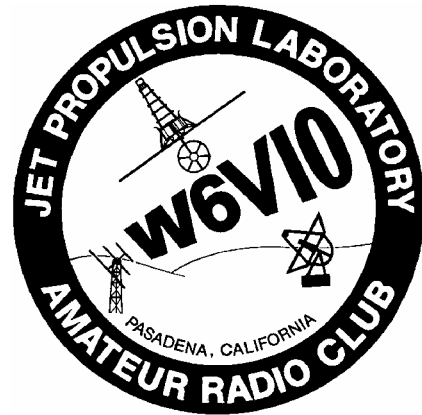


W6VIO Calling



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

Volume 31, Issue 2



February 2002

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Meeting Notice

By Christopher Carson, KE6ABQ

The February General Meeting of the JPL Amateur Radio Club will be held on Wednesday February 13th, 2002 in 238-543 at noon. The planned presentation will be about Software for the Shack. Bring your lunch if you like.

The February Board Meeting of the JPL Amateur Radio Club will be held at noon on Wednesday February 27th, 2002 in 233-305J. Bring your lunch if you like. Everyone is welcome to attend either of these meetings. ■

Prez' Mix

By Bob Dengler, NO6B

Since Randy Hammock KC6HUR recently introduced our club to the wonders of internet repeater linking via IRLP, our new IRLP link has been working well most of the time. Due to some problems with our ISP, we occasionally experience some packet loss resulting in loss of communications over the link. These outages are sporadic and usually clear up on their own, so if you're trying to use the IRLP link and hear chopped voices or nothing at all, disconnect the node and try it a little later.

Volunteer signups are underway for this year's City of Los Angeles Marathon. The 2002 LA Marathon will be held on Sunday, March 3rd, and as in previous years our club will be providing a large chunk of the amateur communications effort. Plans for this year call for our club to provide 3 repeaters that will carry Marathon communications. It would be nice if the participants in the nets on these repeaters were mostly JPLARC members! To sign up, go to <http://www.dolphinsci.com/kn6f.html>. ■

Calendar of Events

February 13	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
February 17	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
February 23	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]
February 27	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
March 2	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]
March 13	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
March 16	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
March 27	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
April 6	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]
April 10	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
April 20	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
April 24	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
April 27	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]
May 4	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]

January Meetings

By Jonathan Cameron, KF6RTA

General Meeting, January 9

The meeting was opened by Bob Dengler at 12:10pm. Those present included Phil Barnes-Roberts (AD6PQ), Stan Brokl (N7YQ), JonathanCameron (KF6RTA), Chris Carson (KE6ABQ), Alan DeVault (N6WDX), Bob Dengler (NO6B), Warren Dowler (KE6LEA), Robb Fredrickson (W1EEL), Randy Hammock (KC6HUR), Jay Holladay (W6EJJ), John Johnston(N6ZZJ), Walt Mushagian (K6DNS), Scott Nolte (K6SN), Jerry Person(KK6TS), Bob Polansky (N6ET), Carl Puckett (K7UFO), Nasrat Raouf (K1NAR), Charles Rhoades (WB6KZE), Bob Stiver (KF6PSS), Rob Sweet (KG6DKW), and Gil Yanow (K6TOS). Before the meeting started, membership forms were made available and Scott Nolte collected dues.

The main program was presented by Randy Hammock (KC6HUR) on the Internet Radio Linking Project (IRLP). This is a way to link repeaters through the Internet. See Randy's excellent article in the January issue of W6VIO Calling for details. Randy passed out a lengthy list of repeaters with IRLP links in many countries including Australia, Trinidad, Canada, England, USA, Dominca, and Antarctica. There are

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nearly 300 stations on IRLP as of early January. This exciting new protocol allows you to talk with radio amateurs all over the world, regardless of RF propagation conditions. Randy gave us a demonstration by connecting to the IRLP reflector in Denver. We listened to radio operators from Dallas talking with radio operators in British Columbia.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, January 23

Bob Dengler, NO6B, opened the meeting at 12:10pm. Those present included: Eric Archer (N6CV via telephone), Jonathan Cameron (KF6RTA), Chris Carson (KE6ABQ), Bob Dengler (NO6B), Walt Mushagian (K6DNS), Bob Polansky (N6ET), Chuck Sarture (KG6NF), and Jan Tarsala (WB6VRN).

Apparently, there is some interest by several members of the JPL amateur Radio Club in setting up a 6m repeater. The board was generally supportive of the concept of a 6m repeater but was not willing to expend club resources for this purpose without talking with the main proponents first.

Jan Tarsala shared a petition for rule making submitted by the NASA John H. Glen Research Center to the FCC to allow retransmission of International Space Station audio communications (in addition to those currently permitted for the Space Shuttle). The question put to our club board was whether we should submit a letter supporting this petition in the name of the club Board. Jan Tarsala volunteered to do the paperwork for this and Bob Dengler will read and approve the letter for the board. The motion to do this was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

Bob Polansky has received the first set of QSL cards (W6JPL) and the rest for W6VIO are in the mail. Bob also requested some help pulling new hard lines to the Mesa on a work part this Saturday. Bob has also found a potential buyer for a few of the obsolete items in the old shack. He will send a note to the club email exploder before finalizing the sale. The club FT1000 is still being fixed and should be back soon.

Chuck Sarture reported on a few financial items. ■

W6VIO and DX News

By Bob Polansky, N6ET

Much progress has been made this past month on our new W6VIO shack and its antenna resources. A second hard-line has been extended to the top of the hill, 400 feet above the shack, and a new antenna switch has been installed there to permit 3 stations to operate simultaneously for the new shack.

All it takes to enable this switch is to recable at the top of the hill, a five-minute job. A third hard line has been extended half way up the hill. Once our roll of half-inch hard line is found, it will be further extended to a new 80/160M steerable antenna site at the top of the hill. This will permit low-noise listening on the low bands, a welcome attribute to W6VIO.

Instructions have finally been received on how to enable our new AL-82 amplifier for 12/10-meter operation, a one-hour job to accomplish. The antenna tuner has been repaired, re-enabling its inductor counter.

Several fuse replacements, some prettying up of hard lines close to the shack, and numerous software additions to the shack's computers round out the work accomplished this month. In addition, a site survey of the hilltop site to permit more realistic antenna modeling has been completed. We've been busy!

The shack continues to be used by a number of club members. Our band-entity count is growing by leaps and bounds as well as our mixed mode, phone and CW DX totals. The stations are performing in an exemplary manner. In virtually all cases, if we can hear a station, we can work it. Once the third hard line is extended to the hill-top, our FT-1000D is delivered with its ailments corrected, and our 12-volt internal bus is installed, we can consider our shack fully implemented.

The equipment auction, long delayed because of the press of higher priority activities, is being prepared and will hopefully take place within several months.

Last, but not least, here comes the DX news. It's going to be an exciting month!

ARRL CW DX Contest - Don't miss this contest. It runs from 16 through 17 February starting at 0000Z on the 16th.

BURUNDI - 9U5D will be operating from this Central African entity through 2 March. His activity is heavily 50 MHz oriented, but has been worked on 10, 12, 17, and 30 meters in the good ole USA.

COCOS ISLAND - TI9M will be active on all bands and modes during a major operation from 17 February through 4 March.

CQ 160 METER SSB Contest - This will take place the weekend of 23 February. Based upon recent 160 Meter propagation experienced, this may turn into a Worked All States Contest.

NORTH KOREA - Look for P5/4L4FN daily operating on 21225 kHz listening up 10+ for the Americas from 2230 to 2330Z. He's pretty easy to work if you're a Californian. There's some hope that this will actually be an operation sanctioned with paper by the North Korean government, and therefore accepted by the ARRL for DXCC purposes.

SIERRA LEONE - Look for 9L1BTB from this rare African QTH. He's been reported on 15, 20, 40, and 75M all ssb and should be there through October of this year. Unfortunately, W6VIO needs him for a new one on cw.

SOUTH GEORGIA ISLAND - This relatively rare entity has been worked on virtually all bands locally from 160 through 10 meters. They are spotted on the packet system pretty much 24 hours per day. Operation is planned through either 5 or 7 February, depending on which information you choose to believe.

TRINDADE ISLAND - This operation will share the ether with TI9M, another major operation, from 18 February through 2 March. The two operations have coordinated their operating frequencies to stay out of each other's hair.

There's lots more exciting dx operations planned for the month of March. Don't miss next month's column if you wish to keep up to date on happenings in the dx world.

Classified Section

Wanted:

Your want-ad or article for inclusion in a future issue of W6VIO Calling. Submit to Bill Wood, W6FXJ, 31094 Hemlock Ave, Barstow, CA 92311; or email w6fxj@earthlink.net

For Sale:

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, W7NWY, 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 ■

Newsletter Deadline:

Friday, March 1 for the March issue of W6VIO Calling. Your articles, ads, photos, diagrams, letters to the editor, or technical material should be submitted to the editor via email (w6fxj@earthlink.net) or regular mail to: Bill Wood, 31094 Hemlock Ave, Barstow, CA 92311.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club

2002 Membership Renewal Form

Please renew your JPL Amateur Radio Club membership for 2002 (and for 2001, if you missed renewal last year) by completing the following steps:

1. Please enter your data in the following form:

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Class: _____ Expires: _____

Lab Address: _____ Lab Extension: _____ ARRL Member? Yes: ___ No: ___

Home Address: _____ City: _____ State: ___ Zip: _____

E-mail Address: _____

2. Check the appropriate boxes below: Please add the name and call for associate members you are sponsoring in the blank space above. Note: Separate autopatch dues for 2002 have been waived.

Regular; Associate; Retired; Off-Lab \$ 10 each (\$11 If not Paid by February 28, 2002)

Immediate Family Members living at the same address with a Member above: \$5.00

Continuing Autopatch Members (No charge)

Newly Licensed Amateurs - Free for the first year

3. Return this form and your personal check for dues to: Scott Nolte, JPL Mail Stop 306-392, or the JPL ARC, PO Box 820, La Canada, CA 91012-0820. Please make checks payable to JPL-ARC

4. Please check additional action(s) desired:.

I have included an additional \$11 to bring me up to date with 2001 dues.

I want to join the autopatch Repeater. Please send me the details.

There is an error in the club records, please correct as shown above.

I no longer want to be a JPL Amateur Radio Club member or an autopatch member.

Please remove my name from your list.

Tnx and 73

Scott Nolte , N6CUV, Membership Chairman

818-354-9724



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First Class Mail

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