

W6VIO Calling



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

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President:	Stephen Townes, WB4ILW	4-7525	EmComm. Mgr:	Christopher Carson, KE6ABQ	3-3888
Vice President:	Chuck Baker, WB6CWI	4-6816	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, 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: 818-354-4044 ID 992 285 811. **Next is March 13th.**
- **QST, QST, QST**: JPLARC Regular Membership meetings: Second working Friday every month from Noon to 1pm in 180-703C. Call-in: 818-354-4044 Meeting Number: 992 285 811 (without the spaces). Slides (if any) broadcast via JPL WebEx. **Next is February 27th. Guest speaker: Andy Klesh KD0DLH, Scott Tripp KD8IPK and Matt Bennett KF6RTB will give a talk on "Cubsat Communications using the building 125 cubesat station".**

In this issue:

Topics in this issue:

- Introducing our new club VP.
- Regular meeting Jan 16, 2015
- BOD meetings: Jan 30 & Feb 13.
- Membership: Time to renew for 2015.
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Introducing our new VP

By Chuck Baker WB6CWI

My father is a life long amateur radio operator and got me interested in the craft when I was in high school. I received a novice license (when this type of license was available) in Michigan in 1978. That means I've been licensed for 37 years.

My first radio was a Realistic HTX-202 2 Meter HT and my call sign was KA8RUC.

My father ran the Wyandotte, Michigan repeater through the 1980s and I would often spend time with him to help him with the logistics of running a ham radio repeater when I was home on leave from the Navy

during that time.

While stationed at the Sub Base in Groton, CT, I was a member of the base's club station, K1SSN.

When the submarine I was assigned to changed home ports to the west coast in 1984, I joined the radio club in San Diego (specifically, the Point Loma station KA4JSR), and changed my call sign to KA6LMB. Sometime along the way, my novice license was upgraded to technician.

In a gesture of honor to my father's time as a ham operator, I changed my call sign to match his with the exception of the region number. My father's call sign was WB8CWI. I changed mine to WB6CWI.

My father took ill from the effects of a stroke in 2008, so he no longer practices the craft and his license expired.

It is my hope that I can actively support the president, Steve Townes in his duties and affairs of the club. In addition, I hope to facilitate greater activity exchange between other radio club organizations, like leading exciting public events such as communicating with the ISS.

I currently own a Yaesu FT-2900R VHF Mobile 75 W Two Way that I use in my SUV. I also own a Kenwood TM-471A UHF Two Way Radio Transceiver Car Mobile Radio 400-480MHz. I recently sold a Yaesu VX-8DR APRS®/GPS/Bluetooth® Handheld Transceiver that I plan to replace with a new one. I'm also looking for a

nice HF transceiver because I'm interested in getting back into code again (I have my original code paddles from 30 years ago).

Regular Meeting Jan 16th

By Jim Marr AA6QI

Present were: Charles Baker†* WB6CWI, Walt Ciszczon† KK6DUL, Kate Hutton K6HTN, Dayton Jones K6DJ, Mark Lysek AG6TD, Steve Noland† WA6KLC, Nasrat Raouf K1NAR, Len Reder† KB6DVG, David Seidel KC6NRL, Rob Smith†* W6GRV, Steve Townes†* WB4ILW, Bill Weber† N6CI, Charles White (USAR).

Note: † indicates a 2015 regular member (i.e., 2015 dues paid), and * Indicates BOD member. For a regular meeting quorum, the JPLARC Bylaws require a majority of the BOD (four or more) and at least five other regular members. We had three BOD members, four other regular members and six non-members, so a quorum was not present.

Steve Townes reminded those in attendance that 2015 annual membership dues are now payable (per Bylaws, they are to be paid by January 30th).



Figure 1: Caltech's Dr. Kate Hutton K6HTN giving her talk "What Else is Shaking"

Steve then introduced guest speaker Dr. Kate Hutton K6HTN [Figure-1] from Caltech's Seismological Laboratory and the ARRL LAX Section Traffic Manager, gave an outstanding talk titled: "What Else is Shaking". This talk consisted of a 55-slide presentation and a simulation video that took up the remainder the meeting.

Kate began by introducing the Great Southern California ShakeOut exercise, including it's scope and objectives. This exercise is put on by the Earthquake Country Alliance, a coalition of earthquake professionals and is aimed at producing a significant increase in earthquake readiness at all levels.

Kate then discussed the geodynamics along the western portion of North America, including fault layout, time evolution, elastic rebound theory, measuring earthquakes (magnitude analogous to signal strength), what kinds of things affect the severity of earthquake damage, where & how strong the next "big one" is likely to be, severity of damage by structure type, impacts to southern CA lifelines (power, water, railroads, roads, gas & oil pipelines), soil liquefaction, background for how the ShakeOut scenario was chosen, effects of the ShakeOut exercise on the purchase of safety items (measured through Home Depot sales records), the network of 400" seismic sensors throughout southern CA that might give early warning, how might that early warning be used, and more.

In case you missed the talk, a .pdf copy of Kate's talk and a .mov file for the southern CA earthquake simulation are available from either Steve Townes or Jim Marr.

Board Meeting Jan 30th

By Rob Smith W6GRV

Present were: Chuck Baker†* WB6CWI, Jim Marr†* AA6QI, Steve Townes†* WB4ILW. On the phone: Chris Carson†* KE6ABQ, Walt Mushagian K6DNS, and Rob Smith†* W6GRV.

Note: † indicates a 2015 regular member (i.e., 2015 dues paid), and * indicates Board member. For a Board meeting quorum, the JPLARC Bylaws require a majority of the Board (four or more). We had five Board members so we did have a quorum.

It was noted that this was the January Board meeting since January 2nd, the first working Friday of the month when the Board meeting would normally be held, was a holiday and January this year has three working Friday's.

Secretary's Report: Rob Smith agreed to send out the 2015 proposed budget to 2015 paid members next week for general membership approval.

Rob asked whether the Board wanted to issue membership cards to 2015 members and the Board voted to do so. Rob agreed to set up a meeting to get cards into envelopes for mailing.

Field Day (FD) 2015 was briefly discussed. Initial plan is to do something similar to what we did last year (joint with the PRC and CITARC at the Art Center).

New Shack: Chris gave a short update on the status of the new shack. The site has been cleared. Still need to pour a concrete pad. There is an electrical feed on the north side of the wall.

JEARS/EmComm: Steve Townes and Chuck Baker agreed that one of the two of them would serve as the single point of contact for Will Michael (JEARS lead) for a once-a-week check in and when Will needs something from the Club. Steve will introduce Chuck to Will.

Repeaters: Nothing new from Will Michael yet regarding the potential to move the 224.08 & 445.20 repeaters to

Mirador Peak. Recently the club was asked whether we had or planned to have a 6m repeater on our coordinated frequency. The club currently does not have a 6m repeater. If the club is not going to use the 6m frequency coordination then we should relinquish it for those who will. Steve Townes agreed to talk with Jan Tarsala WB6VRN to see if he has any plans for this frequency.

310 HF Noise: Jim reported that there hasn't been any progress on the building 310 HF noise on 40m & 80m.

Web/IT Infra Structure: There was a brief discussion about what to do with the aging computers in 180-R6. Bob Dengler still would like to port the IRLP/Echolink functions to a Raspberry Pi single board computer. Regarding the email reflector, Yahoo could be an option but there may be a monthly cost for this and there may be issues with the JPLARC not being a legal entity. Rather than any of these options, the club could just purchase a new computer to host all of these functions. This is a longstanding issue that needs a leader to get this going.

Board Meeting Feb 13th

By Rob Smith W6GRV

Present were: Bob Dengler NO6B, Jim Marr[†]* AA6QI, Chuck Sarture[†]* KG6NF, Len Reder[†] KB6DVG, Rob Smith[†]* W6GRV, Steve Townes[†]* WB4ILW. On the phone: Chris Carson[†]* KE6ABQ, and Walt Mushagian K6DNS.

Note: † indicates a 2015 regular member (i.e., 2015 dues paid), and * indicates BOD member. For a BOD meeting quorum, the JPLARC Bylaws require a majority of the BOD (four or more). We had five BOD members so we DID have a quorum.

Treasurer's Report (Chuck Sarture): Need to update the signature cards for the Caltech Credit Union club account. Chuck will work this with the 2015 club officers. January 2015 Treasurer's accounting:
 - Beginning Balance: \$4,072.19
 - Deposits: \$275.00 for 2015 membership dues.
 - No withdrawals.
 - Ending Balance: \$4,347.19.

Secretary's Report (Rob Smith): We have 26 paid members so far for 2015. The proposed 2015 Budget was sent out for voting by current 2015 voting members: 14 approved, 1 disapproved (without explanation), and 11 abstained (without explanation). Therefore, the proposed 2015 budget was approved by the membership [Figure-2].

Upcoming Regular Membership Meeting Talks:

February: Scott Tripp is confirmed for the JPL CubeSat station talk. Haven't yet confirmed that Courtney Duncan can still give his March talk, but will do so. We currently don't have an April speaker and we need to choose which of Marty Woll's talks we would like to hear in May. Steve Townes thought that we could fill the April slot with other business rather than a guest speaker (Steve Noland suggested that a great topic for the April meeting might be

an HT workshop to address some of the issues from last October's Great ShakeOut exercise).

Category	Item	Budget Amount
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses		
	Membership Card printing	\$ 20.00
	La Canada Post Office Box	\$ 58.00
Equipment Maintenance & Repair		
	Antenna maintenance & repair	\$ 300.00
	HF radio maintenance & repair	\$ 100.00
	VHF/UHF radio maintenance & repair	\$ 100.00
	Repeater maintenance & repair	\$ 300.00
	Test equipment maintenance & repair	\$ 50.00
	Digital mode emergency communication equipment	\$ 300.00
	Other	\$ 100.00
Field Day (assume we do a joint event at the Art Center with the PRC again in 2015)		
	Porta Potty Rental (4 days @ WAG of \$20/day)	\$ -
	Permit(s) (assume none or no charge)	\$ -
	Generator oil and gasoline WAG	\$ 50.00
	Tent rental WAG	\$ 100.00
	Food (assume potluck or contributions cover it)	\$ -
	Cooking facilities (assume use donated by participants)	\$ -
	Antenna materials (wire, guys, stakes, etc.)	\$ 100.00
	Truck rental for transportation of equipment (JPL provides?)	\$ -
	CW decoder with video display for visitors	\$ 100.00
	Logging Software	\$ 50.00
	Logging Computer	\$ 300.00
Internet Services		
	Hardware (CPU, Display, B/U services, cables, etc.) WAG	\$ 1,000.00
	Software (linux, web maintenance, etc.) WAG	\$ 200.00
Equipment Acquisition:		
	Repeater (to improve WR6JPL coverage) WAG	\$ 500.00
	HF station remote control hardware WAG (deferred)	\$ -
	Total:	\$ 3,350.00

Figure 2: JPLARC 2015 Annual Expenses approved by voting membership

Web/IT Infra Structure: Need to investigate whether any alternatives to our current structure are viable (Google/Yahoo). Do we need to comply with JPL's IT/Network Security requirements & if so, who does this? We want to keep the internet connection that we now have (outside of the JPL firewall) which seems to continue to be supported by JPL IT (network card in 180 replaced when it failed late last year) but we need others trained I accessing and using it.

New Shack: No new news. Chris Carson said that his understanding was that the new shack will be placed on the pad that was for building 143 but environmental has to approve (check for soil contamination) before it can be set up.

JEARS/EmComm: A number of items need to be discussed with Will Michael: 310-106, Comm Van, Mirador, and status of JEARS.

Field Day (FD) 2015: Need to identify a lead for this year's FD activity. We have some willing help but we need someone to lead the effort. Any volunteers?

W6VIO Calling Editorship: The current editor (Jim Marr) will be retiring from JPL on May 1st. The April issue will be the 25th consecutive issue (2 years & 1 month) of the club newsletter. Need to transition this responsibility to another individual in the club. It would be best to have the

individual be someone who is on lab and has access to the hardware and meetings.

Committees: Last year's committee leadership and membership was discussed, as were likely changes to last year's lineup. We still need volunteers from the membership for all of the committees.

Time to Renew for 2015

By Jim Marr AA6QI

The JPLARC Bylaws (<http://jplarc.ampr.org/Bylaws-2014.pdf>) specifies annual membership renewals are due by the end of January each year.

Membership renewal consists of filling in the membership application form (<http://jplarc.ampr.org/applic.pdf>) and submitting the form along with your annual dues to our Club Secretary, Rob Smith W6GRV.

Note that the Board voted to increase the annual dues to \$20 for members but left family members at \$5 as before. This is the first dues increase since January 1991.

Recall that the liability waiver on the back of the membership application form does NOT need to be signed by active JPL or JPL Contractor employees. All others need to sign the waiver.

Also recall that newly licensed members do not pay dues for the first year of club membership (we had three newly licensed members join last November).

2015 Committees?

By Jim Marr AA6QI

Operation of the Club depends upon the active workings of a number of committees. Committee chairs are appointed by the President. Club members interested in those committees volunteer to participate (just let any Board member or any member of that committee know that you'd like to participate).

Last month, I listed and thanked the 2014 committee participants whose efforts kept the club going during the year.

Now it is time to staff our committees for 2015. While some prior members may continue to volunteer, it is always better when new committee members bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the committees. Please consider volunteering.

Committees include:

Repeater Committee. Operates, maintains and improves the club's many VHF/UHF repeaters, with some exciting developments coming in 2015.

EmComm/JEARS Committee. Works with JPL emergency operations to provide support to JPL during emergencies. Includes organizing participation in the annual Great ShakeOut exercise in October.

Station Facility Committee. Maintains and improves the

club's four operating stations and antennas. The big news in 2015 will be the move of the main shack (building 173) to its new location where buildings 87 & 88 were (now completely demolished) and restoration of feed lines to our antenna farm on the JPL Mesa.

Field Day Committee. It is already time to begin planning our 2015 ARRL June Field Day participation. This committee will lead those activities. Last year's field day committee chairman won't be able to serve as chair this year, so this is your chance to make field day what you would like it to be.

Publicity/Membership Committee: Maintains membership records, advertises activities and special events, and coordinates with other area amateur radio clubs.

Internet Services Committee: Operates, maintains and improves the JPLARC internet-based services, including our web site, email exploder, and ARRL affiliated club web presence.

Club Bulletin: Prepares and publishes the monthly JPLARC club bulletin: W6VIO Calling. If you would like to serve as either an editor or contributor to the monthly club bulletin, now's your chance. I have edited the bulletin for two years now but will be retiring from JPL this year and will very likely not be able to continue as editor, so now's your chance to make the bulletin what you'd like it to be.

Meeting Program Committee: Arranges for interesting guest speakers at the monthly regular membership meetings.

Nominating Committee: Recruits the slate of officers for the next calendar year (starts activities in October).

Education Committee: Provides training for the use of club facilities and license upgrades.

Public/Special Events Committee: Arranges for special operating events (e.g., commemorative operating events like landings, launches, flybys, etc.). We should be able to begin doing these again once our feedlines to the Mesa antenna farm are restored.

Refreshments Committee: While we list this committee, it did not operate in 2013 or 2014 and may not operate in 2015 unless someone is interested in doing it.

Holiday Banquet Committee: We haven't had a December holiday banquet for the past couple of years. These used to be held at a local restaurant and were a lot of fun. It would be good to get these going again.

Historian: Bill Wood W6FXJ (retired member) has been implicitly serving as the club historian but has indicated a desire to pass this on to someone new.

ARRL Membership:

By Jim Marr AA6QI

As an ARRL affiliated club, at least 51% of our membership must be ARRL members. Today, we have 75% as either Life (8) or Regular (32) ARRL members.

That leaves thirteen 2014 members who are not ARRL members (a few of which are family members of ARRL members). While there are no requirements to maintain ARRL membership, there are some clear advantages to having ARRL membership. Some of these are:

- Receiving the monthly QST magazine and having access to all back issues electronically.
- Being able to subscribe to weekly ARRL news, propagation forecasts, and satellite ephemeris notifications.
- Being able to subscribe to the electronic monthly Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) newsletter that may be of interest to members who wish to stay current on emergency communications.
- Member discounts on materials and training. For example, the ARRL Introduction to Emergency Communication Course is \$85 for non-members but only \$50 for members.
- You support ARRL, the only significant amateur radio advocacy organization in the U.S. that is fighting to protect our access to the airwaves.

Should those of you who are not already members and may wish to join, please do so through the Club rather than joining directly through ARRL. Why? If you join through the Club (new members), the Club retains \$15 of your membership fee to support Club activities. From your point of view, the amount you pay is the same either way. Even if you are a member who is just renewing, doing so through the Club nets the Club \$2, again without changing your costs at all.

To renew through the Club, see Jim Marr who will help you with the paperwork (don't worry, it's really simple!).

Thanks in advance for considering joining ARRL or for maintaining your membership.

Equipment For Sale

By Jim Marr AA6QI

The sale of the following items of surplus JPLARC equipment was approved by the quorum present at the October 24th regular membership meeting. Please make or send your best offers to Jim Marr or Chuck Sarture at JPL. All equipment is sold as-is with a receipt from the JPLARC.

- ICOM IC-27H 25W 2m FM transceiver, asking \$60.
- ICOM IC-281H 50W 2m FM transceiver with 70cm receive, asking \$80.
- Kenwood TR-9130 all-mode 25W 2m transceiver, asking \$100.
- ICOM IC-471A 1W to 25W 70cm all-mode transceiver with external PS-30 power supply, asking \$200.

- ICOM IC-471H 10W to 75W 70cm all-mode transceiver with internal power supply, asking \$250.

- ICOM AG-35 70cm mast mounted preamp, asking \$20.

- Packet Station consisting of an MFJ-8621A 2m Data Radio with crystals for 145.01 & 145.09, and an AEA PK-232 MBX TNX, asking \$30 for the pair.

- RS232 to RS422 level converter, EASY model IC456A-R2, asking \$5.

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. Upcoming talks (subject to change, as always):

March 27th: Courtney Duncan N5BF will give a talk "Bicycle commute using APRS."

April 24th: TBD.

May 22nd: Marty Woll N6VI, ARRL Deputy Division Director, topic still TBD (somewhat our choice from topics on Marty's web site <http://n6vi.com>).

Candidate topics for the rest of the year include (although not all speakers are confirmed yet and always subject to change):

June 19th: Contest software, rig connectivity, computer logging/ADIF/LotW/eQSL (options & how), speaker TBD.

July 17th: DX for the Beginner, Vaughn Cable K6ZTA

August 28th: Digital communications (RTTY, PSK31, JT-9, JT-65, & others), speaker TBD.

September 25th: JEARS progress update, Will Michael KC6LOK.

October 23rd: Amateur Satellite Communications for the beginner (focus on how to get started), speaker TBD.

November 20th: HRO Burbank - gear demo, HRO's Eric Christensen K6EJC.

Advertisements:



<http://www.hamradio.com>

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