

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 3

Spring 2003

Presidents Corner

Comments from Leon KC6JAR

Once again we have passed another milestone on the way to building our repeater. Our repeater is actually working exceptionally well. We seem to have a lot of handheld coverage in most places. We have a few variables with temperature that we need to solve. It may be a little deafer in the afternoon, which may just be propagation in general, but I bet you when it cools off we will be back in the pink again. We are currently researching the problems with the repeater and we expect to solve them soon.

We are doing quite well thanks to Johnathan and his hard work realigning the box and Ken going up and down the hill. Great things are happening. We now have a repeater that is working well and is drawing lots of traffic. This is a lot of fun and it will allow us to meet new people. This will be good for our group.

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Big Improvements in Repeater Performance!

Check out our machines new performance

Our club engineer Johnathan KF6OHR has been working hard to improve the performance of our repeater the KF6OHR machine. The repeater is located on Contractors Point in the hills above Sylmar on 445.340 - PL 103.5.

The first noticeable improvement is the installation of our new controller. The controller was purchased with your generous donations to the repeater fund. The new controller allows us to do voice IDs and announcements. It also has the capability to support many user features. The controller will support autopatch, reverse autopatch, a remote base, wide area linking, remote voter receiver, user audio check, and can be setup to control an Icom IC-706 remotely. Johnathan is currently working on a remote voter receiver to fill in some of our coverage gaps. We are currently reviewing the available features to figure out what we want to add and at what pace. If you have anything you would like to see us do, please let us know.

For the last couple of months we have been having sensitivity problems with the machine. Johnathan realigned the radio and added a preselector and a pre amp. A preselector is a band pass filter which allows us to boost the receiver sensitivity without unduly reducing its selectivity. The repeater sensitivity has increased tremendously. Our repeater now works in areas in which it never worked before. Please get out on the machine and try it. You will definitely like it. We would appreciate any signal reports which you can send to Leon KC6JAR.

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We are doing other great things besides the repeater. We are doing a test session after Field Day on Sunday afternoon. We are going to do upgrades, no code techs tests, and code testing as well. Field Day is going to be a great event so please stay tuned to our repeater to keep track of everything that is going on.

It is great that everyone has participated to get us to where we are at this stage. We are going to start doing our nets on our own frequency pair, Mondays at 7:30pm. Be there or be square. As always, we are all doing our best to keep things running and working right. We have an upcoming picnic on our calendar. We are still looking for a location but we'll let you know when we get it squared away. We are also going to do a campout which will be sometime later in the year. As we move along we plan to do some technician classes and testing sessions. We have done some great things in the last year. Stay tuned for our next milestone.

Monday Net to QSY 5/26

Now check in on the net on our repeater

The substantial improvement in our repeater performance will now allow us to conduct the Monday evening net on our repeater. Starting on May 26, our Monday evening net will be held on our repeater 445.340 – PL 103.5.

The net is held every Monday evening at 7:30pm. The net starts at 7:30pm with Newline run by Jeff KG6AGI. Check ins will follow Newline hosted by our charming net controller Lowell KG6AJF. All IRC members and all interested amateurs are encouraged to check in.

Checking in on the net helps you show support for the club and let you hear what is going on with the club and our members. Be sure to check in you people. Don't make Lowell have to shut it down!

Field Day 2003

The theme is Beams

Join us for Field Day at the beach! This year we will be operating from the Cabrillo group campsite at El Capitan State Beach. We've reserved the campground for Thursday June 26 through Monday June 30 so you can come early or stay late. Site set up will begin Friday June 27 at 11:00 am and Field Day starts Saturday June 28 at 11:00am and runs for the next 24 hours. The cost is \$12 per family per night. We will be doing our traditional potluck dinner on Saturday night. The club will provide the main course so bring a side dish and your favorite drink.

This year we will be operating as a 4A station. This means that we will be operating 4 HF transmitters and a VHF/UHF weak signal station. In addition to running normal phone stations we will also be set up to do CW, HF digital, SSTV and satellite operations. If you are interested in operating in these modes or in seeing them in action, plan to be there. The theme this year is beam antennas. Brian W2BRI has designed several wire beam antennas for the site. If you've never had a chance to operate using gain antenna you will be amazed at their performance. Brian is setting up beam antennas for every band from 80M – 70cm (except 125cm) so our station should rock.

We are still looking for some equipment, specifically batteries and coax. Please e-mail Brian brian@standpipe.com to let him know you're coming and to let him know the equipment you are bringing. As of this writing we have 50 people coming and we only have space for 65 so you need to talk to Brian now. June 15 is the deadline to register with Brian.

El Capitan State Beach is located 20 miles north of Santa Barbara off Highway 101. You can find detailed directions and a map on the website. Talk in frequency will be 147.00 + PL 131.8.

It's a little bit of a drive, but how can you beat the beach and amateur radio?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FIELD DAY 2003

EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH-CABRILLO GROUP CAMP
20 MILES NORTH OF SANTA BARBARA
SATURDAY JUNE 28 - SUNDAY JUNE 29, 2003 AT 11:00AM

Join us for Field Day at the beach! Setup will begin Friday
June 27 at 11:00am

See the article on page 2 for more information.

VE TESTING SESSION

EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH-CABRILLO GROUP CAMP
20 MILES NORTH OF SANTA BARBARA
SUNDAY JUNE 29, 2003 AT 1:00AM
UPGRADE YOUR LICENSE (OR BECOME LICENSED) AFTER FIELD DAY
AT THE BEACH.
SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

APRIL CLUB MEETING

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

MAY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY MAY 30 AT 7:00 PM

JUNE CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY JUNE 20 AT 7:00 PM

SUMMER PICNIC

LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED. STAY TUNED.
SATURDAY JULY 19, 2003 AT 11:00AM

VE Testing Session

Upgrade your license (or get one) after Field Day

A number of members of our club have become VEs and are planning to run a testing session after Field Day. The IRC is sponsoring a VE team which will be holding a testing session on Sunday June 29, 2003 at 1:00 pm at the Cabrillo group camp in El Capitan State Beach.

Our VE team consists of Leon KC6JAR, Steve KG6DFH, Greg W6EZV, and Ken W6CPA. Since Steve recently upgraded to Extra (Congratulations Steve!), we will be able to give tests for Elements 1 through 4.

To take a test you will need:

- 1) A picture ID (or two other forms of ID).
- 2) Your social security number.
- 3) A xerox copy of your license or CSCE (if you are upgrading).
- 4) The \$12 test fee.

The testing session is open to the public. You don't have to go to Field Day to take a test (although I can't think of why anyone would want to skip Field Day). If you have any questions about the testing procedure contact Ken W6CPA at w6cpa@arrl.net or (818) 957-1699.

Get out your books and start studying! Field Day at the beach and a license upgrade, what could be better?

VE Help Available

Our VE members can help your group become Hams

Several members of our club have become VEs. We are willing to sponsor testing sessions to help members of your group (students, scouts, CAP, etc.) become amateur licensees. Testing sessions must be open to the public, but we can schedule them at your convenience. We offer this service to promote our club and our hobby. If your group is interested in classes or testing contact Ken W6CPA at w6cpa@arrl.net or (818) 957-1699.

You can also help us promote our club and hobby by becoming a VE. Contact Ken for more information.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.
Statement of Income and Expenses
January 1, 2003 through March 31, 2003

Income:

Donations @ 1/31 Meeting	120
Donations @ 2/28 Meeting	113
Donations @ 3/28 Meeting	145
Repeater Improvement Fund	419

Total Income 797

Expenses:

Bank Charges	23
Controller for Repeater	350
Site Rent	225

Total Expenses 598

Excess of Income over Expenses 199

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Independent Radio Club, Inc.
Balance Sheet
March 31, 2003

Operating Funds	733
Repeater Improvement Fund	184

Total Cash 917

Total Assets 917

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Unrestricted Fund Balance	733
Restricted Fund Balance	184

Fund Balance 917

Liabilities and Fund Balance 917

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Repeater Improvement Fund

Help us build the repeater

We are excited about the capabilities of our new controller. We are now 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 and let him know what you have.

All of these funds will be used to purchase needed repeater equipment so we can build a first class machine.

Club Contacts

www.ircradio.org

Information:

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Webmaster:

Dave (KE6CNL) band98@juno.com

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Club Engineer:

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