

W6VIO Calling



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

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March 2002

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Meeting Notice

By Christopher Carson, KE6ABQ

The March General Meeting of the JPL Amateur Radio Club will be held on Wednesday March 13th, 2002 in 238-543 at noon. The presentation is TBD. Bring your lunch if you like.

The March Board Meeting of the JPL Amateur Radio Club will be held at noon on March 27th, 2002 in 233-305J. Bring your lunch if you like. Everyone is welcome to attend either of these meetings. ■

Prez' Mix

By Bob Dengler, NO6B

This month's column and in fact the whole newsletter is a few days late in order to bring you a recap of our club's big public service event of the year, the LA Marathon. My personal involvement in this event began over a month ago with preparations for the pre-marathon repeater servicing trip at the LA Marathon's repeater site in downtown Los Angeles.

Because of the course change this year, our 220 and 440 repeaters at Cerro Negro Peak could be used for some of the nets. In previous years, the Marathon route along Hollywood Blvd. proved to be a difficult area for our repeaters to cover. However, on 220 MHz we had a problem in that, since last year, our 224.70 Cerro Negro repeater had been replaced with our 224.08 repeater. That put both our Cerro Negro and downtown LA systems on 224.08. So the frequency of the LA repeater had to be moved from 224.08 to 224.70. This meant a total retune of the duplexer, repeater radio, and re-netting of crystals, all performed on-site.

Calendar of Events

March 2	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]
March 13	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
March 16	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
March 27	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
April 6	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]
April 10	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
April 20	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
April 24	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
April 27	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]
May 4	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]
May 8	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
May 18	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
May 22	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
May 25	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]

While I was doing all this, Randy, KC6HUR, and Tigran, KF6PVG, replaced the Marathon's old AEA Isopole with a Comet CX-333. This antenna has a little more gain, and more importantly, a higher center of radiation so as to get more RF off the roof of the building. As a fringe benefit, the CX-333 is a tri-band antenna, so it's capable of handling the APRS digipeater and 440 MHz repeater in the event the GP9 fails.



The 445.46 & APRS antenna is the tallest antenna to the right. The 224.70 repeater antenna is the 2-section fiberglass antenna just to the left of the 445.46/APRS antenna.

Though very exhausting and intense this repair trip went very smooth. Unfortunately, the Marathon itself was less uneventful. The first signs of trouble were evident in Net Control, when a failure of the primary APRS TNC was discovered. Things only got worse when my wife and I arrived at the starting line for our Lead Vehicle assignments in the press bus and photo truck: both were missing! Fortunately, the photo truck eventually did show up. But shortly thereafter, we were told that there would be no Press Bus this year due to lack of press! My poor wife had to walk over a mile back to Net Control; at least it was downhill.

This year's Marathon featured another first to the best of my knowledge; a delay of the Marathon start by almost half an hour. Though lots of rumors spread at the starting line as to the cause of the delay, the hams kept their cool and followed orders not to talk about it. This may have been the most critical "non-communication" of the whole day. My hats off to everyone who did the right thing in NOT transmitting at the right time!

Once the big race started, everything seemed to go smoothly. I heard good communications over all the nets, including our 445.20 Cerro Negro and 224.70 downtown LA repeaters. As it turned out, the 224.08 Cerro Negro repeater was only needed as a backup - there was one less net this year than last year.



Scott Fraser KN6F & Randy Hammock KC6HUR attempting to establish network connectivity between Family Reunion & the finish line

In looking through the roster of LA Marathon volunteers, I only counted 84 hams participating this year. I think this is an all-time low, and it may explain why there was one less net this year. If you haven't participated in this public service event, please consider it for next year. All you need is an HT on 2-meters, 222 or 440 MHz.

Well that's it for now. I just got my new HF rig interfaced to my computer and got back on PSK31 and SSTV (had to build a keying circuit: couldn't use VOX this time), so I'll have more to say about those modes next month. 73 ■

Newsletter Deadline:

Friday, March 29 for the April issue of W6VIO Calling. Your articles, ads, photos, diagrams, letters to the editor, or technical material should be submitted to the editor via email (w6fxj@earthlink.net) or regular mail to: Bill Wood, 31094 Hemlock Ave, Barstow, CA 92311.

February Meetings

By Jonathan Cameron, KF6RTA

General Meeting, February 13

The meeting was opened at 12:12pm. Those present included Stan Brokl (N7YQ), Jonathan Cameron (KF6RTA), Bob Dengler (NO6B), Warren Dowler (KE6LEA), Rob Fredrickson (W1EEL), Randy Hammock (KC6HUR), Paul Lonnquist (NS6V), Walt Mushagian (K6DNS), Scott Nolte (k6SN), Jerry Person (KK6TS), Bob Polansky (N6ET), Rob Smith (W6GRV), Bob Stiver (KF6PSS), Michael Tope (W4EF), Dick Wetzels (WA6JBZ), and Zhangfan Xing.

The main activity of the meeting was a presentation by Bob Polansky on the upcoming field day, June 20-23. After some discussion Bob proposed that we operate 4 HF stations and 1 VHF station along with the new "Get On The Air" (GOTA) station for the competition. Bob will start to recruit people for the various support activities, including antenna repairs. There was a suggestion that we have "Station Captains" who will be responsible for getting all components of the station to the site as well as returning it home afterwards. There are many details still need to be worked out.

One of the main differences in this year's field day is the deletion of the Novice station and the addition of the GOTA station. The new GOTA station can earn up to 400 points but is designed for "drop-in" operators. According to the rules, it can be operated on any band that is legal for its control operator. Another interesting and potentially exciting difference this year is that South Americans can participate in the competition.

Due to the recent shakeup of the JPL Employee Clubs, the account for the JPL Amateur Radio Club has been moved to the Caltech Employees Federal Credit Union at JPL. Chuck Sarture, the club treasurer, supervised this change and has worked behind the scenes to make sure we get full credit for what we should have in the club account. Once everything is complete and operational, Chuck will be the primary signer on the account. Bob Dengler, the club president, will also be a signer on the account for backup purposes.

Board of Directors Meeting, February 27

The meeting was started at approximately 12:20pm. Those present included Jonathan Cameron (KF6RTA), Chris Carson (KE6ABQ), Bob Dengler (NO6B), Chuck Sarture (KG6NF), and Bill Wood (W6FXJ), by telephone.

Bill Wood reported that getting external access to the club web pages may be problematic. The issue is being addressed by JPL personnel, although the results are not clear yet. We discussed various ways to host our web pages on machines that we control and that are visible externally. One possible solution is to get another computer to host the club web pages. The board encourages everyone to find and donate a 150MHz/Pentium (or better) class computer to the club.

Chris Carson shared that the new Kubota generator has been delivered to the new shack and now needs to be installed.

As a reminder, due to the move of the 224.08 MHz repeater, it is no longer possible to link the 224.08 MHz repeater with the

2m repeater. But the 445.20 MHz repeater is now constantly linked with the 224.08 MHz repeater. This means that anyone wanting to participate in the Monday noon JPL Emergency Net can use either the 224.08 MHz repeater or the 445.20 MHz repeater. These two repeaters can also be linked to the Table Mountain repeater. This may be useful during emergencies. ■

W6VIO and DX News

By Bob Polansky, N6ET

Just a short article this time. Between jury duty, grand kid -sitting, and work, there's been little time to work "hobby items." Here's what's on the books for the upcoming month:

DUCIE ISLAND - Don't miss this all-time new entity planning all band, all mode operation from 14 through 21 March.

JERSEY - Look for MJ/K8PT from Jersey from 13 through 19 March. They plan operation for 18 hours a day!

NORTH KOREA - P5/YT1AD claims to have a valid license and plans operation from this entity starting 5 March for an undisclosed time.

SAN FELIX - XR0X will be active on all bands and modes from 12 through 30 March.

SIERRA LEONE - 9L1BTB has been reported several times, always on SSB. I even heard him on 75 meters the other night. Look for him through October.

TEMOTU - An Australian operation from here is planned from 28 March through 12 April.

That's it for now. More next month. ■

Treasurer's Reports

By Charles Sarture, KG6NF

January, 2000

General Club Account

	2001 JPL ARC EOY Balance	\$2,142.12
	1999 bookkeeping correction	(\$4.00)
	2000 bookkeeping correction	\$316.83
	2001 bookkeeping correction	(\$448.42)
	2001 reconcile with ERC records retroactive through 1999	(\$152.83)
	Beginning of Month Balance:	\$1,853.70
Income:		
	Memberships	\$413.00
	Total Income:	\$413.00
Expenses:		
	QSL Postage	\$86.32
	Concrete for Antenna Pole	\$1.72
	QSL Cards	\$344.00
	Total Expenses:	\$432.04
	End of Month Balance:	\$1,834.66

Emergency Communications Account

	Beginning of Month Balance:	\$2,500.00
Income:		
	No Income This Month	\$0.00
	Total Income:	\$0.00
Expenses:		
	JPL Budgetary Reduction	\$100.00
	Total Expenses:	\$100.00
	End of Month Balance:	\$2,400.00

February, 2002

General Club Account

	Beginning of Month Balance:	\$1,834.66
Income:		
	Memberships	\$549.00
	Total Income:	\$549.00
Expenses:		
	Power Connectors	\$75.85
	Total Expenses:	\$75.85
	End of Month Balance:	\$2,307.81

Emergency Communications Account

	Beginning of Month Balance:	\$2,400.00
Income:		
	No Income This Month	\$0.00
	Total Income:	\$0.00
Expenses:		
	FT-1000D Repair	\$219.00
	Ameritron RCS-4 Remote Coax Switch for 160m	\$129.95
	Antenna Array	
	Total Expenses:	\$348.95
	End of Month Balance:	\$2,051.05

Chuck Sarture, KG6NF
2002 Treasurer ■

Amateur Radio In and Around the XVII LA Marathon

By Art Goddard, W6XD, ARRL Southwestern Division Director, via ARRL web site, February 28, 2002

Any public event as large and as spread out as the City of Los Angeles Marathon is bound to involve Amateur Radio. The 17th running on Sunday, March 3, will include some 23,000 runners over a new 26.2-mile course. Heading up the Amateur Radio support effort is Scott Fraser, KN6F.

"Hams have played an integral part in each LA Marathon since the first one," says Fraser. "We're integrated into the LA Police Department (LAPD) Joint Services Command Center, and we're looked to for vital information throughout the race." He said this year's effort involves more than 100 hams from all over southern California.



John Tallon N6OMB (standing) and Randy Hammock, KC6HUR (sitting) discuss operation of the APRS net in the LAPD command center during the 1998 LA Marathon. [KN6F Photo]

Indeed, Fraser's team will utilize three amateur bands and operate five different nets to support lead vehicles, mile locations, medical locations, and APRS tracking tasks. Net operators are expected to handle any message from the routine, such as "clocks set up and ready to go" to the true emergency, such as "runner down at mile xx.x with heart attack, immediate transport required."

The LA Marathon office and LAPD are thrilled with APRS tracking of the lead vehicles. According to Fraser, APRS is one of the first things asked for in early planning meetings. "Is that tracking thing coming back this year? That is so cool!"

In a typical operating scenario, runner dropout reports are gathered in the field by hams at mile locations, called in and entered into a real-time database. That information is then available by computer lookup at the family reunion center. "It's amazing to see the relief on a family member's face when they are able to get information of any kind about their runner," says Fraser. "Using the information we relay, family members don't have to worry if their runner is having difficulties making it back. A lookup in the database lets them know where they have to go to find their runner."

Because the LA Marathon is such a high-profile event, Amateur Radio benefits from the visibility, often with government leaders and decision-makers. For example, during the 1998 race, then-Mayor Richard Riordan visited the Amateur Radio Net Control area in the LAPD Command Center.

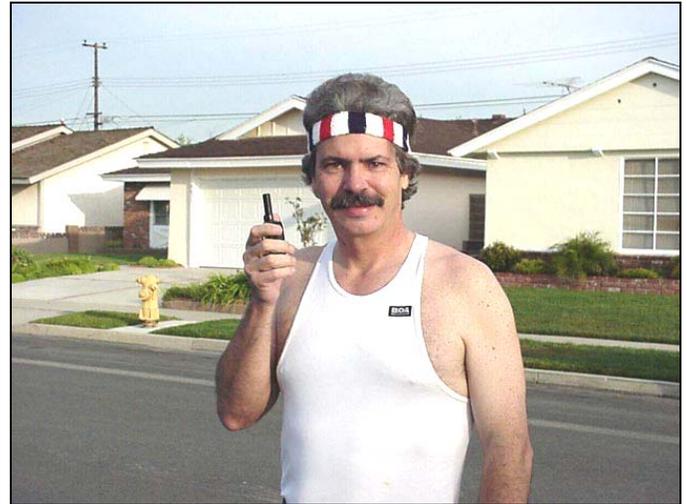


LA Mayor Richard Riordan (standing) visited the Amateur Radio Net Control area in the LAPD Command Post during the 1998 LA Marathon. Here, he speaks with Craig Baker, KC6KKR (rear), and Ture Roselund, KA6PJL (front). [KN6F Photo]

During the visit, Mayor Riordan saw the Amateur Radio Service in action first hand. (From my perspective as an ARRL Director and staunch public service supporter, we can't have too many friends in high places!)

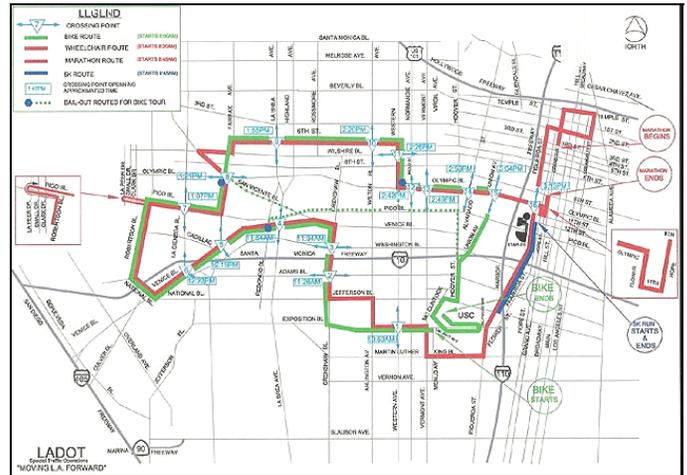
According to FCC license and USA population figures, about 1 of every 400 people is an Amateur Radio licensee. (California has the most amateurs of any state--some 104,000 altogether.--Ed) Odds are, therefore, that 50 to 60 hams should be running in the race. Although we have no way to verify the exact number of hams running, there will be at least one--well-known DXer and Amateur Radio industry executive Chip Margelli, K7JA. One advantage of being licensed is the opportunity to stay in direct contact with your family/support team during the race. Equipped with a modern, compact H-T, Margelli intends to do just that.

portunity to stay in direct contact with your family/support team during the race. Equipped with a modern, compact H-T, Margelli intends to do just that.



Well-known DXer Chip Margelli, K7JA, will be running in the 2002 LA Marathon. He plans to use his H-T to stay in touch with his support team. [KL7MF Photo]

"The VX-5R will be accompanying me as I check in every mile with my support team. They have to remind me of the cinnabons and Guinness Stout waiting for me at the finish line," quips Margelli, who has been conditioning himself for the race for the past year.



A Los Angeles Department of Transportation map of the 2002 LA Marathon route.

Anyone wanting to send a message of support can reach Chip Margelli via e-mail. To learn more about Amateur Radio support to the LA Marathon, visit Scott Fraser's LA Marathon Amateur Radio Web site.

ARRL Editor's note: Southwestern Division Director Art Goddard, W6XD, lives in Costa Mesa, California.

Classified Section

Wanted:

Your want-ad or article for inclusion in a future issue of W6VIO Calling. Submit to Bill Wood, W6FXJ, 31094 Hemlock Ave, Barstow, CA 92311; or email w6fxj@earthlink.net

For Sale:

Gillette Gen-Pro 12.5 Kw Diesel Generator, 21Hp DUETZ GRUGGERINI air cooled diesel, Electric start, 8 gal fuel tank, Low hrs. Can be viewed at <http://home.att.net/~n7hd/Gen.jpg>. Cost \$7800, sell for \$3100. Contact Buddy, 626-584-4645 days, 661-944-3864 eves,

QST 1990-1994 CD-ROM set, new. \$25 (ARRL price \$39.95) Skip, W7NWX, 818-354-9674

Icom UT-40 Tone Squelch Option Board (CTCSS) for HT models 2GAT, 4GAT, 12GAT, 32AT or for mobiles 228, 448, 901, 1201, 2400 and 2500. Cost: \$80 (AES Catalog) Sale for \$40. Contact, scott.nolte@jpl.nasa.gov or 818-354-9724 ■

Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club

2002 Membership Renewal Form

Please renew your JPL Amateur Radio Club membership for 2002 (and for 2001, if you missed renewal last year) by completing the following steps:

1. Please enter your data in the following form:

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class: _____ Expires: _____

Lab Address: _____ Lab Extension: _____ ARRL Member? Yes: ___ No: ___

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

2. Check the appropriate boxes below: Please add the name and call for associate members you are sponsoring in the blank space above. Note: Separate autopatch dues for 2002 have been waived.

Regular; Associate; Retired; Off-Lab \$ 10 each (\$11 If not Paid by February 28, 2002)

Immediate Family Members living at the same address with a Member above: \$5.00

Continuing Autopatch Members (No charge)

Newly Licensed Amateurs - Free for the first year

3. Return this form and your personal check for dues to: Scott Nolte, JPL Mail Stop 306-392, or the JPL ARC, PO Box 820, La Canada, CA 91012-0820. Please make checks payable to JPL-ARC

4. Please check additional action(s) desired:

I have included an additional \$11 to bring me up to date with 2001 dues.

I want to join the autopatch Repeater. Please send me the details.

There is an error in the club records, please correct as shown above.

I no longer want to be a JPL Amateur Radio Club member or an autopatch member.

Please remove my name from your list.

Tnx and 73

Scott Nolte, N6CUV, Membership Chairman

818-354-9724



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

First Class Mail

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