



W6VIO CALLING



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I am now in my second month as president of the club and am doing my best to get "things" going.

We now have an Encounter chairman. George Morris, W6ABW, has agreed to head up the encounter activities but I still have to find someone to chair the QSL card part of the activity. Any volunteers?

Ken Bollinger has recently accepted the position of net control for the Emergency Communications Team. In addition, I convinced him to accept a position on the board as Emergency Communications Chairman.

Sid Johnson and Jeff Skaletsky are co-chairing the Work Party position. If work needs to be done, marathons run, or just fun -please contact Sid or Jeff for names.

Activities that I have either thought up or never filled are Interference committee chairman, new club member write-up delineating the activities and facilities of the club, Field Day chairman, Field day cooks, proposal to the Laboratory for a trailer and equipment to replace the EOC facilities in Building 171, and complete the phone patch instruction manual and reference card. This will be a growing list so please support your club and volunteer to manage or assist on any of these tasks.

Don't forget that Field Day this year will be June 23-25. We are going to Mt. Gleason again this year for fund and games. As we did last year, we will have a port-potty, good food and access to the 4.08 repeater for maximum convenience. All we have to do is find someone willing to cook and lead the troops to the mountain top!

FEBRUARY 1989 Volume 18 No. 2

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
W6VIO CALLING M/S 264-419
Attn: Eileen McKinney
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PRESIDENT: JOHN TALLON N6OMB
VICE PRES: JEFF SKALETSKY N6TJO
SECRETARY: COURTNEY DUNCAN N5BF
TREASURER: JIM KESTERSON KA6IBF
TRUSTEE: STAN SANDER N6MP
EDITOR: EILEEN MCKINNEY KA6DGV

Club Meetings:
Everyone is welcome - Bring your lunch.
12 Noon in 238-543
Second Wednesday of month (Program)
Fourth Wednesday of month (Business)

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.

EXCHANGE CLUBS PLEASE NOTE ADDRESS ABOVE IS CORRECT ADDRESS FOR EXCHANGING NEWSLETTERS.

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JANUARY BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

The JPL ARC Board and Membership Meeting was held on 25 January 89 at noon in 301-271.

The following club members and board members were present:

Courtney Duncan, N5BF, secretary
 Larry Ruple, N6QZI
 Carl De Silveria, KG6LG, past president
 Sid Johnson, WB6VWH
 Stan Sander, N6MP, trustee
 Gil Yanow, K6TOS
 Peter McClosky, N6TGZ
 Walt Mushagian, K6DNS, past president
 Rick McKinney, KA6DAN, membership services
 Mark Schaefer, WB6CIA, education
 Jeff Skaletsky, N6TJO, vice president
 Jerry Hawkes, W6WXL
 Jan Ritchie, KC6BFB
 Don Ritchie, K6PGT
 Jim Kesterson, KA6IBF, treasurer
 John Tallon, N6OMB, president
 Bob Deen, N5DPU
 John Repar, WA6LWD
 Randy Cassingham, KA6FDS

President John Tallon conducted the meeting.

Committees were listed:
 Emergency Communications Team
 Facilities
 Public Service
 Field Day
 Education
 Repeater
 Membership
 Interference

There may be others.

Interference from the N6QQ, 224.06 repeater was discussed briefly. The secretary was directed to write a letter to the 220 SMA on club letterhead stating that we support them as the local frequency coordinator for that band.

Walt Mushagian reported that the Sommer antenna has tips missing from a few elements and that John Repar has access to parts for repairs.

Committees reports were taken.

Emergency Communications Team
 Walt Mushagian* is taking over from Jerry Hawkes as ECT leader. John Tallon reported that there was no news on funding for a new repeater from emergency planning sources. He and Gil Duke would be meeting later in the week to discuss manpower and site requirements. The Altadena Sheriff station uses JPL as a third backup site and also participated. (*Editor's note: The President has recently reassigned this position to Ken Bollinger.)

Field Day
 A chairman was not identified. Walt Mushagian will assist with this activity. Last year's site has been requested, the \$30 fee has not yet been paid. Final site selection will be up to the chairman.

Facilities
 Bob Deen is the new chairman. He was given the ERC (Employee Recreation Club) equipment list (of station equipment bought with ERC funds) to verify against what we actually have in the shacks. He was also given the antennas repair list.

Repeater

A chairman was not identified. Sid Johnson and Stan Sander both declined. Walt Mushagian discussed the status of the repeater upgrade to include a 900 MHz voting link from a remote receiver. Locations for the receiver were discussed. Jerry Hawkes reported that Bob Blakely was last in charge. Walt has much of the equipment in his office. Carl De Silveria agreed to ramrod the project to completion.

Membership

Rick McKinney reported that 65 renewals and 22 new applications have been processed. He presented the name of off lab (not family or retired) members for approval. A new off lab member application was considered. Dick Ulrich, K6KCY, of Tujunga, California came highly recommended by Jan Ritchie, K6KCY, and Don Ritchie, K6PGT. He was accepted on a motion from Courtney Duncan and second from Carl De Silveria with no nay votes. Correspondence for Dick may be sent care of Jan Ritchie on lab. Rick also suggested that someone needs to correlate membership applications and special suggestions that are included therein. Vice President Jeff Skatelsky will do this.

Treasury

Jim Kesterson, club treasurer, reported a current balance of \$2121.47 with no outstanding obligations. An income projection for the year has not yet been prepared. Autopatch and membership dues are kept separately. Autopatch dues are saved for repeater repair and upgrade purposes.

Education

Chairman Mark Schaefer stated that there was a need for a membership/jobs list and copy of the club bylaws to be distributed to the membership. Randy Cassingham had previously volunteered for this job and was still willing to proceed. Mark also suggested that a Neptune Encounter chairman needs to be identified soon. If one has not yet been appointed by March, he will do it, but the consensus was that would be too late of a starting time, particularly in light of the need for national publicity.

Public Service

Chairman Larry Ruple reported that Sid Johnson is running communications coordination for the L. A. Marathon again this year.

Education

Chairman Mark Schaefer reported that the club has a large number of new Novices and Technicians. He will be coordinating W6VIO participation in the Novice Roundup starting this coming weekend. Those interested in participating should report to the shack at 1600 local (0000 UTC) on Friday 27 January 89 (Saturday 28 Jan 89 UTC) for briefing and check-out. Pete McClosky asked for operator support for an on the air event to be held on 8 February at 10:00 a.m. Gil Yanow is involved in bringing four American Indian teachers to the lab for training this summer. He suggests that these teachers should also take home amateur radio licenses.

Voyager Neptune Encounter

Jan Ritchie reported that she had asked for and obtained approval from Dr. Peter Lyman, the Lab's Deputy Director, for us to use the lab's official encounter art on our QSLs. The QSL situation during the last encounter was discussed. These pictures will be used in our amateur radio magazine announcements. QSL cards may also include pictures from the encounter itself.

At this point the meeting was adjourned.

Board Members stayed to briefly discuss the need to replace the IC-211 2 meter all mode radio which is used primarily in the club's satellite station. This is our highest priority major equipment item. Stan Sander will make a specific recommendation. The broken elevation rotator is to be replaced out of the club's maintenance fund. Courtney Duncan will do this.

At John Tallon's suggestion, the board agreed to meet in "executive committee" each Tuesday at noon to review progress and keep planning up to date. These meetings will be held at the Main Cafeteria.

A consensus was reached that the repeater committee should be composed of Sid Johnson, Larry Ruple, Jerry Hawkes, trustee Walt Diem, and chair, Jan Tarsala. John will approach these people soon to formalize the committee.

We have been asked to sell Hot Dogs at the picnic again this year and have agreed to do so. This will be announced soon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney Duncan, Secretary

AMATEUR SATELLITE NEWS

The W6VIO OSCAR Station is now back in operating condition. The elevation rotator for the antennas, which was broken in a windstorm late last year, has been replaced and is functioning. A block diagram for the station has been prepared by Peter McClosky and is in a notebook by the Commodore C-64 computer which is used for satellite tracking.

The next step is to begin making contacts and document the processes involved in operating this complex position. At least two of these training sessions will have been held by the time you read this.

The satellite work/operations day may be changed away from Wednesday after March so that we can go down weekly at noon rather than twice monthly. Through March, the OSCAR maintenance and operating group will be meeting on Wednesdays 1, 15, and 29. Club meetings are held on the other Wednesdays, 8 and 22.

Stan Sander is preparing a recommendation for the board concerning the purchase of a two meter all mode rig which will be used primarily at the satellite position. Anyone with inputs to this process or suggestions should contact Stan.

Since Peter and I began repairing the station so we could get on and work DX on the satellites (among other things) a number of other people have expressed interest in helping out or operating including one person who is not yet licensed.

For those of you interested in recruiting more hams, this is a good way to do it. Conduct a program emphasizing some positive and forward

looking aspect of amateur radio, get word out about it, and then follow through.

Don't try to do it all yourself, however. When this new person approached me about amateur satellite work, I gave him a brief overview of amateur radio and the satellite service, then referred him to Mark Schaefer for license training and Rick McKinney for club information. This is teamwork. I am able to check up on his progress by inviting him to OSCAR station training sessions.

How is DX on the satellites? On OSCAR-13, one of our local hams, John Fail, KL7GRF/6 (known to some club members) is well on the way to DXCC and claims that, if he worked all of the countries he has heard about being on satellite, he would be well over 100 already. Like 20 meters, getting QSL cards out of Alaska can be trying, but for overseas DX, including Asia and Africa, satellite operators make very consistent use of the bureaus. I already have about ten countries confirmed in this way and I'm not even trying. (Anybody for DX Decade Club?)

Courtney Duncan, N5BF
AMSAT V. P. Operations
238-600 - 354-8336

AMATEUR PACKET RADIO

After a long absence, one of the club's TNCs is back on the air, this time running SAREX2 firmware. This is the TNC-2 modified PROM that will be flown on the space shuttle in a future Shuttle Amateur Radio EXperiment (SAREX). To the operator (at the W6VIO shack, or on the space shuttle) this software has the same commands as the normal TNC-2 but a few are added or modified for autonomous shuttle operation. Particularly, in automatic operation, stations can connect to the SAREX2 experiment, get a contest like contact serial number, leave a short message, and disconnect. Periodically, the SAREX2 TNC broadcasts (beacons) a list of stations that it has heard on the air and stations that it has worked with serial numbers so that users (ground based) can see the sort of activity that the Shuttle ham station has seen.

This software has been tested on the air at W5RRR in the Clear Lake, Texas area for a couple of years.

Get warmed up for SAREX2 by connecting to your club station now! The node may also be used as a digi (W6VIO or JPLARC), for what its worth. Currently, it is W6VIO on 145.01 and easily sees the LACNTR:WA6CGR-5 SCEARA node. The experiment may be moved to another more appropriate frequency (145.03 or 145.09) at a later time.

Special thanks to Gerry Creager, N5JXS, of the Johnson Space Center ARC (W5RRR) for loaning us the SAREX2 PROM.

A number of requests have come in for a tutorial in these pages about how to get started in packet radio, what to buy, how to hook it up, how to get it working, what to do once on the air, and proper behavior of the equipment and the operator. I plan to include that information in next month's column. Anyone with inputs or suggestions, please contact me.

Courtney Duncan, N5BF
238-600 - 354-8336

SILENT KEY

It's with sadness that W6VIO Calling announces the addition of another silent key to its roles - WALTER S. BAUMGARTNER W6WLH. We will miss Walter who was 80 years old at the time of his death. Our prayers go to his family.

LOOK DOWN AND SMILE

by

Eileen McKinney KA6DGV

It hurts to lose someone you love
To watch him go away
Even if you know that Heaven
Is where he is today

The love you've shared along the road
Endures a million years
The laughter, smiles and happy times
Erasing any tears

He's up in Heaven looking down
A smile upon his face
He's happy there and so content
For life's a slower pace

So just remember every time
You see a flower grow
A loving God has a special plan
That someday we'll all know

The message that we're sending now
Is we love you and we'll say
That we'll meet again some future time
Beyond the sun's last ray

So watch over us as angels do
And guide us on our way
Keep us safe and free from harm
Till we meet again someday.

JPL ARC Program Meeting, 8 February 89.

If you missed the February club meeting, you missed a good one. Bill Brown, WB8ELK, instigator of many amateur radio balloon flights, talked about his experiences, showed one of his recent payloads, and showed video tape of his balloon launches.

Particularly interesting was video tape of transmissions taken from an actual balloon payload on a 29 January 89 flight over the desert near Victorville. We all vicariously rode into the stratosphere (rotating at about 30 RPM all the way), watching the 430 MHz TV transmitting antenna dangling below, up above the airport, then the clouds. Near the peak at about 100,000 feet, pictures were received from as far away as Phoenix, Arizona.

When the balloon popped (as planned), we watched the dark noonday sky and cloudtops whip past as the payload tumbled back towards earth. The tape wrapped up with scenes of the recovery with the chase plane, helicopter, and transmitter hunters all zeroing in on the spent payload. It was still transmitting pictures (in spite of a lost antenna and broken parachute) even after it hit the ground.

All club meetings for the remainder of the year, both program and business, will be held in 238-543.

See you March 8!

Courtney Duncan, N5BF
238-600 - 354-8336

Membership Renewal UPDATE

All membership renewal notices have been sent out. If you have not received yours, please contact Rick McKinney at Ext. 4-3968 or Mail Stop 168-327. Please return the renewal notice with your 1989 Dues.

Some club members have called with questions about Autopatch dues. I'll try to clarify the situation.

In the past autopatch dues, were collected after usage and on a somewhat irregular schedule. The latest notice of autopatch dues sent out in November were intended to pay up dues to 12-31-88.

The new policy approved by the Board calls for dues to be collected in advance on a yearly basis as part of membership renewal. This means you have to submit 1989 Autopatch dues of \$ 6.00 even if you just paid for a November notice.

Also remember that the \$ 6.00 autopatch dues covers only local calls. If you call long distance (outside the autopatch service area) you should keep track of the calls and submit payment for them in a prompt manner.

73, Rick
KA6DAN