

Independent Radio Club

WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

Summer 2003

Repeater Status

Where do we go from here with the repeater?

The repeater is starting to become more reliable even though we still have some "growing pains" we are continuing to work on. A month ago, we were having a serious noise problem. Noise getting into the machine was causing users to drop out, the machine not to key up, and loud obnoxious noises to pass through the system. (Remember the load Braap sound?)

We solved that problem by replacing the preselector with a tighter band pass cavity filter. The improved filtering cleaned up the major noise issues in the machine and eliminated that intolerable Braap. There is still a noise problem in the machine, but at a much lower level. You can't normally hear it because we have the repeater squelch very tight to squelch it out. We need to eliminate the noise to increase our sensitivity. These kind of noise problems are difficult to find as they can be caused from many sources. We have eliminated several potential noise sources and expect to figure it out shortly.

We have also been having a chronic problem with our

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Field Day at the Beach

Cool days and warm nights at 2003 Field Day

The Cabrillo group campsite at El Capitan State Beach came alive this June 28 & 29 with the sounds of radio. The site was filled with Field Day participants and antennas. We were visited by a number of cadets from the Civil Air Patrol who did a great job operating. This year our entry was in the 4A battery class. Brian W2BRI smoothed the way with the Park Rangers and designed a field full of antennas.

The theme this year was beams. We had gain antennas for every band we operated on. For 80 Meters, we ran a two element wire beam with a fat dipole driven element. The fat dipole gave us a much wider bandwidth, an important characteristic for 80 Meters. We used a Moxon rectangle for 40 Meters where we had our best success. We used a 3 element inverted V beam for 20 meters. 10 and 15 Meters were covered by a 2 element 3 band wire beam. For 6 Meters we used a 4 element commercial beam. We covered 2 meters with a homebrew 2 meter 4 element quad made out of pvc and refrigerator tubing. The AO-40 satellite station used a 26 element 70cm beam and a 75cm parabolic dish for 2.4 GHz.

We made 17 more contacts this year than we did last year although our claimed score was less as we made less bonus points. Most of the activity was on 40 Meters as the bands were not in the best shape. We ran a 6 meter and 2 meter SSB weak signal station which did not perform as well as we hoped. We made 8 contacts with the AO-40 satellite station which gave us 100 bonus points for a satellite contact and allowed

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It's Summer Picnic Time

Our Summer Picnic is set for August 24

Don't miss the fun of our summer picnic! The picnic will be held at Crescenta Valley Park Sunday August 24 at 1:00pm. Bring your wife, bring the kids, bring a friend, bring a radio but come on down for a potluck dinner in the park.

An unnamed benefactor has donated chicken so the club will provide the main dish. Please bring your own drinks and a side dish you would like to share. There will be games and goodies for the kids and lots of radio talk as well.

Please let Lowell KG6AJF know you are coming by phoning him at (818) 243-8672 or emailing him at kg6ajf@juno.com.

Crescenta Valley Park is located off the 210 freeway near the Lowell exit in La Crescenta. Talk in will be on the club repeater.

For more detailed information and a map, see our website at www.ircradio.org.

Weekly net moves to Wednesday night

A new night for the weekly net

Starting Wednesday August 6 our weekly evening net will move to a new date and time. Our weekly net will now be held Wednesday nights at 7:00pm. The net will start at 7:00pm with Newline run by Jeff KG6AGI. Check ins will follow Newline hosted by our charming net controller Lowell KG6AJF. All IRC members and any interested amateurs are encouraged to check in. We also encourage third party traffic check ins as well. It's a great way to show off our hobby.

Checking in on the net lets you show support for the club and lets you keep up with what is going on with the club and our members. Be sure to check in you people. Don't make Lowell have to shut it down!

us to enter the AMSAT Field Day contest as well. We operated a psk-31 station and a SSTV station although we did not succeed in making a SSTV contact.

We also held our first club sponsored license testing session Sunday after Field Day. We gave 10 element examinations and we had 2 new technician licenses issued as a result of the session. Congratulations to one of the CAP cadets Blaine Worthington KG6RVM who got his ticket on Field Day.

Thanks again to our VE team (Ken W6CPA, Steve KG6DFH, Greg W6EZV and Leon KC6JAR) for putting on the testing session. We encourage you to become a VE and help us promote our club with testing sessions. It's easy to do and feels great as well.

Everyone had a lot of fun operating and hanging out on the beach or by the campfire. Look for our Field Day entry in QST and the AMSAT journal.

Field Day Participants

KC6JAR - Leon Brown
KC6SAD - John Savage
KC6YIR - Pat Malone
KD6LLK - Mary Savage
KD6RJE - Jackie Brown
KE6MTF - Kirk Gustafson
KF6MFU - Kim Chafin
KF6OHR - Johnathan Pham
KF6RSF - Chris Chafin
KF6RSG - Jenn Chafin
KG6AJF - Lowell Mostryrn
KG6DFH - Steve Meir
KG6GNC - Bill Kolb
KG6RIE - Sharon Thomas
KG6RIH - Kyle Rogers
N6YVY - Bob Bailey
W2BRI - Brian Levy
W6CPA - Ken Chafin
W6EZV - Greg Sousa
WB6ANP - Keith Thomas

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY JULY 25 AT 7:00 PM

AUGUST CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY AUGUST 22 AT 7:00 PM

SUMMER PICNIC

CRESCENTA VALLEY PARK, LA CRESCENTA.
SUNDAY AUGUST 24, 2003 AT 1:00PM
Join us for a picnic to wrap up summer.
Come to a potluck picnic in the park.
See the article on page 2 for more
info.

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 26 AT 7:00 PM

duplexer. The duplexer is a cavity filter that allows us to connect the repeater RX and TX connectors to a single antenna. The tuning of this filter is critical. Somehow this filter is getting detuned over time. This can be caused by a defective filter, insufficient temperature compensation capabilities, or some other problem with the filter. We are looking into replacing the duplexer or eliminating it all together by using two different antennas for the system. Correction of this problem will make the machine much more stable.

After we fix these problems, the machine should perform well and be pretty stable. We need to decide what kind of repeater system we want our club to have. We may have the opportunity to link our machine to a repeater on Hauser Peak. This would give our machine wide range coverage throughout LA and the desert.

We have the capability of setting up an autopatch/reverse autopatch. We have all of the needed equipment, it is just a matter of money and the wishes of the members. Adding autopatch capacity brings up several issues including:

- What is the best way to pay for the extra expense? We would face a \$100 phone line installation charge and bills of \$25-45 per month.
- Do we need to change our dues structure to have one level for members and a "premium" level to use the autopatch?
- Do we want to offer emergency calling features (e.g. CHP or Sheriff) and who should be able to access them?
- Do we even want to bother with an autopatch in the era of cheap cell phones?

We also have the capacity of setting up an IRLP link in our system. The general consensus seems to be that an IRLP link is more suitable for a simplex link rather than tying up the repeater for long periods of time. A simplex IRLP node could be set up at low cost without tying up the repeater.

These are some of the things you should be thinking about as we come to a decision. We will be discussing these items and more at our monthly get togethers. If you have comments or ideas about how to configure the system discuss them with Leon on the air or come to the next meeting and lets discuss it.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.
Statement of Income and Expenses
January 1, 2003 through June 30, 2003

Income:

Donations @ 1/31 Meeting	120
Donations @ 2/28 Meeting	113
Donations @ 3/28 Meeting	145
Donations @ 4/25 Meeting	128
Donations @ 5/23 Meeting	126
Donations @ 6/20 Meeting	114
Field Day Collections	405
Repeater Improvement Fund	419

Total Income 1,570

Expenses:

Bank Charges	46
Controller for Repeater	350
Field Day Expenses	239
Site Rent	450

Total Expenses 1,085

Excess of Income over Expenses 485

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

June 30, 2003

Assets:

Operating Funds	853
Repeater Improvement Fund	350

Total Cash 1,203

Total Assets 1,203

Liabilities and Fund Balance:

Unrestricted Fund Balance	853
Restricted Fund Balance	350

Fund Balance 1,203

Liabilities and Fund Balance 1,203

Check out our Website

Our website is a great way to keep up with what's up

Dave KE6CNL is the master of our website www.ircradio.org. Dave goes through a lot of trouble to keep the site updated with the latest happenings of the club. You can always find out the location and date of our next meeting or event at the website.

There are many other items of interest on the site such as pictures of our latest event, links to antenna designs, links to the latest FCC enforcement letters, and items of general interest to hams. The latest addition to the site is pictures from Field Day. You'll love the first one of Leon working DX.

Dave is always looking for suggestions to make the website better. If you have suggestions for things you would like to see on the site, contact him at band98@juno.com or on the air.

Club Contacts

www.ircradio.org

Information:

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Webmaster:

Dave (KE6CNL) band98@juno.com

Net Control:

Lowell (KG6AJF) kg6ajf@juno.com

Club Engineer:

Johnathan (KF6OHR) kf6ohr@earthlink.net