

W6VIO Calling



Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 820, La Canada CA 91012-0820

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April 2007

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Contents

Meeting Notice	1
Break – Break	1
Calendar of Events	1
Club Meeting	3
Club Participation	3
Shack Status	4
25 Years Ago in W6VIO Calling	4
Treasurer's Reports	5
2006 Field Day Scrap Book	5

Meeting Notice

By Jim McDuffie, K6JLM

The next regular JPL Amateur Radio Club meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 11th, at noon in building 238, room 543. The topics of the meeting will be JPL Open House, Field Day, JPL Rose Parade Float and suggestions for radio related presentations. Volunteers are needed for all of the aforementioned topics. A report on the recent cleanup of the old ham shack will be given by those involved.

Club Board of Directors meetings are held at noon on the fourth Wednesday of each month in 161-230. All are welcome at both meetings and feel free to bring your lunch. ■

Break - Break

By Mark Schaefer, WB6CIA

Election 2007

Elections were held for Club Officers at the March General Meeting on March 14th in 238-543. The usual time and place for General Meetings for the last 30 years. Please welcome this year's slate:

President: Mark Schaefer WB6CIA
Vice President: James McDuffie K6JLM
Treasurer: Chuck Sarture KG6NF
Secretary: Chris Page KI6EWM
Trustees: Bob Smith, Eric Archer, Randy Hammock, Bill Wood, all continuing

Calendar of Events

April 11	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
April 14	[IEARC Swap Meet, Cable Airport, Upland, 7 AM]
April 25	Board Meeting, Noon - 161-230
April 28	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]
May 9	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
May 12	[IEARC Swap Meet, Cable Airport, Upland, 7 AM]
May 19 – 20	JPL Open House
May 23	Board Meeting, Noon - 161-230
May 26	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]
June 9	[IEARC Swap Meet, Cable Airport, Upland, 7 AM]
June 13	General Meeting, Noon - 238-543
June 22 – 24	Field Day, Mt Gleason
June 27	Board Meeting, Noon - 161-230
June 30	[TRW Swap meet, Redondo Beach]

Thanks to Chris Carson who is promoted to Board Member at Large and Emergency Coordinator. After 2 years as President and 2 years as Vice President we owe Chris a debt of gratitude for maintaining the Club structure and our emergency preparedness.

Thanks to Jim Lux who is promoted from Board Member at Large to just member or just board. After 2 years as Board Member at Large and 2 as President he is still stuck with me for an office mate.

During the meeting the floor was open to nominations and closed with only one nominee per office so a Ballot vote was not required. The slate was voted with a quorum of officers present (a first in years) and was elected by the 10 members present and Mike Tope via Telephone with one nay sayer.

There's always one person ranting and raving on how the incoming president did not show up for several meetings last year and arrived late for the rest and has shown little time spent on the other club activities required to keep this club as viable as it should be. Unfortunately nobody listens to me and elected me president anyway.

Club Charter

Unlike many clubs, the JPL-ARC is responsible for enhancing emergency communications of a NASA Facility, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. We not only provide a secondary path of communications to other NASA Centers in times of emergency but to the local community as well. There are many other reasons for the club to exist but these needs can be provided by other clubs of the communities with which we reside.

The HF Stations and SHARES, Repeaters and Weekly NET, Field Day, EC rehearsals, even Open House activities are important, not just for ourselves and our hobby, but for our Nation, NASA, and our local area. With demands being what they are on our time, we all know that the Radio Club can be considered down in the mud when it comes to priorities.

Never the less as FCC licensed Radio Operators it is our duty when our talents are called upon, to use all our knowledge and experience to provide our unique service for all mankind. *In other words if you could spare a few hours or more sometime this year in participating in a club activity, not only will you make it easier for the rest of us, but I'm sure you will enjoy the time spent as well.* TNX

By-Laws

Last updated in February 1995, they seem up to date and pertinent whether the FCC or NASA requires them or not.

Web Site

The Club Email List was not found. Randy and Scott - Can we sync up the new paid members to be included in the exploder and the Email list in general? Send me a copy thanks

Exploder

Recently the Exploder has taken up some of the work performed by the Newsletter and even Club Meetings. The Exploder is faster, available anywhere, and more interactive. It never gets the words mixed up, just your meaning (see this message). Many in the club probably converse more on the exploder than on the air. It's not the same as the social interaction we get live, and is part of the reason we became Hams. I think we have hammered out a lot of issues with our discussions over the exploder so let's back it up with some hands on work and prevent carpal tunnel.

VIO Calling

Our last issue was June 2004 but there are records on the Website go as far back as 1971. You may recognize some of the names from back in 71 (did Merv ever get his KWM2 supply?). What the Newsletter provides that the Exploder does not is a snapshot of the Club that anyone not on the email list can read. People all over the world know about W6VIO but with VIO Calling they can know a little about us (yikes). It is our historical record thanks to editors like Bill Wood, Eileen McKinney, Stan Sander, Jim Lumsden, Merv MacMedan, Stan Hench, and all the others who wrote in. If ever you have even a few sentence or a few paragraphs of comments or info, it would be worth adding to a newsletter. We can let Bill Wood decide when he has enough for an issue so send your inputs to bill-wood@san.rr.com today!

Open House

Last Year's Open House was loads of fun. We had a portable solar powered VHF/UHF Station, HF Station with a Long Wire Antenna, Handhelds, a Code Oscillator, and Flyers. Most importantly we had 4 volunteers. JBZ, EJJ, ABQ, CIA. We handed out a large number of QSLs to kids scrambling at the chance to send their name in Morse Code.

Plenty of inquiring minds, and even some old friends, dropped by. This year the JPLARC will again be displaying the joys of Ham Radio. We can easily do a better job this year with the following additions. A huge banner for our club (could cost >\$100). More volunteers! We had just enough volunteers last year but if one of us had something unexpected come up, we'd be stuck with an unmanned (unpersoned?) booth with thousands of deprived inquisitive spectators. If you can spare even a couple of hours (without training), you will be a big help on May 19, 20. Certainly worth a free T-Shirt.

Field Day

It's springtime! When a young hams thoughts turn to Field Day. We plan on the usual spot which is a convenient drive for all. There are loads of ways to have fun even before the contest starts. The most fun I've had in years was helping my 9 year old make his first 10 QSO's at our Beginners station. It's a great place for any ham to hone their operating skills and pickup some tricks of the trade for erecting antenna etc. It's a nice place to camp for a weekend and rag chew with the rest of the club. Field Day takes a lot of preparation and we always get it done but we need a point of contact to make sure everything is covered. We could sure use a volunteer for this. Most of the old pros are working their FD specialty and are too booked to do the coordination. However there is always enough advice to make the job routine for a new coordinator. Get to know FD inside out and sign up early.

Meetings

Considering the size of the club membership the meeting attendance has been abysmal in recent years. I will raise some concepts with pros and cons that we can discuss via the exploder but I would much rather see this issues debated by a plethora of club members (and visitors) at the general and board meetings.

Increased Work Load - This works for me as an excuse but it's only an hour a month and you can eat while sit. You can even work at your laptop like any other meeting.

Scheduled Noontime Meetings - I hate to say but even Club members have been known to call important work meetings during club meetings. If Randy and Scott can send me a club roster I will put the club meetings on meeting-maker. At least it will pop up at you and your meeting planners.

Telephone Bridge - we will be setting up a phone number for all our regular meetings so anyone can join in from off Lab.

Food - if people are interested we could order some pizza to share

Programs - we have had some extremely interesting programs in the past. Half I was even able to attend. However it can be quite embarrassing to convince a guest speaker to come to JPL

only to have 4 people show up. The more members that show up, the better the programs become because more attendees may know of more good speakers.

Advertising - we have had the same time slot in the same conference room for 30 years. If you need a reminder by now, it will have to come just before the meeting or it fades away in a day. Chris has been putting out the emails on a regular basis. If we can get the lab to put it on the monitors in the cafeteria and Inside JPL web page we might jog some memories or attract newbies.

Training - Everyone on Lab is expected to attain a number of hours of training each year. There has been a number of noontime meetings that not only would make good club meeting but get your badge scanned for training credit. We need to work with professional development and bring in some programs that an employee can say "Excuse me; I have to go to my noontime training!"

Budget

Chuck Sarture presented the status of the Club's savings account with the Cal-Tech Employee FCU. Chuck - could you please put your report in an email on the exploder? We also receive annual funding from Eric Fuller for emergency communication expenses of \$2500.

Now is the time to rejuvenate that list of expenses from last year and fill the orders to invigorate the Mesa Antennas and Emergency Power for the Repeaters and Shack. There are some other innovative ideas for improving our RF infrastructure that we should also look at.

Food for thought

Here is a list of topics I intend to touch on whenever I get a few moments to write to the exploder and Bill Wood. Feel free to beat me to the punch and start a discussion at the meetings, exploder, or on the Club Repeaters.

Storage Unit	SHARES
Mesa	IRLP
Morse Code	Membership Card/Badge
Cerro Negro Repeaters	ISS/Shuttle Audio
Mesa Repeater	Bldg 180
Autopatch	Emergency Net
Special Events	ERC
Bus Tracker	Shack
LAACARC	

73, WB6CIA ■

Club Meeting

By Chris Page, KF6RTA

Board of Directors Meeting, March 28, 2007

Mark Schaefer (WB6CIA) opened the meeting in 161-230. Attendees included Chris Carson (KE6ABQ), Jay Holladay (W6EJJ), James McDuffie (K6JLM), Jim Lux (W6RMK) and David Komm (KD6VP). Bill Wood (W6FXJ) participated by telephone from Barstow. The agenda included several items:

Open House

The equipment has been reserved and we will have the same location as last year's open house. Currently, there are two decisions that need to be made:

- Ideas for a banner
- Handout ideas. Chris Page will need a copy of the handout to turn into Kim Johansen, open house coordinator, for approval

Also, we will need to start finalizing the ARC members who can volunteer some of their time during JPL's Open House. Please email Chris Page (christopher.r.page@jpl.nasa.gov) any time you would be able to volunteer by the next ARC meeting on April 11th. The Open House is May 19-20.

Field Day

Jay Holladay went over some of the information for Field Day. Here are some of the notes:

- Field day will be June 22-24. June 22nd is an RDO day.
- The site and tent have been reserved by Ken Manatt
- Looking into having Marty Woll attend our April or May Meeting to discuss field day.
- Additional hams from LA radio emergency section coming to join us.
- Looking at having 2 GOTA stations and 3 HF stations.
- Looking for more CW contacts this year.

This will be a topic at the next general meeting on April 11th.

JPL Rose Parade Float

JPL will be having another float in the Rose Parade. This will be the 50th anniversary of Explorer. There was a request to see what equipment would be needed for real-time multimedia access.

W6VIO Calling

Bill Wood will be starting W6VIO calling back up again. He solicited story or photo inputs from anyone via email to him. Bill's email box can accept email attachments up to 10 MB in size. Jim McDuffie volunteered his Wiki web page as a place for larger amounts of digital photos. Mark Schaefer will provide Jim a memory stick of photos from last year's Field Day for Bill to use in the April 2007 issue. ■

Club Participation

By James McDuffie, K6JLM

In club president Mark Schaefer's WB6CIA inaugural message to club members he commented that, "if you could spare a few hours or more sometime this year in participating in a club activity, not only will you make it easier for the rest of us, but I'm sure you will enjoy the time spent as well." His comments speak to the very nature of what it means to be a member of an organization. Despite our differing reasons for joining this club we all did so with the feeling that we want to belong to something greater than our own individual efforts.

The club can only exist if it has members that are willing to participate. It is understandable about unwillingness to volunteer for activities given our busy lives but when you look at what it takes to participate you will see it is not that great an impact on your life. You can contribute as much or as little time as you want.

The club exists for its members and everyone should be able to find their own way to participate that gives them enjoyment. Participation can be as simple as attending club meetings. They may seem like a waste of time, but this is only true if you come with such expectations. The club meetings are what the members make of them, if you have a topic that you would like to discuss then by all means speak up and you will surely get comments and suggestions beyond anything you could gather by remaining quiet.

If you can not make it to Field Day or to JPL Open House then why not participate by working on a project that could benefit the club and satisfy your own curiosity. For example, if you are interested in digital modes then why not help set the club shack back up for such activities. Are you interested in working satellites? Then lead an effort to reestablish that capability for the club. There is much existing infrastructure for any project you could dream up and members willing to help if you give them direction.

When people mention the purpose of this club there are often seemingly conflicting answers. However, these answers are all valid because they show the variety in the interest of club members. The bottom line is that this club is what you make of it and without its members there can be no club. ■

W6VIO Shack Status

By James McDuffie, K6JLM

The old club shack in T-1309 was emptied of its contents on March 30th. Club members Chris Carson KE6ABQ, Jay Holladay W6EJJ, Dayton Jones K6DJ, James McDuffie K6JLM, Walt Mushagian K6DNS, Chris Page KI6EWM and Bill Pickett KF6WCX all contributed greatly to getting this job done within one day. The trailer is scheduled for destruction sometime after May 1st.

The contents of the old shack were placed either in 173 or the storage container used by the club. There are many items that have been identified as possible candidates for sale at a future TRW swap meet. Individuals are needed to help sort through some of the miscellaneous wires, adapters and parts to identify what should be kept and what should be sold. Some government owned equipment needs to be excessed through the proper channels. A vintage Collins 30S-1 linear amplifier will be sent to another NASA center as it is government equipment, but also quite a historic item.

The current shack in 173 has recently had its computer infrastructure upgraded. The old Compaq computers have been sent to excess and replaced with newer machines. There are now two operational machines running Ubuntu Linux. One machine is the replacement for the main operating station computer. The other machine is available either for use by the second operating position or for experimentation.

More work is needed to figure out which Linux amateur radio software to use and how to properly configure this software to communicate with the transceiver frequency readout ports. Please contact James McDuffie K6JLM for help using the club computers or to volunteer to help fine tune the software selection.

Both operating positions are available for use to any club member. Club members unfamiliar with the radios, patching to the proper antennas and amplifier tune up should ask for help on the Exploder mailing list. Mike Tope W4EF gave an information session on the usage of club equipment in February. Such information sessions can be given on a one on one basis or to another group if interests exist for such a session.

There is some desire to put the club ATV equipment back into serviceable operation. Any interested parties should work with Jay Holladay, W6EJJ to get this set up. ■

W6VIO Antenna Status

By Mike Tope, W4EF

There are a few problems and issues with the club antennas upon the mesa. The rotator on the Rohn 45 tower currently has an unknown issue and its operation is described as "flaky." The loading coil on the reflector of the 40 meter Yagi is damaged so the antenna currently only operates as a rotary dipole. There are currently no WARC band specific antennas because the WARC antennas fell off the water tower and have not been fixed and put back up. The receive antennas (80 meters, 160 meters) have termination issues that need diagnosis.

The following is a summary of what DOES work:

- 10m, 15m, 20m on a Cushcraft TH7DX
- 40m two element Yagi works as dipole
- 80m inverted V
- 80m delta loop
- 160m inverted V
- WARC band coverage by loading up 80m inverted V
- For 17 meter access use the 40 meter yagi/rotary dipole (the driven element of this antenna is resonant on 17 meters). ■

25 Years Ago in W6VIO Calling

By Bill Wood, W6FXJ

President John McKinney, N6AVW, reported on the status of QSL cards and Slow-Scan TV tapes for the club's Voyager 2 encounter with Saturn commemorative operation. See the special fold-out QSL card here: <http://www.jpreccclubs.caltech.edu/radio/archive/v2saturn.html> Then check the west of Slow-Scan TV MP3 files here: <http://www.jpreccclubs.caltech.edu/radio/sstv/>. Sharp eyes might notice the name of the present NASA Administrator as the narrator of one of the SSTV tapes from Mike's days at JPL.

Club Emergency Communications Manager Merv MacMedan, N6NO, was tasked to define and coordinate the Club's support of the new JPL Emergency Response Plan.

Jim Lumsden, WA6MYJ, reported on the success of the first JPL ARC relay of Space Shuttle audio during the STS-3 flight in March of 1982. The ARRL News column reported that Jay Holladay, W6EJJ, was elected to the ARRL Executive Committee in Newington, CT the month before.

Field Day committee members Stan Sander, N6MP, and Brian Stapleton, W6LZP, laid out the plans for the 1982 outing on Mount Disappointment. Included was a very detailed Field Day Questionnaire to aid the preparation.

Speaking about past editions of W6VIO Calling, the on-line collection of available back issues is now complete. The scanning and conversion of eleven-year Editor Eileen McKinney's (KA6DGV) paper issues from 1987 to 1991 was finally completed. These PDF files include Acrobat's OCR'ed page images that allow searching for text in each issue. This will allow search engines such as Google and Yahoo to eventually pick up the content for their indexes.

Check out the PDF version of the April 1982 issue here: <http://www.jplreclubs.caltech.edu/radio/calling/1982/apr/apr82.pdf> ■

Treasurer's Reports

By Chuck Sarture, KG6NF

2006

	Income	Expenses
Beginning of the Year	\$3681.52	
Member Dues	\$585.00	
WR6AZN License Renewal		\$21.90
JPL Open House		\$25.11
Field Day		
Donations	\$437.00	
Expenses	\$1009.50	
Net Cost	--→	\$572.50
Bus Tracker Project		\$569.46
Totals	\$585.00	\$1188.97
End of Year	\$3077.55	

2007

Beginning of the Year	\$3077.55	
Member Dues	\$420.00	
Check to N6NO for dinner at 2006 banquet		\$40.00
Totals	\$420.00	\$40.00
3/14/07 Balance	\$3457.55	■

Newsletter Deadline:

Friday, April 27 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 (bill-wood@san.r.com) or regular mail to: Bill Wood, 31094 Hemlock Ave, Barstow, CA 92311.

2006 Field Day Scrapbook



Beam assembly

WA6JBZ Photo



HF-1 tower going up

KO6VP Photo



HF-2 beam going up

KO6VP Photo



Retrieving inverted Vee hoist line



Pneumatic Long Wire Antenna Launcher



HF stations 1 and 2 nearing completion



Friday Chow



Rest after setup



Marty Woll racking up CW points



Mark Schaefer showing kids the GOTA station



North side of the Field Day site



Sunset at Mount Gleason



Jet Propulsion Laboratory Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 820
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First Class Mail

JPL ARC Repeaters			
Pasadena:			
WR6JPL	147.15 MHz	(+)	PL 103.5 Open
WR6JPL	224.08 MHz	(-)	PL 156.7 Open
WR6JPL	224.70 MHz	(-)	PL 114.8 Open
WR6JPL	445.20 MHz	(-)	PL 103.5 Open
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

