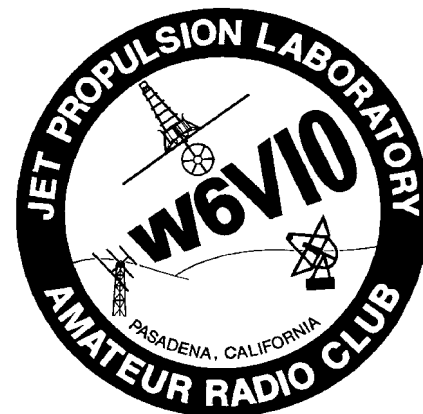


W6VIO Calling JPL

Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 842, La Canada CA 91012-0842



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<http://jplarc.ampr.org>

January 2014

President:	Stephen Townes	4-7525	EmComm. Mgr:	Christopher Carson, KE6ABQ	3-3888
Vice President:	Courtney Duncan, N5BF	4-8336	W6VIO Trustee:	Rob Smith, W6GRV	3-7937
Secretary:	Rob Smith, W6GRV	3-7937	W6JPL Trustee:	Eric Archer, N6CV	4-7350
Treasurer:	Chuck Sarture, KG6NF	4-2706	WR6JPL Trustee:	Jim Lux, W6RMK	4-2075
Director at Large:	Jim Marr, AA6QI	3-1528	WR6AZN Trustee:	Bill Wood, W6FXJ	760-256-9576

Upcoming Events:

- Every Monday: Emergency Communications Net: Noon, every Monday, on WR6JPL 224.08/(-)/156.7 & 445.20/(-)/103.5, or WR6AZN 223.96/(-)/156.7 on Table Mountain.
- JPLARC Board of Directors (BOD) meetings: Normally, the first working Friday, every month, from Noon to 1pm in 180-703C. Call-in: 818-354-3434 ID 7373. **Next is Feb 14th.**
- JPLARC Regular Membership meetings: Second working Friday every month from Noon to 1pm in 180-703C. Call-in: 818-354-3434 ID 7373. **Next is Jan 17th.**
- **QST, QST, QST: Regular Membership Meeting to be held Friday, Jan 17th at Noon in 180-703C (Telephone call-in: 818-354-3434 ID-7373). Install 2014 Officers. Guest speaker: Rob Smith W6GRV who will report on the results of the 2014 Field Day Survey and implications for 2014 Field Day preparations.**

In this issue:

This issue covers activities through early January 2014.

- Introducing JPLARC 2014 Officers.
- Bylaws updated.
- ARRL affiliation reinstated.
- Membership Cards for 2014
- Soliciting JPLARC committee members.
- How to sign up for the JPLARC email reflector.
- Future membership meetings & speaker topics.

Introduction to JPLARC's 2014 Officers:

By Jim Marr AA6QI

Last month's issue of W6VIO Calling reported the results of our 2014 Officer elections (see the 2014 officer listing below the header above). This article provides a brief introduction to each of your Club's new officers.

President: Steve Townes WB4ILW:

I got started in radio in the usual way--disassembling old radios and finally scraping together the money to buy a Knight-Kit Span Master regenerative shortwave radio in when I was in the sixth grade. I was originally licensed as WN4ILW in ~1968. My first rig was the Ameco AC-1 one-tube-wonder for 80/40m with a Heathkit Mohican portable SW receiver. I got my General and became WB4ILW in 1969. I currently hold an Advanced ticket.

Over the years, I've primarily been a low-key DXer with sporadic operation on SSB and CW. I have plans to get more involved in HF digital modes and am slowly gathering what I need for that.

I started at JPL in 1983 in what was then 331, Communications Systems Research. I left in 1986 to go to MITRE in Bedford, MA, but returned to JPL in 1992. I returned to 331 eventually to become Section Manager. Most recently I have been running the Communications Technologies and Standards Program in the Interplanetary Network Directorate (IND) and am

currently the IND Chief Technologist.

I live in La Canada with my wife and daughter who is a junior at the U of Oregon.

Vice President: Courtney Duncan N5BF:

What got me interested? The Magic of Wireless!

As a youth I tried two or three times to get into the hobby before meeting my Elmer, Phil Woodard W5KRZ. He became SK soon after I was on the air, but it was a wonderful experience to spend a fall and spring learning firsthand from one of the old timers.

I was first licensed as a novice (WN5GRZ) in 1972 and used a homebrew, crystal-controlled radio on 80, 40, and 15 meters. I had upgraded to Extra Class by the time I got out of high school in 1974. In the early years I was involved in NTS, emergency communications, and general QSOs of all types. I was always interested in adding new bands and modes by building or modifying equipment though this tendency was limited by lack of resources.

OSCAR-6 was launched in 1972 and I listened to it on 10 meters. Later, I was an AMSAT-NA official from 1988 - 1991. My current interests include space radio and whatever can be found at the next frontier, the next 20-30 dB into what is now our noise floor. To pursue this, I've built a software-defined radio, the DSP-10, and conduct experiments and develop hardware and software for it.

My current work at JPL includes: space radios, communication and navigation systems. I am a member of the JPL ARC - W6VIO, ARRL, AMSAT, and San Bernardino Microwave Society.

Secretary: Rob Smith W6GRV:

I grew up on a farm in the central valley, and planted out back was a homegrown 60-foot antenna tower. My father had welded the tower himself and put a 20 meter yagi on top of it, along with dipoles for 40 and 80 meters. On the barn stood a vertical for 40 meters. He taught me the Morse code, a bit about electronics, and how to operate. Before high school, I took the novice test and my station license was issued on the thirteenth day of second month of our country's bi-centennial year.

My first call was WN6JGY. On October 18, 1976, my call changed to WB6JGY, which I had until sometime in college. Hoping to receive a call that was a little shorter to send on CW, I requested a callsign change, and was issued N6JKQ. Around 1996, my father, W6GRV, dropped the last letter of his call under a program for those licensed more than 25 years and became W6GR. So when the FCC came out with the vanity callsign program, I applied for, and was issued, my father's old callsign, W6GRV.

In 1980, I spent a couple of months in the Dominican Republic doing volunteer work giving immunizations. I was our group's radio operator, relaying traffic (health & welfare type information) back to the states. This became more exciting when Hurricane Allen passed through our area. In 1981, I repeated this volunteer work in a remote part of Ecuador, near Esmeraldas, and was once again the radio operator for the group.

In the 1990's I participated in Los Angeles County DCS and was active relaying traffic on 2 meters. When Oscar 13 was operating, I enjoyed making contacts during their long openings to Europa and Asia.

I am currently active on HF, focusing on DX and contesting. I enjoy CW, RTTY, PSK, and SSB. I have been a JPL ARC member since the early 1990's and I have life memberships for ARRL, AMSAT, 10-X, and INDEXA. On twitter, I am active as @w6grv and frequently update my w6grv.com website, including streaming live video during some contests.

I am looking forward to the startup of the JPL Emergency Amateur Radio Service (JEARS), re-starting the club's participation in Field Day, and seeing the resurgence in our club.

Treasurer: Chuck Sarture KG6NF:

I've been a ham since 1984. I was aware of ham radio long before that but somehow never had enough exposure to reach critical mass. Shortly after I started at JPL in 1980, I took the novice class at JPL taught by Rick McKinney (KA6DAN/SK) and then took the novice test (licensed as KB6FKK) and joined the JPL Amateur Radio Club. I shared an office with Carl de Silveira for a about a year in the 83/84 timeframe and we studied together to upgrade and then took the general (N6LBY) and shortly after the advanced test (currently KG6NF). Other hams I knew at the time were Bob Bunker (W6MWP), my supervisor, Dennis Shebel (WB6IZR), and Jan Tarsala (WB6VRN), all at JPL. I didn't have an official Elmer, but all of those people encouraged me in the pursuit.

I've mostly operated on 220 over the years as well as 2m and 440. I've never operated on HF (embarrassed to admit). Shortly after I got my advanced ticket, Walt Diem (then WA6PEA, now SK) invited me to support the LA Marathon and I've been doing it every year since, with the exception of one year that I missed in the 1990's. I've also supported the Angeles Crest Century, Angeles Crest 100, and La Canada Invitation Bike Race a few times over the years. I've been to many field days over the years, mostly helping to put up and take down. I was also involved in the 220 SMA (ed.: that's the 220 MHz Spectrum Management Association for Southern California that coordinates 220 MHz repeater assignments) for a few years in the mid-2000's.

I am recently a renewed member of the ARRL (lapsed over the past 15 years). I would like to see the club stay on the air and keep up with the times. Digital modes that work well on low power would seem to have the best compatibility with JPL's location and current club resources. Remote HF capability would be good to have also.

I've been treasurer of the club since 1996 after taking it over from Jim Marr (AA6QI). The job became quite a bit easier after the disbanding of the JPL ERC, since an annual report is no longer required for obtaining the annual grant and the club's account is now at the Caltech/JPL Credit Union.

JPLARC Bylaws Updated

By Jim Marr AA6QI, Courtney Duncan N5BF, and Bob Dengler NO6B

Proposed revisions to the JPLARC Bylaws were discussed at the December 6th regular membership meeting. In attendance were: Jim Marr*, Courtney Duncan*, Jim Lux*, Bill Weber*, Chuck Sarture*, Rob Smith*, and Scott Howe (where the * indicates members of the 2013 BOD, with a quorum present). Following the discussion, it was moved and seconded that the BOD approve the proposed changes and that they be submitted to the voting membership per the existing Bylaws.

Secretary Courtney Duncan subsequently sent a request for a vote within 10 days to each of the 33 regular members in good standing (dues current). At the end of that period, there were 18 votes for approval and zero votes for rejection of the proposed Bylaws changes. Since the Bylaws require 2/3 of returned votes approving of the changes in order for them to become effective and we had 100% of returned votes in favor of the proposed changes, the proposed changes are approved and were signed by 2013 President Jim Marr and 2013 Secretary Courtney Duncan on January 3rd, 2014. After they were signed, they were posted to the JPLARC website (<http://jplarc.ampr.org>) right above the current officers listing.

Why change the Bylaws?:

A number of changes that affect the JPLARC Bylaws have occurred since the Bylaws were previously updated in February 1995.

- The JPL ERC was disbanded and new JPL Recreation Club Guidelines (hereafter, abbreviated JRCGs) were issued on 9/9/02 (these are now also badly out of date but are the only guidance that we have from JPL HR). See the JPL HR Recreation Clubs web page to obtain a copy of these JRCGs.

- Our membership categories don't match the JRCGs.

- JPL requires an annual signed liability waiver for all members but, after much discussion, Caltech's OGC agreed that this will apply only to JPLARC members who are not active employees or contractors since active employees are considered implicit members of JEARS.

- Direct financial support of recreation clubs is no longer provided by JPL (but Caltech will still issue insurance certificates for external club events that will provide protection for the owners of any facilities or sites used for such external events - obtained through JPL HR's Nancy Kapell).

- JPL is beginning a separate JPL Emergency Amateur Radio Service (JEARS) that will integrate JPLARC EmComm support into JPL's emergency response plan (see the August 2013 issue of W6VIO Calling for an introduction to JEARS by Will Michael KC6LOK).

- We now have four station Trustees instead of only one.

This Bylaw revision brings the JPLARC Bylaws into line with these changes.

Constitution vs. Bylaws:

Many clubs, especially those that have incorporated, have both a Constitution and Bylaws.

- A Constitution provides the overall operational structure and typically contains those things that will remain stable for a relatively long time.
- Bylaws contain things that are subject to periodic change (e.g., dues).

The current JPLARC Bylaws were written to be subordinate to the (now non-existent) JPL ERC Constitution.

Discussions with Caltech Office of General Council's (OGC's) Kerry Slater indicate that there apparently isn't a reason for the JPLARC to have a separate constitution since the JPLARC can't incorporate without losing all JPL sub-club benefits.

Therefore, we're sticking with Bylaws for now.

What are the specific Bylaws changes?:

Article I: The name of the club was changed from "The JPL Amateur Radio Club" to "The Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club" to be consistent with at least two of our four FCC licenses.

Article II, Section I: "object and purpose" changed to "aim and purpose" to be consistent with the title of the article.

Article III "Membership" has several changes to bring it up to date with the JRCGs. Figure-1 shows a membership category determination flow chart that reflects the changes to this Article.

- Section 2.b: Changed to exclude NASA employees or NASA retirees from being regular members, in accordance with the JRCGs (they're now associate members).

- Section 3.b: Changed to exclude family members from being associate members, in accordance with the JRCGs (they're now guest members but don't require JPLARC Board of Directors approval as other guest members do).

- Section 4.b: New section added to show that family members are now guest members in accordance with the JRCGs.

- Section 5.a: Added guest membership as one possible honorary member membership categories, depending upon whether or not the person is affiliated with JPL.

- Section 6.a: A new section requiring the annual liability waiver for non-active employees or contractors.

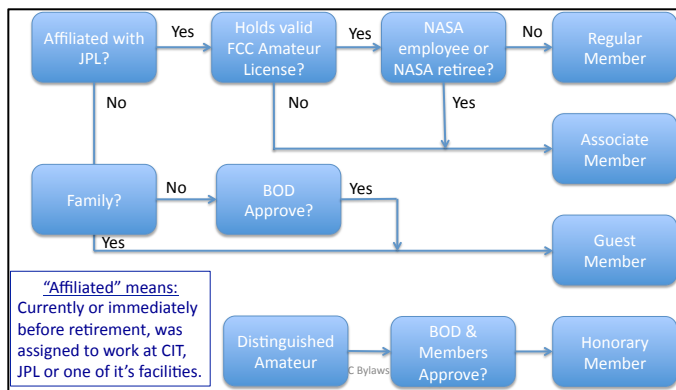


Figure 1: Flowchart for Membership Categories

Article V, Section 2: Changed to require that the Treasurer must be an active JPL employee as required by the JRCGs due to the interest free Caltech Credit Union account provided for the club.

Article V, Section 4: Modified to add the words about Trustee responsibilities that were removed from Article VI, Section 2.b due to the removal of the Trustees from the Board of Directors. The text moved reads: "The Trustees shall hold FCC licenses for the club, supervise the operations of their assigned station or repeater and be custodian of club equipment and associated property involved."

Article V, Section 7: Added Internet Services and Field Day committees as two additional standing club committees.

Article VI, Section 1.c and 1.d: Gave the Secretary and Treasurer the authority to act as and with full authority of the President should a more senior officer be absent, with seniority being P, then VP, then Sec, then T. This ensures that any elected club officer has sufficient authority to keep the club going (e.g., appoint

replacement officers) should more senior officers not be able to continue their duties.

Article VI, Section 1.d: Modified to add the duty of the Treasurer to maintain records of the club's annual budget and annual equipment inventory.

Article VI, Section 2.b: Removed the Trustees from being members of the Board of Directors, this being the preferred option from a number of options discussed with the Board and membership regarding how to deal with the increased number of Trustees.

Article VI, Section 2.b (old Section 2.c): Added an Emergency Communications Manager responsibility to serve as the primary liaison between the JPLARC and the new JPL Emergency Amateur Radio Service (JEARS).

Article VII, Section 6.d: Added the requirement that proposals for disposition of club equipment be presented by the Board to the membership and requires approval by a majority of voting members. This becomes the fourth item requiring presentation to the membership by the Board, the other three being: the annual budget, nominations for honorary membership, and requests for expenditures in excess of 15% of the approved annual budget (which is every request if there isn't an approved annual budget!).

Article IX, Section 4: Deleted the requirement that Bylaws changes be approved by the ERC Council (since there is no ERC Council any longer).

Article X, Section 1: Modified to replace the old ERC "Procedures for Subclubs" with the "JPL Recreation Club Guidelines" maintained by JPL's Human Resources (currently HR's Nancy Kapell).

Certifications: Signed by 2013 President Jim Marr AA6QI and 2013 Secretary Courtney Duncan N5BF.

Remaining Bylaws issues:

There are a couple of issues that we chose not to deal with in the current revision.

First, the JRCGs require clubs to operate on the JPL fiscal year, which probably made sense when JPL was providing funds to recreation clubs. We never changed from our calendar year schedule even when the JRCGs first came out. We chose to stay on our calendar year since there doesn't seem to be anything that would tie us to a JPL fiscal year or even to make it advantageous to do so.

Second, JPL has aligned itself with NASA policy regarding lab access to retirees that substantially impacts the ability of retirees to serve as officers even though our Bylaws allows this for all except the Treasurer (who must be an active JPL employee). After retirement, retirees are issued a badge with smartcard that expires on the same date as when the person was still an active

employee. This smartcard badge allows the retiree access to public areas of the Lab. After the smartcard expires, a new retiree badge is issued that results in the retiree basically being considered a normal JPLARC visitor, requiring pre-approval and an escort for all lab access. As long as we don't have retirees who get elected as officers, this won't impact us, so we chose to kick the can down the road and left retirees eligible to hold office.

JPLARC ARRL Affiliation Reinstated

By Jim Marr AA6QI

The JPLARC has been an ARRL Affiliated club since September 1970 (once affiliated, always affiliated) but has not been on the list of active affiliated clubs for some time, because this requires an annual update of the club's information on the ARRL Affiliated club site that hadn't been done in a while.

Becoming or remaining an ARRL Affiliated club requires that at least 51% of the club's voting members be ARRL members. As of the end of 2013, 59% of JPLARC voting members were also ARRL members, with 8 out of the 20 ARRL voting members being ARRL Life members).

Since we met the ARRL voting member percentage requirement, ARRL records were updated in late December and a new Affiliation Certificate issued to the club (Figure-2).

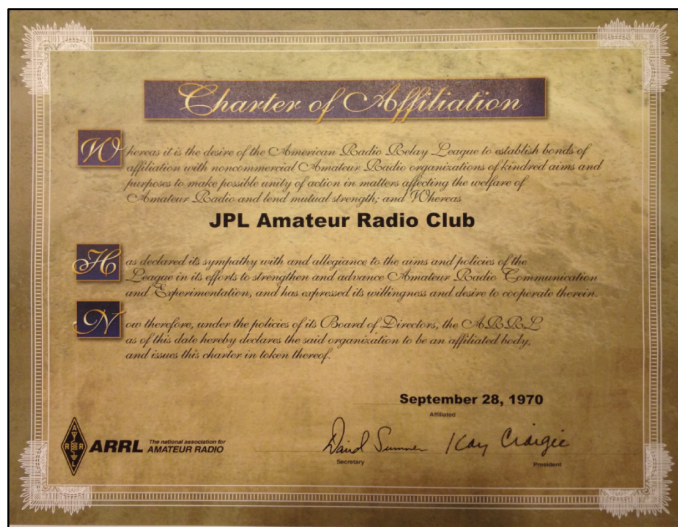


Figure 2: JPLARC ARRL Charter of Affiliation

Why does ARRL Affiliation matter to the club? There are at least two reasons.

First, if ARRL members renew their memberships through the JPLARC, the club retains \$2.00 of their ARRL dues, or if a non-ARRL member joins ARRL through the club, the club retains \$15.00 of the new

member's ARRL dues. To take advantage of this, club members beginning or renewing their ARRL membership need to submit to the JPLARC Secretary or Treasurer the ARRL affiliated club membership application form (Figure-3) that can be obtained directly from the ARRL web site at [ARRL Affiliated Club Member Application Form](http://www.arrl.org/MemberApplicationForm) and that will soon also be attached to the JPLARC membership application form.

Second, active affiliated clubs are listed in the ARRL club directory so that others are aware of the club's existence and have Club contact information.

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years
Regular	\$39	\$76	\$111
Blind	\$8	\$16	\$24
Family	\$8	\$16	\$24

Figure 3: ARRL Membership Application form for members of Affiliated Clubs

Why would you, an individual ham, want to join ARRL? There are many reasons, of which I'll name a few. First, ARRL is the most significant organization in the U.S. that advocates for radio amateurs with those organizations that allocate spectrum - this organization needs your support to ensure continued access to that spectrum - at a cost of only 11 cents/day. Second, the subscription to the QST magazine that keeps you abreast of what's happening both technically and politically. Third, access to a ham radio email forwarding service with address "your.call at arrl.net". Fourth, access to

Logbook of the World (LoTW) for collecting and confirming contacts for DX'ing or contesting. And many more. In my opinion, ARRL membership is one of the essentials for all licensed radio amateurs.

If you are thinking of joining ARRL or renewing your membership, please consider helping your club by renewing through the JPLARC. The club benefits and it doesn't cost you anything more than if you join or renew directly with ARRL. Thanks in advance.

2014 Membership Cards:

By Jim Marr AA6QI

Rob Smith will be issuing 2014 JPLARC Membership Cards for those who have paid their 2014 dues. Recall that Bill Weber N6CI negotiated a 5% discount on "some accessories" with Burbank HRO store that requires that you present a membership card and a copy of W6VIO Calling showing the HRO add (see below). Per the JPLARC Bylaws, dues should be paid by January 31st each year.

Soliciting JPLARC Committee Members:

By Jim Marr AA6QI

Like all clubs, the JPLARC relies upon the efforts of a number of committees to handle various aspects of the club's operations. They are an easy way to begin to get involved in something that interests you without having to jump right into an elected position.

Our Bylaws (new version) identify seven standing committees and there are at least six other committees that operate periodically. Plus, if you don't like one of these, create your own to work on something that interests you (e.g., satellite, 10GHz, special projects, or you name it) and have some fun working with other Club members.

The seven standing committees listed in the Bylaws are: Education; Publicity; Repeater; Station Facility; Emergency Communications; Internet Services; and Field Day. Other committees are: Club bulletin (i.e., W6VIO Calling); Meeting programs; Public/special events; Refreshments; Historian; Holiday banquet. We currently especially need help with Internet Services.

Please consider volunteering your support to one or more of these committees (or another of your choosing). Just let any club officer know of your interest and they'll get you in touch with others interested in that committee. Thanks in advance.

How to sign up for the JPLARC email reflector:

By Jim Marr AA6QI

The JPLARC maintains an email reflector (also called an email exploder) that allows members to post questions or comments that will reach the entire JPLARC membership. Only subscribed members can post to this reflector, avoiding spam from non-members. Sign up using the form located at <http://wr6jpl.ampr.org/mailman/listinfo.cgi/jplarc>.

Future Meetings

By Jim Marr AA6QI

All JPLARC meetings are being held on non-RDO Friday's from Noon to 1 PM in 180-703C for the time being. Call in is via MeetingPlace 818-343-3434 with ID 7373. Slides will be broadcast via <http://meetingplace.jpl.nasa.gov> also with ID 7373.

Jan 17th, 2014:

- JPLARC 2014 Officers will be installed.
- Rob Smith will discuss the results of his Field Day survey and implications for 2014 Field Day preparation.

Do you have gear for sale or that you're looking for?

By Jim Marr AA6QI

If you have gear that you would like to sell or are looking for a piece of gear, why not list it in the next issue of W6VIO Calling? The listing is free and reaches a significant number of local hams with whom you can buy, sell, or trade with without incurring shipping obligations. Just send your add to me (Jim Marr at 180-704) and I'll see that it gets into the next issue.

Advertisements:



<http://www.hamradio.com>

The Burbank HRO store is offering a 5% discount on ham radio "accessories" to JPLARC members, upon presentation of a valid JPLARC membership card.