

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 3

Summer 2005

Presidents Corner

Comments from IRC President Leon KC6JAR

Field Day has come and gone and we had a great time. There were a couple of minor difficulties but we managed to get them ironed out. We thank everyone for coming. Mark Steele KD6PXZ, who is the fellow we are going to link with in the desert on Hauser Peak, was there for the first time. It was a good opportunity for everyone to get a chance to meet him.

We also gave our first general license class and it worked out pretty good. We had a few members take the class and manage to get their General written test out of the way. The VE session went really well. We turned out two new Extra class, a General class and a three Technician class licenses. One gentleman came to take the Technician test, took the General test on a whim and passed. Thanks again to Lowell KG6AJF for helping us out as a VE. Ken W6CPA did a great job teaching the class. He puts a lot of time, effort and a lot of passion goes into his teaching.

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2005 Field Day

RF across the sands...

The beach was alive with RF last month as we conducted Field Day operations from Mc Grath State Beach near Oxnard. We had a few equipment and antenna problems, but in good Field Day style we worked through them and things went great. We operated on 80-10 meters, 6 meters through 70cm and 23cm. Unfortunately, we were unable to make an official SSTV contact, although we made an unofficial contact with a station in Japan. The pictures from Field Day should be up on our web site shortly.

The potluck dinner was excellent as always. Everyone there survived Leon's cooking!

Our Field day participants were:

KB6WHV	Dave	KG6RIE	Sharon
KC6JAR	Leon	KG6SJI	Alex
KC6SAD	John	KG6VEP	James
KC6YIR	Pat	KG6VFP	Lou
KD6PXZ	Mark	KG6WNM	John
KD6RJE	Jackie	N6XKT	Connie
KF6MFU	Kim	N6XKU	James
KF6RSF	Chris	WB6ANP	Keith
KG6AJF	Lowell	W2BRI	Brian
KG6DFH	Steve	W6CPA	Ken

Our VE testing session afterward went well. We turned out a new technician and a new general operator. Our operating score wasn't too good this year but we made up for it with our fun score. Great fun was had by all operators and beachcombers alike!

The 900 MHz machine is up and running. We still have some minor technical difficulties which we will solve as we get time to play with it. I would like to thank Ed KB6THO for helping us evaluate the 900 machine. I would also like to thank Juan W6DMV for letting us use his house to host the 900 machine. We are still engaged to do the link with Mark. Despite a few difficulties on his end, it's just a matter us getting together one day and doing it.

As you know we are now linked to the MRA. We have been linked for a while and it all seems to be working out well. This is a work in progress, a mutual joining of our resources to help each other out. We thank you for putting up with us as we solve the linking problems. The double courtesy tones, the audio jumping up and down and the partial outages are annoying and we really appreciate your patience. Thanks for your support and we hope to see you soon!

73, Leon KC6JAR

Help us by becoming a VE

Help the hobby and our club

Our club has been active in sponsoring VE testing sessions. We provide these sessions to promote our club and our hobby. You can help us in this effort by becoming a VE. Any amateur holding a General class or higher license can become a VE and administer testing sessions. It's easy to become a VE. You must have a valid amateur license, not had any FCC enforcement action against you, and you must be accredited by a VEC. We are associated with the ARRL VEC. To become accredited you need to obtain their VE manual, study it, and then take an open book test. You can obtain the VE manual via the Internet at [http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vemannual/](http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vemmanual/) or by mail by calling (800) 927-7583.

If you have been accredited by another VEC, you can get instant accreditation from the ARRL VEC. You do not have to be an ARRL member to get accredited. Try being a VE. It's fun and very rewarding!

MRA Spotlight

More Information about our sister club

The IRC has made an agreement to share resources with the Mountain Repeater Association. This agreement means that our members can use the MRA system and their members can use our system. The MRA is a thirty year old radio club which has put together a linked 220 MHz repeater system. We began our association with the MRA when we installed our 440 repeater on Contractors Point. The MRA operates one of their 220 repeaters from Contractors Point and occupies the same facility as our 440 repeater.

The MRA system consists of 4 linked repeaters which provide coverage all the way to Las Vegas. Their repeaters are:

224.480 - PL 110.9 Contractors Point

224.660 - PL 110.9 Hauser Peak

224.480 - PL 100.0 Blue Ridge

224.480 - PL 110.9 Mt. Potosi

The Hauser Peak machine overlooks the Antelope Valley, the Blue Ridge machine is located near Big Bear, and the Mt. Potosi machine overlooks Las Vegas. Our 440 machine is directly linked to the MRA 220 machine so you can now talk to Las Vegas through our system as well.

The MRA also operates an IRLP link through their Contractors Point machine. Currently the IRLP system is down, but they expect to get it working shortly. When the system is operational again, you will be able to make worldwide contacts through the MRA 220 repeater. Unfortunately, the IRLP system will only be accessible through the MRA 220 system as the 440 controller will not pass IRLP DTMF commands to the IRLP system. Members who are interested in using the IRLP system should talk to Leon or Ken and we will get you the operating codes.

Some of you may know the president of the MRA Rick K6VE. If you see him at HRO say hello!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL LICENSE CLASS

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
Saturday July 23 & 24 at 9:00 am

JULY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY JULY 29 AT 7:00 PM

SUMMER PICNIC

EAGLE ROCK RECREATION CENTER
7500 N. FIGUEROA BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
Sunday August 7 at 12:00 noon

AUGUST CLUB MEETING

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

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 23 AT 7:00 PM

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
Saturday October 8 & 9 at 9:00 am
See article in opposite column

Technician License Class

Do you know anyone who wants to get licensed?

The IRC is offering a technician license class and VE testing session October 8 and 9. The class will be held at Eagle Rock City Hall, 2035 Colorado Blvd, Eagle Rock. Eagle Rock City Hall is located on Colorado Boulevard near the Hwy 134/ Hwy 2 interchange. The class will run 9:00am to 5:00pm Saturday October 8 and 10:00am to 3:00pm Sunday October 9. The class will be followed by a VE testing session sponsored by the IRC.

We have found that taking a class over one weekend and immediately testing right afterward is much more successful than taking classes over a series of weeks. Testing the student before he has a chance to forget the material works very well.

Signing up at the class is ok, but we would prefer it if you would preregister. You can preregister by e-mailing Ken at w6cpa@arrl.net or by printing and mailing in the coupon from our web site at www.ircradio.org. One advantage of preregistration is that prestudy will increase your chances of success dramatically. The cost of the class is \$45. The cost includes a study book and the required VE testing fee. Should you fail the first test and need to take a second test a \$14 additional fee is required. All students should bring picture ID and their social security number (the SSN is required by the FCC).

The VE testing session on Sunday October 9 at 3:00 pm is open to all. We will be offering all test elements so it's a perfect time to upgrade. You need the following items to take a test, a picture ID, \$14 in check or cash, a copy of your license (if any), and any CSCE forms. Please have a copy of your existing license and exact change for the test fee. You can still take a test if you don't bring a copy of the license, but you will only receive credit for the elements passed. Any license upgrade would be held up for ARRL VEC verification. Any questions call or e-mail Ken at (818) 957-1699.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005

Income:

January Donations	40
February Donations	38
March Donations	35
April Donations	65
May Donations	40
June Donations	45
Membership Dues	35
Class Income	38

Total Income 336

Expenses:

Bank Charges	45
Site Rent	450
Telephone	193

Total Expenses 688

Excess of Income over Expenses (352)

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

June 30, 2005

Operating Funds 985

Total Cash 985

Other Assets:

Books 218

Total Other Assets 218

Total Assets 1,203

Unrestricted Fund Balance 1,203

Fund Balance 1,203

Liabilities and Fund Balance 1,203

Want to try 900 MHz?

900 MHz radios are available from the club

As you know, 900 MHz radios are not available at HRO. The only way to get on 33cm is to use commercial radios modified to use the Ham portion of the band.

We have acquired some Motorola GTX 900 MHz radios which have been modified for Ham use. We have some handy talkies and mobiles available for sale. We are selling the radios at cost with a small profit to go to the club. If you are interested in purchasing a radio, contact Ken w6cpa@ircradio.org for more information.

Club Repeaters

KC6JAR/R repeater
445.340 MHz minus CTCSS 103.5
Contractors Point

W6DMV/R repeater
927.9625 MHz minus CTCSS 100.0
South Pasadena

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

Echolink System info:

Brian (W2BRI) (818) 505-0222