

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 2

Spring 2008

Presidents Corner

Comments from IRC President Leon KC6JAR

It was great seeing everyone at last months meeting. Mark KC6HMO did a great job running the new D-Star demonstration video from Icom at the monthly meeting. It gave everyone a good idea about how D-Star works and what it can do for you.

Ken is out of tax hell and we are getting ready to do a lot of work on the repeaters. We have already run up to the Blueridge site and half way fixed our link to Las Vegas. It seems to be working better now. The link antenna was turned 180 degree off the direction it should be pointing. We re aimed the antenna but it still needs some more work. We are in the process of setting up the equipment to use our new Blueridge 220 frequency and get everything all linked in. We have had some issues with the Blueridge repeaters which have run from no audio being passed to not wanting to link or unlink the right way. We will fix them soon.

We also got up to Contractors Point and adjusted the audio on the 440 side. We apologize for the delay in

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Field Day!

Field Day in the pines at Mt. Pinos

Join us for 2008 Field Day in the pines Saturday June 28 and Sunday June 29. This year we will be operating from Mc Gill Campground on Mt. Pinos. Mc Gill campground is approximately 15 miles west of the Frazier Park exit on I-5. Campsites can not be reserved and are first come first served so you will want to let us know you are coming so we can save you a spot. The campground sites limit RVs to 30' and cost \$12 per night.

We are going to run a 3A station consisting of 3 HF transmitters and a weak signal VHF/UHF station. We plan to operate on all of the Field Day bands from 160M to 23cm. We will be operating SSB, CW, FM, PSK-31, SSTV, APRS, and other modes if you have one you would like to suggest. This is a great way to try a new band or mode you haven't used before.

On Saturday we are going to have our traditional potluck dinner. Everyone should bring a side dish and their own drinks. The club will provide the main course. Even if you just come up for the day on Saturday, we encourage you to stay for dinner.

On Sunday at 1:00pm, we will conduct a VE testing session for all licenses classes. Make sure you bring a copy of your licenses if you plan to upgrade.

Setup will begin at 11:00am Friday June 27 and we will be operating from 11:00am Saturday to 11:00am Sunday. To let us know you are coming e-mail Ken at w6cpa@ircradio.org or call Leon at (818) 720-8331. For more information check out our web site at <http://www.ircradio.org/fd08.pdf>.

fixing the overdriven audio. We are also in the process of getting the D-Star gateway working correctly. We are having some glitches with the new gateway software but we are getting pretty close to getting it solved.

Stay tuned, we have a lot things coming up with IRC; Field Day, our picnic, our camping trip, our holiday party, license classes, and much more fun. We are working on having a class on how to use your D-Star radio. The class will be free to everybody. We have a lot of people getting interested in D-Star and it would be very helpful. The D-Star radios are more complicated to use than an analog radio and the class should help out a lot.

Congratulations to Steve WB2KXC for winning the first quarter trivia contest. He was the proud winner of a portable barbeque grill. You can win too by checking into the Tuesday night net and answering the questions correctly.

Again I would like to thank everyone for coming to our club events. It's nice to have everyone use the machine and to do things together as a group. It's just an enjoyable time. We have a great group of people and I appreciate everyone taking the time out of their busy schedule to support our club.

73 de Leon KC6JAR

Ham Con Results

2007 ARRL Southwest Division Convention

Our club was involved in putting on the 2007 ARRL Southwest Division Convention last September. The job we were assigned was security. The arrangement the participating clubs have to put on the convention is that if each club provides labor for the convention and \$200 of seed money, then that club gets a share of the profits from the convention.

Things were looking a little rocky before the convention, but the convention ended up being a success. Our club's share of the profits amounted to \$800. We would like to thank all of the members who helped out working and planning the convention. It was a lot of fun and a great help to the club.

General License Class

Give us a weekend and upgrade your license

The new solar cycle is getting started and the time is right to get on HF. The IRC is conducting a general license class Saturday July 12 and Sunday July 13 at Eagle Rock City Hall. This is an intensive weekend class followed by a VE testing session immediately after class. This is a great way to upgrade your license quickly. The cost of the class is \$50 which covers your study book and the testing fee.

There will also be a VE testing session on Sunday July 13 at 3pm which is open to the general public. You are welcome to come to the testing session if you don't need the class. Candidates need to bring the \$14 testing fee, a picture ID and a copy of your existing license if you plan to upgrade.

For more information or to find out how to sign up for the class, see the flyer on our website <http://www.ircradio.org/gen08.pdf>.

Trivia Contest

Play the IRC trivia contest every Tuesday night

Mr. Lowell KG6AJF has added a new wrinkle to the Tuesday night net. Mr. Lowell will conduct a trivia contest every Tuesday night after Newsline when he takes check ins. He will announce the trivia questions at the beginning of the net and will take your answers when you check in.

You get one point for checking in and one point for each correct answer. Mr. Lowell will announce the correct answers at the end of the net. At the end of each quarter, Mr. Lowell will announce the winner at the club meeting and they will receive a nice prize. The grand prize trivia winner for the year will be announced at the Holiday Party in December. You can get in on the contest by checking in every Tuesday night at 6:00pm.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
FRIDAY APRIL 25 AT 7:00 PM

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
SATURDAY MAY 17 & SUNDAY MAY 18 AT 1:00 PM

VE TESTING SESSION

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
SUNDAY MAY 18 AT 4:00 PM

MAY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
FRIDAY MAY 30 AT 7:00 PM

JUNE CLUB MEETING

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
Friday June 20 at 7:00 pm

FIELD DAY

MC GILL CAMPGROUND (SEE STORY PAGE 1)
MT. PINOS
FRAZIER PARK, CA
Friday June 27 at 11:00 am - Setup
Saturday June 28-Sunday June 29 at 11:00 am - Operations
Sunday June 29 at 1:00 pm - VE Testing

D-Star System Update

What's going on with our D-Star system

There have been some big changes in the D-Star system. We have recently installed version 2 of the Icom internet gateway software. This was a big improvement because it eliminated some major flaws in version 1. The new version (G2) has solved some serious administration problems and now allows user registration using a web browser on the internet. All version 1 gateway users will need to re-register using G2 as the versions are not compatible.

To use the D-Star internet gateway to link D-Star repeaters or to route calls to specific stations, you need to be registered in the gateway system. Registration involves the system assigning an IP to your call sign for call routing and authorization verification. Registration is done over the internet and must be approved by the D-Star administrator (Ed KB6THO) before you can use the gateway. Any IRC member in good standing is eligible for registration in the gateway system. For specific information on how to register go to: <http://www.ladstar.org/G2-reg.pdf>.

Once you are registered in the system you can use the gateway to route calls to a specific amateur or to a specific repeater. Amateurs have developed application software that has added many features to the system. One of the application programs, D-Plus, allows the continuous linking of two or more D-Star repeaters. D-Plus also allows group repeater linking (e.g. all the 23cm D-Star machines in CA) as well as simulcasting on all three bands at once. D-Plus also enables use of the DV Dongle to communicate with a D-Star repeater using your computer over the internet.

New features and functions are being developed very rapidly. Things are developing so fast Ed is having trouble writing a users manual! Since all of the activity is digital in nature it is easy to develop applications for D-Star that go way beyond anything Icom has imagined. One example is the dstarusers.org page which shows worldwide D-Star activity in real time. There are exciting things happening with D-Star you won't want to miss.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January 1, 2008 through March 31, 2008

Income:

Membership Dues	155
HamCon Proceeds	1,000

Total Income 1,155

Expenses:

Bank Charges	29
Dues & Subscriptions	10
Site Rent	300
Telephone	111

Total Expenses 450

Excess of Expenses over Income 665

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

March 31, 2008

Operating Funds	1,156

Total Cash 1,156

Total Assets 1,156

Total Liabilities 0

Unrestricted Fund Balance 1,156

Fund Balance 1,156

Liabilities and Fund Balance 1,156

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

W6CPA/R repeater
224.480 MHz minus CTCSS 100.0
Blueridge

Club Contacts

www.ircradio.org

Information:

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