

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 3

Summer 2006

Presidents Corner

Comments from IRC president Leon KC6JAR.

Field Day has come and gone and we all had a great time. It was fun to watch everyone operate. We had a few tiny mishaps antenna wise but most everything worked the right way. It was great to watch Ed KB6THO and Becky KI6CRN work their station. Ed brought in his own gear and set up a Buddipole antenna. It was interesting to see how well it worked for its size and height. It was great to watch Becky get on the air; she's definitely not mike shy. Pat KC6YIR got a chance to play with digital stuff, and Ken and Steve KG6DFH were operating up a storm. It was good to see some of the new people Pete K6PTB, Cody KI6EBA and a few others having a good time learning how to operate HF and learning about their rig.

I want to thank everyone who came. Saturday's dinner came off very well. We want to give special thanks to Ron AC5RA and Mark KC6HMO who couldn't come up

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Corner
- 1 IRC and MRA Formally Merge
- 2 Field Day at Table Mountain
- 3 Picnic at Vogel Flats
- 4 General License Class
- 4 My Kids First Field Day

IRC has Merged with MRA

We have formally merged the IRC and MRA

As most of you know, our club has had an informal association with the Mountain Repeater Association for some time. We would like to announce a formal merger between our clubs. The MRA has been merged into the IRC and all MRA members will automatically become IRC members. All MRA members will receive full IRC member benefits. Since our operations have been closely aligned for some time now, it only made sense to combine our resources to benefit both organizations.

The Mountain Repeater Association was founded over twenty years ago and it grew into a large system covering the Los Angeles, Antelope Valley and Las Vegas areas on the 220 band. It started off small but grew into a wide area RF linked system. Unfortunately, the coverage in the Antelope Valley ceased with the purchase of the last amateur radio site on Hauser Peak by American Tower. In the past the MRA was very active running Field Day, annual BBQs, and VE testing sessions.

The Mountain Repeater Association was also very active in packet radio. They were some of the first packet operators at the start of packet radio. They still run the Los Angeles BBS a major packet node in Los Angeles. Our club will not be operating the packet stations; however members are welcome to use the LABBS if you would like to give packet radio a try.

We welcome our new MRA members and we all look forward to talking with you on the radio.

for the day, but who made time and went out of their way to contribute to the dinner and sit around and shoot the breeze with us. We apologize for any people like Steve and Shane who tried to come up but were stymied by the sudden road closure in the desert. It was awesome to be able to operate in the middle of nowhere with a couple of batteries. Although the purpose of Field Day is to operate our rigs in a "contest" our main purpose is to have a good time, to show that we can do it, but most of all to spend time together as a group.

Stick around, we have a bunch of activities coming up soon. Our general class will be in a couple of weeks and our picnic and day hike will be here before you know it. Stay tuned to the nets and monthly meetings to keep track of what's going on. You can also go to our web site www.ircradio.org to see what's happening.

We had an awesome time this year at Field Day. Don't forget, next year if everything works out, we will be operating at El Capitan state beach. It brought me a lot of pleasure to see everyone show up for Field day even if it was just for the day. Everyone made an extraordinary effort to make it a success and it showed.

I would thank all of the people at HRO for helping us out. They have been a lot of help, promoting the club and publicizing our classes. Eric KA6IHT, Mark KC6HMO, and Steve K6CZA have all been great. Let them know you appreciate it the next time you are in buying a radio. We really appreciate their support for our club and ham radio in particular.

I also want to thank all of the new people on the system. I haven't learned all of your names and calls yet but it's nice to hear you out there. If you hear me driving around during the day give me a shout. I'd love to talk to you. We encourage new hams to get on the system and operate. We are always kind to new hams because we have been there before! If you have some friends who need a place to talk on the radio send them by we'd love to hear them.

de Leon KC6JAR

Big Time Fun at Field Day

Field Day at Table Mountain

Table Mountain was alive with RF at the end of June when we set up shop for Field Day 2006. We had 3 HF stations and a VHF weak signal station running off emergency power all weekend. We operated on all of the FD bands from 160 Meters to 23 cm and made a lot of contacts. We operated phone, HF digital, SSTV and APRS.

Ed KB6THO brought a BuddiPole antenna which performed surprisingly well for its size. We ran a 40 meter Moxon rectangle, a 20 M vertical ground plane and a 160 Meter ladder line driven dipole 50 feet up. We put out a great signal on 160 meters. We also had beams for all of the VHF/UHF bands. At 7200 feet overlooking the Antelope Valley we had a heck of an antenna mast.

The Field day Participants were:

AC5RA	Ron	KG6RIE	Sharon
K6PTB	Pete	KG6VEP	James
KA6GEG	Rod	KG6WNM	John
KB6THO	Ed	KG6YUY	Don
KC6HMO	Mark	KI6CRN	Becky
KC6JAR	Leon	KI6EBA	Cody
KC6YIR	Pat	KI6RUS	Russell
KD6YBT	Bob	N6XKT	Connie
KF6MFU	Kim	N6XKU	James
KF6RSF	Chris	W6CPA	Ken
KG6AJF	Lowell	WB6ANP	Keith
KG6DFH	Steve		

The potluck dinner was fantastic. There was a tremendous variety of great food. We would like to give special thanks to Ron AC5RA and Mark KC6HMO for driving up to the site just to bring their special Ribs and Chili. Miraculously, no deaths or injuries were reported from Leon's cooking this year. Fortunately Steve KG6DFH was right there with the fire extinguisher to save dinner.

Everyone had a great time getting together to play radio in the pines. Thanks to everyone who participated!

Help with radio at the Fair

Amateur Radio Expo 2006 at the LA County Fair

For the first time in several years, Amateur Radio will be on display at the Los Angeles County Fair. The organizers are calling it Amateur Radio Expo 2006. It will run on each weekend of the fair Sept 9 & 10, Sept 16 & 17, Sept 23 & 24 and Sept 30 & Oct 1. They plan to demonstrate amateur radio and to spotlight different clubs and activities within the hobby. They are looking for clubs and/or individuals to man the booth and to operate different types of radios and modes.

We would like to help them out as a club. We need to give them at least six hours working the booth and then you are free to visit the rest of the fair. Volunteers will receive an exhibitor's badge which allows free admission to the fair and free parking. We would like to hand out club literature and do some kind of operating. If you have some ideas of what kind of operating we should do please let us know your suggestions. We have not set the exact date with the organizers so stay tuned to the net and monthly meetings for exact details.

If you would like to help out at the fair as an individual they would love to have you. The organizers have set up a web site <http://lafair.b2v.org> with basic information and contact information if you want to volunteer. You can also contact them at rbvcom1@b2v.org. They are also looking for ideas of ways to demonstrate amateur radio to the public in a way that is interesting and relevant. They already have commitments from DCS and a couple of clubs to show off what we do and to demonstrate our emergency communications capabilities.

We have set a preliminary date of Saturday September 23 to help at the fair, but the date is not set in stone. It is subject to change depending on the needs of the organizers. Please check the nets or the web site for updated information as it becomes available. If you are interested in helping, e-mail Ken at w6cpa@ircradio.org.

Summer Picnic

Join us for fun in the forest

This year we are holding our annual summer picnic Sunday August 6 12:00 noon in the Angeles National Forest at Vogel Flats. Vogel Flats is located six miles north of Tujunga off Big Tujunga Canyon Road. Bring your whole family. Talk in will be on the repeater. Leon will set up a crossband repeater so the people in the canyon can talk through the system.

There is a stream running through the picnic area where you can wade or fish. (Any fisherman over 15 years old needs a license) We will be serving a potluck meal. The club will provide the main dish and we ask that you provide a side dish and your own drinks.

To help us plan better, we'd appreciate it if you would let us know you are coming. E mail Ken at w6cpa@ircradio.org to let us know how many are coming in your group.

Check in to Both Nets

Discover our second net.

The best way to keep up with what is happening with the club is to check into our nets. You will get the most current club information as well as showing support for the club.

Our first net is every Tuesday night at 6pm. The Tuesday net starts with Newline at 6pm followed by check ins right after. The net is run by Lowell KG6AJF and it's worth showing up to hear him talk about Leon if nothing else.

Our second net is held every Thursday night at 8pm. The Thursday night net is hosted by Ed KB6THO. It is a great time to bring up tech topics or items of general amateur interest as Ed is well versed in both.

Be sure to check in to one (or preferably both) of the nets. You don't want Lowell on your back!

My Kids First Field Day

By Ed, KB6THO

This year my 10-year-old daughter Becky, KI6CRN, 8-year-old son Daniel, and I spent our Field Day with the Club. Saturday morning saw us departing with anticipation for Table Mountain Campground for the kids very first Field Day. We had put together a solar-powered portable HF station and were looking forward to trying it out. Upon arrival the kids and I ferried our stuff to a large clearing in the tall pines and set up the solar panel, charger, battery, FT-897 and Buddipole antenna in short order.

Becky started calling "CQ Field Day..." with good results, logging stations in the Orange section to the south and San Joaquin Valley to our north. When we heard "NH6JC, 2 Alpha Pacific", I encouraged Becky to stay on frequency and see if we could log this one. Her persistence paid off when NH6JC asked the pileup to, "Please stand by for the YL station... Whiskey Alpha 6 India Romeo Charlie, go ahead". Becky completed the exchange and she logged NH6JC. Having my daughter smiling and talking to Hawaii on 15m, near the bottom of the solar cycle, running 50 watts on a dipole up 12 feet... now that made my Field Day!

Daniel took a turn on 40m and was quite intrigued by the audio from the radio. I let Daniel practice dialing in stations with the occasional reply. Lots of pileups, so Daniel and some of the other kids went looking for more lizards. His smile told me Field Day was good for him too.

As the sun crept low in the sky and thunderclouds began to loom on the horizon, we heard Ron, AC5RA and Mark, KC6HMO on the talk-in frequency. Ribs and chili were on the way and it was now time to clean up and celebrate a successful first half of Field Day. After dinner, as we wound our way down the mountain, I was reflecting on what a good day it had been. "Hey guys, did you have fun today?"

"Yes Papa, it was fun! Can we go next year?"

"QSL, guys, QSL!"

General License Class

Do you want to get on HF?

The IRC is offering a general license class and VE testing session July 22 and 23. 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 July 22 and 9:00am to 3:00pm Sunday July 23. The class will be followed by a VE testing session sponsored by the IRC.

We have found that taking a general license 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@ircradio.org 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 \$50. 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 July 23 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.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL LICENSE CLASS & VE TESTING SESSION

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL

2035 COLORADO BLVD.

EAGLE ROCK, CA

SATURDAY JULY 22 & SUNDAY JULY 23 AT 9:00 AM

VE TESTING SESSION SUNDAY JULY 23 AT 3:00 PM

JULY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT

5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.

VAN NUYS

FRIDAY JULY 28 AT 7:00 PM

CLUB PICNIC

VOGEL FLATS PICNIC AREA

7 MILES UP BIG TUJUNGA CANYON ROAD

SUNDAY AUGUST 6 AT 12:00 NOON

AUGUST CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT

5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.

SHERMAN OAKS

FRIDAY AUGUST 25 AT 7:00 PM

CLUB DAY HIKE

CHANTRY FLATS TO STURDEVANT FALLS

SANTA ANITA OFFRAMP ON I-210 TO CHANTRY FLATS ROAD

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16 AT 9:00 AM

AMATEUR RADIO EXPO 2006

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR

FAIRPLEX IN POMONA, CA

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 ? (SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 3)

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT

5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.

SHERMAN OAKS

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29 AT 7:00 PM

Day Hike in the Mountains

Stretch your legs and enjoy the mountains

The IRC is having a club day hike in the mountains above Arcadia. We will be hiking on Saturday September 16 at 9:00 am from Chantry Flats to Sturdevant Falls. The hike is short, about 2 miles and has a gradual rise. Sturdevant Falls is a 50 foot high cascading waterfall. It is one of the nicest waterfalls in the Angeles National Forest.

We will meet at Chantry Flats at 9:00 am. Chantry Flats can be reached by taking the Foothill Freeway (I-210) to the Santa Anita exit in Arcadia. Drive north on Santa Anita road 4.5 miles to Chantry Flats. Since a parking pass is required to park at Chantry Flats, we will be running a shuttle so you can park in Arcadia for free.

You need to bring a lunch or a snack and water. There is a creek next to the trail; however you should not drink the water without treating it. Hope to see you there!

Vegas Link in Service

Talk to Las Vegas through your HT

We finally got our act together and have repaired the Las Vegas link. The system is linked to the W7EB repeater in Las Vegas (224.480 minus PL 110.9). The system is linked from Contractors to Glassell Park to Blueridge to Las Vegas. No special commands are necessary to use the link. Every time you key of the system the link comes up automatically.

If you hear someone coming through from Las Vegas and you want to talk to them, key up your radio and pause briefly before you speak to let the link radios in between have a chance to key up.

Now that Ron AC5RA has moved to Henderson, you should hear him on the system pretty often. If you hear Elliott W7EB coming through pick up your mike and say hello.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January 1, 2006 through June 30, 2006

Income:

Membership Dues	380	
Donations	75	
Class Income	180	

Total Income		635

Expenses:

Bank Charges	45	
Site Rent	450	
Telephone	193	

Total Expenses		688

Excess of Expenses over Income		(53)
		====

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

June 30, 2006

Operating Funds	1,411	

Total Cash		1,411
Other Assets:		
Books	266	

Total Other Assets		266

Total Assets		1,677
		=====
Total Liabilities		0
Unrestricted Fund Balance	1,677	

Fund Balance		1,677

Liabilities and Fund Balance		1,677
		=====

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

W6DMV/R repeater
927.9625 MHz minus CTCSS 100.0
South Pasadena

W6CPA/R repeater
1282.850 MHz minus CTCSS 123.0
Contractors Point

KK6KU/R repeater
224.480 MHz minus CTCSS 100.0
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

Ed (KB6THO) kb6tho@ircradio.org