

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 January 30th (due to Jan 2nd being a holiday).**
- **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. Slides (if any) broadcast via JPL WebEx. **Next is January 16th. Guest speaker: Caltech's Kate Hutton, K6HTN, Caltech Staff Seismologist will give a talk about earthquakes and ham radio, titled "What Else is Shaking?" Have lunch with Kate in the 167 Caf after the meeting!**

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President's Message:

By Steve Townes WB6ILW

Happy New Year (or HNY for the cw folks)! I am looking forward to a very exciting 2015.

On a personal note, I was looking back in my log and it's been about a year since I really became active in ham radio again. It's been a great year and I've enjoyed working DX and many of the ARRL Centennial stations that have been on the air. I have been surprised at how well I can do on SSB with 100 W and a vertical. The JPLARC has been an important part of this "rebirth". I have thoroughly enjoyed the interaction with everyone. We had a great slate of talks in the general meetings which has provided windows into many aspects of the hobby with which I have not been involved – and it's always fun to learn something

new. With the Club, I participated in my first field day in over 20 years. The Great ShakeOut was a fascinating experience because I have not done any EmComm before and I learned a lot about emergency handling at JPL.

2015 is shaping up to be another great year for the JPLARC. We have a great lineup of talks, kicking off with Kate Hutton, K6HTN, and a discussion of earthquakes and ham radio on January 16. We will continue to develop our JEARS capabilities and again participate in the Great ShakeOut. I look forward to another fun Field Day. We have a lot of work ahead of us in getting our new Shack in place and outfitted, and moving out of building 173. This will be an involved, time consuming project and we will need everyone's help.

Thanks to all of our newly elected 2015 officers and the committee chairs and committee members who really help make the Club work. However, this is really about all of the membership and so I encourage everyone to at least come to our General Meetings and to interact with our speakers who have graciously donated their time. (It is embarrassing to have them show up to an empty room.) Come to our Board Meetings and participate as we chart the course of the Club – you can have an effect. Join a committee or come help out with our work parties – which will likely increase in

frequency as we get into the Shack move. I look forward to seeing you in 2015 and thanks for your support.

Treasurer's Reports

By Chuck Sarture KG6NF

November 2014:

Beginning Balance: \$ 3,990.19
 Deposits: + \$ 20.00 - 2014 Membership Dues
 + \$ 17.00 - ARRL club commissions
 Withdrawals: - \$ 0.00 - no activity
 Ending Balance: \$ 4,027.19

December 2014:

Beginning Balance: \$ 4,027.19
 Deposits: + \$ 45.00 - ARRL club commissions
 Withdrawals: - \$ 0.00 - no activity
 Ending Balance: \$ 4,072.19

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 or 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):

February 27th: Andy Klesh KD0DLH, Scott Tripp KD8IPK and Matt Bennett KF6RTB will give a talk on "Cubsat Communications using the building 125 cubesat station".

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 (FT-991?), HRO's Eric Christensen K6EJC.