

# Independent Radio Club

## KG6JUD Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2002

### Field Day!

*Field Day fun at Chilao Campground*

The Independent Radio Club held its first Field Day event June 22 & 23 at Chilao Campground in the Angeles National Forest. It was unseasonably hot but we had a great time. We had a lot of hams participating and had a nice station set up. We operated as a 3A entry this year with 3 HF transmitters and 1 VHF/UHF transmitter. We also operated a separate satellite station for AO-40.

Much skin and a shirt or two was sacrificed to erect our antenna system. We put up a G5RV, 140' ladder line fed doublet, 450' long wire, a tri-band wire beam, 6 M rotateable dipole, 2M/440 beam, and a 2M/440 omni. Brian W2BRI erected a 30'+ mast to raise the VHF/UHF antennas. Most of us didn't think the mast would support the antennas, but Brian got it airborne.

We operated on every band from 160M-70cm (except 220 and the WARC bands) SSB, FM and digital. We ran a weak signal VHF station, a PSK-31 station, a SSTV station, as well as two HF SSB stations. We

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### Our Repeater Status

*Still Waiting for SCRBBBA*

We are still trying to obtain coordination for our 440 repeater, the KF6OHR machine. The repeater is located on Contractors Point in the hills above Sylmar. We are currently operating on the SCRBBBA test pair 446.860 – PL 156.7 until we receive our coordination.

Currently, the repeater is a "vanilla" machine with only basic features. Johnathan KF6OHR has big plans for the machine after we get coordinated. We plan to link into a machine located on Hauser Peak which would bring our system back to the level of the old system. We also are considering incorporating the following features:

- Autopatch
- Reverse Autopatch
- IRLP – Internet repeater linking
- Voter Receivers / Passive Reflector

Johnathan is open to adding additional features as we get the system developed. The major system improvements are currently on hold until we get our coordination squared away.

We have been testing our repeater since February and it has been operating consistently and reliably. We have received correspondence from SCRBBBA that they are working on getting us a channel and that they expect to have a frequency for us in the near future. This is not a quick process but persistence will get us on the air.

Johnathan is about to swap out the current repeater with another one that will use a PC as a controller. K1RFD wrote a repeater control program called

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made seven satellite contacts on the AO-40 station. Our final claimed score was 1368. We've received notice that the ARRL has processed our entry and it is complete. Look for our score in the December 2002 QST magazine.

Leon KC6JAR and Jim N6XKU ran our potluck barbecue. There was all kinds of food and great company. Every one had a great time except for the wet kids who decided to have a water fight just before dark. A campfire fixed them right up. We got a lot of good experience and ideas for operating next year. Be sure to be there June 28 & 29 for next years Field Day.

#### 2002 FD Participants

KC6JAR	Leon
KC6SAD	John
KC6UHT	Steven
KC6YIR	Pat
KE6MTF	Kirk
KF6OHR	Johnathan
KF6RSF	CHRIS
KG6AJF	LOWELL
KG6KLA	KEITH
KG6KLB	CHRIS
KG6LOL	JOSH
N6XKU	JIM
N6YVY	BOB
W2BRI	BRIAN
W6CPA	KEN
W6EZV	GREG

## Beach Campout

*Join us for sun and fun at El Capitan State Beach*

Meet us at the beach for fun in the sun at our First Annual (?) beach campout at El Capitan State Beach. There is something for everyone to do so bring the whole family. Besides the beach there is a paved, off road bike trail along the coast up to Refugio State Beach as well as a couple of hiking trails. Of course we will have a couple of radios set up for those who like to get on the air. We will have at least one HF station and you can try your hand at SSTV or PSK-31.

You can camp in a RV, a tent, or a trailer. You will need to provide your own cooking and eating arrangements except for Saturday night. We are going to have a potluck cookout Saturday evening. We will provide burgers, chicken and steak. You need to provide a side dish to share (salad, desert, chips & dip etc.) and drinks for yourself.

Space is limited to six RVs and forty people. Twelve people and 2 RVs have already signed up. Don't delay! Sign up by e-mailing Ken (W6CPA) at [w6cpa@arrl.net](mailto:w6cpa@arrl.net) and tell him how many are coming with your group. The cost is \$24 per family for two nights.

El Capitan State Beach is located 20 miles north of Santa Barbara off Highway 101. Take the El Capitan State Beach off ramp from the 101. Go underneath the freeway bridge at the bottom of the off ramp until you come to the ranger gate. Turn right after the gate toward the camping area. Turn right into the section of sites 1-31. We will be in this section. Call us on the talk in frequency when you get close and we will let you know where we are.

**Talk in on: 147.000 + PL 131.8  
and 446.000 Simplex**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT  
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.  
NORTH HOLLYWOOD  
FRIDAY OCTOBER 25 AT 7:00 PM

### EL CAPITAN BEACH TRIP

EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH – SITES 1-31  
NOVEMBER 1-3

Join us for fun in the sun and good radio play! You need to notify Ken (W6CPA) that you're coming. See the web site for more info.

### NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT  
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.  
NORTH HOLLYWOOD  
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 22 AT 7:00 PM

### IRC CHRISTMAS PARTY

DAVE'S (KE6CNL) QTH  
SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 AT 4:30 PM

Join us for a potluck Christmas party generously hosted by Dave and April (KE6CNK). You are encouraged to bring your family. There will be special activities for the kids and lots of fun for everyone. Please RSVP to Dave. See the web site for details.

### IRC 2003 CALENDAR

WE'VE PUT TOGETHER A CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR NEXT YEAR. A COPY OF THE CALENDAR WAS INCLUDED WITH THE NEWSLETTER. THE CALENDAR WILL CHANGE DURING THE YEAR AS CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE. THE BEST WAY TO KEEP UP WITH WHAT'S GOING ON IS TO REGULARLY CHECK THE WEBSITE AT [WWW.IRCRADIO.ORG](http://WWW.IRCRADIO.ORG).

EchoStation which we are going to use to run the PC. EchoStation is a very interesting program. EchoStation can be set up as a full duplex repeater, a simplex repeater, a simplex autopatch machine, or an announcement machine. The sound card in the computer is used to interface the computer with the radio. The software will allow us to use the modem to make an autopatch connection in either the normal or reverse direction. The software has a voice synthesizer to do voice ID's and announcements which can be scheduled and varied. If you are interested, the software can be downloaded on the Internet and can be used for 30 days at no charge. It can be registered for \$20 and would make a good controller for an emergency repeater.

You can help us get the repeater coordinated. Get out and talk on it! The more we use it the more attractive we look to SCRBBA for coordination. We know that the machine has less than desirable coverage, but using it is a chicken and egg kind of thing. More use will get us coordinated, which will allow us to improve the system which will make it more useful. Less use delays coordination, which delays making it more useful. Let's burn up the airwaves and have SCRBBA kick us off the test pair!

## Check out our Web Site

*Keep informed of the latest club info at our web site*

The easiest way to keep up with what's new with the club is to check out our web site at [www.ircradio.org](http://www.ircradio.org). Dave (KE6CNL) has put together a great web site that is easy to navigate and has all of the club info you need at your fingertips.

- Updated Club Calendar
- Member Roster
- Detailed information about upcoming events
- Members equipment for sale
- Pictures of club activities
- Club documents and rules
- Information of general interest to all hams

If you have any ideas for things you would like to see on the site or if you have equipment you would like to list for sale, contact webmaster Dave at [band98@juno.com](mailto:band98@juno.com).

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.  
Statement of Income and Expenses  
January 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002

### Income:

Donations @ 1/25 Meeting	80
Donations @ 2/22 Meeting	50
Donations @ 3/29 Meeting	83
Donations @ 4/26 Meeting	92
Donations @ 5/17 Meeting	120
Donations @ 6/28 Meeting	115
Donations @ 7/26 Meeting	132
Donations @ 8/30 Meeting	56
Donations @ 9/27 Meeting	100
Other Donations	200
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Total Income 1,028

### Expenses:

Bank Charges	72
Coax for Repeater	45
Insurance	120
Secretary of State Fee	20
Site Rent	675
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Total Expenses 932

Excess of Expenses over Income 96

Beginning Bank Balance 399

Bank Balance as of September 30, 2002 495

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## Equipment Donation Fund

*Help us build the repeater*

SCRBBA has told us we are on track to get our repeater coordination. After we get coordinated we are going to put a major effort into improving the system. We have been raising funds by "passing the hat" which so far has raised enough funds to pay operating expenses.

To raise money to improve the system, we are asking you to check out your shack to see if you have some good underused equipment you could donate to the club. We will sell off any donated equipment to raise funds. If you can help us out, please contact Lowell (KG6AJF) [kg6ajf@juno.com](mailto:kg6ajf@juno.com) and let him know what you have.

## Club Nets

*Check into our Monday evening net*

The IRC is running a net every Monday evening at 7:30 pm on the MARS repeater (447.820 – PL 67.0). To keep everyone up on the world of ham radio, we are running Newsline before each net. We would appreciate everyone checking into the net each Monday if possible. (This means **you** Leon!)

The net is a great way to keep up with what's going on in the club and keep up with what our members are doing and it's a lot of fun. Lowell (KG6AJF) our net controller, encourages third party check ins. Encourage a youngster to do a third party communication on the net.

Thanks to Lowell for running the net and thanks to Jeff (KG6AGI) for taking care of Newsline.

## Club Contacts

[www.ircradio.org](http://www.ircradio.org)

Information:

Leon (KC6JAR) [kc6jar@juno.com](mailto:kc6jar@juno.com)

Ken (W6CPA) [w6cpa@arrl.net](mailto:w6cpa@arrl.net)

Webmaster:

Dave (KE6CNL) [band98@juno.com](mailto:band98@juno.com)

Net Control:

Lowell (KG6AJF) [kg6ajf@juno.com](mailto:kg6ajf@juno.com)

Club Engineer:

Johnathan (KF6OHR) [kf6ohr@hotmail.com](mailto:kf6ohr@hotmail.com)