

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

Spring 2007

Presidents Corner

Comments from IRC President Leon KC6JAR

Field Day is fast approaching. As usual we are looking for ropes, tarps, poles, coax, batteries, and a generator would be nice. Let us know if you can help. I'd like to thank Ed KB6THO for acquiring and coordinating the campsite for us. Getting a site at the beach isn't easy but Ed managed to pull it off.

Don't forget about our Field Day potluck dinner on Saturday. The club will provide the main course and you need to bring a side dish and your own drinks. On Saturday evening, Ed is going to give a talk at the camp amphitheatre about disaster communications. Ed a great speaker, so I'm looking forward to hearing his talk.

Our entire local D-Star system is up and running. Our gateway is still not working though. We are endeavoring to get it going and we will get there. I'd like to thank everyone at HRO for helping us out demonstrating the D-Star system. They have all have been very helpful in publicizing our system. From what

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Field Day at the Beach

Don't miss Field Day at El Capitan State Beach!

It's almost time for Field Day and this year we will be operating at the Cabrillo group camp at El Capitan State Beach. The beach is located 17 miles west of Santa Barbara off highway 101. (Talk in 446.000 or 147.000+ PL 131.8) We plan to run a 3A battery station consisting of 3 HF transmitters and 1 VHF/UHF weak signal station. We will be operating on every FD band from 80 Meters to 23 cm. We will be running phone, HF digital, SSTV, CW and maybe some other modes.

Set up starts 11:00 am Friday June 22 and operating begins 11:00 am Saturday June 23 for 24 hours. We've reserved the campsite for Thursday night so you can come up Thursday if you like. The group camp is set up for tents only; however there is a parking lot next to the site where you can park trailers as long as we are low key about it. The campground has potable water, flush toilets and fire pits. You are welcome to bring your own rig; however, we should have plenty of radios for everyone to operate.

On Saturday we are having our traditional potluck dinner. We ask everyone to bring a side dish and their own drinks. The club will provide the main dish. Dinner is always a lot of fun so plan on staying for dinner even if you are just coming up for the day. We will be conducting a VE testing session on Sunday 1 pm after Field Day at the campsite. This is your last chance to take the general exam before they change the question pool July 1.

Field day, the beach, a chance to upgrade you won't want to miss this. Campsites are \$25 per night. E-mail Ken to let us know you are coming at w6cpa@ircradio.org or download the info at our website <http://www.ircradio.org/fd2007.htm>.

I've been told, we seem to have one of the best D-Star systems in the area and that's always a plus. I'd also like to thank Barry N6HOG who is helping us make our gateway connection work. As Mr. Lowell says we are working on it.

Thanks again to Mark KC6HMO, Steve KG6GIK, his son Shane KG6GIN, and Russell KG6RUS for helping us set up Blueridge and the D-Star system site. That's what this group is all about. We've got a bunch of great people. The quality of the system is directly related to the help we get.

Unfortunately, our last technician license class didn't go off because of a mix up with City Hall. We didn't have a big turn out for the test session, but we had got some new hams and some upgrades and that's worthwhile. I'd like to thank the VEs who came out to help, Amy AF6BK, Lowell KG6AJF, Ed KB6THO, and James N6XKU.

We thank you for coming to all of these events. Your support for the club is what makes it all work. Field Day at the beach, the fair, HamCon, Avocado Festival stay tuned you won't want to miss this.

Southwest Convention

Help us work HamCon 2007

This year it's the Los Angeles Sections turn to host the ARRL Southwest Division convention. The convention will be held on September 7, 8 & 9 at the Torrance Marriott. The convention features technical presentations, guest speakers, lots of socializing and a manufacturers display of the latest gear. You can see the convention details (or register) at www.hamcon.org.

Our club has agreed to help run the convention. In exchange for some seed money and providing labor, we will get a share of the convention profits. Our job will be to provide security. We will need several people working in teams of two to monitor the manufacturers display set up, check badges at the exhibit hall, and to watch the manufacturer's equipment in the evening.

The next newsletter will have an information flyer with a sign up sheet which we will also post on the web site. Please let us know if you can help us out. Stay tuned to the nets for more information.

Amateur Radio Expo 2007

Help us show off our stuff at the LA County Fair

Our club has agreed to help operate Amateur Radio Expo at the county fair again this year. This is a great way to show off our hobby to the general public. We have agreed to run a demonstration booth Saturday September 22 and Sunday September 23.

We need volunteers to man the booth and we need some good ideas about what to display. We need a display that is visually grabbing and is interesting to the general public. Last year we demonstrated HF voice, SSTV and APRS. If you have any ideas please pass them along to Leon on the air or at kc6jar@ircradio.org. Everyone who volunteers to work the fair for at least four hours gets free admission and parking. Show off our hobby and have fun at the same time.

D-Star System Status

Things are starting to come together

We have finally (for now) resolved our equipment issues with Icom and the entire local repeater system is operational (2 meters, 70 cm, 23 cm). We have been assigned a test coordination for the 2 meter repeater which may move in the future depending on how our test works out. You should check the D-Star web site frequently for the latest system status www.ladstar.org.

The last step in the process is the internet gateway set up which has been a big stumbling block for us. The gateway allows us to connect to other D-Star repeaters in the national network. The gateway server must be at the repeater site so we need to get a high speed internet connection there. We are ready to implement the gateway as soon as we can get the internet connection going. We are trying a couple of different ideas and we will get it worked out soon. Check the web site for details.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL CLUB MEETING
LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
FRIDAY APRIL 27 AT 7:00 PM

VE TESTING SESSION
EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
SUNDAY MAY 13 AT 3:00 PM

MAY CLUB MEETING
LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
FRIDAY MAY 18 AT 7:00 PM

JUNE CLUB MEETING
LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
FRIDAY JUNE 15 AT 7:00 PM

FIELD DAY !
EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH (SEE STORY ON PAGE 1)
CABRILLO GROUP CAMP
NORTH OF SANTA BARBARA
SETUP STARTS FRIDAY JUNE 22 AT 11:00 AM
SATURDAY JUNE 23 AT 11:00 AM TO SUNDAY JUNE 24 11:00 AM

GENERAL LICENSE CLASS
EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
SATURDAY JULY 14 & SUNDAY JULY 15 AT 9:00 AM

General License Class

It's time to get off you duff and get on HF!

Now that the code is gone there is no excuse for not upgrading! The IRC is offering a general license class and VE testing session July 14 and 15. 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 July 14 and 9:00am to 3:00pm Sunday July 15. The class will be followed by a VE testing session sponsored by the IRC.

We have found that taking a license 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@ircradio.org 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 \$50. 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 or FRN.

The VE testing session on Sunday July 15 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 that we can keep 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, 2007 through March 31, 2007

Income:

Membership Dues	465	

Total Income		465

Expenses:

Bank Charges	23	
Dues	10	
Site Expense	300	
Telephone	143	

Total Expenses		476

Excess of Expenses over Income		(11)
		===

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

March 31, 2007

Operating Funds	1,213	

Total Cash		1,213
Other Assets:		
Books	206	

Total Other Assets		206

Total Assets		1,419
		=====
Total Liabilities		0
Unrestricted Fund Balance	1,419	

Fund Balance		1,419

Liabilities and Fund Balance		1,419
		=====

Congratulations

MEMBER MILESTONES

Congratulations to Chuck Fisher KI6KEI for getting his license and his general in one day!

Congratulations to Michelle Chafin KI6FXL for her new technician license.

Congratulations to Amy Snyder AF6BK for upgrading to extra.

Congratulations to Ed KB6THO for getting his Field Day article published in this months QST. It's a great article about his experience at FD last year. You can read it here <http://www.ircradio.org/kb6tho.pdf>

Club Contacts

www.ircradio.org

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