

W6VIO CALLING



JANUARY

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Art Zygielbaum, WA6SAL

It's off to a new year and a new "challenge." I'm honored to have been named the 1991 president of the club. I'd like to start off by telling you a little about myself, give you some thoughts on the club, and solicit your support for club activities.

I've been a ham for about 30 years. I'm active on HF, VHF, and UHF. I'm into packet, some satellite work, and ragchewing. I'm a member of the Rio Hondo Red Cross communications support group. Ham radio has been an important part of my life. It's set my career direction and played a strong role in my education.

I have not been as active as I would have liked in club activities. JPL keeps me pretty busy and I tend to do a lot of travel. In order for me to meet my obligations to the club, I am going to have to rely on the Vice President, Carl DeSilveira, KG6LG, for a lot of support. I've known Carl for many years and look forward to working with him and the rest of the board.

It has been traditional for the new president to identify committee members in his first VIO Calling article. I'm not going to do that. It is apparent that we need to take a thoughtful look at the club, its organization, and its goals. We will begin to take that look at a "retreat" of the old and the new boards on February 26. We will take a look at the by-laws, committee structure, emergency commitments, etc. The "retreat" will be open for any members to attend. Ask any of the officers for more information or listen to the Emergency Net on Monday at Noon. Based on the retreat, some arm-twisting, and discussion, I'll name the committee chairmen in the next VIO Calling. While I would like to assure "new blood" in the leadership of the club, it is appropriate for some of last year's chairmen to continue this year if they are willing.

The club has done some fantastic things. The repeaters we run provide excellent service for the club and the general ham community. We tend to find it easy to complain when they are not on the air and forget how hard a lot of people work to keep them going! The commemoratives have generated a lot of interest for JPL and space exploration. And now the club is a strong part of JPL's emergency planning. That's significant. You and I are part of the Lab's effort to assure the safety of the nearly 10,000 people who come through the gates each day. It's an awesome responsibility!

Ham radio has given all of us a lot. It's important that you and I return something for what we have. I solicit your support for the upcoming activities of the club. Those include the Monday Noon emergency net, field day, the LA Marathon, maintenance and building activities, etc. We are talking about club support of ham radio installations and education on the Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations. If you can contribute to these activities, you will find it very rewarding. But I understand being busy with family and work. In that case, if you can keep an HT and fresh batteries with you at the work place, you are contributing to our emergency preparedness. Take part as you can.

Next month, I hope to report more specifics on club plans and the results of our retreat. I should also be able to report the annual budget, committee chairs, and future operating events and activities.



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Jet Propulsion Laboratory
VIO CALLING M/S 264-419
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BOARD

PRESIDENT: ART ZYGIELBAUM WA6SAL
VICE PRES: CARL DE SILVEIRA KG6L
SECRETARY: WALT DIEM WA6PEA
TREASURER: JIM KESTERSON KA6IBF
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DIRECTOR AT LARGE: MARK SCHAEFER WB6CIA

CLOSED REPEATER TRUSTEE: WALT DIEM WA6PEA

EDITOR: EILEEN MCKINNEY KA6DGV

Club Meetings:

Everyone is welcome - Bring your lunch.
12 Noon

Program - Second Wednesday of month in 238-543
Business - Fourth Wednesday of month in 180-703B

Newsletter Article Deadline: The 5th. day of each month. If the 5th. falls on a weekend, the following Monday will be the deadline.

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

CHANGE CLUBS: PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS ABOVE

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

I would appreciate your thoughts and ideas on the club. Several members have already supplied me with thoughtful notes and comments. We'll consider those as we think through where we are and where we are going. If you want to contact me, I'm "A ZYGIELBAUM" on JEMS, "AZYGIELBAUM" on NASAMAIL, "AIZ" on JATO, WA6SAL-1 on 223.42 (Packet Mail Drop), JPL extension 4-3564.

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the people that helped out on this year's Juvenile Diabetes Foundation Walk-a-thon. We had a very smooth operation all around the course. I am sorry I called up people so late for this event and I do thank everyone for doing a great job. They are: Don WA6SQF, Betty KA6JEX, Rick KA6DAN, Jami KK6CU, Gerry W6WXL, Bob W6LTC, and Tami.

73's Dick Wetzel WA6JBZ

ZULU TIME

by Terence Cox,

via Heidi Hammel and Sid Johnson, WB6VWH

Zulu does stand for GMT. More accurately, Zulu is the phonetic designation of the letter "Z" which is assigned to the Greenwich Time Zone.

Each time zone has a letter, assigned as follows. Alpha (A) time zone is one hour AHEAD of GMT (Central Europe), Bravo (B) is two, Charlie (C) is three, etc. This continues until you hit +12 hours. The letter "J" is skipped [HBH aside: one poster said this is so that some folks wouldn't have to take Jlg-time, which must be more military obscurism, because I didn't understand that any better than "zulu" ;-)], so this uses up the letters A-M, which represent time offsets in the Eastern Hemisphere.

Then, (here's the weird part), you start back at GMT again, lettering time zones in the opposite direction, away from GMT. So "N" is one hour behind ZULU, "O" is two, "P" is three, etc. This goes all the way up to the letter "Y". The "M" time zone, and the "Y" time zone are the same, except one is GMT+12, and the other is GMT-12.

The only thing left out is ZULU, which is good ole GMT. This scheme doesn't address areas where the time zones are not on even-hour intervals. For example, Central Australia is 1.5 hours off the time zones on either side. Other countries that have weird time zones include Afghanistan, Nepal, and various Pacific Islands. I personally like to use the "JULIET" time zone for Central Australia, but I'm not sure any one else follows this convention.

The letters are still used because they represent offsets from GMT, and not physical locations. This is significant, since daylight savings time tends to screw things up. At MIT, you are in the "ROMEO" (R) time zone in the winter, meaning GMT - 5 hrs, but in the "QUEBEC" (Q) time zone in the summer, meaning GMT - 4 hrs.

BALLOT RESULTS

The 1990 Club Secretary, Sid Johnson (WB6VWH) reports the following results of the election for the 1991 Club Treasurer.

KESTERSON = 33

BRODKIN = 24

BOARD MINUTES By Walt Diem, WA6PEA

MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING - 1/7/91

President Art Zyguelbaum, WA6SAL, convened a special joint meeting of the 1990 Board of Directors and the newly elected officers on January 7, 1991 to provide a smooth transition and start planning activities for the new year.

Old and new Board Members present: Art Zyguelbaum, Carl de Silveira, Walt Diem, Jim Kesterson, Stan Sander, Mark Schaefer, Sid Johnson, Walt Mushagian, John Tallon. Members present: Courtney Duncan, Jan Tarsala.

Mark Schaefer reported that it was difficult to conduct business last year because there was not a quorum at over half the Board meetings. He suggested that Committee Chairmen be listed on the VIO Calling masthead. Mark identified the following 1990 Committee Chairmen:

Emergency Communications	Walt Mushagian
Repeater Chairman	Jan Tarsala
Facilities Chairman	Jerry Hawkes
Education Chairman	Gil Yanow
Membership Chairman	Rick McKinney

It was pointed out that we need a Field Day Chairman for this year. John Tallon volunteered to be responsible for the food at Field Day.

It was proposed that the President appoint an ERC representative. Stan Sander suggested that we have structured itemized agendas for both the General and Board meetings.

The January 9th General Meeting was planned. Art Zyguelbaum and Carl deSilveira to discuss plans and issues for 1991; Walt Mushagian to report on emergency communications; and Jan Tarsala to report on repeater status.

Jim Kesterson will prepare a detailed financial report for the club's Annual Report to ERC and Mark Schaefer will write the report.

The Board voted to increase the annual dues to \$10 for 1991.

The Autopatch phone bills for November and December included \$51.61 for long distance phone calls for club support of SAREX activities. Since the charges for long distance calls are the responsibility of the member making the call, and since these calls were made as a club function, the Board approved payment of the calls from the general club funds.

A retreat, for the new and old Board of Directors and all interested club members, to plan activities and the budget for the year was scheduled for 11 a.m. on Saturday January 26. The location will be arranged by Art and announced when arranged. The budget will be presented to the members for approval at the February General Meeting on February 13th.

Recorded by Walt Diem, WA6PEA, Secretary

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - 1/9/91

Jim Kesterson gave the following Treasurer's report:

General Fund - Balance 12/31/90	\$211.31
Matching Funds Grant due from ERC	\$500.00
TOTAL GENERAL FUNDS	\$711.31
Autopatch Funds - Balance 13/31/90	\$575.12
General Expenditures - 1990	\$6272.66
Autopatch Phone Expenses - 1990	\$240.43

Art Zygielbaum and Carl deSilveira led an interesting discussion on plans and issues for 1991. Walt Mushagian reported on emergency communications activities during the year, including the "Table" exercise. Walt Diem reported that Kendecom has rewritten the software to correct the identified repeatable problems and will replace the processor board in hopes of eliminating the anomalous transmitter lock-up problems. Jan Tarsala's status report on the repeater system had to be postponed due to lack of time.

Gil Yanow is looking for volunteers to operate HF and VHF from 9:30 to 12:30 on January 22 to January 25 at JPL. The Minority Science and Engineering Initiatives Office of JPL is sponsoring "Science is Kids Stuff". This is a science field trip to JPL for selected Pasadena and LA Unified School District schools.

Recorded by Walt Diem, WA6PEA, Secretary

MEETING LOCATION CHANGES

The location of the monthly business meetings has been changed to 180-703B. The Business meetings will be held at the normal time: 12 noon on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The Program meeting will be held at the normal time and place: 12 noon on the second Wednesday of each month in 238-543. The 238-543 conference room may not be available for February; if not, the meeting will be in 198-102. Watch for the meeting notice and remember to check the location.

Walt Diem, WA6PEA, Secretary

224.08 MHz CO-CHANNEL COORDINATION

W6BGS/R was issued a co-channel coordination by the 220 SMA December 29, 1990. The repeater is operated by the El Cajon ARC and is located on Rattlesnake Peak near Santee and Gillespie Airfield, North of El Cajon. It is an open repeater with a PL tone of 107.2 Hz.

Walt Diem, WA6PEA, WB6IEA Trustee

DX NEWS

By Bob Polansky, N6ET

A Happy New Year to all! I've had a bit of spare time to listen to the HF bands this last month and the "good stuff" is all over the place. For a complete view of what dx is available, come to the W6VIO trailer and read The DX Bulletin. As usual, it is my prime dx news source. Here's a sample of what's to be expected in the near term.

AFGHANISTAN - Currently, YA0RR is dishing out QSO's by the hundreds from this rare QTH, which hasn't seen meaningful amateur radio activity in several decades. Unfortunately, by the time you get this, the operation will probably be over (last day is 20 January). Rumors persist that F2CW will also attempt an operation from here in the not to distant future.

ALBANIA - The planned Albanian operation has been delayed again, due to the current political situation in that country. I predict that we will indeed see a legitimate operation from Albania within the next year.

ASCENSION ISLAND - ZD8VJ will operate from here through June. In addition, ZD8Z provides occasional activity a week at a time every several months (at least since last October).

EAST MALAYSIA - 9M8AX and 9M8BZ plan operation from here from 25 to 27 January.

LAOS - XW8KPL is active on Fridays from 1100 to 2000Z. Look for him at 21230, 21260, and 28470 kHz. Other XW activity has been occurring in the late afternoon around 28475 kHz.

QATAR - A71CD has been active on 14220 kHz at 0200Z, and 14250 kHz at 0630Z. Another A71 station occasionally shows for a list operation around 14210 kHz in our local early morning.

SAN FELIX - XQ0X is frequently available in the local afternoon on 14236 kHz and on Sunday morning early on 28495 kHz.

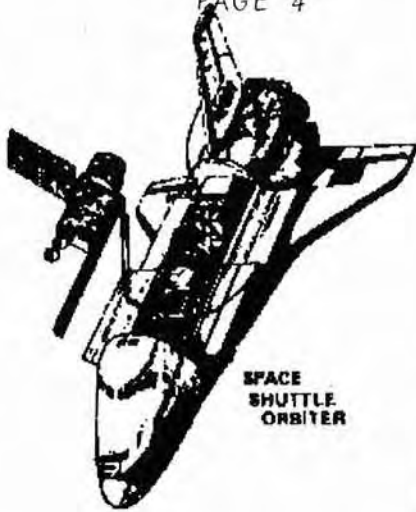
Hang in there and work some of the exotic dx while the sunspots favor our hobby. It will be another 11 years or so before it'll be this good again.

73, Bob, N6ET

CLASSIFIED ADS

Call (818) 764-2332 for the following:

\$75.00	4 Chemical Pumps (dual) 1/2hp
\$50.00	6' steel equipment cabinet
\$75.00	ea. (2) HP UHF 616A Gen 1.8-4 GHz
	HP SHF 620A Gen 7-11 KC
\$50.00	HP 618B Gen 3.8-7.6GHz
\$50.00	TS 4L8 C/U Gen 400MC-1000MC
\$5.00	RF Admittance Bridge 33A Boonton (incomplete)
\$20.00	CEC Moisture Monitor 26-303
\$50.00	0-4500 G scale Harshaw Sci.
\$100.	Toledo Counting Scale
\$15.00	Krithiey 410 Micro-Micro Amm. 10 - 4 - 10 - 13
\$100.00	HP Wave Analyzer 310A
	HP Logarithmic Converter 7560A



SAREX SHUTTLE AMATEUR RADIO EXPERIMENT

STUDENTS TALK TO THE SPACE SHUTTLE
COLUMBIA
LIVE FROM STOWERS EL. SCHOOL,
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1990

Students from three schools talked to Ron Parise, astronaut, while he was in orbit over Australia in the space shuttle Columbia. Dr. Parise is a Mission Payload Specialist and an Amateur Radio Operator. The students are Dillon Mathew, past Stowers El. student, Chemene Mata, Cerritos El. student, and Lisa Gonzales, Carver El. student. Ten schools nation wide were chosen to be part of the experiment. The purpose of the experiment was to see if by using space age technologies, students could learn science from a scientist while he was doing his actual experiment in space. The Stowers School session was the most successful of all the sessions because all three students got their questions answered. The questions were: What type of orbit was the shuttle in?, What is it like living in space?, and Does radiation affect the shuttle or its crew? The teachers Owen Robbins, KB6WYU, Judy Robbins, KB6WYV, and Larry Mazur, KC6AFJ, would like to thank the following organizations for their support during the experiment: NATIONAL AERONAUTIC SPACE ADMINISTRATION, JET PROPULSION AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE, AM-SAT AND SAREX

EDITOR'S NOTE: Stowers Elementary School is located right by my house (less than a mile away) in Cerritos, California. Michael (N6TJL) was in Mr. Robbins' class years ago and is now a Junior at UC Irvine (UCI). Matthew (no call sign as yet) is now at Stowers in 1st. Grade. It's great to know that Owen Robbins KB6WYU and fantastic teachers like him across the state go to the trouble of providing such a wonderful background in Amateur Radio to all of these young students. Amateur Radio will continue to thrive long into the future with excellent influences like Owen to teach the way.

Eileen McKinney KA6DGV