

W6VIO Calling



Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 820, La Canada CA 91012-0820

Volume 31, Issue 7



July 2002

| | | | | |
|--|---------------------------|--------|--|--------|
| President: | Bob Dengler, NO6B | 4-9620 | Emer. Comm. Mgr: Walt Mushagian, K6DNS, | 4-3036 |
| Vice President: | Christopher Carson KE6ABQ | 3-3888 | W6VIO Trustee : Bob Polansky, N6ET, | 4-4940 |
| Secretary: | Jonathan Cameron, KF6RTA | 4-1189 | W6JPL Trustee: Eric Archer, N6CV, | 4-7350 |
| Treasurer: | Chuck Sarture, KG6NF, | 4-2706 | W6VIO Calling Editor; WR6AZN Trustee: Bill Wood, | |
| Director at Large; WR6JPL Trustee: Randy Hammock, KC6HUR | 4-0628 | | W6FXJ, 760-256-5529 | |

Contents

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Meeting Notice | 1 |
| Prez' Mix | 1 |
| Calendar of Events | 1 |
| June Club Meetings | 2 |
| W6VIO and DX News | 2 |
| Field Day 2002 | 3 |
| Treasurer's Reports | 4 |
| Classified Ads | 4 |

Meeting Notice

By Christopher Carson, KE6ABQ

The July General Meeting of the JPL Amateur Radio Club will be held on Wednesday July 10th, 2002 in 238-543 at noon. The topics will include Field Day wrap-up and the continuing saga of the Club's status – make your views known. Bring your lunch if you like.

The June Board Meeting of the JPL Amateur Radio Club will be held at noon on Wednesday July 24th, 2002 in 233-305J. Bring your lunch if you like. Anyone on-Lab at the time is welcome to attend either of these meetings.

Prez' Mix

By Bob Dengler, NO6B

By now most of you have heard rumors regarding the dissolving of the JPL Employees' Recreation Club (ERC) and the resulting "recreation club criteria" issued by the Employee Services and Recognition (ES&R) unit of the Human Resources (HR) section.

The new criteria, as proposed (it is still a working draft and not finalized), would have a severe impact on our club's ability to support the JPL Emergency Response Plan, if applied to our club.

In response to ES&R's draft proposal, board members of the JPLARC, along with representatives of the JPL Emergency Preparedness Group, met with Suzanne Bradfield, ES&R Manager to discuss the JPL ARC's role in providing emergency communications services to the Lab. Apparently our presentation was convincing as we were told to "keep doing what you're doing."

Calendar of Events

| | |
|--------------|---|
| July 10 | General Meeting, Noon - 238-543 |
| July 20 | [CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM] |
| July 24 | Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J |
| July 27 | [TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach] |
| August 3 | [Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana] |
| August 14 | General Meeting, Noon - 238-543 |
| August 17 | [CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM] |
| August 28 | Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J |
| August 31 | [TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach] |
| September 7 | [Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana] |
| September 11 | General Meeting, Noon - 238-543 |
| September 21 | [CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM] |
| September 25 | Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J |
| September 28 | [TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach] |
| October 5 | [Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana] |

So there will be NO short-term impact on our contractor members. There will be more meetings with HR in the next few weeks. I suspect these meetings will serve to form a new relationship between our club and JPL, as it has been mutually agreed that the new JPL recreational club guidelines are inappropriate for our club, given our unique position as volunteer service providers to JPL.

Speaking of emergency communications preparedness, I understand that this year's big ECP exercise for the year was quite a learning experience for the club. Of course I'm talking about Field Day. As for myself, I decided to try something new and different after 20 years of mountaintop FD'ing: operate from home on battery power.

The newer, small "DC to blue light" radios like the Yaesu FT-100D and Icom IC-706MKIIG make battery-powered operation easy. The band up-down buttons got quite a workout, as much as the 15 minute rule would allow. I originally planned to concentrate on PSK31, but that turned out to be a bust as I only made 17 PSK31 contacts. There were quite a number of stations on 14,070 kHz that I simply could not work. I think this may have been a case of over congestion, as all PSK31

activity was concentrated between 14070.3 to 14073 kHz on 20 meters (by far the most popular band for PSK31). With only 5 watts of power, my little signal just couldn't compete with all the other contesters calling CQ all over that sliver of the band.

Fortunately, I did bother to find and connect a straight key to my FT-100D before FD. My original intent was to pick up a few contacts here and there when things got slow on PSK31. Instead, I ended up making over 80 CW QSO's over the weekend. Not bad considering and haven't really worked CW in over 15 years (except for a couple of "DTMF" CW QSO's in past field days just to say I made 1 CW contact on 2 meters!).

One wise choice I made was to operate QRP for the X5 QSO multiplier (up to 150 watts is X2). In looking at my QSO total, I don't think I could have made 2.5 times more QSO's to make up for the multiplier had I run full power (100 watts) from my rig.

Perhaps a QRP FD is something the club might want to consider for next year. The QSO rates will definitely be lower, but with the fine antennas we use combined with a little more emphasis on CW, maybe we can win class 3A or 4A? At least our poor generators would have a much easier outing! 73 ■

June Club Meetings

By Jonathan Cameron, KF6RTA

General Meeting, June 12

Chris Carson, KE6ABQ, opened the meeting at 12:15. Those present included: Phil Barnes-Roberts (AD6PQ), Jonathan Cameron (KF6RTA), Chris Carson (KE6ABQ), Randy Hammock (KC6HUR), Ken Mannatt (KD6CMO), Rick McKinney (KA6DAN), Walt Mushagian (K6DNS), Scott Nolte (K6SN), Bob Polansky (N6ET), Mark Schaefer (WB6CIA), Bob Stiver (KF6PSS), and Rob Sweet (KG6DKW).

There was a discussion of the proposed membership criteria that will restrict what sub-contractor members can do in JPL clubs, including attending club meetings. After some discussion, we agreed that it seems prudent to wait to make major changes until the rules are made official and announced lab-wide. It seems likely that there will be further development in these rules since they seem rather unreasonable at this point.

Bob Polansky gave an update on field day. He and Ken Mannatt tested the sun screen a few weeks ago and it seems to work well. We now have people signed up to satisfy the catering requirements and the caterer has been hired. Most preparations are going well. Bob thanks Merv MacMedan for his assistance with various preparation activities. Mark Sorrel is setting up the computers; including networking the laptops and installing the logging program CT. This should allow CT to be used in the networked mode.

Board of Directors Meeting, June 26

Bob Dengler, NO6B, opened the meeting at 12:10pm. Those present included: Jonathan Cameron (KF6RTA), Bob Dengler (NO6B), Randy Hammock (KC6HUR), Jay Holladay (W6EJJ), Walt Mushagian (K6DNS), Bob Polansky (N6ET), Chuck Sarture (KG6NF), and Bill Wood (W6FXJ, via telephone).

The board discussed the impending membership criteria change that will prevent contractors from participating fully in the activities of the JPL Amateur Radio Club. Various approaches were suggested, including encouraging the JPL management to recreate ERC structure, at least for the operation of the sub-clubs. The Employee Services and Recognition manager has invited the club president and one other officer to a meeting. Bob Dengler suggested that he, Bob Polansky, Walt Mushagian, and Bill Wood attend the meeting, if possible.

There was a brief report on the field day activities. Although there were various technical problems (such as generator malfunctions), operations went reasonably well. According to Jay Holladay, we made a total of approximately 3006 contacts. ■

W6VIO and DX News

By Bob Polansky, N6ET

The post-Field Day shack reorganization is in progress. All four rigs are again in place and, I believe, correctly configured and operational. Field Day is over and all our "toys" from the hilltop are again in their resting places for next year. This year, we need to remove, totally recondition, and mark lengths on all the coax cables in our inventory. It'll take time, but will result in much more streamlined Field Day setup activities.

The entry room in B173 is taking on the feeling of a blast furnace with the onset of summer. Facilities Division has been advised of our "fire concerns" and plan on providing an exhaust fan or functional equivalent to cool that room down a bit.

The third AL-82 linear amplifier still sits in three boxes awaiting internal integration and then integration into the B173 equipment complement. With any luck, that will take place this weekend.

We are still on hold pending arrival of a 12-volt distribution system in the shack. The darn JPL "real work" keeps getting in the way! Enough "shack" news for now.

Here comes the DX news for this month.

GOUGH ISLAND - ZD9IR has just received from the NCDXF and is assembling a beam to help his signal strength out. Sure would like to catch him on 10 meters!

MALDIVES - Looking for something a little farther away from W6-land? How about 8Q7ZZ, operating from this beautiful set of islands in the Indian Ocean. This operation is planned from 30 July through 11 August.

MARKET REEF - AE9YL and K9LA will be signing OJ0/ prior to their calls from 8 through 11 July. Catch them if you can. OJ0 is fairly rare these days.

MINAMI TORISHIMA - Look for JD1YBJ from 16 through 29 July. I understand that he will also be active on the WARC bands.

SAINT PAUL ISLAND - You can work CY9DH, currently active on all bands, both phone and CW through 8 July.

SAO THOME - S9SS and S9YL have returned to this West African entity and plan on staying active radio-wise through 2004. Prior to their departure from here a while back, they were very active on 17 meters.

SOVEREIGN MILITARY ORDER OF MALTA (SMOM) - An IA0KM operation is planned for sometime in the month of July. This is a very rare entity and is needed by your Club station as an all-time new one.

This pretty much covers all of the previously unreported (here) rare operations planned for the rest of July. Good luck in your QSO attempts. ■

Field Day 2002

By Jay Holladay, W6EJJ

The JPL ARC/Caltech ARC Field Day operation for 2002 was a real "learning experience", as they say. We thought there were problems last year - well, this year we found new and different problems. One thing remained the same - generator problems. However, this year we think we really *fixed* our main generator, thanks to our great carburetor repair team.

A last-minute glitch with computer-keying of our HF rigs on CW contributed to a late start for this year's operation. We decided to press on, regardless, and settled in for a rather pleasant and productive 24 hours of contesting, except for the aforementioned generator difficulties on Saturday evening.

Among the bright spots for the weekend were our capability to mount antennas and raise towers without having to climb them, the big new tent for kitchen and dining activities, our catered food preparation and cleanup, and our network for the computers used to log contacts at the HF and VHF stations. The GOTA ("Get on The Air") station provided on-the-air experience for newcomers to contest activities, making more bands available than the old Novice/Tech station.

We operated in Class 4A this year, a good compromise between available resources and the desire to utilize more bands simultaneously when activity warrants. Our provisional contact total is just over 3000 - a very respectable effort considering the problems we worked our way through. Many of the participants contributed ideas for improvement, so as they say in baseball, "Wait Till Next Year!" (A complete report on the results of FD 2002 will appear in W6VIO Calling for August.)



Mount Gleason FD Satellite/Moon-Bounce Station ■

Field Day Scrap Book

Snapshots by Bill Wood



Friday Noon: Waiting for the key to open up the gate



First things First!



Unloading the Step Van



Putting up the Mess Tent



Making Good Use of the Mess Tent



New (for 2002) folding 10 meter-to-6 meter Log Periodic going up



Marty, N6VI, assembling the 20-meter beam



Chef Gretchen serves the crew chow Friday evening



Saturday Morning: Bob, N6ET, VSWR checks the 15-meter beam



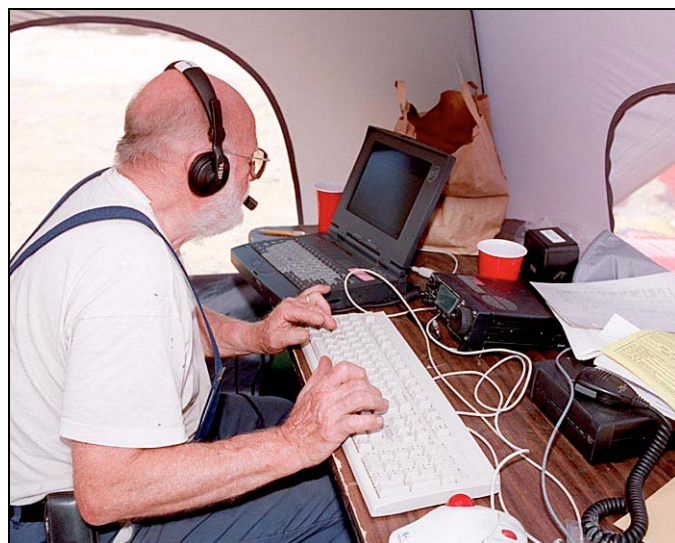
15-meter beam goes up with Warren Dowler's new horizontal-seeking beam mount, on the rebuilt tower trailer fitted with a "new" Tri-Ex three-section tower



The crew tips the 20-meter beam up on Dave Ritchie's Tower/Generator trailer



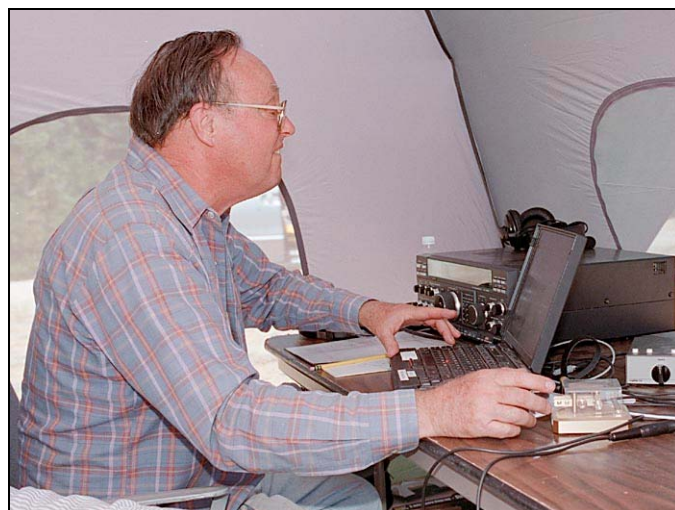
Yin Shih, N9YS, and Warren Dowler transport tables and chairs down to the GOTA station using Warren's new Field Day cart



Warren Dowler, KE6LEA, starts collecting 6-meter QSO's after getting the go-ahead for the official 2002 Field Day W6VIO effort



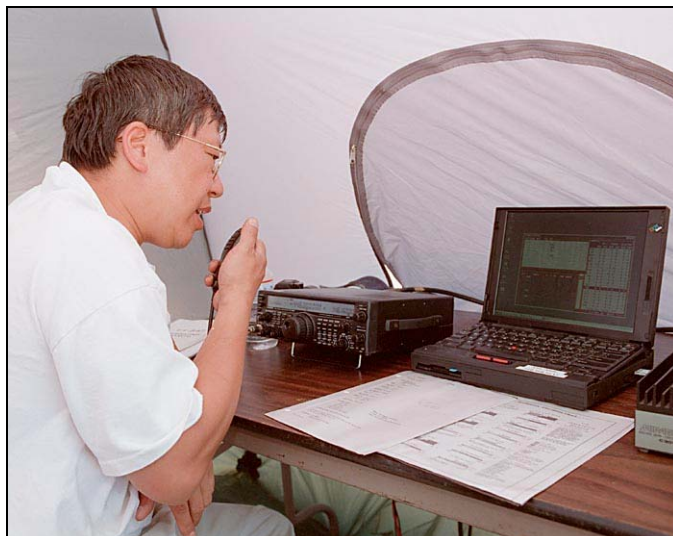
Robb Frederickson, W1EEL, hoists the 10-meter beam on his special Field Day Ladder-Tower



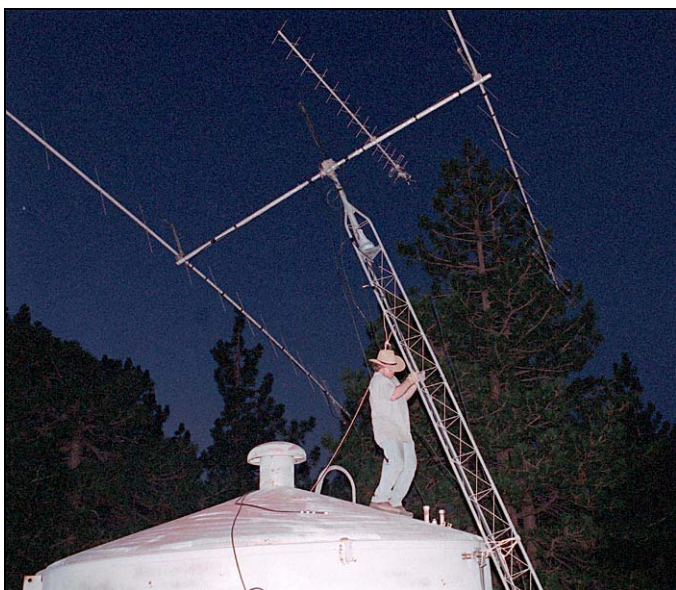
Bob Polansky, N6ET, completes one of the first 20-meter QSO's by logging the contact on one of the networked lap-top computers.



Gretchen serves supper to one of the JPL Explorer Post 509 Scouts



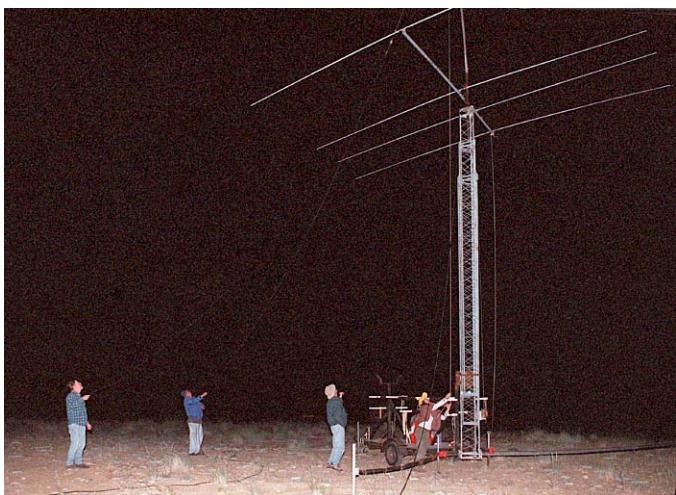
Yin Shih, N9YS, starts collecting VHF contacts



Mike Tope, W4EF, man-handles the top of the Satellite station tower when it was installed on the side of the small water tank. The installation used existing brackets on the side of the tank to support the tower



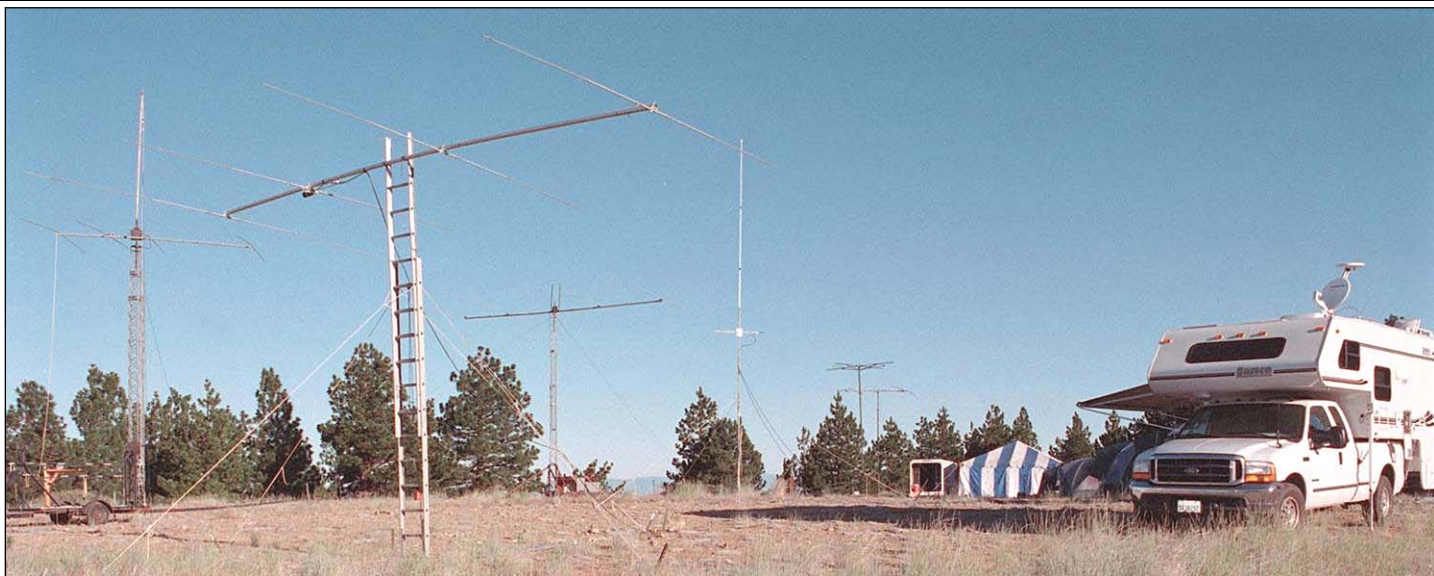
Marty Woll, N6VI, logs a 15-meter CW contact



The crew takes time off from contacts to raise the 80-meter inverted beam on the 15-meter tower



Janet Cameron, KG6JNO, works the Go-To-Air station while Jonathan, KF6RTA, logs contacts.



Treasurer's Reports

By Chuck Sarture, KG6NF

May, 2002

General Club Account

Beginning of Month Balance: **\$3,323.56**

Income:

No Income This Month \$0.00
Total Income: \$0.00

Expenses:

Postage \$27.46
"Weekly DX" Subscription \$27.00
Total Expenses: \$54.46
End of Month Balance: **\$3,269.10**

Emergency Communications Account

Beginning of Month Balance: **\$2,051.05**

Income:

No Income This Month \$0.00
Total Income: \$0.00

Expenses:

No Expenses This Month \$0.00
Total Expenses: \$0.00
End of Month Balance: **\$2,051.05**

June, 2002

General Club Account

Beginning of Month Balance: **\$3,269.10**

Income:

Field Day Food - Meal Reservations \$1,060.00
Total Income: \$1,060.00

Expenses:

Field Day Food - Advance to Caterer \$300.00
Field Day Food - Refund for Cancellation \$105.00
Total Expenses: \$405.00
End of Month Balance: **\$3,924.10**

Emergency Communications Account

Beginning of Month Balance: **\$2,051.05**

Income:

No Income This Month \$0.00
Total Income: \$0.00

Expenses:

No Expenses This Month \$0.00
Total Expenses: \$0.00
End of Month Balance: **\$2,051.05**

Chuck Sarture, KG6NF
2002 Treasurer ■

Classified Section

Wanted:

Looking for an Alinco DJ-G5T dual-band HT. Contact Bob NO6B at no6b@rprrlist.w6jpl.ampr.org or 818-354-9620

Donations requested: Old 2 meter handhelds and TNC's. Needed by the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep to transmit weather and water level data from remote water catchments. Contact John Carnakis, KE6DKY: Phone, 661 821-2067 or email, john.bobbi@thegrid.net

For Sale:

Kenwood TR - 7850, 2-mtr mobile, \$75. ICOM IC-3AT, 220 Handheld, \$75. ICOM IC-2AT, 2-mtr handheld, \$25. ICOM BC 30, drop-in charger for IC-3AT and IC-2AT, \$10. ICOM IC-27A, 2-mtr mobile, \$100. Or \$200 for everything! Contact Jim Sutton, ND6X, cdrsutton@attbi.com 818-352-3588.

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

Cushcraft R8 multi-band vertical antenna covering 6, 10, 12, 15, 17, 20, 30, and 40 Meters for sale. The antenna is partially assembled. Can deliver within the LA area. I will fully disassemble the antenna for shipment by UPS if desired. The complete manual is included in the sale. Recent eBay winning bid: \$250. New: \$450. I will consider any reasonable offer. Larry Pyle AD6ST, 805 526-9556. ■

Newsletter Deadline:

Friday, August 2 for the August issue of W6VIO Calling. Your articles, ads, photos, diagrams, letters to the editor, or technical material should be submitted to the editor via email (bill.wood@mindspring.com) or regular mail to: Bill Wood, 31094 Hemlock Ave, Barstow, CA 92311.



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

First Class Mail

| JPL ARC Repeaters | | | |
|-------------------|------------|-----|------------------|
| Pasadena: | | | |
| WR6JPL | 147.15 MHz | (+) | PL 131.8 Open |
| WR6JPL | 224.08 MHz | (-) | PL 156.7 Open |
| WR6JPL | 224.70 MHz | (-) | Closed Autopatch |
| WR6JPL | 445.20 MHz | (-) | PL 103.5 Open |
| W6JPL-1 | 145.09 MHz | | Packet Node/BBS |
| W6JPL-1 | 223.54 MHz | | Packet Node/BBS |
| Table Mountain: | | | |
| WR6AZN | 145.28 MHz | (-) | PL 131.8 Open |
| WR6AZN | 223.96 MHz | (-) | PL 156.7 Open |
| WR6AZN | 447.20 MHz | (-) | PL 94.8 Open |

