

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 3

Summer 2008

Presidents Corner

Comments from IRC President Leon KC6JAR

We had an excellent Field Day. It was great to see every one show up and have a good time. The set up went fast this year and we got done early. We got a chance to relax and enjoy each others company before we started operating. We got all the rigs running and everything just went in the right direction. The contesting came off well. 20 meters was going long, 40 meters was working pretty decent and I think we had a couple of contacts on 80 meters. Our VHF/UHF station could have been a little better. We had some radio issues and never did get the VHF/UHF station running right although we did make our first ever Field Day contact on 1.2 GHz.

The best part of Field Day was the new people who came out to try working HF for the first time and to see how contesting worked. John's son Kenny had fantastic time. It was great to get Kenny on the air. His enthusiasm just made my day. The best part was seeing other operators stop, hold up traffic to let Kenny

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Field Day!

Field Day in the pines at Mt. Pinos

Field Day on Mt. Pinos was a great success and a lot of fun. We spent three days filling McGill campground with wire and RF. We operated on all the Field Day HF bands and 6 meters through 23cm. We operated single sideband, FM and digital.

Even at the bottom of the solar cycle we still had a great time. The upper HF bands were quiet but 20 meters and 40 meters were doing well. We even made five contacts on 160 meters. Our VHF/UHF station was having radio problems but we worked around them the best we could.

Everyone had fun at the potluck dinner. Leon as usual cooked and this year, fortunately no one died. (Although a couple of guys ended up wheelchair bound) Our VE testing session on Sunday went well and we got a new ham and a new extra class operator out of it. Our Field Day attendees were:

AF6BK Amy K6EJC Eric K6MDY Mandy
KC1RON Ron KC6HMO Mark KC6JAR Leon
KC6SAD John KC6YIR Pat KF6MFU Kim
KF6RSF Chris KG6AJF Lowell KG6RIE Sharon
KG6SUA Jim KG6VEP James KG6WNM John
KI6EEO Alex KI6FXL Michelle KI6MGS Joe
N6XKT Connie N6XKU James W6CPA Ken
W6MES Mark WB6ANP Keith

Thanks for coming and making Field Day a great success and a lot of fun!

in, and then to go out of their way to ask him if he was enjoying Field Day. This is what it's all about. Jim Laage KG6SUA is one of the new people who came for the first time to operate. He got his feet wet on HF and learned how it all worked. Alex KI6EEO got to operate HF digital and learned how to use an HF rig. We all had a great time it was good to see these guys get interested in how HF works.

Our Field Day dinner went really well despite a few barbecue mishaps. Jim N6XKU bailed us out with his barbecue. The barbecue we planned to use was leaking gas out the side of the feed pipe. Everyone had a good time giving me a bad time, bulls eyes on my back, chef hats, and Mr. Lowell and his body bag. Come on guys the body bag was a little over the top! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves even if it was at my expense. The camping went smooth and hopefully everyone will come to our next camping trip in November. Above all we all had a great time at Field Day and we hope to see you there next year.

73 de Leon KC6JAR

Amateur Radio Expo 2008

Help us demonstrate radio at the LA county fair

Help us demonstrate amateur radio at the LA county fair Saturday 20 and Sunday September 21. We will be manning a club booth at the fair all day Saturday and all day Sunday. If you come out to help and give us four hours of labor, you get free admission and free parking to the fair.

We are looking for ideas of things to demonstrate at the fair. If you have a good idea let Leon or Ken know. We are looking for something that shows off what we do and is understandable and interesting to the general public.

Note – As of the date of publication, the fair authorities have not decided whether or not we will get to put on Amateur Radio Expo. Check into the Tuesday night net for updates.

Technician License Class

Do you know anyone who is interested in a license?

The IRC is conducting a technician license class Saturday October 11 and Sunday October 12 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 get your license quickly. The cost of the class is \$50 which covers the study book and testing fee.

There will also be a VE testing session on Sunday October 12 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. Candidates need to bring the \$14 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.

Thursday Night Net

New format and time for the Thursday night net

We have made some changes to the Thursday night net. Starting this month, the Thursday night net time will move from 8:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The net will be hosted by net control Lowell KG6AJF. We are also changing the net format from a strictly check in net to a roundtable format.

The roundtable format starts by each participating station checking into the net. Net control will recognize each station, suggest a topic for discussion, and turn the conversation over to the first station. When net control calls you, put in your two cents worth and turn the conversation back to net control. Net control will call each station in turn for their contribution. If you come late to the net, feel free to check in with net control during a break in the conversation. You are not restricted to the topic suggested by net control. Feel free to change the subject to something interesting to you and your fellow hams. Don't forget to join us every Thursday night at 7:00 pm to ragchew and practice net operations at the same time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GENERAL LICENSE CLASS & VE TESTING SESSION

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
SATURDAY JULY 12 & SUNDAY JULY 13 AT 9:00 AM

JULY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
FRIDAY JULY 25 AT 7:00 PM

SUMMER PICNIC

CRESCENTA VALLEY PARK
3901 DUNSMORE AVENUE
LA CRESCENTA, CA
SUNDAY AUGUST 3 AT 12:00 NOON

AUGUST CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
FRIDAY AUGUST 22 AT 7:00 PM

AMATEUR RADIO EXPO

LOS ANGELES COUNTY FAIR
FAIRPLEX, POMONA, CA
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 20 & SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21 AT 9:00 AM

SEPTEMBER CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
Friday September 26 at 7:00 pm

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
SATURDAY OCTOBER 11 & SUNDAY OCTOBER 12 AT 9:00 AM

D-Star System Update

What's new with our D-Star system?

There have been some more changes in the D-Star gateway system. Ed KB6THO our D-Star Sysop, recently installed the newest Icom gateway software update, version 2.1. We have been having problems with the gateway ever since installing version 2. When stations are trying to call using call sign routing through the gateway, sometimes the incoming station can be heard but the outgoing station isn't being routed to the distant repeater. Apparently, the trust server database was being updated very slowly and wasn't recognizing the outgoing station's call sign for quite some time. The new software is supposed to remedy that problem and it appears to be working better so far.

If you want to give the D-Star gateway a whirl you need to be registered in the gateway system. Registration involves the system assigning an IP to your call sign for call routing and authorization verification. Registration is done over the internet and must be approved by the D-Star administrator (Ed KB6THO) before you can use it. Once you have registered with the system, your D-Star radio can access the gateway on any D-Star repeater in the world with a gateway. There is no need to register anywhere else. Any IRC member in good standing is eligible to get registered in the gateway system. For specific information on how to register go to: <http://www.ladstar.org/G2-reg.pdf>.

You may not be aware but we have a D-Star net every week in addition to the analog nets. The D-Star net meets every Tuesday night at 7:00 pm on WA6IRC C 145.605 - on Contractors Point. The net is hosted by our Sysop Ed KB6THO. Checking into the net is a great way to get more familiar with the D-Star system and get a chance to get your D-Star questions answered. Ed is very knowledgeable about the D-Star system and is happy to help you with your questions. To get on the net from WA6IRC alpha or bravo, set the RPT2 field in your radio to WA6IRC C or set your radio up to simulcast out of all the repeaters. For more information, check out our club D-Star website www.ladstar.org.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008

Income:

Membership Dues	570
Donations	140
Class Income	31
HamCon Proceeds	1,000

Total Income 1,741

Expenses:

Bank Charges	64
Dues & Subscriptions	10
Rent	600
Telephone	224

Total Expenses 898

Excess of Income over Expenses 757
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Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

June 30, 2008

Operating Funds	1,251

Total Cash 1,251

Books	43

Total Other Assets 43

Total Assets	1,294
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Total Liabilities 0

Unrestricted Fund Balance	1,294

Fund Balance 1,294

Liabilities and Fund Balance	1,294
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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

WA6BSC/R repeater
927.4250 MHz minus CTCSS 82.5
Contractors Point

W7EB/R repeater
224.480 MHz minus CTCSS 110.9
Las Vegas, NV

W6CPA/R repeater
224.480 MHz minus CTCSS 100.0
Blueridge

Club Contacts

www.ircradio.org

Information:

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D-Star Sysop:

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