

# Independent Radio Club

## WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 2

Spring 2004

### Presidents Corner

*Comments from IRC president Leon KC6JAR.*

Spring is here and now that Ken is back with us we have a lot of work to do. We have a lot of activities planned for this year. Our repeater has been running well with the exception of one minor break down. Our controller dropped dead and we had to put in a spare. That pushed us into getting a better controller we've wanted to buy for some time. Well now we have it and it works good. It is so versatile that we will be able to add many new features in the future. The autopatch is up and running and everything seems to be working well. The repeater needs a little bit of a tune up but we will get there.

I really appreciate all the help you've given me over the last three months. Dave was right on top of Newline and the web site, Lowell for running the net, and Brian was a lot of help in keeping me focused.

*continued on page 2*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1** President's Corner
- 1** Field Day is Coming
- 2** Technician License Class & VE Testing Session
- 2** New Time and Date for Weekly Net
- 3** Summer Beach Trip

### Field Day is Almost Here

*It's time to get ready for Field Day*

Join us for Field Day Saturday June 26 and Sunday June 27. This year we will be operating on Mount Pinos in the Mc Gill Campground. Mount Pinos is located seven miles west of Frazier Park. Detailed directions along with a map are available on our web site [www.ircradio.org](http://www.ircradio.org). We will start setting up at 11 am Friday June 25 and operations will start at 11 am Saturday June 26.

This year we are planning to run a 3A station consisting of 2 HF phone transmitters, 1 HF digital transmitter and 1 VHF/UHF transmitter. We plan to run SSTV, RTTY, PSK-31, APRS and maybe some other "unusual" modes. If you have never seen these modes in action, you will want to come to find out what they are all about and give them a try yourself.

The campsites can not be reserved so they are on a first come first served basis. If you want Leon to grab you a site, you need to e-mail him at [kc6jar@juno.com](mailto:kc6jar@juno.com) or Ken at [w6cpa@arrl.net](mailto:w6cpa@arrl.net) to let us know you are coming and we will set a site aside for you. The campground has no potable water so you need to bring your own. The town of Frazier Park is about a ten minute drive from camp. Everyone also needs to bring a side dish for the potluck dinner on Saturday. The club will provide the main dish, you provide a side dish and your own drinks.

We will be running a VE testing session at 1:00 pm Sunday June 27 at the Field Day site right after its over. So start studying!

If you can't spend the night, come up for the day. We hope to see you there!

We have a lot of club activities coming up. We have Field Day coming up in June, our day hike in September, and the beach trip in August. Our first official Tech class and testing session will be held May 22 and 23. We are kind of new at teaching, but we hope to turn out a lot of new hams this year. I think we have firmed up a second date in October for another weekend tech class and testing session at Eagle Rock City Hall.

So stick around because we have a lot of fun stuff coming up and we are planning to do more as we go along. We are trying to tie up some loose ends to go ahead with a linking project with another repeater on Hauser Peak. This would expand our repeater coverage into the Antelope Valley and Highway 14. We are also looking for a secondary repeater site to expand our radio coverage area even more. We are currently building an Echolink node that will be available to all club members. Echolink will let you work the world with your HT. Once again I thank you for your support of the IRC and I'm looking forward to having fun together this year.

73 from Leon KC6JAR

## **Weekly net moves to Tuesday night at 6pm**

*Show your support, check into the net*

Our weekly evening net has changed its day and time. The net will now be held every Tuesday night at 6:00pm with Newline followed by check ins. The net is hosted by our charming (?) net controller Lowell KG6AJF. IRC members and all interested amateurs are encouraged to check in.

Checking in on the net is a good way to show support for our club. It is also a great way to keep up with what's happening with our club and its members. We would love to hear what you've been doing in radio or life in general.

Be sure to check in you people. Don't make Lowell have to shut it down!

## **Technician License Class**

*Do you know anyone who is interested in getting their ham ticket?*

The IRC is sponsoring our first technician license class with a VE testing session directly following the class. The class is being held Saturday May 22 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday May 23 from 10 am to 3 pm at Eagle Rock City Hall. Eagle Rock City Hall is located at 2035 Colorado Blvd., Eagle Rock. The cost of the class is \$40, which includes the study book and the VEC required testing fee.

This is a great way for anyone interested in getting licensed to get there fast. The class will be held over the weekend of May 22 and 23 and will concentrate on teaching the subjects necessary to pass the technicians license examination. Directly after the license class, we will hold a VE testing session.

The VE testing session is not limited to the students in the license class. The testing session is open to everyone and will offer all test elements, so if you are working on an upgrade, please stop by. The testing session will be held at Eagle Rock City Hall at 3:00 pm Sunday May 23. Each applicant needs to pay the VEC testing fee of \$12, bring a copy of their current amateur license (if any), any current CSCEs, a pencil, your social security number or FCC FRN, and a picture ID. Walk ins will be accepted, but we would appreciate it if you would let us know you are coming by e-mailing Ken at [w6cpa@arrl.net](mailto:w6cpa@arrl.net).

More detailed information about the class is available on our web site [www.ircradio.org](http://www.ircradio.org). To sign up for the class, print out the flyer on the web site and mail it in or e-mail Ken at [w6cpa@arrl.net](mailto:w6cpa@arrl.net), tell him your name, address, phone number and that you would like to take the class. Then mail in a check for \$40 made out to the Independent Radio Club to 3624 Foothill #1, La Crescenta, CA 91214. When we receive your check we will send out your study book. We encourage you to preregister as prestudy will increase your chances for success.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### APRIL CLUB MEETING

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

### MAY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT  
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.  
NORTH HOLLYWOOD  
FRIDAY MAY 21 AT 7:00 PM

### TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS & VE TESTING SESSION

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL  
2035 COLORADO BLVD.  
EAGLE ROCK  
Saturday May 22 at 9:00 am & Sunday May 23 at 10:00 am

See article for more information

### JUNE CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT  
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.  
NORTH HOLLYWOOD  
FRIDAY JUNE 18 AT 7:00 PM

### FIELD DAY

MC GILL CAMPGROUND  
MT PINOS, CA  
SET UP ON FRIDAY JUNE 25 AT 11:00 AM  
OPERATIONS START SATURDAY JUNE 26 AT 11:00AM

### VE TESTING SESSION

MC GILL CAMPGROUND  
MT PINOS, CA  
SUNDAY JUNE 27 AT 1:00 PM  
THE TESTING SESSION WILL BE HELD AT OUR FIELD DAY SITE  
DIRECTLY AFTER FIELD DAY.

## Cool off at the Beach

*Join us for a cool end to summer at El Capitan*

Come join your friends for a cool end to summer. The IRC is having a summer beach trip the weekend before Labor Day August 27, 28, 29 at El Capitan State Beach. We will be camping from 2 pm Friday August 27 through 12:00 noon Monday August 30. We have reserved the Cabrillo group campsite where we had Field Day last year. RV's can not camp directly at the site, but can camp on the parking lot next to the campsite.

There are many things for everyone to do at El Capitan Beach. There is a great beach for swimming, fishing or collecting shells. There is a 3 mile bicycle trail from El Capitan to Refugio State Beach which goes along the coast away from any road. There are several hiking trails into the mountains behind the campground. We will also have a radio or two set up for anyone who wants to play.

The cost of the trip is \$21 per family per night. We will be having a potluck dinner Saturday night. Everyone should bring a side dish and their own drinks. The club will provide the main dish. To sign up e-mail Ken at [w6cpa@arrl.net](mailto:w6cpa@arrl.net). See you there!

## New Echolink Node

*Coming soon - a club Echolink node*

Brian W2BRI and Ken are building a club Echolink node. Echolink is a system used to link radios or repeaters together using the Internet. Using Echolink, you can talk to people around the world using your HT.

Our Echolink node is planned to be a crossband system. We plan to have the node receive on 2 meters and transmit on 70 centimeters. You will need a radio that works crossband split (most dual band radios will do this) to operate the node.

The node will be located in the San Fernando Valley and will hopefully be operational soon. The best way to keep up with the status of the node is to listen to the weekly net on Tuesday and get a report at our monthly meeting. We will distribute operating instructions when the mode becomes operational.

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January 1, 2004 through March 31, 2004

### Income:

Autopatch Memberships	240	
Membership Dues	75	
January Donations	70	
February Donations	80	
March Donations	70	
	-----	
Total Income		535

### Expenses:

Bank Charges	23	
Site Rent	225	
Telephone	99	
	-----	
Total Expenses		347
Excess of Income over Expenses		188
		===

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

March 31, 2004

Operating Funds	1,540	
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Total Cash		1,540
		-----
Total Assets		1,540
		=====
Unrestricted Fund Balance	1,540	
	-----	
Fund Balance		1,540
		-----
Liabilities and Fund Balance		1,540
		=====

## Congratulations!

*Here's some of our members recent radio achievements*

### License Upgrades:

Leon KC6JAR upgraded to Extra

It's about time Leon!

James N6XKU upgraded to General

Congratulations, enjoy that new radio!

### Operating Awards:

Bill KG6GNC was awarded DXCC for confirming QSO's in 100 different countries

Way to go Bill. You've sure put that tower to good use.

## 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)