

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 2

Spring 2010

Presidents Corner

Comments from IRC President Leon KC6JAR

Field Day will be coming up soon and I can't wait. It's always a lot of fun getting together with everyone in a relaxing place and playing radio. We should all have a great time as Table Mountain is a great location for radio. Make sure you guard your firewood!

Our Tech Class did not have the turn out we were hoping for but it went well never the less. Everyone who took the class passed the Technician test. We had some really motivated people in our class who were excited about getting into our hobby and were looking forward to trying out their new radios. We had a big turn out for the VE testing session and we got 14 new hams out of the session.

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. We really appreciate their help to make the testing session happen. If you have a general or extra class license, consider becoming a VE. It would be a great help to the

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Field Day 2010

Field Day in the Pines!

This year we plan to operate out of Table Mountain Campground in the Angeles National Forest near Wrightwood. Table Mountain Campground accommodates RVs or tents and has potable water, pit toilets, and fire pits. The campground is 3 miles west of Wrightwood which has motels, restaurants and a market.

Field Day this year is Saturday June 26 & Sunday June 27. We will start setting up Friday June 25 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. The club will provide the main dish and we ask everyone to bring a side dish and their own drinks.

Campsites are \$20 per night plus \$7 per extra vehicle. The campsites are first come first served so you need to let us know you are coming in advance so we can grab one for you. 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 27 after the end of Field Day at 1pm. Be sure to bring a copy of your license with you if you plan to upgrade.

More information is available on our web site at: <http://www.ircradio.org/fd10.pdf>. Mark your calendar and join us!

club and our hobby as well as being a lot of fun.

As for repeater news, we got some good news from the coordinator regarding Mount Lukins. Our coordination application was approved and they assigned us a frequency. The new frequency is 224.140 MHz minus PL 136.5. We have already installed the repeater and I encourage you to use it. The coverage should be awesome. It needs a little bit more work to make it work well but it will be great when we get all of the bugs worked out.

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

New Repeater - Mt Lukins

We have a new 220 repeater on Mt. Lukins

The SMA the 220 MHz coordinating body has just approved us a coordination for a new 220 MHz repeater on Mt. Lukins. The repeater frequency is 224.140 – PL 136.5. The repeater has been installed and is ready for use. This repeater is linked into the entire system.

Mt. Lukins has excellent coverage throughout the San Gabriel and San Fernando Valley's as well as into Orange County. We still have some kinks to work out and we would appreciate any signal reports and quirks you notice with the new machine.

Remember, if you are talking to some one in Las Vegas, Blueridge or Mt. Lukins, you need to pause for a second after you key up before you start talking. There is a lag in the linking radios and it takes a second or so before the entire system lights up. Give it a try and let up know what you think.

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 24 and Sunday July 25 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 25 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 \$15 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/generalclass10.pdf>.

Amateur Radio Expo

LA County Fair is out this year

Unfortunately, the LA County Fair has not asked us back to demonstrate Amateur radio this year. Amateur Radio Expo is still going to happen but will have a different location. The Expo will be held in one weekend in August at the Cucamonga Grape Festival and two weekends at the Perris Fair

Our club has agreed to help out with the Cucamonga Grape festival. We need some ideas for ways we can demonstrate amateur radio in a way that is interesting to the general public. Please pass on any ideas you have about how to demonstrate our great hobby.

As soon as we have more information about times and dates we will pass it along.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS & VE TESTING SESSION
EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
SATURDAY MAY 22 & SUNDAY MAY 23 AT 9:00 AM

MAY CLUB MEETING
LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
FRIDAY MAY 21 AT 7:00 PM

JUNE CLUB MEETING
LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
Friday June 18 at 7:00 pm

FIELD DAY
TABLE MOUNTAIN CAMPGROUND
ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST
SETUP FRIDAY JUNE 25 AT 11:00 AM
SATURDAY JUNE 26 & SUNDAY JUNE 27 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 24 & SUNDAY JULY 25 AT 9:00 AM
SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 2

D-Star Earthquake Script

Get real time earthquake info via D-Star

One of the really neat things about D-STAR is the ability to use your radio to command the gateway to "Do Something". By setting URCALL properly, the D-STAR add-on *dplus* will run a "shell script" to perform a task on the gateway server. Our gateway runs a unique script that queries the US Geological Survey and returns a list of recent California earthquakes as a text message on your radio. The most recent quake from the past hour is listed first, in the format of magnitude and general location, i.e. "3.8 LOS ANGELES".

Living in Earthquake Country, I thought, "The next time the ground shakes, wouldn't it be neat to get a text message quake report on my radio?" At the time I was setting our gateway up with the NJ6N/G7LWT standard scripts and realized this was a "Can Do". And thus **WA6IRCEX** was born.

The script proved itself just a few weeks later on April 4 during a local family get together. We felt an earthquake for sure, but where was it? I ran the quake script and got back "7.2 BAJA". Moments later the news reported a 7.2 earthquake in Baja California. Ham radio had it first!

The family was impressed. "How does your radio do that... magic?" I'd like to say so, but it's just a Linux shell script. The USGS posts a text file of quakes for the past hour, listing many parameters such as date, time, lat/long, magnitude, depth, and location. The script downloads the USGS text file, pulls out magnitudes and locations for "California" quakes, abbreviates the locations to fit the 20 character text message limit, then sends the file one line at a time to the port where the query originated. There is a delay between lines to give you a chance to read the data. If there have been no California quakes for the past hour, the script will send the rare "NO QUAKES PAST HR" message.

Thanks to Brian, NJ6N and Darren, G7LWT for the inspiration to "roll my own script". Check out our other scripts at <http://ladstar.org>.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January 1, 2010 through March 31, 2010

Income:

Membership Dues	675	

Total Income		675

Expenses:

Dues	10	
Rent	300	
Telephone	124	

Total Expenses		434
Excess of Income over Expenses		241
		=====

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

March 31, 2010

Operating Funds	1,845	

Total Cash		1,845
Class Books	162	

Total Other Assets		162
Total Assets		2,007
		=====
Total Liabilities		0
Unrestricted Fund Balance	2,007	

Fund Balance		2,007
Liabilities and Fund Balance		2,007
		=====

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

W6CPA/R repeater
224.140 MHz minus CTCSS 136.5
Mount Lukins

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

Information:

Leon (KC6JAR) kc6jar@ircradio.org

Ken (W6CPA) w6cpa@ircradio.org

Webmaster:

Larry (KG6EJT) kg6ejt@ircradio.org

Net Control:

Lowell (KG6AJF) kg6ajf@ircradio.org

D-Star Sysop:

Ed (KB6THO) kb6tho@ircradio.org