

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 2

Spring 2009

Presidents Corner

Comments from IRC President Leon KC6JAR

It was great to see everyone at the last monthly meeting. It was a lot of fun and everyone had a great time. We are all looking forward to Field Day. We've filled all of our campsites but we can always make room for more tent campers. I'm looking forward to the potluck dinner. It's nice to sit around having dinner with a bunch of great friends enjoying each others company.

Our Tech Class went very well. Everyone who took the class passed the Technician test except for one. We even had a few students actually try the General test on the fly and came close to passing. We had some really motivated people in our class who were excited about getting into our hobby and advance as fast as they could. It was great to see new hams so excited about our hobby.

I'd like to thank the people the people who came to the VE session to help us, Ed KB6THO, Mr. Lowell KG6AJF, Kim KF6MFU and Gwen K6GRH. Without

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Field Day 2009

What are our plans for Field day?

Normally we alternate between the beach and the mountains for Field Day. This year should have been a beach year. Unfortunately, the state reservation system was so swamped that we could not get reservations at the beach this year so we are headed back to the mountains. This year we plan to operate out of Dogwood Campground in the San Bernardino National Forest near Lake Arrowhead.

Dogwood Campground accommodates RVs or tents and has potable water, modern restrooms, and showers. There are plenty of hiking trails and Lake Gregory is close by with boating, fishing and a water slide park. The campground is 3 miles away from Lake Arrowhead and 1 mile away from the town of Blue Jay.

Field Day this year is Saturday June 27 & Sunday June 28. We will start setting up Friday June 26 at 11:00am. We plan to operate on every Field Day band from 160 meters to 23 cm. We plan to run SSB, digital, weak signal VHF/UHF stations and a CW station if someone wants to. We will run a 3A battery station and should have enough rigs for everyone. Feel free to bring your own rig if you want to operate with it as well. We will also have our traditional potluck dinner Saturday night which you won't want to miss.

Campsites are \$30 per night. Let Leon KC6JAR or Ken W6CPA know if you would like a campsite and we will set one aside for you. If you don't want to spend the night, come up for the day and join us for dinner. We will also have a VE testing session on Sunday June 28 after the end of Field Day. More information is available on our web site at: <http://www.ircradio.org/fd09.pdf> . Mark your calendar and join us!

their help the VE session would have been much tougher. It makes it a lot easier for us if we have a lot of people helping us out as VEs. We get the job done quicker and in a more efficient manner.

As for repeater news, hurray we finally got a new frequency for the Blueridge machine. The new frequency is going to be 224.020 MHz. The SMA people finally gave us a frequency that I think is going to work for us. Ken has already gone to Blueridge and QSYed the repeater. It needs a little bit more work to make it work well but it will be nice to have good desert coverage.

Just a quick note, don't forget we are having a General license class in July. We've had a number of people inquiring so I expect it to be a good class. It's a great way to move ahead in our hobby and to get ready for the next solar cycle which should be here shortly. I hope to see you there.

So 73 for now and I'll be looking forward to seeing everybody at Field Day. Don't forget we will be having an early meeting just before Field Day.

de Leon KC6JAR

Help out – Become a VE

Help us support the hobby.

Our club has four regular VE testing sessions each year. We are always on the lookout for VEs to support our VE team. If you have a General or Extra class license it's easy to become a VE. To become a VE you need to get accredited from a VEC. Our team is associated with the ARRL VEC. To get accredited with the ARRL you need to fill out an application and take their open book VE test. There is no cost to get accredited. You can find the VE manual and every thing you need to know to become an ARRL VE here: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vemannual/vemannual2008.pdf> . Once you receive your credentials let us know and we would love to have you help us give exams. It's fun and very rewarding to help people get their license. Our team is also available to give exams for other groups as well. Contact Ken w6cpa@ircradio.org if you need help giving an exam to your group.

General License Class

Give us a weekend and upgrade your license

The new solar cycle is off to a slow start but now is the time to get on HF. The IRC is conducting a general license class Saturday July 11 and Sunday July 12 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 12 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. We will be offering exams for all license classes from Technician to Extra. 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> .

Blueridge 220 QSY

We have a new frequency for Blueridge

SMA the 220 band frequency coordinator has assigned us a new frequency for our 220 repeater on Blueridge. Our new frequency is 224.020 MHz minus split with a PL of 110.9. Blueridge has coverage primarily in the Antelope Valley but also has coverage into Los Angeles and parts of Orange County. The 220 Blueridge repeater is continuously linked into our system so it's a great way to get into the system from the Antelope Valley.

The machine currently is using a corner reflector aimed at the Antelope Valley; however, SMA has authorized us to install an omni antenna so the coverage to Los Angeles should be improved shortly. The machine is currently suffering some sensitivity issues which should be resolved when we get our omni antenna installed.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
FRIDAY APRIL 24 AT 7:00 PM

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS & VE TESTING SESSION

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
SATURDAY MAY 9 & SUNDAY MAY 10 AT 9:00 AM

MAY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
FRIDAY MAY 29 AT 7:00 PM

JUNE CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
Friday June 19 at 7:00 pm

FIELD DAY

DOGWOOD CAMPGROUND
SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST
SETUP FRIDAY JUNE 26 AT 11:00 AM
SATURDAY JUNE 27 & SUNDAY JUNE 28 AT 11:00 AM
SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 1

GENERAL LICENSE CLASS & VE TESTING SESSION

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
SATURDAY JULY 11 & SUNDAY JULY 12 AT 9:00 AM

FCC Ruling on D-Star

Is a D-Star repeater a repeater?

By Ed Wright, KB6THO, WA6IRC D-STAR Gateway Administrator

As you may have heard, in late March the FCC released a ruling on repeaters that impacts 2 meter D-STAR operations here in Southern California. Back in December of 2007, Gary Mitchell, WB6YRU, filed a petition with the FCC requesting clarification of the definition of a repeater.

The Commission took a look at Part 97, specifically 97.3(a)(39) which defines a 'repeater' as, "An amateur station that simultaneously retransmits the transmission of another amateur station on a different channel or channels." In their ruling they stated, "Because the word 'simultaneously' in the definition is used to modify 'retransmit', we believe it refers to a repeater station's transmitter being active when retransmitting the signal received by the repeater station's receiver from another amateur station. We conclude, therefore, that 'simultaneously' as used in the definition of a repeater refers to the receiver and transmitter both being active at the same time." Bottom line: D-STAR repeaters really are repeaters in the Commission's eyes.

So how does that impact us? TASMA, the 2 meter coordinating body here in Southern California, has set aside 4 "auxiliary station" pairs for D-STAR between 145.585 and 145.615 MHz, **but** 97.205(b) states a repeater may not receive or retransmit between 145.5-146.0 MHz. Since the local D-STAR repeater outputs fall within these limits, it is our opinion that we can not legally operate our 2 meter D-STAR repeaters as coordinated by TASMA. In order to remain compliant with the rules, we have temporarily taken the repeaters off the air.

You might ask, "What is the IRC planning on doing about this?" Good question and the answer is that we are working with the other Southern California D-STAR trustees and TASMA on a solution that complies with 97.205(b) and meets the needs of the 2 meter community as a whole. We plan to present our proposal to TASMA in May, so check the D-STAR web page at <http://ladstar.org> for the latest.

73!

Ed, KB6THO

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009

Income:

Membership Dues	365	
Class Income	50	

Total Income		415

Expenses:

Bank Charges	4	
Rent	300	
Telephone	116	

Total Expenses		420
Excess of Expenses over Income		(5)
		=====

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

March 31, 2009

Operating Funds	1,714	

Total Cash		1,714

Total Assets		1,714
		=====
Total Liabilities		0
Unrestricted Fund Balance	1,714	

Fund Balance		1,714

Liabilities and Fund Balance		1,714
		=====

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

KB6THO/R repeater
927.9625 MHz minus CTCSS 100.0
City Terrace

W7EB/R repeater
224.480 MHz minus CTCSS 110.9
Las Vegas, NV

KC6JAR/R repeater
224.020 MHz minus CTCSS 110.9
Blueridge

Club Contacts

www.ircradio.org

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