

# W6VIO Calling



Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 820, La Canada CA 91012-0820

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## Meeting Notice

By Christopher Carson, KE6ABQ

The March General Meeting of the JPL Amateur Radio Club will be held on Wednesday April 10, 2002 in 238-543 at noon. The presentation is TBD. The April Board Meeting of the JPL Amateur Radio Club will be held at noon on April 24, 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

As most of you may know, our club lost it's web page at <http://www.jplerc.org>. This occurred as a result of changes to the Employee Recreation Club. Management has indicated that ERC sub-clubs will be given access to replacement web space. However, our board has decided that it would be in our best interests to provide our own web server.

We already have access to the required network bandwidth, which currently supports our repeater list web page and IRLP node; all that is required is a 166 MHz Pentium or better PC with at least 64 MB of memory. Once we locate and setup the server, we should be able to consolidate the main club web page and our repeater list onto one server (the 133 MHz machine serving [rprrlist.w6jpl.ampr.org](http://rprrlist.w6jpl.ampr.org) is not powerful enough to run Windows 2000 Server, which is required to host multiple pages). This will give us much better control over our club web page with no long-term increase in maintenance overhead.

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## Calendar of Events

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]
May 8	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
May 18	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
May 22	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
May 25	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]
June 1	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]
June 12	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
June 15	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
June 26	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
June 28-30	ARRL Field Day
June 29	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]

Looks like our IRLP network problems have been fixed, as I've heard excellent throughput from stations coming through our node. Last Monday's noontime net featured a check-in by Jan WB6VRN from St. Peters, Missouri.

There are over 370 IRLP-linkable repeaters in operation in 10 countries. If you haven't used our IRLP node you're missing out. First make sure your membership is current (contact Membership Chairman Scott Nolte, K6SN if you're not sure if your dues are up to date), then contact our repeater trustee Randy Hammock, KC6HUR for instructions on how to use the IRLP link.

As I mentioned in last month's column, I'm back on HF now with a Yaesu FT-100D. Overall I'm very happy with the radio. In fact, I was particularly impressed with how well such a small radio's receiver could perform. I did notice moderate IMD on 440 MHz as soon as I plugged in the GP9 base antenna.

Adding a 454 MHz notch filter made by PAR Electronics (<http://www.parelectronics.com>) reduced it a little, but it was still there. I noticed that most of the IMD I detected sounded like some strong signals I heard between 452 and 453 MHz. So I decided to scrape off the epoxy covering the tuning capacitors in the PAR filter and retune it to provide 16 to 20 dB rejection over 452 to 454.5 MHz. Since installing the retuned notch filter

I have yet to hear any intermod on the 440 band. Unfortunately, its CTCSS decoder is next to useless as it falses on just about everything. However, the integrated noise/RF squelch has such a wide range of adjustment that a signal of any amplitude can be squelched out. I find that this feature makes a CTCSS decoder almost unnecessary in a base station environment.

Of course, HF performance is important too, so I plugged in my Gap vertical and 80 meter dipole and dialed around the band last weekend to find some PSK31 or other digital modes to try out. I was surprised to find so much voice activity around 7070 to 7080 (the "digital" portion of 40 meters).

Hearing several VE stations calling CQ contest and indicating that they were listening in the U.S. phone portion of the band, I gave them some split-frequency Q's. I was even more shocked when a couple of stations told me "thanks for the multiplier". Since when is a Southern California ham able to give out multipliers in a DX contest?! It was time to look up just what contest I was participating in: the phone portion of the CQ World-Wide WPX Contest.

This contest puts an emphasis on the longer-wavelength bands, as contacts on 160, 80 and 40 meters count twice as much as those on 20 through 10. It also encourages working as many different callsign prefixes as possible, as each one counts as a multiplier.

Wait a minute, how many "NO6"es are there? Only 26 and I'll bet very few of them are active on HF, so it seems I was somewhat in demand in this contest. I ended up giving out about 16 contacts over the weekend. About half were DX, including Peru on 40 meters, shattering my personal distance record on that band. If you ever want to find out how far your HF station can go, try a contest. No entry needed! 73 ■

## March Meetings

By Jonathan Cameron, KF6RTA

### General Meeting, March 13

The meeting was opened by Bob Dengler at 12:15. Those present included: Jonathan Cameron (KF6RTA), Bob Dengler (NO6B), Warren Dowler (KE6LEA), Randy Hammock (KC6HUR), Paul Lonnquist (NS6V), Walt Mushagian (K6DNS), Bob Polansky (N6ET), Rob Smith (W6GRV), and Bob Stiver (KF6PSS).

Jonathan Cameron announced that we plan to host a visit by Boy Scout Troop #4 of Pasadena on March 25<sup>th</sup> (from 7pm to 9pm). The purpose of the visit is to help them finish their requirements for a radio merit badge. Bob Polansky has volunteered to show the new shack and demonstrate phone and CW contacts.

There was some discussion of how to improve the reliability of the phone line for the autopatch. One suggestion is to set a cell phone at the site. There was a quorum of the Board present so a motion was made and approved by the board to direct Randy Hammock to look into the possibility of using a cell phone for the autopatch and set it up if it seems feasible.

Bob Polansky gave an update on field day preparations. Volunteers are needed to ensure that preparations get done and that things run smoothly. In particular, volunteers are critically needed for food service, attendee registration, operator organization, and station setup/teardown.

### Board of Directors Meeting, March 27

By Randy Hammock, KC6HUR

The meeting began at approximately 12:10 PM March 27, 2002. In attendance were Bob Dengler, NO6b, Bob Polansky, N7ET, Walt Mushagian, K6DNS, Randy Hammock, KC6HUR and one Guest.

Discussed some of the Field Day activities. Discussed autopatch phone service changes. Went over items which will be brought for auction and decided which items to sell and which items to keep.

NO6B entertained a motion to "Auction off the remaining items on the list. First, to club members, then to others, with the minimum price being what has been established on eBay as the generally accepted low price. Dayton Jones, the auctioneer, may also use best judgment to determine the fair low price."

Motion made by Randy Hammock, KC6HUR, seconded by Walt Mushagian K6DNS and passed unanimously by all board members. Meeting ended 12:50 PM ■

## W6VIO and DX News

By Bob Polansky, N6ET

Significant "progress" has been made in the new W6VIO shack this month. Thanks to Marc Sarrel, we have "inherited" a hub for our shack. This will enable both non-JPL-networked computers to share the printer on the north side of B173 once the software reconfiguration is complete.

In addition, network cards have been procured for the Club's laptop computers. This will enable Marc to network our logging computers during Field Day this year.

Another Ameritron antenna switch has been procured. It will be used to switch directivity of the 160/80 meter low noise receiving antenna being implemented on top of the mesa site. We are about 300 feet of ½ inch hard-line shy of being ready to erect this new receiving antenna.

The second FT-1000D is back from the repair shop and it has been checked out with its Dentron "afterburner". It's ready! Just a quick note --- don't use the Dentron on the WARC bands. That is known to fry the plate choke in the Dentron.

Our new AL-82 amplifier has been modified for operation on 12 and 10 meters. The modification has been checked out and functions fine. A new 12 volt Astron 20 amp power supply has been obtained. Once fitted with Power Pole connectors, it will power the local HF DX packet system. The 6 kW generator has been transported to a non-JPL work location where it is being fitted with wheels, which will permit it to be rolled onto a vehicle and transported to and from the Field Day site once a year. Its permanent home will be next to the W6VIO shack, where it will provide backup power to the shack when Edison power fails.

On the educational side of things, presentations were made to about forty Boy Scouts and their advisors on the subject of ham radio permitting them to complete the last requirements for their Radio Merit Badges. Both phone and CW contacts were made to countries as far away as Asia and Europe during these presentations. The scouts were each given one of the Club's spiffy new QSL cards to commemorate the event. Outreach at its best!

Our QSL budget has been getting used up fast. That's what happens when you get active in DX contests. Several hundreds of the new QSL's have already been sent out, many through the ARRL Outgoing QSL Bureau. Many new and rare QSL's have already been received in response to both our old and new cards.

The Club's surplus equipment auction, long delayed because of the press of higher priority activities, was initiated today. It's being led by Dayton Jones. It is hoped that we will make enough money by this auction to balance this years JPLARC budget. I don't believe we should have a problem doing that. As a second benefit, this will help us to get rid of the trailer, which was our Club station's home for so many years. (Since the trailer is in pretty poor condition, the JPL Fire Department wants to burn it down for purposes of training their staff.)

This past month, there were several exciting DXpeditions. XR0X from San Felix and VP6DI from Ducie Island both made their presence obvious. The pileups were huge and the excitement profound! I'm certain tens of thousands of kilowatt-hours were used in creating the gigantic pileups that resulted from these two operations. Here's what's planned for the near future:

BAKER & HOWLAND ISLAND – KH1?? (Call currently not yet known) plans to be active from this Pacific Ocean entity from 29 April through 10 May.

CONGO – If you thirst for a TN QSO, dust off the ole transceiver for TN3B and TN3W. They expect to operate from this very rare entity from 16 May through 27 May. I expect this could create VP6DI-like pileups!

MACQUARIE ISLAND – VK0MQI should already be on Macquarie and should be giving out QSO's until December. He should be active soon.

MELLISH REEF – VK9ML will be active from 12 through 22 April. No frequencies were given yet.

SIERRA LEONE – Look for 9L1JT part time from 9 through 16 April and full time from 20 through 22 April on 40 through 10 meters phone and CW. W6VIO needs this one on CW.

SEYCHELLES – S79MX is already active from here and will be so for another month. This is a relatively rare entity.

TEMOTU – H40XX is already active from here and will continue operation through about 12 April. He's been heard on 160 through 10 meters, with the exception of the WARC bands. A great operator.

That's all for this month. Time to hit the sack. Enjoy! ■

## FD Volunteers Needed

By Bob Polansky, N6ET

The following list is forwarded to you all in the hopes of getting some volunteers to help with Field Day planning and operations this year. Time precludes my spending the time I've put forth in previous years in Field Day preparations.

Field Day will not be the fun time it has been in the past without your support. If you can lead one of the unsubscribed areas identified in the list below, please call me at x44940 and

advise me which ones you can support. Leave a voicemail if you don't catch me in the office.

We desperately need your help. Please come to the aid of our Club by agreeing to lead one or more of the unsupported areas.

Planning		
Lead	Task	Status
MW	Band strategy	
MW	Layout mountain top site	
MW	Bonus point planning	
MW	Satellite ephemeris computer/software	
RGP	Universe article	done
RGP	Arrange for VK tables & chairs	
RGP	Arrange for 8 tents/stakes	
RGP	Prepare check list	done
RGP	Prepare package pass	
RGP	Arrange/get first aid kit (See nurse)	
RGP	Arrange for USFS permit/key	done
JAH	W6VIO Calling FD articles	
JAH	CT preparation/training	
JAH	Rules, develop/repro operator package	
JAH	Final FD Report for ARRL	
RS	Arrange for port-a-potty	
MS	Prepare computers/ network/de-virus	
MM	Participant list/identify operators	
RGP	Arrange for fire extinguishers for FD	done
Operations		
Logistics		
Lead	Task	Status
WM	Arrange for motor pool vehicle	
?	Lead truck loading (from checklist) on 21 June	
RGP	Load tables/chairs/tents/fire extinguishers	
Power:		
Lead	Task	Status
WD	Mount JPL 6 kW generator for transport	
WD	Arrange for FD power distribution	
WM	Service JPL 2.2 kW generator	
WD	Obtain generator fuel cans and fuel	
Food:		
Lead	Task	Status
?	Plan menus/buy food/prepare meals	
Drivers:		
JAH	JPL vehicle	
WD	Tower trailer #1	
RH	Tower trailer #2	
WD	6 kW generator	
RS	Portapotty	
Site work		
Lead	Task	Status
RGP	Lead tent pitching, set up dining area, tent furnishings, power installation	
WD	Lead tower placement/beam installation	
WM	Lead beam construction/teardown	
?	HF1 station setup/teardown	
?	HF2 station setup/teardown	
?	HF3 station setup/teardown	
DH	PSK-31 station setup and teardown	
WD	6 Meter station setup and teardown	
?	VHF station setup/teardown	
?	GOTA station setup/teardown	
MT	Satellite station setup/teardown	
WD	Maintain FD site generator fuel/lubrication	
BW	Field Day PR lead	■

# Equipment Auction

By Dayton Jones,

The club has decided that the best way to sell our excess equipment is through an email auction. We are offering everything to club members first; items that do not receive any reasonable bids will be offered to the world at the TRW swap meet, eBay, or elsewhere.

## Equipment Condition:

All equipment is offered on an "as-is" basis. The condition described in the list below indicates only the visual appearance - items have not been powered up or tested for correct operation. All items are located in the old club shack if you wish to inspect them yourself.

## How to Bid:

Where eBay prices are listed below, we hope to obtain at least the minimum eBay price for the items. Bids below the eBay minimums will be considered, but may be refused at the discretion of the club board.

Clearly identify the piece(s) of equipment you are bidding on, and include your name, phone, and email info.

Items listed below as part of a package must be bid on as a package. Only if no reasonable bid is received for the package will the items be offered separately. If this becomes necessary, it will be done as a separate auction after April 15.

Bids must be submitted in writing (email preferred) to Dayton Jones (JPL mail code 238-332; email [dj@sgra.jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:dj@sgra.jpl.nasa.gov)) BY APRIL 15. All bids will be acknowledged as received, but I will be away April 8-11 so don't expect a reply during that time.

The submitters of the highest bids received by April 15 will be notified at that time. In the case of a tie in price the tying bidders will be contacted and invited to re-bid.

Winners will be expected to pay for and pick up their equipment within a week of notification. Payment should be by check (payable to JPLARC) delivered to Dayton Jones.

If you have any questions, please contact Dayton Jones at 4-7774. ■

Lot	Description	Condition	eBay Price Range		
			Low	Avg	High
1	Package of two items: A: Kenwood TS-820 HF transceiver (SN 741118)	fair-good	255	341	425
	B: Kenwood VFO-820 external VFO for TS-820 xcvr (SN 810330). Has label saying "buzzing", needs fixing?	unknown	40	68	100
2	Package of two items: A: Icom IC-21A VHF packet transceiver (SN 2213 missing volume knob)	good	44	73	130
	Icom DV-21 PLL digital VFO (SN 2159)	good	-	20	-
3	Collins 516F-2(?) external power supply and speaker (S-line style)	good	201	337	612
4	Package of three items: A: Yaesu FT-101EE HF transceiver (SN 6K 211635) w/hand mic and both AC and DC power cords	very good	201	318	475
	B: Yaesu FV-101B remote VFO for FT-101EE (SN 8F 200396)	very good	76	105	163
	C: Yaesu SP-101PB speaker/phone patch (SN 180455)	very good	38	83	128
5	Package of three items: A: Drake 2-NT HF CW-only tube transmitter (SN 0461), clean copper plated chassis	good	77	106	163
	B: Drake 2C HF tube receiver (SN 1233), clean chassis, no noise blanker installed	good	45	146	255
	C: Drake 2-CS speaker, missing rubber feet	good		39	
6	Heath HW-16 CW-only tube transmitter w/VFO (SN missing), frozen switches	poor	46	80	134
7	Heath HG-10B VFO (SN missing), dial drum in good cond. but mechanically misaligned	fair	50	75	162
8	Heath IM-17 VOM	very good			
9	Heath IO-12 tube oscilloscope (SN 842-2128A), with 2 RF probes, one control very stiff	fair-good			
10	Heath DR-1 decade resistance substitution box	good			
11	Robot 300 SSTV transceiver (SN 3021), power switch broken	fair			
12	Robot 400 SSTV transceiver (SN 402761)	good			
13	Eico 667 tube tester (SN 12897) w/manual, intact roll chart, Eico 615 tube adapter	good			
14	2 Powertec 2E15-14 open frame power supplies, 15 VDC at 14 A, w/ AC power cords	very good			
15	Power-one SK12-16.8 open frame power supply, 12 VDC at 16.8 A	good			
16	Sola constant voltage transformer (4.24 A), model 23-13-150K83	good			
17	Autek MK-1 memory keyer	poor-fair			
18	Palomar IC keyer	good			
19	Measurements Corp. model 80 signal generator (SN 152), 2-400 MHz, w/manual, one very stiff control, output connector broken, a real boat anchor	poor			
20	Clough-Brengle LO-2 audio signal generator, 25-15000 Hz, rust on front panel	poor			
21	Waters Conley SC-10 paper tape CW recorder w/tape and manual (1943, US Navy label). Yes, it uses an ink pen to record dots and dashes on a very long paper tape!	fair			
22	Realistic 909 3-speed, 4-track reel-to-reel, magnetic tape recorder, includes case w/speakers and spare tapes	good			
23	Knight G-30 grid dip meter with 5 coils (2 coils are damaged)	fair			
24	W2AU dipole balun	good			
25	GLB PK-1 (purpose unknown)				
26	Box of misc. Commodore computer equipment (floppy disk drives, keyboard, cables, etc.)				

# Treasurer's Reports

By Charles Sarture, KG6NF

March, 2002

## General Club Account

Beginning of Month Balance:	<b>\$2,307.81</b>
Income:	
No Income This Month	\$0.00
Total Income:	\$0.00
12 Volt Power Supply	\$35.00
Miscellaneous Parts	\$0.54
QSL Postage	\$71.71
Outgoing QSL Bureau Fee	\$16.00
Total Expenses:	\$123.25
End of Month Balance:	<b>\$2,184.56</b>

## Emergency Communications Account

Beginning of Month Balance:	<b>\$2,051.05</b>
Income:	
No Income This Month	\$0.00
Total Income:	\$0.00
Expenses:	
No Expenses This Month	\$0.00
Total Expenses:	\$0.00
End of Month Balance:	<b>\$2,051.05</b>

Chuck Sarture, KG6NF  
2002 Treasurer

### Newsletter Deadline:

Friday, May 3 for the May 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](mailto:w6fxj@earthlink.net)) or regular mail to: Bill Wood, 31094 Hemlock Ave, Barstow, CA 92311.

# Classified Section

## Wanted:

Donations requested: Do you have an old 2 meter handheld that you don't use anymore because it doesn't have pl tones? How about donating it to a non-profit conservation group and receive a donation receipt for full market value. The Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep is prototyping a system to transmit weather and water level data from remote water catchments (Big Game Guzzlers) in the desert. Looking for TNCs also. Contact John Carnakis ke6dky for more information: phone, 661 821-2067 or email, [john.bobbi@thegrid.net](mailto:john.bobbi@thegrid.net)

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](mailto: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](mailto:scott.nolte@jpl.nasa.gov) or 818-354-9724 ■



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First Class Mail

## What's Inside the April 2002

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