

Independent Radio Club

WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3

Summer 2004

Presidents Corner

Comments from IRC president Leon KC6JAR.

I'm happy to report that Field Day was a big success. We had 25 people all told. That's a good turnout. We had a great time. The bands were good to us, our batteries worked well and everything worked the way it should.

The potluck dinner went well and was a lot of fun. The camping was excellent at 7400 feet in the tall pines, the weather was great, and we just had a great group up there. Pat KC6YIR just went to town with the HF digital station. He racked up a bunch of PSK-31 contacts and several SSTV contacts on 20 meters. Mitchell KG6VQR did a great job on 40 meters.

I especially appreciate Sharon for her trust in us as VEs. She brought some CAP cadets to operate and to take the technician test. One of the cadets, Mitchell had a previous problem getting his license from another

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Field Day!!!

Field Day, a lot of fun on Mt. Pinos

Our Field Day operation Saturday June 26 and Sunday June 27 on Mt. Pinos near Frazier Park was a tremendous success. This year we operated out of the Mc Gill Campground. Mc Gill campground is located at 7,400 feet so the temperatures were moderate and the radio was great. It was a little cold in the evening but the campfire made that better.

This year we operated as a 3A station. We used the San Joaquin Valley designator as we were just inside Kern County. The entire Field Day set up was run off batteries. We ran 2 HF phone transmitters, one HF digital/SSTV transmitter and one VHF/UHF transmitter. We were active on 160M, 80M, 40M, 20M, 15M, 10M, 6M, 2M, 125cm, 70cm, and 23cm.

The bands were very cooperative. 15 meters was open all day and we even had some openings on 6 meters. Pat KC6YIR worked a New Mexico station on 6 meters on Sunday morning off the side of the beam! Pat also earned us bonus points for several SSTV contacts on 20 meters.

We didn't have a satellite station set up this year but we did set up an APRS station for the first time. Our APRS station made it into the internet gateway so we showed up on the APRS server. You can see a screen shot of the station position on our web site. We made a lot of contacts with PSK-31 on 20 meters using a two element wire beam.

We had several cadets from the Civil Air Patrol who helped us operate. One of them, Michael made a bunch of contacts on 40 meters and then turned

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group of VEs. They made some mistakes in their test session and he did not get his license even though he passed the test. That was a terrible thing to happen to someone who is trying to get started in this hobby. He passed again, we made sure it got done and Mitchell now has his call.

Our VE testing session went really well. Mitchell passed his technician test, Bill KG6GNC passed his extra test and Pat and Toby passed their general written exam. Big thanks to Steve KG6DFH for helping us with the VE testing session. We couldn't have done it without him.

My special thanks to Toby W6TOB who was a big help in setting up antennas, building beams, helping us cook the chicken and he was a lot of fun to boot. A special thanks to Lowell KG6AJF. It's physically tough for him to get up there. It means a lot to me to see him there considering what it takes for him to get there. This is what makes our group very special. People come out of the way to be with us and that's a good thing. Field Day is a lot of work but it's worth it for the fun and camaraderie.

de Leon KC6JAR

Weekly Tuesday night net needs check ins!

Show your support, check into the net

Show your support for our club. Check in to the weekly net every Tuesday night at 6:00pm with Newslines followed by check ins. The net is hosted by our erudite net controller Lowell KG6AJF. IRC members and all interested amateurs are encouraged to check in.

Checking in on the net is a good way to keep up with what's happening with our club and its members. We would love to hear what you've been doing in radio or life in general. Support via checking into the net helps our club grow.

Be sure to check in you people. Don't make Lowell have to shut it down!

Technician License Class

Do you know anyone who is interested in getting their ham ticket?

The IRC is sponsoring a technician license class with a VE testing session directly following the class. The class is being held Saturday October 9 from 9 am to 5 pm and Sunday October 10 from 10 am to 3 pm at Eagle Rock City Hall. Eagle Rock City Hall is located at 2035 Colorado Blvd., Eagle Rock. The cost of the class is \$45, which includes the study book and the VEC required testing fee.

This is a great way for anyone interested in getting licensed to get there fast. The class will be held over the weekend of October 9 and 10 and will concentrate on teaching the subjects necessary to pass the technicians license examination. Directly after the license class, we will hold a VE testing session.

The VE testing session is not limited to the students in the license class. The testing session is open to everyone and will offer all test elements, so if you are working on an upgrade, please stop by. The testing session will be held at Eagle Rock City Hall at 3:00 pm Sunday October 10. Each applicant needs to pay the VEC testing fee of \$12, bring a copy of their current amateur license (if any), any current CSCEs, a pencil, your social security number or FCC FRN, and a picture ID. Walk ins will be accepted, but we would appreciate it if you would let us know you are coming by e-mailing Ken at w6cpa@arrl.net.

More detailed information about the class is available on our web site www.ircradio.org. To sign up for the class, print out the flyer on the web site and mail it in or e-mail Ken at w6cpa@arrl.net, tell him your name, address, phone number and that you would like to take the class. Then mail in a check for \$45 made out to the Independent Radio Club to 3624 Foothill #1, La Crescenta, CA 91214. When we receive your check we will send out your study book. We encourage you to preregister as prestudy will increase your chances for success.

around and earned his technician license the next day (KG6VQR).

We happened to share the campground with the Hispanic American Amateur Radio Club who were operating there as well. Fortunately we did not interfere with each other too much. We worked them on Saturday (some DX) and they came over afterward to introduce themselves. They seemed to have as much fun as we did.

We also sponsored a VE testing session directly after Field Day. We had eight people sit for exams and we generated one new technician and a new extra. Bill KG6GNC came up on Sunday to take the test and he successfully upgraded his license to extra. We also had three examinees pass their element 3 exams just in time to beat the General question pool change July 1. Our VEs Steve KG6DFH, Leon KC6JAR and Ken W6CPA were all pleased by the outcome.

Our score this year was much better than last year. We did not do as many phone contacts but we did a lot more digital contacts which count for 2 points each. The cooperation of the bands and the extra digital contacts made the difference. Look for our score in QST.

Field Day Participants:

Leon	KC6JAR	Pat	KC6YIR
Dave	KE6IGZ	Kim	KF6MFU
Chris	KF6RSF	Lowell	KG6AJF
Steve	KG6DFH	Sharon	KG6RIE
James	KG6VEP	Lou	KG6VFP
Mitchell	KG6VQR	James	N6XKU
Brian	W2BRI	Keith	WB6ANP
Josh	WB6COP	Ken	W6CPA
Toby	W6TOB	John	
Tobias		Melissa	

Summer Picnic Time

Lazy Days of Summer mean it's time for a picnic in the park

Summer's here and it's time for our annual picnic in the park. Our Picnic will be held this year on Saturday July 17 at 11:00 am in Crescenta Valley Park. Crescenta Valley Park is located in La Crescenta near the Lowell off ramp of the 210 freeway. To get there exit I-210 at Lowell avenue. If you are coming from the San Fernando Valley go under the freeway and turn right on Honolulu Avenue. The park is three block down the road on your right. If you are coming from Pasadena, you exit the freeway onto Honolulu. Pull a U turn at the next signal and the park will be on your right three blocks down the road.

Talk in frequency will be our repeater or the repeater output frequency (445.340) if your handheld has problems getting in to the machine.

We will be having a potluck lunch. We ask that you bring a side dish and your own drinks. The club will provide the chicken. We will have fun and games for the kids so bring the entire family.

As a bonus, it's Leon's birthday as well. You can only imagine the fun we are going to have with that. Please e-mail Ken at w6cpa@arrl.net to let us know you are coming. Hope to see you there!

Repeater Linking Project

IRC repeater to link with the KD6PXZ repeater on Hauser Peak

Our club has come to an agreement to link our repeater with the KD6PXZ repeater on Hauser Peak 446.400 MHz minus PL 100.0. Linking our repeaters will extend our coverage throughout the Antelope Valley.

We are currently working out technical details and we expect to be linked shortly. We will send out an e-mail announcement with the details when we are ready to go. If you are not on the e-mail list, you can find out how to join on our web site www.ircradio.org

Chill out at the Beach

Join us for a cool end to summer at El Capitan State Beach

Come join your friends for a cool end to summer. The IRC is having a summer beach campout the weekend before Labor Day, August 27, 28, 29 at El Capitan State Beach. El Capitan State Beach is located approximately 15 miles north of Santa Barbara on Highway 101.

We will be camping from 2 pm Friday August 27 through 12:00 noon Monday August 30. You can camp for all of the days or just one. Come up for the day if you don't want to camp. We have reserved the Cabrillo group campsite where we had Field Day last year. RV's can not camp directly at the site, but can camp on the parking lot next to the campsite.

Bring the whole family. There are many things for everyone to do at El Capitan State Beach. There is a great beach for swimming, fishing or collecting shells. There is a 3 mile bicycle trail from El Capitan State Beach to Refugio State Beach which goes along the coast away from any road. The view is fantastic and the riding is easy. There are several hiking trails into the mountains behind the campground. We will also have a radio or two set up for anyone who wants to play.

The cost of the camp is \$21 per family per night. We will be having a potluck dinner on Saturday night. Everyone should bring a side dish and their own drinks as everyone has different tastes. The club will provide the main dish. To sign up e-mail Ken at w6cpa@arrl.net. See you there!

Amber Alert Station

The KC6JAR repeater is now an Amber Alert Station

The IRC has teamed up with the Amber Alert people to use our repeater to assist the Amber Alert team. We are providing this service to the community to improve it and to help any missing kids that we can. The regulatory issues about this service have been resolved. This service has been approved by the FCC and all local law enforcement agencies.

Here's how it will work. When an Amber Alert is posted for the Southern California area or an abducted child is believed to be headed this way, then an announcement will be made at 6:00 pm each evening on the repeater or more frequently if the situations warrants. The announcement will give a description of the child and perpetrator's vehicle.

We ask that you write down this information on a pad of paper in your car. Keep an eye out and if you should spot the child or the vehicle call the police or Lowell (KG6AJF) at (818) 240-3068 or (818) 243-8672. Lowell will notify the police immediately. **Do NOT attempt to stop the perpetrator yourself!** Your job should be to observe and report to the police. When the missing child is recovered, then Lowell will delete the alert.

In the future, our club will be involved in fingerprinting children and filling out Amber cards for both parent and child. We would appreciate any assistance you could give us with this process. We will let you know by e-mail or by newsletter when we are ready to proceed. If we can save just one child, it will all be worth it. If you have any questions, contact Lowell (the Amber Alert Southern California Region 2 manager) at (818) 243-8672 or kg6ajf@juno.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUMMER PICNIC

CRESCENTA VALLEY PARK
SATURDAY JULY 17 11:00AM.
SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3 FOR MORE INFORMATION

JULY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY JULY 30 AT 7:00 PM

AUGUST CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY AUGUST 20 AT 7:00 PM

SUMMER BEACH TRIP

EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH CAMPGROUND, CABRILLO GROUP
CAMP, 10 MILES NORTH OF SANTA BARBARA
FRIDAY AUGUST 27 THROUGH SUNDAY AUGUST 29.

DAY HIKE

LOCATION TO BE DETERMINED
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18 AT 9:00 AM

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 24 AT 7:00 PM

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS & VE TESTING SESSION

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK
SATURDAY OCTOBER 9 AT 9:00 AM & SUNDAY OCTOBER 10 AT
10:00 AM. VE TESTING SESSION WILL BE HELD SUNDAY OCTOBER
10 AT 3:00 PM.
SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 2 FOR MORE INFORMATION

Day Hike in the Mountains

Stretch your legs and enjoy the mountains

The IRC is having our first day hike in the mountains. We are hiking on Saturday September 18 at 9:00 am. We are still looking for a location so stay tuned. When we determine the location and hike details, we will announce them on the Tuesday evening net, at our monthly meetings and on the repeater.

If you have an idea of a great place to hike, let Leon know.

Echolink Node Progress

Coming soon - a club Echolink node

Brian W2BRI and Ken W6CPA are progressing on putting together a club Echolink node. Echolink is a system used to link radios or repeaters together using the Internet. Using Echolink, you can talk to people around the world using your HT.

Our Echolink node is planned to be a crossband system. We plan to have the node receive on 2 meters and transmit on 70 centimeters. You will need a radio that works crossband split (most dual band radios will do this) to operate the node. You will also be able to monitor all node activity with a 440 radio.

The node will be located in the San Fernando Valley and should be operational soon. The best way to keep up with the status of the node is to listen to the weekly net on Tuesday and get a report at our monthly meeting.

We will distribute operating instructions when the mode becomes operational.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004

Income:

Autopatch Memberships	360
Membership Dues	115
Net Class Fees	21
January Donations	70
February Donations	80
March Donations	70
April Donations	80
May Donations	60
June Donations	60

Total Income 916

Expenses:

Bank Charges	46
Site Rent	450
Telephone	197

Total Expenses 693

Excess of Income over Expenses 223
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Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

June 30, 2004

Operating Funds	1,321
Books	254

Total Assets	1,575 =====
Unrestricted Fund Balance	1,575

Fund Balance	1,575 -----
Liabilities and Fund Balance	1,575 =====

Congratulations!

Here's some of our members recent radio achievements

License Upgrades:

Lowell KG6AJF upgraded to Extra

Congratulations, now you can talk to Art Bell!

Bill KG6GNC upgraded to Extra

Congratulations, enjoy that formerly forbidden DX!

Club Repeater

KC6JAR/R repeater

445.340 MHz minus CTCSS 103.5

Contractors Point

Club Contacts

www.ircradio.org

Information:

Leon (KC6JAR) kc6jar@juno.com

Ken (W6CPA) w6cpa@arrl.net

Webmaster:

Dave (KE6CNL) band98@juno.com

Net Control:

Lowell (KG6AJF) kg6ajf@juno.com