

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

Winter 2008

Presidents Corner

Comments from IRC President Leon KC6JAR

The Christmas party went well and we all had a great time. We partied, ate excellent food and played lots of games. It was nice to see everybody who showed up. We even had some brand new hams come to enjoy our party and start using the system. We had a great gift exchange with some very interesting gifts. Congratulations to Bob N6VYV for winning the grand prize an Alinco DR-235 220 MHz mobile radio. Thanks to all of you who supported the Fire Department toy drive. We dropped off a lot of toys to give underprivileged kids a better Christmas.

We had a wonderful time on our beach trip. We got to meet some of Ken and Kim's family Matt and his fiancée, now his present wife Virginia. One day it got a little windy but everyone really enjoyed the Avocado festival. It was really cool to hear Scott's KI6CYS story about how he taught Hannah how to scratch and spit so she would fit in with the little league team. We all had a great time listening to her describe it but you

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D-Star System News

Status of the D-Star Repeater System

We have finally made significant progress with our D-Star repeater system. D-Star is an open digital radio protocol developed by the JARL. At the present time Icom is the only manufacturer supporting the D-Star system commercially.

We have been struggling with getting our internet gateway going for the system for a year but we have finally solved our problem of having internet access at the repeater site. We have the internet gateway portion of the system running and have full connectivity through the system. The implementation of the gateway will allow us to connect our D-STAR repeater system with other D-STAR repeater systems around the world. The system permits call sign calling and automatically routes the call through the internet to the last machine the desired operator was heard on that was connected to a gateway. To use the gateway you need to be admitted to the gateway system which allows you to use any gateway machine in the system. All IRC members in good standing can get gateway access. To get gateway access contact our D-STAR administrator Ed KB6THO and he will get you into the system.

Another exciting D-STAR development is the new DV dongle. The DV dongle (available at HRO) contains the D-STAR vocoder chip and assorted circuitry and plugs into the USB port of your computer. With the DV dongle and the associated free software, you can listen to or talk through D-STAR gateway equipped machines using your personal computer (a la Echolink). Any one can monitor our system with the

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really had to be there to appreciate it. We actually had a potluck dinner thanks to Sharon KG6RIE reminding us that the newsletter said potluck not just do your own thing. We all had a good time laughing about it and it all worked out well.

We have been working very hard trying to get our D-STAR project DSL connection going so we can set up the internet gateway. It's finally up and running. We would like to thank all of the many people on our D-STAR team who kept plugging to get it up. If it wasn't for this dedicated group of people, our D-STAR project would still be crawling along. We have a great group and we are doing some really awesome stuff here.

We have some great stuff going on this year. We have some new things coming that will make our Blueridge site work much better. We appreciate all of your help and being here having a good time and promoting the hobby. It's not any one person who does this, it's the whole group and that's why we get so much done about here.

73 de Leon KC6JAR

Trivial Pursuits @ IRC

Check into the weekly net on Tuesday and win!

Our club has three weekly nets which are open to all amateurs. Tuesday night at 6pm and Thursday night at 8 pm on our analog repeater system and Tuesday night at 7 pm on our D-STAR digital system.

Our net control on the analog 6 pm Tuesday night net, Lowell KG6AJF has started a trivia contest each week on the net. Mr. Lowell will have two trivia questions each week that you are invited to take a crack at answering. Mr. Lowell is tracking the operators who answer correctly and there will be a prize to the ham with the most correct answers at the end of the year.

The more you check in the better chance you have to win. Sharpen your pencils and check into the net!

DV dongle, but you need gateway access (and dongle access) to transmit. If you want to experiment with this new technology, contact Ed to obtain gateway and dongle access. You can contact Ed by e-mail at ed@ladstar.org or you can find out all about our D-STAR project by checking out our club D-STAR website www.ladstar.org.

We would like to thank our entire D-Star team for the diligent efforts they have put forth to get where we are today. Thanks to Mark KC6HMO, Steve KG6GIN, Shane KG6GIK and Russell KG6RUS for installing the repeater antennas at Contractors Point and at Blueridge. Thanks to Craig WA6EKP for setting up the Linux router and especially to Ed KB6THO for administering and installing the gateway. Your hard work is now paying off!

Check it out D-STAR and join the fun!

Field Day 2008!

Where are we going for Field Day this year?

Field day is on Saturday June 28 and Sunday June 29 this year. Last year we went to the beach for Field Day and this year we want to go to the mountains. We are looking for a good Field Day site and we need some suggestions. We would like to find a site that is reasonably close, is suitable for RVs, and has lots of trees to string antennas. We need a site that can accommodate at least 50 people. A site near a town is nice but not required.

If you have a suggestion for a good Field Day site let Leon KC6JAR or Mr. Lowell KG6AJF know. You can make your suggestion on the net or on the air. (Don't bother to e-mail Leon as his computer is the bit bucket!) We will come to a decision by the end of February so we have time to notify everyone and to set up the campsite reservations. Check into the net or come by one of our meetings to find out exactly where we will be doing Field Day this year.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING
LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 29 AT 7:00 PM

MARCH CLUB MEETING
LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
Friday March 28 at 7:00 pm

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS
EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
SATURDAY MAY 17 & SUNDAY MAY 18 AT 9:00 AM

FIELD DAY
LOCATION ??? - SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 2
SATURDAY JUNE 28 & SUNDAY JUNE 29 AT 9:00 AM

Fall Beach Trip

Carpinteria State Beach Campout

Through the diligent efforts of Kim KF6MFU, we were able to get the group campsite at Carpinteria State Beach for the weekend of October 6 & 7. We were lucky enough to get the camp site for the weekend of the California Avocado Festival. We arrived into a howling gale but fortunately the winds died down the next day. We had a great turnout for the campout. We had a great time combing the beach and sitting around the campfire. On Saturday the Avocado festival got into full swing and you could smell the barbeque all the way to the campsite.

We had a nice potluck dinner on Saturday although Ken and Leon forgot to get the food and Leon tried to fill in with the local gopher population. Fortunately, Leon was unarmed and we had to go to the store and buy real food. Thanks for Sharon KG6RIE for coming to the rescue and pointing out that the newsletter actually did specify a potluck dinner for Saturday. Sitting around the campfire was great and there was a lot of talk about scratching and spitting. (You had to be there...)

The beach trip amateur participants were:

KB6THO Ed	KC6JAR Leon
KF6MFU Kim	KF6RSF Chris
KF6RSG Jenn	KG6AJF Lowell
KG6RIE Sharon	KG6WNM John
KI6CRN Becky	KI6CYS Scott
KI6DHN Carolyn	KI6FXL Michelle
W6CPA Ken	WA6ANP Keith
K6MDY Amanda	

There were several non amateur members of our families there as well. The weather was great and a great time was had by all. Best of all the gopher population at the beach was saved.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007

Income:

Membership Dues	1,090	
Donations	95	
Class Income	241	

Total Income		1,426

Expenses:

Bank Charges	122	
HamCon Expense	200	
Site Rent	1,050	
Telephone	397	

Total Expenses		1,769

Excess of Expenses over Income	(343)	===

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet
December 31, 2007

Operating Funds	783	

Total Cash		783

Total Assets		783
		===
Total Liabilities		0
Unrestricted Fund Balance	783	

Fund Balance		783

Liabilities and Fund Balance		783
		===

Club Repeaters

Contractors Point

KC6JAR/R repeater
445.340 MHz minus CTCSS 103.5
K6VE/R repeater
224.480 MHz minus CTCSS 110.9

D-STAR (with Gateway)
WA6IRC A DD 1299.700 MHz
WA6IRC A DV 1282.650 MHz minus
WA6IRC B DV 447.270 MHz minus
WA6IRC C DV 145.605 MHz minus

Blueridge

W6CPA/R repeater
224.480 MHz minus CTCSS 100.0
446.860 MHz minus CTCSS 82.5

D-STAR
W6CPAR B DV 446.870 MHz minus
W6CPAR C DV 145.585 MHz minus

Las Vegas, NV

W7EB/R repeater
224.480 MHz minus CTCSS 110.9

Club Contacts

www.ircradio.org

Information:

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