Santana, WB6TEB, 1050 Monte Verde Drive, Arcadia. This will complete ten years of continuous tune-up clinics by Miguel. It's hard to believe, but his first clinic was held when our repeater first became airborne, in 1977! Thanks, Miguel, for keeping our signals always sounding their best and for contributing your valuable time and expertise to the club over so many years.

Your VHF and UHF rigs will be professionally checked for frequency, voice and tone deviation, power output and receive sensitivity. Bring all your rigs and make sure they are working properly so the repeater can serve you properly! Again, ALL NEW RIGS should be checked, as we have found they invariably come from the factory set up wrong for our repeater. We all know Murphy's law: Overdeviation and a weak signal work against you only when you desperately need the repeater (as when you are stranded in the center divider of the freeway with a flat tire in an area of marginal signal strength.) Keep your gear tuned up and it will serve you well. This clinic is for tune-up only, but if time permits, minor repairs may also be handled.

As usual, coffee will be available (courtesy of HK4CVV) and sodas and donuts will be provided by the club. Take the 210 Freeway to the Michillinda exit; Mike's place is just a few blocks from there. This year we will be monitoring WB6IEA/R, 224.08, for talk-in assistance. See you there!  
(N6NO)