

W6VIO Calling



Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 820, La Canada CA 91012-0820

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June 2002

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Meeting Notice

By Christopher Carson, KE6ABQ

The June General Meeting of the JPL Amateur Radio Club will be held June 12th at noon in 238-543. Included on the agenda are the final preparations for Field Day, which is scheduled for June 23rd and 24th this year.

If you haven't decided yet whether to participate this year, let me remind you that there will be a new Get-On-The-Air, or GOTA, station that anyone, including non-hams, may operate. We will have a Control Operator on hand to explain things and guide new, inexperienced, or rusty operators. Or if you're an old hand, and just want to try some no pressure operating, this is the way to do it.

The June JPLARC Board Meeting will be held June 26th in 233-305J. Everyone is welcome to attend – bring your lunch if you want.

Read This Article First

By Bob Polansky, N6ET

A very serious situation has arisen with regard to this year's Field Day. A number of months back, the JPL ARC asked me to set up a caterer to provide food for the Field Day activity this year.

We all agreed that the cost of \$5 per meal was an excellent deal. I have seen to it that the arrangements with the caterer were made, as I agreed to do. The deadline for determining how many people will be fed at each of the seven meals that

Calendar of Events

June 12	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
June 15	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
June 26	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
June 21-23	ARRL Field Day, Mount Gleason
June 29	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]
July 6	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]
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]

will be served, and for getting the needed checks for those meals to Merv MacMedan, is this coming Friday, 7 June.

To date, four of our Club members have indicated their meal needs and have sent checks for those meals. We made tentative arrangements to feed on the order of 37 people, the number that have attended Field Day for the last 3 or 4 years.

The Bottom Line:

If we DO NOT have commitments and checks from at least 20 people into Merv's mail box by this coming Friday, 7 June, we must cancel our deal with the caterer, which puts all of Field Day this year in jeopardy. There may even be penalties for the late cancellation with the caterer.

Come on guys – there's been little help obtained from our club members with the exception of the few who do most of the work in getting things ready for Field Day. The least you can do is to let us know when you're coming, and to send checks for the meals you intend to eat.

I'm dead serious about this. If we don't have at least 20 field day participants signed up and their checks received by Merv MacMedan by 7 June, there's no food for Field Day, and probably no Field Day.

Permission to copy is granted provided that credit is given to "W6VIO Calling."

Your intent to participate in Field Day and your check for meals need to be sent **immediately** to the following address:

Merv MacMedan
P.O. Box 1109
Arcadia, CA 91077

If you don't have the FD signup sheet use the one at the end of this issue. Remember, it must be in Merv's hands **No Later Than Friday, 7 June**. Down payment to the caterer is due the day after, **so get cracking now!** ■

Prez' Mix

By Bob Dengler, NO6B

I was a little disheartened to see the announcement about the lack of signups for Field Day food this year. As you know, we are planning to hire a caterer to provide meals at Field Day this year and need advance commitments from those planning to dine on Mt. Gleason in order to pull this off. I hope those of you planning to be there will send in the enclosed forms to Merv N6NO ASAP. But if our best laid plans for food and Field Day fall short, don't get too discouraged. You'd never believe how good peanut butter sandwiches can taste at 6500 feet while working over 120 QSO's an hour at 8:00 at night.

As for my Field Day plans, I will need to stay close to home this year so I will be working in class 1E for the first time in my 20 plus years of Field Day participation. My goal will be to work W6VIO on all Field Day bands and modes (phone, CW and digital on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2, 220 (phone only) and 430). That's 82 points right there, almost as much as the bonus points for copying the W1AW FD message. So if you're like me and can't make it up to Mt. Gleason this year, do turn on your HF rig, 2 meter, 220 or 440 radio (even your HT) the weekend of June 22nd and 23rd and give W6VIO a call!

In other club news, our IRLP node continues to work very well yet I've heard very few club members make use of it. With over 400 IRLP nodes on line around the world, I've found that it's really useful in keeping in touch with family members living in other parts of the country. Contact Randy KC6HUR or myself if you need help in using this feature of our 224.08 and 445.20 repeaters. ■

May Club Meetings

By Jonathan Cameron, KF6RTA

General Meeting, June 8

The president, Bob Dengler, opened the meeting at approximately 12:12pm. The board members present included Phil Barnes-Roberts (AD6PQ), Stan Brokl (N7YQ), Jonathan Cameron (KF6RTA), Bob Dengler (NO6B), Randy Hammock (KC6HUR), Dayton Jones (K6DJ), Paul Lamfer (KG6DKI), Walt Mushagian (K6DNS), Bob Polansky (N6ET), John Repar (WA6LWD), Bob Stiver (KF6PSS), and Rob Sweet (KG6DKW).

Bob Polansky reported that field day preparations are going well. Arrangements have been made with a caterer to prepare meals for \$5 a person per meal, to be paid in advance. We

will have to bring our own drinking water and ice to keep it cool. Anybody wanting sodas will need to bring them with a cooler for themselves. Antennas and related equipment are being repaired and prepared at Caltech. We have two new (used) generators that can be used but that needs to be checked out. Several volunteers are needed for station setups (contact Bob Polansky).

Bob Polansky also reported that the new 7KW generator is in place on large wooden blocks on the concrete pad next our new shack. With help from Dayton Jones, the sale of excess equipment has gone well and produced about \$1400 to date. Some sales are still in progress on EBay. Bob also mentioned that he was able to obtain funding for a third linear and is in the process purchasing an Ameritron AL82.

Bob Dengler reported that the repeaters seem to be working well for the most part. The backup power for the 440 repeater is currently inoperative.

After this, the club discussed DXing and call signs. NOTE that the new website for the club is: <http://jplarc.ampr.org>

Board of Directors Meeting, May 22

The meeting was started at approximately 12:35pm. Those present included Jonathan Cameron (KF6RTA), Bob Dengler (NO6B), Randy Hammock (KC6HUR), Walt Mushagian (K6DNS), and Bill Wood (W6FXJ, by phone).

The board was informed that the La Canada Flintridge City Council will charge rent for repeaters and antennas on their Serra Negro site. The rent for JPL's repeater will be at least \$75 per month. The board discussed how to fund this expense and considered other options. No actions were taken.

Bill Wood asked if we can make Kenneth Edgar (KK6HQ) a non-JPL member in the club in thanks for his contributions as the control operator for the Table Mountain repeater. He lives in Ridgecrest near the repeater and has done a lot to support our club activities. The board approved this action with Bill Wood as his sponsor. ■

W6VIO and DX News

By Bob Polansky, N6ET

Field Day preparations by the few that have agreed to help this year have taken most of the available time this month. As a result, this article will be brief.

Our work party of two this morning successfully erected our 20' x 20' "shade cover" to be used for Field Day this year. Thanks to Ken Manatt and myself, we'll all have lots of shade to eat and visit under on Mount Gleason. This structure will be great!

The people from the Facility Division came out to determine how to best connect up our new 6 kW generator and a new transfer switch enabling emergency power to our new ham shack. Don't have an installation date yet, but it's being worked.

The ant problem I spoke of last month has been eradicated, except for the few that make their way into the ham shack through the antenna porthole. Once the 12 volt power bus has been installed and connections made to batteries outside the

building, the antenna porthole will be foamed in, making ant entry more difficult.

The third AL-82 amplifier was delivered to HRO this week. I will attempt to pick it up this coming week and get it installed in the ham shack.

W6VIO participated in the CQ WPX Contest this last weekend. Had a ball! Even managed to bag YI9OM on CW – an all-time new country for W6VIO, not to mention several contest QSO's with N6NO/VP9 (Merv MacMedan, our ex-Club President, DXpeditioning in Bermuda). That gets our Club Station up to 315 entities worked and 310 confirmed with QSL cards of the roughly 335 entities which currently exist. Not bad for only 30 years of work.

DX News follows:

Details on the following operations can be found hanging on the W6VIO wall near the inside door in both *The Weekly DX* and *QRZ DX* newsletters.

ETHIOPIA – ET3PMW is on the air through end of June.

LAOS – Look for XW3QBR currently active through 31 July.

LIECHTENSTEIN – HB0/DL7NS plans to operate from here from 1 through 12 June.

MARKET REEF – Two operations are planned. The first by K9LA and AE9YL, both preceded by the OJ0 prefix. It will be active on all HF bands from 8 through 11 July. Yet another OJ0 with an unknown call sign (OJ0VR?) will be active from 13 to 16 July.

OGASAWARA – From 8 through 16 June, there will be many JD1's operating from Ogasawara.

PRATAS – BQ9P will be the call sign of a major operation from 160 through 6 meters. Five simultaneous stations will be creating pileups.

TROMELIN – The FR7ZU/T operation previously planned for this June was cancelled when a storm in the area wiped out all the antennas that were to be used. Hopefully a trip will be rescheduled next year to either Tromelin or Europa.

Enough for now. Gotta go home and garden. ■

Field Day 2002

By Jay Holladay, W6EJJ and Bob Polansky, N6ET

As you have been hearing, there are many changes in store for this year's Field Day. The Get on the Air (GOTA) station, replacing the old Novice/Tech station, is perhaps the biggest change. Catered meals for the participants are another change, as is more participation from other countries in North and South America.

Our emphasis will be on giving everyone a chance to operate, and the GOTA station will give anyone interested the opportunity to get some Field Day operating experience. This includes Novices, codeless Techs, and even unlicensed persons, all operating within the license privileges of the on-duty control operator. So come on out and join the fun!

The dates for 2002 are June 21-23, and the location is our usual site at Mount Gleason, where we will again join forces with the Caltech Amateur Radio Club. We plan to operate in Class 4A, and with the additional VHF and GOTA stations, there will be

plenty of rigs and antennas to go around. We should be able to take maximum advantage of available band openings. HF conditions continue to be excellent, and there will be plenty of VHF/UHF activity. We are hoping for some interesting 6-meter action as well.

Even if you aren't sure you want to operate a station, we need your help with setup, computer logging, and other chores. All hams at JPL and Caltech and their families and friends are invited to visit us at the Field Day site. And, please bring one of your own QSL cards for our display board.

How You Can Take Part:

Please fill out the sign-up sheet that has been distributed, and return it to Bob Polansky. Keep this issue and bring it with you to Field Day. Even if you do not return the sign-up sheet, please feel free to visit us at Mt. Gleason.

Come to the JPL ARC Meeting on Wednesday, June 12 (238-543 at Noon) to hear more detail on Field Day planning and ask any questions you may have about the operation. The latest Field Day planning information will also be disseminated via the Club's e-mail list and via the Monday net on the W6JPL repeater.

As usual, we will use computers and the program CT to log our Field Day QSO's. CT practice sessions will be held during June. Call Jay Holladay at 354-7758 for more information, or watch for an announcement on the kilroy mail forwarder.

Field Day activities will kick off on Friday morning, June 21. The hard-core FD types will take vacation that Friday to assist with the logistics and transportation chores. We will meet at 8:00 AM at the ham shack by the East Gate to load all of the gear for the trip up the mountain. Once everything is loaded we will caravan to Mt. Gleason and begin setting up. Lunch and dinner will be served on Friday while we erect tents and antennas, then set up and test all of the rigs.

The Field Day contest starts at 11 AM local (1800 UTC) Saturday and ends at the same time on Sunday. As has been described elsewhere, this year we will have the luxury of catered meals, and at a reasonable price. The Saturday evening dinner is always a special event. After the contest is over we will have lunch and disassemble everything, leaving Mt. Gleason as we found it. Then it's back to JPL to return the Club equipment and home for a well-deserved shower and nap.

What to Bring to Field Day:

Even if you only plan to visit for the afternoon, it is wise to be prepared for anything. You may enjoy Field Day so much you will want to spend the night. To get to Mt. Gleason, see the map and directions on the next page. The road is paved all the way except for the short bypass around the correctional facility and any car can make it to the top.

Although meals will be provided, you are responsible for your own place to sleep and enough warm clothing to stay comfortable during the cold nights (Mt. Gleason is at 6532 ft). Be prepared for weather like the Sahara Desert during the day and the Arctic at night, along with gale force winds, and you should be OK. Seriously, light thermal underwear and light gloves are often needed if you are operating in the wee hours of Sunday morning.

The following is a suggested checklist for your personal FD preparations:

Wide-brimmed hat	Long-sleeved shirt
Mosquito repellent	Toothbrush & paste
2 gallons of water per person	Favorite snack food
Sleeping bag	First-aid Kit
Heavy jacket	Undershirt
Thermal underwear	Jeans
Several pairs of socks	Towel
Washcloth	Boots
Money	Tent
220 MHz Handy-talkie	Sunglasses
Sunscreen	Soap
Lip balm	Maps
Flashlight	Chair
AM/FM Radio (for earthquake report, etc.)	

Don't forget any needed medications or aspirin and vitamins. If you do spend the night, it is highly recommended that you bring a tent or camper. The view is well worth bringing camera and binoculars.

As far as Amateur Radio gear is concerned, the Clubs will furnish rigs (with some additional loans from the members). We can always use a spare HF or VHF rig as backup, so bring one along if it's convenient. Don't forget the rig-compatible power supply and cables. Bring whatever specialty operating items you wish. If you have a favorite keyer, headset, or boom mike, please bring it along.

All the HF rigs will use 8-pin mike connector wired for Kenwood. (We could really use a digital voice "keyer" if anyone has one!) Also a small tool kit, extra table, antenna wire, battery-operated clock, spare batteries of all types, etc., always seem to come in handy.

In short, anything you might need to be self-sufficient and stay operational under emergency conditions will probably be useful at Field Day. In fact, that's what the exercise is supposed to be all about. CU at FD!

Directions to Mount Gleason Field Day Site:

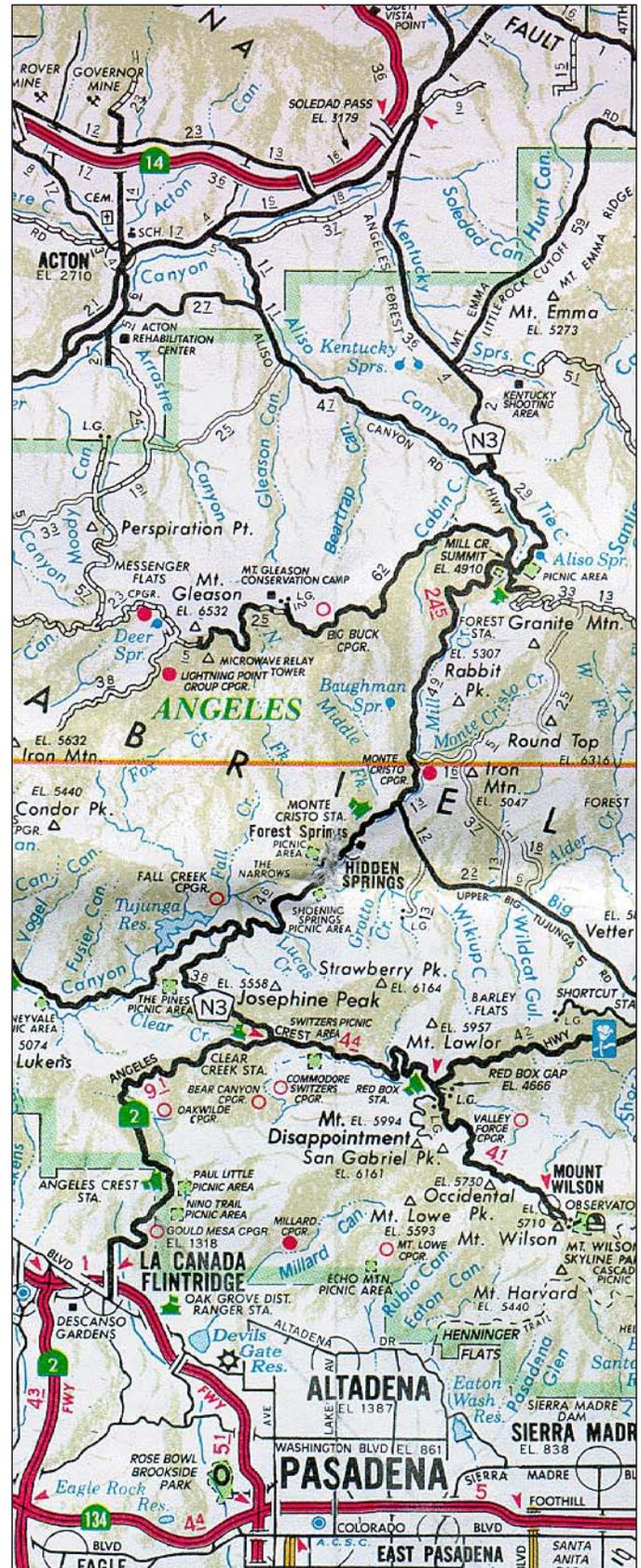
Take the Foothill Freeway (210) to La Canada. Exit at Angeles Crest Highway/Route 2. Go north 9.1 miles on Route 2 up into the San Gabriel Mts. Turn left at the junction with Angeles Forest Highway (N3). Continue 3.8 miles on Angeles Forest Highway past Big Tujunga Junction. Go another 5.9 miles through the tunnel, past Hidden Springs to the Monte Cristo Campground.

Continue another 4.9 miles on Angeles Forest Highway to the Mill Creek Campground at the Mill Creek Summit. Turn left on Mt. Gleason Road. (The Mill Creek Campground will be on the right.) Continue 6.2 miles on Mt. Gleason Road until you reach the Mount Gleason Conservation Camp.

Take dirt road bypass left of the Correction Facility; continue 2.5 miles. Keep to the right at Y-junction just after Microwave Station. When you reach the locked gate, call on Simplex for admission. The road will end at the Summit and our FD site. Do not block the road at the far end of the Mt. Gleason operating site by parking on it. Watch out for kids, antenna wires, and loose hams

Alternate Route:

210 Freeway to Interstate 5; North to 14 Freeway; Exit at Angeles Forest Highway take Angeles Forest (N3) South, turn right on Mt. Gleason Road. ■



Routes to the 2002 Field Day site at Mount Gleason

Classified Section

Wanted:

Looking for an Alinco DJ-G5T dual-band HT. Contact Bob LNO6B at nob6@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.bobb@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. ■

JPL Amateur Radio Club Caltech Amateur Radio Club Field Day, 2002

Name: _____ Call, if any: _____ License Class: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

YES, I'd like to join the fun on: (you may add arrival/departure times if possible)

- Friday, June 21 (set-up)
 Saturday, June 22
 Sunday, June 23

Besides myself, I will bring _____ guests/kids.

I would like to help with:

- Load/Unload at JPL/Caltech Station Setup Antenna Setup
 Power/Lights/Computer network Tent setup Generators
 Operating:
 CW SSB VHF/UHF Packet/Digital/Satellite
 The new "Get On The Air" Station for beginners and rusty old-timers
 Other _____
 Encouraging others by eating, sleeping and staying out of their way

Now for the really important stuff:

I'd like the following quantities of meal tickets at \$5 per meal per person:

FRIDAY LUNCH _____ FRIDAY DINNER _____
 SATURDAY BREAKFAST _____ SATURDAY LUNCH _____
 SATURDAY DINNER _____
 SUNDAY BREAKFAST _____ SUNDAY LUNCH _____

Add it up right, and mail this form with your check payable to "JPLARC" TO ARRIVE IN MY POSTBOX BY **FRIDAY JUNE 7** AT THE LATEST, to:

Merv MacMedan, N6NO
 P.O. Box 1109
 Arcadia, CA 91077

Meal tickets will be waiting for you at the "Will Call" table when you arrive at the field day site. Enjoy!



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First Class Mail

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