

# FEBRUARY



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Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
W6VIO CALLING M/S 264-419  
Attn: Eileen McKinney  
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#### BOARD

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CLOSED REPEATER TRUSTEE: WALT DIEM WA6PEA  
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.

Permission is granted to copy enclosed articles  
providing credit is given to "W6VIO CALLING".

## DX NEWS

Well, the Bouvet Island bash is over and hopefully all you DXers worked them on any bands you needed them on (I didn't, quite). They were very loud on the West Coast and relatively easy to work on 20, 15, and 10 meters. The conditions continue to be fantastic. I even caught up with G4WYG/ST2 on 10 meter CW, of all places! Remember also that the unedited copy of "The DX Bulletin" are available in the JPL ARC trailer just inside of the East Gate. They are hanging from the wall on the side opposite the door. This month, look for the following DX activities of interest.

Africa - ZS5LB is regularly active on 80 CW at about 0300Z. He's active on other bands also.

Bahrain - The Colvins are at it again, this time as A92QL. Look for them at 5 to 10 kHz up on 40 through 10 meters and on many nets. They'll be on for several weeks if their usual pattern persists.

Grenada - K4LTA and others will be operating as J34A from 15 February through 7 March. This will cover both the ARRL DX CW and SSB Contests. Look for them 25 to 30 kHz up on 20, 15, and 10 meters and 5 kHz up on 80 and 40 meters. SSB on 14195 and 14257 kHz.

Indonesia - Work YB3ASQ on 40 and 80 while you can. He plans to leave after the ARRL DX CW Contest in mid-February.

Trinidad - Look for PY0T shortly on 40 through 10 meters. Operation will be limited to 30 hours from this relatively rare location.

That's all for now. I have only 3 minutes to get this to the McKinnneys!

Good DX,  
Bob, N6ET



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome one and all to a new year and new decade. It should be an exciting year for our club and for Ham Radio in general. There will be lots of the usual activities as well as social, political, and historic events that JPL ARC will be fortunate enough to take part in.

There will of course be our annual participation in the Rose Parade, La Canada Parade, LA Marathon, 100 Mile Bikeathon, and Field Day as always. This year the Microsat launch will be retransmitted to Japan and Australia, as well as the Shuttle audio through the W6VIO repeater. We will be talking through the ham repeater onboard Shuttle Mission STS35 and STS37. We will also be looking into the logistics for a trip to the Cosmodrome in Russia. There's always the Picnic Hot Dog Sale and Novice Instruction Course to get involved with. Let's not forget the Neptune Encounter QSL cards, Video and SSTV Tapes. The JPL Repeater System will continue to be upgraded and linked with Cal Tech Campus and Table Mountain. With the Sunspot Cycle 21 at it's maximum we should have increased activity at the HF station. This year we will be revising the club By-laws and Repeater Committee Rules. Improved Emergency Coordination with the lab and community could be more important than we know.

In order to make this all happen the club will need all the support it can get from it's membership. People all over the world will again be counting on us to do what we do so well, communicate. So the first line of communication is for the board to get a better fix on how we can best serve the membership. That is what the questionnaire is for. Just fill it out as best you can at this point in time and then we can have a better feel as to how we can best accomplished our goals and spend your money. Which brings up the point that even the members that don't take advantage of most of our functions, feel that for 4 bucks, this club is the best deal around. Most of the debate recently has been on how much to raise the dues. Therefore anyone who fills out a copy of the questionnaire will be able to maintain membership for 1990 at the usual 4 dollar rate. After February 15 the rate for membership will be SIX DOLLARS still the best bargain in Ham Radio. So let us know how you feel and we will do our best to respond. Paraphrasing a great US president of the past. Ask not what your Radio Club can do for you, but ask what you can do for your Radio Club. I wish all of you a very good year. GL 73

Mark M. Schaefer, WB6CIA  
President

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## MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING. JAN 10, 1990

The meeting was opened at 12:04 PM by the new president, Mark Schaefer. 29 members attended the meeting which was held in Bldg 300-217

Mark opened the meeting by commending the 89 board members and then presented to all in attendance a 5 page questionnaire which has been designed to make all members of the club aware of the issues facing the club in 1990 and eliciting a response from the membership to help guide the officers and board during the year to come. Mark also announced that the board has decided to raise the 1990 dues to \$6 per member, however, if you fill out and return the questionnaire before 2/15/90 your dues will remain at the \$4 level

Walt Diem related that there will be no autopatch dues required for autopatch members this year. Due to the number of club members which joined and paid autopatch dues in 1989 it is felt that sufficient money exists in the autopatch fund to carry through this year. Walt also stated that when the autopatch was originally placed in service very few members belonged and that concerns relating to telephone bill payment were primary. At that time the autopatch bylaws reflected that concern and state that autopatch dues may not be used for reasons other than paying the telephone bill. Today nearly half of the club members pay autopatch dues and the board is considering changing the bylaws to allow autopatch monies to be used for repeater repairs, upgrades etc.

Courtney Duncan announced that the AMSAT MICROSAT launch has been delayed for at least two weeks due to Spot II tape recorder problems. This launch, when it happens will be rebroadcast by W6VIO on 75 meters and on the W6VIO repeater.

Walt Diem requested that any club member which has both 2 meter and 220 handheld capability and wishes to work the 1991 Rose Parade to contact him within the next several months. Essentially this is a survey to determine if sufficient people with dual band capability are available to make the 1991 parade dual band operation feasible. If you have this capability or if you can borrow a radio(s) please contact Walt in the near future.,

Bob Dengler reported that the new Kendicom repeater slated to replace the old WB6IEA repeater will most likely be returned to the factory for repairs. Jan Tarsala while checking out the new machine found a very high VSWR,9:1, between the exciter and amplifier section resulting in low final power output. Jan will thoroughly check out the balance of the electronics before return to be sure that no other problems exist. Bob also indicated that W6VIO repeater is now operating at 85 watts output

Mark also announced that the club will sponsor a new novice class sometime in the near future. Unlike previous novice classes this one will be off lab, in the evenings, so that family members or friends can attend. The classes will be held at Clark school in La Crescenta. Time and dates to be announced soon.

Sid Johnson, WB6VWH  
Secretary

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EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS TEAM NEWS  
by Mark M. Schaefer WB6CIA

I would like to announce that Walt Mushagian K6DNS has been named the Emergency Communications Team Chair for 1990. GL to Walt. The Guard and Fire Headquarters, Bldg 281, which is located next to the First Aid Bldg, will be installing a 220 MHz ground plane antenna. Facilities is now scheduled to perform the installation some time in March. Thanks to Larry Ruppel N6QZ1 for his construction of the antenna. I would also like to thank last years ECT Chair Ken Bollinger for his efforts in running the Emergency Communications Team Net. The Net calls roll every Monday at Noon (excluding holidays) on the WB6IEA/R repeater on 224.08 duplex. All are welcome to checkin and be put on the rolls. There was a slight misunderstanding as to the status of offlab personnel being Net Control for this Net. It is important that Emergency Coordination be controlled from both onlab and offlab. The Emergency Communication Team Chair can function more smoothly if performed by an onlab JPL employee who can attend lab emergency coordination meetings on lab. This does not apply to the Net Control Operator, which can be done from almost anywhere. The default for net control will be Walt K6DNS with Jerry Hawks W6WXL as first alternate. For more information about the Net, just state your call when Net Control requests any new checkins or anyone with information. You can call Walt Mushagian at 43036 M/S 238-420. The Net also gives updates of club news and is just a good time to locate someone who has checked in. In case of emergency, the members of the Emergency Communications Team will be expected to checkin and follow the standard protocol for handling emergency traffic over the net with the procedures rehearsed during the weekly roll call. It's best to be prepared now than to ask questions later. ---