

# Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 4

Fall 2008

## Presidents Corner

*Comments from IRC President Leon KC6JAR*

Well I see our picnic went really well while I was gone on vacation. I could tell all of you guys had a good time from the web site pictures.

Our technician class went extremely well. Everybody who took the class passed the test. We had a good time doing it and met several nice people. We had a few people upgrade and overall we had a really good session. The class could not have gone smoother and we got several new hams out of it.

As far as the system goes everything is working well other than a recent minor glitch with our RC-210 controller which I will put lead in one of these days. Everything at Blueridge is running and it's all linked in and connected. It seems to be working well. We have had a few people from Wrightwood and the Antelope Valley get on the system. It's good to hear more people using the system.

We are still working on the 900 machine for City

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## Latest System News

*What we have been doing lately with our system*

We have been working away on our system and recently we have made some major changes and are planning additional changes.

We now have two repeaters located at our Blueridge site which are or can be linked into the system. We have received a coordination from SMA for a 220 repeater on Blueridge. The frequency is 224.720 minus split 110.9 PL. This repeater is linked full time with the system and primarily covers the Antelope Valley and the desert toward Barstow. We have also installed a 440 repeater at Blueridge which can be linked into the system. The frequency is 446.860 minus split 82.5 PL. We have applied for coordination for this machine and it is currently on the test pair until we receive it. Since it is on the test pair, we can not link it into the system full time. If you are in its coverage area and wish to link it into the system send DTMF tones of 747\* and the machine will link into the system. After it has been inactive for five minutes it will automatically unlink from the system.

We are using a new site at City Terrace for linking purposes. City Terrace is located near the intersection of I-5 and I-10 close to downtown. We have moved the link equipment there and plan to install a 900 MHz repeater there shortly. City Terrace covers the greater Los Angeles City / Orange County area as well as the San Gabriel Valley. If you are interested in playing with 900 MHz, there are a number of surplus commercial 900 MHz radios available which can be converted to amateur use. If you are interested in technical information or acquiring one of these radios talk to Leon KC6JAR.

Terrace and we hope to get it running soon. We are still waiting on some equipment to arrive before we can proceed with the installation. With any luck we will have some more toys to play with soon. The IRLP system is still down because some of the equipment was stolen from the remote location where it was located. We are in the process of rebuilding the IRLP system and should have it back up soon. Don't forget about the holiday party. The time is flying and it will be here before you know it. I hope to see everybody there. It's always a great event for our club and you won't want to miss it.

I'd like to congratulate Larry KG6EJT for doing a wonderful job revamping the club web site. I've been getting a lot of complements on it and you should check it out. It's a lot easier to use and is organized much better now. I'd also like to mention the ladstar.org D-Star web site Ed KB6THO takes care of. If you want to find out about our D-Star system or how to use D-Star in general there is no finer resource on the web. The site is so good another club copied it and tried used it as their own site. We get awesome reviews from many people about both sites. 2009 will be here soon so stay tuned for the fun stuff we have coming up next year!

73 de Leon KC6JAR

## New Time for Weekly Net

*Tuesday evening net to change time in 2009*

Mr. Lowell KG6AJF our club net control has announced a change in the start time for the Tuesday evening weekly net. Starting January 6, 2009, the weekly analog net will begin at 7:00 pm. The net will begin with Newslines at 7:00 pm with check ins to follow at 7:30 pm. Mr. Lowell is continuing the trivia contest which awards one point for each check in and one point for each trivia question answered correctly. He will be awarding a prize for the highest score each quarter at the monthly meeting and a prize for the best score of the year at the holiday party. Ed KB6THO our D-Star net control has announced that the D-Star net will move to 8:00 pm on January 6 as well.

## Club Web Site Upgrade

*Check out our revised club web site!*

Larry KG6EJT our club web master has recently revised our club web site [www.ircradio.org](http://www.ircradio.org). The web site has been revised to make it easier to navigate and is now much more logically organized. Larry had added a photo archive and has posted all of the back issues of our newsletters as well. The web site is a great place to see what we've been up to and what we have planned for the future. Our event calendar is posted there so it's easy to see what events we have coming up. The site always shows the time and date of the next club meeting along with direction on how to get there. The site also has the club roster, instructions on how to join the IRC e-mail list, and links to our D-Star web site [www.ladstar.org](http://www.ladstar.org). Larry has done a great job and you should really check it out!

## Holiday Party Time

*Join us for the 2008 Holiday Party*

The annual IRC Holiday Party will be held Saturday December 6 at 7:00 pm at Eagle Rock City Hall. The party is always a lot of fun. The club will be providing dinner but we ask each member to provide their own drinks (no alcohol please due to LA City regulations). We also ask that everyone bring an unwrapped toy (or two) for the Toys for Tots program.

There will be a desert competition so bring your best desert and get a shot at a nice prize. We will have prizes, games and a whole lot of fun. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift (\$20 or less preferably something funny) to exchange. Mr. Lowell will also be announcing the winner of the trivia contest for 2008 who will receive a nice prize.

If you would like to attend, please let Ken or Lowell know at [w6cpa@ircradio.org](mailto:w6cpa@ircradio.org) or call (818) 243-8672. You won't want to miss Leon's special gifts. Hope to see you there!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS & VE TESTING SESSION  
EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL  
2035 COLORADO BLVD.  
EAGLE ROCK, CA  
SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 & SUNDAY OCTOBER 12 AT 9:00 AM

OCTOBER CLUB MEETING  
LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT  
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.  
VAN NUYS, CA  
FRIDAY OCTOBER 24 AT 7:00 PM

BEACH CAMPING TRIP  
CARPINTERIA STATE BEACH  
CARPINTERIA, CA  
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 7 THROUGH SUNDAY NOVEMBER 9

NOVEMBER CLUB MEETING  
LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT  
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.  
VAN NUYS, CA  
FRIDAY NOVEMBER 21 AT 7:00 PM

DECEMBER CLUB MEETING & HOLIDAY PARTY  
EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL  
2035 COLORADO BLVD.  
EAGLE ROCK, CA  
Saturday December 6 at 7:00 pm

## D-Star System Update

*What's new with our D-Star system?*

We have seen a lot of change around us this year and our D-STAR system is no exception. Here are some of the D-STAR highlights since our last newsletter.

On the local D-STAR front, we have QSY'd our 70cm DV repeaters. **WA6IRC B** at Contractor's is now on **447.040-**, and the Blueridge box, **WB6IRC B**, is now on the test pair, **446.880-**. We may be moving again depending on how these frequencies work out and how the 70cm coordinating body, SCRRBA, decides to work D-STAR into the 70cm band. We are also looking into installing a gateway at Blueridge so we can link the two sites, giving us wide-area D-STAR coverage. Check <http://ladstar.org/> for the latest info.

If you have noticed text scrolling across the screen of your D-STAR radio, but no audio, worry not. Gateway software enhancements have given us text announcements to go along with our voice announcements. The same hams who have brought us these announcements, reflectors and DV Dongles are working on an open source D-STAR repeater controller and gateway. After demonstrating D-STAR at Dayton, this group decided to pick up where ICOM left off and develop a system that addresses current "issues" and incorporates the enhancements the D-STAR community has been talking about. Take a look at <http://opendstar.org/design/> to see what D-STAR will become.

Just as with analog repeaters, D-STAR repeaters can be "linked" to permit QSOs between systems. "Reflectors" are how we dynamically link multiple D-STAR systems together for nets, emergency ops, or just plain old ragchewing. Not long ago there were only 3 reflectors, but their numbers are rapidly growing. As of the end of October, 12 reflectors located around the globe provide 36 "modules" for linking. Six reflectors serve North America, one serves Australia and the balance serve the UK, Germany, Italy and Europe at large. If you haven't done so yet, give a listen. Programming info and reflector details are at: <http://ladstar.org/ref.htm>.

73 de Ed, KB6THO

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008

### Income:

Membership Dues	770
Donations	140
Class Income	298
HamCon Proceeds	1,000
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Total Income 2,208

### Expenses:

Bank Charges	94
Dues & Subscriptions	10
Rent	900
Taxes	10
Telephone	337
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Total Expenses 1,351

Excess of Income over Expenses 857  
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Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

September 30, 2008

Operating Funds	1,308
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Total Cash 1,308

Total Assets 1,308  
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Total Liabilities 0

Unrestricted Fund Balance	1,308
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Fund Balance 1,308

Liabilities and Fund Balance 1,308  
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## Club Repeaters

**KC6JAR/R repeater**  
**445.340 MHz minus CTCSS 103.5**  
**Contractors Point**

**K6VE/R repeater**  
**224.480 MHz minus CTCSS 110.9**  
**Contractors Point**

**WA6BSC/R repeater**  
**927.4250 MHz minus CTCSS 82.5**  
**Contractors Point**

**W7EB/R repeater**  
**224.480 MHz minus CTCSS 110.9**  
**Las Vegas, NV**

**KC6JAR/R repeater**  
**224.720 MHz minus CTCSS 110.9**  
**Blueridge**

## Club Contacts

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

### Information:

Leon (KC6JAR) [kc6jar@ircradio.org](mailto:kc6jar@ircradio.org)

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### Webmaster:

Larry (KG6EJT) [kg6ejt@ircradio.org](mailto:kg6ejt@ircradio.org)

### Net Control:

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### D-Star Sysop:

Ed (KB6THO) [kb6tho@ircradio.org](mailto:kb6tho@ircradio.org)