

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 2

Spring 2005

Presidents Corner

Comments from IRC President Leon KC6JAR

It is spring and we have a whole bunch of new projects planned. Now that we have the 900 MHz repeater up and running, we are going to concentrate on getting it working well. Our desert linking project is currently on hold. We have some technical problems we are working out. We should have them worked out soon and we will move forward.

Beside the 900 MHz and desert linking projects we have some other opportunities on the horizon. We are working on associating our club with the Mountain Repeater Association. This would allow each club to share the use of its equipment with the other club. The MRA has a 220 MHz system, which is linked into Las Vegas. We will explain how it all works at our next meeting.

Field day will be here before we know it. We will be concentrating on getting ready to operate at the beach.

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Corner
- 1 Field Day at the Beach!!!
- 2 900MHz Repeater Now in Operation
- 3 Technician License Class in May
- 4 Sign up for the e-mail list

2005 Field Day

Join us for Field Day at the beach!

Through some luck and good timing, we were able to make reservations at Mc Grath State Beach for Field Day. Mc Grath State Beach is just south of Oxnard off highway 101. Field Day set up will start at 12:00 noon Friday June 24. Field Day will start 11:00am Saturday June 25 and will go for the next 24 hours.

The campsite has showers and flush toilets, but no RV hookups. The campsite fees are \$30 per night (with a 2 night minimum) plus \$8 per night for each additional vehicle. The campsites are large enough that two families could share one site. We have seven sites reserved and four are already taken. If you don't want to camp, you are welcome to come up for the day and operate or just hang out.

On Saturday night we will be having our traditional potluck dinner. Please bring a side dish and the drinks of your choice and the club will provide the main course. Our dinner is always a highlight of Field Day.

This year we plan to run a 3A battery station. We plan to operate on 75, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters, 125cm, 70cm and 23cm. We will be running SSTV, PSK31 as well as weak signal VHF/UHF work. If you are interested in seeing or trying any of these modes make sure to come on by.

Right after Field Day at 1:00pm Sunday June 26, we will be holding a VE testing session. If you are looking for an upgrade, be sure to crack the books.

We **must** have your reservations by May 20. The club has to pay for the sites 30 days in advance and if we don't think we can fill them we will drop them. To register, contact Ken W6CPA at w6cpa@arrl.net. See you at the beach!

Our technician class is coming up even sooner. If you know anyone who is interested in getting a license, tell them about our class. One day if all is well and we keep staying in the black, we have plans to expand the Echolink station and to move it up to the repeater site. This would make the Echolink station more usable by everybody. Currently, only members in the valley can use it. We would like to make it available to everyone.

I'd like to give special thanks to Juan W6DMV for letting us put the 900 MHz repeater at his house. Thanks to Larry KG6EJT for doing such a great job on the web site. Thanks as always to Mr. Lowell KG6AJF our net controller who is a lot of fun and takes care of us all. Thanks to Brian W2BRI for maintaining and operating the Echolink system. As always I thank every one of you for your loyalty and support which is the reason why we have come so far.

73 de Leon KC6JAR

Are you checking in??

Support the club by checking in

Our weekly evening net is held every Tuesday night at 6:00pm. The net starts at 6:00pm with Newline followed by check ins hosted by our charming debonair net controller Lowell KG6AJF. IRC members and all interested amateurs are encouraged to check in. We also welcome third party traffic.

Checking in on the net helps you show support for the club. We use the net as a meeting place on the air and to practice net procedure. It's a great time to keep up what's happening in amateur radio, and let you hear what is going on with the club and our members. We would love to hear what you've been doing in radio or life in general. If you have an item to sell the net is a good way to mention it to your friends on the radio.

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

900MHz Repeater online

Our new 900 MHz repeater is now in service

We have completed the installation of our 900 MHz repeater at Juan's (W6DMV) residence in South Pasadena. Juan is fortunate to live right on top of a hill. The 900 MHz repeater is linked into our 440 MHz machine on Contractors Point. This system should extend our coverage into the Eagle Rock/San Gabriel Valley area and possibly out into Long Beach/Orange County. The repeater is at 927.9625 MHz minus split with a PL of 100.0 Hz. The repeater split in the 33cm band is 25 MHz.

There is no amateur gear available for the 900 MHz band, however commercial gear is available which can be modified to go into the ham band. We have gotten a hold of some Motorola GTX 900 radios, which can be easily modified with software to go into the ham band. The radio has a portable version and a mobile version. If you are interested in giving 900 MHz a try we will be offering GTX portables and mobiles we've been able to pick up on the surplus market. Quantities are limited so talk to Leon KC6JAR about price and availability.

IRC joins forces with MRA

Welcome to our new associates

The IRC has come to an agreement with our sister club the Mountain Repeater Association to associate our clubs. The MRA is a long standing radio club which runs a 220 MHz repeater system part of which is located at Contractors Point. Their 220 system is a series of linked repeaters from Contractors Point to Las Vegas with repeaters at Hauser Peak and Blueridge along the way.

As a result of our association, MRA members will be able to use our repeater system and our members will be able to use the MRA system. We are in the process of linking our repeater with the MRA repeater on Contractors. Please say hello to the new hams you hear on the frequency.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY APRIL 29 AT 7:00 PM

MAY CLUB MEETING

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

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
Saturday May 21 & 22 at 9:00 am

JUNE CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY JUNE 17 AT 7:00 PM

FIELD DAY

MCGRATH STATE BEACH
OXNARD, CA

FRIDAY JUNE 24 AT 12:00 AM - FIELD DAY SETUP

SATURDAY JUNE 25 AT 11:00 AM TO SUNDAY JUNE 26

Field Day operations.

VE Testing session Sunday June 26 1:00pm at campsite.

See story in opposing column

Technician License Class

Do you know anyone who wants a ham ticket?

The IRC is offering a technician license class and VE testing session May 21 and 22. The class will be held at Eagle Rock City Hall, 2035 Colorado Blvd, Eagle Rock. Eagle Rock City Hall is located on Colorado Boulevard near the Hwy 134/ Hwy 2 interchange. The class will run 9:00am to 5:00pm Saturday May 21 and 10:00am to 3:00pm Sunday May 22. The class will be followed by a VE testing session sponsored by the IRC.

We have found that taking a technician class over one weekend and immediately testing right afterward is much more successful than taking classes over a series of weeks. Testing the student before he has a chance to forget the material works very well.

Signing up at the class is ok, but we would prefer it if you would preregister. You can preregister by e-mailing Ken at w6cpa@arrl.net or by printing and mailing in the coupon from our web site at www.ircradio.org. One advantage of preregistration is that prestudy will increase your chances of success dramatically. The cost of the class is \$45. The cost includes a study book and the required VE testing fee. Should you fail the first test and need to take a second test a \$14 additional fee is required. All students should bring picture ID and their social security number (the SSN is required by the FCC).

The VE testing session on Sunday May 22 at 3:00 pm is open to all. We will be offering all test elements so it's a perfect time to upgrade. You need the following items to take a test, a picture ID, \$14 in check or cash, a copy of your license (if any), and any CSCE forms. Please have a copy of your existing license and exact change for the test fee. You can still take a test if you don't bring a copy of the license, but you will only receive credit for the elements passed. Any license upgrade would be held up for ARRL VEC verification. Any questions call or e-mail Ken at (818) 957-1699.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January 1, 2005 through March 31, 2005

Income:

January Donations	40
February Donations	38
March Donations	35

Total Income 113

Expenses:

Bank Charges	23
Site Rent	225
Telephone	96

Total Expenses 344

Excess of Income over Expenses (231)
====

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

March 31, 2005

Operating Funds 982

Total Cash 982

Other Assets:

Books 242
FD Deposit 100

Total Other Assets 342

Total Assets 1,324
=====

Unrestricted Fund Balance 1,324

Fund Balance 1,324

Liabilities and Fund Balance 1,324
=====

Sign up for the Email list

Keep track of current club news by e-mail

Besides listening to the weekly net, the best way to keep up with what's happening in the club is to subscribe to our club e-mail list. The e-mail list gives you up to the minute reports of what's going on with the club.

To subscribe point your browser to:

<http://www.fatpenguin.com/mailman/listinfo/ircradio>.

Fill out the form on the page and your subscription will begin. Thanks to Craig WA6EKP for letting us use his mail list server!

Club Repeaters

KC6JAR/R repeater
445.340 MHz minus CTCSS 103.5
Contractors Point

W6DMV/R repeater
927.9625 MHz minus CTCSS 100.0
South Pasadena

Club Contacts

www.ircradio.org

Information:

Leon (KC6JAR) kc6jar@sbcglobal.net

Ken (W6CPA) w6cpa@arrl.net

Webmaster:

Larry (KG6EJT) kg6ejt@arrl.net

Net Control:

Lowell (KG6AJF) kg6ajf@juno.com

Echolink System info:

Brian (W2BRI) (818) 505-0222