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# W6VIO Calling



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

Volume 39, Issue 2 [w6vio@arrl.net](mailto:w6vio@arrl.net); <http://jplarc.ampr.org> Feb 2016

President (2016):	Jonathan Cameron, KF6RTA	4-1189	EmComm. Mgr:	Christopher Carson, KE6ABQ	3-3888
Vice President (2016):	Josh Miller, KB3UUS	4-0835	W6VIO Trustee:	Rob Smith, W6GRV	3-7937
Secretary (2016):	Chris Gaylord, W6YTB	4-5584	W6JPL Trustee:	Eric Archer, N6CV	4-7350
Treasurer (2016):	Chuck Sarture, KG6NF	4-2706	WR6JPL Trustee:	Jim Lux, W6RMK	4-2075
Director at Large (2016):	Steve Townes, WB4ILW	4-7525	WR6AZN Trustee:	Bill Wood, W6FXJ	760-256-9576

## Upcoming Events:

- **Emergency Communications Net:** Every Monday at Noon, on WR6JPL 224.08/(-)/156.7 & 445.20/(-)/103.5, or WR6AZN 223.96/(-)/156.7 on Table Mountain.
- **JPLARC Regular Membership meeting:** Second working Friday every month from Noon to 1pm in 180-703C. Call-in: 818-354-4044 ID-number: **997 183 539** (without the spaces). Slides (if any) broadcast via JPL WebEx (same ID-number). Next is **Feb 26<sup>th</sup>, Tour of JPL ARC facilities.**
- **JPLARC Board of Directors (BOD) meeting:** Normally, the first working Friday, every month, from Noon to 1pm in 180-703C. The next BOD meeting will be **March 11<sup>th</sup>**. Call-in: 818-354-4044 ID-number: **997 183 539** (without the spaces).
- **NEW:** For more upcoming events, including upcoming licensing classes, see the ARRL Los Angeles Section website: <http://www.areslax.org>

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## In this issue:

### Topics in this issue:

- Regular membership meeting Jan 15<sup>th</sup>
- Special BOD meeting: Jan 29<sup>th</sup>
- BOD meeting Feb 12<sup>th</sup>
- 2016 Dues are past due
- ARRL Membership
- Equipment for sale (new: half price!)
- Future membership meetings & speaker topics

## Message from President

By Jonathan Cameron KF6RTA

As we begin another year with a new set of club officers at the helm, we salute them for volunteering their time and effort to continue the club. It is also important to remember that the club's officers need your help in running the club and its activities. Please let your new officers know that you are interested in helping and what you'd like to help with. Believe me, they will really appreciate any help you can offer.

Special thanks to our 2015 officers for their service to the club. President: Steve Townes WB4ILW; Vice President: Chuck Baker WB6CWI; Secretary: Rob Smith W6GRV;

Treasurer: Chuck Sarture KG6NF; Director at Large: Jim Marr AA6QI; EmComm Manager: Chris Carson KE6ABQ; and of course our continuing Trustees.

## Regular Membership Meeting Jan 15<sup>th</sup>

By Jim Marr AA6QI

Present were: James Bartook<sup>†</sup> KK6IHF, Jonathan Cameron<sup>†\*</sup> KF6RTA, Pamela Clark (not licensed yet), Bob Dengler<sup>†</sup> NO6B, Simon Flores<sup>†</sup> KK6URT, Chris Gaylord<sup>†\*</sup> W6YTB, Jim Lux W6RMK, Mark Lysek<sup>†</sup> AG6TD, Steve Noland<sup>†</sup> WA6KLC, David Seidel<sup>†</sup> KC6NRL, Rob Smith<sup>†</sup> W6GRV, Steve Townes<sup>†</sup> WB4ILW, Bill Weber<sup>†</sup> N6CI, Umut Yildiz<sup>†</sup> KK6TJJ. On the Phone: Jim Marr<sup>†</sup> AA6QI, Walt Mushagian<sup>†</sup> K6DNS.

Note: † indicates a 2015 or 2016 regular voting member (i.e., JPL/Caltech/Retiree & 2015 or 2016 dues paid), and \* Indicates a 2016 BOD member. For a BOD meeting quorum, the JPLARC Bylaws require a majority of the BOD (four or more) to be present. We had four BOD members, four other regular members and two non-members (total of 10 attendees), so we **did** have a quorum.

New officers installed: Steve Townes, 2015 President, formerly transferred operation of the JPLARC to the 2016 elected officers in accordance with the JPLARC Bylaws.

Secretary report: Reminder that, per the Bylaws, 2016 membership dues are due to Chris Gaylord before the end of January. Please fill out the membership application/renewal/update form available at <http://jplarc.ampr.org/applic.pdf>. Retirees and family need to sign the waiver form on the back of the application. Club membership cards will be issued starting in February after the January 31<sup>st</sup> renewal deadline.

Lab weather stations online: Ian Pinkham KE6RFA put up an Acu-Link 5 in 1 online weather station on our JPL Mesa repeater cabinet (building 35A). The station is available via the Weather Underground site at <http://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KCALACAA8>. As this is not behind the Lab firewall, you can bookmark this link and access it from anywhere, including smart phones and other mobile devices to get the current weather conditions.

Ian also discovered that there's another weather station on Lab (near Building 125) available on Weather Underground at <http://www.wunderground.com/cgi-bin/findweather/getForecast?query=pws:KCAPASAD34>. As this is down more in the middle of the Lab, some of the readings (particularly wind speed/direction) may be different due to the other buildings around it. The Mesa site is less obstructed.

Treasurer's Report: Updated report to be provided at the January 29<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. The proposed 2016 JPLARC budget will be going out to the 2016 voting-eligible membership for a vote after the January 29<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

Club 2016 priorities: Jonathan Cameron briefly discussed club priorities for the coming year. These include: getting the new shack and mesa antenna farm operational, continue to support EmComm activities at JPL (JEARS) and in club member's own neighborhoods, more club experimentation with radios or projects or whatever, cooperation with neighboring clubs such as the Pasadena Radio Club and the Altadena Emergency Response Team (ALERT), more licensing classes, recruiting additional members, developing a list of club frequencies (repeater and simplex), vary the format of our Monday Noon net, get committees working, Field Day with PRC and CITARC, get communications going with other NASA centers during exercises, digital repeaters, more club projects and experiments, have quarterly meetings with off lab club members, Christmas banquet this year.

Jim Lux discussed the upcoming an Extra Class license

class that he will be conducting, ending in a Volunteer Examiner testing session in March.

Guest Speaker: Chris Gaylord W6YTB (Figure 1) leading a "JEARS workshop". Chris is our 2016 club secretary and is the Business Community Plan (BCP) coordinator within the JPL Emergency & Continuity Management Group (ECMG).

We need to develop a JEARS program that complies with NASA requirements. Towards that end, Chris put together a set of slides to facilitate today's discussion of the kinds of things we need to think about.



**Figure 1: JEARS guest speaker Chris Gaylord W6YTB**

2015 Accomplishments: Two new members were added to the ECMG, Chris and Ian Pinkham, who are both also now JPLARC club members, providing more support to volunteer organizations (JEARS, USAR, & various other on-Lab programs) than Protective Services was able to provide in the past. Our new shack is there with some capability now but more remains to be done to bring it to full capability. A new storage trailer is adjacent to the new shack to allow us to store everything in one place. Cable runs are in place up to the Mesa (but not hooked up yet). A new JEARS gateway website is in place (but is only accessible to on-Lab active employees) that will be used to collect training documentation for NASA requirements.

JEARS Training Requirements: Training requirements are divided into three categories: NASA/JPL required; JPL-specific; and optional.

The *NASA/JPL required courses*, Figure 2, remain the same as has been discussed in previous issues of this newsletter. You take the free-of-charge FEMA courses on-line at the FEMA web-site and, after doing so, you will receive a certificate from FEMA that you submit to JPL using the application form on the JEARS website.

This training does not expire but there may be future JPL retraining requirements on this material (as yet TBD).

The CPR/AED/First-Aid training are optional (AED is Automatic Electronic Defibrillator) but recommended. These three are Red Cross classes and are available free of charge via the JPL LMS (Learning Management System). Typically there is one class per month, providing that there are enough people for the class that month. It was suggested that this training be held a club activity since the training is a benefit to everyone, regardless of JEARS participation.

- FEMA Independent Study (IS) classes
  - IS-100 – Intro to Incident Command System (ICS 100)
  - IS-200 – ICS for Single Resources/Initial Action Incidents (ICS 200)
  - IS-700 – National Incident Management System (NIMS)
  - IS-800 – National Response Framework (NRF)
- CPR/AED/First Aid (recommended, not required)
  - Any American Red Cross, American Heart Association, or other national standard course
  - Can complete through JPL Fire Department (American Red Cross)

**Figure 2: NASA/JPL required JEARS training**

- JEARS Basic Course
  - General course for all JEARS members covering emergency response, SOPs, and other Lab-specific issues.
- JEARS EOC Course
  - Overview and role-specific training for JEARS members functioning under Logistics in the EOC
- SHARES HF Radio Net Course
  - Specific training on operating on the NASA SHARES net for inter-agency communications

**Figure 3: Lab-Specific training - needs to be developed**

- ARRL EmComm classes
  - EC-001 – Intro to Emergency Communications
  - EC-016 – Public Service & Emergency Communications Management for Radio Amateurs
- SKYWARN Weather Spotter class
- Other FEMA IS classes
 

Both part of 7-course FEMA Professional Development Series (PDS) – pre-requisite for EC-016

  - IS-240.B – Leadership & Influence
  - IS-244.B – Developing & Managing Volunteers

**Figure 4: Optional development courses**

The *Lab-specific training*, Figure 3, remains to be developed. This will be a JEARS-specific basic training course covering such things as: roles and responsibilities, what JEARS does in support of the Lab, upon activation – where to meet & how to connect with the ICS system, how to prioritize what operations get put into place first (EOC first?; Shack first?; etc.), what support to provide to USAR, what support do we provide to the Incident Commands, etc.. We've had a process that we've been using for the past couple of

years so we just need to get that formalized and put into a training program.

A JEARS EOC Class (perhaps a level-2 class that not everyone needs), is for the person in the EOC (Emergency Operations Center in building 310): discussing what their role is and how they interact with the other people in the EOC.

The third category of Lab-specific training is Shares HF Radio Net Course that explains the procedures for contacting another NASA Center via HF and sharing information with them. This is perhaps another level-2 course for folks who are going to do that.

The *Optional training*, Figure 4, are additional development classes that include the ARRL EmComm classes, which Chris will be certified to teach and for which JPL may be able to pay the cost (since this class is not free). Most ARES and RACES groups use this type of training.

While we don't have a lot of weather issues here in LA, you can take the SKYWARN training through the National Weather Service, Oxnard web site (link on the JEARS site).

There are also other FEMA classes, two of which are shown in Figure 4 and are those required to support the ARRL EC-016 training class.

What other training is needed? Suggestions?

JPL has other nets that JEARS members should know about and what their relationships are to each other.

Familiarization with what CERT is and how folk can get involved in their local CERT team.

Equipment training on, for example, the HF gear and Comm Van gear.

- Emergency identification card
  - Same as currently used by USAR Team
  - Being standardized for all volunteer emergency teams
  - Specific JEARS decal being developed
    - Different colors for USAR and JEARS
    - Can have both if on both teams
  - May be used for field accountability purposes similar to USAR
  - Issued following completion mandatory training
    - Currently – only FEMA classes
    - In future – FEMA classes and JEARS Basic Course

**Figure 5: Credentialing for JEARS**

Credentialing for JEARS: (Figure 5). JEARS members will get the same badge as USAR team members. There will be distinct decals for JEARS and USAR (you can have both if you are on both teams).

Equipment: Need to distinguish between JEARS-specific equipment and JPLARC equipment since the ECMG group can financially support equipment that is either

primarily or substantially in support of JEARS. Equipment primarily for contesting or club activities, with little relationship to JEARS, ECMG probably can't support financially. Figure 6 provides some examples of JEARS-specific equipment.

- EOC operating station/SHARES Net
- Physical shack structure/infrastructure
  - Some operating equipment as it is replaced
  - Ensure emergency capabilities
  - Dual use of shack
- Other ideas?
  - Vests/identification
  - Standardized HTs

**Figure 6: Examples of JEARS-specific equipment**

Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs): Figure 7 shows some of the things that SOPs need to be developed for.

- Need to be developed for all standard JEARS functions
    - Equipment Operating Practices
    - Field Activities
    - Emergency Response Support
      - EOC
      - Incident Command
      - USAR Team
    - Training
- 

**Figure 7: JEARS Standard Operating Procedures**

- JEARS-specific exercises
    - Test/practice SOPs
    - Develop skills
    - Ensure equipment is in good working order
  - Monday net
  - Support other Lab exercises
    - Eagle Horizon continuity exercise (May)
    - Great ShakeOut (October)
    - Other specialized exercises
  - Quarterly JEARS-focused meetings
- 

**Figure 8: Test and Exercise Activities**

Test and Exercise Activities: Figure 8 shows some examples of training activities that will help build JEARS member skills.

## BOD Meeting Jan 29<sup>th</sup>

By Chris Gaylord W6YTB

Present were: Chuck Baker\* WB6CWI, Jonathan Cameron\* KF6RTA, Chris Gaylord\* W6YTB, Josh Miller\* KB3UUS, Chuck Sarture\* KG6NF, Rob Smith\* W6GRV. On the Phone: Chris Carson\* KE6ABQ, Jim

Marr<sup>†</sup> AA6QI, Walt Mushagian<sup>†</sup> K6DNS, Steve Townes<sup>†</sup> WB4ILW.

Note: † indicates a 2016 regular voting member (i.e., JPL/Caltech/Retiree & 2016 dues paid), and \* Indicates a 2016 BOD member. For a BOD meeting quorum, the JPLARC Bylaws require a majority of the BOD (four or more) to be present. We had all six BOD members and three other regular members (total of 9 attendees), so we **did** have a quorum.

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 PM with a quorum of officers.

**Old Business:** Chris Carson KE6ABQ confirmed his willingness to continue to serve as Emergency Communications Manager and is so appointed by President Cameron.

**Secretary's Report:** Current 2016 membership is 23 members (19 voting) with 68% holding ARRL membership. This number is expected to rise as additional dues are paid. As of the end of 2015, there were 50 members (45 voting). 2016 dues are due by January 30. Membership cards will be printed and distributed in February.

**Treasurer's Report and 2016 Budget:** The beginning fund balance for January was \$4,853.69. With \$480.00 in deposits (dues payments) and \$279.99 in expenses (reimbursement of the purchase of a Raspberry Pi in December as approved in the 2015 budget), the ending balance is \$5,053.70.

The proposed budget was distributed to the membership in December and was to be voted on in January, however there were procedural questions that needed to be clarified following the January 15 general membership meeting. Jim Marr clarified that per the bylaws, the budget needs to be sent to the entire voting membership for a vote.

The proposed budget was reviewed and discussed by the board with 2 minor changes – (1) an additional \$300 proposed by President Cameron for purchasing shelving for the storage trailer and (2) an increase from \$20 to \$50 for printing membership cards proposed by Secretary Gaylord to allow the purchase of Avery (or similar) business card stock to simplify membership card preparation. These changes were approved by the Board.

There was a motion and second carried by unanimous vote of the officers for Secretary Gaylord to distribute the budget as amended to the entire 2015 membership on February 1. The email will include a current list of voting members in good standing who are eligible to vote. Votes from members in arrears who pay their dues prior to the voting deadline will be counted.

## New Business

**Meetings** – A schedule of upcoming meeting topics was reviewed. The February meeting will be a tour of all club locations including the B180 penthouse, the new shack (B329) and storage trailer, and possibly the Mesa antenna farm. President Cameron will arrange for Lab access for off-lab members who wish to attend and will also coordinate vehicles closer to the meeting.

**Committees** – The current list of all committees and membership was shared. President Cameron will be contacting the committee chairs/members over the coming months to discuss activities. Club infrastructure changes include ongoing work to install a support pole for the HF multiband antenna at the B329 shack as well as the ongoing Mesa antenna farm connections and shack equipment setup.

Additional workdays to continue the shack and antenna work will be scheduled soon, including the potential for short lunchtime and/or end-of-day work sessions.

**ALERT Collaboration** – President Cameron met with the Altadena Emergency Radio Team (ALERT) on January 20. Topics discussed including confirmation of ALERT's attendance/presentation at the April general membership meeting, discussion of a future potential presentation on digital communications for emergency response, and other ways the Club and JEARS can collaborate with ALERT, including ALERT participation in the Monday net. ALERT requested permission to conduct some practice nets on the 220 repeater to evaluate repeater accessibility from various locations and this was approved by the Board.

**2016 Goals** – The goals presented at the January 15 general membership meeting were shared (Figure 9) again but were not discussed in detail.

**Monday Net** – Average participation in the Monday nets has been running around 17 with a high of 19 and a low of 11.

**Club Frequencies** – A proposed frequency allocation for various emergency and non-emergency operations on the Lab repeaters and simplex frequencies that was developed by Bob Dengler and President Cameron was shared for discussion and will be distributed to the membership for future discussion.

**Extra Upgrade Class** – The Amateur Extra upgrade class being taught by Jim Lux began on January 27 with a total of 10 participants. A tentative exam date of Wednesday, March 23 has been scheduled. The class meets on Wednesdays in February and March at noon in Building 161. Contact Jim Lux for more details.

**Digital VHF/UHF** – President Cameron shared information about the DV4mini device he discovered (Figure 10) which allows for easy digital mode

experimentation. The device is a USB dongle that can be connected to a PC or Raspberry Pi and a simple 70cm whip antenna, creating a low-power UHF hotspot, which supports D-Star, DMR, and C4FM (System Fusion) modes. More information is available at <http://www.g0hwc.com/dv4mini.html>.

- Get HF working in B329 ASAP
- Develop/extend list of JPLARC frequencies and create badge card with club frequencies and common DTMF codes
  - Primary/secondary simplex frequencies on each band
- Inventory equipment (received inventory list from Jim Marr)
- Vary format of nets (more realistic)
  - No list, perform tasks, simplex, practice, various net controls, nets with participants via IRLP links
- Organize trailer (hopefully before move)
- Field Day with Pasadena and Caltech ARCs at Art Center
- Better HF communications with other NASA centers
- Support Great Shakeout via JEARS
- Digital repeater(s)?
- Club projects/experiments, etc?
- Quarterly off-lab lunch with off-lab members?
  - Working on plans for early March (8<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>)
- Christmas Banquet

Figure 9: Proposed 2016 JPLARC goals



Figure 10: DV4mini VHF/UHF multi-mode dongle  
<http://www.radiocronache.com/2015/08/dv4mini-hotspot-sticks-uhf/>

**Storage Trailer** – Protective Services has been notified that the Club/JEARS storage trailer adjacent to the new shack (as well as the USAR Team storage trailer and the un-related Conex box adjacent) will need to be relocated temporarily for up to 4 months to accommodate

equipment staging for the construction project planned for the open area to the east of B89. Ian Pinkham is currently working with JPL Parking staff to identify a temporary location for these. Because the temporary location may be a distance from the shack and not easily accessible, it is recommended that any items that may be needed in the next 4-5 months be temporarily moved into the shack. Storage in the trailer will also need to be reorganized to allow the trailer to be safely moved.

JEARs/Mesa Access - Secretary Gaylord shared information on Mesa access following a request by President Cameron. In the past, access to the Mesa for Club work has primarily relied on individuals who have existing gate access for their normal jobs. Emergency & Continuity Management (203A) can sponsor access for individuals serving in designated leadership roles under the JEARs structure. This structure will need to be further defined as the JEARs organization is developed and finalized.

Category	Item	Budget Amount
Miscellaneous Operating Expenses		
	Membership Card printing	\$ 50.00
	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 (shelves, etc.)	\$ 300.00
Field Day (assume we do a joint event at the Art Center with the PRC again in 2015)		
	Generator oil and gasoline WAG	\$ 25.00
	Antenna materials (wire, guys, stakes, etc.)	\$ 100.00
	CW decoder with video display for visitors	\$ 300.00
	Logging Software	\$ 50.00
	Logging Computer	\$ 300.00
	Honda EU2000i generator for Field Day	\$ 1,100.00
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:	\$ 5,133.00

Figure 11: Approved 2016 JPLARC Budget

## BOD Meeting Feb 12<sup>th</sup>

By Chris Gaylord W6YTB

Present were: Jonathan Cameron\* KF6RTA, Bob Dengler NO6B, Chris Gaylord† W6YTB, Vishnu Sridar† (no call yet), Dave Seidel KC6NRL. On the Phone: Chris Carson† KE6ABQ, Jim Marr† AA6QI, Walt Mushagian† K6DNS, Chuck Sarture\* KG6NF.

Note: † indicates a 2016 regular voting member (i.e., JPL/Caltech/Retiree & 2016 dues paid), and \* Indicates a 2016 BOD member. For a BOD meeting quorum, the

JPLARC Bylaws require a majority of the BOD (four or more) to be present. We had four BOD members, two other regular members and three non-members (total of 9 attendees), so we **did** have a quorum.

### Secretary Report:

2016 Budget Vote Results: Received vote returns from 15 of the 24 voting-eligible members, with 14 in favor and one opposed (93% in favor), so the 2016 Budget is approved (Figure 11).

Current membership status: Currently have 28 total 2016 members, of which 24 are voting members and of which 70.8% are ARRL members.

Chris reminded everyone to consider paying ARRL dues through the Club (either joining or renewing) since the Club gets to retain a portion of the dues. Contact Chris for the form.

**Treasurer's report:** Treasurer Chuck Sarture provide the current Treasurer's report for January 2016 (Figure 12), showing a balance of \$5,053.70.

Date	Item	Delta	Balance
2015Jan01	Start		\$ 4,853.69
2015Jan06	Reimburse NO6B for Pi2-Kit	\$ (279.99)	\$ 4,573.70
2015Jan29	Membership dues - \$260 in cash, \$220 by cheque	\$ 480.00	\$ 5,053.70
2015Jan31	End	\$ 200.01	\$ 5,053.70

Figure 12: January 2016 Treasurer's Report

**JEARs Report:** Secretary Chris Gaylord reported that a list of the ten folks who have completed JEARs training was sent to Badging. With the four who already had badges, brings the total current JEARs members to 14.

JEARs team members will receive separate badges that are in the 1-NASA format, colored black, labeled with "Emergency Response".

Chris discussed a draft of a proposed JEARs organization structure that he requested not be published yet since it still needs to pass review and signoff.

Facilities Update: Chris Gaylord reported that our new trailer next to the B329 shack will have to be moved in March to a TBD temporary location (likely near the parking structure) until November to accommodate a construction staging area. It was suggested that Chris investigate a temporary location near the west end of the arroyo parking area and next to container 7111 in order to make it easy for us to transfer the club antennas from 7111 to the new trailer.

Chris also reported that there will be a 4 to 5 week delay in getting the quote for installation of a mast at the new shack (B329).

**2016 Progress/Plans:** Jonathan Cameron briefly discussed progress against 2016 plans (Figure 13).

- Started process to get antenna mast for HF antenna set up at B329. Likely to be a couple of months before completion.
- Will first set up HF antenna on top of B329 on top of a non-penetrating tripod mount (NPM). The NPM currently on lying on top of B329. Will need to guy the NPM, attach HF antenna and run coax into B329.
- Did a quick pass through the trailer to put everything on one level and tie up the file cabinet so the trailer can be moved. Moved tool chests to B329. Tested lighting via extension cord.
- Committees restructured (will start meetings soon)
  - Need more discussion about future options for repeater setup / locations.
- B329 roof leaks repaired (not verified yet)
- Initial brainstorming on putting repeaters on top of the telephone pole. Need to arrange for someone with cherry-picker access to help. Need to purchase a few basic items (cross beam, braces).
- Planning off-lab Lunch in early March (will send email to exploder)

Figure 13: 2016 Progress/Plans

**Upcoming Guest Speakers:** Jonathan reviewed the list of upcoming regular membership meeting guest speakers (ed. - see the article near the end of this newsletter).

**Related Radio Activities:** Jonathan Cameron discussed a couple of upcoming radio activities (Figure 14).

- **Pasadena Radio Club (PRC) Presents a talk on Yaesu Fusion by Chris Wilson, Yaesu regional sales rep. Interesting presentations along with active audience participation demos.**
  - Tuesday, February 23, 7:30-9pm
  - <http://w6ka.net/>
- **Altadena Local Emergency Radio Team (ALERT), Monday evening net**
  - Mondays at 8pm (Altadena and surrounding areas)
  - W6MPH repeater [145.180 MHz (-) PL 156.7]
  - Followed by simplex net on ALTA1 [147.480 MHz]
  - <http://altadenaradio.com>

Figure 14: Related radio activities

**Upcoming Work Party:** Jonathan plans a work part for RDO Friday, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> or Saturday, Feb 20<sup>th</sup>. Goals include: (1) Set up a temporary HF antenna (Cushcraft R7000) on a non-penetrating mount on the roof of B329; (2) Get an HF rig working in B329; and (3) Inspect the telephone pole next the Mesa repeater cabinet B35A and plan out necessary purchases.

**Equipment Inventory:** Jonathan is seeking member assistance in updating the club's equipment inventory that he tentatively plans to do on Thursday, Mar 18<sup>th</sup>. Jonathan will send details out in an email via the exploder.

**JPLARC Organization:** Jonathan presented an updated JPL Organization chart that includes updated committee membership (Figure 15).

**Feb 26<sup>th</sup> General Meeting Plan:** For the JPLARC facilities tour, Jonathan plans to start in the usual meeting room, 180-703C; proceed from there up to the 180-R6 shack; while there, point out the location of the Mesa antennas and repeater site; walk to the new shack (B329). A tour of the Mesa facilities is deferred due to time constraints.

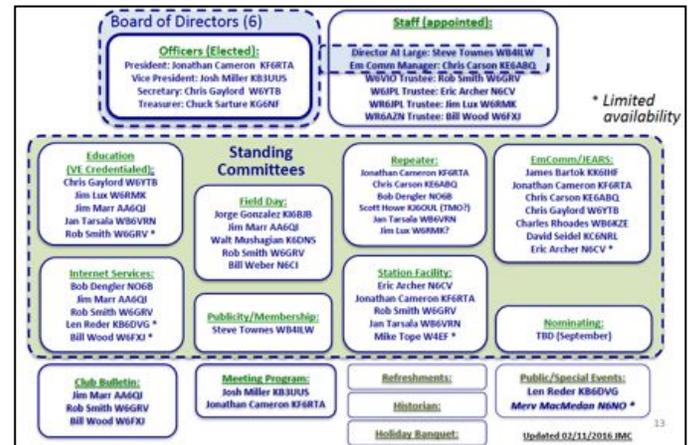


Figure 15: Updated Organization Chart

Jonathan requested that those who want to participate in the tour, including off Lab personnel, send him an RSVP email as soon as possible.

**Monday Noon Net Check-ins:** Jonathan presented some statistics on the number of check-ins to recent sessions of the Monday Noon Net. Average number of check-ins runs about 20, varying from about 15 to 25.

**Suggested JPLARC Frequencies:** Several club members have been working on putting together a list of frequencies for the club to standardize on. This list was discussed by the Board and will be distributed to club members via a separate email. These frequencies are for club/JEARS use during emergencies, so the list should NOT be published.

## 2016 Dues Past Due

By Jim Marr AA6QI

Article IV, Section 1 of the JPLARC Bylaws states: The amount of annual dues shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall be due 1 January and **payable no later than 30 January to the Treasurer**. The Board of Directors has chosen to leave the dues at \$20 for 2016.

To either join or renew your membership, fill in the membership application form located at <http://jplarc.ampr.org/applic.pdf> and return it to the club Secretary along with your dues.

Those who are not active JPL or Caltech employees must sign the liability waiver located on the reverse side of the

application form. Active JPL or Caltech employees do not need to sign this waiver.

## ARRL Membership:

By Jim Marr AA6QI

As an ARRL affiliated club, we need to maintain at least 51% ARRL membership among our voting 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 Secretary Chris Gaylord 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 JPLARC Board has approved the sale of the following items and recently approved reducing the asking price by 50%. Please make your best offer to Club Treasurer Chuck Sarture. All equipment is sold as-is with a receipt from the JPLARC.

- ICOM IC-27H 25W 2m FM transceiver, asking \$40, **reduced to \$20.**

- Kenwood TR-9130 all-mode 25W 2m transceiver, asking \$60, **reduced to \$30.**

- ICOM IC-471A all-mode 70cm 25W transceiver with external PS-30 power supply, asking \$100, **reduced to \$50.**

- ICOM IC-471H all-mode 70cm 75W transceiver with internal power supply, asking \$150, **reduced to \$75.**

- ICOM AG-35 70cm mast mounted preamp, asking \$10, **reduced to \$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 25th:** Josh Miller KB3UUS, "JPL Satellite Operations."

**April 22nd:** Nancy Darling K8NBD, "Altadena's ALERT team".

**May 20th:** Jim Marr AA6QI, "Quadrafilar helical antennas for working amateur satellites."

**June 17th:** Bob Dengler NO6B, "IRLP node on a Raspberry PI."

**July 15th:** TBD

**August 26th:** Chris Gaylord W6YTB, "Great Shakeout Planning."

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