



The REFLECTOR

the newsletter of the



BALDWIN HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB



29.62	52.96	146.925	224.68	445.320 (members only)	1282.125	1282.150
NI8H	WA6MDJ	WA6TFD	WA6MDJ	WA6MDJ	WA6TFD	WA6MDJ

Baldwin Hills Amateur Radio Club P.O. Box 43639, Los Angeles, California 90043

July 1999

The B.A.R.C. Repeaters are open and on-the-air 24Hrs., a day to serve you. . .

The Baldwin Hills Amateur Radio Club newsletter is published bi-monthly by members of the Baldwin Hills Amateur Radio Club, P.O. Box 43639, Los Angeles, California 90043. The club phone number is (323)292-6423. Information contained herein is obtained primarily from our members and does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Baldwin Hills Amateur Radio Club.

The Baldwin Hills Amateur Radio Club is a user-supported radio club established to provide services to our community. The WA6TFD repeater is located on Santiago Peak, with a frequency of 146.925 MHz (-600 KHz) and a PL of 114.8 Hz. The WA6MDJ repeater is located in the Hollywood Hills, with a frequency of 224.680 MHz (-1.6 MHz) with a PL of 114.8 Hz. The club machines are open to all amateurs (445.320 MHz requires club membership). You are welcome to use the club repeaters as well as to join the Baldwin Hills Amateur Radio Club. The Baldwin Hills A.R.C. Net is held on Tuesday nights at 7:30 p.m. on 146.925 Mhz. All are welcome to check-in and participate. The club meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Auditorium. The auditorium is located in Culver City on the corner of Culver Blvd. and Overland Avenue. Please join us at one of our club meetings.

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"A Little Apology Is Necessary!"

My name is Paul Beeman (W2PB) and I joined B.A.R.C in September of last year. At the December meeting I volunteered to attempt to create timely newsletters for B.A.R.C. While I live in 2 land (on Long Island about 50 east of New York City) I was working out here in Los Angeles two weeks a month. However, times have changed I only get to LA about once a month now, and always on the wrong week of the month to attend the meetings. So I frequent the repeaters almost nil. However, I hope to resume writing some the newsletters until a full time replacement is found. Maybe they already have! . So if you hear this 2 lander on the air please say hello. If you want to send me any information for the "Reflector" my email address is w2wpb@beemaninfo.com.

Field Day - My Perspective

Field Day has come and gone by now but here is my perspective of Field Day, the exercise and the contest.

As an exercise it shows the ability of the amateur community to respond in a timely fashion and establish emergency communications. Now back in the days of yore, emergency local communications was typically on 80/75 meters or possibly 40 meters. Now a days it is the VHF/UHF bands. However FD does show local government people, if they are nurtured, on what we can do in times of emergencies.

I am President of the Islip (NY) Repeater Group and Emergency Coordinator for he Town of Islip. When we were planning our FD debate was held on when we should start setting up. Last year we started at AM on Saturday and it took about 1.5 hours to set up. Some people stated that another club was starting at 6:30AM. still another on Friday night. Our AEC and myself said that if anyone wanted to show up early they could at 8:59 AM!.

We assembled at 9AM on Saturday. Our Field Day site, on the front lawn of the Town Hall Annex. Right on Main St. The plan as to work 80/75, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, 2M APRS, and Satellite. We elected, because of the site, not to put up any towers. Up went the 80/75 meter dipole over the parking lot light poles. 40 Meters was installed at the end of the 80/75 meter dipole and curved around 45 degrees. For 20 -10 Meters we erected two Cushcraft R5 verticals. For 6 meters we ran my FT-847 with a 3 element yagi. Satellite antennae were a 10 element cross yagi for 2 M and a 16 element cross yagi for 70 CM. All stations would be operated on battery power. We also had two solar power panels charge (offset receive power consumption). One was a 20 watt panel, and the other was a 10 watt panel.

We were completely finished with set up at 10:20 AM. We were proud. All stations had bandpass filters installed for the band they were to operate. The site was neat, not obtrusive and we were proud of the sign the Town had erected at the sidewalks edge commemorating Field Day. We later received a proclamation for the Town Supervisor naming the Week of June 20th "Amateur Radio Week In Islip."

We had great street traffic from people stopping and wondering what we were doing. We even had a handful of dads stop with their children and we explained was FD was, who we were, when the next class would be, and let some even operate.

THE REFLECTOR

When did FD end in my perspective? As soon as we made our first contact on each band. After that it is just a contest. We operated 23.5 hours. We called it a half hour early because of heat and fatigue.

As for FD being a contest, did we win our class (2A-NLI) for our section? NO! But we had operated all bands on emergency antennae and emergency power. We had made over 600 contacts. Many of which were on 6 meters during the opening to the mid west. We had good public awareness. The town fathers were happy. What went wrong? Well the only significant thing was a noisy DPW power transformer about 100 feet to our west. This single item limited the number of stations we could work on almost any band due to the almost constant S9 noise level. There simply some stations that we buried in our noise level that we could not hear. Every time the noise abated for a few moments we would try to work an S5-S6 signal only to be beaten back when the noise returned. We soon figured out it was the high demand for air conditioning that cause the transformer to stress. When A/C units cycled off, the noise abated. Too bad it was so hot at night time that A/C units ran during the night. Pity !

So how did Baldwin Hills do? Drop me a line and I will consolidated them for a newsletter.

"You Just Never Know"

It's July 4th weekend and the family has decided to meet upstate in Magaretteville (about 35 miles east of Kingston, NY on the border of NY and Connecticut). Saturday is hot, hazy and humid. As night begins to fall, and the sunny afternoon skies darken, the kids grow anxious to go the Firemen's carnival in town. The skies also are showing signs of an approaching weather front.

Fireworks are due to start at 10PM. As the hour approaches, nature starts its own light show in the distance....approaching thunder and lightning. Soon after the fireworks begin, so does the rain. The fireworks continue only to be accented by the sounds of "poof...poof" as the rain puts out the fireworks as they descend towards the ground. Everyone makes a dash for the cars. The rain continues all night.

On Sunday morning the town's fire horn blows continuously at 8:41 AM. This is not normal. As the clouds still looks menacing, I reach for my HT and tune in the weather service. Much to my surprise a tornado is being reported 7 miles north of town, in the Catskills!" The clouds abates and the sun makes its arrival. The men folk decide to go into town for food stuff for lunch. As we drive through town we hear the PA systems of the fire trucks as they are announcing, "be prepared to evacuate, there is a flash flood watch." As we drive back to our cousins house on top of one of the sizeable hills overlooking town (about a 500-600' rise), we stop to talk to a neighbor who is one of the local firemen. They are assembled on one of the bridges spanning one of the five rivers that go through town.

It is reported that there are great fears that the dam upstream, along with a local pond are going to break their banks and send a crashing wall of water down the rivers. Within a hour water starts to rise at a rate of 4 inches every 5-10 minutes. While the dam and the pond do not break, they over spill their banks and water begins to cascade down the mountainside. The normal peaceful streams and creeks begin to change into torrents of brown water filled with debris. Concern mounts that the debris could form an artificial dam under a bridge.

Once back at the house I pull out the rest of the HTs. One now monitors fire on 46.220 MHz, one listens to 146.52 MHz, since the local repeater is down. Still another monitors county sheriff and DEP. The last is used to occasionally monitor NWS.

THE REFLECTOR

We hear the towns upstream comment that roads are flooding and several homes are effected. Our cousin calls his friend that owns the local golf course to advise of him to get people off the 9 hole course since high water is due within a half an hour. His message is well received and people are rushed off he course. We also call the fire department to advise them that there are people on the golf course. They had been concentrating on a finding a camper in harms way and forgot about the golf course.

Its 1PM and the river continues to rise. We have a full panoramic view of the valley from our vantage point. I can cover the valley with 1/2 watt from here. Since the local repeater is down, I serve as a simplex repeater connecting the two towns in the valley. We venture forth to check out local roads as we continue to monitor the frequencies. We notice the golf course is now a complete mud field except for the high greens. There are reports from upstream that there are many propane tanks that have broken free and are floating around town posing problems. The river is still rising and while normally only forty feet across, it now spans over 500 feet in many low lying parts of the valley. Current is estimated to be over 20 MPH.

At 4 PM we hear that the main road through the valley is now closed in several areas because of high water. A few bridges are closed due to water flowing not only under the bridge, but also over the roadway of the bridge.

As night approaches the river has crested and is starting to show signs of retreating. However, flooding is still widespread. We continue to monitor the frequencies. The fire department has decided to continue with the carnival that night...with caution.

As darkness falls on this sleepy little valley we put away our radio play things. All but one. The NWS is forecasting more rain. We have served to warn people of impending danger, and aided in communications in the valley. All this without a repeater, APRS (no one around), satellite or HF. Just simple listening and simplex VHF communications.

Its Monday morning and we start packing the care to journey to Atlantic City for a few days. The NWS was wrong, no more rain fell. We had traveled to the Catskills to seek refuge from the heat only to be greeted by temperatures over 100 degrees, high humidity, a tornado close by, and a flash flood. "You just never know."

de W2PB

THE REFLECTOR

"Toys and Travel"

As mentioned in the article about Field Day, I have a new Yaesu FT-847. Its a DC to light radio. On I'm sorry, a 160M to 70 CM all mode radio. It does HF, VHF/UHF, packet, APRS, and just about any digital mode you can think off. At first I was a bit intimidated by all the buttons but it took only about an hour to get use to the rig. While it is a multi-purpose radio, it is not a contest radio. Selectivity could be a bit better on the congested HF band. But, the optional filters help. What would have been nice would have been that the DSP be at IF instead of audio baseband. But what do you want for about \$1600? I also thought one of hardest controls to get use to was the main tuning knob. But all in all a good compromise, multiband radio.

One of the tings that I like about the Yaesu VX-1 and the VX-5 and the 847 is ARTS. The Autoranging Transponder. A feature that sends our a brief transmit signal to see if the radios are in range. Using the 847 for a base VHF/UHF radio and the VX-1 and VX-5 hts for portable, it is easy to determine if everyone is in communications range at any time. If the person carry the HT moves out of range, the ARTS feature beeps on the HT. A great notification feature to warn that more ERP is required. Time for a gain antenna, more height, closer range, etc.

Speaking of the VX-5, I am on an airplane finishing up this newsletter and the barometric pressure unit in the HT is indicating a pressure altitude of 1860 meters, or about 6100 feet. It has long been known the jet airliners pressurize the cabins to a pressure altitude of 6000-8000 feet. At this pressure altitude I have little problems with my asthma. Ah-h-h-!

With the codification of CEPT licensing for U.S. amateurs I am looking forward to my trip to the UK in two weeks. I will program by VX-5 for 1750 Hz tone transmissions and all the UK 2 meter and 70 CM repeaters. Under CEPT, Technician Plus and above as Class 1 stations/operators in the countries of Europe that sign the CEPT agreement. If your a Tech+, go to Europe you become equal to a U.S. Extra!

I recently applied and received my IARP (International Amateur Radio Permit). By send \$10 to the ARRL along with a copy of my ham license and drivers license, the ARRL issue my IARP as the responsible agent for the U.S. This allows me to operate in certain countries in South America. But also on the IARP is the FCC notice of CEPT. To operate in Europe you need a copy of the FCC notice, your passport, and an original copy of your license. With the ARRL printing the FCC Notice on the back of he IARP, it is once less document I need to carrying. The IARP is now in the same case as my passport.

Closing:

OK, enough about me, and Islip. What about you. Drop me a line about your Field Day, new radio, something you saw, and I will right a news letter article about it. Maybe perhaps someone has already taken on the responsibility of the newsletter and I am not aware of it. If so, someone please advise me, And by the way, congratulations to the new (now old) officers. I work with you President and last time in LA I had a newsletter done that I was going to give him. But I forgot and when I remember the articles were no longer timely.

Best of luck to everyone, and may we never witness the silence of the hams!

de W2PB - Paul Beeman