

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

Winter 2010

Presidents Corner

Comments from IRC President Leon KC6JAR

Our technician license class in October went well. Our turnout of students was not as high as we would have liked but everyone who took the class passed. We welcomed several new hams to our hobby. The VE session went fine as well. I would like to thank the VEs who helped out to make the session possible, Ed KB6THO, Gwen K6GRH, James N6XKU, Alex K9AKM and Mr. Lowell KG6AJF. If you have a general class license or higher I encourage you to become a VE to help us out. It's easy to do and you can find out how at the ARRL website www.arrl.org/vec.

We all had a lot of fun at Carpinteria State Beach. The weather was great and a lot of us were there to soak up the sun. Mr. Lowell got his share of firewood and we all enjoyed each others company.

Our holiday party was an overwhelming success. We had so many people show up for the party that we will need to find another location for next year's party. The grand prize, the new Jetstream 220 mobile radio was

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IRC System News

There are several changes coming to our system

We have had several changes that have occurred or will occur soon to our repeater system. In September our landlord at City Terrace increased our rent to an unconscionable amount and we were forced to pull our gear from the site. As a result the new 220 MHz machine and the 900 MHz machine installed there have temporarily gone away. We relocated the 900 MHz machine to Mount Washington and it is back on the air and is linked into the system. The repeater is operating on 927.9625 – PL 100.0. It's going to need a little tweaking before it is running well.

Both our two meter D-Star repeaters changed frequencies in December. TASMA changed the band plan to accommodate operating the D-Star machines as repeaters instead of auxiliary stations. The new frequencies are for Contractors Point 147.560 MHz and for Blueridge 147.540 MHz. Both repeaters have an odd split of minus 2.555 MHz. This may require you using a computer to set the frequency in your memory depending on which D-Star radio you are using. We are working on getting a gateway established at Blueridge which we would like to get going sometime next summer.

We have another exciting change on the horizon. SMA has granted us a coordination and a kind benefactor has offered us space to install a 220 MHz repeater on Mt. Lukins. This repeater will be fully linked into the system. The new repeater should have vastly increased coverage in the Los Angeles area particularly to the east, and will be a welcome addition to our system. We will be announcing the assigned frequency and the operational status of the repeater on the net when it becomes operational. Stay tuned for more information.

won by Deanna W6DWS. The trivia winner for 2009 was Mark N6MGM. The trivia prize was presented by Mr. Lowell. Thanks to everyone for showing up to the party and I hope you had a great time.

We have a lot of activities planned for 2010. The best way to find out what's going on is to come to our monthly meetings and check into the net every Tuesday night at 7:00 pm. Clear your calendar, stay tuned and hopefully we will all have a great 2010.

de Leon KC6JAR

Amateur Radio Expo

Los Angeles County Fair Exhibit

In 2006 and 2007 our club helped operate Amateur Radio Expo at the LA County Fair. Amateur Radio Expo is a section of the LA County Fair that demonstrates many of the different things we can do with amateur radio. Unfortunately, the fair cancelled Amateur Radio Expo for 2008 and we thought it was gone for good. Two weeks before this year's fair, the fair authorities informed us that Amateur Radio Expo was on again for 2009. Our club threw together a demonstration booth and helped man the other Expo booths at the fair. We would like to thank Lowell KG6AJF, John KG6WNM, Debi KI6MYM, Leon KC6JAR, Kim KF6MFU and Michelle KI6FXL for helping out with the fair on such short notice.

We have not heard from the fair authorities whether or not there will be an Amateur Radio Expo at the fair this year. We suspect they will have the Expo this year so we have scheduled our club to help out on the weekend of September 18 and 19. We will get the word out as soon as we know what the fair authorities intend to do this year. If you have an idea for an amateur radio demonstration that would capture the general public's attention, let us know and we will try to make it happen. You can also volunteer to help with the Expo as an individual for each weekend in September that it is operating. For more information about what is happening with the fair or how you can help, check into the net every Tuesday night.

Technician License Class

Give us a weekend and get your license

Do you know anyone who is interested in getting their ham ticket? If so send them to our Technician license class. The IRC is conducting a technician license class Saturday May 15 and Sunday May 16 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 and learn about amateur radio. The cost of the class is \$50 which covers your study book and the testing fee.

There will also be a VE testing session on Sunday May 16 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. We will be offering exams for all license classes from Technician to Extra. Candidates need to bring the \$15 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 <http://www.ircradio.org/tech510.pdf>.

2010 Field Day

Where are we going to do Field Day this year?

Our plan was to do Field Day at the beach this year as it's been a couple of years since we had it at the beach. We were hoping that the increased state park fees would make it easier to get reservations but unfortunately we were unable to get a beach campground reservation.

We are looking for ideas for a good place to do Field Day this year. If you have a suggestion of a great place e-mail Ken at w6cpa@ircradio.org or talk to Leon KC6JAR on the phone or on the air and let us know your idea. Where ever we end up you will want to mark out your calendar as it is always a lot of fun.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY CLUB MEETING

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

FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
5043 VAN NUYS BLVD.
VAN NUYS, CA
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26 AT 7:00 PM

MARCH CLUB MEETING

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

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS & VE TESTING SESSION

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
SATURDAY MAY 15 & SUNDAY MAY 16 AT 9:00 AM

FIELD DAY

LOCATION ???

SET UP FRIDAY JUNE 25 AT 11:00 AM

OPERATIONS SATURDAY JUNE 26 AT 11:00 AM

D-Star From Oz

Talking home from Australia via D-Star

Back in October Ken, W6CPA, went on holiday to Australia. His HT went along as well, since several of the areas to be visited had D-STAR repeaters nearby. The practical side of this is Ken would be able to use his 5 watt HT to talk back to us here in California, and that's just what he did!

Ken and I didn't set up a schedule, and he was traveling around the country, so how did I know which repeater to call him on? D-STAR keeps track of who's where, so all I had to do was set "Your Call" on my radio to "W6CPA", and my traffic was routed to the last D-STAR repeater Ken was on. I could also find Ken by checking the web, jfindu.net, to see where and when he was last heard. On Ken's side he could do the same; just set "Your Call" to KB6THO, and the data would be sent to the last place I was on D-STAR. So how did this all work out?

Having worked VK-land on HF, you can imagine my pleasure at hearing the "Full Quieting Digital Ken" from Australia early one morning. Ken and I hooked up on the air, sorta. I could hear Ken just fine here, but my data wasn't making it back to Oz all that well. Ken saw my callsign on his radio, but didn't really get any audio. Not to worry, there is more than one way to skin a D-STAR cat.

A day later I used a DV Dongle to link directly to the VK2RDS gateway, where Ken had last been active according to jfindu.net. What happened was pretty interesting. Ken & I hooked up and had a good, quick QSO, as they were headed for an early breakfast followed by a tour of the Blue Mountains. Since the VK2RDS system was linked to "Reflector 5A", our traffic came out of several other D-STAR systems around the world. This day, the GB3IN repeater north of London was one of these. So after talking to Ken, I got to talk to a couple UK hams passing the evening with a ragchew, being about 2030 there, which was lunchtime here, and 0630 in the morning for Ken. We got a good education in how D-STAR works, and made some friends along the way.

73!

Ed, KB6THO

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Statement of Income and Expenses

January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009

Income:

Membership Dues	1,400	
Class Income	437	

Total Income		1,837

Expenses:

Bank Charges	4	
Rent	1,200	
Taxes & Licenses	10	
Telephone	475	

Total Expenses		1,689
Excess of Income over Expenses		148
		=====

Independent Radio Club, Inc.

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2009

Operating Funds	1,604	

Total Cash		1,604
Class Books	162	

Total Other Assets		162
Total Assets		1,766
		=====
Total Liabilities		0
Unrestricted Fund Balance	1,766	

Fund Balance		1,766
Liabilities and Fund Balance		1,766
		=====

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

KB6THO/R repeater
927.9625 MHz minus CTCSS 100.0
Mount Hollywood

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

KC6JAR/R repeater
224.020 MHz minus CTCSS 110.9
Blueridge

Club Contacts

www.ircradio.org

Information:

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Webmaster:

Larry (KG6EJT) kg6ejt@ircradio.org

Net Control:

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D-Star Sysop:

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