

W6VIO Calling



Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 820, La Canada CA 91012-0820

Volume 32, Issue 1



February 2003

President:	Bob Dengler, NO6B	4-9620	Emer. Comm. Mgr: Walt Mushagian, K6DNS,	4-3036
Vice President:	Christopher Carson KE6ABQ	3-3888	W6VIO Trustee : Bob Polansky, N6ET,	4-4940
Secretary:	Jonathan Cameron, KF6RTA	4-1189	W6JPL Trustee: Eric Archer, N6CV,	4-7350
Treasurer:	Chuck Sarture, KG6NF,	4-2706	W6VIO Calling Editor; WR6AZN Trustee:	Bill Wood,
Director at Large; WR6JPL Trustee:	Randy Hammock, KC6HUR	4-0628		W6FXJ, 760-256-9576

Contents

Meeting Notice	1
Prez' Mix	1
Calendar of Events	1
Club Meetings	2
W6VIO Station and DX News	3
Treasurer's Reports	4
Membership Renewal Form	5

Meeting Notice

By Bob Dengler, NO6B

There will be two agenda items of great importance to the club at our upcoming February general meeting on Wednesday, February 12th at noon in 238-543:

1. Nomination/election of 2003 club officers.
2. Club participation in the 2003 City of Los Angeles Marathon volunteer communications effort.

It is important for club members to come to this meeting as a show of support for your club officers. In addition, this would be an excellent time for former club members to rejoin the club.

Preparations for this year's LA Marathon are way behind schedule, even more so than usual. The Marathon's long-time Commissioner of Communications, Scott Fraser KN6F is no longer able to completely fulfill his role. Therefore, we will need a bit more help from club members to make this effort a success this year.

The LA Marathon has proven to be an excellent training exercise in emergency communications planning and implementation, so JPL ECT members or anyone wishing to hone their radio communications skills are strongly encouraged to participate.

Please plan to attend this meeting if at all possible; bring your lunch if you like. Thanks! ■

Calendar of Events

February 12	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
February 15	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
February 26	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
February 22	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]
March 1	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]
March 12	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
March 26	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
March 29	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]
April 5	[Fontana Swap Meet, A. B. Miller HS, Fontana]
April 9	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
April 19	[CMRA Hamfest, Cal Poly, Pomona, 7 AM]
April 23	Board Meeting, Noon - 233-305J
April 26	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]

Prez' Mix

By Bob Dengler, NO6B

Well it is sure nice to have the club newsletter back again after a much-deserved 3-month break for our Editor, Bill Wood W6FXJ. Unfortunately, this month got off to a bad start for everyone in the NASA community with the sudden loss of the Columbia shuttle.

Since I had been operating on short sleep that week trying to get my upgraded home computer stabilized, I was planning to sleep in that Saturday morning. But my wife turned on the TV in the living room, saw what happened and woke me up telling me "they lost contact with the shuttle". I saw the video taken from the ground in Texas and knew immediately that the shuttle and crew were lost.

I guess this is once again a bitter reminder that space flight is inherently dangerous. Considering all the hazards of launching millions of pounds of liquid hydrogen and oxygen, the threat of small untrackable space debris during orbit and the 3000° temperatures that all spacecraft must endure on re-entry, the space shuttle program still has an impressive track record.

What will be learned from this disaster will no doubt make the space shuttle even safer. With the dedication to safety that NASA has already exhibited, I wouldn't be surprised to see the balance of the shuttle missions carried out through its end in 2020 with no further catastrophes. Certainly let us pray for this.

As of this writing we do not have an official slate of officers for 2003. I understand that the 2002 officers have volunteered to serve in 2003 and may be officially elected at the February general meeting. These club officers have been serving continuously for at least 4 years now and certainly wouldn't mind stepping aside to make room for some new blood on the club board.

In particular, I'm personally having difficulty making enough time to keep up with much of the non-technical presidential administrative duties. We are in a state of limbo with respect to the JPL Recreational Club (formerly ERC) and have lost grant funding. Our membership is shrinking; we need to find ways to generate interest in amateur radio in the general JPL community, get more JPL'ers licensed and hopefully more club members in the process. Having some interesting programs and speakers for our club meetings would help generate more attendance and interest in our club as well.

When I became President of the JPLARC, my primary concern was our technical infrastructure. In particular, our repeater systems were fragmented, inflexible and mostly inaccessible to our newer members who are not equipped with 220 MHz capability. Thanks largely to the efforts of Randy Hammock KC6HUR and Bill Wood W6FXJ, we've resolved many of these issues and have our club repeaters in a very favorable position to support all our club members and activities. What is primarily needed now is strong administrative leadership to assure that our membership decline is reversed and our activities remain well-funded. I do intend to remain active on the technical front, continuing to focus on improving our repeater systems.

If you'd like to lead this club into 2003 or 2004 please give me a call at 4-9620 or come to the next general or board meeting.
73 ■



KE6LEA Photo

Club Meetings

By Jonathan Cameron, KF6RTA

Christmas 2002 Banquet, December 11

The Christmas Banquet replaced the regular general meeting for December. There was no regular board of directors meeting in December due to lack of a quorum.

The 2002 Christmas Banquet was hosted by Jonathan Cameron (KF6RTA) and Janet Cameron (KG6JNO) at their home in the Hastings Ranch area of east Pasadena. Janet did a lovely job preparing a fine meal of ham and poached salmon accompanied by spinach salad, potatoes, and green bean casserole.



KE6LEA Photo

Those present included Jonathan and Janet Cameron, Walt Diem, Warren and Louise Dowler, Bob and Melinda Dengler, Rob and Christine Frederickson, Randy Hammock, Walt Mushagian, Scott Nolte, Bob Polansky, Owen and Judy Robbins, Mark Schaefer, and our guest speaker, Marty Woll. Here is a photo of us sitting down to dinner.



KE5RTA Photo

After dinner, our guest speaker, Marty Woll (N6VI), entertained us with stories about his adventures on numerous DX expeditions. Among his most unusual and fun experiences was meet-

ing King Hussein of Jordan, JY1, and visiting his radio shack—as well as getting the VIP treatment! Here is Marty with the list of call signs that he has used on these exciting trips.



KE6RTA Photo

Marty is an animated and excellent speaker. We enjoyed hearing about his experiences and asking him many questions. After he spoke we had desert and coffee and visited. It was a wonderful evening and we hope that you will join us for our Christmas banquet next year!



KE6LEA Photo

Board of Directors Meeting, January 22

Bob Dengler, NO6B, opened the meeting at 12:10pm. Those present included: Jonathan Cameron (KF6RTA), Bob Dengler (NO6B), Walt Mushagian (K6DNS), Bob Polansky (N6ET), and Bill Wood (W6FXJ, by phone).

There was some discussion of how to upgrade the Table Mountain repeater from the existing Palomar Telecom RBC-700 to a Link Communications RLC-3. We can't afford a new system, and we discussed other options. There is a possibility

of getting the existing controller hardware upgraded, but there are property complications to resolve first. Bob Polansky will investigate other ways to get funding.

The new budget was reviewed, several changes made and the amended budget was discussed. With several small modifications and by dropping the purchase of a new repeater controller, the budget was balanced. Bob Dengler will email the amended budget out to the Board members in the next few days. The amended budget was approved by the board. ■

W6VIO and DX News

By Bob Polansky, N6ET

As I believe I reported last month, all the W6VIO antennas have been repaired after the "big wind" with the exception of the R7000 vertical, which will require some replacement parts. We lost and subsequently repaired the twelve-foot aluminum mast extension that supports the apex of the 160-meter Inverted Vee antenna.

The new low band, low noise antenna was exercised during the CQ WW Contest and thereafter. It performed well on 80 meters. Europeans on the long path were coming in like locals!

On 160 meters, the big Rohn tower will have to be detuned to make the low noise antenna perform as expected. A low noise amplifier has been ordered, delivered, and installed, permitting 20 db of preamplification on both 80 and 160 meters, bringing the low noise antenna output up to a level comparable to the other antennas.

Conditions during December and January have not exactly been exceptional, but then, who has much time to operate given Christmas, New Years, and Grandkids.

I've managed to read all recent issues of both QRZ DX and The Weekly DX and found several notable operations and contests planned for the near term. They are listed below, in time order, with little additional information.

NEPAL	9N7YJ	Now	~ 1 Feb
HONDURAS	HR5/F2JD	Now	3 Mar
YUGOSLAVIA	YU/K6MD	Now	28 Mar
MACQUARIE	VK0MQI	Now	31 Mar
BURKINA FASO	XT2ATI	Now	15 Jun
S. SHETLANDS	D88S	Now	30 Nov
MALAWI	7Q7BP	Now	31 Dec
CHAGOS	VQ9LA	Now	31 Dec
SAO THOME	S9SS, S9YL	Now	2004
NIGER	5U7JB	Now	?
KENYA	5Z4DZ	Now	?
HAITI	HH2/DLs	30 Jan	16 Feb
SO. ORKNEY	VP8/S	~ 1 Feb	~ 2 weeks
BHUTAN	A51B	3 Feb	26 Feb (3505 local AM--30,12,10 local PM)
GHANA	9G5AP/9G5GA	5 Feb	18 Feb (ARRL CW Contest)
ARRL CW Contest		15 Feb	16 Feb
ARRL SSB Contest		1 Mar	2 Mar

Enjoy the HF bands while sunspots are still in the three digit range! ■

Treasurer's Reports

By Chuck Sarture, KG6NF

September, 2002

General Club Account	
Beginning of Month Balance:	\$3,242.10
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:	\$3,242.10

Emergency Communications Account	
Beginning of Month Balance:	\$1,843.05
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:	\$1,843.05

October, 2002

General Club Account	
Beginning of Month Balance:	\$3,242.10
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:	\$3,242.10

Emergency Communications Account	
Beginning of Month Balance:	\$1,843.05
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:	\$1,843.05

November, 2002

General Club Account	
Beginning of Month Balance:	\$3,242.10
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:	\$3,242.10

Emergency Communications Account	
Beginning of Month Balance:	\$1,843.05
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:	\$1,843.05

December, 2002

General Club Account	
Beginning of Month Balance:	\$3,242.10
Income:	
No Income This Month	\$0.00
Total Income:	\$0.00
Expenses:	
Postage and QSL fees	\$80.31
Total Expenses:	\$80.31
End of Month Balance:	\$3,161.79

Emergency Communications Account	
Beginning of Month Balance:	\$1,843.05
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:	\$1,843.05

January, 2003

General Club Account	
Beginning of Month Balance:	\$3,161.79
Income:	
No Income This Month	\$0.00
Total Income:	\$0.00
Expenses:	
Hi-Q Center Insulator	\$7.52
Total Expenses:	\$7.52
End of Month Balance:	\$3,154.27

Emergency Communications Account	
Beginning of Month Balance:	\$1,843.05
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:	\$1,843.05

Newsletter Deadline:

Friday, February 28 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 (bill.wood@mindspring.com) or regular mail to: Bill Wood, 31094 Hemlock Ave, Barstow, CA 92311.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club

2003 Membership Form



Name: _____ Call: _____
 License Class: E A G T+ T N
 License Expiration Date: _____ ARRL Member? _____
 Mail Stop: _____ Lab extension: _____ E-mail Address: _____
 Home address: _____ Home Phone w/Area Code _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

JPL Employee: _____ Retired: _____
 On-Lab Contractor: _____ Retired: _____
 Family: _____ Off-Lab: _____ Caltech/Other: _____

Please renew your JPL Amateur Radio Club membership for 2003 by completing the following three steps:

1. In addition to your name and call enter any new or corrected information on the membership form above. Please enter your current electronic mail address if you have one.
2. Return this form with your personal check for 2003 dues as listed below (check the appropriate boxes) to: Scot Nolte, JPL Mail Stop 306-392 or JPLARC, PO Box 820, La Canada, CA 91012-0820. Please make checks payable to JPL-ARC

- Regular; Retired, Off-Lab or Caltech/Other: \$ 10.00 each
- (\$11.00 If not Paid by Feb. 28, 2003)
- Immediate Family Members living at the same address with a Member above: \$5.00
- Newly Licensed Amateurs - Free for the first year

Please check additional action(s) desired:

- I have already paid my 2003 dues.
- 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. Please remove my name from your list.

Thx and 73, Scott Nolte, K6SN



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

First Class Mail

JPL ARC Repeaters			
Pasadena:			
WR6JPL	147.15 MHz	(+)	PL 131.8 Open
WR6JPL	224.08 MHz	(-)	PL 156.7 Open
WR6JPL	224.70 MHz	(-)	Closed Autopatch
WR6JPL	445.20 MHz	(-)	PL 103.5 Open
W6JPL-1	145.09 MHz		Packet Node/BBS
W6JPL-1	223.54 MHz		Packet Node/BBS
Table Mountain:			
WR6AZN	145.28 MHz	(-)	PL 131.8 Open
WR6AZN	223.96 MHz	(-)	PL 156.7 Open
WR6AZN	447.20 MHz	(-)	PL 94.8 Open

