

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

Winter 2003

Presidents Corner

Comments from Leon KC6JAR

I would like to congratulate all of the IRC group members as well as our friends on our new repeater coordination. It's taken almost a year but our group was able to accomplish this great feat because of the enormous effort made by the entire group. Our coordination was not the result of just one person's effort. Our success was a result of all of us pulling together. Whether it was a contribution of equipment, time or money even in the smallest amount, this is the reason we are now coordinated.

Throughout our history people working together as a group have accomplished great things which were not doable by single individuals. Everyone in the IRC should feel very proud of what we have been able to do. When Johnathan, Ken and I first spoke up at one of our early meetings about getting our own repeater going some people said "You can't get a 440 coordination in LA. It can't be done, there are no pairs

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Our Coordination is here!

Set the home button on your radio to 445.340

We have received a great Christmas present from SCRBBBA. We have received our permanent coordination and we have been assigned a frequency pair. Our repeater, the KF6OHR machine has changed frequency to our new home, 445.340 MHz minus split with a CTCSS tone of 103.5. The repeater is located on Contractors Point in the hills above Sylmar.

Currently, the repeater is a "vanilla" machine with only basic features. Johnathan KF6OHR has big plans for the machine. We plan to link into a machine located on Hauser Peak which would bring our system back to the level of the old system. We also are considering incorporating the following features:

- Autopatch
- Reverse Autopatch
- Wide area repeater linking
- Voter Receivers / Passive Reflector

In order to add features to our repeater, we need to obtain a good controller. Feature rich controllers are not cheap. We originally intended to use a PC and software called Echostation. This would have been an inexpensive, easy answer to the problem. We dropped the PC as a controller due to concerns about the reliability of a Windows PC, by its self, up on a mountain top. No one was looking forward to driving up to the mountain top every time the blue screen of death decided to show up.

We are looking for a dedicated controller that provides for these features. If we have to purchase a new controller, we are looking at cost of \$400-\$500.

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available.”. Well guess what, here it is almost a year later and we are coordinated. We have our new pair.

Remember, as a group we can accomplish anything. We appreciate all of your efforts no matter how small. Whether it was contributing money, time helping out, equipment that was donated, organizing parties and meetings, or just giving us an idea that led us in the right direction each contribution was a step toward our ultimate goal. Every one of us from the leaders to each member should take pride in what we have done. Even a member who gave us a few pennies or an idea or two had as much to do with our coordination as any other person. The power of our group comes from our numbers, our dedication, and our persistence. Each member adds to this power.

Although we've completed the hardest part of building the repeater, the job is not yet done. Together we will work out the problems we face such as the mixing problem which is currently preventing us from using the machine. It's frustrating to be so close and not have a useable machine but we will work together with our landlord, who has been very good to us, to straighten things out.

As we move along together through the year, we have a lot to do. We are going to do some campouts, have Field Day at the beach, picnic this summer, and we have a lot of work ahead to make our repeater a first class machine. In addition to the activities we already planned, we would like to conduct some technician license classes, set up some technician testing sessions, and have some antenna building workshops.

Getting these activities going is an ongoing process and working together as a group will make them happen. If you have any ideas about the kinds of things you would like to see the club do, let me know. We are always looking for new ideas to promote the hobby and have some fun.

So for all of you who stuck together and helped us out with suggestions, money, time, your equipment and your knowledge we appreciate it! Thanks again for your hard work and congratulation on obtaining our coordination.

Field Day 2003

Join us for Field Day at the Beach

Join us for Field Day at the beach! We've managed to obtain reservations for a group campsite at El Capitan State Beach June 27 & 28, 2003. There is something for everyone to do so bring the whole family. Besides the beach there is a paved, off road bike trail along the coast up to Refugio State Beach as well as a couple of hiking trails.

The group campsite should be ideal for Field Day as it is surrounded by trees and sits on a bluff overlooking the ocean. We are looking for ideas regarding the type of station we want to run for Field Day. In the past we have run a 3A station. This meant that we ran 3 HF transmitters as well as 1 VHF/UHF station.

We definitely plan to run a weak signal VHF/UHF station as well as 2, 3 or 4 HF transmitters. If anyone is interested in running a CW station we would like to hear from you. We will also be set up to do HF digital, SSTV and satellite operations. If you are interested in operating in these modes or in seeing them in action, plan to be there.

We will start setting up for Field Day Friday June 27 at 11:00am. If you could come up early to help set up we would appreciate it. Field Day operating starts promptly at 11:00am Saturday June 28 and ends at 11:00am on Sunday. You can come up Friday night and camp until Sunday or you can come up Saturday morning. We would also appreciate help in tearing down on Sunday afternoon.

We are looking for someone to volunteer to plan and implement our Field Day setup. If you have any Field Day ideas or want to volunteer to run it, contact Leon or Ken.

El Capitan State Beach is located 20 miles north of Santa Barbara off Highway 101. It's a little bit of a drive, but how can you beat the beach and amateur radio?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

REPEATER COORDINATION PARTY

SHAKEY'S PIZZA
3463 FOOTHILL BLVD.
LA CRESCENTA
FRIDAY JANUARY 24, 2003 AT 7:00 PM

Come join us for pizza to celebrate the coordination of our repeater! Bring the kids and whoop it up over our great achievement.

JANUARY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY JANUARY 31 AT 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 28 AT 7:00 PM

MARCH CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY MARCH 28 AT 7:00 PM

FIELD DAY 2003

EL CAPITAN STATE BEACH
20 MILES NORTH OF SANTA BARBARA
SATURDAY JUNE 28 & SUNDAY JUNE 29, 2003 AT 11:00AM

Join us for Field Day at the beach!

Setup will begin Friday June 27 at 11:00am

See the article on page 2 for more information.

Another part of the repeater station that needs improvement is the antenna/feedline system. Butch W6BIV has fabricated an improved antenna mount. The new mount will increase the basic strength of the mount and allow us to lengthen the mast and raise the antenna. The antenna we are currently using is a commercial vertical antenna which has been tuned for our frequency. A higher quality antenna will make a huge difference in station performance.

We are currently using 9913 coax to feed the antenna. We are going to have to get a longer piece of coax when we raise the antenna. It would be nice to replace it with hardline or heliax. 9913 has significant losses at 440 MHz and it more susceptible to water intrusion than we would like.

Try as we might to keep the costs low, it costs money to purchase the equipment needed to make our repeater a first class machine. We would appreciate any help you could give us monetarily, in kind, or just on the air. Our ability as a group to get a repeater on the air is extraordinary. Please help us build a first class machine we can all be proud of and have fun using!

Help us - become a VE

Become an ARRL VE

In order to promote our hobby and our club we intend to teach a Technician class down the road. We would also like to give test sessions in conjunction with the class. In order to do this we need some members to become VEs.

Any one holding a General Class or above license can become a VE. To become an ARRL VE you need to get a hold of their VE manual, read it, and take an open book test. After they review the test and check your license, they will issue you VE credentials. You can obtain a VE manual by calling (860) 594-0300 and requesting a copy or you can download it at <http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/vemmanual/>.

Help us out, promote the hobby, and have some fun at the same time, become a VE.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.
Statement of Income and Expenses
January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002

Income:

Donations @ 1/25 Meeting	80
Donations @ 2/22 Meeting	50
Donations @ 3/29 Meeting	83
Donations @ 4/26 Meeting	92
Donations @ 5/17 Meeting	120
Donations @ 6/28 Meeting	115
Donations @ 7/26 Meeting	132
Donations @ 8/30 Meeting	56
Donations @ 9/27 Meeting	100
Donations @ 10/25 Meeting	106
Donations @ 11/22 Meeting	100
Donations @ 12/14 Meeting	124
Repeater Improvement Fund	115
Other Donations	150

Total Income 1,423

Expenses:

Bank Charges	95
Coax for Repeater	45
Insurance	120
Secretary of State Fee	20
Site Rent	825

Total Expenses 1,105

Excess of Income over Expenses 318
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Independent Radio Club, Inc.
Balance Sheet
January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002

Operating Funds	602
Repeater Improvement Fund	115

Total Cash 717

Total Assets 717
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Unrestricted Fund Balance	602
Restricted Fund Balance	115

Fund Balance 717

Liabilities and Fund Balance 717
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Repeater Improvement Fund

Help us build the repeater

SCRBBA has finally given us our repeater coordination. We are now going to put a major effort into improving the system. We have been raising funds by "passing the hat" which so far has raised enough funds to pay operating expenses.

To raise money to improve the system, we are asking you to check out your shack to see if you have some good underused equipment you could donate to the club. We will sell off any donated equipment to raise funds. If you can help us out, please contact Lowell (KG6AJF) kg6ajf@juno.com and let him know what you have.

All of these funds will be used to purchase needed repeater equipment so we can build a first class machine.

Club Contacts

www.ircradio.org

Information:

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